

ISSUE THREE | 2020-2022
NOVEMBER 2021

THE Zontian

THE VOICE OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL



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LOOKING AHEAD TO HAMBURG!



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS**

Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of 12 employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women and supports the Zonta International Board in implementing policies and programs to further the objectives of Zonta International.

Our friendly team is ready to assist you!

MEMBERSHIP

memberrecords@zonta.org

COMMUNICATIONS

pr@zonta.org

PROGRAMS

programs@zonta.org

FOUNDATION

zifoundation@zonta.org

GENERAL

zontaintl@zonta.org

World Headquarters

1200 Harger Road, Suite 330
Oak Brook, IL 60523-3384
USA

www.zonta.org

Above: Zontians from District 30 gathered for their conference in Zermatt, Switzerland in late September. Home to the Matterhorn, this location offered opportunities for great views and wonderful fellowship.



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Allison Summers, Executive Director; Kate Edrinn, Communications Manager; Communiqué Graphic Design, Design

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A MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT SHARON LANGENBECK

Dear Zontians,

As we approach 2022, I am hopeful that life will return to some normalcy. While it may still be difficult to envision a post-pandemic world, the climate change crisis we are facing—the consequences of which are severe, especially for poor and vulnerable groups in developing countries—adds even more uncertainty. As daunting as these challenges may seem, however, I have seen what is possible when Zontians step in to help when and where we are needed most. When we work together, we are an amazing force for change in the world.

Climate change is a human rights issue, and we must act now to create a sustainable and gender-equal future. Though Zonta International is not an environmental or disaster response organization, we recognize that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, and action is needed from a gender equality perspective.

In the statement we released on World Environment Day, we called for action in favor of a fair and human rights-based approach to solve the climate change crisis in the post-pandemic world and achieve greener, cleaner and equal societies. We also called on you to increase your awareness of climate change; include gendered climate change advocacy actions in your advocacy plans, promote girls' education and the inclusion of climate literacy in schools, and more.

Education is not only an important way we can combat climate change, it also plays a role in achieving a gender-equal society. A key component of our international service projects and the main goal of our awards, scholarships and fellowships, I am happy to see that our clubs are embracing education and awareness in their local projects. Even when the world around us feels so uncertain, I remain motivated and inspired by the incredible stories of service and advocacy from our Zonta clubs around the world.

After so much time apart, I am very much looking forward to reconnecting with long-time Zonta friends and meeting new friends at our 65th Zonta International Convention in Hamburg, Germany, next June. I am excited for you to see what we have planned for the first convention of our second century of empowering women and girls. Whether you join us in Hamburg or connect online, I hope you will be a part of what promises to be an amazing event!

Warm regards,

Sharon Langenbeck

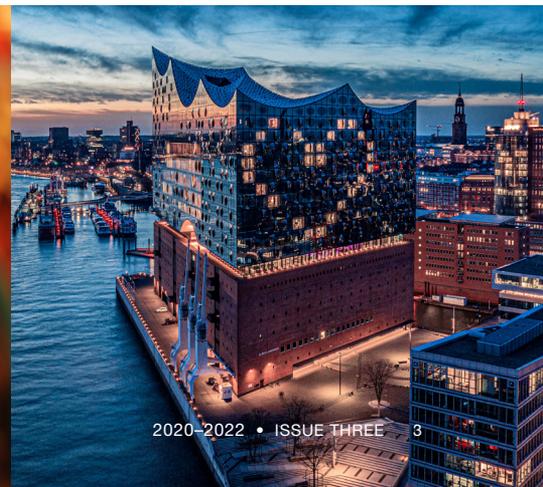
Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D.

President

Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women



Mediaserver @sascha_b_hamburg



Climate change: *A gender equality issue*

IMF Photo/Crispin Rodwell (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Wind turbines are silhouetted against the setting sun near Galashiels in the Scottish Borders.

The world is facing multiple, simultaneous crises. As countries continue to grapple with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—the United Nations (UN) body for assessing the science related to climate change—released in August 2021 a startling report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. The report, which was based on the analysis of more than 14,000 studies on climate change, had a very strong message: The window to keep devastation from getting worse is narrow and closing.

While the enormity of the COVID-19 and climate crises can seem daunting or even hopeless, they are also occasions to adapt and change. As countries move toward reopening and rebuilding their economies after COVID-19, they have the opportunity to create economies that are cleaner, healthier and more resilient. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has proposed six climate-positive actions governments can take as they build back their economies and societies.

1. Invest in a clean, green transition.
2. Expand availability of green jobs to achieve sustainable growth.
3. Empower societies and people to be more resilient by shifting to a green economy.
4. Invest in sustainable sectors and projects that help the environment. End fossil fuel subsidies and ensure polluters pay for their pollution.
5. Address climate risks in financial systems, public policy making and infrastructure.
6. Work together as an international community. No country can succeed alone.

Zonta International proposed its own list of climate-positive actions all governments can and should take as they build back from COVID-19 and confront the climate crisis in its Statement on Climate Change: A Gender Equality Issue, released on 5 June 2021, World Environment Day.

1. Take into account human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in defining and implementing national climate action plans, including gender-responsive measures that are more effective and respectful of human rights.
2. Ensure that the most marginalized groups, including women and girls, do not bear the brunt of the climate crisis.
3. Set up more gender-balanced governing bodies to integrate gender-sensitive climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, as per SDG 13.2 and the Paris Agreement.
4. Support girls' access to education and include basic education on climate change and its consequences to nature and societies for all students, recognizing and addressing the social and economic factors aggravated by climate change (as per SDG13.3.1).

5. Ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation plans address the unique needs of women and the barriers to women's full participation in the economy, including childcare and elder care services, occupational segregation, informal work, the gender pay gap, and legal and social restrictions.
6. Include women in the formation of disaster preparedness and response plans. These plans should recognize the unique needs of women and girls, prioritize their health and safety, and respond to gender-based violence.

Zonta International issued this statement because climate change disproportionately affects women and girls; yet, too often, actions around climate change lack a gender equality perspective and do not reflect the unique needs of women and girls. To solve the climate crisis, the global community must take a fair and human rights-based approach. As an organization pledged to empower women and girls and promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, Zonta International is adding its voice and the voice of the 27,000 Zontians across the globe to the call for action on climate change.

Following the release of the statement, Zonta International welcomed a panel of experts on 13 September for a virtual conversation on climate change and its unique impacts for women and girls.

Fleur Newman, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) gender focal point and focal point for women at the UN Climate Change Secretariat, provided an overview of how gender is addressed under the UNFCCC and the gaps and challenges that remain. She closed her remarks with a powerful call to action.

“We need to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels. Renewable energy and sustainable transportation options and green alternatives for industrial processes are actually available now. Leadership and political will is needed to hasten investment in these alternatives. And we need the voices of the most vulnerable and marginalized—whose lives have been deeply affected by the ravages of climate change—to be elevated so that their ideas and perspectives are embedded in action on climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.”

Top: Protester with a sign that reads "There is no Planet B" at a rally against climate change. Right: Glacier Grey in front of The Cuernos del Paine mountains in Chile. Many of the country's glaciers are retreating and some have fragmented, which further accelerates melting.



Ivan Radic (CC BY 2.0)





Alicia Godsberg, assistant director of global programs for UNICEF USA, shared how climate change is specifically affecting children and how UNICEF is including women and children, especially girls, in decision-making around efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Alicia also provided insights into UNICEF's climate-related work in Madagascar, where Zonta International has been supporting girls' education since 2016.

“During times of climate stress, adolescent girls are often pulled out of school to help with additional domestic burdens like fetching water, which can take a full day's journey. Being pulled out of school also interrupts girls learning on how to protect themselves from future climate risks, further increasing their vulnerability. Climate-related crises also increase the risk of child marriage as households seek ways to manage financial burdens. This can lead to early pregnancy and intergenerational cycles of poverty and marginalization.”

Zonta International was proud to welcome two of its own members to speak about their climate and environmental work. Mabel Mak, a member of the Zonta Club of New Territories, Hong Kong, is a civil engineer, nonprofit founder and environmental activist. She outlined how women as business makers, homemakers and social leaders can take action to combat climate change and provided examples of projects already undertaken by Zonta clubs, grassroots organizations and youth groups in Hong Kong.

“Since many women are social leaders, we can take the lead to make changes toward carbon neutrality and support government and international initiatives to combat climate change.”

Carole Theobald is a member of the Zonta Club of Perth, Australia. She works for the state government on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Western Australia, where she brings together expertise in transport, energy and urban planning to create net zero cities. Last year, when Carol realized just how badly women and girls would be impacted by climate change, she set up Zonta Says NOW to gender equality and climate action.

Collecting freshwater, people walk around one or two kilometers every day in the Sundarbans forest area, Bangladesh, on 25 April 2021. People living in the Sundarbans region suffer from a water shortage in the dry season as a result of increasing salinity in the groundwater, and of the river Satkhira, caused by rising sea levels.



