



# The Zontian

*Membership Voice of Zonta International*

2012-2014 Biennium Issue One July 2012

## 2012-2014 BIENNIUM

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*



## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of thirteen full-time employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and supports the Board of Directors in implementing policies and programs to further the Objects of Zonta International.

Our friendly, capable staff is ready to assist you!

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If you are visiting the Chicago area, we invite you to visit Headquarters. Enjoy a tour of our offices and see artifacts from Zonta's 93-year history. To schedule a visit, please call 630.928.1400 or stop by our offices during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST.



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## In This Issue

- 3 [President's Message](#)
- 6 [Meet Zonta's International President](#)
- 10 [Time to Take Action](#)
- 13 [Meet the 2012-2014 International Committee Chairmen](#)
- 21 [2012-2014 Biennial Goals](#)
- 24 [International Service and ZISVAW Project Descriptions and Human Interest Stories](#)
- 44 [Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program](#)
- 45 [Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Program](#)
- 46 [Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program](#)
- 47 [Philanthropy Matters](#)
- 48 [Zonta's Centennial Anniversary](#)
- 49 [Building the Future Now](#)
- 50 [Meet the Governors](#)
- 62 [Legislative Awareness & Advocacy](#)
- 63 [2014 Convention](#)

ZONTA



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lynn McKenzie

“I am humbled by the continued generosity of you, our members. You have enabled the Foundation to release a record US\$4,938,000 in 2012-2014.”

Kia ora.

I'm Lynn McKenzie from New Zealand. For the next two years, I enjoy the great honor of being your president. I'd like to start my term by giving you a glimpse of the great adventure that lies before us, not just over the next two years, but into the 22nd century.

Globally, we still have some way to go before women experience the same rights as men. Slow progress continues to be made, as evidenced in the [United Nations Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) Report 2011](#). Zonta's mission, goals and strategic plan are aligned to the MDGs. We need to continue supporting them through our international service and anti-violence against women projects, our education programs and every bit of advocacy and service we undertake, both local and international. We know that to enjoy success during this biennium and beyond, we must fully support our Zonta leaders, recognizing that they, like the International Board, are volunteering prodigious amounts of time and energy.

In 2019, Zonta celebrates its first century. It's fitting, as we move towards this important milestone, that we turn our attention to the next 100 years and position ourselves to be relevant and mission-focused. So, early in the biennium we will revise our strategic plan and engage you in a discussion about Zonta's future. How can we be relevant? How do we grow? How can we be demographically diverse, equally credible to both members and stakeholders? We need to know that our key processes and signposts, our policies, bylaws and procedural rules are fit for purpose and relevant for our collective future. Read more about this in the [Time to Take Action article on page 10](#).

Aligned to Zonta International's objects and strategic plan are the 2012-2014 Biennial Goals which emerged from the 2012 Convention. These goals established our desired route for the next two years. They build on the current biennial goals, and provide parameters within which districts and clubs can develop their own biennial and strategic goals. Each district and club should also be mindful of Zonta's overarching mission while responding to its local needs.

Increasing our visibility and credibility is a key focus this biennium. By concentrating our efforts on both, we can expect to increase our membership. A raised profile, coupled with the authenticity which surrounds our compelling messages, will aid the success of our advocacy initiatives. We will increase our use of [social media](#) via Facebook, Twitter, and blogs, to get discussion going and give you all a voice.

We should expect our heightened profile and work to generate increased demand for our education programs and an increase in donations to the Foundation. Additional funds will consequently be enabled to reach our international service, ZISVAW projects and education programs. Our international footprint will remain that of advocacy, service and education programs. Zonta's international service and violence against women (ZISVAW) projects and our education programs are possible only because generous Zontians donate to our Zonta International Foundation. I am humbled by the continued generosity of you, our members. Despite the economic crisis and significant natural disasters, donations to the Foundation grew last biennium. Thank you! You have enabled the Foundation to release a record US\$4,938,000 in 2012-2014.

*Continued on page 4...*

...Continued from page 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The more we can give, the more we can help women: our sisters, mothers and daughters who are less fortunate than us. This biennium, we are challenging members to exceed the Foundation's fundraising goal so we can help more women. We are asking all clubs to donate to the Foundation. At the end of March 2012, 81% of clubs are donating, and we are asking the remaining 19% to donate what they can. We are also asking for an additional 10% of individual members to make a donation. At the end of March 2012, only 13% of members are donating to the Foundation.

The beneficiaries of our international projects are women in Rwanda, Liberia, Honduras, Samoa, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Cambodia, Egypt, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Vietnam. We work with United Nations agencies, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women and the UN Trust Fund, along with non-government organizations (NGOs) to deliver these projects. [Read more about our projects](#) in this issue beginning on page 24 and on our [website](#). We will be providing regular web and blog updates on these projects to enable you to see the real difference Zonta is making to so many.

The monetary values of most of our international education programs have also been increased as a result of your generosity. This biennium, fellowships, scholarships and awards will be made to 70 [Amelia Earhart Fellows](#), 24 international winners of the [Jane M Klausman Women in Business scholarships](#) and potentially 66 district [JMK](#) winners, plus 20 international [Young Women in Public Affairs Award](#) recipients. We've increased the value of the international [JMK](#) and [YWPA](#) scholarships and awards. We've also doubled the number of [YWPA](#) international winners (from five to ten), totally as a result of your giving.

We are challenging all districts to annually submit a nomination for both the [JMK](#) and [YWPA](#) programs. Imagine the impact your assistance will have on these women, their families and their wider communities. Remember, Zonta gives them a "help up, not a hand out." We have profiled some past winners of these programs here in this issue of the Zontian. Read about the difference your belief and support of them has meant. It's inspirational.

Our United Nations, Council of Europe and Advocacy committees are working closely together to ensure Zonta's voice is heard both internationally, and through districts and clubs locally. We will particularly focus on advocacy surrounding violence against women and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Both are aligned to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) work program. Read more about these on the website and blogs. Why not plan to come to the CSW in March 2013, or if you can't, follow us there via Twitter and Facebook?

We achieve our mission through service and advocacy. This biennium, we will continue to support clubs and districts to undertake service. We want to hear and learn more about your service. We want to use these stories to increase our visibility and credibility and will be encouraging clubs and districts to use the Zonta website and social media to tell your stories. An annual service competition is also planned.

During this past biennium, we have concentrated on stemming any decline in membership, and you have risen to the challenge. Thank you! Now is the time to grow. Why not continue sharing with others the opportunities and joys of being a member of this wonderful organization which makes a real difference to the lives of women locally and internationally? Remember to consider those past recipients of club and district awards as potential members. In particular, we are challenging clubs to recruit past [AE](#) Fellows, [JMK](#) Scholars and [YWPA](#) recipients to become members. They will know personally the benefits of Zonta.

Z and Golden Z clubs are an important connection for Zonta and bring us close to young men and women. They inspire us with their enterprise and spirit.

“Our United Nations, Council of Europe and Advocacy committees are working closely together to ensure Zonta's voice is heard both internationally, and through districts and clubs locally.”



*Lynn McKenzie with a woman from the rehabilitation program in Liberia*

“Looking forward, don’t forget to make note of the dates of the July 2014 Convention—28 June to 2 July—in Orlando, Florida, USA. It’s a holiday destination, so bring your family.”

We need more of these clubs. Please start one. Past members of these clubs are also potential members and can take us well into the 22nd century and towards our next 100 years.

On that note, preparations are underway for our centennial celebrations in 2019. District-wide and internationally, Zontians are gathering together our history and treasures. Keep looking at our website and at your district initiatives to learn more about what’s planned and how you can become involved. It doesn’t stop with the celebrations, however. Investing in our next 100 years through Foundation giving is the focus of the Foundation’s Development Committee. A special centennial giving program is being developed. Read more about it right here in this magazine in the article, [Building the Future Now](#) on page 49.

Looking forward, don’t forget to make note of the dates of the 2014 Convention—27 June to 1 July—in Orlando, Florida, USA. It’s a holiday destination, so bring your family. Available activities include Disney World, Epcot Center, and the Kennedy Space Center, and associated opportunities exist to take trips to the Caribbean or to head south. We will have a great program in a wonderful purpose-built convention setting—the largest Marriott hotel in the chain, with 2,000 rooms surrounded by a 18-hole golf course! What more could you ask?

**Regarding the journey ahead, take heart. We are all in the same waka—the same boat—paddling toward an exciting future. If we all paddle as one, we will arrive in Orlando in 2014 as a 21st century organization looking fearlessly to the 22nd century.**

**I promise you we will be:**

- stronger,
- more relevant,
- more visible than we are today.

Tena Kotou, Tena Kotou, Tena Kotou Katoa

THANK YOU,

Lynn McKenzie  
Zonta International President  
Zonta International Foundation President



## Zonta's New International President 2012

# Lynn McKenzie

*(above) A fan of her home's incredible views out to sea, Lynn recently decided to renovate rather than move and is currently living in a building site, eagerly awaiting the time the boxes are unpacked and her things are once again surrounding her. Although her walls are painted in neutral tones, Lynn loves collecting art and "couldn't exist without color around."*

Curious, high-energy and motivated are all apt ways of describing Lynn McKenzie. A resident of Wellington, New Zealand's capital, Lynn is more comfortable (and animated) talking about her vision for the future of Zonta International than she is about herself. However, that does not mean she is not a colorful person with a varied and successful professional history.

Lynn lives in New Zealand in the South Pacific—a country with a long tradition of making a difference for women and the first country in the world where women won the right to vote. She talks about her “incredible fortune” to be born into the developed world with its increased, if hard-won, opportunities for women. She believes these opportunities need to be strengthened, however, and never taken for granted.

Lynn’s first taste of being a Kiwi (the name for a New Zealander) in an international context came at the age of 17, when she was a Rotary exchange student in the United States for a year. Until then, she had only lived in New Zealand, first in Oamaru and briefly in Christchurch. Returning to New Zealand, Lynn moved to Dunedin to study at Otago University, New Zealand’s oldest university, and graduated with a post graduate regional resource planning. “I think it’s because of that exchange year that I realise the value of helping people who find themselves in an unfamiliar context,” Lynn explains.

Lynn’s working life began in 1982 as a regional resource planner for the Ministry of Works and Development, the government agency responsible for much of New Zealand’s infrastructure, including its roads, water, power and engineering. There, few women held professional roles except in the planning division, which Lynn joined. From there, she moved into a planning role in local government; however, Lynn decided she would like to broaden her skills. An opening into policy and then a human resources role for New Zealand’s Housing Corporation became her new opportunities. Lynn’s subsequent career move—straight into management (still in human resources) from a professional role, and all with no transitional training—was well and truly aided by her early work with Zonta. “I do think Zonta gave me the leadership and management skills required for that career leap,” Lynn said.

During a span of two decades from 1987 to 2007, Lynn was part of the senior leadership team in a variety of sectors with her speciality being human resources, in particular with organizational start-ups and major directional

changes. She has successfully worked through these challenges in the health, housing and social service sectors.

Her last senior leadership role was with the executive management team of Plunket—a switch into a community sector organization. A highly esteemed New Zealand icon, Plunket provides services to the families of more than 90 percent of newborn babies delivered by specially trained nurses and volunteers. For the first time in a professional context, Lynn found herself working with an organization which, in addition to employing 1,500 staff, is underpinned by an 8,000-strong volunteer base.

There, she held a couple of senior leadership roles—one as General Manager Human Resources and the other as General Manager, Operations. In the latter, with responsibility for delivery of services, Lynn gained the skills required for motivating volunteers and delivering those services clients valued most.

Just over two years ago, Lynn decided to become self-employed as a senior management consultant, while continuing to work strenuously for Zonta. Her consulting often involves dealing with organizational change and with significant decisions about how to deliver optimal services within tight fiscal circumstances. Coaching, mentoring and leadership development are also part of her consulting practice.

In addition to her professional endeavors, Lynn remains active in the wider community sector in New Zealand, including her role as President of Social Development Partners, an umbrella advocacy group for social service NGOs.

For the last 13 years, Zonta has been a major part of Lynn’s life. A highly motivated worker, she has held international positions within Zonta since 2004, having moved from the role of Governor for District 16 in New Zealand (2002-2004) to International President (2012-2014) with numerous advances in leadership along the way. She is a member of the Zonta Club of Wellington, which is District 16’s second oldest club. Membership in the club is currently at just under 50 members. The Club has been a strong supporter



*Lynn with Frances Hesselbein*

throughout Lynn’s Zonta journey, so she is delighted that ten members of the Club will be with her at her Torino installation.

As International President, Lynn plans to build on the strengths of our wonderful organization. She wants to ensure Zonta members cover the full age spectrum, which will mean “engaging the interest of more of the 20-40 demographic,” and will increase the use of social media to do so. “The drive towards women becoming more highly visible should be of interest to younger women,” Lynn adds.

“We want and need Zontians from all walks of life. I really do see joining Zonta as a way of making the world a better and more equitable place for women and girls. It’s not all high-powered talk. At Zonta meetings, we have light-hearted as well as in-depth conversations. However, the fact remains: women are over-represented in poverty and lack-of-education statistics, and under-represented in high places. If decisions are to be made in a more collegial, more collaborative way, we need more women in the latter. I want my

*Continued on page 8...*



*Lynn's nephew Freddie in New Zealand (left) and daughter of fistula survivor in Liberia (center)*

*(right) For five years, Lynn and friend Ruth Bruce were involved in a project they initiated called the Pre-loved Fashion Sale. This event has proven to be a great way to raise funds for second-chance-education grants, awarded to women. Lynn did this work as past Chair and Trustee of the New Horizons for Women Trust.*

term as President to be about making sure the ladder goes successfully down to the next generation of Zontians,” explains Lynn.

Family is also very important to Lynn. Her parents have played an integral role in her life, always supporting her to be the best that she could be. The middle child, Lynn has an elder sister Jennie and younger brother Bill. Her father travelled extensively for work both within New Zealand and overseas, exposing his children to different perspectives and peoples. Lynn’s mother Josephine will be attending the Torino Convention, along with Joan Nicol who introduced Lynn to Zonta.

The importance of family was underlined for Lynn when a major earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand in February 2011 while she was attending the CSW meeting in New York. The devastation of this earthquake and its huge impact on family and friends highlighted how fragile life can be. Lynn’s mother, sister and aunt live in Christchurch. All survived, but all have nevertheless been affected

by the quake and its constant aftershocks. Lynn’s mother’s house was rendered uninhabitable at the time and remains unlikely to be lived in again.

While not having her own children, Lynn remains involved in the lives of her Auckland-based (largest city in New Zealand) nephews—Freddie and Angus, her godchildren, as well as a circle of close friends, some of whom will be with her in Torino at her installation.

Since visiting Liberia in 2011, Lynn is further reminded how very different the lives of children are throughout the world. Her nephew Freddie attends a great school, plays the piano and tennis, has holidays outside of Auckland where he lives, and really loves his iPad2. This lifestyle is a completely different situation to the daughter of one of the fistula survivors Lynn met in Liberia who is the same age.

“To serve is to live.”

On a personal level, Lynn possesses total clarity about what she stands for and ensures service is part of her life. “To serve is to live. I’ve borrowed that from an inspired woman

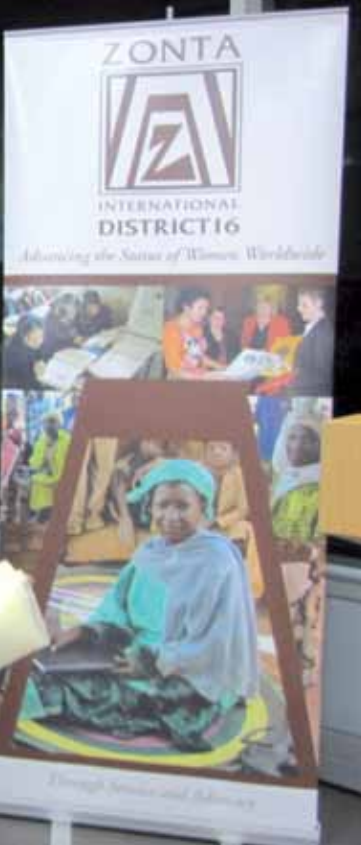
called Frances Hesselbein, of the Frances Hesselbein Leadership Institute based in New York,” says Lynn.

This philosophy, based on the realization that life shouldn’t be lived ego-centrally, but focussed outward as a means to true fulfilment, was strengthened by Lynn’s early association with her local Zonta club. She was in her early 30s at the time and is still guided today by a vision to improve life for others.

While it’s easy to get caught up in just a local scene and be concerned with tackling local challenges, Lynn says she’s constantly reminding herself that women elsewhere in the world have no access to basic human rights. “Women’s rights are the key to everything. They’re the foundation on which women can be self-sustaining, self-reliant and optimally productive,” says Lynn.

Thus, when she talks about Zonta’s mission to advance the status of women everywhere, she’s talking about access to health care, legal rights and the right to be treated with respect rather than violence, as well as the





*From left: Lynn's parents, Lynn, and Zontians, Loes Walker and Margaret Wellwood (2003)*

right to receive equitable education, pay and privileges.

"I think we need to realize that we can make very positive impacts on the lives of women and whole families through health and economic wellbeing projects on fistula, anti-HIV transmission projects and interventions to prevent violence against women and girls in particularly needy regions. To make a physical difference to one woman is to make a very powerful difference to a whole community," says Lynn.

Lynn is also acutely aware that in order to have the greatest impact on the neediest women, Zonta's visibility and credibility needs to be nurtured internationally. "This notion is about the power of many. Zonta is strong, and we need to believe in our own strength. Together we can achieve so much, and we should be proud to see ourselves as leaders in these projects. Working with like-minded organisations gives us further reach and so too, increases our visibility. We do fantastic things and yet we are not always well known," she says. "Increasing our visibility is a key

goal for the coming biennium in order to be even more successful as an organization."

"We are concerned, at this time in the history of Zonta International, that we remain completely relevant in both the work we do and to our members, current and prospective. The organization should therefore be staying aligned to people's values, goals and lives in this fast changing world," she adds. Because of these challenges, Lynn will ensure the organization doesn't shy away from asking itself the tough questions over the next couple of years.

In her own life, the position of International President presents a wonderful challenge. Lynn sees election to the role as one of her greatest achievements. Although voluntary, this position will be nothing short of an honor and a privilege, even if it means making personal and professional sacrifices while she's in office for Zonta.

