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2017 LEGISLATIVE GOOD NEWS



The Women's Foundation of Colorado [website](#) reports that six of the twelve bills they lobbied for in the 2017 legislative session passed. Here is the WFCO summary of each of those bills, and why they matter.

House Bill 17-1002 – Child Care Expenses Income Tax Credit Extension

Someone with a federal adjusted gross income of \$25,000 or less may claim a refundable state income tax credit for child care expenses. The credit is equal to 25 percent of eligible child care expenses that the individual incurred during the taxable year, up to a maximum of \$500 for a single dependent or \$1,000 for two or more dependents.

Why does this matter? *This bill will help low-income working women and families offset the high costs of child care (up to half their incomes) for three more years.*

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House Bill 17-1184 – Modern Technology Education in Public School: Computer Science & Technology Training for Students & Teachers

This bill will add technology skills into K-12 content standards.

Why does this matter? *When underserved populations have access to STEM education they are more likely to continue their studies in these fields and progress toward a career with a higher likelihood of providing economic security.*

House Bill 17-1269 – Extend Pay Transparency Protections to All Employees

Current law states it's discriminatory and unfair labor practice for an employer to discharge, discipline, discriminate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any employee or other person because the employee inquired about, disclosed, compared, or otherwise discussed the employee's wages. The bill extends the law to exempt classes of employers, including federal and state governments, thereby providing wage transparency protections to all employees in Colorado.

Why does this matter? *Wage transparency promotes fair and equal wages among workers and enables women in the workplace to share their salaries and/or wages.*

House Bill 17-1021 – Wage Theft Transparency Act

Current law treats wage theft as a trade secret and instances are not made public. Wage theft refers to a situation where an employer requires an employee to work off the clock, does not pay overtime, or commits other labor law violations.

Why does this matter? *When information about wage theft is made public, this transparency is more likely to ensure fair and equal wages moving forward.*

House Bill 17-1135 – Portability Background Checks Child Care Workers

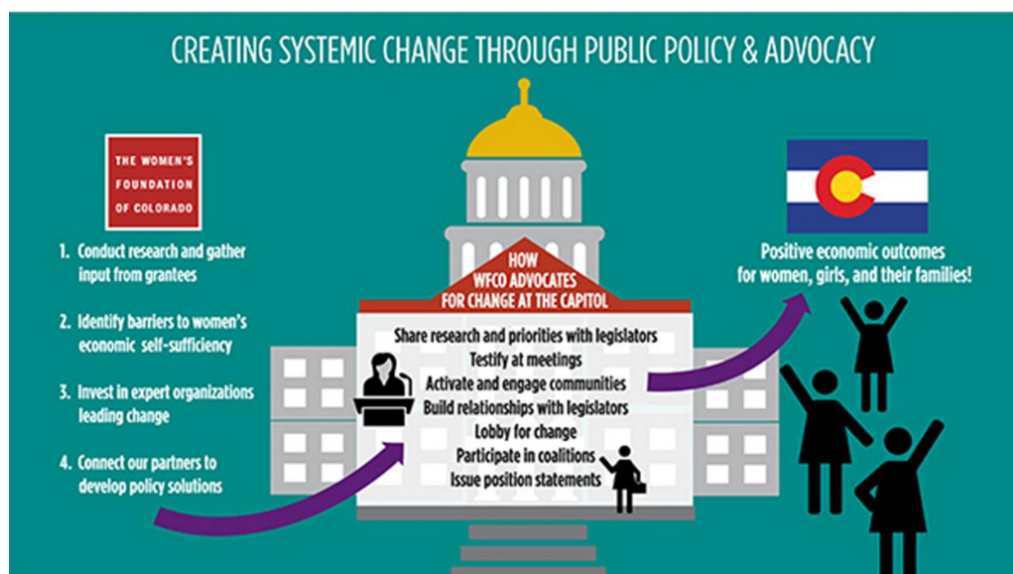
The bill will save costs for child care employers and workforce and expedite employment by creating a new provision that allows a child care worker who is employed in a licensed facility that is wholly owned, operated, and controlled by a common ownership group or school district to transfer the background check to another licensed facility that is owned, operated, or controlled by the same common ownership group or school district.

Why does this matter? *Administrative efficiencies for child care providers can help decrease costs for child care businesses and control prices for care.*

House Joint Resolution 17-1022 – Equal Pay Day Resolution

The Colorado General Assembly designated April 4, 2017 as Equal Pay Day in Colorado to acknowledge the persisting problem of wage disparity among various groups.