IMF Photo/K. M. Asad (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)



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“In District 23, we had a bit of a head start and developed Zonta Says NOW with a mission to create a gender equal sustainable world. We believe we can go a long way to achieving this by educating girls, advocating for women’s rights and inspiring more female leaders.”

It was a diverse and inspiring dialogue, but the conversation does not stop there. In November, Zonta International Vice President Salla Tuominen represented Zonta International at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. In 2022, Zonta will continue to call for a fair and human rights-based approach at the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) in March, where the priority theme will be “achieving

gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.” Members will see this theme carried through with speakers and workshops at the 65th Zonta International Convention in Hamburg, Germany, in June 2022.

The climate is changing, and we need to change too. Join Zonta in ensuring that women and girls are at the center of those changes. ■

Top: A dry farming land near the Sundarbans forest area, Bangladesh on 27 April 2021. Right: Metbus in Chile has 435 battery-electric buses today in operation within the largest e-bus fleet outside China. They have zero impact on pollutant emissions, and also provide a cheaper option in terms of operating costs, which are up to 70% lower than diesel-powered units. Left: A young woman arranges clothes on the clothesline of her house, a floating one located on the banks of the Rio Negro on the edge of the village of Cacau Pirêra, in Iranduba, Amazonas, Brazil, on 6 April 2021. Although floating, many houses of this type do not have the adequate structure to face the period of heavy rains in the Amazon, which can cause them to sink.

RESTORING HEALTH AND DIGNITY OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVIVORS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

We thank our partners at UNFPA for their contribution of the following article.



“I remember a gender-based violence survivor who had everything taken away from her,” recalls **Gemma Losema**, a community health worker in Papua New Guinea. She was in a very violent situation and came to the Family Support Centre with nothing. I worked with her for many months until she got out of the situation. Now she is back at work again. She is living a much better life.”

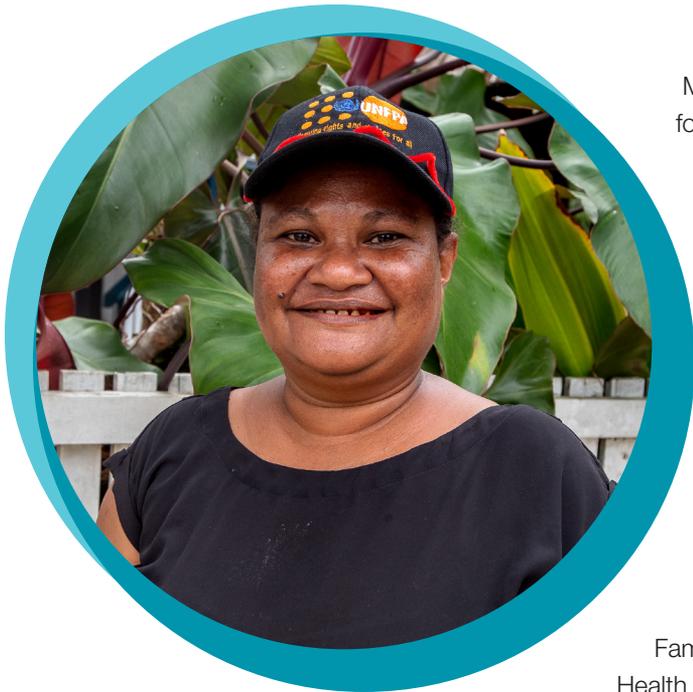
At the Family Support Centre in Milne Bay, Gemma and her colleagues provide essential, lifesaving services for women and girls who have experienced violence. Family Support Centers are the National Department of Health’s model for providing services to survivors of gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea. They are located at provincial and district-level hospitals throughout the country.

Women and girls receive clinical care to treat injuries from violence and other medical services such as emergency contraception, and screening, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. Family Support Centers also offer emotional support and referrals to other services such as legal assistance.

Gemma is a true lifesaver for many women and girls who are subjected to violence as a result of pervasive and toxic social norms rooted in gender inequality. But for every survivor Gemma and other service providers support, there are many more who live in a shroud of silence, never receiving professional help.

This is concerning—especially since Papua New Guinea has among the highest prevalence rates of violence against women globally. Nearly 60% of women have experienced physical, sexual or both forms of violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, but very few seek help. Despite the majority of women sustaining injuries as a result, only three percent reached out to medical personnel, three percent to social work organizations and 10 percent to the police.





Many factors contribute to women and girls' hesitancy in asking for help. Often, they fear stigmatization by their communities or retaliation by their abusers. The quality of services and facilities for survivors of gender-based violence vary, also disincentivizing them to seek support. Additional training is critically needed, staff resources are stretched thin, some facilities are outdated and lack privacy, and in many places coordination between service providers is fragmented.

Papua New Guinea's topography also makes accessing services logistically challenging. For example, Milne Bay province encompasses over 600 islands, which means gender-based violence survivors must travel to the mainland to get help from the provincial capital's Family Support Centre.

Edna Tounokon, a senior social worker at the Milne Bay Family Support Centre employed by the Milne Bay Provincial Health Authority, has seen these complexities firsthand.

"A lady came in with her 14-year-old child who had a disability," Edna recounts. "The child had been raped by her father. The mother had been abused for a number of years too. Finally they came to get help. It took them three days of travel by sea; it was a very difficult journey."

The barriers to women and girls seeking help are no secret. The Government of Papua New Guinea knows the challenges—and is committed to changing them. In 2013, the Papua New Guinea Government called for the establishment of Family Sexual Violence Action Committees in select provinces for coordinated, multi-sectoral gender-based violence response services.

Duncan Mailau, the Milne Bay Provincial Authority's coordinator of gender-based violence response and the Family Sexual Violence Action Committee, oversees linkages between services for survivors.

"Because most providers only provide one service, it is my job to make sure they are working well with each other. I monitor the services and how well they are coordinated."

But significant challenges persist.

Under a new program called Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority, the Government of Papua New Guinea is working in partnership with Zonta International and UNFPA to address these challenges and strengthen services for survivors of gender-based violence in both Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, especially within the health sector. The initiative also improves linkages and coordination between different types of services.

Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority aims to give survivors easier access, additional options and even more impactful support in line with international standards. This includes training more service providers in gender-based violence core concepts, clinical care, case management and referral procedures, and renovating facilities, which will also enhance clients' privacy.





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An expected outcome for the Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority: Strengthening services for survivors of gender-based violence project is to expand Family Support Centers for provision of comprehensive GBV response services in three provinces of PNG.

“Though I do the work, I had never been to a training on case management,” Gemma reports after attending a session by UNFPA Papua New Guinea, with funding from Zonta International. “It was also good to meet other service providers. This will definitely help me do a better job at referring survivors to the support they need and want.”

Edna also benefited from the case management training. “We work on cases every day but previously had no idea about the follow through. We can help gender-based violence survivors when they come in, but we didn’t know how to work from registration and assessment right through to case closure. The cases just sit there, forgotten. Now we know how to properly deal with cases, including closing them.”

This is more than just a job for many service providers like Gemma, Edna and Duncan. Despite the vast complications brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, adding to an already challenged environment, they continue to show up and learn how to better help survivors of gender-based violence restore their dignity, health and wellbeing. They too are essential frontline responders of a different pandemic: gender-based violence.

Zonta International and UNFPA have a long history of working to improve gender equality and women’s empowerment. UNFPA is a global leader in helping countries strengthen their ability to end gender-based violence through evidence-based prevention and response programs and services.

To learn more about the Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority program, please visit: [unf.pa/gbvpt21](https://unfpa.org/gbvpt21) ■

Empowering women and girls in local communities

The Zonta community is a global network that connects hundreds of clubs, thousands of members and millions of people positively affected by our efforts. In addition to Zonta International’s service projects, our more than 1,100 Zonta clubs and over 400 Z clubs and Golden Z clubs are making an impact in their communities through their own service and advocacy projects.

In the last year, we have seen several themes emerge in our clubs’ activities, including gender-based violence, education and COVID-19 responses.

Ending violence against women

Several clubs in the United States recognized Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April. **The University of Jamestown Golden Z Club** held a “Wear Teal Day” on 6 April to support gender-based violence survivors. On Denim Day, 28 April, the **Zonta Clubs of Hilo** and Kauai each partnered with their local governments and other organizations to increase awareness of sexual violence and encouraged Hawaii residents to join them in wearing jeans in solidarity with survivors of gender-based violence. The **Zonta Club of Fort Collins** also celebrated Denim Day, partnering with organizations to help spread the word.

In Hong Kong, Zonta clubs are partnering to advocate for legal reforms on sexual offenses, as current laws have been in place for more than 60 years and do not reflect the current realities of sexual harassment that takes place online. The clubs submitted their views and considerations of multiple consultation papers, urging their government and justice department to implement necessary legal reforms. In addition to these advocacy efforts, the **Zonta Club of Kowloon** collaborated with Harmony House Limited, the first non-governmental organization in Hong Kong committed to ending domestic violence. Club members donated care packages for families at women’s



Zonta Club of Fort Collins



Zonta Club of Kunganglv



Zonta Club of Redcliffe Inc

shelters and household appliance coupons to subsidize the purchase of electrical appliances for these families.

