

**Zonta Club of Roseburg Area, Oregon USA**  
**Area IV, District VIII**

**Chartered:** The Roseburg Zonta Club was chartered in May of 1947. According to a 1978 history of the club, there were 13 original members and the first president was Katherine Young. However, the group initially had a difficult time getting people to be officers and attend the meetings. In 1949, the radio program, "*Queen for the Day*," was broadcast from Roseburg and Rita Barcus was selected as the queen. That year she also became the Zonta president and kept the club going. In 1987 the club changed its name to Zonta Club of Roseburg Area to recognize that the club had members from several nearby communities.

**Meetings:** Meetings have been held at the homes of various members and at a variety of restaurants with meeting rooms. Currently the business meeting is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month while the program meeting is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Attendance is required at the business and program meetings; these meetings are presently held at Elmer's Restaurant at noon. Board members also attend a meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. There are additional meetings for teams as needed or on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, while there is an optional social meeting during months with 5 Wednesdays.

**Members:** Membership has varied over time. From a charter group of 13, membership averaged around 40 for years, then peaked at 58 – 61 during the late 1980's and early 1990's. Economic hard times hit the community; subsequently membership has declined to less than 20. However, the group is still active and fulfills its local, district and international service commitments. The group has also expanded their exposure via initiating a club Facebook page and website in addition to an electronic newsletter that is sent to members and friends/sponsors of the club.

**Club Board and Committees:** Officers are elected to serve from June 1 – May 31. Officers include: President, President Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and non-voting Immediate Past President, Parliamentarian, and the Nominating Committee. By laws may be modified to extend service time of an office if necessary. Director at large board members are elected for a three, two, or one year term. The Zonta Foundation Board appoints directors for a one and two year term. The club also has subcommittee teams that serve within the context of the Finance, Service, Program, Membership, Public Relations & Communication, and Advocacy Committees.

**Advocacy:** The Roseburg has helped ZI overtime with a variety of advocacy projects. The club is currently working with ZISVAW and ZI Trafficking issues. Locally the club has worked with the UCAN Confidence Clinic, UCAN Housing, UCAN Family Stabilization, National Organization of Women, Battered Person's Advocacy, Teen Pregnancy Task Force, Project Boost, Oasis Shelter for Battered Women, Child Battering Prevention, ADAPT, and Safe Haven. In 2013, the club created the Zonta Hand Up Program to help women, who's' lives are in transition, to take positive steps forward. This is accomplished via funding and mentoring to help the women learn how to budget funds, file court papers, obtain housing, prepare and dress for job interviews, navigating career-school-training applications, and handle other life skills.

Women that are helped come from programs such as the Battered Person's Advocacy, ADAPT & Crossroads, Umpqua Community College and other agencies.

### **Service Projects and Activities: Local-District-International**

During the 50's the club sponsored the Amelia Earhart Scholarship, Campfire Girls, Blue Birds, plus contributed funds to the Crippled Children's Home, the County Home, and gave a child's bed to the new Community Hospital. They also supported the "Zonta Fund for Hungarian Patriots," the Heart Fund, hosted foreign students and supported the musical career of Gordon Howard as he attempted to star on Broadway. Members were also active in supporting a new library and bookmobile for Douglas County and helped form the Golden Age Club in 1959 for adults over 50 years old. In 1959, the "Blast," flattened a twelve-block area in downtown Roseburg. This damaged businesses of 10 Zonta members. The devastation helped trigger an interest in creating something beautiful from the devastation.



Fashion Show fund raiser began 1953

1957 Installation: L-R: Evelyn Frazier, Mary Jane Rone, Evelyn West, Garret Davidson

During the 60's, stemming from the devastating 1959 Blast, one of the most publicized projects that the group worked on was the creation of a water fountain at South Riverside Park. The group donated \$1,362 to the project. According to the newspaper, the fountain represented rising out of the ashes and destruction of the blast, and "marks the beginning of a new park which will eventually include a tourist information center, walkways and landscaping improvements." They also contributed to a native stone drinking foundation at a park on the South Umpqua. Zonta was very involved in the city and had members on the City Planning Commission, City Advisory Committee and City Budget Committee. Mayor Jack Davis proclaimed April 24, 1968 as "Zonta Day" and eight other clubs joined Roseburg for an all day workshop. Roseburg Zonta continued its support of the Amelia Scholarships plus had their own scholarships, supported American Field Service (AFS) youth exchanges, provided aid to foster girls graduating from college, provided magazine subscriptions to the library, hosted a campus day for women, worked on the Bloodmobile, gave slide shows at the County Home, transported Golden Age Club members to events, aided a Fairbanks Alaska hospital, donated articles to the Mental Health Hospital and sent Friendship Packages to India and Denmark. They started providing Christmas gifts to seniors in retirement homes—a tradition that continues to this day.



