

# ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6

## NEWSLETTER

February 2025

### D6 BOARD 2024-2026

Isabel Vidal – Governor

Brandy Harrington – Lt. Governor

Karen Smith – Treasurer

Seeking a Volunteer – Secretary

Karen Herman DeMuro – Area 1  
Director

Cathy Myers – Area 2 Director

Susan Harmon – Area 3 Director

Stephanie Buntin – Area 4  
Director

Kelly LaMore – Area 5 Director

### GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year District 6! January 2025 hit like a lion with bone-chilling winds and frosty temperatures. February will no-doubt bring other challenges. Winter is one of our beautiful Midwest seasons and serves as the intro to Spring – my favorite, next to Fall. Spring has always been a metaphor for growth and change, so too, for Zonta. I have exciting information to share in our Spring Workshops which we all hope will be attended by all the members of our 21 clubs. This is particularly important for those members who did not attend our Fall Conference in October. The most up to date information for our Spring Area Workshops follows:



**Area 5:** March 8, 2025, hosted by the LaSalle Peru Club at Illinois Valley Community College in Ottawa, IL. Additionally, all District 6 members are invited to join us to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their club. Please let Area 5 Director Kelly LaMore([kellyl03@att.net](mailto:kellyl03@att.net)), LSP President Kim Radek-Hall ([Kimberly\\_RadekHall@ivcc.edu](mailto:Kimberly_RadekHall@ivcc.edu)), or me know if you will attend and are not a member of an Area 5 Club. An invitation will be posted.

**Area 4:** March 15, 2025, hosted by the Indianapolis Club at Robin Run Village, 5354 W 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN.

**Area 3:** March 22, 2025, hosted by the Lincoln Club at [First Presbyterian Church](#) Education Center, [301 Pekin St, Lincoln, IL](#).

**Area 1:** March 29, 2025, hosted by E-Club USA 3, virtually.

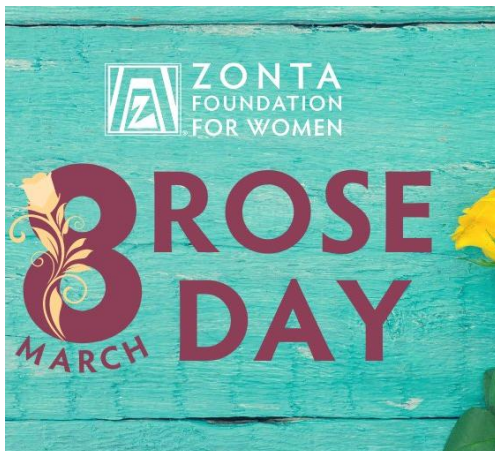
**Area 2:** May 17, 2025, hosted by the Milwaukee Club at MRA, N19W24350 Riverwood Dr., Pewaukee, WI.

### NEWS FROM ZI:

1. **Global Membership Highlights:** Five new Chartered Clubs in Districts 2 - NY, Ontario, Quebec, Canada, 17 - Hong Kong; Macau; Malaysia; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand, 24 - Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales (except Albury-Wodonga Inc. and Northern Rivers Inc.), Australia, 26 - Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales (except Albury-Wodonga Inc. and Northern Rivers Inc.), Australia, & 30 - Bulgaria; France; Germany; Italy;

Monaco; Romania; Switzerland. There are 48 more in formation, however a few may need to renew their Authorizations as they are only good for 2 years.

2. **Twinning Program** has begun. 13 pairs have been formed with more to come in 2025. Reach out to Isabel if you'd like more information.



