

“Over the years, there have been several major service projects of which we are proud. During the lean depression years, the African Methodist Episcopal church in this City had carried on, but by the spring of 1939 they had no resources left - their little church was in disrepair. The taxes had not been paid for several years and despite the valiant effort of the minister, they came to the point where they had to have outside assistance or lose their church. Their minister was a particularly wonderful person - he was a porter with the railway during the daytime and when he reached home each night, he would spend every evening calling on and helping not only his own colored folk, but anyone who needed it. A book was written about him, and he later became Hamilton’s Distinguished Citizen of the Year. Word of the need of the Church came to the ears of the City Treasurer, and through his effort the service clubs in Hamilton made up a financial committee and funds were made available for the church to carry on. The clubs from then on took turns in attending the church services on the first Sunday of each month. Our club still takes pleasure in attending the service the first Sunday in November and contributes financially.”

Excerpt from A Condensed History of the Zona Club of Hamilton from 1928 to 1958. Written by Mary Smale, club historian.