1966 L-R Arlene Myers, Ruth Rhoden, Laura Haughn, Helen Saar & Velma Herman



South Riverside Park Fountain

During the 70's, the club continued its beautification projects with a drinking fountain at the new City Hall, park plantings, providing a tree for the Bicentennial Avenue of the Trees, and repairs to the South Riverside Park fountain. They also provided play equipment for the handicapped, supported Wildlife Safari and donated a canoe, archery equipment and other supplies to the Camp Fire Girls. Locally members supported a Douglas County Day Care Center for low-income parents, UCAN Confidence Clinic, cancer screening, the Bloodmobile, the pediatrics' ward of the new Mercy Hospital, provided a Scoliosis film to Douglas County Health, an orthopedic chair for the hospital, training for a speech pathologist, and volunteered at the historic Lane House. They provided two sewing machines to underprivileged women, books to students and fire relief supplies and burn victim support for a family whose house burned down. For Easter Seals, they would camouflage coin collection containers as cakes—the 25 cakes collected over \$1,000. Christmas gifts to the nursing homes continued and members continued to participate in parades. The women also formed a men's Zontmen club. On an international level, the club supported the Amelia scholarships, Growing our World, UNICEF Pediatric Clinics, Ramallah and a travel fund.



1978 Installation L-R Judy Emmett, Ellen Whitaker, Roberta Stumbo, Betty Hutton, Helen Saar & Phyllis Fread



More Fashion Shows

During the 80's, members continued Christmas gifts to nursing homes, plus their involvement with the Lane House, library, Bloodmobile, Easter Seals, and UCAN. They also contributed to the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific, supported the National Organization of Women (NOW), the Cancer Center, Baby's Breath Program to prevent Sudden Infant Death, Mercy Hospice, the Friendly Kitchen, plus were bell ringers for the Salvation Army, greeters for the Special Olympics, and ushers to an Air Force Band concert. They also supported rehab for a car accident victim and helped the Pocatello Zonta

Club form. Internationally they had a sister club in Sapporo Japan, sent clothes to Hungary, hosted an International Night with exchange students, supported Sri Lanka water wells, UNIFEM, UNICEF, Amelia scholarships, Wheels for Gana, the Eva Mowbray fund, Marian de Forest Fund and the UN Voluntary Fund.



Gift giving to Nursing Homes



Zaney Zontians participate in Bed Races

In the 90's, the group continued to support the Bloodmobile, UCAN Confidence Clinic, UCAN Family Stabilization Program and the cancer fund. They also helped Project Boost to help kids from foster care to school, the Oasis Shelter for Battered Women, Project Literacy, SMART, Battered Person's Advocacy, Food Bank, Teen Pregnancy Task Force, Alternative Education, Latch Key Kids Program, Girl Scouts and Parent's Relief Nursery. Members also rang bells for the Salvation Army, bowled for Easter Seals, sold fried bread for the Red Cross, helped March of Dimes, and posted "bail" to keep members out of jail for diabetes & cancer fundraisers. They helped Adopt-A-Highway and cleaned a 2-mile stretch of roadway, plus, they still provided Wishes Come True Christmas gifts to the nursing homes. Internationally they continued to support the Amelia scholarships, AFS, Lester B. Pearson College, UNIFEM, UNICEF, Eva Mowbray Fund, and friendship clubs in different countries. They supported Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women (ZISVAW), and an orphanage in Latvia.



1990's Fund raising with flower sales!