For the sixth year, the **Zonta Club of Redcliffe Inc**, Australia, partnered with its local rugby team, the Dolphins, during Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month in May. Club members wore orange Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women shirts and gave away small orange footballs, wristbands and pens with the Zonta Says NO logo and a women's helpline contact number. During the match, club members form a guard of honor—holding a banner and cutouts of orange ladies—as the players, who wear orange socks, enter the field. The Redcliffe Inc club is hoping to help other clubs in Australia hold similar events next year. District 22 voted to make this initiative Australia-wide at the 2019 conference, but implementation was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

In early January 2020, the **Zonta Club of Kungälv**, Sweden took action when a government position to assist victims of domestic violence was eliminated. Seeing that 60-70 women and 150 children would no longer have support, the club contacted the municipal management and the press. Later, club members were invited to a discussion with the local authorities which resulted in the position being filled. While this action took patience and diligence, it is a great example of how local advocacy can lead to success.



Zonta Club of Dhaka IV

Education and awareness

The **Zonta Club of Coos Bay Area**, USA, recently hosted Girls Rock it Tools and Trade, which aimed to teach 8 to 12-year-old girls how to use tools to make their own projects. During the weeklong camp, participants received hands-on lessons from mostly female experts and made toolboxes, bat houses and birdhouses.

Members of the **Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao**, Philippines, collected and donated hundreds of books to multiple local schools in need. Girls were prioritized in the book distribution, as education is a key way to empower girls and achieve gender equality.

The **Zonta Club of Kaohsiung Yu-Hisuian**, Taiwan, and the **National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) Golden Z Club** collaborated with the Sheng Gong Welfare Fund to host a youth service event at the NPUST Animal Farm. Nearly 40 single-parent children took a tour around the NPUST campus to learn about the physiological and ecological behaviors of the domestic cow. Additionally, a game played at the farm assisted the students in understanding anti-violence elements and promoted violence awareness through teamwork.

Bangladesh is currently lacking skilled labor in the ready-made garment sector. To empower women in obtaining the skills needed for these jobs, the **Zonta Club of Dhaka IV** organized a skills development and vocational



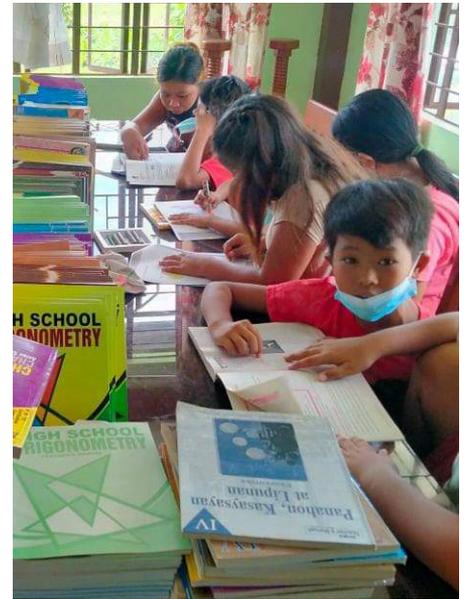
Zonta Club of Dhaka IV

training for 25 women garment workers. The club also organized an advocacy program with the factory workers on gender equality and economic empowerment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 support and education

Because people in prison are often at a higher risk of getting infected by COVID-19, the **Zonta Club of Cebu II**, Philippines, delivered hygiene and dignity kits to 200 women at the Mandaue City Jail to assist the government in supporting vulnerable women. The kits contained essential hygiene supplies such as bath and laundry soap, shampoo, towels, slippers and face masks.

As of May 2021, about 200,000 new immigrants in Taiwan had not yet obtained identity cards because of delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because immigrants without these cards cannot receive financial aid from the country, District 31 launched a project with Taiwan's National Immigration Coalition to give 10,000 New Taiwan (NT) dollars (US\$357) to immigrant women who are single parents. Through the generous donations of 23 Zonta clubs in Taiwan, NT\$1.4 million (US\$50,000) was raised in just five days, and a total of 140 families were helped.



Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao

The **Zonta Club of Dresden**, Germany, partnered with the **Zonta Club of Bombay I**, India, to provide support to women and girls during the pandemic. The Dresden club donated 1,000 euros (US\$1,169) to Light of Life Trust, a non-governmental organization in Mumbai, for its Project Jagruti. Volunteers taught women and girls about safety measures and the importance of washing hands with soap, using masks and social distancing. There were also face shields, sanitary kits and health guard kits distributed at the event.

The **Zonta Foothills Club of Boulder Co**, USA, and the **PantherZ Z Club** hosted a community education program to inform students, parents and friends about the importance of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Members of the clubs spent two months researching the vaccine and community issues surrounding it. They put together an hour-long virtual training and bilingual handouts to be distributed in the community and posted on social media.

This is just a sampling of the wonderful work our members are doing to empower women and girls. If your club or district has a story, please share it at www.zonta.org/shareyourstory. ■

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Spotlight

Space, Robots, STEM, and the Special Connection to Our Zonta International President



In June, Zonta International announced the recipients of our longest-running program, the Amelia Earhart (AE) Fellowship. These 36 exceptional women are from 22 countries and are conducting research in aerospace engineering, aeronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, planetary science, astrophysics, space science and more.

This year, we were able to award 36 fellowships, instead of the usual 35 fellowships, thanks to a generous contribution from members of Zonta District 9, USA, and the Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley, California, to the AE Fellowship Fund in honor of Zonta International President Sharon Langenbeck, a two-time Amelia Earhart Fellow herself.

Elena Sorina Lupu (who goes by “Sorina”), is the recipient of the AE Fellowship in honor of Sharon Langenbeck. After the AE Fellowship Committee selected the 36 Fellows for 2021, Sorina was chosen for this added recognition because of her and Sharon’s shared background in aerospace engineering and her studies at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), in Sharon’s home state of California.

We recently caught up with Sorina, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering, and she shared how the award has impacted her, why she chose her career path and her future plans.

Your research tries to push the boundaries of autonomy and control for spacecraft and aerospace robotics. How will the Amelia Earhart Fellowship impact this research?

I'm extremely thankful to Zonta International for awarding me such a prestigious award. I believe that this award influences my research activity and life in a couple of ways. First, I'm now a member of a community of outstanding women from all around the world, with excellent missions to achieve women's equality, to expand access to education and to stop violence against women. In addition, my work is in close collaboration with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), so being able to interact with other AE fellows from JPL will help my research by creating new collaborations. Additionally, I recently had an exciting idea for an algorithm for a space exploration robot, and when there was no funding available at Caltech, this fellowship allowed me to start implementing it.

You were selected to receive the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in honor of Zonta International President Sharon Langenbeck. What does the Fellowship and this added recognition mean to you?

I'm so delighted and honored to get this double award! President Sharon Langenbeck holds a vast experience at JPL and in the industry. She won numerous awards at JPL and was section manager of mechanical engineering, where she managed more than 200 engineers. Drawing from her experience will help me make better career and life choices. We need more role models, and I think it is essential to have mentors like Sharon who have a lot of experience and can advise future students wishing to pursue a job in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). I hope my research performance can make both Zonta International and Sharon proud.

Do you think it's important to have awards, like the AE Fellowship, dedicated to women pursuing careers in STEM? Why or why not?

Yes, 100%. I think these awards can be a game-changer. Women are in the minority in engineering, and it is pretty interesting to see the proportions of women in engineering in different countries. From my experiences in Romania, I noticed that the proportion of women vs. men at university was about 30/70 or even higher. I experienced this proportion to be even less in Switzerland, where during my master's, there were classes where I was the only girl. I worked in Hong Kong in tech for about three months and I noticed a lack of women there, too. In the U.S., the proportions are still low, but I think the U.S. is doing an excellent job in involving women in STEM through programs and awards.

I recently started a project in Romania to help students in STEM. Together with some of my previous colleagues from the secondary school that were part of the Romanian Computer Science (CS) Olympiad, we donated US\$10,000 to be used by students who are obtaining impressive results. Oftentimes, students cannot afford books or even a computer to help them prepare for the CS Olympiad. This is probably the best thing I've done during COVID-19. I'm mentioning this project with the hope of motivating other people to give back to their community. Even small contributions can go a long way.

Why did you choose to pursue studies and a career in aerospace engineering?

My mother opened my interest in technology when I was very young by teaching me how to use different computer software. I then started to attend many computer science Olympiads, under the supervision of my CS professor, Paula Copacel. I was very passionate about programming, so I decided to become a computer scientist.

Then, in high school, my physics teacher invited us to participate in the NASA Great Moonbuggy Race. I was 14 when I first stepped foot in the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and I was so amazed to see and interact with all the NASA engineers at that center. I then realized that I want to be one of them; I wanted to build robots for exploring other planets.

However, it was not easy. Once I started university, I realized that the curriculum was very rigid (unlike in the U.S., where everyone can choose courses). Therefore, I found projects on my own in collaboration with NASA and European Space Agency. I'm very grateful for these experiences, not only because they enhanced my technical knowledge, but



Zonta International President Sharon Langebeck (left) meets with Sorina, who was the recipient of an AE Fellowship in honor of President Sharon.

also because they improved my skills as a team leader. I think a Ph.D. can involve too much solo work, so having collaborative experience before starting my Ph.D. is a plus. After undergrad, I did a master's in robotics with a minor in space technology, which exposed me to courses in space technology for the first time, which I enjoyed very much.

