

The Quotarian

Empowering Communities around the World

March 2015



WOMEN OF THE YEAR



The Quotarian



Quota International of Beenleigh encourages you to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March in YOUR community.

Quota International

Empowering women, children, the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired.

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ON THE COVER:

- Quotarians in Cupertino, California, United States.
- Quotarians in Connecticut support one another everyday.
- Quota International volunteers work in India.
- Projects that impact families thrive in Curacao.
- Quota International of Winchester volunteers.
- Schools in the Philippines thrive with Quotarians leading the charge.
- Programs in the Philippines target women in need of job skills training.
- Quota International's 2014 Convention united hundreds of women from around the world.

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A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KAREN

In recognition of International Women's Day on 8 March, I would like to take a moment to thank the women who have shaped my Quota life, starting with my friend and mentor, Moya McKeon, who invited me to attend a Quota function in 1996. I received such a warm and friendly welcome at my first event, that I had no hesitation about joining Quota International immediately! I also want to thank the Quotarians of Beenleigh, Queensland, Australia for their active support and encouragement of my desire to step into a leadership role, without which, I would not have started upon this particular journey.

Many women have inspired me along the way—beginning with our founder, Wanda Frey Joiner. Wanda was a woman of vision, of strength and of determination. She was Quota's first trailblazer, and a role model for each of us to follow.

My personal inspiration has also come from Governors, like Avril Kent, and Australian Past International Presidents Joan M. May, Joyce Fren, Beris Pritchard, Verna Stewart, Carolyn Rice and Chris Tracey-Patte—who each have encouraged me upon my journey in their own unique way. Other Past International Presidents like Rosemary Hannie—for talking ideas through, Carolyn Stubbs—the parliamentary guru, Gwenn Jackson—who inspired me to look towards the next generation, and Laura Lahman—for sharing her vision. Finally, my fellow board members, our Quota staff, and YOU—the member who volunteers selflessly to make this world a better place!

Aside from the women who make Quota an organization to join and admire, seeing our projects in India, Fiji and the Philippines, and meeting the inspiring Quotarians who created those projects fills me with pride. Meeting the women and children who are being helped is a humbling experience.

One elderly lady in India, described her experience at the aged care facility established and managed by Quotarians in Sainik Farm, as “living in paradise.” As we spoke, her smile was wide, and that experience is etched on my heart forever.

The success of these projects, initiated by local Quota communities, strengthens my resolve to further Quota's community service impact around the world.

We dedicate this issue of our *Quotarian Magazine* to the women who have inspired Quotarians in over 250 communities around the world to work side by side to empower women, children, the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and the speech-impaired.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen J. Murphy". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Honoring the Women We've Lost

Honoring and remembering the women who made sure Quota International was an organization built on the love of service and the strong desire to make the world a better place.

JOYCE FORE MULL

Quota International of Winchester, Virginia, United States



"Mama Joyce embodied the traits that all of us at Quota strive to exhibit: a genuine sense of caring for the greater community, a gift for giving sound advice and wise counsel, and the ability to inspire others to experience the same sense of joy in Quota's accomplishments and fellowship. Joyce is truly missed."

Lynda Ingle

Quota International of Winchester, Virginia, United States

FRANCES WOODS

Quota International of New Haven, Connecticut, United States



"As a typical Quotarian, Frances, traveled extensively and had many adventure stories to share. Her Quota sisters will miss her and remember her fondly."

Cindy Ciccio

Quota International of New Haven

URSULA MUNDSTOCK

Quota International Glen Innes, New South Wales, Australia



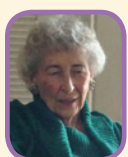
"My memories of Ursula Mundstock are happy ones. I recall Ursula's smile, her interest in everything, her satisfaction in belonging, her diligence and caring."

Barbara Rogers

Quota International of Cupertino, California, United States

JOANN SIMMONS CARDWELL

Quota International of Ruston, Louisiana, United States



"JoAnn is already greatly missed by her Quota friends, by a host of friends from

her working years, many school friends with whom she kept in touch, and those who are members of her church family."

Quota International of Ruston, Louisiana, United States

CAROLE S. SCHWETZ

Quota International of Andover, Massachusetts, United States



"Carol was a 16 year member and Past President of Quota International

of Andover, 2005-2006. She also attended one of their International conferences in Australia. She loved spending time with her grandchildren, family and friends.

SHIRLEY WETMORE

Quota International of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



"Shirley exemplified the spirit of volunteerism. Shirley always brought her camera to Quota events and loved photographing activities as the informal "staff" photographer for these occasions. Shirley demonstrated what it is to be a true Quotarian!"

Quota International of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

PAT FOLDES

Quota International of Liverpool, New South Wales, Australia

"Pat's devotion to her family and her wide range of friends and the community was evident throughout her life. A remarkable person, a great friend and a true helper of people—Pat will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

Lorraine Perry

Quota International of Liverpool, New South Wales, Australia

News from Team Quota

Celebrating Women's History on a Grand Scale

On 12 December 2014, the United States Congress passed the National Women's History Museum Commission Act. The act is designed to create a commission for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC to raise awareness and honor women's diverse experiences and achievements. The bipartisan nature of the legislation is noteworthy in a time of partisan and political gridlock in Washington. The act now awaits President Obama's signature.



The "Keep the Children Warm" project in Winchester, VA, United States is managed by dedicated Quotarians.

