

Zonta Club of Grand Rapids  
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# Zonta NewZ



Helping improve the legal, political, economic, health, education and professional status of women and girls locally and internationally.

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## BOARD

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## Income Equality

The U.S. Census Bureau released some key figures on income and poverty on August 26, 2008. Below are some highlights:

- Women who worked full time, year-round, earned 78% of what corresponding men earned. But both men and women saw an increase in real earnings after three years of declines.
- Half of women are in jobs without retirement plans.
- Risk of poverty increases with age for women. Retired women are more likely to be poor than elderly men.
- Women are one-third more likely than men to hold subprime mortgages.

- A third of women are in poverty, and women are losing jobs at a faster rate than men.



Just before breaking for August recess, the US House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, which aims to provide more effective remedies to victims of wage discrimination on the basis of gender. The bill is now in the hands of the Senate.

Will the bill be passed and if so, will it truly give women more income equality?

What about the "female tax"? Women pay more for hair cuts, dry cleaning and other services. Income inequality stems from more than just being paid fairly on a job women are doing the same as men.

Women can arm themselves to combat this inequality by educating themselves on fair pay, asking for what they want/need in salary negotiations, and obtaining the skills necessary to demand higher pay.

## Attracting More Women to Math/Science

Despite claims made by ex-Harvard President, Lawrence Summers, that women are biologically inferior at math and science, the ranks of women in math and science have climbed sharply since the early 1980s. Women received nearly a third of mathematical sciences doctorates earned in the U.S. during the 2003-2004 academic year, up from only 15 percent in 1980, according to a 2005 study by several leading mathematical organizations. Women have

also received about 45 percent of bachelor's degrees in math since the early 1990s. And, high school women are among the highest scorers in math contests like the Putnam Competition where males previously dominated.



Our upcoming math and science learning day for local middle school aged girls has been scheduled for May 14, 2009. This is in response to Zonta International's most recent position paper on the subject.

# Service Committee

Scarves



**Cancer Scarves:**

Thursday, September 25th will be the next sewing date at DA Blodgett Offices starting at 5:30pm. We will be sewing cancer scarves and anyone with or without sewing skills is welcome. This is a great opportunity to do some valuable service for the community while socializing with your fellow Zontians. Bring a snack to share. Contact Lisa Sostecke if you plan on attending.

**Girls Learning Day:**

With a focus on access to math and science, we have scheduled the learning day for May 14, 2009. This will include an on water science experience through GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute. More to come on volunteer needs as chaperones as the date approaches. In addition, we will host speakers, possibly with some kind of aeronautical experience to link our Amelia Earhart connection. Anyone

with ideas for interactive speakers, please contact Darcie Clapp. Contact will be made with the Girls Scouts and Girls Inc. to solicit participation.

**Reusable Pads:**

A date will be determined for the next sewing project to make reusable pads. We will invite high school aged girls to help with this project. More details TBA.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”  
—Margaret Mead*

# Membership Committee

**Lunch & Learns:**

Our next Lunch & Learn is September 26, 2008 at Progressive AE. There will be 8 women in attendance from Progressive and an additional 3 from our prospect list as well as our Area Director, Joanne Lose.

The Lunch & Learn at GROW has been cancelled. GROW backed out after further con-

sideration and decided it wasn't within their focus for this year. The door is still open for other partnership opportunities with GROW.

**In the News Cards:**

We have revised the draft of the “In the News” cards that we will be sending to women in the news as prospective members. It will be available for review/comment again at

the October meeting and go to print thereafter. If you see an article of a woman in the news that should receive a card from Zonta, please continue to clip it and forward it to Kate Holbert.

**New Member Initiation:**

Area Director, Joanne Lose, will perform the new member initiation at our November meeting.

# Ways & Means Committee

**Book Event Fundraiser:**

Zonta has been invited to the Ground-breaking Ceremony for Lang Lodge renovations at Camp Newaygo. It is 9/27/08 at 4:00pm, 5333 S. Centerline Rd, Newaygo

**Poker Fundraiser:**

Where: Eastbrook Lanes  
When: October 8-11, 2008

Volunteers will be solicited at the October meeting. We will need everyone's participation in order to make this fundraising event a success. If you are unable to attend the October

meeting, and can volunteer for the event, contact Allison Reuter.