Probably the best decision was to come to Caltech for my master's thesis, and I am very grateful to my adviser, professor Soon-Jo Chung, for accepting me into the program and supporting my work. I was debating whether to get a full-time job at JPL or start a Ph.D., but I think I made the right decision. I believe there are many advanced topics in aerospace engineering that require the in-depth work done during a Ph.D. Also, for me, the Ph.D. option seemed more challenging because I tend to be more of an engineer than a researcher. I like to choose challenging paths in life. I feel that for the first time, I fit in.

What are your future plans?

We have a saying in Romania that one should never disclose their future plans because then they will not happen (laughing). Mostly, I would like to make sure I do a great Ph.D. that my adviser will be proud of. I also want to make sure that I learn as much as possible and I meet future collaborators.

I'm not excluding the possibility to become a professor in the future. I like to teach and organize lectures. I definitely want to give back to Zonta International by coming up with interesting projects that can be implemented in collaboration with Zonta. ■



To read more about the rest of the 2021 Amelia Earhart Fellows, visit www.zonta.org/afellowship.

Zonta recognized for efforts to end child marriage



“This award recognizes and reinforces the incredible work being done by our Zonta International community around the world.”

Zonta International is one of six organizations that was recognized with a 2021 Summit Award, the American Society of Association Executive’s (ASAE) highest honor for the association community. The Award was presented to Zonta International in recognition of our work to end child marriage and advance the rights of women and girls in the United States and around the world,

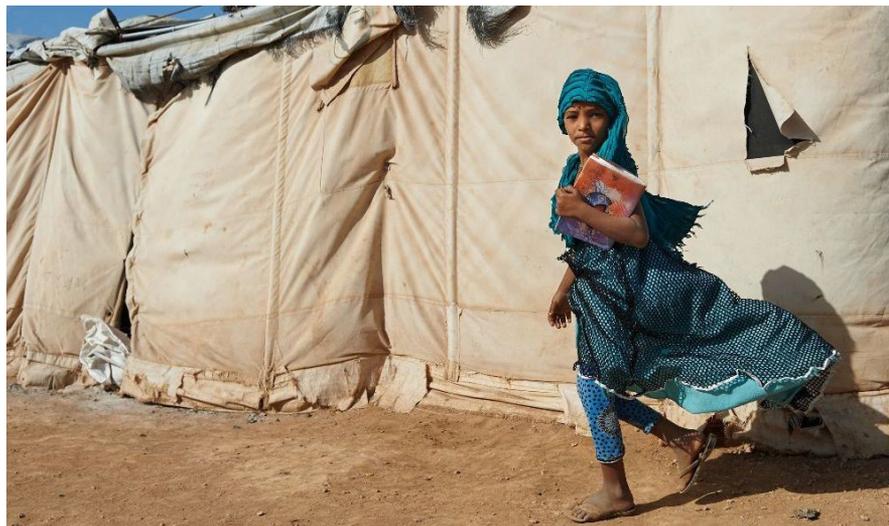
In addition to the six Summit Award recipients, 25 associations were honored with the Power of A Gold Award, and 32 organizations received the Power of A Silver Award. See the full list of winners at <http://www.thepowerofa.org/awards/>.

Zonta International’s Executive Director Allison Summers and Assistant Executive Director Megan Radavich proudly accepted the Award on behalf of Zonta International at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC on 30 September.

“We share this award with our more than 1,100 Zonta clubs who have demonstrated their commitment to ending child marriage and ensuring that every girl has the right to decide if, when and who she will marry. This award recognizes and reinforces the incredible work being done by our Zonta International community around the world,” said Zonta International President Sharon Langenbeck. ■

Top: Executive Director Allison Summers (middle) and Assistant Executive Director Megan Radavich (right of middle) accepted the 2021 Summit Award on behalf of Zonta International.

Right: Zonta has supported ending child marriage since 2014, believing it to be a crime against girls’ rights.



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CALL TO CONVENTION

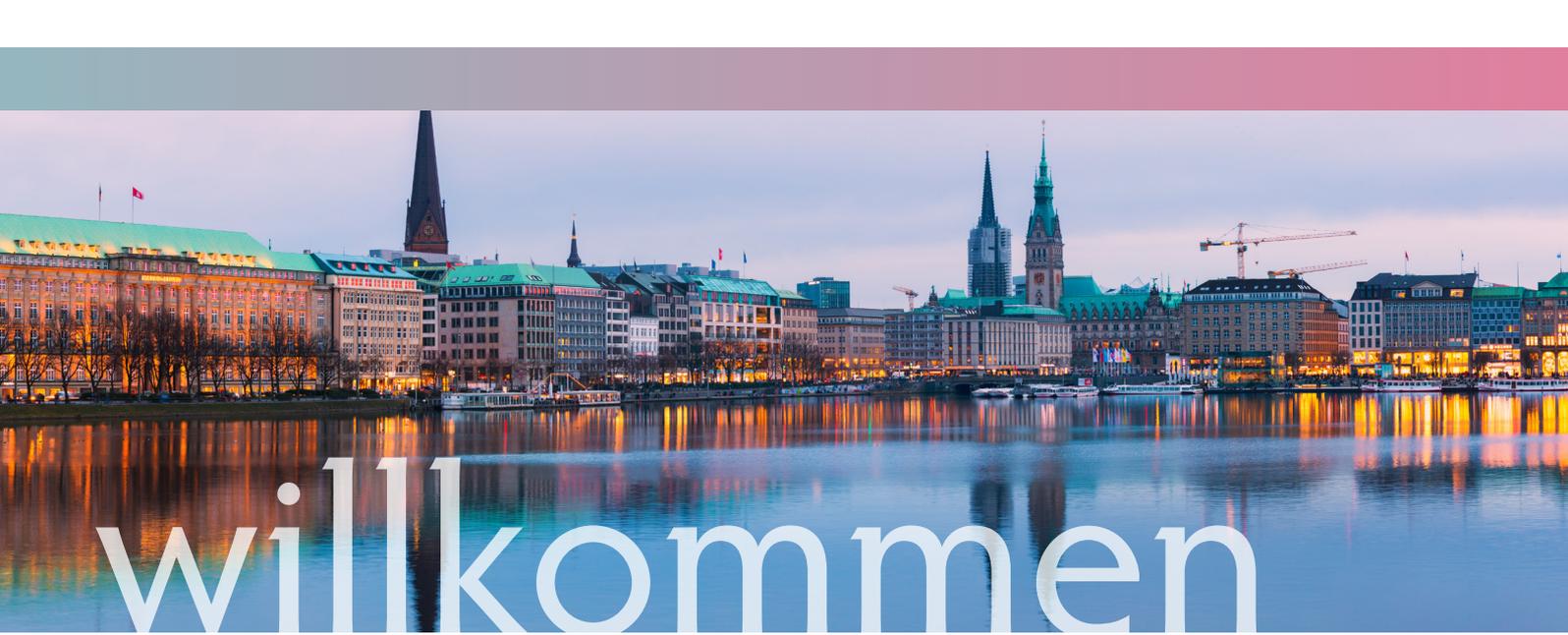


25–28 JUNE 2022

HAMBURG

convention.zonta.org





willkommen



Dear Zontians,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the beautiful waterfront city of Hamburg, Germany, for the 65th Zonta International Convention, the first convention of our second century of empowering women and girls through service and advocacy. Hamburg, the second largest city in Germany, will captivate you with its magnificent sights, delicious eateries and variety of theatres, museums and galleries.

We know the decision to travel may not be an easy one right now. Therefore, this year, we have options to fit any comfort level. You can attend in person for the full event, participate in person for one day and follow along virtually the rest of the event, or fully participate virtually via the Hamburg Convention app.

We look forward to reconnecting with Zonta friends and meeting new ones as we cross into the next biennium together.

With warm regards,

Sharon Langenbeck

President, Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women

Dianne Curtis,

Past International President
2022 Convention Co-Chairman

Ellen Karo

2022 Convention Co-Chairman

Britta Becker

2022 Convention Co-Chairman, host city of Hamburg

Frauke Pape

2022 Convention Co-Chairman, host city of Hamburg



Explore the Host City

Are you ready to visit the beautiful waterfront city of Hamburg? Explore the magnificent sights, delicious restaurants and array of theatres, museums and galleries that call Hamburg home. Located in the north central region of Germany, the second largest city of the country sits directly on the shores of the River Elbe and two of its tributaries, the River Alster and the River Bille. Hamburg's rivers and canals are crossed by more than 2,500 bridges, making it the perfect location to cross into the next Zonta biennium. Learn more at www.hamburg.com.

