

How the Zonta Celebrity Dinner Got Its Name

The first annual Celebrity Dinner and Dance was held at the North Bend Community Center in 1999 as a means to fund the club's service project, The Little Red Schoolhouse. The dinner moved to St. Monica's Church, SWOCC Lakeview rooms, then back to NB Community Center from 2003-2008. The dinner was catered and served to the guests by local "Celebrities", men and women chosen for their community service both paid and volunteer, thus the name, Celebrity Dinner.

Over the years a silent and live auction were added which have greatly supplemented the fun and financial success of the event. The event is very popular in part for the different and unique themes chosen each year

In 2009 the event moved to the Mill Casino where the need for Celebrity Servers ended, and was replaced by Celebrity table hosts. In 2010 the club voted to select one or more celebrities to honor each year, men and women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls. These honored **Community Celebrities** include:

2010 Judge Paula Bechtold

2011 Coos Bay Police Chief Eura Washburn

2012 Business owners Allan Lesdema and Heather Arzie

2013 Operations Manager K-Dock Radio Mike Chavez

2014 Zonta Club Life Members: Paula Bechtold, Laura lee Blenz, Carol Clayburn, Shirley Gray, Verena Matthews, Carol Ventgen, Debbie Webb, Sheila Wilma and Freda Young

2015 Coos Bay Librarian Carol Ventgen

2016 Business Owner Michaela Vonderohe

2017 Coos County Clerk-Retired Terri Turi

2018 The Erbele Family: Mike, Kristi, Ashley and Ameer

This event wouldn't be possible without the previous 200+ Zonta Celebrity Servers. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!