Unite to End Violence Against Women: Women in the Economy

Though women comprise over half of the world's population, their ability to contribute to the world economy is far below its potential. Women face serious disparities in the global workforce including discrimination, wage-gaps, and lackluster advancement opportunities. Part of Quota International's mission is to empower women around the world. In this effort, Quota International communities have devoted much time and effort to vocational training and financial education programs to push women out of poverty and into sustainable careers. Women in India, Philippines, Fiji, and Malaysia have been given a wide variety of training to become strong and independent leaders of their communities.

Quota at Work Photo Series

Quota International of East Memphis, Tennessee, United States volunteered at the opening reception of the Deaf Family Literacy Academy, a school that trains parents to actively participate in their children's education. Volunteer mentors help parents and children alike improve sign language skills, teach literacy strategies, and increase visual and listening comprehension skills. Quotarians at the reception provided food, child

care, and program donations. The hearing-impaired community of Memphis has been a major focal point for Quota International of East Memphis.

Quotarians Honoring the Heart of #GivingTuesday Everyday

In honor of Giving Tuesday, teamquota.org recognized some service projects to illustrate the spirit of giving back to the community. Quotarians in Winchester, Virginia were spotlighted for their "Keep the Children Warm" campaign where children in need were given new coats and boots. Quota International Redcliffe in South East Queensland, Australia have been supporting a rehabilitation center that helps disabled children gain confidence and coordination from riding horses.

Visit the Team Quota blog for more at www.teamquota.org.

Quota Quintessential

written by JULIANNE NORMAN

In New Delhi, India Quotarians have discovered empowerment at a unique level and through a product that is simply not talked about—sanitary pads. Living below the poverty line prevents many women in developing nations, from using sanitary products during menstruation. As a result, women become subject to poor health and forgo income once a month, incurring economic costs two-fold.

To address such negative repercussions on family and society, Quotarians hired women from local villages to fabricate two types of sanitary napkins. One kind is made of sterilized cotton and gauze for use in a local hospital. The other is made of cotton fabric left over from garment factories, which the seamstresses sew into products for use at home. Quota International and other NGOs purchase the cloth pads for distribution free of charge to women in sub-standard living conditions.

The wages, provided by donations made to Quota International's World Service



Self-sufficiency and economic independence is at the heart of the women's programs flourishing in India.

project, enable the seamstresses to purchase the basic necessities for their families, while the products restore self-respect to women living in harsh situations. Women, who might normally be forced to remain at home during menstruation, are now able to continue working and providing for their families.

Within the first year of the project in 2011, over 20,000 women had benefitted from the napkins. Today, 10,000 women benefit from the napkins every month. In addition to providing wages for the team of women making the napkins, the product is provided to patients at women's associations, hospitals, and local medical centers. Former Quota International New Delhi President, Abha Kumar, described the community-wide success of the project by stating: *"The community was impressed by the project as it is a win-win solution since we had used waste material to make the napkins, employed the needy women, and distributed them free. We thereby, not only helped in ensuring better health and hygiene, but gave them their dignity. It has been extremely valued by the community."*



Over the years, job skills training in India has allowed hundreds of women to support the ones they love.

A LIVING LEGEND

Beris Pritchard Reflects on her Life as a Quotarian

After almost five decades of Quota service,
Past International President and current
Executive Administrator Asia/Pacific
Beris Pritchard has seen—and mostly done—it all.

written by **BERIS PRITCHARD**

I attended my first Quota International Convention in 1975 in Hawaii as Quota International of Redcliffe's President, just two years after joining Quota. Convention provided me with greater insight into our organization. It allowed me to become a global connector and, after my leadership experience as International President 12 years later, a global citizen.

As Quotarians, we know that it is not easy to find volunteers willing to take on a leadership role. I found myself serving as Quota International of Redcliffe's President the year after I joined. I really didn't choose to take on a leadership position—other people seemed to choose for me. Since they thought I could do it, I followed through with the nomination. Ten years later, I was

elected to the Board of Directors as the South Pacific Area Director. This gave me the opportunity to make global connections



Beris and Quotarians in Ba, Fiji.



Beris has a network of friends that spans the globe, thanks to her many years as a dedicated Quotarian.

and international friends. I served with some wonderful women during my eight years on the Board—among them Past International Presidents Joyce Fren and Lynn Stephenson who were ahead of me, and Past International President Helen Macdonald who followed. My first trip to Bombay, India as a member of the Board began as a harrowing experience after arriving at 1am and having to find a taxi to get to my accommodation on my own. However, the Quotarians in Delhi made me feel so welcome the next day, that the trip immediately became a very happy experience. Our meetings began a rapport with the Quota communities in India which lasts to this day.

As a Past International President, among

my best memories are the times I traveled to support Quotarians in India, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Along the way, I accompanied various Quota leaders who were always willing to visit communities in Asia, and to experience the cultural and global network that Quota International offers. This is something I have appreciated since my first visit to Asia as the Second Vice President in 1986.

My time as a Quotarian has been unique. In 1997, Past International President Charlotte Schamadan's Board of Directors, and former Executive Director, Kathleen Treiber established a consultancy staff role in the South Pacific Area, and invited me to fill the Liaison Officer position. The past 18 years



Beris has cultivated a relationship with volunteers in India that has lasted for over 20 years.

as the Liaison Officer have allowed me to become not only a mentor, encouraging

and enjoying the fellowship of South Pacific Quotarians, but also a true global citizen. I have enjoyed serving fellow Quotarians and communities for more than 42 years.

As a Past International President, I really appreciate the big picture and understand the day-to-day difficulties of working with the cultural differences within our international organization. I am committed to strengthening Quota International every day. I have been officially recognized for my commitment through the years, but no rewards or awards can be achieved alone. Quota has given me so much recognition from many quarters,

but every award I have is a victory I share with the women of Quota International who have influenced and inspired me.