3. **Golden Z Club – Only Resolution from Brisbane Convention**, see below, Working on coding & website piece. Launch in February. We can add our GZ members to the Sponsoring Clubs' Membership. Training will be held on 2/4/25 and 2/15/25. Jeanie Beccue and I will attend as will the sponsor from LaSalle Peru and Lincoln Clubs who sponsor GZ Clubs in District 6. ZCO Joliet was considering a Charter although we need to follow up with them given this great news.
4. **Membership Core Values:** Work is underway on creating a values statement for Zontians from the Core Values and Code of Conduct Working Group. Information has been sent to district, area and club leaders to start discussions with members now about their root beliefs and drive to build a better world for women and girls. Governors and Lt. Governors were messaged on 12/3/24 by the Working Group. We were asked to begin discussions in our Area Meetings. A PowerPoint will be presented at each workshop.
5. **Affiliation Agreements:** This document must be signed by each District, then by each Club within the District. I must sign and submit the District Agreement by 2/28/25. It is on our February Board Meeting Agenda. I will then need to discuss this with each President as there will be little time for their compliance (3/5/25-5/15/25).
  - **15 January:** Email to governors with instructions to sign and return district affiliation agreement.
  - **28 February:** Deadline for districts to return district affiliation agreement to ZI Headquarters.
  - **5 March:** Email to club presidents with instructions to sign and return club affiliation agreement.
  - **15 May:** Deadline for clubs to return club affiliation agreement to ZI Headquarters.
6. The new ***The Zontian*** is out and can be found at [zonta.org/TheZontian](https://zonta.org/TheZontian)
7. There is a new ***Welcome to Zonta Booklet*** coming! Updates will include:
  - Benefits of Membership
  - Key Focus Areas/Causes
  - Advocacy Efforts and Partners
  - Current Projects and Programs
  - Strategic Plan Outline
8. **The Remarkable Women series:** is now available on Spotify and you can help give more visibility to Zonta: Following the Podcast and giving it a 5-Star Rating will boost our exposure. **QR code to register.**
9. A Conference Call was held with all USA Governors, Lt. Governors and Club Presidents. We need to cover in Club Meetings the Partisan v. Political position of Zonta International. The presentation is located at: [Advocacy: Political Yes, Non-Partisan, Yes - Zonta USA Caucus](#)
10. **Zonta Foundation for Women:** The minimum dollar threshold has increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for individuals to be invited to the Donor Reception held at the biennial convention.
11. New Bylaws and Forms to be used for submitting amendments, etc., in advance of a Convention: Go to [Bylaws and Resolutions Tools](#) and check out the new information.
12. Please review your Bylaws to make them consistent with changes made at Convention. Bylaws Chair Mary Nagel is happy to review them before approved and adopted by each Club.



*Isabel M. Vidal*

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to Joliet's 5 new members that were inducted at their January Meeting!



*It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Mae Totz, a long-time valued and respected member of the Belvidere Zonta Club.*

*Mae joined the Belvidere Club in 1973. She made significant contributions serving on many committees for over 50 years. She will be remembered for her kindness and a beautiful smile*

## DISTRICT 6 WORKSHOPS

March and May dates.... Please plan to attend your Area's workshop! More information will be sent out soon.

*AND help the LaSalle Peru Club celebrate their 100 YEAR anniversary at the end of their workshop!*



For D6 members, please RSVP **Celebration Only Attendance** to Kelly, Kim or Isabel.

Please join the Zonta Club of  
LaSalle-Peru Area as we  
celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

### Cookie and Punch Reception

March 8, 2025  
3:00 – 4:00 PM  
Illinois Valley Community College  
Building D, Room 201

Please RSVP to  
[Kimberly\\_RadekHall@ivcc.edu](mailto:Kimberly_RadekHall@ivcc.edu)

with **Zonta Anniversary** in the Subject Line



## ZONTA NORTH AMERICAN INTER-DISTRICT MEETING

North American Interdistrict Meeting will be June 20-22 in Novi, Michigan. Registration is now open.

***Are you registered?***

***Do you have your hotel booked?***

• Register at [Zonta North American Inter-district Meeting](https://www.zontanaidm.org/)  
(<https://www.zontanaidm.org/>)