Why does this matter? *The wage gap in Colorado is not projected to close until 2057.*



If you can't read all the text in this diagram go to <https://wfco.org>

WHAT ADVOCACY IS TO ME

Advocacy in Zonta is working for a change in women's lives: politically, economically and socially so they can have meaningful, rewarding and satisfying lives. At our last meeting Olette Stanberry spoke of social advocacy when she described the mentoring that is done in Leadership Training. Zonta does a great deal of economic advocacy through our scholarships and grants to individuals and organizations that work to benefit the lives of women and children. Economic advocacy is insufficient to ensure that all women in our society enjoy the benefits of our country. In a representative democracy political power is required to improve the status of women legally. And to change the laws we have to be willing to become advocates for what we believe in. I have made a list of many of the ways our members can advocate. We can work individually or in groups. Anytime a person takes action to foster change, she is advocating. (Italicized words below indicate advocacy.)

Advocacy is not limited to *lobbying*. While we *talk to our legislative representatives*, we also write them letters or *postcards, emails* and *call their offices* and we also *attend town hall meetings*. To me, however, advocacy means deciding what I want to change and how. So *thinking* and *deciding* are the first requirements of advocacy. For that we need to *know our values* and then *educate ourselves and others* on our issues how so that they reflect our values.

We *educate others* through basically *talking* to others or *writing*. We already have our *Days of Film* that speak for us. We could present our ideas at *panels, forums, public meetings (small and large)*, or *speaking to other organizations*. We could talk to our *friends and neighbors* or go on *TV and radio shows*. We could even *put on skits*.

We could *write articles for local, regional, or national publications* – public or private, our own or other organizations. We could *write materials* for distribution wherever we go to speak or to send out. We could *write scripts for movies, videos and pod casts*. We could even *write lyrics for songs or make comic strips*!

We could advocate our ideas at fundraisers. We could *circulate petitions*. Advocacy can be *working with another organization* in collaboration or coalition.

This list is limited only by imagination. To me advocacy is determining what I want to be different and then letting others know: any others, not just lawmakers. I also encourage others to speak out. That is because it takes many people communicating with their lawmakers to create meaningful change.

~ Jeanette Scotland



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am very thrilled to be once again serving this club as your president. We had a great year last year, gaining six new members at the end of the year, three of whom were initiated at the May meeting and three who will be initiated in June. I am looking forward to a new year with fantastic opportunities happening!

Below in this newsletter is the listing of the new committee assignments for Zonta this coming year. I tried to make sure everyone had their first or second choice if they sent the information to me. If there are problems or you would like to change or add your name to a second committee, please email me and we will try to work this out.

I and five other members of the club will be attending the North American Inter-District meeting in Washington D.C. this coming weekend. We will be learning all kinds of great ideas about membership, advocacy, service, and leadership to help with our club in the future. We will also all be going to "the hill" to meet with the leaders from our state in Congress and will hopefully be able to advocate for women's issues.

This July we will be gathering at the Kennedy Golf Course in Denver to have a day of fun with Zontians, family (grandkids?) and friends. Don't forget to sign up and have a fun time.

I am honored and excited for our year together empowering women in the Metro Denver area and throughout the world through advocacy and service. Our diverse membership brings us together to work for Zonta. Don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns, ideas, and feedback. I look forward to the coming year!

~ Julie

GARAGE SALE

CONGRATULATIONS Zonta Club of Denver! Thanks to everyone's help the yard sale was a success at \$1559. Thank you so much. Since the items were all pre-priced, it made the sorting go so much better, especially since we had to sort in the house because of the rain. Everyone who helped sort, schlepp, and sell was wonderful. This is truly a wonderful group.

~ Cynthia

THANK YOU

I would like to thank my Zonta friends for all of the cards and emails after the loss of my brother Bob. It meant so much!! I just returned after a week in Mississippi for the memorial. It was a very nice family time, and it helped for so many of us to be together

YIZ, Kathy

JUNE MEETING

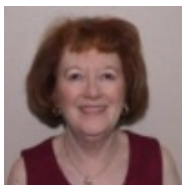
Meeting Details

Date:	Thursday, June 8, 2017
Time:	5:00 p.m.
Location:	Fresh Fish Company, 7800 E. Hampden
Advocacy Moment:	Mary Benoit
Price:	Menu prices
Program:	Deb Bittner, Division Director for Domestic Violence Services for ZCD grant recipient Family Tree

Reservations are essential so the restaurant can set the appropriate number of places. Please contact Liz Savage as soon as possible but no later than noon on Monday, June 5, at esavage2017@gmail.com to make reservations for yourself and your guests.

