

Message from Zonta International on 12/13/2009 1:20:00 PM

Remembering Past International Foundation President, Luella M. Hoffman (1931-2009)

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### **Luella M. Hoffman, Zonta International Foundation President 1995-1997**

I am saddened to report that the Past Foundation President and long-time Zontian, Luella M Hoffman passed away Sunday December 13, 2009 in Aurora, Illinois, USA.

Luella Marie Hoffman, Past President of the Zonta International Foundation, died on Sunday, December 13, 2009 in Aurora, Illinois. During her forty-seven years of exceptional service to Zonta, Lu Hoffman made lasting contributions at every level of Zonta.

Lu joined the Zonta Club of St. Charles-Geneva-Batavia in 1962 and served as Club President from 1967-1969. She then served on the District 6 Board, first as Area Director, and then as Treasurer. Local club and district membership grew significantly during her Board tenure in response to Lu's influence and mentoring. She next served as Zonta International Finance Chairman, then Assistant Treasurer. At the International Convention in Wiesbaden, Germany, she was elected Zonta International Treasurer and served three terms.

Lu joined the Zonta International Foundation Board in 1992 and served first as Foundation Treasurer and then as Foundation President. Following an extensive fundraising campaign during her time on the board, the foundation raised one million dollars to pay off the building's mortgage. The final payment was made just ten years from the date of purchase. Upon completion of her years at the international level, Lu served as foundation ambassador for District 6.

Lu was born on June 3, 1931 in St. Charles, Illinois to William and Edith Hoffman. She grew up on the family farm with her three siblings and began her education at a small country school. She was one of only twelve students in her high school graduating class. After attending college at Bradley University and the University of Oklahoma; she moved to St. Charles, Illinois to begin what would be a forty-year banking career.

Luella was promoted to bank officer in only eight years, was quickly identified as an expert in mortgage lending. She was subsequently named vice president of the State Bank, now the Harris Bank. In addition to her banking career Lu also served on governing boards in her community. She was on the board of the Humane Society of Illinois, the Renz Addiction Center, the Elgin Community College Board of Directors as well as the College Foundation Board, and the Board of the Fox Valley Community Bank. In the mid 1970's she was elected and served as St. Charles City Clerk.

Despite her dedication to her local community, Zonta and its mission have been Lu's overriding

passion. The Zonta Club of St. Charles-Geneva-Batavia established the Luella Hoffman Scholarship Award twenty years ago to help local area young women to continue their education. Three Luella Hoffman Scholarship Awards are given each year to public or private school students. This award which ranges from \$1,500-\$2,500 is applied to tuition, books and fees for a full-time two or four-year program of study. Selection is based on academic performance, community service, extracurricular activities, financial need, and the applicant's expressed objectives and goals.

On May 5, 2009 Lu was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Awards Banquet hosted by the Zonta Club of St. Charles-Geneva-Batavia for a lifetime of dedication to Zonta International and her local community. As a result of this honor, City of St. Charles Mayor Daniel DeWitte, declared May 5, 2009 Luella Marie Hoffman Day "in recognition for her distinctive service to our community." This unique honor was celebrated by an article in the current issue of the Zontian magazine.

The Zonta community will miss this invaluable member who was known and respected throughout the Zonta world as a woman who led her life "her way".  
Listerby, Sweden, December 17, 2009

Beryl Sten  
President Zonta International