

Something Old and Something New

It is said that the month of May is an important month through the Zonta world; it is the month we focus on leadership. But from the moment we are received into the fellowship of Zonta International we are told that if called upon to take a leadership role, we should do so enthusiastically. We are ALL leaders; therefore, we must know that the moment will arrive when we are expected to serve as an officer.

Every installation is a special event in the history of Zonta. It is an opportunity to assess and celebrate past accomplishments and to join with others in committing to the future with enthusiasm. I would like you to focus this evening on “Zonta Tradition...something old and something new.” We must think of the future of Zonta as a wonderful door opening...learning from the past and forming new traditions. We must forget about our past mistakes. We are fortunate to be living in a world that is full of opportunity. We seek the advice of our seasoned Zontians, but always remember that we all have talents and abilities that are uniquely ours and we can't be afraid to use those talents.

Tradition means: Zonta's colors – mahogany and gold; Zonta's flower – the beautiful yellow rose; and Zonta's pin – a symbol of our bond in Zonta.

Tradition means: remembering those five women of vision who started Zonta and who realized the value of such an organization, and who sensed the problems to be solved in developing their ideals. Those of us who have come along in the later years and those who may yet follow, enjoy the benefits resulting from the traditions they formed.

In the January 1932 Zontian, there is an idea from Katherine Sears of what traditionally constitutes a good Zontian: “First – live and let live – allow your fellow members to present their ideas with frankness and in all sincerity, and though your opinions differ as night from day, let there be no bitterness, no ill will, but rather a consideration for the rights of others that will form a basis for real friendship.” Katherine goes on to say that a good Zontian should be reflective and thoughtful. This then brings us to the third and most important attitude of a good Zontian – the desire to serve. Your service may be but a word of cheer and encouragement to a fellow Zontian. But be your service small or great, it is the spirit that counts, both for you and for those whom you serve.

Before we begin the installation of the duly elected officers of the Zonta Club of _____ for the year(s) _____, may we show our appreciation to the retiring officers who are about to complete this year of service through Zonta. Will the _____ club officers please stand? On behalf of the members of your club, District 11 and Zonta International, I sincerely thank each of you for your dedication and perseverance throughout your term of office. I charge you to complete your year, which ends May 31, put your books in good order to ensure an orderly and smooth transition, and to continue to support your club by supporting your new officers. Be available to give advice, when asked, keeping an open mind when

new and innovative ideas come to the front. Again, thanks to each of you for your diligent work this past year.

Zontians are known for their leadership in the business and professional community, the civic community and the service community. To lead is tradition in Zonta. Webster's Dictionary tells us that "tradition" is belief; custom, transmitted by word of mouth from age to age. Good leadership and tradition go together, because our beliefs and customs must always be remembered and shared.