"For the next biennium, we will adopt a focus of ensuring Zonta remains relevant going forward. We want to fully engage our membership

*"We want and need Zontians from all walks of life. I really do see joining Zonta as a way of making the world a better and more equitable place for women and girls."*

on the journey. In doing so, we need to be sure our Zonta leadership everywhere is fully supported—philosophically, practically and technologically—in recognition that all Zonta work is done in our spare time. I'd also like to emphasise that the immediate future is absolutely not about me, or about fulfilling my personal objectives. It's about what's good for Zonta," Lynn adds. ■

# Time to Take Action

How can we ensure Zonta continues to be relevant as we move into our next 100 years? Getting a grip on the big strategic picture for Zonta International is where our focus should be, right now. Think about that statement. It's actually really important to stop and do this.

Philosophically speaking, we all periodically need to step back and look at our organization from an outsider's perspective. It's a funny thing, but when you're seeing something from the outside, you often do notice potential roadblocks to total effectiveness.

## SO, HOW ARE WE DOING?

- Are we visible locally, nationally and internationally?
- Are we doing valuable work which fits perfectly with our defined mission statement?
- Are we seen to be effective improvers of the status and lot of the world's women?

If not, our credibility and membership will eventually start to decline and our stated aims will be that much harder to realize.

President and CEO of her own Leadership Institute, Frances Hesselbein ([www.hesselbeininstitute.org](http://www.hesselbeininstitute.org)) believes we should constantly be mindful of where the greatest need exists. Obviously, we need to be mindful internationally of the needs of women, but let's also ask that of Zonta itself.

Where is our greatest *internal* need as an organization?

I am not personally pre-empting answers to these questions, but I think it is important we insist on asking them, and answering them with integrity. I am reminded of the successful book by Executive Educator and Coach, Marshall Goldsmith. He wrote a challenging truth all tied up in the title: *'What got you here won't get you there.'*

So let us unflinchingly examine our biennial goals of credibility and visibility and question how we can best achieve them. Is our Zontian culture flexible enough to accommodate the perspectives of younger generations of members, generation X and Y and those that follow them? Do we retain our wide appeal, throughout different parts of the world, and to different age brackets? Or, are our bylaws, policies and practices seen as too confining if we leave them unaltered?

You, as one of our more than 30,000 members, have a valuable contribution to make to this discussion. We really want your input. We would love you to tell us the benefits you have enjoyed as a Zontian.

- What was it that attracted you to the organization?
- Objectively speaking, do you think what attracted you will continue to draw new members?

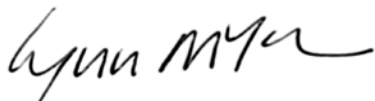
We need to take into account the changes our various societies throughout the world have undergone in the past 50 or even 25 years. The ways in which people become interested and engaged in clubs and groups have definitely altered. For instance, generation X-ers see the world through a filter of instability. Major infrastructural and ideological changes have formed the only constants for them. For generation Y's, just about every interaction with the external world happens technologically. While they may have a healthy disregard for what they see as unnecessary loyalties or misplaced trust, this generation is nevertheless very interested in the greater good, backed up by strong community action. Issues of injustice like child poverty, 'normalized' violence, and gender-based pay disparities worry and motivate them greatly.

I would love each Zonta club throughout the world to have a discussion about what it will be, going forward, that makes us credible and likeable as an organization. What makes us current, and what will keep us so? What makes us relevant? Which of our characteristics and areas of focus make us attractive? In answering these questions, what will our clubs look like and what will they be doing in the future? If we look after those things, we will be a lot closer to achieving our overarching goal of improving life in so many ways for women and girls everywhere.

Thanks for thinking about it!

Share your views with us through our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Zonta-International>, on our website, or by sending us an email to [haveyoursay@zonta.org](mailto:haveyoursay@zonta.org). Or, you can send a letter to: Zonta International Headquarters, 1211 West 22nd Street, Suite 900, Oak Brook, IL 60523, USA

I, along with the Zonta Board and leadership, eagerly await your opinions.



Lynn McKenzie  
Zonta International President



**DONATE NOW!**

# Donation Form

ADVANCING THE STATUS OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE

We appreciate your donation and commitment to advancing the status of women worldwide.

To ensure credit for your contribution, **please complete and return this document, along with your payment**, according to the instructions for the payment option you select. Thank you!

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- Club    Area    District    Individual    Corporation/Foundation

Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

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I/we do not wish to receive an acknowledgement/receipt for this gift.

**Please note:** *If there is more than one donor, please attach a list of donors and the amount contributed by each, or submit a separate form for each donor.*

## 2. Designation .....

International Service Fund	US\$ _____
Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women (ZISVAW) Fund	US\$ _____
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund	US\$ _____
Jane M. Klausman Women In Business Scholarship Fund	US\$ _____
Young Women in Public Affairs Award Fund	US\$ _____
Rose Fund	US\$ _____
Endowment Fund	US\$ _____
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Endowment Fund	US\$ _____
<b>Total Foundation Contribution</b>	<b>US\$ _____</b>

## 3. Special Instructions .....

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- Please send me information about making a recurring gift  
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- I have made provisions for Zonta International Foundation in my will.
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- Please send me information on how to include Zonta International Foundation in my estate planning.
- Please send me information on how to make a gift of stock.
- I would like my gift to be anonymous.

OVER

## 4. Payment .....

**Note: Contributions to Zonta International Foundation must be remitted separately from your membership dues payments to Zonta International.**

**The Foundation offers several options for payment of your contribution. Please read the following and select your option.**

Please make note of the instructions for each form of payment.

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Enclosed is my check/money order payable to Zonta International Foundation for US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send check/money order to: **Zonta International Foundation, ATTN: Contributions**  
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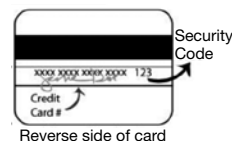
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**On the day of your wire transfer, send a copy of the wire transfer confirmation by:**

**Email:** contributions@zonta.org *or*

**Fax:** 630-928-1559 *or*

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

# Meet the 2012-2014 International Committee Chairmen

Zonta's international committees play a vital role in ensuring that the biennial goals of Zonta International are achieved. Chairmen of Zonta International committees are appointed for the next biennium by the President-Elect with the approval of the International Board, and work closely with the Board throughout the Biennium to plan, implement and evaluate Zonta's programs to advance the status of women worldwide.

## AMELIA EARHART (AE) FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



Holly Anderson, Vice Chairman  
Monika Auweter-Kurtz  
Candace Kohl  
Susan Riding

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee evaluates applications and recommends candidates for International Board approval, recommends eligibility criteria, evaluation standards and scoring of applicants, and suggests program improvements.

**Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D., Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley, USA**

Sharon has a storied history with the Amelia Earhart Fellowship program. As a Ph.D. student in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia, she was a two-time recipient of the Fellowship. Extremely grateful for the financial support she received from Zonta, Sharon joined Zonta in 1979 as a way to give back to the organization. She served as the Amelia Earhart Committee Chairman from 1992-2000 and again most recently from 2010-2012. "Having reviewed thousands of applications and also having had the privilege of meeting many of our Amelia Earhart Fellows, I am so impressed by the accomplishments and goals of these young women," says Sharon. "The Zonta AE Fellowship truly is awarded to the best of the best."

In the current biennium, Sharon plans to review the schools receiving the AE Fellowship announcement internationally and share that list with the district AE chairmen for their feedback to ensure that Zonta continues reaching the most qualified women pursuing doctoral degrees in aerospace science and engineering. Through such efforts, Sharon plans to increase awareness of the award. "We want to make the AE Fellowship as visible as possible," says Sharon.

Prior to her retirement in 2008, Sharon worked for 18 years at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she served as Section Manager for Mechanical Engineering. In this role, she managed more than 200 engineers in the design and development of spacecraft, instruments and rovers, including the Mars Exploration Rovers. She received NASA recognition for her work on the Wide Field/Planetary Camera for the Hubble Space Telescope.

## JANE M. KLAUSMAN (JMK) WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



Akiko Kinoshita  
Regina Smit  
Janis Wood

The JMK Women in Business Scholarship Committee reviews district applications and recommends recipients for the international scholarships for International Board approval, recommends eligibility criteria, evaluation standards and scoring of applicants, and suggests program improvements.

**Janine Gould, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand**

When Janine started her communications consulting company, Communicate Consultants, 25 years ago, they were one of the first women-owned businesses in their field in New Zealand. With a passion for people and helping them reach their goals, she now has more than 20 years training and coaching experience, specializing in verbal communication skills and leadership. Janine works with groups ranging from senior management to raw recruits in both the private and public sectors; and, more recently, has run workshops in Southeast Asia for emerging women leaders.

Janine joined Zonta International in 1994 for the chance to contribute to an international organization that made a difference to women globally and to meet the interesting women who were members of her local club. She takes pride in the local projects undertaken by her club; however, the international projects are the ones of which she is proudest. "The members are great, and the work we do matters," says Janine.

As chairman of the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Committee, Janine plans to encourage all districts to select a district winner. The Committee will also work to

*Continued on page 14...*

...Continued on page 13

increase contact with previous scholarship recipients to monitor what impact the Scholarship had on their lives, as well as to encourage them to participate in their local Zonta clubs and consider membership.

### YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD COMMITTEE



Stella Bentsi-Enchill  
Lily Chien  
Monica Uddenfeldt

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award Committee evaluates district award applications and recommends recipients for the international awards, recommends eligibility criteria, evaluation standards and scoring of applicants, and suggests program improvements.

**Ute Scholz, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Verden, Germany**

Ute is a jurist and deputy major/chief executive with the city and council of Rotenburg (Wuemme), a city in Northern Germany. In this role, she is responsible for all aspects of community management, including road/building construction, facility management, urban planning, local traffic, employees, and social, school and legal affairs. She likes that each day is unique and enjoys working with people from many different intellectual backgrounds, ages, interests and professions.

Looking to become acquainted with women from various professions and ages, Ute joined Zonta in 1991. In her more than 20 years of membership, she has found that Zontians are very special, and she is always eager to meet more Zontians from all over the world, understand their point of view and learn from their experiences. Ute has served in leadership positions at all levels of Zonta, including stepping in as governor of her district when the governor had to step down due to health reasons early in her term. This biennium, in addition to serving as the Chairman of the International YWPA Committee, Ute will also serve as her district's parliamentarian.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, the International YWPA Committee will increase the visibility of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award via the website, social media and newsletter—both for Zontians and non-Zontians who are interested in the Program. The Committee will also encourage all Zonta clubs to participate in the YWPA Program, which will help raise awareness of the YWPA Award, the Zonta club and Zonta International in the clubs' local communities.

### UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE



#### NEW YORK

Patricia Latona  
Susan Westerberg

#### GENEVA

Simone Ovar, Vice Chairman  
Regula Dannecker

#### PARIS

Janine N'Diaye, Vice Chairman  
Jacqueline Besnard

Monique Vernet

#### VIENNA

Eva-Maria Kodek-Werba, Vice Chairman  
Ingeborg Geyer  
Eveline Hejlek

The United Nations Committee consists of, but is not limited to, representatives appointed to the various United Nations sites. The Committee receives and disseminates pertinent information to the Zonta International Board and the membership at large, suggests international advocacy initiatives to advance the status of women and promotes relations between the United Nations, its agencies and Zonta International.

**Mary Ann Tarantula, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Northern Valley, NJ, USA**

Mary Ann joined Zonta in 1993 when she realized that Zonta was the only organization truly empowering women and helping them to achieve equality. "When one joins together with women all over the world to accomplish the same goals, then there is a better opportunity to affect change," explains Mary Ann. "I felt this from the very beginning of my membership."

In her nearly 20 years of membership, Mary Ann has held numerous leadership positions throughout the organization. This biennium will be her second consecutive biennium as chairman of Zonta's International United Nations Committee. She and her committee members in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna will seek to increase Zonta's visibility and credibility by assuming leadership roles on NGO committees that focus on women's rights and by effectively advocating at the United Nations on all issues that pertain to the rights of women and girls. They will also continue to monitor progress toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and will work with other ZI Committees and other NGOs to promote the equal rights of women and girls through Commissions and Committees of the United Nations.

In addition to representing Zonta at the United Nations, Mary Ann is an English Professor at St. Peter's College. She teaches writing, specifically argumentative and persuasive writing, which benefits students because it requires that they take a position and defend it with logical reasoning and research. In the process, the students learn to think critically rather than accepting the view of others without question. Mary Ann truly enjoys working with young people and helping them reach their educational and career goals.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEE



Irma Ertman, Vice Chairman  
Frieda Demey  
Gabriele Raab

The Council of Europe Committee leads Zonta in participating in the Council of Europe, an intergovernmental organization of 47 member states, which aims to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law.

**Karin Nordmeyer, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Freiburg-Schauinsland, Germany**

Karin is the President of the UN Women National Committee Germany. The National Committee is an independent, non-governmental organization that supports the mission of UN Women. In her role, Karin is responsible for the Committee's programs and strategies, budget and staff. She enjoys supporting global women's issues and conducting programs and campaigns to raise awareness through public education that "the energy, talent and strength of women and girls represent humankind's most valuable untapped natural resource." (Quote from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, 8 March 2012)

As a member of Zonta International for more than 40 years, Karin has served at all levels of the organization, including as International Director for the 2006-2008 Biennium. This will be her third consecutive biennium as the Chairman of the Zonta International Council of Europe Committee. She joined Zonta in 1970 because she wanted to work for gender equality, and Zonta's mission best met her expectations to do so. She is proud to be part of a worldwide organization of like-minded executives from different professions, cultures and nationalities, all working to advance the status of women; however, she recognizes that a lot more work needs to be done to achieve real gender equality.

This biennium, Karin and her committee will work with the Legislative Awareness & Advocacy and UN Committees to advocate more effectively for the rights of women and girls. Together, they will educate Zontians on the specific strategies, instruments and mechanisms within intergovernmental organizations, national governments and associations to help Zonta's advocacy initiatives be more successful. She and her committee will continue to fight to end all forms of gender-based violence and will promote the new treaty of the Council of Europe "Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence". Within the 5th European Inter-District Seminar 2013 in Finland, her committee will provide a platform for discussions on how to implement women's rights—in particular how to take measures to prevent and combat domestic violence in order to bring real change in the lives of women and girls.

## LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS & ADVOCACY (LAA) COMMITTEE



Jenny Brash  
Graciela Duce  
Sigrid Duden  
Segilola Guobadia  
Pauline Ng  
Yoshiko Misumi  
Terri Turi

The Legislative Awareness & Advocacy Committee works with Zontians to combine service and advocacy efforts; learns how laws are made and by whom, how they are implemented and how to engage in the advocacy process; advocates on key status of women issues; and affects changes to benefit women.

**Kay Meyer, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Boulder County, USA**

A former performance auditor and rehabilitation counselor, Kay has a diverse professional background, including experience in program evaluation, internal auditing, policy research, budgeting, professional and legislative staffing, and rehabilitation. She is now the owner and manager of Meyer Family Farm, LLC, a farm she inherited that has been in her family since 1845. In this role, she manages accounts and oversees leases and building projects.

Kay first joined Zonta in 1986 and has served in various leadership positions throughout the organization, including most recently as the District 12 Governor for the 2010-2012 Biennium. She joined Zonta to meet other professional women in her community and enjoys getting to spend time with other Zontians and working with them to make a positive difference in the lives of women. She is especially proud of her club's efforts to establish a 501(c)(3) corporation, launch a successful scholarship fund, and focus efforts on at-risk young women. As governor, she has enjoyed working with the strong District 12 Board to increase Zonta's organizational capacity in the Rocky Mountain region during the last biennium.

As Chairman of the LAA Committee, Kay will work with other Zonta International committees, the ZI LAA committee members, and others to focus on key issues women face. Her committee will seek to raise awareness of these issues amongst clubs and districts and enable members to become more effective advocates. "Together, we Zontians will promote advocacy activities to end violence against women, advance equal rights and opportunities, and ensure justice under good laws at all levels of Zonta," says Kay.

*Continued on page 16...*

## BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE



Renee Coppock  
Vivienne Shen

The Bylaws and Resolutions Committee considers proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions, makes recommendations to the International Board and submits a report to Convention. The Committee may also propose bylaws amendments and develop resolutions designed to further the Objects of Zonta International.

**Past International President**  
**Margit Webjörn, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Trosa, Sweden**

As a member of Zonta International for more than 30 years, Margit has held leadership positions at the club, district and international levels, including serving as the International President for the 2002-2004 Biennium and the Charter President of the Zonta Club of Trosa. She first joined Zonta in 1978 because it was an international organization with a mission that she believed in. Her belief in that mission has not changed; however, today, she also values the friendships she has made with Zontians from many parts of the world. As a long-time member of Zonta, Margit is proud of Zonta's efforts over the years to become an organization that focuses on both service and advocating for women's rights. "By combining service and advocacy, we can make sustainable improvements in women's lives, locally and globally," says Margit.

A retired architect, Margit found enjoyment in the building process and the real, visual results of her work. She also enjoyed the broad scope of work that architecture entails, including art, technology, science, society and people.

Margit will serve as the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chairman for the third straight biennium. She understands the importance of the Bylaws of Zonta International, which express Zonta's values and provide rules to protect them, ensuring good governance of the organization. "Good governance will enhance our credibility. It will save time and energy for service and advocacy, making us more visible as we work to advance the status of women," says Margit.

## CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Ronda Walker, Vice Chairman  
Nickie Bonner  
Vivian Cody  
Amy Lai  
Beryl McMillan  
A.O. Omotayo Morgan  
Eva Nielsen

The Centennial Anniversary Committee proposes plans to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Zonta International with the publication of a centennial history, together with a range of celebratory events in every country of the Zonta world in 2019.

**Past International President**  
**Val Sarah, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Ballarat Inc, Australia**

Val joined Zonta in 1978 because Zonta offered the promise of a lifetime of service, on an international scale, with a group of like-minded women around the world. In the more than three decades since, Zontians have become another 'family', always there with support and encouragement and a never-ending source of new knowledge and skills. Val is proud of the opportunities Zonta offers to women of high achievement and to women marginalized or disadvantaged in communities worldwide.

Val has served in many leadership positions throughout Zonta, including most notably as Zonta International President during the 1998-2000 Biennium. From 1996 to 2000, she was one member of a small team working on the publication of a history of Zonta International 1919-1999, celebrating Zonta's 80th Anniversary.

