**Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**Zonta International ®**

**Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland**

**Thursday, June 8, 2017**

**Country Club of Woodmore**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Linda Andrews, Zontian and President of Zonta Club Mid Maryland at approximately 6:35pm. The meeting agenda was adopted as presented. **(**Agenda Attached).

**Meditation**

The meeting was opened and facilitated by Madam President; and began with the reciting of the Zonta Prayer.

**Attendance**

Board Members: Linda Andrews – President, Erma Barron - 1st Vice President, Virginia Moore - 2nd Vice President, Cleopatra White - Treasurer, K. Michelle Fenner - Secretary, Stanita Scott - Financial Secretary.

**Members Present:** 28 Total (Attendance Attached to File).

**Minutes**

The minutes were presented by Secretary K. Michelle Fenner. After review, discussion, and corrections to the minutes; minutes were approved and accepted. A quick note and discussion led by Madam President; to add clarification that the By-Laws were approved during the April 2017 meeting.

**President’s Opening Remarks**

Madam President opened the meeting with an outline of the agenda; along with congratulatory comments in honor of a successful chartering year of the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland.

**Reports**

*Treasurer’s Report*

Treasurer, Cleopatra White presented an overall report of the expenditures for the year. The treasury report included detailed discussions about the amount of membership dues collected to date, against the documented returning members to date, etc. Cleopatra continued to explain to the membership present that there are a number of checks, credit cards, etc., still in transit. Cleopatra was able to provide a clear “breakdown” of the dues, and what portions of the dues go to National, the Mid-Maryland Club, etc. Cleopatra also explained that in an effort to maintain membership; headquarters has decided to waive the late fee that is normally associated with paying the dues late. Treasury report has been accepted for filing and audits.

Nicole Barnes has been working in collaboration with the treasurer to come up with a workable budget for the upcoming year was able to present the Service Budget for the upcoming year. The report was a recap of the dollar ($) amounts associated with the previous year (current); to determine the estimated budget for the FY17 thru FY18 club year. Nicole added that she spent time meeting with the fundraising committee as well as the service committee to come up with the numbers for the upcoming new year. Detailed assessments were provided and explained, along with a “breakdown” of where & how the (areas of expenditures needed) would be allocated. Current cost also show the estimated dollar amounts for projects in progress such as the lactating room at the Family Justice Center.

Madam President interjected to explain the details of why we are raising funds; along with recommendations of how we should use the funds. As noted in during a previous meeting, during the ZI Moment, by the Membership Chair, Erma Barron, an important purpose of raising the funds would be to be able to participate and provide several scholarships to young women. Nicole followed up and concluded the topic of about the service budget by highlighting that we as a club have $17,817.00balance in profit to date after our 1st year. (Summary of Treasury Report to be added to File).

Erma Barron said she would address this issue with the board in order to identify solutions. Erma expressed that the immediate priority is to identify the exact number of members who would be renewing their membership; and that we should have a better idea of the returning members by the time we have our last official meeting in June 2017.

*Membership Report*

Erma Barron led the discussion by introducing the plans for the upcoming retreat; and the choice of dates available from August 2017 through September 2017. She wanted to further emphasize with a congratulations to the membership and recapped that as of today we’ve have 42 returning members. Erma emphasized the need to reach out to those who had decided to not return; and wanted to ask those members to complete an end of the year survey, that would hopefully shed some light on why they would not be returning. Other discussions included the achievement reports submitted by the various committees; and that she would further go thru each of them in detail. This portion of the discussion led to further discussions about the importance of the upcoming Zing, and the retention of members, along with the process of bringing in new members. Details were provided regarding other types of memberships throughout Zonta International such as: Global membership, and virtual membership. Erma explained that there is currently a Global Membership Drive going on throughout the entire body of women. Other highlights included a note that the governor is pushing and emphasizing the need for increased membership throughout Zonta International (ZI) for the upcoming year; and that much work needs to be done in order to increase membership. The ZI website serves as a good resource for information on how to connect, and tips on how to increase membership. In the meantime, Erma expressed that those who are interested and/or know of those who are interested, could begin attending meetings at any time. Initially, the schedule is set for November 1st as the date that the executive board will be able to review the list of perspective applicants. November 9th 2017 is the date of the club meeting in November.

The other topic of discussion facilitated by Erma Barron was about the details of the retreat. The topics of the retreat will include the global membership drive as the focus. Erma reiterated the need for the membership in attendance to accept the proposed schedule presented with a show of “I”. All in attendance approved of the schedule as noted. (Membership Report to be added to the File).

Other topics included the events of the upcoming conference, and the overall goals of ZI were emphasized. The goals included: Education, Economics, and Global membership, etc., along with a reminder of the resources available for more information, such as the website. In addition, the theme of the conference and events will be a celebration of “100 years of Empowering Women” with a focus of the future of women. Linda interjected that we as a club would like to increase focus on Advocacy for the upcoming year.

*Programs Report*

Virginia Moore, Programs Chairperson provided highlights of the June conference in Tysons Corner, VA. The theme and topic of discussion was about Women’s Rights, and the current need to empower and emphasize more rights for women. She took a moment to highlight “Little stone” showcase, and presented “Turning Point” Memorial to recognize the role of women. She continued with a highlight about the sorority “Delta Sigma Theta” Sorority during the civil rights movement. Other issues/topics included the need to assist women in and out of poverty. There was a specific name/area related to this \_\_\_\_\_. There was also mention of a guest speaker at the conference, Jess Davidson, a survivor of abuse and rape. Virginia expressed that one of the goals is to possibly invite Mr. Jess Davison to speak during one of our meetings. Ingrid Turner mentioned and asked everyone to check out the article in the Washington Post regarding a woman who was an engineer in Prince George’s Co., who was performing the same work as the men; but was paid much less. The woman sued and fought for equal pay, and filed a lawsuit “Equal Work, Equal Pay”, and won. Her point was to emphasize the continued need to push; be heard, and make a difference. (Supporting Documentation Added to file).

Service - Report

Tanya Shanklin provided a quick recap of the status of the lactating room sponsored by the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland, in support of the Family Justice Center. Tanya wanted to make a quick note that a few volunteers would be need to complete the final touches, paint, etc. for the room. Several members volunteered.

The final moments of the meeting were spent, enjoying cake and refreshments in celebration of the Zonta Club of Mid-Maryland Chartering year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Minutes submitted by

Karen M. Fenner

Secretary, Zonta Mid-Maryland