• Early Bird Rate ends: 4/15/2025



ZONTA NORTH AMERICAN  
INTER-DISTRICT MEETING

June 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>  
Novi, MI

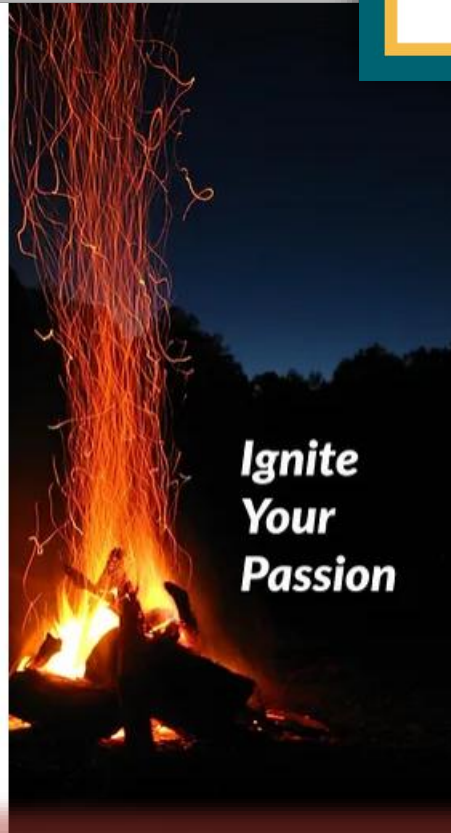


## Zonta North American Inter- District Meeting 2025

Where

Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel,  
21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI 48375, USA

[Register Now](#)



## North American Inter-District Meeting

Enjoy Summer Camp Fun, Growth and Bonding with Zontians from around North America!

Featuring:

Four Workshop Tracks Aligned with ZI Goals:

- Craft Your Credible and Visible Voice
- Aim for Club Success
- Dive into Leadership and Sustainability
- Explore how to Engage Audiences and Allies

And More:

- Zonta Store, Zonta Club Store, Zonta Foundation Booth
- Meet and hear from the Zonta International Board
- Fabulous Keynote Speakers and Evening Entertainment
- Meals included with registration: Friday Dinner, Saturday Lunch and Dinner, Sunday Brunch!

## 2025 DISTRICT AWARD CLUB APPLICATION DUE DATES

### Young Women in Leadership Award

This award has changed in 2025 in name only; a detailed email has previously been sent to all area directors, club presidents and club award chairs with important resources and current application available for use now on the ZI website. Please note the district deadline to receive the club application is **on or before April 1, 2025**.

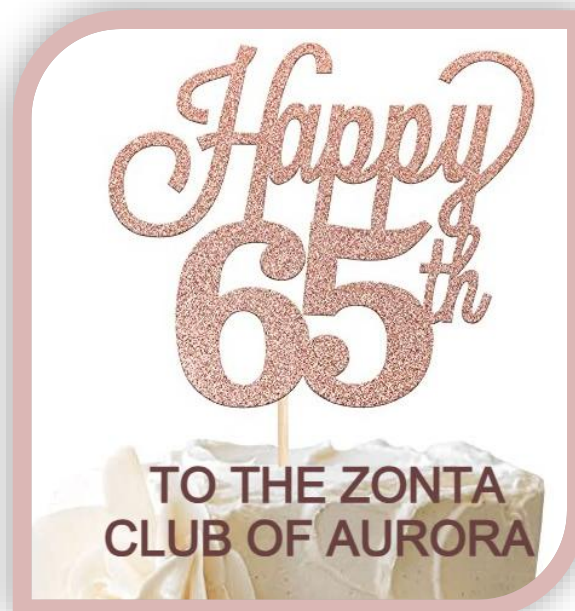
### JMK Women in Business Scholarship

ZI has made no changes to this award for 2025. However, ZI will be making changes in 2026. Therefore, all resources for clubs to use, including the application, are currently available on the ZI website and a detailed email will be sent soon from Susie Trees, district awards chair, to all clubs. Please note the district deadline to receive the club application is **on or before August 1, 2025**.

### Women in STEM Award

ZI has introduced a new Women in STEM award for this biennium and all resources, including the application, are currently available on the ZI website. Please note! The application is dated 2026 and this is the current application all clubs should use! I have received confirmation from ZI that the 2026 date is due to monies distributed by ZI to international award recipients will be distributed in 2026, but the award application should be publicized and distributed by all district clubs in 2025. A detailed email will be sent soon to all clubs. Please note the district deadline to receive the club application is **on or before December 1, 2025**.

**Please note:** ALL club applications for any award can **only be emailed**, not mailed, to my attention at [Susie\\_trees@yahoo.com](mailto:Susie_trees@yahoo.com) (note the underscore between my first and last name) on or before each award deadline date. Any award inquiries are welcome at any time, please contact me!



