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Dear Megan,

This past month, I have been amazed by how much young women and girls are changing the world as I read about our [2022 Young Women In Public Affairs Award \(YWPA\) Awardees' achievements](#) and listened to [Zontian Sara Diana Faraj's remarkable story](#). Did you know that Sara went from being a YWPA awardee to the youngest club president in Zonta's history? Now, she is the chair of the International Young Talents Group and with that, the youngest International Committee Chair (ICC) in Zonta's history.



Attendees of the 2022 Zonta International Convention participate in the Great Women Meet Great Girls mentorship program meet up in Hamburg, Germany.

Sara and the YWPA awardees show that the future can indeed be female; however, a sad truth is that many young women may not recognize their full potential and may often be locked out of decision-making positions. This is not only unfair to women, but also harmful to the growth of all sectors.

- According to [a survey conducted by KPMG US](#), 75% of female executives have experienced feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt, or imposter syndrome, especially at the beginning of their careers.
- A newly released study, "A meta-analytic review of the gender difference in leadership aspirations," traced the interest and ambitions of 138,000 men and women across 174 studies dating back to the 1960s. This study confirmed that generally, [women do not see themselves as leaders](#) in the same way as their male counterparts.

One way we can change these statistics is to do our part in developing future leaders and give them a home in Zonta. Take advantage of our young professional program and invite our Golden Z members and alumnae to Zonta membership and learn from them as well. By cultivating this next generation to participate and actively contribute on all levels of Zonta, we not only advance our work but also help every young woman realize her full potential.

Warm regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ute".

Ute Scholz
President 2022-2024
Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women



At the 2022 Convention in Hamburg, Germany, Zonta International introduced a brand-new cross-mentoring program that helps participants develop future mindset attitudes and skills, connectedness, ideas, and solutions for concrete professional and/or private challenges. Today, there are over 100 individuals participating in this year-long journey.

If you would like to be on the list to participate in the 2023-2024 program, please write to crossmentoring.zonta@gmail.com.

Mentoring at the club level

You too can be a mentor in your community. Below are some tips for actions that you can take today:

- **Stay connected with graduated Golden Z members and alumnae.** Get to know them a little better and see what they want to do with their lives. Even if they are not interested in a Zonta membership at the moment, stay in touch via social media, email, or text because you never know what the future holds!
- **Speak out when you see a rising superstar.** Make it a habit to talk to young women who are leaders in the making but have not yet tapped into their leadership talents. Even a simple "You are doing great!" compliment can boost their confidence and can lead those great girls to become great women.
- **Start offering to be a mentor today.** Consider having coffee with the young female professional where you work or in your Zonta club who seems eager to grow and learn. Or contact your Golden Z club or local university to see if any recent or upcoming female graduates could use a mentor.



Visit the mentoring resource tools under My Zonta/Leadership Development Tools. Here you will find things like the [Mentoring](#) outline for clubs.

Women in STEM Scholarship

In June 2022, the Zonta International membership voted to continue the Women in Technology Scholarship pilot program with an expanded focus on all STEM fields, not only technology. With this change, the Zonta International Board approved a name change to the Zonta International Women in STEM



Scholarship. Golden Z club members are eligible and encouraged to apply. A single candidate from each of Zonta's 31 districts and one region will receive an award of US\$5,000 from Zonta International. The deadline for districts and Region South America to submit their selected candidates to International Headquarters is 15 September 2023. All information and application criteria will be available in December 2022.

To learn more about the updated scholarship, [visit the Women in STEM webpage](#).

Zontians in Action

Clubs and members have made great strides to build a better world for women and girls in their communities. Read the stories below that highlight their fantastic work in recognizing and developing our future leaders.

Zonta Club of Brisbane presents Sophie Nakamura as its 2022 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee

The Zonta Club of Brisbane, Australia, recently selected Sophie Nakamura as its 2022 Young Women in Public Affairs Award recipient, as she has demonstrated how she is progressing Zonta's goals in her community.



A student at Griffith University in Brisbane, Sophie has a range of interests outside of her law and international relations studies, particularly sustainability. With her schoolmates, she started a project at the university called Suited Students Clothing Library, which collects donations to provide clothing to students who need suitable outfits for job interviews and day-to-day life. She was also the 2020 National Australian Winner of the Future Leaders Future Justice Award.

Sophie is one of more than 300 women and girls the club has supported over the past 20 years with a club award or a Zonta International award. Empowering women and girls through education has long been a tenet for this club, and it will continue to be as they work to deliver on the goal of Zonta to build a better world for women and girls.

Zonta Club of Alytus meets up with Women in Technology Scholar Kristina Dūdonytė

Recently, the Zonta Club of Alytus, Lithuania, met up with 2019 Women in Technology Scholar Kristina Dūdonytė to see what she has been doing since becoming the District 13 recipient.



Kristina continues to use her informatics engineering skills to serve her community by contributing to the creation of a social taxi in Alytus. Having a disability herself, Kristin knows that transportation and other essential services are not as developed in Alytus for those with disabilities. The social taxi service provides transportation for residents with disabilities to go to a medical institution, cultural events, a shop or to take care of other important matters.

"People with disabilities have the right, the desire and the opportunity to participate in everything - events, visiting public institutions, going to work or anywhere else," Kristina explains. "Once the people of Alytus understand the benefits of this service, I have no doubt that they will actively use it. Later, when there is more demand, we can think about expansion."

Share Your Story

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**celebrates this month's
club anniversaries!**

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Congratulations to the Zonta Club of Springfield, OH, USA, District 5, on celebrating its 75th anniversary this month. We applaud your efforts of working to build a better world for

women and girls in your community and beyond!

To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in September, please visit [Zonta News](#).

Watch Wawa's Climate Story



For Wanjiku "Wawa" Gatheru, caring about the environment started early. While farming with her mom and grandmother as a child, the conversations would often turn to saving the earth. The first-generation American of Kenyan descent became even more invested when taking an environmental science class in high school, when she learned that social justice and climate issues were deeply intertwined. Everything suddenly became personal. "It was in this call I learned that the environment had everything to do with me," she says.

[Watch Wawa's story now on-demand](#) and learn more about how to tell your story.



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