Items of the Month:
Diapers (larger sizes) and Baby Wipes
for The Family Tree
Please bring to the June Zonta Meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS



ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

How time flies when you are an advocate. This is the time of year when all of us say "I can't believe another year has gone by or that my term is over or that I need to move on." It is very cliché but very true. As advocates my hope is we made the best of our time, made a difference advocating for the things we believe in and the issues that Zonta stands for. As I have said all year, a good advocate is an educated advocate. It can be extremely awkward to advocate for a cause and be stuck in a situation where you are missing essential facts. So as we move on stay educated. It is easy to become overwhelmed by everything that is thrown at us on a daily basis. That overwhelmed feeling

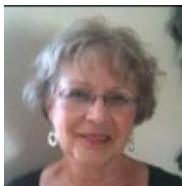
makes us yearn to just bury our heads in the pillows. If you need to do that go for it, just don't stay there. Take a break and come back refreshed. The great thing about on and off buttons, delete buttons is here again just do it. Choose your news outlet, choose your media outlet, choose your reading materials and choose wisely. With good choices you too can become an educated advocate.

As the Zonta year comes to an end I want to give a shout out to Judy McNerny for all of the help she has given me. As most of you know last summer was a very rocky time for me. Judy kindly offered to help and I eagerly accepted her help. She was great at the jobs because she has done them before. She kindly handled the schedule for both the advocacy articles and advocacy moments, she sent timely reminders to everyone responsible for these tasks. Judy also distributed information about the bills before the legislature that we needed to act on, outlined the action with dates and deadlines. Thank you, Judy.

There is one more person I want to give a shout out to, Denise Parrish, Advocacy Chair for District 12. Denise is a member of the Zonta Club of Cheyenne. Denise is focused and on top of issues throughout the district even though she is dealing with matters in four states. She has sent abundant information out about legislative happenings that we can have an influence on. Denise will be around for the rest of the biennium so please pay attention to the items she sends out, they are very important. And when you receive those items it would be great to send her a "thanks" I know she would appreciate it.

In closing I would like to welcome Carol Mangold as Advocacy Chair. I am sure Carol will share her passion for advocacy with all of you. Please continue to distribute the flyers from The Rose Andom Center. By doing this you are both an advocate for women suffering from domestic violence and an advocate for the Rose Andom Center and getting the word out about the new facility.

~ Mary



FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who helped with the yard sale! I heard it was great fun and the final total is a little over \$1500. That is our best ever!! It's great that the weather decided to cooperate.

Thanks to everyone who was on the committee this past year. We had a great time meeting at Gwen's, and accomplished a lot. Everyone worked so hard to make our fundraising a success!

Also, the new FR committee will be organizing this summer with Mary Lou as Chairman. I'll look forward to working with Mary Lou on getting set up with her committee!

~ Kathy



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that we have added six new members to our club, bringing our club membership to 40 women! In addition to Dawn Bali, Sara Ball, Abby Hussein, Tricia McNerny, and Jeanette Scotland, whom most of us have met by now, we are fortunate to also welcome **Valerie Hoegler**, who is transferring her membership to ZDC from the Golden club that dissolved earlier this year. Welcome Valerie! Dawn, Tricia and Jeanette were inducted at the May 11 club meeting, and Valerie, Sara and Abby are slated to be inducted at the June 8 club meeting.

Also, welcome new additions to the Membership Committee announced in this issue of the *Smoke Signal*, and thanks to those who are returning to the committee for volunteering to serve for another year! I will send out an email to you all in the next several days about our first committee meeting, which will be either in June or July.

In lieu of the July monthly club meeting, the Membership Committee is planning a **mini-golf tournament at Kennedy Golf Course** for Thursday, July 13 at 5 pm! Members are welcome to bring spouses/significant others, family members and friend - the more the merrier! Details to follow in a separate event invitation in the next several days - RSVPs will be required in order to give the Kennedy Clubhouse a final count before the event.