This biennium, Val will serve her second consecutive term as Chairman of the Centennial Anniversary Committee. In this role, she will encourage every club and district to assess their archives and arrange for appropriate storage of their records. The Committee will help clubs recognize how these materials can be a valuable PR resource—one that demonstrates a history of achievement and can help to attract new members. She and her committee will also complete the assessment and safe storage of ZI archives in preparation for the publication of Zonta's centennial history in 2020.

Val retired after 50 years in television production and presentation, fashion, travel and community service. She currently volunteers full-time for not-for-profit organizations as a way to give back while maintaining networks and friendships in the community. Her passion is helping young people to reach their potential, particularly in the arts.



## CONVENTION COMMITTEE



Alice Chick  
Vladia Jurcova  
Nancy Thompson  
Ruth Walker

The Convention Committee plans and hosts the biennial International Convention and encourages the host district to take a direct and active role in the convention planning activities.

### **Jane Adams, Chairman** **Zonta Club of Boca Raton Area**

Jane is a retired healthcare administrator whose numerous years of working with patients and employees offered her the opportunity to improve the lives of others in her daily work. Before retiring, she managed two healthcare facilities as Vice President and was Executive Director of a free standing assisted living center.

Jane joined Zonta in 1974 as a way to work with fellow professionals from diverse backgrounds to improve women's lives all over the world. She has served in numerous positions in her club and district over the years, including most recently as District 11 Governor during the 2010-2012 Biennium. "My belief is that, as a leader, it is important to connect with members to understand their issues, be visible, and work with everyone to begin to resolve the challenges we all face," says Jane. "I have had the privilege of being able to accomplish that connection to a substantial degree."

As the 2014 Convention Committee Chairman, Jane plans on working with Zontians, the Orlando community and local businesses to host a successful event. Through these contacts, she will share Zonta's mission and work, both locally and internationally, to promote the organization.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE



Souella Cumming

The Zonta International Finance Committee reviews monthly financial reports, prepares for the annual audit, prepares and submits a proposed budget for the next biennium to the International Board, and reports on the financial position of Zonta International at Convention.

### **Gloria Stootman Wristen, Chairman** **Zonta Club of Auburn, USA**

Gloria will serve as the Chairman for the Zonta International Finance Committee for the second straight biennium in 2012-2014. In addition to her work with the Finance Committee, Gloria's past leadership roles in Zonta include serving as the International Treasurer, District 2 Governor, District Foundation Ambassador and numerous other roles at the district and club levels during her more than 20 years of membership.

After successfully passing her CPA exam, Gloria started an accounting firm in 1982 where she currently specializes in income tax for individuals and small businesses. She enjoys making a difference in people's lives financially by educating them on smart financial practices and watching them become more fiscally strong over time. Gloria is proud that she is able to use her financial knowledge and expertise to help Zonta. "I'm proud of working with the international finance teams to simplify our finances and consolidate our expenses so that all of our charitable donations can actually go to help advance women," says Gloria.

Under Gloria's leadership, the Finance Committee will continue to monitor expenses and financial reporting so that members and donors can be confident that we are using Zonta's resources wisely and according to the budget provided to them. The Committee will continue to review reports provided by staff, outside accountants and auditors and suggest ways to improve efficiency and fiscal stability.

## ORGANIZATION, MEMBERSHIP & CLASSIFICATION (OMC) COMMITTEE



The OMC Committee encourages and supervises the organization of new clubs and promotes continued membership growth. The Committee may consist of, but is not limited to, the Committee Chairman and the district OMC chairmen.

### **Ragna Karlsdottir, Chairman** **Zonta Club of Embla, Iceland**

Ragna is a civil engineer and currently works as the Deputy Head of Reservoir and Geophysics at Iceland GeoSurvey, one of the foremost research companies in geothermal research in the world. In this position, she interprets and models geothermal systems through geophysical exploration and manages special projects. She also enjoys taking part in joint decisions made by multiple disciplines within geothermal research.

A friend introduced Ragna to Zonta in 1990, and she is still proud to be part of the organi-

*Continued on page 18...*

...Continued on page 17

Kerry Dixon-Fox  
Anne-Marie French-Cudjoe  
Jane Wilson O'Brien  
Tokue Ueda

zation more than 20 years later. In that time, she has held numerous leadership positions at all levels of the organization, including most recently as International OMC Committee Chairman during the 2010-2012 Biennium. Prior to that, she served as Chairman of the International Public Relations and Communications Committee and before that as a Director on the Zonta International Board.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, Ragna wants to encourage members to take individual responsibility to increase Zonta's membership and enhance Zonta International's visibility and credibility. Without members, there is no organization. If the members embrace the biennial goals as their own, Zonta is more likely to achieve those goals.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS (PR&C) COMMITTEE



Tuija Heikkilä  
Mary Ann Rubis

The Public Relations and Communications Committee promotes the Objects of Zonta International, develops a comprehensive plan to create external and internal awareness of Zonta International and encourages positive international relations.

**Susanne von Bassewitz, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Düsseldorf, Germany**

As a communications professional, Susanne has worked at an international level throughout most of her career, and has held leadership positions in media relations, brand communications, corporate identity and change management. She is currently the Head of Dialogue for E.ON, one of the world's largest investor-owned power and gas companies with facilities across Europe, Russia and North America. In her role, Susanne is responsible for initiating, shaping and coordinating stakeholder dialogues. She enjoys making an important contribution to the success of the company while interacting with colleagues throughout the organization and opinion leaders outside the company.

Susanne joined Zonta in 1994. At the time, she was enjoying her first appointment as a director of communications and thought Zonta would be a good starting point to do something for women who were less fortunate in life. Nearly 20 years later, Zonta's mission is still close to her heart and she feels compelled to contribute her expertise and time to achieve Zonta's goals. Working with competent and interesting people from different cultural backgrounds is also fun and exciting. Susanne has served at all levels of Zonta, including most recently as International Director for the 2010-2012 Biennium. She is especially proud of a YWPA mentoring project she initiated in her area, in which all 31 clubs can participate.

As chairman, Susanne will work with her committee to support the International President, Headquarters Staff, international committees and districts within a jointly developed PR and communications plan. Her committee will work in close cooperation with the districts to ensure that regional and local needs are met and that the International Committee and district committees can join forces to promote Zonta's goals. Members of the PR&C Committee will make their expertise available to the organization by giving advice and by assuming clearly defined communication tasks.

## SERVICE COMMITTEE



Ma. Imelda "Dandy" Gomez, Vice Chairman  
Deborah Arney  
Alison Martin

The Service Committee recommends action in accordance with the Objects of Zonta International to improve the status of women through international service projects and shall encourage and support local service projects that are aligned with Zonta International's goals.

**Elba Pereyra de Gomensoro, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Punta del Este-Maldonado, Uruguay**

Elba joined Zonta in 1990 because she wanted to help women live in a world where they have the same rights and opportunities as men, a world where women do not suffer violence or discrimination and one where they are represented in governments. For Elba, Zonta is the best organization working to advance the status of women, and membership gives her, as all other members, the opportunity to help women locally and internationally. She also appreciates the opportunities for members to assume leadership roles and grow personally as they work together to achieve Zonta's goals. Elba has served in numerous leadership positions at the club, district and international levels, including the International Board in 2004-2006 and most recently was chairman of the International Nominating Committee during the 2010-2012 Biennium.

This biennium, as chairman of the International Service Committee, Elba will work to increase awareness of service projects at the club level, thereby increasing Zonta International's

visibility and credibility as an organization that accomplishes its mission to advance the status of women worldwide. "The only way for people to know what we do is if we inform them," said Elba. "I think the International Service Committee should work to encourage clubs who conduct service projects aligned with Zonta's objectives, give publicity to what they do and look at ways to promote Zonta International service programs."

Elba is a lawyer, specializing in family law and conflict resolution. She started her own law firm in Maldonado, Uruguay in 1977 and is well known in the community as a leader in solving community problems. Many of Elba's clients are women, and she enjoys the opportunity to help them solve family and work problems and to see that their rights are recognized and justice is served.

## Z CLUB AND GOLDEN Z CLUB COMMITTEE



The Z and Golden Z Club Program provides opportunities for high school and college students to develop leadership skills, explore career alternatives and improve global understanding through service and advocacy. The Z and Golden Z Club Committee promotes and disseminates information about the Program internally and externally and encourages clubs to organize and mentor Z and Golden Z clubs in their local areas.

**Lori Robinson, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, Canada**

Lori is a part-time professor at the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, where she shares her knowledge and years of experience in human resources management, contracts, policies, procedures, training and development with her students. Lori recently sold her human resources and staffing companies; however, she is enjoying the challenges of the diverse new projects she is currently working on.

A second-generation Zontian, Lori joined Zonta in 1998 to serve the community in which she lived and worked. She wanted to do something that gave her joy and a feeling of accomplishment and is especially proud of her club's Women of Achievement Awards, which honor talented and dedicated heroes in the community and also raise awareness of Zonta in the community.

As chairman of the Z and Golden Z Club Committee, Lori plans to promote the growth of the Z and Golden Z Club Program globally by encouraging Zonta clubs to invest in youth in their communities and start a local Z or Golden Z club. She will look to the Zonta clubs that already sponsor a Z or Golden Z club in their community to share their knowledge and experiences to grow the existing clubs and assist inexperienced clubs with starting their own Z or Golden Z clubs.

Lourdes Almeda Sese  
Maxelyn Tudman  
Chandrika Wijeyaratne

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Zonta International Foundation Finance Committee is responsible for preparing the Foundation budget for submission to the Foundation Board of Directors and reviewing monthly financial reports for the Foundation.

**Pia Sjöstrand, Chairman**  
**Zonta Club of Malmö III, Sweden**

Pia is the Financial Controller for E.ON Värme Sverige AB, the second largest district heating company in Sweden. The company operates power stations, district heating plants and district heating networks and is working towards cleaner energy heating solutions. In her role, Pia oversees the company's financial statements, group reporting, and financial control and development. She enjoys working in Sweden and abroad in an international environment.

Impressed by Zonta's multifaceted activities to improve women's positions and possibilities throughout the world, Pia joined Zonta in 1993; and, nearly 20 years later, she is still committed to supporting Zonta's high-quality projects and scholarships. Pia has served in numerous leadership roles throughout the organization, including as a member of the 2002 Convention Committee and three biennia on the Foundation Finance Committee, among other roles. She is especially proud of her work to support the 2002 ZI Convention in Gothenburg, Sweden and her collaboration with the ZI Finance Committee during the last biennium to ensure that Zonta can make the biggest difference both to the women who benefit from Zonta's support and to Zonta's members.

As Chairman of the Zonta International Foundation Finance Committee, Pia will work with her committee to continue its work to keep outstanding records of incoming and outgoing money, gain donor confidence, and show good results, thereby supporting the organization's common goals.

*Continued on page 20...*

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Lois Bauccio  
Karen Macier  
Dorothy Suther

The Zonta International Foundation Development Committee encourages contributions, grants, legacies and bequests for Foundation activities from individuals, organizations, foundations, corporations and other sources.

### **Jacqueline Beaudry, Chairman** **Zonta Club of Milwaukee, USA**

Jackie was already aware of Zonta's work in her community when she was asked to join in 1987. It was an honor to say yes; and, more than 20 years later, she is still committed to Zonta's local and international service projects and values the friendships she has made with like-minded women from all over the world. Jackie has served in leadership positions at all levels of Zonta, including as Zonta International Director and Chairman of the ZIF Development Committee during the 2010-2012 Biennium. "I am so proud to have had the privilege to serve in several positions over the years," says Jackie. "Each position taught me more about Zonta and about myself."

As Chairman of the Development Committee for the 2012-2014 Biennium, Jackie and her committee will work with the Zonta International Foundation Board to maintain its focus on education, communication and engagement of existing and potential donors. In doing so, they will successfully reach the Foundation's fundraising goals and raise awareness of the Foundation's support for Zonta's international service projects, strategies to end violence against women and educational programs.

Jackie is a retired human resources director with nearly 30 years of experience in negotiating multi-million dollar labor agreements. In the various professional roles she held throughout her career, Jackie learned to adapt to different cultures and acquired skills in coaching, consensus-building and conflict resolution. She is currently a Director on the Board of Crispell-Snyder Inc., a civil engineering firm that specializes in serving suburban and rural communities. She is the first person to serve on the Board that is not an employee of the company.

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION INVESTMENT COMMITTEE



Ruth Walker

The Zonta International Foundation Investment Committee is responsible for oversight as it relates to the long-term investment of Zonta International Foundation assets.

### **Beth Minear-Rex, Chairman** **Zonta Club of Greater Reno, USA**

Beth is a recently-retired financial advisor with more than 30 years of experience in the financial sector. While working as an Associate Vice President and Financial Advisor with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in San Francisco, California and Reno, Nevada, USA, she enjoyed helping clients and families by providing them with the necessary information to make informed decisions related to their financial health.

As Chairman of the Zonta International Foundation Investment Committee, Beth will use her financial knowledge and professional expertise to lead the Committee in overseeing investment decisions that ensure the long-term health and stability of Zonta International Foundation assets.

Beth joined Zonta in 2002 to support Zonta's mission to advance the status of women worldwide. She is proud to be a Zontian and to witness the positive changes effected in the lives of women throughout the world as a result of Zonta International's financial support and the dedication of Zonta's leaders each and every day. ■



# 2012-2014 Biennial Goals

*to be considered and voted upon at 2012 Convention*

## INTRODUCTION

These biennial goals are aligned to Zonta International's objects and strategic goals and outline Zonta's focus for 2012–2014. The goals build on the goals of the current biennium and provide the parameters within which districts and clubs can develop their own biennial and strategic goals. Each district and club also needs to take into account Zonta's mission while responding to its local needs.

Globally, we still have some way to go before women experience the same rights as men. Progress continues to be made as evidence in the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals Report 2011. This report provides an assessment of the status of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015 and agreed to by UN member States. In the report, Sha ZuKang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, states:

“At the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the MDGs and called for intensified collective action and the expansion of successful approaches. They acknowledged the challenges posed by multiple crises, increasing inequalities and persistent violent conflicts. They called for action to ensure equal access by women and girls to education, basic services, health care, economic opportunities and decision-making at all levels, recognizing that achievement of the MDGs depends largely on women's empowerment.”  
*Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 (2011, p6)*

In agreeing to these goals, UN member States committed their countries to reaching the goals and where possible, to providing resources to enable others to also meet these goals.

Zonta's objects, mission and strategic plan are aligned to the MDGs, including our local and international service projects, Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) and educational programs.

## 2012-2014 BIENNIUM

We turn now to the 2012-2014 Biennium, where the particular focus is on goal 10 of the Strategic Plan, credibility and visibility. This goal encompasses many of the other goals which are reflected in the measures assigned to the 2012-2014 Biennial Goals. By concentrating on further increasing our credibility and visibility, we can expect to increase our membership, successful advocacy initiatives, and demand for our education programs, as well as achieve an increase in donations to the Foundation and an associated increase in the funds distributed to our international service and ZISVAW projects and education programs.

The next two goals relate to the governance structure of both Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation. In the first year of the biennium, we will engage members in the revision of our strategic plan to ensure we remain relevant. Following the ZI Board's approval of the revised strategic plan, we will focus in the second year on reviewing our bylaws, rules of procedure and policies to ensure they are aligned to the approved strategic plan. Any changes to bylaws and rules of procedure will be considered at the 2014 Convention in Orlando, Florida.

The final goal calls upon Zonta International to continue to promote and encourage increased donations to the Zonta International Foundation. We are delighted that donations have increased during 2010-2012 from the previous biennium, especially given the state of the world economy and the number and severity of natural disasters that have occurred throughout the world. During 2012-2014, we are asking members to continue to donate generously to the Foundation and again exceed the fundraising goals so we can invest more resources to improve the rights and lives of women internationally.

The 2012-2014 Zonta International Foundation fundraising goal is 4,938,000 USD, an increase from the current biennium's 3,758,000 USD. This increase will be directed towards our international service and ZISVAW projects, Young Women in Public Affairs Awards and Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarships. Project descriptions and the explanations of the education and leadership development programs are provided in the March 2012 club mailing and are also available on the Zonta website at <http://www.zonta.org/MemberResources/Tools/ClubTools/March2012ClubMailing.aspx>.

We are proposing to retain two international services projects - the Liberian fistula project and Rwanda's elimination of new pediatric HIV infection and prevention and response to survivors of domestic and gender-based violence—and are increasing the funding to 1 million USD for each project.

Three ZISVAW projects are proposed with a combined value of 1,162,000 USD. They are a new Safe Cities for Women project in Honduras, empowering women in rural Samoa to combat violence, and a project in 12 Asian and African countries which uses edutainment, a proven approach using mass communication of a positive and locally-relevant message with community outreach to transform the myth that violence against women is “normal” and “inevitable”.

*Continued on page 22...*

Two of Zonta’s education programs will benefit from additional funding from the Foundation. More international Young Women in Public Affairs Awards will be handed out (an increase from 5 to 10 international awards), and the value of these awards will increase from the current 3,000 USD to 4,000 USD. Winners of the international Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarships will receive 7,000 USD, an increase from the current 5,000 USD.

**Goal. 1 CREDIBILITY AND VISIBILITY**

1. Zonta increases global awareness of its contributions to advancing women’s legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status.
2. Zonta increases the visibility, globally and locally, of issues that will advance the status of women through Zonta’s members, the United Nations (UN) and Council of Europe, other associations, national governments and networks, Zonta’s International Service Program, Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women Program (ZISVAW) and education programs.
3. Zonta meets its commitment to the UN agencies contracted to deliver the International Service and ZISVAW projects.
4. Zonta continues to advocate to prevent violence against women, drawing on its membership, networks and ZISVAW projects to increase the visibility of this issue globally and locally.
5. Zonta promotes itself as the organization of choice for those individuals committed to advancing the status of women through service and advocacy, which embraces Articles 1–16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

**GOAL 2. ZONTA INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

1. Zonta’s Strategic Plan is forward focused and will enable Zonta to achieve its mission.
2. Zonta’s bylaws, rules of procedure and policies are aligned to the Strategic Plan.
3. Zonta International, district and club leaders fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities and are encouraged to realize their leadership potential.
4. A smooth leadership transition occurs between 2012–2014 and 2014–2016.

**GOAL 3. ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

1. The Zonta International Foundation’s governance structure facilitates the achievement of its mission.

**GOAL 4. ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FINANCES**

As the corporate member of the Foundation, Zonta promotes and encourages:

1. Contributions to the Foundation to enable the 2012–2014 foundation’s fundraising goals to be exceeded.<sup>1</sup> The fundraising goals are listed below.