I am happy to say that my Presidential theme of “Strength through Fellowship” has lasted much longer than my single year in office. Considering what I have gained from the experience of an almost 50-year supporter, activist, volunteer, and leader in Quota, I cannot promote highly enough the opportunities that Quota leadership offers. Quotarians are strongest when we stand together, recognizing each other’s achievements and moving towards the global vision of giving that is at the heart of our mission.

Beris Pritchard’s Most Notable Achievements

1984 Redcliffe City’s Citizen of the Year

1988 Paul Harris Fellow from the Redcliffe Rotary Club

1991 Recognition from the Australian Monarchy with a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through Quota International

2000 Canadian Year of the Volunteer Medallion, given by Past International President Dolores Brosky

2004 Recognition as one of four Quota Living Legends at the International Convention, given by Past International President Mary Cotter, along with Past International President Carolyn Stubbs, Past International President Lynn Stephenson, and Evelyn Horne

Votes for Women— Voices for our Communities

Quotarians can make positive change in their communities through hands-on service as well as democratic participation.

written by **DANIEL MASON**

Elections around the world in 2014 proved newsworthy. Some ushered in a major change in party control, while others fostered positive change in international relations. After the midterm election in the United States, the opposition Republican Party won control of both chambers of the United States Congress. India's newly-elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, made headlines by signing agreements with neighbor and historical rival, China. Another important 2014 event was Fiji's first democratic election under a new constitution. New Zealand held a national election which resulted in a National Party-led coalition and the re-election of incumbent Prime Minister John Key. Future elections could bring more change. Federal elections are slated for later this year in Canada and Suriname, while general elections will take place in the United

States and Philippines in 2016. With so much speculation this far in advance, will the United States elect their first female President?

Why is this important to Quotarians? Quota's mission focuses on women, children, the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech impaired. When voting, Quotarians can keep in mind the politicians' stances on issues related to Quota International's mission in order to give populations a stronger voice. Change is best achieved together through group effort, and through community service. Every Quotarian can be a leader that inspires others to take action locally by exercising their democratic, and fundamental, right to vote. Every Quotarian has the power to change their community.

Year women were first able to vote in national elections:

- 1893 – New Zealand
- 1902 – Australia
- 1918 – Canada
- 1919 – Netherlands (Aruba and Curacao)
- 1920 – United States
- 1937 – Philippines
- 1947 – India
- 1948 – Suriname
- 1957 – Malaysia
- 1963 – Fiji



Through history, voting rights have been denied to many; exercise your fundamental right to vote in your community.

Reminder!

Nominations for International Board positions are due to Quota International Headquarters on 30 November 2015.

Empowering WOMEN TRANSFORMS COMMUNITIES: a Tribute to International Women's Day

written by JULIANNE NORMAN

International Women's Day gives Quotarians a special opportunity to recognize and celebrate the work they do to empower women and children, the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech-impaired around the world. We are reminded to think about the different ways to empower, and the amazing impact this word can have on not just a woman's life, but on her family's as well.

Today, 66 million girls worldwide are out of school¹. Many cultures and societies believe that educating girls is irrelevant, and that disregarding women in the workforce has an insignificant effect on an economy. However, if we can increase educational

opportunities to women, and equalize work-force participation between men and women, worldwide GDP would grow nearly 12% by 2030². The World Bank President stated that gender not only matters, but is "smart economics³." Providing women with equal access to education advances human capital by equipping women with the skills suitable to the labor force.

Quotarians around the world are providing educational opportunities to women in traditional and nontraditional ways. In **Ba, Fiji**, education on basic hygiene practices are provided in the Natisiri Settlement. In **Mandaue, Philippines**, vocational training is offered to the deaf and hard-of-hearing. In **Legazpi-Mayon, Philippines**, the deaf, hard-of-hearing, and young mothers are being prepared to become active workforce participants through Quota International's *Stitch for a Living* project. Equipped with a new sewing machine, graduates are able to start their own businesses and provide for their families.



Grassroots activism takes many forms around the world when a cause—like breast cancer awareness—affects so many.



With more women in the workforce, India's GDP has the potential to rise significantly.

Quotarians in **New Delhi, India** provide job-training skills to underserved women in their community, and offer employment opportunities as well. Women in India spend an average of six hours a day performing unpaid labor tasks. If women participated in the labor force at the same level as men in India, the country's GDP would increase by 1.7 trillion dollars⁴.

Quotarians in **Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States** empower women by spreading education on health risks that affect them. One in eight women in the world will be diagnosed with breast cancer⁵. **Quota International of Toowoomba, Brunswick Valley, Lower Clarence, Tenterfield, Camden Haven, Gladstone, Coffs Harbour, Redcliffe, Goulburn, Maryborough, Walcha (Australia); Ohope (New Zealand); Peterborough (Canada); Kenosha-Racine, Southeast Texas, Gridley, Bismarck, Paris, Tennessee (United States)** participated in Breast Cancer Awareness projects. When women gather to advocate on behalf of a community of women in need, they create change.

On International Women's Day, Quotarians should applaud themselves for the amazing work they do to empower women in their local communities. As Quotarians empower women, they transform communities. Their dedication to women around the world is important for families, communities, and nations. Gender matters, as we as women, continue to promote Quota's mission.

