

## President's Message:

Dear Members,

The snow, gray weather, and spending time on my computer looking for appointments for the vaccine made February a rather boring month. Winter doldrums, I guess. But March is almost here, and spring is coming. Getting out in the spring weather always perks me up. Also, as more people are vaccinated, we move closer to a somewhat normal existence. However, I think masks will be around for a while!

If you missed the February meeting, here is the link to the very excellent and interesting video: <https://youtu.be/PRx0wnkrA4A>

We also had a guest/prospective member join us. **Welcome Lindsay Burdette!**

I also wanted to mention an interesting article I read while working on this article for the newsletter. Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Washington Post Outlook section is an article titled "Human Trafficking". It lists 5 common misconceptions regarding trafficking:

1. Victims are trafficked by strangers.
2. Trafficking is a developing world problem.
3. Human trafficking increases during sporting events.
4. Trafficking is perpetrated by gangs and cartels.
5. Human trafficking requires movements.

Preventing child marriage and Human Trafficking are two of Zonta International's projects.

March is here and Zonta is moving forward. Our March meeting is scheduled for Monday, **March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** Our speaker is Eileen Kane, a State Department Foreign Service Officers. Her bio is located at the end of this newsletter.

You may log on after 5:15 p.m.

Topic: Zonta Frederick Mtg.

Time: Mar 8, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3151277683?pwd=VThUNytyaEYvc1dNU0JSNk9sLzVqUT09>

There has been no activity for a financial report.

Each month, I receive a rather lengthy email from Zonta International with information on upcoming activities along with a few extra notifications in additional emails. You may be receiving some of these emails also. I will try and summarize the info in these emails to avoid overloading your mailbox.

## CSW EVENTS

### Girls' Education: Access, Obstacles and Impact to Achieving Gender Equity

**Wednesday, 17 March, 9:00 AM Central Daylight Time (CDT)**

Approximately 130 million girls between the ages of 6 and 17 are out of school and 15 million girls will never enter a classroom, due to barriers caused by poverty, social norms, poor infrastructure, violence, and fragility and now, COVID-19. Yet, despite these barriers, education provides multiple benefits for girls while also creating economic growth, decreasing the likelihood of conflict, increasing resilience and impacting future generations with wide-reaching economic and social benefits. Join Zonta International and UNICEF USA to learn about the multiple drivers and barriers to education for girls, how education impacts many areas of progress for girls, and how we can improve access to education for girls around the world.

Access the event via the NGO CSW Forum event app at <https://ngocsw65forum.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/zxWujkZuDwPLtkNij>.

## **Staged Reading of "Ruined"—Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning play Friday, 19 March, 11:00 AM CDT**

Join the Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan for a staged reading of "Ruined," Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize winning play examining the rape and human trafficking of women as a weapon of war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The reading is being co-produced by Zonta International United Nations Committee Chairman Pamela Morgan in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and is co-sponsored by Zonta International. Please note that this play includes adult content and strong language.

Access the event via the NGO CSW Forum event app at:  
<https://ngocsw65forum.us2.pathable.com/meetings/virtual/2X3rFgExTDThqXWfP>.

## **Annual Dues are coming!**

Please watch for information and training session announcements to assist club presidents and treasurers in understanding how to manage dues payments for new members joining between 1 April and 31 May 2021 and all members from 1 June 2021 through 31 May 2022. **All clubs will be asked to complete their own data entry and updates online.**

## **Young Women in Public Affairs Award/Scholarship (YWPA)**

Zonta Club of Frederick is now accepting applications for the YWPA award/scholarship. More information is contained below.

## **Women in Technology Scholarship**

Zonta International will award up to 20 scholarships of US\$8,000 each to women pursuing a degree in information technology. Applicants apply directly to Zonta International, but we encourage Zonta clubs

to download the scholarship poster and social media images to promote the Women in Technology Scholarship in your local community.