~Liz



New members Dawn Bali, Tricia McNerny and Jeanette Scotland being inducted at May club meeting



SERVICE COMMITTEE

The JMK Scholarship committee is reviewing the applications and will make the final decision in June. Olette, Mary Lou, and Nancy are serving on the committee this year.

The guest speaker for the June meeting is Deb Bittner, Division Director for Domestic Violence Services for The Family Tree. Our Items of the Month will be diapers (larger sizes) and baby wipes for the women and children staying at the Family Tree facility.

~ Nancy



MINUTES

Call to Order: Katie Wienecke

Katie Wienecke called the meeting to order at 5:57 PM

Introduction of guests

- Veronica Hoegler from Zonta Lakewood/Golden
- Lucy Wallace and Katherine Shoulders from Dance to be Free

Advocacy Moment – Olette Stanberry

Olette Stanberry did an advocacy moment that highlighted the importance of mentorship. Olette Stanberry highlighted how mentorship in Zonta is a form of advocacy and the essential role mentorship plays in the Zonta Club of Denver. Olette then read several moving quotes about mentorship.

Approval of minutes – Katie Wienecke

Katie Wienecke called for approval of the minutes. Minutes approved as published

Program: Dance to Be Free – Lucy Wallace and Katherine Shoulders

Lucy Wallace provided an overview of Dance to Be Free and went over history of program

- Went to Denver Women's Prison – have it every Sunday since July 1, 2015

Treasurers Report – Nikki Headlee

- Streamlining Financial Accounts: Nikki Headlee presented Gwen Fornia's concerns

regarding the multiple accounts (6 in total) that the club has and the confusion that ensues when there are multiple accounts. Logistically, some of the separate accounts are needed to ensure that foundation money is able to grow interest and be utilized for club service projects. Zonta can put monies from a 501(c)(4) into a 501(c)(3) but not the other way around. However, the separate club service account is an area that Gwen Fornia believes could be streamlined. Gwen's suggestion is to integrate the service account into the Foundation account. Therefore Zonta could transfer the money from Service account into Foundation and do away with the service account and only have 5 bank accounts making things less confusing for everyone. The money from garage sale and jewelry sale can be put directly into the Foundation account making it tax-deductible.

- Cathy Connely called for a motion to approve the closure of the club service account
 - Katie Wienecke seconded
- Discussion was opened.
 - Members raised concerns to this change including a need to amend the articles and concerns about blurring the boundaries between entities (club and foundation).
 - Judy McNerny highlighted that the Zonta Board does not control the foundation account and this could lead to issues in ensuring money is able to be utilized when needed. Under the proposal, each time funds are transferred it would be done so in a formal way and would require approval from the foundation.
 - An inquiry about running the service account through the operations was presented. Members thought this may be a more viable option.
 - Judy Allen mentioned that the Foundation trustees will have to approve every time a check is written
 - Judy Allen called for an amended motion to close club service account following the foundation trustee board's approval and legal advice on the streamlining of funds
 - Wendy Henry - Moraskie seconded
 - Additional discussion took place and a general sense of wanting to delay the decision on moving accounts until further research can be conducted was the prevalent theme.
 - Judy Allen called for a motion to table discussion until the trustees could have a discussion with the Board
 - Cathy Connely withdrew original motion
 - A vote was called by Katie Wienecke on the motion to table the discussion and it as passed with one abstention

Fundraising – Cynthia Herndon

- The Garage Sale sign-up went around and everyone was reminded that the funds raised from the sale goes to the JM Klausman Scholarship. All items were needed before May 19, 2017 and needed to be priced. Please come early and assist with moving items out – husbands are welcome.
- Joetta Williams reported the final earnings from the Day of Film was \$11,426.00. Last year, \$12,952 was earned; however, this year Zonta paid more for

catering. There was a significant increase in in-kind donations.