¹ *Girl Rising*

² *Girl Rising*

³ World Development Report 2012

⁴ *Girl Rising*

⁵ Breast Cancer Research Foundation

The value placed on empowering women has been tested and tried, and in the end, proven to not only be socially valuable, but a sound economic investment. At Quota, we continue to empower women and invest in the future.

Karen Murphy

THE VISIONARY

As the International President, Karen Murphy is an innovative and unique force, whose ideas are focused on taking Quota International to the next level in the future. With 18 years as a Quotarian under her belt, a heartfelt resolve to do good, and a thoughtful vision, Karen is a great leader, and a Woman of the Year.

Karen's 19 years as a Quotarian have been a whirlwind, but she still remembers exactly when she joined Quota International in February 1996.

"I was invited to a "Quota Cocktail Party" by Moya McKeon. I couldn't find anyone I knew at first, but the members were so welcoming and friendly, that I decided to join that very night."

From the very beginning Karen showed a passion that even surprised her.

"I couldn't help myself from participating, adding ideas to projects, and asking questions. Within two years, I found myself the proud President of Quota International of Beenleigh. If it were not for the positive encouragement from the Beenleigh community, and the united support of all, I may not have had the courage to offer my candidacy."

As Karen moved through Quota International, her influence with Quotarians in Australia—and beyond—grew. She realized that she had a desire to make a difference on a larger scale.

"As a united force working in communities all around the world we can achieve so much more. It is invigorating to witness how much is being achieved everyday on the broader global scale at Quota International."

Karen sees the main goal to complete during her presidency is to inspire and motivate our communities to create change from within.

"My own life is richer for my time as a Quotarian. Witnessing the results of our projects strengthens my resolve to further Quota's service impact around the world. If I can unite volunteers, inspire them, and grow our organization, I will be content...or will I? Knowing me, I will probably be looking for an even bigger challenge after that!"



HER WORDS TO LIVE BY:

I believe that you personally shape the day/life you are living, so start each day with a positive attitude, an open mind, and a smile on your face.

Karen finds that Quota International sometimes competes for attention in her life, but the important things remain at the forefront.

“As a woman, the role of wife and mother has had the most profound impact on my life. As long as my family is happy, healthy, and able to live the lives they desire, my heart is filled with gratitude. I am always proud to know that I am a part of their journey.”

Karen credits her determination to the slew of strong, bold, beautiful women in her life.

“My great grandmother, Nana Blackwood’s strength of character and “can-do” attitude were an inspiration. My grandmother lived her life by the motto “It’s better to be

busy than boring.” My own mother always put others first. Our founder, Wanda Frey Joiner faced enormous obstacles. The growth of Quota and its ideals stands as a testament to her vision.”

From Wanda to Nana Blackwood, Karen took the lessons she learned, and in true Quota fashion, has raised her daughters to be empowered young women.

“They [Belinda and Nicole] truly believe that if you care about something, and want to achieve a goal, you have to work at it in order to succeed. They continue to inspire me daily with all that they have achieved, and are working to achieve. I always said to them ‘you’re a girl—you can do anything!’”

Cindy Hurd

THE ADVOCATE

The mother of two deaf adults, Vice President Cindy Hurd's advocacy on behalf of the deaf and hard-of-hearing make her a compassionate and headstrong leader, and one of Quota's Women of the Year. Cindy works on behalf of the underrepresented, proving that there is power in grassroots activism. Cindy's compassion and dedication to empowering the youth and the deaf around the world make her a woman to admire.

Quota International's mission holds a special place in Cindy's heart for very personal reasons.

"Both my children [Colin, 29 and Carly, 24] were born deaf. With no deafness in my family, or my husband's family, I began a journey to learn as much as I could about hearing loss, and deafness. The more I learned, the more I realized how little help and support deaf children receive, especially at home. Many go home to families that cannot communicate with them because no one in the family has learned sign language. These kids are isolated, with no one to talk to about their school day, their homework, or their feelings.

I knew my own children's struggles and needs, and I was a very involved mother, imagine the struggles and frustration for the

deaf children that can't even communicate with their own families. I saw it too many times, and I wanted to make a difference in the world for as many deaf children as I could."

After 14 years as a Quotarian, Cindy's work as a deaf and hard-of-hearing children's advocate is unparalleled in her community.

"I was especially involved in helping to start Quota International of St. Augustine in Florida, which is where the Florida School for the Deaf is located. We partnered with a pretty dynamic group of women in St. Augustine, who were involved in the Deaf community, and wanted to advocate for Deaf children and their educational rights. I now sit on the board of a non-profit organization that supports deaf children



HER WORDS TO LIVE BY:

Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do, besides hear.”

and their families while also supporting the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, and Gallaudet University. I have been so involved as a supporter and friend in the Deaf community, that many deaf young adults call me “Mom” and turn to me for advice. I was honored to serve on the Quota International Hearing and Speech Task Force, a team that planned recommendations to enhance our relationship with the deaf community and form possible partnerships.”

Cindy’s love and dedication to her children, the deaf community, and Quota International makes her a leader—and woman—to admire.

I have seen first-hand how Quota International changes lives. I have witnessed how our support and empowerment has truly made a difference. There are so many opportunities that never would have existed, without Quota and the women who work in service to others every day.”

Emilie Simon THE AMBASSADOR

Thousands of homes, schools, medical centers, and livelihoods are affected by natural disasters every year. Thanks to one of Quota's Women of the Year, Vice President Emilie Simon, relief is readily available in neighborhoods all over the Philippines. Emilie has influenced dozens of Quota communities over the last two decades, and perseveres to make the world a better place.

Emilie's Quota International career started in southern Manila, the capital and second largest city of the Philippines.