Congress Center Hamburg

The convention venue is the newly opened Congress Center Hamburg (CCH). Sustainability was a top priority for the architects of the redesign, and the CCH hopes to receive a Gold Certificate from the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB). The CCH is also committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Zonta's key Goal SDG5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Employing a high number of female managers and winning a 2015 award for its commitment to mixed leadership, Zonta is proud to partner with this facility. Learn more about the CCH at www.cch.de/.

Learn more about the Hamburg Card—a convenient way to travel and get discounts on local attractions within the city at:

www.hamburg.com/useful-information





Explore Hamburg

Garden Walk at Planten un Blomen

Situated next to the Congress Center Hamburg and covering 450,000 square meters of reclaimed medieval fortifications, the Planten un Blomen park offers splendid green views where you can picnic under Mediterranean fig trees or view a Japanese teahouse.

City Walking Tour

Join local Zontians as they provide a casual introduction to the city's sights, culture and things to know. This tour will help you learn more about life in Hamburg and how to make the best of your stay.

Senate Reception at Hamburg City Hall

Please visit the Convention website to read important information about credentials, COVID-19 protocols and dress code.

Join us for the official welcome to Hamburg, Germany at the incredible Rathaus where you will be greeted by city officials and Zonta International President Sharon Langenbeck before enjoying a networking reception. City Hall serves as the domicile of the Parliament Senate in the Federal State of Hamburg, one of Germany's 16 state parliaments. Constructed from 1886 to 1897, this jewel of neo-Renaissance architecture is filled with 647 rooms, the most stunning of them all on the tour!

If you cannot attend the special reception, visitors can book their own public tour Mon–Sun from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Summer Opera, Mozart: Figaro

Join us for a delightful evening of opera. Zontians will have the opportunity to purchase tickets before the public (if Zonta does not sell all tickets, remaining tickets will open to the public in April). Attendees will be emailed an online voucher, which they can switch to a ticket at the entrance. Seats assigned upon arrival.

Dinner Cruise

In a 2-hour round trip, travel to the most beautiful and interesting corners of the Port of Hamburg. Each guest receives a well-served whole fish roll (or a vegetarian alternative) and two drinks (beer or soft drink). Additional drinks can be purchased on board for a cash payment. This cruise is being offered on two different dates.

Note: The above activities have limitations on the number of participants. We recommend booking your tickets and registering early to guarantee a seat.

Convention Events in Brief

Inspiring Intelligent Impact Workshop Series

With knowledge and determination, Zontians can create the change we want to see in the world. The 2022 convention education program will focus on bringing forward insights and actionable ideas that you can take back to your advocacy and service programs at the club level or utilize in your personal life. Workshops and speakers will be announced as they are confirmed.

District Meetings

District meetings will be held virtually via the Hamburg Convention App. More information will be provided to governors in early 2022.

Lunch Options

To keep costs low and options open, lunch will be on your own at one of the many convenient restaurants near the CCH.

First-Timers Orientation

First time convention attendees are invited to attend a special welcome and orientation that will take place online via the Hamburg Convention App.

Delegates Training

All delegates, alternates and proxies must attend this training to learn about their responsibilities during Convention and to familiarize themselves with the voting system. Delegates Training will be held via the Hamburg Convention App.

Opening Ceremony

Enjoy the official opening of the 65th Zonta International Convention and welcome to Hamburg with our longstanding tradition of our Parade of Flags, featuring the colors from Zonta's 63 countries.

Hear Nobel Prize Laureate Andrea Ghez at the Opening Ceremony

Zonta International is proud to welcome Professor Andrea Ghez, Nobel Prize Laureate, Amelia Earhart Fellow and Zonta International Honorary Member, as the keynote speaker for the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, 26 June. Best known for her groundbreaking work on the center of our galaxy, which has led to the best evidence to date for the existence of supermassive black holes, Ghez has received numerous honors and awards. In 2020, she became only the fourth woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for the independent discovery of a supermassive compact object, now generally recognized to be a black hole, in the Milky Way's galactic center.

Professor Ghez's keynote will be streamed via the Hamburg Convention App for virtual attendees.

Candidate Speeches/Elections

Hear from the candidates for the Zonta International Board, Zonta Foundation for Women Board and International Nominating Committee for 2022-2024 during Business Session 2 on Sunday, 26 June, followed by Elections.

Dine Around with Hamburg Zontians

This event is a unique opportunity to enjoy an intimate dinner experience in the homes of Hamburg Zontians. Your host will provide dinner, drinks and warm conversation. Registration is open only to Zontians (18 years and older), and it is not available for guests. In honor of your host, you are asked to make a charitable donation of US\$30 to the Zonta Foundation for Women International Service Fund on the registration form.

Please visit the Convention website to read important information about registration, COVID-19 protocols and further options.



Governors' Reunion Dinner

All governors, including the class of 2020-2022, are invited for an evening of smiles. This ticketed event is your time for catching up with one another and reflecting on your Zonta stories. This venue offers both an indoor and outdoor space, perfect for a wonderful Hamburg summer evening.

Memorial Service

Remember those Zontians who have passed away since the last Zonta International Convention in 2018. To submit a name, please visit www.zonta.org/Convention. The form to submit names will open in 2022.

Foundation Reception

This is an invitation-only event. Details will be sent to attendees from the Zonta International Headquarters offices. Invitations to individuals, clubs and districts who qualify for the reception will be issued in May 2022.

Closing Ceremony

Join your fellow Zontians at this final business session to celebrate the closing of the 2022 International Convention and look ahead to the 2024 convention.

Closing Banquet/Installation Ceremony

Come together as a Zonta International community for the 2022 Closing Banquet to recognize the outgoing Zonta International Board, Governors and International Nominating Committee and introduce the new 2022-2024 leadership team. This is a ticketed event.

Entertainment will be provided by Bidla Buh. For over 15 years, Bidla Buh has been delighting audiences with the most sophisticated music comedy in the tails of the new millennium.

Special Areas

Do not miss visiting the Zonta Foundation for Women Booth, the Zonta Store, the Marketplace, and a sneak peek at Convention 2024 Brisbane.

Registration Fee Schedule

	Early Registration Ends 28 February	Regular Registration 1 March–15 May	Last/On-Site 16 May–Event
Member Full	\$425*	\$465*	\$510*
Guest	\$150*	\$150*	\$165*
Member Virtual Only	\$189	\$189	\$210
Member Virtual + One Day On-Site	\$252*	\$252*	\$280*

**The rates above are exclusive of VAT (19%). VAT will be added at checkout. Virtual attendees will not have to pay VAT.*

For full descriptions of the above categories, please visit www.zonta.org/Convention.

Cancellations, Refunds, Name Changes

Cancellations received by 28 February 2022 will receive a refund of registration fees, less an administrative charge of \$50.00 USD. Cancellations received by 15 May 2022 will receive a refund of half of the registration fee. Cancellations after 15 May 2022 will not be refundable.

Credit card refunds will only be issued up to 120 days from the initial purchase. All refunds will be issued by Maritz via ACH, Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) or wire. Wire refunds will be charged \$45.00 USD. No refunds will be processed for under \$50.00 USD after fees are applied.

Name changes on registrations can be made at no charge as long as complete details are provided and all items purchased remain the same.

Do you have questions regarding the registration process?

Please reach out to: Maritz, Zonta International's event management company for the 2022 Convention, at zonta@maritz.com.

Hotel Information

Zonta has a very limited number of rooms at the Radisson Blu and the only way to secure the special convention rate is through the link provided on the registration confirmation. We also have rooms through a local booking agent. Please read the details on the confirmation email for either option. Each method can accommodate reservations prior to 24 June, but you must place a special request and work directly with the hotels.

All member, Golden Z club and awardee alumnae attendees will have access to the Hamburg Convention App. This app will include pre-convention events and networking opportunities and live-streamed events during convention. There will also be special information booths, international committee reports, posted resources and opportunities to connect with other attendees via chat boards and virtual meet-ups.

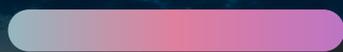
A Virtual Experience—Hamburg Convention App

This convention will be incredibly special to Zonta as an organization. 2022 will be the first opportunity for our global community to come together since 2018. And, it will also be a hybrid event, allowing members from all over the world to attend workshops, programs and sessions

live while interacting with in-person and virtual attendees in communities, chats and other online venues.

The Hamburg Convention App is available via your mobile phone, tablet or personal computer. All registered members will be granted access to the app.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE APP



ON YOUR
PHONE



ON YOUR
COMPUTER



ON YOUR
TABLET



 Hamburg Convention App

 25–28 June 2022

www.zonta.com/convention



Welcome Golden Z Members and Awardee Alumnae!

Zonta International is pleased to welcome Golden Z members and past recipients of Zonta International's fellowships, scholarships and awards to the 65th Zonta International Convention. Participants must be 18 years of age or older as of 24 June 2022 and currently enrolled in a college, university or institute of higher education. Register to attend in person or virtually and enjoy an exciting program, specially designed by the Golden Z clubs of Germany, complete with tailored workshops, networking, social events and opportunities to engage with Zonta members through the main convention program.