# President's Message



I am very excited about the positive response we are getting from our Lunch & Learn program. The District has asked me to talk about it

at the upcoming conference (10/17-19).

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all to attend the conference. The District Board has worked hard to feature outstanding speakers, including Michigan's First Gentleman, Daniel Mulhern, Pierette Domenica Simpson, Author of ALIVE on the Andrea Doria!, and Wendy Nienhouse, RedHot Marketing "They'll Wanna' Zonta". Attending Conference is a great way for seasoned and new Zontians alike to get more involved in Zonta,

learn how Zonta works outside of our Club, and socialize/network with your sister Zontians.

Our Club will be selling our Z-apparel at the Zonta store to benefit our convention fund. Additional shirts and decals are on order. I will schedule a date to make up the shirts once they arrive. It will be a time we can have fun and socialize and still get some work done.

See you at the upcoming sewing night. Wish us luck at Friday's Lunch & Learn! — Darcie

## District Conference NewZ

When: October 17-19

Where: Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI

Hosted by: Zonta Club of Saginaw

Fall Conference Registration Deadline: October 3

Cost to attend all events: \$195

Register online at: [http://www.zontadistrict15.org/2008A\\_Online\\_Registration.htm](http://www.zontadistrict15.org/2008A_Online_Registration.htm)

Or, by mail using the form received from District

Accommodations: Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth, MI

### Agenda:

Friday Keynote: Terry Barclay, President & CEO, Inforum

Saturday Status of Women Luncheon Keynote: Pierette Domenica Simpson, Author of ALIVE on the Andrea Dorea!

Saturday Workshop Speakers: Daniel Mulhern, Michigan's First Gentleman - "Everyday Leadership"

Wendy Nienhouse, RedHot Marketing - "They'll Wanna' Zonta: How to Create and Maintain your Zonta Message to get Results"

Saturday Banquet: Triple Play Band

For there is  
Hope in two women  
Friendship in three  
Determination in four  
Confidence in five  
And, with six women,  
All goals are possible.

Gibbon's Decline & Fall





# Zonta Club of Grand Rapids

## Member of Zonta International

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

### Next Business Meeting:

**Thursday, October 2, 2008**

5:30pm Social

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Business Meeting

D.A. Blogett Conference Room

805 Leonard St. N.E.

~Onsite Child Care provided~

Speaker: Robin Stoner, past ZGR member.

Robin will be speaking on her recent volunteer experience in Africa.

Dinner \$15.00, includes beverages

Menu: Pork roast, roasted red skinned potatoes, honeyed baby carrots, mixed green salad, and dessert.

Catered by: Catered Creations, Inc.

### Important Dates

- Thursday, September 25th, Sewing Project, Details TBA
- Friday, September 26th, 12-1pm, L&L @ Progressive AE
- October 8-11, 2008, Poker Fundraiser, Eastbrook Lanes
- October 17-19th, D15 Fall Conference, Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankemuth, MI
- November 25-December 10, International 16 Days of Activism
- Thursday, January 8th will be our January business meeting since the first Thursday falls on a holiday.
- March 8, 2009, International Women's Day/Zonta Rose Day
- May 14, 2009, Zonta GR hosts girls learning day with focus on math and science

## HERstory

Denise Spaulding has been a Grand Rapids Zontian since 1998. She is the current (sometimes she thinks eternal) Treasurer, and a Past President. She didn't know what she would be when she grew up. She aspired to be a professional woman in order to become independent. Denise enjoys travelling, camping and gardening. The best day of the past year for Denise was canoeing on the Au Sable river in Northern Michigan with her husband. She is a farm girl at heart and has helped birth several calves.

The biggest lesson she has learned from life is to think before she speaks. If Denise could go back in time and spend a day with someone she would spend it with her good friend, Irene, who died of cancer. One of Denise's worst habits is not liking to file things. A unique item she carries with her in her purse is Mind Trap, the card game, because it isn't filed yet! If she had a million dollars and 24 hours to spend it she would buy a sports car, new clothes and go on a trip. If she were to choose a new name for herself, it would be Amelia. The object she claims to be

most like in Meijer's is dark chocolate because she is so sweet!

Denise is a great asset to Zonta and we are proud to have her as a long standing member.



**Denise Spaulding**