"21 years ago, I was invited by a close friend, Past District 41 Governor and Quota International of Manila South Charter President, Marilou del Rosario. After I observed Manila South's various projects, I realized Quota could be a good venue for me to share and receive blessings, and make a difference in my community. The camaraderie and teamwork I experienced immediately encouraged me further. Everything we did as a Quotarians was built on the joy of giving service back to our community."

Two decades into Quota International, Emilie has been a pillar in her community, ensuring that every project she has her hands on flourishes for years after it is complete.

"In the late '90s, I focused on the construction and completion of a building with a 300 square-meter multi-purpose hall for the

multi-handicapped in Morong, Rizal. At this time, Morong's large population of impoverished multi-handicapped individuals didn't have a place for physical training, therapy, and counseling. Quota International of Manila South communicated with an organization that had been doing civic projects around the city. We were able to raise a grand total of 1 million Phil. Pesos to build that hall. Recently, Bernadeth Rivera, a polio survivor and one of the beneficiaries of the project I ran over 15 years ago in Morong, Rizal, thanked me. She is now a Special Education teacher. It was a very humbling moment that I will always cherish."

No matter the size and importance of her community achievements, Emilie's greatest lifetime loves have been her music, her son, and her family.

"I started studying music in the first grade. My love for music has never faded, but my greatest achievement is my only child,



HER WORDS TO LIVE BY:

“I believe that the more you give, the more blessings will come your way. I also accept as true that the love we share will continue to be passed on.”

Henry. His family donates generously to the community through Quota International of Manila South. I am also blessed with an eight-year-old granddaughter, who is the apple of my eye. My 84-year-old mother still goes to the gym and ballroom dancing twice a week. This is my small happy family that has always been the center of my life.”

After so many years of serving and growing her community as a Quotarian, Emilie’s biggest inspirations—outside of her faith and family—come from within Quota’s established ranks.

“Past International President, Beris Pritchard, bridged the gap between Quota International and the communities in the Philippines. During the earlier years, we would rarely have international representatives at our events, and the Filipino

Quotarians did not feel like we were a part of the ‘international network.’ Only a handful of Quotarians in the Philippines attend conventions, because of the high cost of travel. Beris’ devotion to connecting the Philippines with all Quota matters, fostered deep appreciation amongst the Filipino Quotarians. She [Beris] developed close relationships and mentored us, most especially me.”

Without a doubt, Emilie Simon has been an influential leader. We can only hope that her passion for improving her community will inspire all of us to love our own a little more.

“My motivation was, and will always be, centered on spreading love and kindness. Quota is my way of giving thanks for all the blessings I have received in life. It’s time to share with those who have less.”

Jeanette Gray

THE

ARCHITECT

Daring, bold, and tireless, Vice President Jeanette Gray has been a dedicated Quotarian for over 25 years. Her passion for Quota's values, traditions, and mission, and her commitment to preserving and growing the essence of Quota through strategic planning makes Jeanette a Woman of the Year.

Jeanette Gray's Quota International career began over two decades ago in Queensland Australia.

"I was asked to join when Quota International Whitsunday was chartered—I did not know at the time what I was getting myself into!"

Jeanette exemplifies her credo in the world of Quota International as well, sitting on the board as the current International Vice President.

"I believe that Quota will be the organization that people choose to join thus ensuring the continuity of this dynamic association. I'll never forget visiting the World Service projects in the Philippines, and seeing first hand what an impact Quota International has on the lives of so many. When Quota International of Whitsunday held their first Chef de Quota program for young people with disabilities, we did not anticipate the outcomes to be so positive or powerful."

More than 25 years later, Jeanette still believes firmly in the mission of Quota International.

"I wanted to become a leader in Quota International for the challenge. I envision it to be an organization that will allow members to grow personally and professionally by embracing the principles and spirit of Quota but being prepared to change with the times. An organization that will fulfill a variety of needs and wants for members whether it is community and international service, fellowship, friendship, fun or travel. I believe in the organization and what its members can achieve in assisting others."

And Jeanette is a woman who lives by her word.

"With Quota International, we need, and have the ability, to dare to be different. My mother and sisters proved that anything is possible and being a woman doesn't place barriers in the way of achievements. I myself completed my university degree just two months before my twin girls were born. It has been one of my greatest achievements."



HER WORDS TO LIVE BY:

Anything is possible.

Marie Dobson-Dunlop

THE ECONOMIST

Marie Dobson-Dunlop's record of service and business acumen makes her one of Quota's Women of the Year. Marie has the noteworthy ability to see the changes taking place in the world around us, apply them, and create something new that has the power to improve lives.

Despite repeated urging from members of Quota International of Huronia, Marie, like many others, had always been too busy to join. Then, everything changed.

"I joined Quota International in 1992 after my husband of 25 years died of cancer. I wanted friendship and companionship in my community, but needed to fill a desire to serve. By joining Quota, I got what I was looking for and much more."

Marie had never envisioned holding such large roles in Quota.

"When I joined, I simply wanted to make friends and make an impact in the community. As I spent time in our organization, seeing more and more of the work we did, not just locally, but internationally. Only after I sat on the International Board and met all the wonderful women who represented Quota International, did I realize how important becoming the International President was in order to make a difference."

From becoming President in her club, then Lt. Governor, Governor of the District, Area Director on the International Board, Marie is currently serving on the International Board.

"I see my biggest achievement as being elected President-Elect/Treasurer and in two years becoming the International President of Quota International. It is an absolute honor to be given responsibility for such a great organization."