<b>Total.....</b>	<b>US\$4,938,000</b>
International Service Program Fund.....	US\$2,000,000
ZISVAW .....	US\$1,162,000
Rose Fund .....	US\$700,000
Amelia Earhart Fellowship Fund .....	US\$700,000
Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Fund .....	US\$232,000
Young Women in Public Affairs Award Fund .....	US\$144,000

<sup>1</sup> The foundation’s fundraising goal of US\$4,938,000 is the minimum to support Zonta’s programs and projects. Zonta needs to exceed the goal so it can further support women and girls to reach their full potential.

2. All clubs make annual donations to the Foundation.
3. Contributions to the Foundation increase from individual members, friends of Zonta, corporations and other external sources.

# Biennial Goals

## APPENDIX 1. MEASURES FOR THE 2012-2014 BIENNIAL GOALS

Qualitative and quantitative measures are provided for the Biennial Goals.

### Goal 1. Credibility and Visibility

The measures for the biennial credibility and visibility goals are:

1. Zonta's goals and achievements are promoted, externally and internally, by harnessing members' and stakeholders' passion, abilities and networks and using events as opportunities, so the Zonta story is told to reach as wide an audience as possible. A measure for this goal will be developed and monitored to demonstrate that Zonta's visibility has increased during the biennium.
2. Key advocacy stakeholders (such as the UN, the Council of Europe and national governments) report that Zonta is regarded as a leading and effective advocate for the rights of women and girls.
3. Global membership increases.
4. Total number of annual resignations decreases. Membership retention is measured to identify issues that cause members to resign and enable clubs to take action.
5. Donations to the Zonta International Foundation exceed the fundraising goals.
6. Club and district annual reports note advocacy initiatives (such efforts include CEDAW, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Beijing Platform for Action). There is an increase in written publications and success stories shared within and outside of Zonta.
7. Applications for the Amelia Earhart Fellowship exceed applications for the 2012 Fellowships.
8. Annually, all districts submit a nomination for both the Jane M Klausman Women in Business Scholarship and the Young Women in Public Affairs Award.
9. The number of past recipients of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, Jane M Klausman Scholarship and Young Women in Public Affairs Award who become members of Zonta increases from the previous biennium.
10. The number of Z and Golden Z clubs increases globally.
11. Zonta achieves its centennial milestones for the biennium.
12. The independent auditors continue to express an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.
13. Zonta International operates within its approved 2012-2014 budget.

### Goal 2. Zonta International Governance Structure

The measures for the biennial goals for Zonta International governance structure are:

1. The Zonta International Board approves the reviewed Strategic Plan by 30 June 2013.
2. Zonta bylaws and rules of procedure are reviewed by 31 October 2013, and changes are recommended to the Board by November 2013 with any proposed bylaws and rules of procedure changes submitted to members for consideration at the 2014 Zonta Convention.
3. Zonta's operation policies and manuals are updated, if needed, in accordance with the approved Strategic Plan and implementation plan.
4. A leadership development program for governors is developed and implemented.

### Goal 3. Zonta International Foundation Governance Structure

The measure for the biennial goals for the Foundation's governance structure is:

The Foundation improves its three-star rating as a foundation by US-based Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)) and retains the US-based GuideStar Exchange Seal ([www2.guidestar.org](http://www2.guidestar.org)).

### Goal 4. Zonta International Foundation Finances

The measures for the biennial goals for the Foundation's finances are:

1. Exceeding the 2012–2014 Foundation fundraising goals through increased giving by individuals and clubs.
2. By 31 May 2013, an additional 5% of clubs have donated to the Foundation compared with 31 May 2012.
3. By 30 April 2014, an additional 7.5% of clubs have donated to the Foundation compared with 30 April 2012.
4. By 30 April 2014, an additional 10% of individual members have donated to the Foundation compared to 30 April 2012.

# Liberia Fistula Program

A PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HAS SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT SINCE 2008. DURING THE 2012-2014 BIENNIUM, THE PROGRAM WILL MOVE FROM PROJECT-BASED TREATMENT TO TREATMENT INTEGRATED INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM. THE PROJECT WILL BE EXPANDED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO WOMEN WHO HAVE UNDERGONE UNSUCCESSFUL FISTULA REPAIR SURGERIES AND WOMEN WITH FISTULAE THAT CANNOT BE SURGICALLY REPAIRED (INOPERABLE).

*2012-2014 Funding: US\$1,000,000 from the International Service Fund*

*The UNFPA administration fee is 7 percent.*

## BACKGROUND

Liberia has an estimated population of 3.5 million people with a high maternal mortality ratio estimated at 990 deaths per 100,000 live births, meaning that four women die every day in pregnancy or childbirth. The life expectancy at birth for women is 59 years. There are only three obstetricians and gynecologists in the entire country, and 54% of women deliver their babies at home. While the exact prevalence of obstetric fistula in Liberia is unknown, it is estimated that there are 600-1,000 new cases of fistula every year. Obstetric fistula is the most common form of fistula in Liberia, accounting for an estimated 86% of cases of fistulae operated on between 2007 and 2011; the remaining fistulae resulted from sexual violence, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM) or malpractice fistula.

## WHAT IS OBSTETRIC FISTULA?

Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury caused by prolonged, obstructed labor without timely medical intervention, usually a caesarean section. During unassisted, prolonged labor, the sustained pressure of the baby's head on the mother's pelvic bone damages her soft tissues and pelvic nerves, creating a hole—or fistula—between the vagina and bladder and/or rectum. The pressure prevents blood flow to the tissue; and, eventually, the dead tissue peels off, damaging the original structure of

the vagina, resulting in constant leaking of urine and/or feces through the vagina. In most cases, the baby is still-born; and, in some cases, the woman is left paralyzed.

In addition to the physical consequences, fistula can also have social and psychological effects on patients. Often there is stigma associated with this condition, and those women suffering from fistula are abandoned by their families and marginalized by their communities. Traumatic fistula, as a result of rape, adds to the psychological trauma, fear and stigma that follow rape, including the risk of unwanted pregnancy, vulnerability to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, and decreased chances for women to get married, work or participate in the larger community.

The average cost of fistula surgery and post-operative care is approximately US\$675, while the cost of social rehabilitation for a fistula survivor (provision of skills training and psychosocial support) is on average US\$1,300.

## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO END FISTULA

Obstetric fistula occurs disproportionately among impoverished women and girls, especially those women living far from medical services. To address this issue, UNFPA and partners launched the Global Campaign to End Fistula in 2003.

## FISTULA IN LIBERIA—ZONTA'S IMPACT

Since 2008, Zonta International has been the major funder of the Liberia Fistula Project, a UNFPA-supported initiative to end the condition in Liberia.

**With Zonta's support, the project has:**

- Strengthened and equipped two fistula centers in Liberia—one in the capital, Monrovia, and another in Central Liberia.
- Trained six doctors and more than 70 nurses, midwives and physician assistants, who in turn treated 875 fistula patients.
- Trained 20 fistula survivors, 16 journalists and 10 students to serve as fistula advocates, disseminating information about the causes, preventions and treatment of obstetric fistula.
- Trained 196 fistula survivors in income-generating activities and reintegrated them back into their communities.

The project is sustainable because it has been integrated into the national health system and is implemented largely by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW). Treatment is free and is provided in government health facilities as part of comprehensive maternal health services, and fistula care and treatment are an integral part of the revised Sexual and Reproductive Health policy and plan for Liberia.

## GOAL

In order to eliminate obstetric fistula in Liberia, the project has four objectives.

### Prevent

- Prevent fistula from occurring in the first place;

### Treat

- Provide quality treatment for women and girls living with fistula;

### Rehabilitate

- Rehabilitate and reintegrate fistula survivors; and

### Support

- Provide support to women with inoperable cases.

Zonta International has supported this project since 2008. This project aligns with the Zonta International Biennial Goals and Millennium Development Goal #5—Improve maternal health.





*Fistula survivor making pastries. The Zonta-supported rehabilitation center helps survivors learn new skills that they can turn into a business when they return to their communities. The profit from pastry-making has enabled her to build a house for her family.*

Zonta's support of the Liberia Fistula Program is helping to achieve universal access to reproductive health services in Liberia and is reducing the maternal mortality ratio through treatment of obstetric fistula.

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Prevent the occurrence of obstetric and traumatic fistula through national and community partnerships, greater emphasis on advocacy, community mobilization and education and a reduction in the use of harmful, traditional obstetric practices.
- Provide quality surgical and non-surgical treatment for obstetric and traumatic fistula through a transition from campaign-based fistula units to permanent fistula units and an expansion of existing, quality treatment services.
- Rehabilitate fistula survivors by equipping them with skills for economic empowerment and sustainability, preparing them for both social and economic reintegration into their communities.
- Provide support to women with inoperable fistula cases or those survivors with a degree of continence, including medical and material support and access to income-generating activities.

#### ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

##### Prevent

- National task force on fistula strengthened and functioning
- Fistula survivors, community leaders and traditional birth attendants, among others, trained to serve as advocates
- Communication strategy to promote fistula prevention developed

##### Treat

- Fistula survivors tracked and subsequent pregnancies followed up to ensure hospital-based intervention (Caesarean-section)
- Women with access to free and quality fistula treatment and care services
- Health care providers trained in fistula management
- At least two hospitals equipped to integrate fistula services into maternal health services
- One hospital equipped as a center of excellence for fistula repair and training

##### Rehabilitate

- Fistula survivors receiving psychosocial counseling
- Fistula survivors receiving vocational training

##### Support

- Inoperable fistula survivors receiving medical and material support

#### LIBERIA STATISTICS

- Population (millions) – 3.5
- Surface Area (sq. km.) – 111,369
- GDP per capita (PPP US\$) – 360
- Life expectancy at birth (years)
 

Men	55.82
Women	59.04
- Human Development Index Rank 1-187 (1 is highest) – 182
- Seats held by women in Parliament (%) – 12.5
- Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 80
- Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 births) – 990
- Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) – 46.3
- Contraceptive prevalence rate (%) – 11.4
- Population with access to contraceptive services (%) – 11
- Female enrollment in primary education (%) – 65.6
- Internet users (per 100 people) – 0.1
- Population below \$1 (PPP) per day (%) – 83.7

Country statistics were taken from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011.

“Because of his love and care, we have two children, the first born in 2007 and the last one in 2009. I must say that I am blessed to have found a man who chose to love and keep me despite my condition.”

## A New Life After Fistula

TEETA, 28, LOST ALL HOPE AFTER LIVING FOR 12 YEARS WITH OBSTETRIC FISTULA; CONSTANTLY MOCKED AND REJECTED, SHE WANTED TO DIE. AFTER RECEIVING TREATMENT, SHE NOW PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

### RECALLING THE ORDEALS OF FISTULA

Teeta got pregnant for the first time in 2001. She was 16. Living in a remote village, she didn't have access to ante-natal care, which could have helped prevent the ordeal she was about to experience.

When it was time for her to deliver, there was no professional midwife to assist her in the process. She recounts: “I went into labor in my village and, because I was unable to deliver the baby, I was taken to the nearby hospital in a hammock, a journey that took more than five hours. After two days, I was transferred from this hospital to Phebe, central Liberia (about 125 km away) because they could not help me in the clinic. At Phebe hospital, I received the operation (C-section) to remove the baby, but he was already dead after six days of travel. This was how I developed this condition and started to leak urine all the time.”

Teeta remained hospitalized for more than a month as a result of paralysis of the lower limbs. According to her, the years that followed were even more agonizing than remaining in labor for six days.

“For the first three years, it was difficult for me to accept this condition, especially after losing my baby.” Her friends and family members started to see her as unworthy of their company.

Things got a bit better for Teeta when a man fell in love with her. “When my boyfriend proposed to me, I told him that I had fistula and he would have to live with the constant leaking of urine. He agreed. He is the reason why I am here today. Because of his love and care, we have two children, the first born in 2007 and the last one in 2009. I must say that I am blessed to have found a man who chose to love and keep me despite my condition.”

Teeta confessed though that, despite her partner's love and care, she always craved for a normal life. “I was always embarrassed by my condition,” she said.

### LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Teeta is happy now. “Since my operation last February, I don't have to wake up countless times at night to change my wet clothing.”

After surgery, she started to attend the skills training and rehabilitation programme offered to fistula survivors by the Liberia Fistula Project. Supported by the United Nations Population Funds and funded by Zonta International, the aim of the programme is to teach income generating activities so former fistula patients can be financially independent when they go back to their communities.

Teeta will take soap-making and baking courses for the next three or four months. She also plans to complete her primary education through a special adult education program after she finishes the rehabilitation programme.

### CAMPAIGN TO END FISTULA IN LIBERIA

Teeta is one of the women and girls who have benefited from free fistula treatment and reintegration packages provided by the Liberia Fistula Project of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, funded by the UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, through partner organizations like Zonta International.

The program was launched in 2007 to prevent and treat obstetric fistula, as well as support the reintegration of survivors into their communities after treatment. So far, the program has treated 875 women and girls with an 83 percent success rate; 169 of the patients were rehabilitated and reintegrated into society.



*(above) Teeta (first from left) in one of the training sessions at the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center in Phebe, Bong County, Central Liberia.*

*Teeta learns to write her name at the Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center in Phebe, Bong County, Central Liberia.*

# Elimination of New Pediatric HIV Infection and Prevention and Response to Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence in Rwanda

A PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) SINCE 2008, ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HAS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION (MTCT) OF HIV IN RWANDA. THE PROJECT IS NOW AT A CRITICAL TURNING POINT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA CALLING TO ELIMINATE MTCT OF HIV IN RWANDA BY 2015, WHICH WOULD MEAN REACHING THE COUNTRY'S TARGET GOAL OF A 2% TRANSMISSION RATE WHICH IS LESS THAN THE 5% SET BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

*2012-2014 Funding: US\$1,000,000 from the International Service Fund*

*The program support costs for UNICEF and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF are 8% in total. The U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports UNICEF's work through fund-raising, advocacy, and education in the United States.*

## BACKGROUND

Rwanda is one of the most vibrant and dynamic emerging democracies in Africa today. While the wounds of the 1994 genocide are still raw, the country has elaborated its Vision 2020 for attaining the Millennium Development Goals, decentralizing authority, increasing the enrollment of girls and boys in school, reducing child mortality and electing the highest number of women to parliament, while sustaining good economic growth.

Despite its successes, however, Rwanda is still one of the poorest countries in the world. Half of the country's 10.9 million people are children; 220,000 of whom are orphans due to AIDs and 100,000 of whom live in child-headed households. More than 80% of Rwanda's population lives in rural areas and depends on subsistence farming; however, land for cultivation is scarce.

## HIV IN RWANDA—ZONTA'S IMPACT

In 2010, 3% of the population was HIV-positive; yet, only 48% of young girls knew how HIV is transmitted. An estimated 19,000 children were living with HIV, of which only 4,350 were un-

dergoing treatment. Through UNICEF's support and the support of partners like Zonta International, services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) are now available in 82% of Rwanda's health facilities (up from 42% in 2005). In 2010, about 70% of all pregnant women could access HIV testing during pregnancy, with 81% of them testing together with their partners (partner testing was just 33% in 2005); and 78% of all HIV-positive pregnant women, and 74% of all infants born to HIV-positive mothers received antiretroviral (ARV) therapy for PMTCT in 2010. Since 2010, Rwanda has adopted a more effective ARV treatment plan that can reduce the MTCT rate to below 2% at birth.

This biennium is Zonta's third consecutive biennium of support for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda. Zonta International now has a unique opportunity to help win the war on HIV and eliminate MTCT in Rwanda by 2015. Effective programs focused on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV can virtually eliminate the spread of the virus to infants in Sub-Saharan Africa where 90% of new pediatric HIV infections still occur. The First Lady of Rwanda has called for elimination of new pediatric HIV infections in Rwanda by 2015, which means reducing the MTCT rate from about 16% in 2010 to less than 2% by 2015.

## GOALS

The goals of this project are to:

**Eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda by 2015 by (country target of 2% transmission rate)**

- Supporting policies and programs backed by evidence supporting their effectiveness and success; and
- Documenting and modeling effective-family package approaches in three districts.

**Reduce incidence and lessen the impact of gender-based violence through**

- Support for the Government of Rwanda at the policy and strategic planning level in formulating a strategy to guide partners in the expansion of one stop centers to avoid duplication of efforts, ensure equal geographic distribution of services and clarify the role of each service provider;
- National, standardized, easy to use protocols of care for medical, legal and psychological care and follow-up to survivors of violence; and
- An increase in the availability of services for survivors of violence, as well as the overall understanding of violence prevention and training of service providers to respond appropriately to the needs of survivors.

This project also contributes to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal #4—reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate—and Goal #6—combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease. It also aligns with Zonta International's 2012-2014 Biennial Goals to increase global awareness of Zonta's contributions, meet commitments to UN agencies and advocate to prevent violence against women.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda by 2015

- Support the Government of Rwanda in expanding effective PMTCT strategies, identifying gaps in coverage and collecting evidence on what practices work best.
- Support integration of HIV/PMTCT information into the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) data monitoring tool to strengthen follow-up with exposed mothers and their children.
- Support the establishment of a district wide strategy to eliminate pediatric HIV infections through the implementation of high impact interventions with a focus on the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach women.
- Support male and female-centered approaches in prevention of HIV services with a focus on maternal and child survival.
- Strengthen access to comprehensive package of youth-friendly services for the growing number of adolescents living with HIV (with a focus on young girls).

### Reduce incidence and lessen the impact of gender-based violence

- Support the Government in expansion of one stop centers for the prevention of and response to domestic and gender-based violence in all five provinces of Rwanda.
- Contribute to Government's efforts to establish guidelines for multidisciplinary care (medical, legal and psychological) for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence to ensure that all survivors are treated according to set guidelines of quality care.
- Support data collection to establish evidence for domestic and gender-based violence and its connection to the transmission of HIV.
- Support national and community-level mobilization campaigns around the prevention of and response to domestic and gender-based violence, specifically focused on sexual violence against young girls, violence among couples where only one half of the couple is HIV-positive, and violence against women during pregnancy.



*A female medical doctor gives ARV medication to an infant at an early infant diagnosis (EID) clinic at the Zonta International-supported Kicukiro Health Centre.*

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

### Eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Rwanda by 2015

- HIV prevention policies and guidelines are established based on evidence from research and evaluation of the program.
- Increased percentage of pregnant women receiving complete package of PMTCT services for their HIV-exposed infant.
- Decrease in the rate of MTCT at the end of breastfeeding period to about 5%.
- Increased number of adolescents living with HIV that are using care and treatment services.
- Increased number of young girls empowered by awareness of HIV prevention and planned pregnancies.