Workshops

Game of Power: How to Successfully Navigate a Male-Dominated Environment

The organizational structures prevailing in companies are still strongly influenced by men. How to behave successfully as a woman in this environment without having to bend over backwards is described by renowned leadership trainer Marion Knaths. As a senior executive in a corporate group, Marion passes on her many years of experience with esprit and verve, using many examples from everyday working life.

Additional workshops will be offered on self defense, finance for women and female entrepreneurship.

Social Events

Picnic Get Together and Pub Crawl

Check in and then join your fellow attendees for an informal meet and greet and picnic in the park, followed by a Hamburg pub crawl, before the official program begins.

See more of Hamburg through free walking tours of the city, harbor or museums.

Group Dinner and Intercultural Evening

Enjoy excellent Hamburg cuisine and drinks while chatting and laughing with your fellow attendees at a Hamburg restaurant on Sunday evening, followed by an intercultural evening on Monday. Bring something to share – food, souvenirs, clothes, etc. – from your home country with your fellow attendees and learn more about each other's countries and cultures.

This is just a sampling of the opportunities that await Golden Z members and awardee alumnae in Hamburg. To see the full program, please visit <https://www.zonta.org/Convention>.

Schedule-at-a-Glance

Schedule subject to change.

	FRIDAY 24 JUNE	SATURDAY 25 JUNE	SUNDAY 26 JUNE	MONDAY 27 JUNE	TUESDAY 28 JUNE	
8:00					Memorial Service	
8:30	Garden Walk City Walking Tour	Workshops	Opening Ceremony Parade of Flags	Business Session Concurrent Workshops	Business Session	
9:00						
9:30						
10:00						
10:30			Break	Break	Break	
11:00		Workshops	Business Session	Bylaws Concurrent Workshops	Business Session	
11:30						
12:00						
12:30						
1:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:30	Senate Reception at Hamburg City Hall⁺	Workshops	Business Session	Bylaws	Business Session	
2:00						
2:30						
3:00						
3:30		Workshops	Break	Break	Break	
4:00			Candidate Speeches	Bylaws	Business Session	
4:30						
5:00			Elections Help Desk			
5:30						
6:00	President's Dinner^{***} (6–9 PM) Summer Opera^{**} (7–10 PM)	Foundation Reception^{***} (6–7:30 PM) Dinner Cruise #1^{**} (7–9 PM)		2022–2024 Team Reception^{***}		
6:30						
7:00				Dine Around with Hamburg Zontians^{**}	Governors' Reunion Dinner* (7–9:30 PM) Dinner Cruise #2^{**} (7–9 PM)	Closing Banquet and Installation*
7:30						
8:00						
8:30						
9:00						

*Paid ticketed event

**Ticket via venue

***Invitation only

+Special invitation/ticket

++Donation event



ADD YOUR VOICE

Zonta's voice becomes stronger when we recruit great individuals to work with us to further the mission and vision of Zonta.

This past membership renewal cycle, we invited all our clubs to participate in our Add Your Voice membership campaign. Overall, we had more than 500 new members officially join us in the fight for global gender equality in April and May 2021.

Congratulations to the following clubs for bringing in the most new members during the Add Your Voice Membership Campaign.

TOP 3 CLUBS

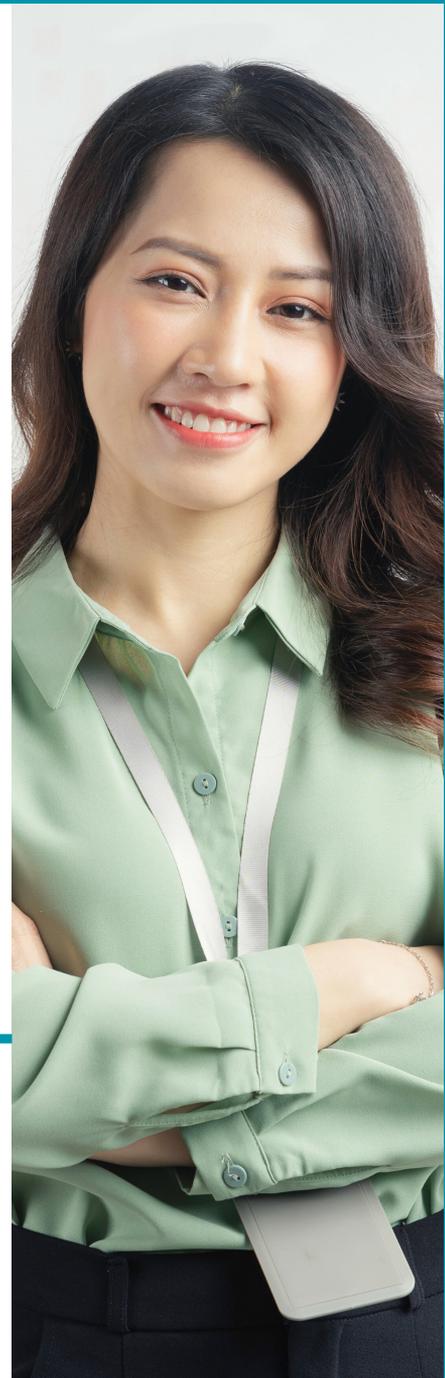


TOP 9 CLUBS

TIER I Tier I: 30+ members	TIER II Tier II: 16-29 members	TIER III Tier III: 15 or fewer members
Maricopa, AZ, USA Invercargill, New Zealand Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso	Makati Legaspi, Philippines Accra Metropolitan, Ghana Yunlin, Republic of China (Taiwan)	Bangkok III, Thailand Toowoomba Garden City Inc, Australia Tuguegarao, Philippines

To see our top 90 clubs, please visit: www.zonta.org/AddYourVoice.

**Your voice is valued, strong and important.
Thank you for all you do for Zonta!**



**All clubs are invited
to participate in
the 2022
Add Your Voice
Campaign,
starting this April!**

Nobel laureate **Andrea Ghez** becomes 42nd Zonta International Honorary Member



In recognition of her efforts to elevate the status of women in her field and for serving as a role model for women scientists and girls across the globe who are interested in pursuing education and careers in STEM fields, Zonta International is pleased to welcome Professor Andrea Ghez as the newest Zonta International Honorary

Member. Andrea Ghez joins a group of 41 extraordinary women whom Zonta has recognized for their significant contributions to advancing the status of women worldwide.

Zonta International first recognized Andrea's early achievements in physics when she was awarded the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1987. Ghez said that while studying for her doctorate at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), the Fellowship was one of her first awards for her work.

Best known for her ground-breaking work on the center of our galaxy, which has led to the best evidence to date for the existence of supermassive black holes, Ghez has received numerous honors and awards, including the Nobel Prize in 2020—only the fourth woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. She shares one half of the prize with Reinhard Genzel (the other half of the prize being awarded to Roger Penrose). Ghez and Genzel were awarded the Nobel Prize for their independent discovery of a supermassive compact object, now generally recognized to be a black hole, in the Milky Way's galactic center. Ghez also received the Crafoord Prize in Astronomy from the Royal Swedish Academy of Science (the first woman to

receive a Crafoord prize in any field), the Bakerian Medal from the Royal Society of London, a MacArthur Fellowship, and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

A faculty member at UCLA since 1994, Ghez is currently a professor of physics and astronomy and Lauren B. Leichtman & Arthur E. Levine chair in astrophysics and heads UCLA's Galactic Center Group. One of the world's leading experts in observational astrophysics, her work on the orbits of stars at the center of the Milky Way has opened a new approach to studying black holes and her group is currently focused on using this approach to understand the physics of gravity near a black hole and the role that black holes plays in the formation and evolution of galaxies.

Advances in high resolution imaging technology enabled Ghez's work, and her group continues to work on pushing the frontiers of these technologies forward. She serves on several leadership committees for the W. M. Keck Observatory, which hosts the largest telescopes in the world, and the future Thirty Meter Telescope.

Professor Ghez is also very committed to the communication of science to the general public and inspiring young girls into science. Since receiving the Nobel Prize in Physics, Ghez has spoken to the press about the opportunity it presents to be a more visible role model for women and girls in science. She recognizes and vocalizes the challenges that continue to prevent women from entering STEM fields and succeeding in those fields. She credits her own success in part to advancements in largest telescope technology, but also to mentors and advisors who supported and nourished her aspirations. They provided her with opportunities to do research as an undergraduate, and these opportunities not only opened up the world of science to her; they taught her to be ambitious and to innovate.



Nobel Prize winner professor Andrea Ghez, Zonta's newest International Honorary Member sits with fellow Amelia Earhart Fellow, President Sharon Langenbeck at UCLA.

"It always amazes me that there are still so few women [in physics], but things are changing," says Ghez. "The numbers are increasing and that's so exciting. I want to encourage girls into science and try to do so by being a visible role model."

Professor Ghez recognizes the importance of education and her responsibility as a role model to improving the educational status of women and girls in science. She teaches introductory undergraduate astrophysics classes at UCLA so she can change preconceived notions of what scientists look like. She also co-wrote a children's book about female scientists in 1995 called "You Can Be a Woman Astronomer."