Marie's determination is largely influenced by her family.

"Both my parents taught me many things through my life and for that I thank them. They inspired me by leading by example. My mother and my grandmother helped make me into the lady I have grown to be. But it was my Dad who molded and shaped me into the woman I have become. He introduced me to the business world, which is dominated by men. I became accepted as an equal and learned to speak with authority on many subjects in



HER WORDS TO LIVE BY:

“I have never tried to live my life by other’s standards. If you work towards your goal, you can be whatever you want to be.”

business and in life. Men learned that I knew what I was talking about. I have never tried to live my life by other’s standards. If you work towards your goal, you can be whatever you want to be.”

When asked to reflect on her time in Quota International, Marie has a special story she likes to tell.

I spent a day with the campers at Bob Rumble Camp for the Deaf, which ensures that young people can enjoy the benefits

of summer camp without communications barriers. When the children were playing in the sunshine, you could see the hands flying. We had a tour of the facility by the director, and a lunchtime welcome with a toast to Quota; grace was performed by voice and in sign.”

The Quota communities in Canada have benefited greatly from Marie’s influence and compassion for the world at large. Now, as President-elect/Treasurer, and the future International President, Marie plans to take it one step further.

“It is an absolute honor to be given responsibility for such a great organization. When I first joined Quota, I did not aspire to become anything more than a member, but as I spent time with our organization and saw the good work we did not only locally, but internationally, I realized I wanted to do more.

When looking at the future of Quota, I want to do what I feel in my heart to be right. I want to be a leader with the determination to effect the changes necessary to make Quota International a more positive experience for everyone. I want us to be accessible to people from all walks of life.”



LEGEND

Quota International communities work to empower women and children including those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in 12 countries. Areas of focus are organized by colored dots in country where focus is addressed.

Entrepreneurship ●

Fiji
India
Malaysia
New Zealand
Philippines
United States

Health ●

Australia
Canada
Curacao
Fiji
India
Malaysia
Netherlands
Philippines
United States

Education ●

Australia
Canada
Fiji
India
Netherlands
New Zealand
Philippines
Suriname
United States

Leadership ●

Aruba
Australia
Canada
Curacao
Fiji
India
Malaysia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Philippines
Suriname
United States

Extraordinary Women,

CONTACT: Quota International Headquarters 1420 21st Street, NW



HEALTH: Personal Care for Women in Need

In New Delhi, India, Quotarians work to improve hygiene among impoverished women while providing opportunities for local women earn a living. Village women are paid to make cotton sanitary napkins, which are provided to women in area slums, medical centers, and hospitals allowing women to be employed full time.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Empowering Women and Children through Education

In Manila, Philippines, Quotarians sponsor literacy and job training skills to include food processing, soap making, and beauty training, for women and their families to increase income and improving home life. Children and youth are also provided with meals and values formation classes encouraging a life of dignity that is free from crime.



EDUCATION: Life Coaching Skills for Women and Deaf Adults

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Quotarians partner with the Women's Aid Organization to offer women in a local shelter a series of skills workshops in coping, stress management, parenting, and basic budget skills to abused migrant workers, trafficked women, asylum seekers, and single mothers. Another initiative helps local deaf persons—among the most marginalized communities in Malaysia—find employment.

Extraordinary Projects

Who's Your Woman of The Year?

Quotarians from around the world pay tribute to the women who have shaped their lives and Quota journeys for the better.



"I would like to pay tribute to my mum, Gladys Springfield, OAM, a volunteer with Quota International of Campbelltown for over 50 years. As her daughter and fellow Quotarian, I've admired her integrity, and desire to succeed. When I was elected Lt Governor, and then Governor of District 35, my mum was so proud; I was also proud to have the honor of following in her footsteps, and continue our family's love of Quota, and what it stands for."

Barbara Edney, Region 14 Director, Quota International of Campbelltown, New South Wales, Australia

"Without a doubt, the person who influenced me the most was my mother. She loved to help people, but had a special place in her servant's heart for children. There were always kids that she took under wing and guided through a rough patch in their lives. My sister and I learned at an early age to give with a joyful heart. After all, we had Hazel McGraw for a mother."

Vicki Gilbert

President, Quota International of West Monroe, Louisiana, United States

"My mother, Geri Guelich, taught me the meaning of giving from the time I was little. She taught our family to help our neighbors, friends and church without expecting anything but "Thank You" in return. After many years of supporting different events, I am not only proud to call her mom but finally my Quota sister."

Karen Gridley

President, Quota International of Lake County, Ohio, United States



"Jean John is not only a Quota friend, but also a family friend and confidant with a beautiful heart. Her peaceful spirit and conviction in what she believes in are some of her more endearing characteristics. As a result of meeting Jean, my life has been enriched. I wonder sometimes if she has been sent to me from Heaven as an inspiration and a guiding light!"

Glynis Banks

President, Quota International of North Lakes, Queensland, Australia

"My mother was killed in a car crash when I was 15. She had always been a positive person, who I like to think imprinted some of her amazing qualities on my personality.

In the late 1980s, I took a course that taught me help everyone I meet lead a more positive life. This philosophy has allowed me to meet many women who have influenced my life. One such woman, Maria Bashier, always showed leadership, empathy and support during her years of service to Quota International."

Jane Glover OAM

President Quota International of Pacific Coast, New South Wales, Australia

"I would like to thank and make tribute to the present and past members of Quota International of Ipswich.

Through their guidance, leadership, helpfulness, and friendship they have greatly assisted me during my terms as President. From diverse backgrounds, it has been their creativity, teamwork, and community commitment that has been quite inspirational to me."

