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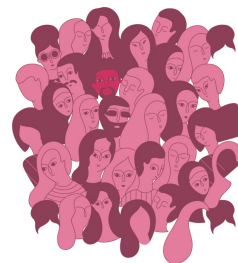
Zonta News

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



Greetings Friend,

Each Zonta member brings to our organization their own unique experience, identity and ideas. This diversity is a powerful tool in making our vision for gender equality a reality. Because of who you are and what you bring to Zonta, we are able to affect more communities, cultures and generations.



I believe it is important that each and every one of us take part in fostering an inclusive global community. Today, we are happy to feature some clubs who have shared their journey on creating an inviting environment.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your Zonta world and for helping me smile every day.

Warm regards,



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

Spotlight on Zonta members: Stand up for greater diversity

“As a Filipina-American and a member for 19 years, I have always felt part of the Zonta community from a welcoming club. I knew that I wanted to be involved with Zonta from the minute I became a member of like-minded women. **Our club members are from diverse backgrounds and cultures from Hawaii, a melting pot of all nationalities.** As a member, Zonta has allowed me to be proactive with Zonta activities. I have been instrumental in encouraging the club to be involved in advocacy activities by staying visible in the community on Kauai.”



Edie Ignacio Neumiller
Zonta Club of Kauai, District 9, USA

"An open mind and a big heart are what I have seen in Zontians worldwide. An open mind embraces members not only from a diversified cultural, ethnic and professional backgrounds but also those with unique characters and ways of thinking. And a big heart allows us to work together above our differences to focus on the Zonta mission. In District 31, the closeness and unity of members are a reflection of inclusivity – we are all volunteers who are treated equally. ... **The mindset of tolerance and inclusion is key in encouraging us to actively and joyfully assume our duties as proud and dedicated Zontians.**"



Hsinhsin Yang (right in photo with Z Club member)
Zonta Club of Taipei II, District 31, Taiwan

"Looking at our club at the beginning of the biennium, we saw our obvious lack of diversity. Realizing the glaring truth that our club membership did not reflect individuals from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds spurred us into action. **We began a focused membership drive to address our need to be more diverse.** We no longer waited for those in the community to speak to us about their interest in Zonta. We started conversations with other organizations, with members predominately consisting of people of color to collaborate and serve. This led to one-on-one conversations combined with individual invitations to membership, which have helped us to grow our membership - a start towards reflecting the diverse makeup of our community. There is still more work to do. We know that with our focused, determined, inclusive mindset, we will grow in diversity and impact to our community."



Nicole Miller (second from the right, front row, in the photo with club members)
Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley, District 9, USA

"Being a part of a global organization like Zonta has filled me with knowledge, created international relationships and given me the courage to unleash my ideas. **Zonta has also taught me that building a better world for women and girls means coming together despite our differences.** It is our differences and sharing them that fosters our community. When we learn from one another, each of us can be a stepping stone to helping those in our neighborhood."



Rūta Jasionienė
Zonta Club of Alytus, District 13, Lithuania

"When I attended my first Zonta International Convention in San Antonio, it was inspiring to see Zonta members from around the world come together to revel in our fellowship and unite through our Zonta mission and values. **I realized then that the Zonta Spirit is universal and transcends language and culture,** and it became more apparent after I moved to Austria. ... Vienna is a rich multicultural city, and it is reflected in our membership, as our members come from seven different countries. Therefore, it is important that our local service and advocacy projects are diverse in supporting everyone from all walks of life."



Sabine Peters
Zonta Club of Vienna I, District 14, Austria

"As our club members are all Nigerians, we share the same cultural roots and language. However, we do practice different religions, specifically Islam and Christianity. Whenever a Zonta event falls on religious holidays, we postpone the dates and work together to decide when to host service projects and events. Since Zonta International is a global organization, we take care to learn about the different cultures and food of Zonta countries. During United Nations Day, members were assigned a country and tasked to bring in a national dish and teach our members about its culture. **Through the beauty of the Zonta Spirit, we welcome all like-minded individuals to join us for the good of women and girls in our communities and the world.**"



Temitayo Alabi
Zonta Club of Ibadan, District 18. Nigeria

"District 31 is establishing the Zonta Club of Pingtung Homeland, which consists of indigenous women from Pingtung County. There are about 570,000 indigenous people comprising less than 3% of the Taiwanese population. Since the first Zonta club was chartered in Taiwan 60 years ago, only some indigenous women have joined as members. **The new club's formation represents a significant breakthrough in diversity for us.** The prospective new club recognized the Zonta goal is exactly what they would like to do for their beautiful community."



Vivienne Shen (far right in the photo with District 31 Zontians)
Zonta Club of Hsin Chu, District 31, Taiwan

Zontians in Action

Clubs and members have made great strides in [making a difference for the women and girls in their communities and beyond](#). Read the stories below that highlight their amazing work.

[Zonta Club of Ibadan II brings medical provision to rural areas](#)

In collaboration with a local health care center, the Zonta Club of Ibadan II, Nigeria, conducted medical outreach in rural areas. The club provided children with deworming medication and screened adults for hypertension, diabetes and other medical ailments.



[Zonta Club of Gladstone Inc helps girls prepare for school](#)

The Zonta Club of Gladstone Inc, Australia, just finished another round of donations to local students moving from primary school to high school, aimed at empowering girls in education. Well-fitting shoes, uniforms, brand-new school bags and books ensure the girls enter high school feeling confident. Fitting in also helps to reduce the chance of being bullied.



[Share Your Story](#)

Did your club recently do a service or advocacy action?
Share your story with us by clicking the button above!

Rose Day is coming – whom will you honor this year?



The upcoming Rose Day, 8 March, is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on past achievements and give tribute to honor the current efforts of those working toward gender equity.

Tell us, who has been building a better world for women and girls in your community?

[Honor that special person](#)

Will we see you in Brisbane?



We cannot wait to see the adventure that awaits us in Australia for the 2024 Zonta International Convention, which will take place 27-30 June 2024. Check out the [preliminary schedule-at-a-glance](#) to start your convention planning today!



In the meantime, here is some fun trivia: the early Aboriginal people used to refer to Brisbane as "Meanjin," which means 'a place shaped like a spike.' The 'spike' is the land where the Brisbane central business district (CBD) is now located, shaped by a bend in the Brisbane River.



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

[Watch now on-demand](#): Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories is back, and this month

we are featuring Isata Kabia!

Isata is the Founding Director of Voice of Women (VoW) Africa, a network of female leaders serving to amplify women's voices and inspire collective action. VoW Africa aims to increase women's participation in politics and mentoring for girls.

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

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Congratulations to the Zonta Club of Sacramento, USA, District 9, and the Zonta Club of Malmo I, Sweden, District 21, on celebrating their 85th and 75th anniversaries this month. We applaud your efforts in advocating for the women and girls in your community and beyond!

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



www.zonta.org

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