

# Zonta Club of Fort Worth

Quarterly News [August 22, 2012]

## 85 Years and Counting...



We were chartered in 1927 and have tirelessly worked for 85 years to advance women's health, educational, financial, political and legal status in the Fort Worth community. We've seen our membership ebb and flow, but there has always been a core of faithful, dedicated Zontians who held tightly to Zonta's mission and vision.

Thanks to their leadership, our club has brought the spotlight to local women who fought the fight, broke through the glass ceiling (and any other barrier in their way) to become leaders, impressing their peers and inspiring younger generations.

Our club has a legacy of supporting organizations dedicated to advancing the status of women in our community. The club provided financial and hands-on support to a fledgling organization in the early 1970's, encouraging and nurturing its growth every year since. The Women's Center of Tarrant County is now a major force in the battle against rape and children last year, and prevention education and training to almost 77,000 more.



The Texas Girls' Choir was established in 1962 by our own Shirley Carter, Zontain and sister of Wanda Rufner, who is a member still. This was the first girls' choir to be incorporated in the United States, and over the past 50 years, more than 25,000 girls have passed through The Texas Girls' Choir Program, touring throughout the United States and overseas; visiting 55 countries.

## Texas Girls' Choir

We are proud of our legacy of service to the women in our community, and never forget the ones who went before us. We owe them our opportunity to learn about and share the issues which affect ourselves, our mothers, our daughters, our friends, our community, our nation and our world.

Membership – Last year, we had 22 members. At the end of the year, we lost 12 members...primarily those who supported us through payment of dues, but didn't attend or become involved in our meetings or programs. Already this year, we have installed two new members (Jaye Skaggs-Browning and Gail Wilson), and have three more to install next month. Our membership Chair, Connie Stierstorfer, has done a great job. She's planned monthly socials for our members and guests, and has reached out to those interested in Zonta. In June, 10 Zonta members and 3 guests met for happy hour at



the Times Ten Cellars in Fort Worth. Everyone enjoyed complimentary wine, great conversation and hors d'ouerves. Our July social was at Cantina Laredo.

Fundraising – This year, Boots 'n Bling will again be a Casino Night and will be held at GRACE Restaurant in the Carter-Burgess Building in downtown Fort Worth on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 10:30pm. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. Advance tickets are available on our website, [www.zontafw.org](http://www.zontafw.org), or from any Club member. Co-Chairs of the event are Betsy Romero and Cindy Stringer. Last year, we raised more than \$12,000 for our service fund, and hope to do even more this year.



Service – The Ladder Alliance trains at-risk women to help them become employable. They provide GED and computer skills training. On June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>, we prepared and served dinner to approximately 30 women attending classes and their children. Paulette Burns, Chair, planned the menus and organized the volunteers.



Advocacy – Our members received Sheryl Flanagin's emails regarding Women's Equality Day 2012, the ERA update, the UNITE Orange Campaign to end violence against women and the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-Authorization Act, and, as a result, many have contacted Texas State Senator John Cornyn to encourage his support to co-sponsor the TVPRA (S.1301) and the bill to remove any deadline for ratification of the ERA. We are all planning to wear orange on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month to call attention to the need to end violence against women.



Meetings – In May, we began meeting at Shula's Grill in the Fort Worth Sheraton Hotel. We installed our new Board and honored our Jane Klausman Scholarship winner. In June, our speaker was Dr. Laura Prestwood, associate professor of Interior Design at TCU. She specializes in architectural lighting design and education, women's studies, and architectural design criteria for the built environment with a special emphasis on vulnerable populations. She shared with us the impact that color and design can have on women living in shelters.



We had a pot-luck dinner and planning meeting at Wanda Rufner's house in June. We had great food and lots of fun planning our year.

We didn't have a July meeting due to the Zonta International Convention in Torino. Our new President, Vicki Saylor-Probes and Vice-President, Connie Stierstorfer, attended.

The August meeting focused on Vicki's report on the International Convention and installation of our two new members.

D10 Conference – We are planning to take the train to the District 10 Conference in Longview, Texas, October 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope to have lots of other area Zontians join us for a great time! Train tickets are \$35 (\$30 for seniors.) Contact Connie Stierstorfer for train trip information. See you there...Whoo Hoo!!