Jannette Wilton

*President, Quota International
of Ipswich, Queensland, Australia*

"Denise Rowell is our "Woman of the Year." I have known Denise for 25 years through all her many and varied roles in the organization. Through all this, her family has been 100% behind her and she is now enjoying her major roles as a wife and mother."

Lindy Horton

*President, Quota International
of Coolum Beach, Queensland,
Australia*



"My mother, Val Rucker Routon, is 97 years old and an active member of Quota International of Paris in Tennessee. On her 97th birthday, she was given the Patriot Award, the highest accolade given in Henry County, Tennessee for a lifetime of community service.

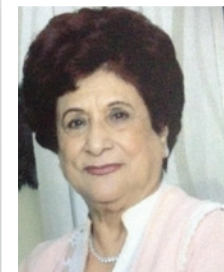
A school teacher and a long time social worker, my mother has worked to make the world a better place.

We are so proud of all she has done in the name of Quota in our hometown."

Stephanie Tayloe,

Quota International of Paris, Tennessee, United States

"What I am today is all because of my mother, Kaushalya Chadha, a kind and compassionate woman. My mom was always interested in solving other people's problems. Our neighbor's always used to come to our house whenever they needed help. She was a good giver, but I always thought mom was wasting money. During my childhood, I slowly started understanding her feelings toward people in need. My mom was so beautiful and elegant—a real adviser to the whole family, including to my father. What I am today, all credit goes to my mother."



Bala Batra

Past President, Quota International of New Delhi, India

"Very dedicated Quotarians like Margaret Miller and Susannah Mays; finally, the best, my deceased Mom, Virginia Curran, who died in 1988. When I think I am ready to give up, or start to question myself, I think of them."

Ginger Gilliss

*President, Quota International of Ocean City,
Maryland, United States*

"Sue Holt joined Quota in 1979 and, as a Quotarian of 10 years I have always looked up to Sue as a mentor. Sue has a kind heart and is not only a dedicated Quotarian, but a dear friend. She is someone I can lean on in difficult situations through it all."



Carol Marsland

*President, Quota International of Lithgow, New South
Wales, Australia*

"Throughout my life, my mother, the late Mary Houghton, used to say: "Every day will be a sad day for someone in the world, so be kind to everyone because you might be the only person who has been." Mum was named Quota Woman of the Year in 1961 for her work within the community. I hope that the direction she gave me has enabled me to be a worthy representative of the ideals of Quota in my community."

Libby Gomersall

President, Quota International of Redcliffe, Queensland, Australia



The Inspirational Women Behind Quota's Leaders

Quotarians around the world are everyday heroes empowering women, children, the deaf, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired. In honor of International Women's Day, Quota leaders recognize the women who have encouraged them to make a difference.

"My mother, Bertha Montgomery, was a Quota charter member in Iosco County for many years, and was always after me to join, but I was a working single mother. When she couldn't drive at night, I made sure she got to the meetings. After attending a few, she talked me into joining, and encouraged me to grow within the Quota community. I've held just about every position there is, and have done just about everything there is to do. My mom passed away in 1998, and, when I joined, I told myself that after she was gone I would quit. But a few years later, I received the Quotarian of the Year award; she would have been so proud. I cried like a baby, but I felt her standing proud next to me. Thanks Mom for pushing me towards joining this remarkable club. She knew what she was doing."

Karen Curtis

President, Quota International of Iosco County, Michigan, United States

"It is my pleasure and a privilege to nominate Margaret Spender for the honored and deserved title of Woman of The Year. I have known Margaret since she was my President when I joined Quota International in 1997. She mentored new members, first-time board members, making her an invaluable member of our community. I can honestly say

that I am a better Quotarian for having known Margaret Spender."

Helen Kersten

Past District Governor, Quota International of the Leisure Coast, New South Wales, Australia

"In recognition of International

Day, my "Women of the Year" would be Isabelle Butters of Quota International of Weyburn, Saskatchewan Canada. After 50 years as a dedicated Quotarian, Isabelle is a strong woman, who inspires a person to be the best they can be. Age will never matter to Isabelle; she recently celebrated her 80th birthday, and her vision for our community and dedication to others has only become stronger. It is real privilege to call Isabelle Butters a special friend of 18 years; she is family to me, not by blood, just by love."

Valerie Hall

Region 1 Director, Quota International of Estevan, Sk Canada

"Wilda Owens! The name has resonated throughout the halls of the gold-domed Capitol in Georgia as well as throughout school systems, urban and suburban communities for years. Wilda has marched undaunted into legislative sessions, school board meetings, and community

meetings—all in the service for others. Wilda is a 40-year Quotarian and exceedingly strong advocate for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. As the mother of a deaf son, she found in Quota an organization with worldwide influence. Her institutional knowledge of Quota and all it stands for has made her an icon for us in Quota International of Northside Atlanta. To Wilda, there is no service organization greater than Quota International! To us, there is no greater woman than Wilda.”

Margaret Wheeler

President, Quota International of Northside Atlanta, Georgia, United States

“Dr. Carolyn Rants has been a role model and mentor for me since she was Dean of Students at Morningside College. Her ability to know her students personally, and the fact that she truly cared made her unforgettable. Working at the college later in my career, I continued to admire her professionalism and refusal to “play politics”. If asked a question, she gave an honest answer. Carolyn is a devoted mother, grandmother, and active community volunteer. She currently serves on the Ronald McDonald House Charities Board and the Power Nine Committee for Blue Zones. Carolyn invited me to join Quota International, and because of my admiration for her, I did. I never dreamed that the “networking organization” I joined would become such a large and important part of my life, and that the friendships made through Quota would be among the dearest I’ve ever had.”

