

THE YEARS 1969 THROUGH 1976 by Ruth Hudgins

It is hoped this brief summary of activity during the period September 1969 through April 1976 will prove useful to the historian who will undertake the report of Zonta - decade 1969-1979.

The philosophy and purpose of Zonta Club has been adequately described in two earlier histories. It would be presumptuous to attempt enlargement. so, without further ado, an account of Zonta Chili's accomplishments under the final years of Verda Dale's presidency and the following years wider Ruth Carson, Ruth Brown, (Billie Bozone, interim) and Dominica Lucca follows:

International Projects

As in the past the Zonta Club of Northampton has continued to support International's service programs. Of particular interest to us is the Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund. The famous and venturesome aviatrix received her initial training in auto mechanics while living in Northampton. In recognition of her international achievement, Sean Dunphy, Mayor of Northampton, presented a proclamation to Zonta Club designating the week of January 11-18, 1975 as Women in Aviation Week and further proclaiming January 11th (the 40th anniversary of the day Amelia Earhart left Hawaii on her record-breaking flight) as the particular day honoring Amelia Earhart. The local club has continued to support this scholarship fund annually and has increased its contribution to \$3 per capita member.

In 1970 we doubled our contribution to Ramallah, the vocational training school for refugee Arab girls. It is good to report that the school is "carrying on" despite the unrest in that part of the world.

Contributions were made to the Unicef Pediatric Mobile Clinic Fund. We have been recently notified that the project has progressed to the point of being self-supporting. Our current contributions to Unicef now support the Pan-African Training and Research Center for Women.

Our contribution was added to that of other Zonta Clubs within our nation when an SOS appeal came from Zonta Club of Decca, Pakistan (via Zonta International) for help in the relief of victims of a devastating flood in East Pakistan.

National Projects

Our own national disaster also received the club's attention after Hurricane Camille swept through the south and left hundreds of families homeless in Alabama. Through, a contribution to the American Red Cross we were able to lend a helping hand to the flood victims in that area.

Local Projects

Locally, continuing support has been given annually to the Hampshire United Fund, Amherst Community Chest (discontinued in 1974/5), the People's Institute (for camperships or playground equipment) and the Clarke School for the Deaf, for Initiation and support of Its taping program of cumulative speech records of its students. In addition, in 1973/4 the Club undertook the establishment of a Zonta Fellowship at the Clarke School. This award Is given to a graduate student participating in the one-year joint Clarke School - Smith College teacher-training program leading top. Master of Education of the Deaf from Smith College.

Our contribution to the YMCA was raised in 1970 to provide additional memberships for girls. In addition to our response to the building fund we gave generously to the Y's Emergency Fund appeal to raise funds for a matching donation In order to liquidate the mortgage.

Support was also given to the Drug Steering Committee after learning of its HOT LINE program (a 24-hour answering service for any and all - drug users, alcoholics and others) who needed help at that particular moment.

Stryker Stretcher

In 1974 we were able to contribute sufficient funds to Cooley Dickinson Hospital for a Stryker Modular Stretcher. The Modular concept of the stretcher allows tailoring the stretcher to provide ultimate patient care.

Both younger and older ages received the Club's attention. Funds for card tables were given to the Council on Aging and although no member raised a needle we did provide funds to clothe some or all of the elves of Santa's Workshop in suitable costumes.

One of our program speakers aroused interest in child care needs in totally different areas of the world. Mrs. Hazelle Ferguson, a Field Supervisor In the State Department of Public Health, reported on the efforts to establish a Children's Health Clinic in the Village of Lagos In a remote part of Nigeria. Need for help was obvious. Our contribution was received with grateful appreciation.

Baby Manikin

Susan Roundy of the Affiliate Faculty in the Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation Unit of the American Heart Association taught techniques of handling heart failure. The urgent need for a Resusci Baby Training Manikin was called to the Club's attention by Ruth Brown. Necessary funds for the manikin were allocated so that the model might be used In Ms. Roundy's training courses.

Zonta Club helped sponsor the Clarke School Swimathon in the Spring of '75 which was organized by Club member, Marjorie Magner, to help raise scholarship money for Clarke School students.

During this period the Club responded to Hampshire County Hospital's request for small gifts to be used as game prizes for hospital residents.

Dollars for Scholars (Graduating Senior from Smith School, St. Michael's and Northampton High School in Northampton), Sidney F. Smith Memorial Toy Fund and Medic Alert were also Included in our service budgets. The Bicentennial Committee has requested that we consider a gift for the beautification of downtown Northampton.

Not all of our efforts were expended in raising funds for service projects. Members have spent hundreds of hours doing volunteer work in various capacities at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, helping nursing home patients with their accounts, distributing information to the vision impaired and working in the Cancer Crusade, the Red Cross, United Fnnd and various other campaigns.

Programs serving public safety were also undertaken. In November and December 1970 the Safety Committee arranged for an 8-bour Defensive Driving Coarse to be conducted _by the Safety Council of Western Massachusetts. The course was held at the People's Institute. Twenty-four members were enrolled and all reported the course most helpful,

Medic Alert, the subject of a dinner-program presented by members Mary Boyle and Janet Huston, both R. N.'s resulted in several members volunteering to distribute literature and alerting the public to the fact that anyone wearing a bracelet is a person in need of special medical care.