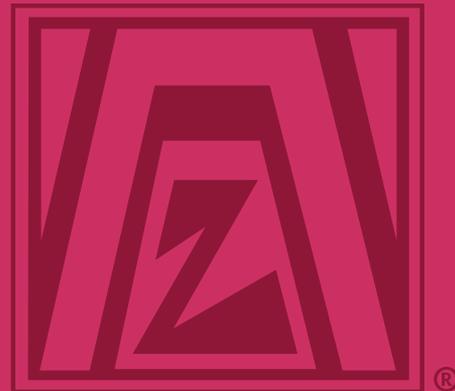
Professor Ghez earned her Bachelor of Science in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1987 and her PhD in physics from Caltech in 1992. She received the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1987 — one of 1,245 trailblazing women scientists from 75 countries to receive the Fellowship since 1938.

We welcome Professor Ghez as an International Honorary Member and look forward to working with her to continue to encourage women and girls in STEM. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Professor Ghez firsthand at the 2022 Zonta International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. ■

Learn more about women who have been firsts in their field by following us at @FirstsForWomen on Instagram.

Firsts for Women

SMALL BUT MIGHTY CLUBS



The passion and dedication of Zonta knows no limits. Any action, no matter how small, if filled with kindness and good intention, will make a difference. The same goes for Zonta clubs. No matter how many members a club has, there is always opportunity to contribute and advance the mission of empowering women. Below are some small but mighty clubs whose actions are truly inspirational.

Zonta Club of Montreal makes new friends with donation of 50 gift-filled shoeboxes to women's shelter

In late November 2020, the Zonta Club of Montreal, Canada, collected and filled 50 shoeboxes with toiletries and candies for a local women's shelter. The shelter had expressed the need due to the increased number of clients over the holidays. This project was challenging given the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the club was innovative in fulfilling this need. Each box was tastefully wrapped and had a note: "From your friends at Zonta Club of Montreal." The club hoped to reach out with this gesture and try to alleviate the heightened sense of loneliness and isolation that women in crisis were experiencing during the holiday season. The Zonta club made new friends in the process and demonstrated the power of showing kindness to those who feel alone.



Zonta Club of Rockhampton Inc supports victims of sexual assault with care packages

For several years, the Zonta Club of Rockhampton Inc, Australia, has supported victims of sexual assault. Since clothing is required for forensic purposes, the club has purchased clothing in different sizes to be available for women to change into following sexual assault. Club members delivered the packs of clothing tagged and branded with Zonta's logo and mission statement. Going beyond just the immediate need of clothing, this project also spreads awareness of sexual assault and women's rights violations and offers a way for the community to unite to combat violence against women and girls.



Zonta Club of Greater Sandusky turns lemons into a virtual lemonade stand

To promote a positive mindset when facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, club members came up with the motto, "When life gives you lemons, open a virtual lemonade stand." When the club's

main fundraiser was canceled, the club hosted a virtual raffle with over US\$7,000 in cash and prizes and a live Facebook drawing. The proceeds from the raffle were used to fund the many projects and scholarships the club offers to their local community.

Another primary fundraiser for the club is the sale and distribution of gourmet nuts, distributed by

members and via local businesses. With numerous businesses cutting back or closed because of COVID-19 precautions, members turned to Facebook, email and phone calls to make this fundraiser a success. Even throughout a challenging year, the Zonta Club of Greater Sandusky came together to further Zonta's mission.



Zonta clubs of aan de Leede and Kampala collaborate to help teachers and students cope with COVID-19



The Zonta Club of aan de Leede, Netherlands, collaborated with the Zonta Club of Kampala, Uganda, to help schoolchildren and teachers cope with COVID-19. By teaching children to make soap and sew face masks, these skills can be taught to others and transferred into making other necessities, like sanitary pads. The Dutch Zontians focused on fundraising; the Ugandan Zontians focused on implementing the project goals. The challenge of doing so in such adverse circumstances was a great show of teamwork.



Zonta Club of Jelgava donates to a local hospital to support healthcare workers during COVID-19

To express their gratitude to the selfless, courageous and kind healthcare workers that continue to save lives during the pandemic, the Zonta Club of Jelgava, Latvia, donated care packages to the workers of a local hospital. The club provided healthy snacks and apple juice made from Latvian apples for the doctors and employees of the COVID-19 department of Jelgava City to enjoy. While this could be seen as a small gift, it was a way to bring joy to the department. ■



We encourage all clubs and individual members to share their story of how they are contributing to the Zonta mission. Please visit us at www.zonta.org/ShareYourStory and submit your action and photos!

Recognizing extraordinary commitments to Zonta's future

Zonta International is pleased to announce that Jacqueline Beaudry and Amy Lai are the newest recipients of the Zonta International Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes exceptional member service to Zonta International and/or the Zonta Foundation for Women at the international level. They join a very select group of 10 prior Meritorious Service Awardees.



Jacqueline "Jackie" Beaudry has been a dedicated Zontian for 34 years. She has served at the club, district and international levels of Zonta International with distinction. As chairman of

the Foundation's Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign (CAEC) Committee from 2014 to 2020, Jackie led the committee in raising US\$5.9 million for the Foundation's endowment funds and, thus, secured long-term sustainability for Zonta International's programs. Prior to her leadership of the CAEC Committee, Jackie led biennial fundraising efforts for the Foundation for three biennia, greatly increasing contributions from Zonta clubs and encouraging more donations from individual club members. Her work has created a legacy of greater giving by Zonta clubs and individual club members and provided Zonta International with the necessary resources to increase its support for its international service projects and education programs. In addition to her dedication and commitment to the Foundation, Jackie served as Interim Executive Director (2012-2013), International Director during the 2010-2012 Biennium and in multiple roles in District 6 and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.



Amy Lai has been a dedicated Zontian for 42 years. She has served the Zonta Club of Taipei I, District 31, Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women with honor. As a member of the

Foundation's CAEC Committee from 2015 to 2020, Amy raised US\$859,000 from District 31 for the Foundation's endowment funds and helped sustain Zonta International's programs for years to come. Prior to her service on the CAEC Committee, Amy supported Foundation fundraising efforts for many years as a Foundation Board Director (2003-2007) and as a member of the Foundation Development Committee (2003-2010) and has been a dedicated and generous supporter of the Foundation. In addition to her fundraising efforts, Amy served as a member of the International Nominating Committee (1998-2000) and as a member of the Centennial Anniversary Committee from 2010 to 2020.

The Zonta International Board is pleased to recognize these two dedicated and generous members of Zonta International who truly have served Zonta and have worked tirelessly in support of Zonta's mission to empower women and girls. Jackie and Amy will officially receive their awards later this biennium. Please watch for an interview with them both in the fourth and final issue of The Zontian for the 2020-2022 Biennium. ■

Zonta International Meritorious Service Awardees

Carol Beaver, USA, District 3

Danielle Bridel, Switzerland, District 30

Ulla Ljungh-Hoff, Sweden, District 21

Auguste Mayer, Austria, District 14

Eva Nielsen, Denmark, District 13

Cecilia Munoz Palma, Philippines, District 17

Val Sarah, Australia, District 23

Ruth Walker, USA, District 11

Margit Webjörn, Sweden, District 21

Irene Wiese-von Ofen, Germany, District 29

MAKING A STATEMENT

How statements advance our advocacy

Since the start of the 2020-2022 Biennium, Zonta International has issued more than 35 statements, announcing its support for International Days observed by the United Nations (UN), and addressing global issues that affect our mission of empowering women and girls worldwide.

Through Zonta International's affiliation with the UN and Council of Europe and through coalition-building, there have also been many opportunities for Zonta to sign on to statements with other like-minded organizations and show strength in solidarity. Zonta International is a non-governmental organization with General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and participatory status with the Council of Europe. Zonta is also a member of coalitions such as the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally, the ERA Coalition and others. Through these relationships and partnerships, Zonta can issue its own statements or collaborate with other like-minded organizations to make joint statements and advocate for policies to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

How a statement elevates our voice

By speaking out on topics receiving worldwide attention, we are adding our voice to the conversation. This helps Zonta stay relevant and provides members with opportunities to promote our mission to the public. For instance, if someone is passionate about girls' education and comes across our statement on **International Literacy Day** shared on social media, they may be inspired by our commitment and the work we are doing through our Let Us Learn Madagascar program. This introduction to our organization may be just what they need to find and connect with a local club or join as an individual member.

How a statement connects to our mission

When writing a statement, it is important to choose topics that can be tied into Zonta's mission of empowering women through service and advocacy. If the issue is not obviously related to the mission, there can be opportunities to speak on it by incorporating one of the Sustainable Development Goals. An example is the **International Day of Peace**. Zonta International has stated that the world will not fully realize peace until we accomplish Sustainable Development Goal 5—Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Another great way to connect the topic to Zonta is to mention our projects that are related to the issue and offer a way for your audience to learn more and make a donation to support the projects. For example, on the **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**, we shared about our partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF for the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, which is working to end child marriage in Yemen, a country that has endured years of conflict.