### Reduce incidence and lessen the impact of gender-based violence

- Increased number of survivors of domestic and gender-based violence seeking care.
- Increased number of victims receiving multidisciplinary care and follow-up.
- Increase in admissible forensic evidence and interviews from one stop centers that lead to increased percentage of convictions for domestic and gender-based violence.

## RWANDA STATISTICS

- **Population** (millions) – 10.9
- **Surface Area** (sq. km.) – 26,338
- **GDP per capita** (PPP US\$) – 1,032
- **Life expectancy at birth** (years)
 

Men	56.96
Women	59.96
- **Human Development Index Rank 1-187** (1 is highest) – 166
- **Seats held by women in Parliament** (%) – 56.3
- **Infant mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 70
- **Maternal mortality ratio** (deaths per 100,000 births) – 540
- **Births attended by skilled health personnel** (%) – 52.1
- **Contraceptive prevalence rate** (%) – 36.4
- **Female enrollment in primary education** (%) – 97
- **Internet users** (per 100 people) – 1.1
- **Population below \$1 (PPP) per day** (%) – 76.8

Country statistics were taken from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011.



*Immaculée is living with HIV but still feels blessed since her daughter is not infected by the disease.*

## Zonta supports lifesaving activities for people living with HIV in Rwanda

BY GLENN JUSNES

MUSANZE, Rwanda, 28 March 2012—When Immaculée was diagnosed as HIV-positive, it was hard for her to accept it at first but after receiving counselling, funded in part by Zonta, she has slowly begun to understand more about the disease and now knows how to cope and live with it. The counsellors at the local health centre told her that despite her HIV-positive status she could give birth to a healthy child. “My husband couldn’t accept his HIV-positive status at first and he just recently started taking antiretroviral drugs. Since I was already pregnant, I immediately started taking the drugs to save my child.”

Rwanda is one of the few countries in Africa that has started a national campaign to eliminate the transmission of HIV from mother to child. In the end of 2011, there were 446 health facilities, which offer integrated Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services in the country. In 2010, some 9,000 HIV-positive pregnant women benefitted from these services. This figure is representing 87% of all HIV-positive pregnant women in Rwanda. Almost 7,000 of these women received antiretroviral drugs during pregnancy and labor to prevent mother-to-child-transmission of HIV.

UNICEF has partnered with Zonta International since 2008 to prevent HIV transmission from mother to child by providing a full range of family package services at PMTCT sites throughout Rwanda. With the generous contributions from Zonta, UNICEF will continue to support the Government to help HIV-positive women and children to live healthy lives in dignity and hope.

Immaculée is one of the many women who has benefitted from this support. “I attended antenatal care sessions and was put on anti-retroviral treatment. I was also advised to give birth at the hospital instead of at home. The delivery went well and the child was given drugs treatment for 28 days after the birth. After six weeks, they tested my baby girl for the first time and the result was negative. Then they gave the baby antibiotics and I was advised to exclusively breastfeed my daughter for the first six months of her life or until I had stopped producing enough milk. After 18 months she was tested for the second time. When the result again showed that she was HIV-negative, I felt really blessed by God,” Immaculée says with a big smile.

“I now feel good because I’m disciplined and follow the doctors’ advice. I also avoid stressful situations and take my medicine regularly and over time,” she continues before she adds one of her major concerns. “Will we continue to receive this type of support? You know, we need to take these drugs for the rest of our lives—but if the drugs stop, our lives stop.”

*(top right) Health centre in Rubengeri city, Musanze District, which among other services is providing family planning and HIV counselling. Zonta’s support assisted with the rehabilitation of the PMTCT wing of the health centre.*

*During a PMTCT counseling session, a female facilitator speaks to a group of couples before HIV tests are conducted at a UNICEF-supported voluntary counseling and testing clinic, located at the Zonta International-supported Kicukiro Health Centre in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.*

*(far right) A woman smiles while weighing her child on a scale at Zonta International supported Kicukiro health clinic.*



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# Mass Communication with a Purpose: Global Partnership on Edutainment for Social Change

A PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (UN TRUST FUND) MANAGED BY UN WOMEN AND DELIVERED BY OXFAM NOVIB, A DUTCH-BASED CHARITY AND ONE OF THE 14 NATIONAL AFFILIATES OF THE OXFAM INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION. DRAWING UPON SUCCESSFUL EDUTAINMENT PROJECTS IN INDIA, NICARAGUA AND SOUTH AFRICA, THE PROJECT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY PARTNER AGENCIES IN THE 12 TARGET COUNTRIES, INCLUDING BANGLADESH AND NIGERIA IN YEAR ONE AND AFGHANISTAN, CAMBODIA, EGYPT, MALI, NIGER, PAKISTAN, RWANDA, SOMALIA, SUDAN AND VIETNAM IN YEAR TWO.

*2012-2014 Funding: US\$802,124 from the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women (ZISVAW) Fund*

*The administration fee for UN Women is 7 percent.*

## WHAT IS EDUTAINMENT?

Edutainment is the term used to describe a proven approach that combines mass communication of a positive and locally-relevant message with community outreach to transform the myth that violence against women (VAW) is “normal” and “inevitable”. The edutainment approach, which combines traditional and contemporary media, is proven to be both cost-effective and efficient in reaching women and men on a much wider scale.

For examples of successful, award-winning edutainment projects in India, please visit [www.youtube.com/user/LetsBreakThrough](http://www.youtube.com/user/LetsBreakThrough).

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN TARGET COUNTRIES

Women suffer high levels of physical and psychological violence in intimate and wider family relationships in the project’s target Countries. Nigeria and Bangladesh will be the focus of the project in the first year of implementation; the remaining 10 countries will follow on a smaller scale in the second year. These countries were also chosen due to their patriarchal cultures, high population densities and histories of

violent conflicts. Two additional factors were that women’s movements are restricted, and they lack access to support services. The forms of violence against women in these countries often go unrecognized because they are seen as “normal” or “customary,” and most women do not report the abuse. For example, 97% of married Egyptian women experience female genital mutilation while 76% of women in Niger and 49% of Pakistani women marry before the age of 18. These countries also lack laws prohibiting violence against women or fail to implement existing laws.

In one of the target countries in year one, Bangladesh, women do not have equal access to economic opportunities, basic services or decision-making power. Violence against women in Bangladesh is high, with 47% of women experiencing physical violence from their spouses and 50% of female murders committed by an intimate partner. Much of the abuse is dowry-related and involves restrictions on movement or acid throwing. Sexual harassment is also very common and is the main cause of suicides and early marriages for girls. In addition, 68% of women do not report abuse.

In Nigeria, the second target country year one, 30% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse in their lifetime. As a result, women face a high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Violence against women is regarded as a private matter, which relates to the lack of legal or counseling services for victims and low prosecution of abusers.

## GOAL

The goal of the project is to use mass media edutainment strategies to raise awareness in the community of violence against women by challenging existing cultural norms and attitudes that condone and endorse violence against women. An extensive edutainment project is planned in Bangladesh and Nigeria during the first year of support, with lessons learned from these countries applied to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Vietnam during the second year of support.

The project will support women’s organizations and media organizations in the target countries to produce effective anti-violence media campaigns using edutainment strategies. Through the combined use of television and radio soap series, music videos, computer games, comic books, street theater, social media, mobile technology, talk and reality shows, and film, the project will seek to:

- Change behaviors, norms and attitudes about violence against women;
- Increase awareness of the prevalence of violence against women and girls in target countries and empower 250,000 people to speak out;
- Change perceptions of men and women about “normal” and “healthy” relationships; and
- Assist survivors of violence to know their rights and access support services.

The goal of this project also aligns with Zonta’s 2012-2014 Biennial goals, specifically the goal to increase Zonta’s credibility and visibility through continued advocacy to prevent violence against women by drawing on Zonta’s membership, networks and ZISVAW projects to increase the visibility of the issue of violence against women globally and locally. This project has very wide reach and opportunities to profile Zonta.



## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Apply best practices from proven edutainment programs in South Africa, India and Nicaragua

- Document and implement successful edutainment strategies, including factors critical to the success of these campaigns, from edutainment campaign experts in [South Africa \(Soul City\)](#), as well as UN Trust Fund grantees in [India \(Breakthrough\)](#) and [Nicaragua \(Puntos de Encuentro\)](#).

### Conduct capacity building trainings for partners in Bangladesh and Nigeria

- Complete a training needs assessment for partners in Bangladesh and Nigeria, review and update training materials as needed, and provide capacity building workshops, facilitated by Breakthrough in Bangladesh and Soul City in Nigeria.

### Create an online forum for partners in the 12 countries

- Develop an internet-based community where partners from all 12 countries can discuss project challenges, strategies and lessons learned.

### Launch edutainment campaigns

- Start campaigns in Nigeria (15 states) and Bangladesh (10 national districts) that target teachers, leaders, parents and police, all who play a role in socializing and legitimizing beliefs and attitudes around violence against women.

### Apply best practices from Nigeria and Bangladesh campaigns

- Identify key success factors for the campaigns in Bangladesh and Nigeria and develop case studies and discussion papers on best practices and lessons learned.

### Conduct capacity building trainings for partners in 10 additional countries

- Start capacity building training assessment in 10 remaining project countries to facilitate planning of successful edutainment campaigns on VAW.

### Plan follow-up campaigns

- From the lessons learned in Bangladesh and Nigeria, develop and

## BANGLADESH STATISTICS

- **Population** (millions) – 158.7
- **Surface Area** (sq. km.) – 143,998
- **GDP per capita** (PPP US\$) – 1,286
- **Life expectancy at birth** (years)  
Men 68.21  
Women 71.98
- **Human Development Index Rank 1-187** (1 is highest) – 146
- **Seats held by women in Parliament** (%) – 18.6
- **Infant mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 41
- **Maternal mortality ratio** (deaths per 100,000 births) – 340
- **Births attended by skilled health personnel** (%) – 24.4
- **Contraceptive prevalence rate** (%) – 55.8
- **Female enrollment in primary education** (%) – 93.1
- **Internet users** (per 100 people) – 3.7
- **Population below \$1 (PPP) per day** (%) – 49.6

launch small scale campaigns in 10 remaining countries; assist partners in these countries with developing full-fledged campaign proposals to raise necessary support for future, large scale campaigns.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Increase in levels of awareness on the incidence and scale of violence against women.
- Increase in the number of individuals who have changed their attitudes regarding violence against women, speaking out against such violence, and taking preventative, protective or political action to address such violence.
- Increase in the number of civil society organizations who have the capacity to stage successful edutainment campaigns in the field of violence against women.

## NIGERIA STATISTICS

- **Population** (millions) – 148.1
- **Surface Area** (sq. km.) – 923,768
- **GDP per capita** (PPP US\$) – 1,166
- **Life expectancy at birth** (years)  
Men 48.95  
Women 55.33
- **Human Development Index Rank 1-187** (1 is highest) – 159
- **Seats held by women in national Parliament** (%) – 7.0
- **Infant mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 86
- **Maternal mortality ratio** (deaths per 100,000 births) – 840
- **Births attended by skilled health personnel** (%) – 38.9
- **Contraceptive prevalence rate** (%) – 14.6
- **Female enrollment in primary education** (%) – 59.6
- **Internet users** (per 100 people) – 28.4
- **Population below \$1 (PPP) per day** (%) – 64.4

Country statistics were taken from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011.

*For photos of edutainment strategies in action, please see pages 34 and 35.*



# Un Trust Fund To End Violence Against Women

## EDUTAINMENT FOR A WORLD FREE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

### INTERVIEW WITH UN TRUST FUND GRANTEE

*Puntos De Encuentro, Nicaragua.*

#### What is the relevance of Edutainment for social change?

Edutainment—short for Entertainment Education—uses entertainment formats to spread ideas on a mass scale; ideas that promote personal and collective change by encouraging audiences to question their realities and mobilize for change. This is a powerful tool to stimulate social discussion around topics considered taboo, which are presented to the audience through a human face.

The power of edutainment for social change is linked to the increasing presence of mass media, and especially entertainment, in people’s lives. We believe the magic is in the mix, as it allows for both individual and social change catalysts to operate simultaneously and over time. This provides the benefits of both big scale and more concentrated face-to-face reinforcement at the local level. The result is that the synergy of the integrated whole is definitely more than the sum of the parts.

#### What are Puntos’ most successful experiences in the use of Edutainment?

Nowadays, Puntos is internationally known for its TV soap “Sixth Sense” and its communication strategy for social change “We are equal. We are different”. However, the roots of this initiative can be located in a previous effort: the feminist magazine “La Boletina”. Addressing a range of issues that affect Nicaraguan women, this quarterly publication has the largest circulation in the country with 26,000 editions distributed each trimester to 280 organizations in all the 17 provinces.

In the past, Puntos participated in the design of a number of campaigns launched by the Women’s National Network Against Violence, including the one which led to the first law on domestic violence in Nicaragua in 1996. Drawing on this success, the organization rolled out a campaign on the national TV, addressing complex and diverse themes that affected day-to-day lives of Nicaraguan population. This resulted in the first youth soap opera filmed and produced in Nicaragua: “Sexto Sentido”

When “Sexto Sentido” (“Sixth Sense”) was first broadcasted, most of the women and young women in the country knew nothing about the Domestic Violence Law, and had never made use of it. Puntos decided to address the issue of violence against women through the life of one of the main characters, Elena, who lived with her mother in a domestic violence context. Throughout the series, Elena discovers the law and convinces her mother to use it, in order to stop mistreatment by her husband, through a protection order.

A pamphlet that portrayed Elena and provided additional information on the law was simultaneously distributed, ensuring identification of young women with the message and a stronger impact. A PSA (Public Service Announcement) was broadcasted at the end of each episode, in which Elena presented the law and showed the pamphlet, informing the audience how to get in contact with the National Women’s Network.

Initially developed to be broadcasted in Nicaragua, “Sexto Sentido” – which captured 70% of TV audience during its broadcast hours—has been aired throughout Central America and in TV channels in the United States, Mexico and Bolivia.

*Puntos de Encuentro is known internationally for its integrated model combining ‘edutainment’ in the media with capacity building and social mobilization. Over the past several years, its ‘social soap’ series Sexto Sentido, produced in Nicaragua and aired in 10 countries in Latin and Central America, has won multiple awards, including the ‘Best Youth Series’ at the 2010 International Television Festival for Marketing Telenovelas in Argentina, as well as the 2009 ‘Best Practices in Youth Programmes and Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean’.*

*The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women is supporting Puntos de Encuentro as part of its Cycle 13 grantees. The project Promoting a Favorable Environment for Ending Violence against Women in Nicaragua engages NGO, media, and academic partners, harnessing the power of the mass media to promote gender equity and non-violence messages. The initiative is strengthening capacity of the women’s movement to advocate for implementation of relevant legislation, generating new knowledge around violence, supplying women with tools for exiting violent situations, and providing the women’s movement with space for reflection, dialogue and coordination.*





Puntos' most recent edutainment initiative is called "Contracorriente" ("Against the Tide"). This second fiction production uses a TV format and aims to serve as a strategy for strengthening the women's movement, through participation of a large number of women's organizations. With this approach, Puntos contributes to a sense of collective ownership, not only around its contents but also around dissemination and use of the soap opera.

Having been to date broadcasted in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Dominican Republic, "Contracorriente" targets a cross-generational audience with an approach that interrogates family's traditional values. The stories in this series address issues such as commercial sexual exploitation of teenagers, young female labor at sweatshop factories, family money management, sexual abuse and its effects, sexual identity, amongst others.

[www.lifefreeofviolence.org](http://www.lifefreeofviolence.org)

*(above) "Contracorriente" production team shooting some of the TV soap scenes in the lake of the city of Granada.*

*One of the first episodes of Puntos' TV soap "Contracorriente": Karen returns from Costa Rica, where she had migrated seeking a better life, and meets her mother, Coco, back in Nicaragua.*



# Safe Cities for Women in Honduras

A PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN) ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HAS SUPPORTED THE SAFE CITIES PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR SINCE 2008. THIS BIENNIUM, ZONTA WILL DIRECT ITS SUPPORT TO THE SAFE CITIES FOR WOMEN PROJECT IN HONDURAS.

*2012-2014 Funding: US\$250,000 from the ZISVAW Fund*

*The administration fee for UN Women is 7 percent.*

## BACKGROUND

More than 50% of the world's population—approximately 3.4 billion people—lives in cities today, and this number is projected to increase to 69% by 2015. With this rapid urbanization come increased risks for citizens of urban areas, especially women and children. Many face sexual assault or harassment on streets, public transportation or in their own neighborhoods. The Safe Cities Program addresses the issue of urban violence by working with local authorities and organizations on the ground to build awareness and solutions.

The Republic of Honduras is located in Central America. It is a lower middle-income country with a huge wealth gap and a population of more than 7 million people, the majority of whom live in four main cities—Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choluteca and Puerto Cortes. Since the 2009 coup d'état in Honduras, women's human rights violations and insecurity have grown at an alarming rate. According to women's rights groups, violence against women has increased more than 20% between 2010 and 2011, and the incidence of crimes committed through hired killers has grown as well, with at least 30 murders of women directly related to hired killers.

The Safe Cities Program will focus its efforts in two neighborhoods of Tegucigalpa—Colonias Villanueva (27,000 inhabitants) and Nueva Suyapa (26,000 inhabitants). Both neighborhoods lack basic resources

(water, sanitation, public lighting and police security) with rising crime with drug-related violence, youth gangs and criminal groups.

## SAFE CITIES—ZONTA'S IMPACT

Zonta International has supported the Safe Cities Program in Guatemala and El Salvador since 2008, implementing practical measures to increase women's safety in urban spaces and prevent violence against women. Those measures include, among others:

- Training of local women to serve as program advocates and suggest improvements in their communities
- Mapping of unsafe spaces in San Salvador and Guatemala City which led to cleaning and recovery of public spaces (improved infrastructures, landscaping, trash cans for garbage, fencing and security)
- Advocacy with local police and government officials to raise awareness of issue of gender-based violence and include a gender perspective in municipal plans and procedures

Women in communities where projects were undertaken have reported improvements with increased reporting to police and increased commitment from local authorities to train civil servants on gender and the prevention of violence against women.

## GOAL

UN Women will replicate the successful initiatives of the Safe Cities Program in Guatemala and El Salvador, a program Zonta International has funded for the last two biennia, to strengthen the rights, citizenship and participation of women in Tegucigalpa in order to reduce public and private violence against women. The project will lever-

age local women who are often more willing to participate in activities to promote the development of their communities, with an emphasis on activities that improve the lives of their children and the community as a whole.