## USA CAUCUS UPDATES & UN UPDATES

**Registration Open for NGO CSW69/Beijing+30 Forum + What the Constitution Means to Me email, forwarded by Mary Baudino, D6 UN Chair. Author Denise Sylvester, Governor, Zonta USA Caucus**

Registration is now open for the NGO CSW69/Beijing+30 Forum (for virtual, in-person, or hybrid). Please share: <https://ngocsw69forum.events.whova.com/registration/>

The NGO CSW Forum is organized by and for global civil society, non-governmental organizations, and feminists to connect them with the official [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women \(UN CSW\)](#) process. With hundreds of events, the NGO CSW Forum informs, engages, and inspires grassroots efforts and gender equality advocacy around the world. While the NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to and complements the UN CSW, it is a separate process with separate organizers.

Zonta will have some events!

Also - thank you to Gov. Jane Austin (D) for flagging this film/play that she saw recently that has won Tony awards and was a Pulitzer finalist, "What the constitution means to me." "It was a very thought-provoking play that hit key issues of domestic violence, gender equality, and women related to the Constitution, with a focus on the 9th and 14th Amendments and key Supreme Court cases.

This is currently on stage in Tucson's Invisibletheatre.com and Alabama's Virginia Samford Theatre in February. This and Ratify <https://ratifythefilm.com/> are great ideas for Zontians to sponsor in their communities. Let's keep these important discussions going at the grassroots and local level!

Encourage your community/city theater group to put this play on! Licensing for the play available at [What the Constitution Means to Me | Official Site](#)

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Zonta International is hosting 12 weekly Conversation Circles with each week focused on one of the twelve critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action. I shared this opportunity with each of the District 6 club presidents and UN committee chairs and encouraged them to share with their club members.

I have attended four (4) of the last eight (8) Conversation Circles and anticipate attending the last four (4) in the upcoming weeks. Each discussion revolves on three (3) prepared questions pertaining to the weekly topic. I find everyone's perspective very interesting and thought provoking. To register for the conversations: [Zonta International Events](#).

I used the QR Code provided by Gov. Isabel to submit my interest in attending CSW69. Per Shannon w/ZI they encourage everyone to submit this interest Google form as this is how she will communicate with interested members. There is not a deadline to submit your interest form, but all are encouraged to do so soon.



Here is the link to check out UN International Days

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/list-days-weeks>

- February 11 is International Day of Women and Girls in Science – this is an opportunity for Zonta Clubs to promote our STEM Award opportunities
- March 8 – International Women's Day

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Baudino, District 6 United Nations Chair*

## UPCOMING D6 CLUB ACTIVITIES & OPPORTUNITIES



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
OAK BROOK

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025

HOSTED BY THE ZONTA CLUB OF OAK BROOK  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE ZONTA FOUNDATION OF GREATER CHICAGO

*Keynote Speaker:* Megan Radavich is the Executive Director of Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women. She is a dedicated advocate for women and girls with nearly 20 years of nonprofit and association management experience. Megan joined Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women in 2009. For the last 16 years, she has served in multiple capacities within Zonta, including managing foundation-funded service and education programs, overseeing Zonta International's relationship with the United Nations, working with key partners who support international and national advocacy campaigns and initiatives. . . Ms. Radavich received her B.A. from Loyola University Chicago; and, in 2014, she received her Certified Association Executive credential from the Society of Association Executives.

CHECK IN: 8:30 AM

BREAKFAST &  
PROGRAM:  
9:00 – 10:30 AM

COST: \$30

HARRY CARAY'S  
WESTIN HOTEL  
70 YORKTOWN CENTER  
LOMBARD, IL



Megan Radavich

For ticket information e-mail [iwdboakbrook@gmail.com](mailto:iwdboakbrook@gmail.com)

Zonta Club of Oak Brook  
P.O. Box 4642 | Oak Brook | IL | USA | 60522  
Email: [ZontaOakBrook@district6.org](mailto:ZontaOakBrook@district6.org) Web: <http://zontadistrict6.org/oakbrook/>

**ZONTA  
PARTY GRAS**

**FEBRUARY 22**

FEATURING THE  
SOUTHSIDE SOCIAL CLUB!

