Jane M. Klausman’s Inspiring Bequest for Women in Business

The late Jane M. Klausman, a dedicated Zontian from Syracuse, New York (District 2, USA), left a gift that the women of Zonta will always remember.

By naming the Zonta International Foundation as the residual beneficiary of her estate, Jane left more than US $500,000 to fulfill a long time Zontian dream – the Women in Business Scholarship fund – a program designed to provide endowed scholarships for women enrolled in undergraduate business studies.

“We are privileged that Jane thought so highly of what the Foundation could do with her legacy. We celebrate and honor Jane Klausman for the values she lived as a Zontian and for investing those values in the future of women even beyond her lifetime.”

-Jane Roberts Garvey
Zonta International Foundation President, 1997 – 1999

As a single woman who pursued a business career as a professional secretary, parliamentarian and entrepreneur, Jane was able to leave such a generous gift because of her hard work, wise savings and prudent investments. She was also able to enjoy a comfortable semi-retirement that allowed her to work on professional projects, travel and fully participate in Zonta at the club, district and international levels.

As an internationally known and respected parliamentarian, Ms. Klausman wrote easy-to-use parliamentary procedure books that are in use throughout the world. She also served as the Zonta International Parliamentarian from 1990-1995 and brought an increased strength and richness to Zonta’s assembly and governing protocols.

Lucille Fox traveled with Jane to many parts of the world during their 45-year friendship. “During the 1940’s and 1950’s,” she recalls, “we used to talk about how working women needed the support and reinforcement of other women in the business world. Today, the Jane M. Klausman Scholarships for Women in Business are a great example of the power of women’s philanthropy and how we can help each other.”

In addition to her residual bequest to Zonta, Jane also left gifts to other organizations that were important to her during her life including her church, the American Institute of Parliamentarians and her local YWCA.