The goal of this project also aligns with Zonta's 2012-2014 Biennial goals, specifically the goal to increase Zonta's credibility and visibility through continued advocacy to prevent violence against women by drawing on Zonta's membership, networks and ZISVAW projects to increase the visibility of the issue of violence against women globally and locally.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 2010, UN Women implemented a component of the Safe Cities Program—Women in the City—in Tegucigalpa to raise awareness on how urban violence affects women and men differently.

**The campaign had four objectives:**

1. Raise public awareness on the rights of women to live in a safe city without violence
2. Raise awareness of urban violence that is experienced as a natural part of daily life and highlight the violence experienced by women in Latin American cities
3. Raise awareness of how insecurity does not permit an equal use and enjoyment of the cities by women and men
4. Promote women's active citizenship and civil society organizations The Safe Cities Program will build on the successes of the Women in the City campaign and the successful initiatives in Guatemala and El Salvador to help local women recover public spaces for women, children and their communities.

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

Women will directly benefit from this project.

- With enhanced capacity-building for local women and women's organizations and improved urban planning and infrastructure development, the project will involve 600 families in each neighborhood, reaching a total population of 3,500 people.



- It will also provide comprehensive and coordinated actions on violence prevention for:
- 248 families in Nueva Suyapa and 99 families in Villanueva who are currently working with community gardens, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- 250 families in Nueva Suyapa and 200 families in Villanueva that work with CPTRT in violence prevention
- More than 100 women victims of sexual violence in these communities

### HONDURAS STATISTICS

- **Population** (millions) – 7.2
- **Surface Area** (sq. km.) – 112,088
- **GDP per capita** (PPP US\$) – 3,488
- **Life expectancy at birth** (years)
 

Men	69.03
Women	72.47
- **Human Development Index Rank 1-187** (1 is highest) – 121
- **Seats held by women in national Parliament** (%) – 18
- **Infant mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 25
- **Maternal mortality ratio** (deaths per 100,000 births) – 110
- **Births attended by skilled health personnel** (%) – 66.9
- **Contraceptive prevalence rate** (%) – 65.2
- **Female enrollment in primary education** (%) – 98.3
- **Internet users** (per 100 people) – 11.1
- **Population below \$1 (PPP) per day** (%) – 23.3

Country statistics were taken from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011.

# Safe Cities for Women in Honduras

ZONTA IS SUPPORTING THE SAFE CITIES FOR WOMEN IN HONDURAS PROGRAM IN 2012-2014.



## CITY DOLLS IN TEGUCIGALPA

Unexpectedly, on the morning of 24 November 2010, eleven big wooden dolls turned up on the streets of one of the cities with the highest rates of violence against women, Tegucigalpa.

During fourteen days, men, women, girls and boys saw white silhouettes located in eleven strategic points of the city distributed across parks, main squares, universities, markets, stadiums, bus stops and neighborhoods.

“I want to know what this is all about [...] I think white stands for peace in the streets, and the doll silhouette stands for stopping violence against women,” said a university student.

Small commissions of observers were formed to watch daily the relationship between men, women, boys, girls and the newly arrived dolls to their neighborhoods.

“I want to know what this is all about [...] I think white stands for peace in the streets, and the doll silhouette stands for stopping violence against women”

Photographers volunteering for the campaign observed surprise, confusion and astonishment, followed by curiosity to approach and touch the white silhouettes for expressing the situations of violence occurring in their lives. “I think this is a children human-rights campaign,” said a passerby.

Some people were resolute to welcome and make them part of their neighborhoods “I think it is a small girl; I will take care of her; I don’t let anyone come close to her,” said a street vendor.

Alternatively, notorious expressions of disrespect, omissions and apathy were identified. As the eleven dolls were symbolizing a women’s body, obscene paintings and images were drawn over their bodies, exhibiting the perceptions and thoughts from the population towards violence against women.

At the same time, the Safe Cities campaign commissioners undertook street surveys so that men could explain their thoughts about the big dolls and the violence against women occurring in their streets, as well as on how local authorities would end and prevent it. “Femicides are committed by men when discovering a partner’s infidelity. [...] I do not agree that men are entitled to take away the life of a woman,” said a taxi driver.

On the last day of campaigning, a special event was organized in the Central Park of Tegucigalpa for rescuing all the dolls battered during the 14-day-campaign “We will erase this reality on their bodies,” said one of the artists participating in the campaign.

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*In December 2010, UN Women implemented in Tegucigalpa, Honduras the Safe Cities Campaign: Women for the City to increase awareness about violence against women. For this purpose, UN Women built alliances with women’s organizations, artists, volunteers, academia, UN Agencies and local authorities. In three weeks, US\$15,700 was mobilized for this sensitization initiative.*



*City Dolls in Tegucigalpa* was an initial exploratory activity to identify the citizens' perceptions on violence against women in the city. It was recognized, especially by young people that through the different aggressions against the big wooden dolls, there is a culture of tolerance of violence against women. "Body of women is attacked on the streets and there is a social permissiveness in our city," said Rosibel Gómez, UN Women Country Coordinator in Honduras.

"As this is an exploratory activity, this would be the beginning of a work addressing prevention of violence against women. We have raised awareness on how women are affected by violence against women in parks, main squares, universities, markets, stadiums, bus stops and neighborhoods. However, we still need to work at different levels, with authorities, communities, men, women and young people. We must address this activity as an initiative that has yet to be developed," concluded Rosibel Gómez.

# Empowering Women in Rural Samoa to Combat Violence

A PROJECT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (UN TRUST FUND), MANAGED BY UN WOMEN. THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT, SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP, WILL DELIVER THE PROJECT ON BEHALF OF UN TRUST FUND.

*2012-2014 Funding: US\$109,876 from the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women (ZISVAW) Fund.*

*The UN Women administration fee is 7 percent.*

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SAMOA

Samoa is an island country in the Pacific Ocean and has a population of 192,001 with 61% of the population living in poverty. The incidence of violence experienced by women and girls between the ages of 18 and 65 in Samoa is high, and this violence is usually perpetrated by an intimate partner. The World Health Organization found that women in Samoa experienced both physical abuse (41%) and sexual abuse (20%), and more than 50% did not tell anyone about the abuse. Of those women that did not seek help, 86% stated that they thought abuse was “normal” or “not serious.”

Physical and sexual violence in the home is common in Samoa, where prevailing norms justify abuse as an inevitable part of family life. In rural Samoa, the village and family structure are extremely important for the survival of women, which contributes to a situation where women suffering violence feel obligated to stay with the perpetrator. Survivors of violence in Samoa lack support networks, access to resources and services, and opportunities to earn income. An additional barrier to women reporting violence within the home are the traditional methods communities use to deal with the situations. At the village level, village councils and leaders negotiate a traditional apology, whereby the woman’s family receives an apology from the abuser and his

family, or a village council fine, whereby his family pays money to the woman and her family. In criminal situations, police facilitate these same activities instead of the village councils; and, as a result, the victim does not receive counseling and no arrest of the abuser occurs.

## GOAL

The goal of the project is to empower communities in rural Samoa to prevent and combat violence against women (VAW). Working with Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG), the project will:

### Advocacy

- Implement a grassroots advocacy campaign to enhance the capacity of SVSG village representatives to advocate within their communities to end violence against women and to provide support services for victims of violence;
- Enhance communication between SVSG, police and the community to increase the use of the formal justice system to combat violence;

Physical and sexual violence in the home is common in Samoa, where prevailing norms justify abuse as an inevitable part of family life.

- Increase awareness of legal reforms that enhance the ability of individuals and communities to end violence against women;

### Support

- Build informed and active networks among women in rural Samoa to create support systems for women threatened by violence and to empower these women to take action against violence and to access justice and support services;

### Livelihood Training

- Provide livelihood training for women to challenge women’s lack of economic independence in rural villages.

The goal of this project also aligns with Zonta’s 2012-2014 Biennial goals, specifically the goal to increase Zonta’s credibility and visibility through continued advocacy to prevent violence against women by drawing on Zonta’s membership, networks and ZISVAW projects to increase the visibility of the issue of violence against women globally and locally.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Advocacy

- 300 village representatives will attend trainings on ways to support victims, confidentiality issues, police and legal procedures, and providing referrals.
- Village representatives will sign project agreements and engage in advocacy efforts with government officials and other leaders to end violence against women.
- SVSG will partner with police to share lessons learned from the field, formalize referral policies for support services, and improve police procedures that reduce re-victimization.

### Support

- 3,750 women will attend 25 “Stronger Community” workshops, which will be conducted by 50 village representatives. These workshops will cover strategies to combat violence, teach men how strong women prevent violence within families, and ways to raise children without violence in the home.



- Women will establish and grow village networks to assist women in preventing violence in their homes.

**Livelihood Training**

- 750 women across 25 districts will participate in livelihood trainings over the course of one year.

**ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

At the conclusion of this project, there will be stronger communities with women who have:

- Access to information on how police and the legal system can protect them and their communities against violence;
- Skills and resources to form networks to combat violence against women;
- Confidence to address violence in their personal lives and communities;
- Strength and support to report violence to the police or SVSG.
- Increase in self-esteem and self-worth; and
- Economic independence and can contribute to the village economy.

Likewise, government officials, village mayors, church leaders and police will have the skills to:

- Decrease violence in their communities;



- Use SVSG village representatives' support networks to assist women and their families;
- Stop using "traditional apologies" and "village council fines" and assist women to access the formal justice system instead;
- Stop the belief that abusing a woman is acceptable in certain circumstances and that domestic violence is a private matter; and
- Understand violence against women legal reforms.



**SAMOA STATISTICS**

- **Population** (millions) – 0.2
- **Surface Area** (sq. km.) – 2,831
- **GDP per capita** (PPP US\$) – 4,000
- **Life expectancy at birth** (years)
 

Men	69.79
Women	75.68
- **Human Development Index Rank** 1-187 (1 is highest) – 99
- **Seats held by women in Parliament** (%) – 8.2
- **Infant mortality rate** (deaths per 1,000 live births) – 21
- **Maternal mortality ratio** (deaths per 100,000 births) – not available
- **Births attended by skilled health personnel** (%) – 80.8
- **Contraceptive prevalence rate** (%) – 28.7
- **Female enrollment in primary education** (%) – 99.8
- **Internet users** (per 100 people) – 7
- **Population below \$1 (PPP) per day** (%) – not available

Country statistics were taken from The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011.

# United Nations Trust Fund To End Violence Against Women

## SAMOA VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP (SVSG) “EMPOWERING WOMEN IN RURAL SAMOA TO COMBAT VIOLENCE”

### INTERVIEW—11 APRIL 2012

Nella Fuimaono, SVSG Village Representative Executive Member

#### Why is it important to address violence against women in Samoa?

The importance of addressing violence against women in Samoa is simple—to minimize ‘it’. However, being an optimistic SVSG member, rather than minimizing the occurrence of violence against women in Samoa, it is crucial that we put an end to it once and for all.

In our small community, we have seen how the effects of this evil have invaded the security of our families and homes that if victims continued to remain silent, we could not help them. And such was the tragedy involving a battered mother who was with child when she was severely abused resulting in her death and that of her unborn child. This therefore warrants us making a stand against violence in Samoa.



*A similar consultation was held in the big island of Savaii and pictured here are also leading SVSG Village Reps in their yellow uniform with the beneficiaries of the project in civilian clothes. As per the project's Work Plan, four capacity building advocacy sessions would be held, 2 in Upolu and 2 in Savaii.*

#### How will the SVSG program address violence against women in the country and what is the change that is expected to take place as a result of the two-year intervention?

SVSG's program involves empowering us women to make a stand against violence. The program is therefore designed to share strategies with and between women for dealing with threats of violence and facilitating support networks.

And with regards to the anticipated change expected at the end of this two year project, the most notable one would be the substantial decrease in the occur:

- on an individual level such as women confronting violence in their own lives and the lives of women in their family and community;
- on a social level such as a move away from reliance on traditional apologies and village council fines as a way of addressing violence against women; and finally
- on an institutional level with the Government, through the Ministry of Police, recognizing that traditional apologies for violent crimes will not be acceptable and that the law will prevail.



*Ms Nella Fuimaono (sitting second from right) pictured here during one of our initial consultations for the Grassroot Advocacy Workshops, with leading SVSG Village Reps (in yellow) and just some of the beneficiaries of the project (in civilian clothes). This consultation was held in the main island—Upolu.*



## GOING GREEN?

You now have the option to read *The Zontian* magazine online! To be removed from the print distribution list, simply send an email to [pr@zonta.org](mailto:pr@zonta.org) with your **name**, **club name** and **preferred email address**. When a new issue is available online, you will receive an email with a link to the new issue.

You can also read past issues of *The Zontian* on the Zonta International website at <http://www.zonta.org/MediaNews/Publications.aspx>.

Please note that Zonta will continue printing and mailing *The Zontian* magazine to those members who wish to continue receiving a printed copy. You do not need to take any action to remain on the distribution list for the printed version of the magazine.

# Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program

**Sonia Hernandez** is a two-time recipient of Zonta International's Amelia Earhart Fellowship. She was born in Spain and is currently studying at the University of Texas at Austin. Sonia recently shared some insights into her research and experience as an aerospace engineering student.

**You are now a two-time recipient of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship. What did being awarded the Fellowship mean to you the first time in 2011, and now what does it mean to you the second time?**

The first time I received the Amelia Earhart Fellowship I was completely amazed and incredibly happy. I remember getting home from school and looking in my mailbox to find this huge envelope from Zonta letting me know that I had been awarded the fellowship. A few months later, I was invited to the regional Zonta conference, where I was able to meet other peer fellows and Zontians. I returned from the conference with the feeling that I wanted to work harder than ever to advance in my career. I have no words to describe how honored I am to be receiving this award for the second time. I hope to one day become a Zonta member and also be able to help women studying aerospace engineering.

**Can you describe your current field of research in laymen terms?**

Part of the research I am currently involved in deals with designing trajectories for spacecraft to go to a Near-Earth Asteroid for both exploration and mitigation purposes. Near-Earth Asteroids are small, rocky bodies that travel around the Sun on orbits that are close to Earth. There are currently more than 8,000 known asteroids, and scientists believe that they hold a lot of information on how the Solar System was developed. One of the interesting things I am looking at is determining whether flying by the Moon can give the spacecraft a big enough push to reach the asteroid, which could make the mission more affordable in terms of fuel.

**When and how did you first become interested in this field of study?**

I have been fascinated by space applications ever since I can remember! The most vivid memory I have though, is watching the movie Apollo 13 when I was 11 years old with my parents and being so amazed at the engineers that were in the control room figuring out the best way to bring the astronauts back to Earth from the Moon. That's when I knew I wanted to become an aerospace engineer.

**Does your research apply to people's everyday lives? If so, how?**

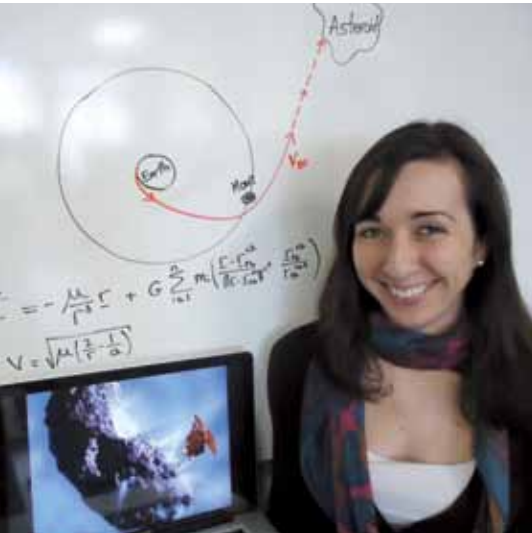
My research doesn't directly affect people in their everyday lives, although the research that I am developing is becoming very important for deflecting an asteroid in the case that one day one is found to be on a collision trajectory with Earth. We hope that this is never the case, but we are doing all the research we need to now in order to be ready just in case.

**What challenges have you encountered in your studies?**

One of the biggest personal challenges I have encountered thus far is passing the Ph. D. qualifying exam, which I just recently passed just a few weeks ago. (The qualifying exam is known to be one of the hardest exams in our career.) Apart from that, in general, it is very hard as a woman in an engineering discipline to show to your peers that you are good in the field you are working in. Being a part of Zonta and meeting other fellows has given me that extra "push" to want to succeed in this career.

**What are your future career plans?**

Once I finish my Ph.D., I would like to get industry experience. In fact, I am going to be a Co-op at NASA this summer, which will be a great experience and it will give me the opportunity to work on real spacecraft missions. However, apart from space, my other passion is teaching. I absolutely love to teach, and I mentor and tutor students on a regular basis. I hope to one day become a professor to teach my students what my professors have taught me over the years. ■



*Sonia Hernandez*

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO TALENTED WOMEN, PURSUING PH.D./DOCTORAL DEGREES IN AEROSPACE-RELATED SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING, TO HELP THEM ACHIEVE THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS. ZONTA AWARDS US\$10,000 FELLOWSHIPS TO 35 WOMEN EACH YEAR. WHILE MANY OF THE FELLOWS STUDY IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, THEY COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION, ZONTA HAS AWARDED A TOTAL OF 1,368 FELLOWSHIPS, TOTALING US\$7.8 MILLION, TO WOMEN FROM 68 COUNTRIES.

# Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S JANE M. KLAUSMAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO WOMEN PURSUING UNDERGRADUATE OR MASTER'S DEGREES IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION, ZONTA HAS DISTRIBUTED 275 SCHOLARSHIPS TO WOMEN FROM 42 COUNTRIES. THE SCHOLARSHIP NOT ONLY PROVIDES FINANCIAL SUPPORT; IT SERVES AS A MARK OF DISTINCTION FROM OTHER CANDIDATES WHEN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT AND CAN BE A CATALYST TO NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

Starting this biennium, the 12 international recipients of the Scholarship will receive US\$7,000, an increase from the US\$5,000 awarded previously. The district recipients will continue to receive US\$1,000 each. The Zonta International Board is challenging every Zonta district to annually submit a district applicant for the international scholarships.

**Beryl Oduor** is a Kenyan, currently pursuing a Bachelor's in International Business at St. Petersburg College in Florida. She recently shared how the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship has assisted her in her studies and what she plans to do when she finishes her degree.