Income

The main source of our Income has been the Hospitality Parties at which everyone seems to enjoy working. Ruth Hudgins is responsible for the continued success of this project. She has served as Chairman of this committee since 1971 following Mary Kozak's resignation. It looks as if we need to extend our bar-tending skills to include some of the simpler mixed drinks. Arrangements were made by Mary Albro to have Paul Garvey, of Smith College, spend an evening with us on March 11, 1976 giving us instruction in the finer arts of mixology. (We also had the pleasure of sampling some of his "creations". We couldn't throw them away, could we?)

Rummage sales. held twice a year, continue to provide revenue.

Several new and promising fund-raising projects were undertaken. Tote bags were sold - hundreds of them with the help of Mrs. Ethel Leerburger, a housemother at Smith College. A Ways & Means table at the fall meetings holds possibilities for revenue.

Flea Market

The Flea Market first held in September 1974 was so successful that it promises to become an annual affair. Both sales, 1974 and 1975 were held at the Pot Pourri Shopping Plaza made available by Mary Shermeta. The proceeds for 1974 purchased the Stryker-Stretcher at Cooley Dickinson Hospital. Returns from the 1975 market are being held toward an ultimate contribution to the Cancer Radiation Unit which is to be built at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Lately we have been trying to sweeten the local area by selling honey -500 lbs. of the purest kind from Cape Cod!

Memorial

The Hazel Condon Memorial Fund was established in January 1975 with the \$500 which she bequeathed to the Club. The fund is to be increased to \$1000 from contributions by the members, the annual interest to be spent in Memory of Hazel, the first active President of the Northampton Club. It was noted that the earrings be given to the Young Women's City Club, an organization in which Hazel Condon was a member of the Board of Directors for many years.

Programs and Meetings

To overlook the efforts of the Program Committees to provide us with interesting, informative and just plain enjoyable programs during this period would be unpardonable. A wide variety of subjects, four of which have already been mentioned, were presented. We learned about Legislative Problems in Massachusetts and the basic causes of unrest in Ireland. We heard about efforts to control disease in Afghanistan and Nigeria. "Layman and the Probate Court" and "Home Rule for Northampton Under a New Charter" brought us right to our own doorstep. All after-dinner programs were not as serious as those mentioned. The Smith Chamber Singers and the Barre Bell Ringers entertained us at Christmas dinners. We took a jaunt to Alaska when Stanley Shermeta shared his fishing trip experiences with us. These are but a few of the many programs we enjoyed.

The Governor of District I, Barbara Walton and Governor-elect Ruby Reed were special guests at the business meeting November 1971. During the latter part of the meeting Governor Barbara Walton pointed out lines along which an efficiently organized club operates. The necessity of increased dues and taxes, attendance of new members at workshops and good relations with other area service clubs were also mentioned.

Past presidents were especially invited to attend our own 35th Anniversary Dinner November 5, 1969. All former Zonta members were advised of the occasion and invited to join in the celebration.

A special meeting which the Club arranged was held on September 29, 1975. All local service clubs were invited to attend a dinner meeting in the Coachlight Room of the Hotel Northampton to honor Dr. Jill Conway, the newly-elected and first woman President of Smith College. The meeting was chaired by Alice Davis who graciously and wittily welcomed Dr. Conway and her husband to Northampton and introduced all local service clubs.

Dues

After much discussion, pro and con, it was voted in May of 1972 that the time has come to raise our dues to \$30 a year.

Memberships

Over these years Club membership has fluctuated between 30 and 38. Like the Dow-Jones 1000-mark, we did not reach the magic 40 until Spring 1976 when, through the diligence of Louise Marchand and her committee; we arrived!

Honorary Member

Our first honorary member is Dr. Jill Conway, the first woman President of Smith College, who accepted membership in the fall of 1975. At the dinner meeting on February 4, 1975 Jean MacDonald, Charter Member and twice President, was presented with an Active Lifetime Membership in recognition of her years of service to Zonta as well as to the community.

The years covered in this report were saddened by the loss of several dedicated Zontians. The valiance of Ruth Carson who carried out her duties as President through the final stages of illness was a lesson in courage to all of us. Charter Member, Hazel Ross Condon, Northampton Zonta Club's first Acting President, worked zealously since Zonta's inception, seeking out new members, participating in all projects and suggesting new means of raising funds. Margaret Johnson, President during 1951-53, whose warmth and friendliness will be remembered by all who knew her, spent many hours gathering data and writing the informative second installment (1959-69) of Zonta's history. All of us who knew these Zontians were aware of their worth.

Meeting Places

For a number of years Zonta 1s Business Meetings were held in private homes. This put the responsibility for adequate space on those members who lived in homes with sizeable living rooms. Since many members could not accomodate a large number of members, it seemed reasonable to select a central meeting place. In September 1972 the Northampton Hotel was chosen as a likely place. So, we conducted our business and for 50[cents] apiece at each meeting we drank coffee and munched on hard, cold buns there. Not too satisfactory a solution! In 1974 Margaret Hutchins reported that James House at the People's Institute was available and offered It for our Business Meetings. Now each member takes a turn as hostess along with several other members.

Table I indicates the manner in which our contributions were divided among local, national and international programs from September 1969 through April 1976. It requires only a quick glance to see that our funds for service have Increased noticeably. The 10 years of the 1960's averaged \$819 per year and this doubled to \$1752 per year for the last 7 years. With that achievement behind us, coupled with increased membership, rounding out the last years of the decade to 1979 provides the Zonta Chm of Northampton with a considerable challenge.