Shay Gebauer

Region 3 Director, Quota International of Sioux City, Iowa, United States

“Veronica Magnaye, MD is a fellow Quotarian whom I fondly call Doc Veron. She is a remarkable woman, with passion for her life’s work as an otolaryngologist. She is a respected mentor in the medical school, the President of ICOHNS, Inc.—an ENT group practice—and the newly elected Assistant Medical Director for Continuing Medical Education of San Pedro Hospital. Her tireless commitment to excellence and Quota service is admirable. She is an inspiration to members of Quota Davao City, and our dedication to the establishment of Neonatal Hearing Screen and Habilitation in Mindanao. If there is anything that Doc Veron sets her heart and mind to achieving, I believe it can happen. Why? Because of grit that is so rare to find. To Doc Veron, thank you for touching my life.”

Nilda Escalante

President, Quota International of Davao City, Philippines

“Cindy Davis and Jennifer Sepulveda, both from Quota International of Gridley, have gone above and beyond as community volunteers. They not only chair and manage fundraisers in Gridley, California, but also volunteer and support fundraisers held by our neighbors of Quota International of Paradise in Paradise, California. These two women have truly been instrumental in my success as a Quotarian. Cindy Davis, my Quota sponsor, has supported her club by chairing a very successful tasting and silent auction event for 18 years. Jennifer Sepulveda is my right hand woman; she has supported me in so many ways. There are not enough words to say thank you to these two selfless volunteers.”

Pamela Scott

Region 16 Director, Quota International of Gridley, California, United States

"Have a blessed day."

Every morning before getting on the metro, a news vendor hands out the Express News and wishes riders a blessed day. Especially in a city as busy as Washington DC, to hear such a warm greeting is a pleasant reminder that no matter whom we are, or where we are, each one of us has the power to make an impact in someone else's life.

In the past year, I have met many dedicated and inspiring Quotarians who are making an impact every day. In an organization as broad and diverse as Quota International, the women who have stepped forward to lead the way through the obstacles and challenges of community service are an encouragement to each of us. They are extraordinary. When Quotarians around the world meet, it is common to hear stories of leaders who have offered much-needed words of encouragement or a bold direction providing beneficial support. Seemingly simple words such as, "I believe in you," can forever change a life.

To spend time with a Quotarian and learn how their dedication has shaped many decades of service is a gift. From Past International Presidents—Beatriz, Beris, Beverly, Bobbie, Carolyn, Charlotte, Chris, Daryl, Enid, Gwenn, Helen, Ilse, Joyce, Karen, Laura, Lynn, Lynne, Mary, Toddy, and



Past
International
Presidents
at the 2014
International
Convention

the Rosemarys—to Area, District, Region, and Club leaders, each has touched my life and made an impact. The encouragement and insight these friendships have provided are the hallmarks of the great people we call Quotarians. Their strength, courage, and understanding while serving their communities empower women, children, the deaf and hard-of-hearing, lighting a new path of possibilities for many along the way.

As we prepare for International Women's Day on the 8th of March, we will be celebrating the accomplishments of the trailblazing women of Quota International. It is because of these women that we have a rich history and a promising future. We salute you for the impact you have made.

Have a blessed day.

Barbara Schreiber
Executive Director

CALENDAR

REGION 1: 1-3 May 2015

Toronto, Ontario

REGION 2: 24-26 April 2015

Cleveland, Ohio

REGION 3: 24-26 April 2015

Clear Lake, Iowa

REGION 4: 15-17 May 2015

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

REGION 5: 24-26 April 2015

Winchester, Virginia

REGION 6: 17-19 April 2015

Hershey, Pennsylvania

REGION 7: 1-3 May 2015

Holyoke, Massachusetts

REGION 8: 1-3 May 2015

Ponte Vedra, Florida

REGION 9: 19-22 March 2015

New Orleans, Louisiana

REGION 10: 17-19 April 2015

Zutphen, Netherlands

REGION 11: 15-17 May 2015

Glen Innes, New South Wales

REGION 12: 22-24 May 2015

Bathurst, New South Wales

REGION 13: 5-7 June 2015

Auckland, New Zealand

REGION 14: 1-3 May 2015

Canberra, ACT

REGION 15: 22-24 May 2015

Caloundra, Queensland

REGION 16: 24-26 April 2015

Sacramento, California

REGION 17: 20-22 March 2015

San Jose, California

REGION 18/19: 23-25 April 2015

Bohol Island, Philippines

REGION 20: 14-15 March 2015

New Delhi, India

International Observance Days

International Women's Day:

8 March 2015

International Day of Happiness:

20 March 2015

**International Day for the Elimination
of Racial Discrimination:**

22 March 2015

World Autism Awareness Day:

2 April 2015

World Health Day:

7 April 2015

Global Youth Service Day:

17-19 April 2015

International Day of Families:

15 May 2015

Deadlines

\$5K and \$10K Awards

International Photo Contest

Quota Cares Month

Volunteer of the Year:

30 April 2015



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Save the Date!

International Convention
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The Sofitel Brisbane Central

THE 89th QUOTA INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL CONVENTION IS A CHANCE FOR YOU, OUR EVERYDAY HEROES, TO CELEBRATE THE LOVE, FRIENDSHIP, AND TOGETHERNESS OF QUOTARIANS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

BRING YOUR HEART TO BEAUTIFUL BRISBANE IN 2016!