## **What did winning Zonta's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship mean to you? How has it assisted you in your studies?**

Winning the prestigious Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship was such an honor for me! It was such an amazing experience, and I was very excited to be a part of it. When I had initially applied for the scholarship through my college, I thought it was only one award, but I soon came to realize that there were several levels to the award: the local scholarship, district level scholarship and the international level scholarship. To have been able to win ALL THREE was mind-blowing! I got a chance to meet some amazing Zontian women, and I felt a wonderful sense of empowerment when I attended the Zonta conference on Sanibel Island.

The money I received from this scholarship helped me pay for a full course load of classes, buy all my text-

books as well as put gas in my car to get to and from class all semester! I am very grateful! I think my biggest take-away from this experience was not the money I received but the experience I got from being among such ambitious and powerful women.

## **You are currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in international business? What do you find most challenging about your studies?**

I believe the most challenging thing about my studies has been time-management. There's a lot of work entailed in my courses, and sometimes I fail to manage my time efficiently. I think most college students can identify with this as we, more often than not, fall victims to procrastination and sleepless nights just to meet our deadlines. With practice comes perfection though, and I am happy to say I have improved a lot in that department.

## **What are your future career goals?**

I am looking forward to "life after college" as I graduate in the spring of 2013. In the short-run, I hope to intern at one of the international business firms located within my state of Florida. There are three amazing companies that I have my eye on, and I am hopeful that I will be able to gain some "on-the-job" experience from one of them.

In the long-run, my goal is to become a self-established and successful business woman. I hope to start several consultation firms within East and West Africa that will help educate women on making better monetary and business decisions. As a child from Kenya, I have seen that more often than not, many local women lack the technical know-how to run a business effectively. I am



*Beryl Oduor*

very eager to make my contribution to enhance the goals of the already existing organizations around the world that work hard to empower women every day.

## **What extracurricular activities do you enjoy doing outside your studies?**

I enjoy traveling very much. I am always eager to jump aboard any legitimate travel opportunity that presents itself. In fact, I will be traveling to Costa Rica this summer for the first time! I am very excited. When I am not travelling, I enjoy the outdoors. Action-packed activities such as sky-diving, whitewater rafting, snowboarding and mountain climbing are my preferable choice of sports. I'm a firm believer in trying new things so I am always discovering new activities that please me.

On a side note, I would like to say thank you once again to Zonta International for reading my application essay and seeing potential in me from the beginning. Being a part of your community for that period of time was wonderful and the community's support of my goals and aspirations will be with me wherever I go. This scholarship has helped me so much in my educational goals that I'm sure future winners will appreciate it as much as I did. Thank you. ■



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S YOUNG WOMEN IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AWARD RECOGNIZES YOUNG WOMEN FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND CIVIC CAUSES AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE. SINCE THE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION, ZONTA HAS GIVEN 601 AWARDS TO 534 YOUNG WOMEN FROM 50 COUNTRIES.

## Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award Program

Beginning this biennium, Zonta International will double the number of international YWPA Awards from 5 awards to 10 awards, and the amount each international recipient receives will increase to US\$4,000. To raise awareness of Zonta International's educational programs and to increase the organization's credibility and visibility, the Zonta International Board is calling on every district to annually submit a district nominee for the international YWPA Awards.

Anjali Chandrashekar from India is one of five recipients of the 2011 Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Award. She recently shared how she uses art to raise funds for, and awareness of, issues she is passionate about, as well as her educational and professional goals.

### **What did receiving Zonta International's Young Women in Public Affairs Award mean to you?**

Receiving this award gave me hope that I was able to serve as an inspiration to at least a few girls out there and make them believe that there is no limit to your imagination and dreams. And no passion is too small to be taken seriously and CAN be an agent of change.

### **How and when did you first become interested in public service and civic causes?**

My grandmother runs a trust for children with multiple disabilities and having grown up with these children from a very young age made me realize how lucky I am to be what people call 'normal'.

I picked up my brush at the age of 4 without even knowing how to use it. Soon I began to realize that I wanted to put my art for a good cause and that's when I started using it to raise funds and awareness about issues that I was passionate about. When more of my art started becoming recognized, I realized that art transcends barriers of age, language and literacy and started to use them on more global platforms.

I even started to voice my thoughts at international forums. Like in 2011, I was the youngest Asian at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and this only made me work towards my goal with greater conviction.

### **You are an artist. How do you use your art to raise awareness of causes that are important to you?**

Art I believe is a very powerful form of expression of one's feelings and through it, I have been able to reach out to even the illiterate. I do two kinds of art. One raises awareness and the other that raises funds. The former includes posters and paintings that have deep messages that get the point across and are generally a part of travelling exhibitions and are converted into posters and educational publications. The latter however may be pretty pictures that are later auctioned by the respective International organization. They are also brought out in the form of merchandise like pens, mugs, t-shirts, greeting cards, calendars and more, the proceeds of all of which go towards the particular cause.

My paintings have been brought out by UNEP, UNESCO, UNISDR, WWF, FAO and more.

### **What are your future educational and career goals?**

I currently study at the Pratt Institute of art and design in Brooklyn, New York and major in Industrial Design. I shall continue to spread a good message with my brush. As for design, I hope to learn more about sustainable design as I believe it is indeed the future. Coming up with products with low carbon footprints is one of my foremost goals and also design products that not only change the way people see them but also use them. ■

# Philanthropy Matters

Individual gifts are essential if Zonta is to continue to thrive and maintain its standard of excellence in advancing the status of women.

By Karen Macier

Vice Chairman of the Zonta International Foundation Development Committee

What is philanthropy and what is a culture of philanthropy? The answer to the question is multifaceted. Philanthropy can be defined in many ways. The word comes from the Greek, meaning “love for humanity.” Modern definitions include the concept of voluntary giving by an individual or group to promote the common good and improve the quality of life. As an organization, we continually strive to build a culture of philanthropy within Zonta, one in which all members understand the need to raise and give money and are willing to do what is necessary to support the effort, regardless of their role in the organization.

The [Zonta International Foundation](#), the charitable arm of Zonta International, is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Zonta clubs, Zontians and friends of Zonta who share its vision of advancing the status of women worldwide. As Zontians, we are passionate about our mission and the need to provide a helping hand to other women. We understand the value of raising money to support the programs and awards of Zonta International as well as our many local initiatives. Our fantastic fundraising results of the last biennium attest to our commitment to supporting Zonta’s mission and programs.

Advancing the status of women takes time, effort and monetary support. To achieve our mission, we need viable programs and awards, generous clubs and donors, and effective stewardship (management) of these gifts. Most importantly, we need everyone in our organization supporting our mission both with their talent and their financial support. Individual gifts are essential if Zonta is to continue to thrive and maintain its standard of excellence in advancing the status of women.

The Zonta International Foundation offers numerous ways for individuals to get involved and affect positive global change. When you make an individual gift to the Zonta International Foundation, you decide how your gift will be used. You can select the program or award of your choice. Through your individual gift, you demonstrate to others that as a member, you fully support Zonta’s mission, vision and programs. You help to strengthen our culture of philanthropy.

Charitable giving has never been more important than it is right now. In times of economic uncertainty, many organizations have had to reduce programs and services; however, it is during these times that the people who rely on these programs and services need them most. During the 2012-2014 Biennium, we are again asking clubs and members to donate generously to the Foundation so that we once again exceed our goals and continue to invest even more resources to improve the rights and lives of women everywhere. The biennial fund raising goal is \$4,938,000 (USD) an increase from the 2010-2012 goal of \$3,758,000 (USD).

Whether you contribute as a club or individual, your impact is as important now as the first time you donated. We hope you are proud of the results achieved to date. We thank you for your support and hope you will join the effort to create a brighter future for women and girls by investing in their hopes and dreams. ■



*The Centennial Anniversary Committee was set up in 2010 with three aims: to create a program of events worldwide to celebrate Zonta's 100th Anniversary in 2019, to create a centennial history of Zonta International for publication in the year 2020, and to create materials to enhance ZI's PR strategy and attract new members. This Committee is working on a limited 'project' rather than an ongoing 'program', as its work will be completed by the year 2020. (above) Zonta's founding members in 1919.*



*Members of the Zonta Club of Charles County, Maryland (USA) in 2011*



### Centennial Anniversary Logo

A centennial logo was designed and approved and is now available for use to promote Zonta's 100th anniversary worldwide.

Find the logo on the Zonta International website at <http://www.zonta.org/MemberResources/Tools/Logos.aspx>.

# The Centennial Anniversary Committee

By Val Sarah, Chairman, Zonta Club of Ballarat, Australia

During the 2010-2012 Biennium, Past International President Val Sarah was invited to chair the new Centennial Anniversary Committee. Although it may seem to be an early appointment for celebrations which will not occur until 2019, the decision enabled the committee to set in place a manageable strategy for the publication of a history and preparations for events recognizing this significant anniversary.

### Zonta's 100th Anniversary in 2019

The Centennial Anniversary Committee was established with three aims: to create a program of events worldwide to celebrate Zonta's 100th Anniversary in 2019, to create a centennial history of Zonta International for publication in the year 2020, and to create materials to enhance ZI's PR strategy and attract new members.

### Publication of Zonta's Centennial History

The Committee's current focus is on the proposed centennial history. A centerpiece of the publication will be the stories of our districts as they have been introduced to Zonta and developed, as drawn from the stories of clubs in each district. To help facilitate the process and provide the author with valuable reference materials, the Committee asked governors to appoint district archivists and historians and club presidents to appoint club archivists and historians to begin assessing their district and club archives. Basic tools, tips and examples were published on the [ZI website](#), and regular articles appeared in the ZI e-newsletter as guidelines to assist these archivists and historians. These activities will continue into the new biennium.

### 2012-2014 Focus

During this biennium, club archivists are requested to assess and list their archival materials, and ensure that they are placed in secure storage. Club historians are requested to use the archives as source material to write a one-page history, to be submitted to their district historians at the end of the biennium. Clubs are also encouraged to use special anniversaries in this biennium as an opportunity to publish or update their club history.

In the meantime, the Centennial Anniversary Committee will continue to review and list archives and artifacts stored at Zonta International Headquarters to compile a complete inventory by 2014. An original photo of Zonta's founding members and other early artifacts have already been found and put in safe storage. The Committee will also expand their collection of oral histories from the Past International Presidents. These oral archives are being videotaped and will be used in conjunction with the centennial history book. Initial work will also begin with relevant international program committee chairmen to create an overview of each program as source material for the author of the centennial history.

It is anticipated in the next biennium brief district histories will then be written and submitted to the commissioned author of the history, so that work on the centennial history can begin in 2016. Please watch the Zonta International website and monthly e-Newsletter for important updates and information from the Centennial Anniversary Committee throughout this biennium. ■





# Building the Future Now

By the Zonta International Foundation Development Committee

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of Zonta International. Many plans are underway to help us celebrate our successes and the impact we have made in advancing the status of women. Zonta's history has been built on strong volunteer leadership, strategic partnerships and fundraising. To that end, the Zonta International Foundation and the Foundation Development Committee are in the earliest stages of a major fundraising campaign to coincide with Zonta's centennial anniversary.

While it is still too early to share any specific details with you, we do know that this campaign will focus on growing our endowment. An endowment is established when you consciously build a reserve for the future. An endowment is a fund whereby you keep the principal over time and spend only the interest and earnings. In theory, the fund remains in perpetuity.

The benefits of endowments are many. Endowments can ensure continuity in programming during times of financial uncertainty. A strong endowment will allow our leadership to plan for the future. For our donors, an endowment is an equally compelling opportunity to provide a permanent legacy benefitting Zonta's mission.

Please watch for updates and an official campaign announcement later in the biennium. ■



# Meet the Governors

In February 2012, governors-elect from Zonta's 31 districts and the incoming regional representative from Region South America joined President-Elect Lynn McKenzie and some of the 2012-2014 international committee chairmen at Zonta International Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois for a three-day Governors' Orientation.

The focus of the Orientation was leadership, and the governors-elect and regional representative left with a wealth of knowledge and resources to enable them to be effective leaders of their districts and region. In addition to presentations from President-Elect McKenzie, international committee chairmen and Headquarters Staff, the attendees also had the opportunity to attend a variety of small group workshops on topics such as advocacy, membership, social media, board and district engagement, efficient and effective board meetings and conferences, and how to work with difficult people. These workshops allowed the governors-elect to share the challenges facing their districts, discuss solutions and learn best practices from their fellow Zonta leaders.

It was an inspiring and motivating weekend for all who attended; and, most importantly, it provided the governors with the tools they need to be efficient and effective leaders. Please meet your 2012-2014 Governors.



*2012-2014 Governors with President Lynn McKenzie at the 2012 Governors' Orientation in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA*



## **DISTRICT 1**

### **Denise DeShane Zonta Club of Bangor, Maine, USA**

Lt. Governor: Sharon Leavitt  
Treasurer: Susan Seaver  
Secretary: Shirley Perry  
Area 1 Director: K.T. Snyder  
Area 2 Director: Debbie O'Neill  
Area 3 Director: Marie McCully Collier  
Area 4 Director: Donna Clifford

Denise is a Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser in the State of Maine and works as a Real Estate Valuation Analyst with Bangor Savings Bank, where she reviews residential real estate appraisals for secondary mortgage market acceptance, and federal housing regulations to ascertain their compliance standards and the collateral risk to the Bank. She enjoys working for the Bank, which is one of the last independently owned local banks in the State of Maine and a company that is consistently voted as one of the "Best Places to Work in Maine".

Denise joined the Zonta Club of Bangor, Maine USA, in 1995 because she was ready to find a way to give back and help in her community. The positive work the organization has been able to accomplish and the wonderful friendships and fellowships she has experienced in her local club and district throughout the last 17 years have solidified her commitment to Zonta. She has served as club president, area director, lt. governor, and chairman of the district's OMC and PR committees. It is this willingness to serve when asked that Denise is personally most proud of. She believes that membership in Zonta has truly enriched her professional and personal life with the networking opportunities and friendships that have developed within her own club, district and internationally. "Everyone should be blessed with the opportunity to be Governor, attend Governor's Orientation and meet the 31 other governors of Zonta International, the headquarters staff and International President," says Denise. "New friendships and bonds are formed on day one."

As governor, Denise's goals for the 2012-2014 Biennium, are to increase membership in each of the clubs in District 1. She will coordinate her efforts with club presidents,

board members and individual Zontians in the district to increase branding opportunities by raising awareness of Zonta International and the local clubs in all areas of District 1, which includes New England in the Northeastern United States and Nova Scotia, Canada. She is also focused on retaining current members, assisting in revitalizing struggling clubs, and encouraging all Zontians to step up to leadership roles within their clubs and the district. "It will truly be an honor to serve District 1 and Zonta International as Governor and I look forward to the 2012-2014 Biennium with great enthusiasm and a commitment to serve," says Denise.



## **DISTRICT 2**

### **Kathleen LaBelle Zonta Club of Glens Falls, New York, USA**

Lt. Governor: Candace Edwards  
Treasurer: Susan Waterschoot  
Secretary: Irene Consolagio  
Area 1 Director: Marjorie Lavin  
Area 2 Director: Kathie Easom  
Area 3 Director: Anne Malvaso  
Area 4 Director: Paula Jacques

As a licensed realtor in New York State, Kathleen assists individuals in all aspects of real estate, from buying and selling real estate to preparing and explaining market analyses for clients. She enjoys getting to know people, learning what their needs are and helping them to achieve their real estate goals. Making the community and the world a better place is an important part of her work with RealtyUSA, a company that is involved in many aspects of community service and which holds its employees to a high professional standard.

Kathleen joined Zonta in 1994 to help women on a local and global level. She has remained a member for the last 18 years because of the importance of Zonta's international programs and the wonderful women she gets to meet and interact with as a member of Zonta. Kathleen has served as area director, lt. governor, and chairman of her district's LAA and OMC committees. As president of her club, Kathleen and her board approved a new fundraiser proposed by a club member, the development of a local women's

*Continued on page 52...*

## DISTRICT 2

golf tournament. The tournament was and continues to be an outstanding success, not only in raising funds to benefit local and international service projects but in maintaining Zonta's visibility to citizens of and visitors to the community.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, Kathleen will encourage clubs in District 2 to choose service projects that align with Zonta's mission and to take every opportunity to help Zontians and the public understand the service projects Zonta International supports locally and globally. Likewise, she will encourage fellow Zontians to continue to inspire and mentor each other in a positive way.



## DISTRICT 3

**Paulette Chatman**  
**Zonta Club of Essex County,**  
**New Jersey, USA**

Lt. Governor: Margo Sheridan  
Treasurer: Alice Kirchner  
Secretary: Linda Butler Livesay  
Area 1 Director: Roxanne Neilson  
Area 2 Director: Kathryn Holmes  
Area 3 Director: Cathy Paul  
Area 4 Director: Donna Clark

Paulette is the owner and president of a non-medical, in-home care business that focuses primarily on the needs of seniors. She manages a growing staff of 25 employees that provides at home assistance for seniors living with Alzheimer's, dementia, Parkinson's, Multiple sclerosis and cancer, as well as free assisted living placement to help families find a community that meets the client's care needs, location and budget. Helping those in need of care and services to enable them to remain somewhat independent is what Paulette enjoys most about her work.

Zonta's focus on the status of women, specifically its work to end violence against women through the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women (ZIS-VAW) Program, is what first drew Paulette to join Zonta in 1993 and is the reason she has stayed a member for the nearly 20 years since. Paulette most values the opportunity to

meet the many phenomenal women she has met and become friends with as a result of Zonta.

Prior to being elected Governor, Paulette served as an Area Director, Lt. Governor and Chairman of her District's OMC committee. This biennium, as Governor, she plans to fully engage members at the local level to re-focus on Zonta's mission by providing a better understanding of Zonta service and encouraging clubs to align their local service projects with Zonta International's goals. She will also work to get the good things the clubs are doing at the local level in District 3 out to the local media, thereby raising awareness of Zonta in the local communities.



## DISTRICT 4

**Lee Fogarty**  
**Zonta Club of Pittsburgh,**  
**Pennsylvania, USA**

Lt. Governor: Joanne Raymond  
Treasurer: Cathie Wheeler  
Secretary: Carma Horner  
Area 1 Director: Catherine Hardman  
Area 2 Director: Lori Robinson  
Area 3 Director: Kathleen Kanaly  
Area 4 Director: Mary Yunker  
Area 5 Director: Frances Runyan  
Area 6 Director: Kathy Froehle

Lee is a licensed psychologist, executive coach, consultant and owner of two businesses. As a licensed psychologist, she sees adult clients for psychotherapy, works with companies in times of crisis, and runs workshops on issues such as grief, stress, depression, motivation, and performance anxiety, among others. As an executive consultant, she works with CEO's of large and small companies to educate and coach them in more effective ways of managing employees, boards and difficult situations. She enjoys working with many different kinds of people and seeing companies and teams become more collaborative.