DINNER BUFFET  
CASH BAR  
AUCTION & RAFFLES

Kankakee Knights of Columbus  
DOORS OPEN 5:00 PM  
DINNER AT 6:00 PM

**\$50 PER PERSON**

Zonta Kankakee  
@zontakankakee1956

venmo

This Fundraiser  
is to support  
local, national,  
and  
international  
service projects  
that support  
women and  
girls.

**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
KANKAKEE

SAVE THE DATE

ZONTA CLUB OF MADISON PRESENTS  
Advocacy into Action Event  
Pass the Wisconsin Equal Rights Amendment Now!



Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location:  
Pinney Library  
516 Cottage Grove Road,  
Madison, Wisconsin 53716  
Community Room



**Wisconsin Fact:** Wisconsin was one of the first states to ratify the ERA,  
but it has not been added to the Wisconsin State Constitution

**Why We Need the ERA - How To Take Action to Get It Passed**

Without the ERA, the U.S. and Wisconsin State Constitutions do not explicitly guarantee that the rights it protects are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex. The first — and still the only right — that the U.S. Constitution specifically affirms and applies equally to women and men is the right to vote.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Mary T. Nagel,**  
Assistant Professor Legal Writing,  
Associate Dean for Academic  
Affairs, Chicago-Kent College of Law  
and District 6 Rep to Zonta International  
USA Caucus.



**Michele H. Thorne,**  
Attorney in private practice  
and an active volunteer. Long  
time advocate of the ERA.

Join us for the Zonta Club of Madison Advocacy in Action Event.  
Participate and find out why we need to pass the State ERA and how to Make it Happen.

Zonta Club of Madison [www.zontaofmadison.org](http://www.zontaofmadison.org) <https://eracoalition.org/about/>

Contact: Pam Duane. [pamanddenny@charter.net](mailto:pamanddenny@charter.net)

ZONTA PRESENTS  
**Art, Wine  
& Brew**  
FUNDRAISER



Jacob Henry Mansion Estate  
Victorian BallRoom  
15 Richards St. Joliet, IL

**Friday, March 21, 2025 at 5:30pm**

Art Showcase featuring local Artists

Beer & Wine Tasting,  
Hors D'oeuvres, Raffles, 50/50

Tickets \$80.00 per guest



Zonta Club of the Joliet Area will be presenting the  
2025 Woman of Distinction Award to  
Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant  
the first female Will County Executive.

<http://www.jolietzonta.org/annualfundraiser>

For more information please visit  
[www.jolietzonta.org](http://www.jolietzonta.org)

Zonta Club of Joliet Area is a 501c3



**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY**

**TELLING HERSTORY**

Celebrate with the  
**ZONTA Club of Janesville**

- ◇ THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025
- ◇ WOMAN'S CLUB, JANESVILLE
- ◇ 4:30pm SOCIAL HOUR:  
complimentary wine and heavy hors d'oeuvres
- ◇ 5:30pm PROGRAM

**TELLING HERSTORY:**

members of the ZONTA Club will dress as  
various women from history and present  
their stories. We invite you to come  
dressed as your favorite woman from  
history; prepare a short story or speech.

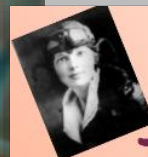
Please contact Edle Baran at  
[edlebaran@gmail.com](mailto:edlebaran@gmail.com) if you would  
like to be in the program.



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
JANESVILLE

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

For more info: visit our FB page: Janesville Zonta;  
email: [janesville\\_president@zontadistrict6.org](mailto:janesville_president@zontadistrict6.org),  
call 608-931-5705, or message us on FB



## SOCIAL MEDIA MONTHLY CALENDAR FROM ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

### February

11



#### International Day of Women and Girls in Science

#WomenInSTEM

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was established to help achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality. To further celebrate the contributions of women in STEM, Zonta is proud to support the next generation through the Zonta Women in STEM Scholarship Award.

20



#### World Day of Social Justice

#ZontaEmpowers

The World Day of Social Justice is a day to promote fairness and equality for all. Zonta is committed to advocating for social justice through efforts to combat poverty and gender inequality and defend human rights.

