

Harmony is Vision for the Year as Sanibel-Captiva Zonta Club Installs New Officers

Harmony and continued success will guide the work of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva in the coming year stated newly-elected Zonta Club President Sue Denham in her remarks last week at the installation of officers and directors for the club year beginning June 1.

In thanking outgoing President Nola Theiss for her leadership, Denham noted the club had been recognized with the Governor's Cup in two consecutive years as the best among 44 clubs in the southeastern United States, had gained world-wide recognition through participation in the Zonta International Conference in Australia, and had raised more funds locally than in any previous year.

"I feel honored and privileged to help continue building on the club's success," Denham said. "In looking forward to the coming year, I will encourage us to focus on harmony in three specific areas -- integrating our many new members; engaging in service projects that offer "hands-on" volunteer opportunities; and maximizing fellowship."

Denham also noted that the Club is in the midst of a comprehensive strategic planning process that will provide direction for the next three years, and concluded by thanking club members for putting their trust in her to lead the organization.

In addition to Denham, the newly elected board members are: Kris Ritts, vice president; Linda Robison, president-elect; Maureen O'Brien, treasurer, Ginger Parker, recording secretary; Gini Jones, corresponding secretary; Carolyn Gray, Peggy Newell, Jan Alden and Wendy West, members-at-large; and Nola Theiss, immediate past president.

Nancy Dorrity is "Zontian of the Year"

At the same event, Nancy Dorrity, a Sanibel resident since 1999, was honored as the Zontian of the Year.

"Nancy exemplifies what it means to be a Zonta member," said Nola Theiss, outgoing president, as she announced the award. "Nancy works hard, sees what needs to be done, does it well, always, and is most enthusiastic."

Dorrity, who serves as Membership Committee Chair, is instrumental in providing each new and prospective member with information and orientation about Zonta International and local Zonta projects. In addition, she led the committee in planning several spectacular social events including a Halloween party and Holiday celebration. A Zonta member since 2003, Dorrity and the Membership Committee organized a "Care Brigade" this past year to prepare and deliver meals and run errands for members who were ill.

“Nancy’s contributions to the Club go far beyond membership activities,” said Sue Denham, president. “She participates in nearly all of our events constantly helping to make them successful and often works until the last task is completed.”

Dorrity received a standing ovation from the more than 40 Zonta members in attendance in recognition and admiration of her dedication and contributions to the club.

In accepting the award, Dorrity said, "I've never known a group of such extraordinary women as the members of our Zonta Club. I am deeply grateful and humbled by this honor."

The Zonta Foundation of Southwest Florida, which financially supports the club’s service activities and partners, installed new officers and directors for 2007-2008 at the same event. They are: Esther Saltzman, president; Karen Pati, secretary; Val Babb, treasurer; Linda Robison and Maureen O’Brien, members-at-large.

Prior to the ceremonies, Zonta member Sandy Greco provided musical entertainment accompanied by Barbara McCubbin and assisted by Katrina McCubbin.

The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is a service organization of professional women working together to provide hands-on assistance, advocacy and funds to strengthen women’s lives on the islands, in Lee County and around the world through Zonta International. Globally, there are nearly 33,000 members in more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas. Additional information about Zonta is available at www.zontasancap.com.

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Zonta Foundation president Esther Saltzman, far left, presided over the installation of newly elected officers and directors of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva. Pictured from left are: Saltzman; Sue Denham, president; Kris Ritts, vice president; Linda Robison, president-elect; Maureen O'Brien, treasurer; Gini Jones, corresponding secretary; Peggy Newell, (front), member at large; Ginger Parker, recording secretary; Jan Alden, member at large; Wendy West, member at large; and Nola Theiss, immediate past president.



Sue Denham, newly installed president of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva, described her vision for the coming year which included building an even stronger relationship to Zonta International, raising more money for Zonta's local non-profit partners and offering members heartwarming and uplifting fellowship.

Newly installed officers of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva are, from left: Ginger Parker, recording secretary; Linda Robison, president elect; Sue Denham, president; Kris Ritts, vice president; Maureen O'Brien, treasurer, and Gini Jones, corresponding secretary.



Nola Theiss, right, presented yellow roses to Nancy Dorrity who was honored as “Zontian of the Year” at the Sanibel-Captiva Zonta Club’s annual installation dinner last week. As outgoing president, Theiss was thanked for raising the Club’s profile not only locally but also among Florida legislators and Zonta clubs internationally.