Membership – Liz Savage

- Liz Savage thanked Wendy Henry Moraskie for a wonderful afternoon at the symphony and thanked all of those for coming.
- Liz Savage reported on Heather Gardens at the Rendezvous Restaurant. The committee liked the venue. Unfortunately, there were four to six meetings over the course of the year that have been taken by the Kiwanis Club.
- Liz Savage and Marian Lee then did the installation of new members –
 - Dawn Bali
 - Tricia McNerny
 - Jeanette Scotland
 - Unavailable in person were Sara Ball and Abby Hussein

Old Business – Katie Wienecke

- - Judy Allen presented options for different locations for the 90th Birthday Celebration of the Zonta Club of Denver. The options and venues resulted in an estimation of around \$100.00 per person.
 - Judy Allen said that Gwen Fornia had offered an outdoor space located at her complex that with catering would cost around \$35.00 per person.
 - A general poll of members indicated a desire to have the event at Gwen Fornia's complex with catering
 - Judy Allen said that the past presidents will work on agenda
- Installation of 2017 Officers - Shelia Davis and Mary Benoit
 - Sheila Davis did the spice installation in honor of Dorothy Swindt
 - The new Nominating Committee was installed - Katie Wienecke, Nancy McWhirter and Nikki Headlee
 - Directors –
 - Liz Savage to serve as director for a two-year term from 2016-2018, so she will continue as director.
 - Mary Benoit to serve as director for a two-year term from 2016-2018, so she will continue as director.
 - Carol Mangold as a director for 2017-2019.
 - Wendy Moraskie as director for 2017-2019.
 - Officers –
 - Julie Bradley is President.
 - Marian Lee is President-elect.
 - Penny Burke is Secretary.
 - Gwen Fornia is Treasurer.
- Special Birthday Recognitions
 - Dr. Cynthia Herndon – 25 years of services
 - Judy McNerny – 40 years service
- Olette Stanberry won the drawing and \$27.00 was donated to Zonta Club of Denver

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Burke

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advocacy Committee*

Carol Mangold, Chairman
Dawn Bali
Liz Cameron

Alexis Newton
Katie Wienecke

FundRaising Committee*

Mary Lou Edwards, Chairman
Judy Allen
Sara Ball
Penny Burke
Cathy Conley
Gwen Forna

Cynthia Herndon
Abby Hussein
Clare Prohaska
Jeanette Scotland
Olette Stanberry

Membership Committee*

Liz Savage, Chairman
Evie Ashmore
Sheila Davis
Veronica Hoegler
Kathy Hyzer
Dottie Jenkins

Kate Linscott
Tricia McNerny
Jeanette Scotland
Olette Stanberry
Joetta Williams

PR Committee*

Wendy Moraskie, Chairman
CJ Long

Judy McNerny
Linda Rhea

Service Committee*

Chairman, May Benoit
Enid Brodsky
Lori DiSaia
Debbie Gridley

Nikki Headlee
CJ Long
Nancy McWhirter
Linda Rhea

* Julie Bradley & Marian Lee, ex-officio

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Archiving Committee

Sheila Davis, Chairman
Nikki Headlee
Judy McNerny

Barbara Pellegrin
Joetta Williams

Audit Committee

Nikki Headlee, Chairman
Gwen Forna

Liz Cameron

ByLaws Committee

Judy McNerny, Chairman
Judy Allen

Julie Bradley
Sheila Davis

Hershey Charitable Trust Committee

Nikki Headlee
Judy Allen

Cynthia Herndon
Kate Linscott

Long Range Planning Committee

Julie Bradley, Chairman
Mary Lou Edwards

Gwen Forna
Marian Lee

New Zee Committee

Liz Savage, Chairman
Kathy Hyzer
Julie Bradley

Sheila Davis
Nikki Headlee

OTHER APPOINTMENTS**Club Parliamentarian**

Judy McNerny

Zonta Internat'l Foundation Liaison

Marian Lee

Zonta Club of Denver Foundation

President:
Vice President
Sec/Treas
Ex-Officio/Pres Elect
Trustees 2015-2018
Trustees 2015-2018
Trustees 2016-2019
Trustees 2017-2020
Parliamentarian

Julie Bradley
Mary Lou Edwards
Gwen Forna
Marian Lee
Evie Ashmore
Judy McNerny
Liz Cameron
Pam Dumonceau
Judy McNerny

CALENDAR

June 2-4

North American Inter-District Meeting, Washington D.C.

June 8

Club meeting
5:00 p.m. at Fresh Fish Company, 7800 E. Hampden;
Speaker: service award grantee Family Tree

July 13

Mini-golf outing for members, family and friends
Kennedy Golf Course

August 10	90th anniversary of Zonta Club of Denver chartering Gwen's home Other details to be announced
Sept 22-24	District 12 Conference, Double Tree by Hilton Greeley - save the date and watch for the Call to Conference
June 29 - July 2, 2018	64th Zonta International Convention, Yokohama, Japan Start saving money now!



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