From 2000 – 2010, the group supported the Bloodmobile, Camp Millennium, Sheriff's Kids, Battered Person's Advocacy, UCAN Confidence Clinic, UCAN Second Chance, SMART, Project Literacy,



Cobb Street Learning Center, ADAPT, Umpqua Valley disAbilities Program, Safe Haven, the nursing home parties and the Wishes Come True Christmas gifts. They also continued the YWPA scholarships, and started the Rose Day Recognition program to honor local hard-working individuals. They also continued support for the Lester B. Pearson College. Internationally the group supported the Amelia scholarships, AFS, Nepal, India, an orphanage in Latvia, a school in Ecuador, ZISVAW, UNICEF, anti-trafficking, and Open World exchanges. The group continued with the beautification of the Riverside Park with roses and was subsequently honored in 2002 by the City of Roseburg for its Distinguished Service. The group also had a Kazoo Band that marched in parades and played at events. These weren't standard kazoos—they were crazy shaped long tubes and trumpets worthy of Dr. Seuss! They even had a member win the District 8, Goofy Governor's Award for Music!



Kazoo Band starring Lynn Klimowieg, Debbie Hesseltine, Linda Mehlhaff, Cirna Lewis, & Diane Swingley.



Fund raising selling fireworks. Top photo L-R Kareen LaValley, Carolyn Kemp & Muriel Richardson



2006- Celebrating Helen's 40 years of service!

The current major projects include the Lester B. Pearson College, which is a District project, while locally the club supports the Hands Up program which began in 2013, YWPA, and continues with the nursing homes Wishes Come True Christmas gifts. The club during this half decade has supported Safe Haven, ADAPT, Battered Person's Advocacy, UCC Jobs Program, and local scholarships. Internationally they have continued to support the Amelia scholarships, ZISVAW, AFS, Open World and International Service Fund donations have been used for Rwanda, Liberia, and creating Safe Cities. The club still maintains roses at the Riverside Park, but recent road construction has obliterated the previous plantings, so new landscaping will begin in 2016. Indeed the Roseburg Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center was constructed in the park, where back in the 1960s it was only imagined as something

beautiful springing from the “Blast.” The club still honors Women of Achievement, celebrates Rose Day, and is active in the community.

**Fundraising Activities:** From 1953 until the late 1990’s the major fund raiser for the group was an annual fashion show. This show had Zonta and community members modeling the newest fashions while the public paid admission to attend the show. This brought the club a lot of publicity in the local newspaper. As fashions became more casual, interest declined and the club’s major fund raiser became selling 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks from 1999 until nearly 2010. The group then shifted to an Ironwoman event where teams of women competed in skills ranging from target shooting and bowling to horseshoes, putting, and yard games. In addition to the registration fees, the event raises money by sponsorships and donations. In 2014, the group added a 5K and 10K Santa run, complete with Santa costumes for the participants! The group currently also raises money with a 50/50 raffle, Christmas auction, and white elephant auction. In the past the group did everything from rummage sales, ice cream socials, dinners, vacation raffles and Casino Night to selling flowers, crafts, Mexi Hot Hamburgers and dog biscuits. In 1998, the group established a Foundation.



2013 IronWoman Fund Raising Group



2014 Santa Run Fund Raiser

**Area Activities:** Represented at most Area meetings. Member Helen Saar (Babbitt) was an Area 4 Director in 1986, Muriel Richardson in 2012. In 2007, Roseburg hosted the Area 4 Workshop.

**District Activities:** The club used to host Inter-City Zonta meetings during the 1950’s and has normally been represented at District Activities. Members Helen Saar (Babbitt) and Phyllis Fread served as the Governor of District 8. Member Gail Trimble was the Treasurer 2010-2014. Member Shon Garrison is currently the District 8 Secretary. The club annually supports the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific.

**International Activities:** In the 1950’s, Mary Rone was featured in the Zonta International magazine for her co-ownership of the Rone Animal Hospital and her work as a veterinarian technician. Members have attended International Conferences in the USA and Canada plus Finland, Germany, France and Hong Kong. Fread also attended conferences at Australia and Sweden. Throughout its history, the Roseburg club has also supported the American Field Service (AFS) youth exchanges and currently participates in the Open World project. The club has had friendship clubs in Japan, sent care packages to a variety of countries and has supported Sri Lanka water wells, an orphanage in Latvia, and a school in Ecuador.

**Zonta International Foundation:** The Roseburg club has consistently donated to ZI projects from the various UNICEF projects and the Amelia Earhart scholarships to ZISVAW and the Young Woman in Public Affairs award. The group donates approximately a third of its service money to ZIF.

Prepared by Laura S. Jackson, April 2016 from Annual Reports and club scrapbooks.