Find more information and a link to the online application at <http://www.zonta.org/womenintech>  
**Application deadline is 15 October 2021.**

## **The Add Your Voice Global Membership Campaign**

The Zonta International Membership Committee is pleased to share details of the Add Your Voice global membership campaign. The goal of the 2021 membership campaign is to recruit new members to help achieve our mission. **The intent is to offer a friendly competition amongst clubs based on club size divided into three tiers: large clubs, mid-size clubs and small-scale clubs.**

We know the pandemic has and continues to harm women and girls around the globe. Now more than ever we need more voices to share in our vision of achieving gender equality, ending gender-based violence, and improving educational and career opportunities for women and girls.

We also know the pandemic is affecting each member and each club differently, and that recruiting may be more challenging for some. Our intention is to build momentum as an annual campaign taking place every April and May and invite all clubs to do their best.

**The Add Your Voice global membership campaign will take place from 1 April to 31 May 2021.** All members who are added to your club through the online platform will be members through 31 May 2022. Please see the [\*\*Membership Campaign Guidelines and FAQs\*\*](#) for the campaign details, rules and competition prizes. I added this to our March Agenda.

## Updated Zonta Manuals

The following Zonta International Manuals have been updated to align with the 2020 Zonta International Bylaws amendments:

- Club Manual
- District Manual
- District Conference Manual
- Marian de Forest Membership Manual
- Z and Golden Z Club Manual
- Zonta Foundation for Women Manual
- Zonta International Manual
- Zonta International Finance and Audit Manual
- Zonta International Convention Manual
- Zonta International Protocol Manual

All manuals can be downloaded under [My Zonta/Governance/Manuals](#).

Jeannine

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## Program Committee Report

The April meeting will feature a speaker from the Human Relations Trafficking Taskforce. If you have a suggestion for a speaker for a future meeting, please feel free to provide the information.

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## Membership Committee Report

Barb has membership packets available for perspective members.

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## Communication Committee Report

The updated website is now live. Changes and updates are still needed. Members can send their suggestions and comments to Eileen.

Please send input for the next newsletter to Eileen by April 25. All submissions are appreciated.

Anyone may share appropriate material on our Facebook, just like a personal Facebook Page. You can post at:

<https://www.facebook.com/zontafrederick/>

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## U.N. Sustainable Development Goals Goal #4 – Quality Education

Why Is This Important? According to the U.N. document, “Education enables upward socioeconomic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty.” Much progress has been made over the years, but even so, around 258 million children and youth were still out of school in 2018, which represents almost 1/5 of the global population in that age group. And, not surprisingly, the statistic is worse for girls than it is for boys.

Worldwide statistics: 773 million adults (2/3 of whom are women) remained illiterate in terms of reading and writing skills. And the sheer magnitude of school closures due to COVID-19 is likely to set back progress on access to education.

### What Can I Do About it?

Locally, Zontians can ask their legislators to support any legislation that provides equity and equal access to primary education for all children, starting from birth. As to the global crisis, our club could seek out other organizations that are providing services for Sub-Saharan African nations, such as providing basic resources (drinking water, electricity, computers, and the Internet). This population is struggling the most to have access to quality education.

Learn more about all sustainable Development Goals at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

Learn more at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment> (*Pat will include in each newsletter a U.N. Sustainable Goal*)

## Young Women in Public Affairs Awards submissions due

Applications for the YWPA Awards are being accepted through March 28, 2021.

Women, aged 16-19 on April 1<sup>st</sup> each year, studying at a secondary school, college, or university in a Zonta district/region, or who are studying elsewhere but are citizens of a Zonta country are eligible to apply. The Zonta Club of Frederick awards \$500 annually to the selected applicant. There are 32 District awards of US\$1,500 each and 10 International awards of US\$5,000 each.

Applications and requirements are available at [www.zonta.org/YWPA Awards](http://www.zonta.org/YWPA Awards) and must be received by March 28.