### March

8



#### International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day

#RoseDay

On 8 March, Zonta International celebrates International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day, honoring women for their achievements regardless of national, ethnic, linguistic, economic or political divisions. Support this mission by making a donation to the Zonta Foundation for Women in their honor.

20



#### International Day of Happiness

#ZontaEmpowers

Celebrate the International Day of Happiness by recognizing that true joy comes from a world where women and girls are empowered, respected and given equal opportunities. Join Zonta International and become part of a global community dedicated to making this vision a reality.

30



#### International Day of Zero Waste

#BuildABetterWorld  
#ZontaSaysNOW

Celebrate sustainability for a brighter future for women and girls. Through the Zonta Says NOW campaign, Zonta is driving gender-equal climate action by reducing waste and promoting environmental responsibility, creating a healthier, more equitable world for all.

### April

7



#### World Health Day

#ZontaEmpowers  
#EndChildMarriage

On World Health Day, recognize the vital role of health in empowering women and girls worldwide. Did you know that girls who marry before 18 are at higher risk of health complications and face greater challenges in accessing healthcare? Working together to end child marriage is vital to ensure a healthier future for all.

22



#### Earth Day

#ZontaSaysNOW  
#BuildABetterWorld

On Earth Day, highlight the importance of environmental stewardship in building a sustainable future for women and girls. Climate change disproportionately affects women, making it crucial to take action for both the planet and gender equality.



News and Events

2026 Convention  
Vancouver,  
Canada



Save The Date

Join Zonta  
International for our  
67th Convention

11-14 July 2026  
Vancouver, Canada

## SPOTLIGHT ON DISTRICT 6'S NEWEST Z CLUB, HOSTED BY THE ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

On Tuesday, January 28, district 6, and the ZONTA Club of Milwaukee welcomed the University School of Milwaukee Z Club during their chartering ceremony.

Over 20 students were present, said the oath and received Z Club pins and yellow roses. The Club leadership approached the Milwaukee Zonta Club asking if a Z club would be possible. They have already done some amazing advocacy projects, and we expect to see a lot from these young women and men. Join us in welcoming them to District 6.

### Report from Kate Gay, the Z Club Academic Sponsor and new member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee:

One of their first projects is to establish a relationship and communication on topics with the young women and teenage girls from Gashora "Voices of Hope", at Journey House Actions in Rwanda

Here are some of the topics:

- Breaking Stereotypes about Girls – Challenging beliefs that limit girls' potential, such as the idea that girls can't excel in leadership or STEM fields.
- Menstrual Health – Addressing the stigma around menstruation and discussing access to menstrual products, which remains a challenge for many girls here.
- Girls' Education & Career Dreams – Sharing stories of girls who have pursued unique careers to inspire one another and challenge the idea that certain roles are "for boys only."
- Menstruation Cycle: learning how to count safety days

The Z Club has exchanged introductory videos about themselves and their aspirations. Now the USM girls are making videos on these topics. They hope to share more resources with the group in the future and to make a fundraiser to help them purchase cloth to sew reusable sanitary napkins. We have a good relationship with the Milwaukee [AFJHAR](#) group and could possibly send materials, books, etc, in June when we know they are making a trip to Gashora. They generously took five suitcases of sports jerseys over for them in January.

Here is the Journey House Actions Rwanda <https://journeyhouseafrica.org/>

These are just baby steps to hopefully build a robust partnership. The time difference and technology issues make progress slow!



## ACTIVITIES AROUND DISTRICT 6

*Some tantalizing food pictures from the Kankakee President's Holiday Tea.*



*Below: Zonta in the Joliet Christmas parade; 2<sup>nd</sup> photo: Dr. Pat Miller receiving her award and Bonnie Winfrey with her as she receives; 3<sup>rd</sup> photo: Bonnie along with other club members receiving proclamation from Mary Terry Darcy and Joliet City Council, 4<sup>th</sup> photo: Bonnie along with Joliet City Council speakers for our Say No to Violence March; and 5<sup>th</sup>: a photo of march participants, The march was led by community men joining our mission.*