How to share a statement

All of our statements are posted on our website and social media and shared in our newsletters to members and subscribers. Other larger topics have been released individually through press releases and stand-alone emails. Zonta International makes every effort to share the statement where it will be picked up or remembered in larger conversations. For example, our recent statement, **Climate Change: A gender equality issue**, spurred many discussions and was elevated within cross-promotional events and publications. After its release, it was featured in our Zonta News monthly email and in part two of our five-part Zonta Advocacy webinar series. You can access the series and part two: Women and Climate Change on our video page at www.zonta.org/videos.

How to use a statement

Individually, you can use these statements in your life. Read them and then share why you are proud to be a Zontian on your own social media—or explain the stance of our organization on an issue when asked, “What is Zonta?” or “What do you do?” As a club, you can use the statements to inspire your next action. Read them as a group and decide if there is something within your own resources you can do to address the topics. ■

ELEMENTS OF A GOOD STATEMENT

- 1. Include a quote from an authority figure in your club**—your club president or committee chairman can be a good person to reach out to. A club member who is an expert on a particular topic can also be a good resource. This will provide legitimacy. By including this quote in your statement, you will demonstrate why you are qualified to make this statement. Be sure to get approval of any quote prior to publication.
- 2. Explain the impact of the occasion or event. Share what the day is and what it means to the larger audience.** The UN has different themes each year for their international days. You can speak about the UN theme, giving the global perspective. Then, write about the topic on the community level, showing how your club is addressing issues pertaining to the day on a local level. Give examples of events or actions that you have taken. An example for the **International Day of the Girl Child** would be to promote club awards and available scholarships or tying in a Z club or Golden Z club service project relating to girls.
- 3. End with an action.** You have shown why this day is important enough to make a statement. Now show how your audience can advocate for the issue. Include a sample direction or invitation to an upcoming event.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE A GENDER EQUALITY ISSUE

Approved by the Zonta International Board April 2021; Published June 2021

Envisioning a sustainable and gender-equal future

Climate change is a major global crisis. It has a negative impact on people and the environment around the world. All of us and next generations will be affected; however, not all of us will be affected in the same way.

The consequences of climate change are severe, especially for poor and vulnerable. From natural disasters to food security, health, access to clean water and migratory our changing climate already has severe implications for women and girls. As it changes, they may resort to negative coping mechanisms, forcing girls to seek gender-based violence also increases. Understanding climate change as a human rights issue is a step towards a sustainable, gender-equal future.

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized and it is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all decision-making positions on an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman change threatens human rights, such as right to life, food, water, health, education and employment.

United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13) "Climate Action": action to combat climate change and its impacts. While Zonta International is a response organization, climate change disproportionately affects women and a gender equality perspective. Zonta International, as an organization pledged to global and local levels and promote justice and universal respect for human rights, therefore, calls for action in favor of a fair and human rights-based approach in the post-pandemic world and achieve greener, cleaner and equal societies.

As stated by UN Secretary-General António Guterres on several occasions, an SDG Report, "If the world does not act now, and forcefully, the catastrophic effect greater than the current pandemic." Zonta International adds its voice to affirm its decision and the time for such actions is now.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S STATEMENT

Climate change is an issue of human rights

Climate change includes social and intergenerational injustice: those who have contributed least are most impacted. Climate change also affects women and men differently due to the gendered division of labor, cultural norms and different societal roles. Girls face discrimination and abuse based on their gender, poverty, ethnic background and disabilities may multiply these challenges. Understanding the current status of women and girls, unequal structures and unfair cultural norms, and making changes are important in order to tackle inequalities in structures that place the greatest burden of the consequences of climate change on girls and women.

In addition to gender justice, Zonta International promotes climate justice. We want our societies to take bold steps toward an equal future where current and future generations have an opportunity for a good life. Zonta International wants to strengthen the human rights perspective in the fight against the climate crisis.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL:

- Asks governments that have not yet signed the Paris Agreement to sign the Paris Agreement.
- Asks governments who signed the Paris Agreement to actively take into account human rights, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in defining and implementing their national climate action plans, including gender-responsive measures that are more effective and respectful of human rights.
- Calls for governments and policymakers to uphold the principles of climate justice agreed to in the Paris Agreement and ensure that the most marginalized groups do not bear the brunt of the climate crisis.

Equal economic opportunities are needed

The economic impact of climate change more severely affects populations in developing countries, especially those who depend on agriculture, whose actions and lifestyle, at the same time, contribute less to climate change. In these environments, women's and girls' unpaid agricultural and domestic work is essential to the livelihoods of their families and communities. Climate change threatens the material resources on which these livelihoods rely, and increases domestic and subsistence workloads, therefore primarily impacting women and girls. At the same time, persistent gender discrimination in accessing education, training, material and financial resources, technology, and land property hinders women's and girls' opportunities to diversify their livelihoods. Besides gender disparities in accessing and controlling resources, women in these environments also have reduced access to income-generating opportunities, either locally or through migration, face high gender pay gaps and often cannot even control the proceeds of their own labor, when cultural norms put them under the control of the male "heads" of their households.

On the contrary, women's economic empowerment boosts productivity, diversifies income and increases income equality.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CALLS ON GOVERNMENTS TO:

Ensure that climate adaptation and mitigation plans address the unique needs of women and the barriers to women's full participation in the economy, including:

- Childcare and elder care services.
- Occupational segregation.
- Informal work.
- The gender pay gap.
- Legal and social restrictions.

Read our latest Zonta International Statement on **Trafficking in Persons: A human rights issue**. This statement was approved by the board in August 2021 and published in September. We call upon governments and members to take action together to prevent human trafficking.

To access our statements, please visit www.zonta.org/statements or navigate to “Zonta Statements” under News and Events on our website. You can also follow us on social media to be alerted whenever a new statement is published.

JOIN US IN SAYING **NO** TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

2021 marks the 10th year of the **Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women** campaign. In that time, Zonta clubs around the world have undertaken thousands of initiatives to raise awareness of violence against women and girls, advocate for legislative changes and provide direct support and services for survivors of violence.

As Zontians have persisted in their stance to say no to violence, we have learned that there is no simple solution or simple cause of gender-based violence. It has become evident how intertwined other issues such as human trafficking, child marriage, climate change and lack of access to education are to violence. Each club action gives an opportunity to share and spread knowledge of these issues. By becoming more educated on why gender-based violence happens, the world can work on how to end it once and for all. To view more actions by Zontians who are making a difference, visit **ZontaSaysNo.com** and renew your commitment to creating a world without violence.

Top: Zonta Club of Glens Falls
Bottom: Zonta District 31



ZONTA SAYS NO

TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

25 NOVEMBER–10 DECEMBER

Together, we can make
the world safer for
women and girls now
and in future generations.

RESOURCES ON
DEMAND NOW



MAKING ROOM FOR MORE WOMEN AT THE TABLE

Leading a remarkable life also holds great opportunity to help those who come next. Whether clearing the path for a woman who will be first in her field or creating opportunities for more women, each of us holds a powerful story of who we are and how we got to where we are.

Each month, the Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories series welcomes a remarkable woman and invites her to share her leadership journey. Along the way, each has learned unique lessons and found ways to overcome, adapt or navigate hurdles.



In July, **Felicia Davis**, the president and chief executive officer of the Chicago Foundation for Women, told her story. Felicia spoke fondly of her mother, who was the first person to teach Felicia about intersectionality—before it was a popular term—and her identity as both a woman and a Black person.

“I have never forgotten what it's like to be the other. And because I have never lost sight of that, I am always trying to create space to bring people in,” she said. “I know what it feels like to be pushed out onto the margins, and I always believe that we are stronger as a community. As a leader, I solicit and really expect the team to bring their ideas and thoughts to the table.”



Another speaker who felt the influence of a woman in her family was **Holly Ransom**, a 2010 district JMK Women in Business Scholar and now globally renowned content creator, speaker and author. Holly recalled a story where she learned a lesson loud and clear from her own grandmother who said, “If you walk past it, you tell the world it's ok”—when she stood up for a young female cashier at the grocery store who was being yelled at by a man. Holly later linked the importance of Zonta to how we as a global society can continue to progress and work together.

“This is why organizations like Zonta matter,” Holly said. “Those points of light need to help shine a light on areas where there's going to be increasing darkness in the next decade.”

The Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories series continues with a new guest each month. Visit our website at www.zonta.org/RemarkableWomenPowerfulStories to hear from past guests and to register for upcoming conversations. After listening, keep the story going by creating opportunities for more women, listening to the stories of women in your life, and reflecting on Zonta's fellowship by recognizing and celebrating women leaders.



A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
**REMARKABLE WOMEN
POWERFUL STORIES**



WELCOME TO THE ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY!

ZONTA CLUBS

e-Club of Sweden I
District 21, Area 2

e-Club of Italia 2
District 30, Area 3

Penghu
District 31, Area 2

GOLDEN Z CLUBS

Annapurna
District 25, Area 2

Future Leaders of Dhaka
District 25, Area 2

Z CLUBS

Gen Z of Columbus
District 5, Area 4

Saint Louis School
District 17, Area 4

Sta. Lucia High School
District 17, Area 5

Glossop High School
District 23, Area 2

Siddique International School
District 25, Area 2





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THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

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