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## Rose Day – March 8

Barb Stastney will deliver yellow roses to Allison Duval in further recognition of her work on our website.

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## Bill limiting child marriage introduced for sixth time

(Excerpt from article in the Frederick News and Post published Feb 16, 2021)

State Del. Vanessa Atterbeary again introduced a bill this session to raise the minimum age for marriage in Maryland — an effort that has failed for five consecutive years.

Atterbeary (D-Howard) and state Sen. Sarah Elfreth (D-Annapolis) filed the bill the sixth time requiring teenagers to be at least 17 years old to get legally married. Under state law, 15-year-olds can marry in the case of pregnancy or birth of a child if they have parental consent. And 16- and 17-year-olds only need parental consent.

Senate Bill 173 and House Bill 242 would allow 17-year-olds to get married to spouses

four years their senior, at most. Teenagers younger than 17 would have to wait.

The stipulation protects young girls from being pressured into marrying much older men, Elfreth said.

Teenagers of age to get married would also have to undergo a judicial review process that would expose coercive and abusive relationships, Elfreth added. Teenagers would be appointed an attorney, undergo the review process ensuring their decision to marry is independent, and be emancipated from their parents.

Under current law, 15-year-olds who are married are too young to open a credit card, sign an apartment lease or file for divorce. Shelters face legal charges for harboring a minor if they accept girls who run away from home.

You have no rights as an adult, even though you are married,” Elfreth said. “This bill says that ... you would need to be emancipated as an adult so you could get out of a potentially abusive situation.” Proponents of the existing age limit say teenagers who are mature enough to start a family should be able to. But advocates against child marriage say the majority of teenage marriages involve minor girls to older men. National statistics show about 80 percent of minor marriages end in divorce, pushing girls and young women, who often stop their education after marriage, into poverty, said Donna Pollard, a child bride survivor.



## **March Meeting Speaker Bio Eileen Kane, Foreign Service Officers for the U.S. Department of State**

Eileen has served in this position for 27 years. I met Eileen when they were both part of the Embassy in Jakarta Indonesia. My office was that of Community Liaison Office and Eileen was the Transportation Officer. Part of my job was to welcome and provide orientation for all newcomers the Embassy. As Transportation Office, Eileen was the staff member who arranged delivery of the new members household goods. I guess we looked alike to the newcomers as we spent quite a bit of time explaining who we were not! Eileen finally had polo shirts made for us. I am not sure what the exact wording was but think mine said, "I am not the Transportation Officer."

Eileen had assignments to Canada, Indonesia, and numerous tours in Washington, visiting 34 countries in total. This included five tours in the Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science which included portfolios as diverse as the climate change negotiations to scientific cooperation in Asia.

She was the original author of the State Department's publication on the role of the environment in national security (1997). From 1999-2000, she was a Visiting Scholar at George Washington University's Center for Science and Technology Policy at the Elliott School of International Affairs. Eileen was also the economic desk officer for India and Bhutan and was the editor and writer of her own feature page about sustainable development on America.gov,

the Department website for government news aimed at overseas audiences. For her last assignment, Eileen was responsible for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds and implementing U.S. government activities for Dodd-Frank Section 1502 to assist multiple stakeholders end the flow of minerals that fund conflict in central Africa. Eileen received a Superior Honor Award and four Meritorious Honor awards from the Department of State and a bronze medal for Meritorious Performance from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Eileen has been a youth leader and a member of the Board of Camp Fire Patuxent Council for many years and has been a Girl Scout for more than 50 years.

Currently, she serves on the board of Soroptimist International of New York City. She grew up on the East Side of Manhattan, lived in Sunnyside, Queens, and resides in Washington DC with her husband and college-age son. She is a 1987 graduate of Hunter College with a BA in Geography and a minor in Biology.

*(Jeannine provided this biography based on her personal knowledge.)*