Will the directors please step forward as I call your names: _____ as the duly elected directors of the Zonta club of _____, it is your job to preserve the old Zonta traditions and to establish new traditions. Come together to actively participate in all board meetings. It is important that you attend both board and membership meetings as all matters presented are to be carefully and seriously considered. Your decisions are to be made on the merit of the question with consideration for the benefit of the entire membership. You have been elected to an honorable and responsible position. In addition to your regular duties, I am asking you to educate all the members about "The Story of the Zonta Emblem." This is one Zonta tradition you can pass on. As I present you with this traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you accept this responsibility? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Will _____ the Corresponding Secretary please come forward. As the corresponding Secretary, you will carry on the correspondence of your club with honesty, frankness, and sincerity through your communication with your members, other Zonta clubs, the district, your community, and Zonta International. As the Corresponding Secretary, you will order supplies for the use of the club members, officers and committee chairmen, to be used for the purpose of conducting the club's business. In addition to your regular duties, I am asking you to educate your club members about the traditional objects of Zonta International. As I present you with your traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you pledge to accept the responsibilities of the office and to perform the duties as required? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Will _____ the Recording Secretary please step forward. As the duly elected Recording Secretary you will write the story of your club's present and then read the record of the past. It shall be your duty to keep an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of both board and membership meetings of this club. You will also be expected to furnish pertinent information to committees upon request, and you will serve as the custodian of all club records, except those of the Treasurer. A good secretary gives her time to this effort and is faithful n attendance. In addition to your regular duties, I am asking that you educate your club members about the traditional Zonta Code. As I present you with your traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you pledge to accept the responsibilities of the office and to perform the duties as required? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Will _____, the Treasurer, please step forward. As Treasurer, you will have custody of all club funds. You will make monthly reports to the board and present a financial report to the club at its annual meeting. You will coordinate with the membership committee to assure that dues and fees are paid to District and Zonta International. You will by board direction pay all pledges and bills when due. You will perform all such duties as may pertain to the finances of your club. Through sound business procedures, safeguard all funds of the Zonta Club of _____. I challenge you to educate each member of your club on Zonta's history, including Zonta's name and Zonta's headquarters building. As I present you with your traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you pledge to accept the responsibilities of the office and to perform the duties as required? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Will _____, Second Vice President please come forward. As Second Vice president you must be willing and able the position of President, if necessary. Therefore, it is important to be informed on all aspects of the club. You must be available and knowledgeable enough to support your President. If your responsibilities as Second Vice President include that of membership chairman, I charge you with the continued growth of the club. Keep ever before you the fact that every member of the club is a member of the membership committee. Encourage each member to bring in one new member this biennium. I challenge you to pass on the tradition of informing each member of the history of the Zonta Foundation and each project that our Zonta dollars help support. As I present you with your traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you pledge to accept the responsibilities of the office and to perform the duties as required? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Will _____ First Vice President please step forward. As the duly elected First vice president you will be the strong branch of the tree of tradition as you assist the President. Of course you will do this with enthusiasm and zest, for your duties is special. You will be prepared to preside should the President find it necessary to be absent. You will accept assignments given by the President and keep in touch with her at all times as you continually develop your leadership skills. If your responsibilities include that of Program Chairman, you must continually offer programs that enhance the objects of Zonta international. Meaningful programs will attract new members. I challenge you as First Vice president to make all members aware of the meaning of our traditional Zonta Collect. So we never lose sight of what Zonta really means, you must bring this tradition to life. As I present you with your traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you pledge to accept the responsibilities of the office and to perform the duties as required? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Will the retiring President, _____, please escort the newly elected President, _____, to the front? As President of the Zonta Club of _____, your members have given you the highest honor. Your acceptance of this responsibility is indicative of your willingness to serve. You will preside at all meetings of the club and the board in a manner which will

protect the rights of each member. You will attend area seminars, district conferences, and international conventions, staying ready and willing to participate in the programs and learn new methods. You will guide wisely and lead with strength and unity of purpose. I challenge you as club President to make all members aware of the goals of our International President _____ in order to truly implement the vision and traditions of Zonta. _____, set yourself free from anything that might hinder you in becoming the person you want to be. You may not always live up to the expectations of others, but that is okay, because you are most important to yourself; live by what you feel is best and right for you. Believe me; the members will respect your integrity and honesty. It is obvious that you hold Zonta close to your heart or you would not accept this position. Please remember the good things from yesterday are your traditions...now you will create your own traditions...ones that the members will remember years from now. Blessed is the leader who performs her tasks with much enthusiasm and zest, for they are contagious. As I present you with your traditional Zonta yellow rose, do you pledge to accept the responsibilities of the office and to perform the duties as required? If so, please respond, "I pledge to do so."

Retiring President _____, and the members of the Zonta Club of _____, you have duly elected these officers, bestowing your trust in them. Do you pledge yourselves to cooperate and support these newly installed officers and work to carry on the objectives of this organization? If so, please respond by saying, "I do."

I declare these officers duly installed as officers of the Zonta Club of _____. To each of you I extend my congratulations and best wishes for the year ahead.

by Past governor Dianne Curtis