Lee was invited to join Zonta by women in her local community whom she held in high regard. Intrigued by Zonta's projects and the members' stories of mutual support among Zontians, Lee accepted the invitation to join in 1995. She has remained a member for the last 17 years because she believes in Zonta's

mission, enjoys the camaraderie of members throughout the world, and wants to continue to work to advance the status of women. This camaraderie and collaboration was most evident when her club adopted a birthing kit project, which was later adopted as a district project, bringing the clubs in the district closer together. Lee has served as area director, Lt. governor, conflict management officer and chairman of her district's nominating and OMC committees.

This biennium, as governor, Lee will focus on increasing her district's legislative advocacy and awareness agenda. We need to raise our own awareness, educate our communities and work towards increasing the participation of women in political office. We hope to become more visible and to partner with other women's organizations on projects that fit the mission of Zonta. By doing so, her district can educate the community about the mission, vision and international service projects of Zonta International and the local Zonta clubs.



## DISTRICT 5

**Rae Arnold**  
**Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio, USA**

Lt. Governor: Ellen Spaeth  
Treasurer: Lois Jones  
Secretary: Carol Jenkins  
Area 1 Director: Marianne Mussett  
Area 2 Director: Lois Pierce  
Area 3 Director: Marielle Hoffman  
Area 4 Director: Becky Shoults

Rae is a registered nurse and retired as Director of Community Outreach for Ohio-Health, a family of not-for-profit faith-based hospital and health care organizations. In her role, Rae developed and implemented community programs, including an adult heart health program, parish nurse/health ministry program, pediatric asthma program, sports physicals and medical clinics in public schools, mobile health clinics and maternal/child health programs. After retiring, Rae continues to work in the community doing health assessments, screenings, and counseling. Rae enjoys this role because she is able to be in the community, talking with people and providing a service that can make a difference in their lives.

For Rae, service to the community is a calling, especially programs that serve women in her community. She joined Zonta in 2002 because Zonta's mission and the ability to make a difference in the lives of women not only on a local level, but an international level as well, was very appealing. Ten years later, she is still a member because of her commitment to Zonta's mission and the welcoming, supportive and collaborative women who work together to achieve the goals of Zonta. Rae has served as area director, Lt. governor and chairman of her district's OMC committee. Her proudest moment as a Zontian was when a woman who benefited from a drug and rehabilitation program supported by her local club, told her that the program saved her life, making Rae realize that her club really did make a difference and making her proud to be a Zontian.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, Rae will work to increase credibility and visibility by increasing public relations and communication efforts within the local communities of her district. Her goals include expanding social media efforts by the district and clubs, updating and maintaining district and club websites, expanding the Z and Golden Z Club Program in her district, increasing club applications for Zonta International's educational awards, and engaging and networking with groups and other organizations to tell Zonta's story.



#### **DISTRICT 6**

**Linda Hiltabrand**  
**Zonta Club of LaSalle-Peru Area,**  
**Illinois, USA**

Lt. Governor: Donna Conant  
 Treasurer: Carol Borecky  
 Secretary: Nancy Haney  
 Area 1 Director: Brandy Harrington  
 Area 2 Director: Donna Neal  
 Area 3 Director: Carolyn Stumpf  
 Area 4 Director: Julie Del Genio  
 Area 5 Director: Konnie Rodeghier

Linda is a retired environmental protection specialist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources—Offices of Mines and Minerals. In this role, she determined who needed surface mining permits, helped them through that process and monitored that they were

following the approved plans. She loved the variety of field work and administrative duties and especially enjoyed partnering with industry peers to do minerals education programs. Now retired, Linda continues to do educational outreach programs through the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers Public Information and Education (PIE) Committee.

Like many Zontians, Linda joined Zonta in 1980 because she was asked by community leaders who she admired. Thirty years later, she is still a member of Zonta because she believes it is important for every person to give back and recognizes that although her life is not perfect, she is more fortunate than many women. Zonta's mission resonates with her personal beliefs and gives her a way to share her talents with others. Linda has served as area director, district secretary, district parliamentarian, Lt. governor, and chairman of her district's OMC, UN and status of women committees. As a member of Zonta, she is most proud to have been part of the voting delegation that established the Zonta International Foundation, which enables Zonta to help so many women around the world.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, Linda will encourage all clubs in District 6 to utilize all available public relations outlets in their local communities to tell their stories about service and advocacy, thereby raising awareness of Zonta. District 6 will also continue their successful Advocacy Day at the state capitals.



#### **DISTRICT 7**

**Janet Kannard**  
**Zonta Club of Kansas City II,**  
**Missouri, USA**

Lt. Governor: Polly Holten  
 Treasurer: Alice Smith  
 Secretary: Mary Reed  
 Area 1 Director: Stacey Lentz  
 Area 2 Director: Kay Moss  
 Area 3 Director: Cheryl Retterath  
 Area 4 Director: Anne McCleery

Janet is a project leader with DST Systems, Inc., the largest provider of third-party shareholder recordkeeping services in the United States today and a significant contributor to the development of Kansas City's downtown through community involvement, real estate

development and renovation of historic buildings. She has been with the company for 30 years and enjoys working with people locally and around the world to provide system solutions to the financial services industry. Her responsibilities include leading a group of business and technical associates, ensuring project deliverables are completed on schedule and in accordance with client expectations and quality standards, and providing administrative reporting and developing associates.

Janet joined Zonta in 1988 because she liked the organization's mission. She has remained a member in the 24 years since because of the opportunity she has had to know some very accomplished and interesting women. Prior to being elected governor, Janet served as area director, district treasurer and chairman of her district's finance, service and status of women committees. Janet enjoys the opportunity to improve the lives of women internationally and to support exceptional young women. One source of great pride for Janet is her district's generous support of the Zonta International Foundation. Her club is also proud to have both an international recipient of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award and the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

Under Janet's leadership, District 7 will use the talents of its members to develop innovative solutions to enhance Zonta's visibility through the use of social media, newspapers and other local media. They will promote Zonta by raising awareness of fundraising efforts, local service, scholarships and international projects.



#### **DISTRICT 8**

**Shelli Cutting**  
**Zonta Club of Anchorage, Alaska, USA**

Lt. Governor: Genelle Hanken  
 Treasurer: Gail Trimble  
 Secretary: Katy Stark  
 Area 1 Director: Maureen Holman  
 Area 2 Director: Joyce Duerfeldt  
 Area 4 Director: Muriel Richardson  
 Area 5 Director: Judith Strand

Shelli is President/CEO of Odyssey Sleep Works, Inc., a sleep diagnostics company she

*Continued on page 54...*

...Continued from page 53

## DISTRICT 8

started in 1997 that specializes in providing full turnkey sleep laboratories to hospitals. Since opening its first laboratory in Alaska in 1998, her company has helped thousands of patients find health and get back to living the fullest life possible. Every day, through her work, Shelli has the opportunity to help people who are struggling with serious health conditions to find a whole new lease on life, making her work very rewarding.

Shelli originally joined Zonta in 2002 because of Zonta's mission and its lack of affiliation with any religious organizations. Ten years later, she is still a member because there is so much work yet to do and because of the relationships she has built and developed in her club, district and worldwide. Prior to being elected governor, Shelli served as vice-area director, area director, Lt. governor and chairman of her district's OMC committee. As a leader in her district and club, Shelli is proud of her contributions toward the tremendous growth in her local club over the last 10 years and her efforts to reenergize her club to get involved in district meetings and to realign its efforts with Zonta's mission.

To increase Zonta's visibility and credibility during the 2012-2014 Biennium, Shelli has developed a leadership training package that will be given to each club board with suggestions to utilize the ideas that were passed to the incoming governors at training, including the use of social media and more access to Zonta through technology. She will also work with her leadership, membership and foundation chairmen to coordinate their efforts toward one outcome of credibility, visibility and leadership growth. By restructuring and bringing new ideas and possibilities to the clubs, Shelli feels the potential for creativity and ingenuity is endless.



## DISTRICT 9

**Lori Montigel**

**Zonta Club of Riverside, California, USA**

Lt. Governor: Nickie Bonner  
Treasurer: Jo Ann Rodriguez  
Secretary: Wendy Cronk  
Area 1 Director: Debbie Hart  
Area 2 Director: Patti Wilson

Area 3 Director: Sharon Langenbeck  
Area 4 Director: Cassandra Caldarella  
Area 5 Director: Judith Fulton  
Area 6 Director: Carrie Pottinger

Lori is a special education teacher-resource specialist. In this role, she works with kindergarten through fifth grade students with learning disabilities to modify the general education curriculum to meet the students' individual needs. In addition to teaching and developing individual education plans, Lori also communicates and coordinates with others involved in the students' well-being. She enjoys her work because she is able to affect children's lives and instill in her students that they can do anything they want in life as long as they are willing to work for it.

For as long as Lori can remember, she recalls her mother dressing up to attend her bi-monthly Zonta meetings. Lori attended the club fundraisers and enjoyed the women, their passion and the fellowship amongst members so she joined Zonta herself in 1992. Twenty years later, not only does she still love sharing Zonta's mission with others and showing what you can accomplish as part of a group; she cherishes the lifelong friendships she has made with people she would otherwise not have met. She also never imagined the opportunities for growth and leadership that Zonta would provide; however, Lori has served as area director, Lt. governor and chairman of her district's conference and OMC committee, prior to being elected governor for the 2012-2014 Biennium.

Lori believes it is the responsibility of Zonta's districts, areas and clubs to raise awareness of Zonta by publicizing their local service projects, scholarships, awards and events; therefore, District 9 will remain visible in the community by keeping the district website, Facebook page and Twitter account current. With the District's assistance, clubs will continue to develop their club's story to demonstrate their unique place in the community, and individual members will be encouraged to make Zonta part of their everyday lives, sharing Zonta's work and inviting friends, family and co-workers to Zonta events.



## DISTRICT 10

**Donna Dodgen**

**Zonta Club of Seguin, Texas, USA**

Lt. Governor: Judith Kautz  
Treasurer: Carolyn Smith  
Secretary: Sharon Illhardt  
Area 1 Director: Barbara Yoder  
Area 2 Director: Suzanne Russell  
Area 3 Director: Marianne Seal

Donna is a dietitian, Seguin District 7 City Councilman and until recently, co-owner of a café and coffee shop. As a dietitian, Donna is responsible for the nutritional care of clients and patients in an acute long-term care facility for patients who need extensive medical care and rehabilitation. She continues to consult in the areas of adult daycare and personal nutritional care plans. Her leadership and service with Zonta has prepared her for civil service to her community in the form of City government and for approximately 9 years, she was co-owner of the only chiropractic café/coffee shop in the United States. Donna loves people and working with and for the community.

Donna joined Zonta in 1995 at the invitation of a friend and has developed wonderful relationships as a result. She believes that every person can contribute a small bit towards a larger outcome. Nearly 20 years later, Donna is still proud to be a Zontian because Zonta's service-minded members throughout the world each do their part to improve the status of women and to make a difference in women's lives. Prior to being elected governor of District 10, Donna served as area director, Lt. governor, member of the 2010 Convention Committee, and chairman of her district's bylaws & resolutions, nominating, OMC, status of women and Z club committees.

To increase Zonta's credibility and visibility, Donna has aligned the District 10 strategic plan with Zonta International's 2012-2014 Biennial Goals and has distributed the plan to all clubs in District 10, as well as publicized the plan at area meetings and district conferences. District 10 will also continue to award public relations and marketing endeavors at the district level, educate clubs and members at area and district meetings, and share success stories so clubs and members can learn from one another.



## DISTRICT 11

**Tami Page**

**Zonta Club of Dothan Area, Alabama, USA**

Lt. Governor: Karen Pati

Treasurer: Carmen Elias-Levenson

Secretary: Charlene Thomas

Area 1 Director: Charlene Rains

Area 2 Director: Melodie Hunnicutt

Area 3 Director: Cherrylee Pinder

Area 4 Director: Pamela Ridley

Area 5 Director: Gloria Rosario-Rosario

Area 6 Director: Susan Scribner

Tami is an organizational development consultant for Habitat for Humanity International, a not-for-profit organization that provides affordable housing solutions to low-income families and advocates for affordable housing at the local, state, national and international levels. Habitat for Humanity is currently the third largest homebuilder in the United States and has provided housing for more than 500,000 low-income families around the world. In her role, Tami coaches, facilitates, guides, trains and provides general assistance to 50 to 75 Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the country.

Tami joined Zonta in 2002 because she believed in the mission and objectives of the organization, especially the international service projects. After 10 years of membership, she still believes in the work Zonta International and Zontians do to improve the status of women both locally and internationally. She is especially proud of the relationships she has developed with women who share her passion to improve the lives of women around the world. Prior to being elected as governor of District 11 for the 2012-2014 Biennium, Tami served as area director, Lt. governor and chairman of the District 11 OMC Committee.

Under Tami's leadership, District 11 will work to increase Zonta's credibility and visibility by increasing the district's membership to a sustainable number and by nurturing new leadership at the club and district levels through the development of fully functional committees and a review of the area meeting format to allow for more members to be involved. The district will also create more efficient training resources and networking opportunities for members as well as develop

more effective communication tools, including a more dynamic website and better use of social media.



## DISTRICT 12

**Sheila Davis**

**Zonta Club of Denver, Colorado, USA**

Lt. Governor: Marcy O'Toole

Treasurer: Bridget Masters

Secretary: Denise Luckhurst

Area 1 Director: Renee Coppock

Area 2 Director: Deedee Boysen

Area 3 Director: Debbie Squires

Area 4 Director: Janet Bergin

Sheila is a retired information technologies professional. Prior to retirement, she worked for 30 years at USWEST, one of the largest telecommunications companies in the United States. There, she developed, deployed and managed the creation and maintenance of software systems and worked in many positions in both information technologies and advanced technologies, including programming, systems engineering, information engineering, project management, account management and staff management. She enjoyed learning innovative technologies, providing excellent customer service, and working with a large and diverse group of people.

Sheila joined Zonta in 2002 at the invitation of a friend because she was at time in her life where she could give back to the community, help others and forge new friendships. Those friendships and her deep belief in Zonta's mission and the collective ability of Zontians to help women around the world is why she is still a member today. Before being elected governor, Sheila served as Lt. governor, district parliamentarian and chairman of her district's bylaws & resolutions and OMC committees. As a Zontian, Sheila is most proud of her efforts as chairman of the 2009 District 12 Conference. She and her team delivered an excellent program despite receiving a foot of snow in Denver the day before the conference began.

To increase Zonta's credibility and visibility, District 12, under Sheila's leadership, will share Zonta's vision, mission, international service projects and scholarship programs through the use of various media outlets. They will also highlight the significant amount

of money District 12 has given out both locally and internationally and will develop a speakers' bureau to reach out to other organizations in the community to provide information about Zonta. District 12 also plans an extensive upgrade of its website during the 2012-2014 Biennium.



## DISTRICT 13

**Brit Haave**

**Zonta Club of Sandnes og Jaeren, Norway**

Lt. Governor: Eva Nielsen

Treasurer: Fjola Bjork Jonsdottir

Secretary: Kari Odegard Aas

Area 1 Director: Berit Birkelund

Area 2 Director: Ona Berskiene

Area 3 Director: Sigrun Magnusdottir

Area 4 Director: Wenche Christenson Olstad

Brit is a human resources manager for Fluid Control AS, a manufacturer of high pressure valves and hoses for the oil industry. In her role, Brit develops HR policies and procedures and manages the human resources responsibilities for 160 employees. She enjoys the people she works with and likes organizing their HR challenges and guiding them through laws and regulations.

Brit first joined Zonta in 2000 because she was looking for an inspiring networking arena with a focus on women. Prior to her election as governor of District 13, Brit served as Lt. governor, district secretary, area director and chairman of her district's OMC committee. She is also the founding member of the Zonta Club of Sandnes og Jaeren.

As District 13 Governor for the 2012-2014 Biennium, Brit will encourage Zontians in her district to use every opportunity to speak out about the way Zonta can change a life and make them aware of the need to ensure that women enjoy equal rights throughout the world – something that is often taken for granted in her part of the world. By speaking out about Zonta, District 13 will have the potential to increase its membership. "If all of the 44 clubs in District 13 joined their forces, we could easily get at least one new member per club," says Brit. "It doesn't have to be a member for my own club; it's just as great to suggest a new member for any club in the district. To do this we actually have to talk

*Continued on page 56...*

### DISTRICT 13

about Zonta.” To increase the involvement of existing members, Brit will focus on teaching existing members how to use the international website so they become more familiar with Zonta’s mission and international programs.



### DISTRICT 14

**Gertraud Ribitsch**  
**Zonta Club of Graz, Austria**

- Lt. Governor: Ursula Werner
- Treasurer: Carmen Zillmer
- Secretary: Beatrice Svoboda
- Area 1 Director: Andrea Maceljiski
- Area 2 Director: Elisabeth Thaler
- Area 3 Director: Angelika Stecher
- Area 4 Director: Marina Papadopoulou
- Area 5 Director: Judit Györi

Gertraud is a CEO and mediator for Rheocoll Messgeräte HGmbH Nfg KG, a company she founded as part of a project of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research—“scientists build companies”. As a mediator, she intervenes to promote reconciliation, settlement and compromise between conflicting parties and enjoys finding forward-looking solutions that result in mutual agreement and understanding. Prior to this role, Gertraud worked as a chemist at the KF University Graz for 14 years, doing physico-chemical basic research.

Gertraud joined Zonta in 1984 as a charter member of her club because she was excited about Zonta’s goals and the opportunity to help women in need and to advance the status of women worldwide. Nearly 30 years later, she is still proud to be a Zontian and is highly motivated with all her Zonta knowledge and experience to realize Zonta’s goals. She is also very appreciative of the friendships she has made worldwide through Zonta. Gertraud has previously served as Lt. governor, area director and chairman of her district’s Amelia Earhart and OMC committees.

District 14 is a multicultural district with five different languages spoken amongst its members; however, Gertraud believes that it provides both an exciting opportunity and huge potential. Each club in District 14 has its own interesting local projects; therefore,

Gertraud will focus on initiating a common area or district service project to bring the clubs in the district together. She will also encourage the clubs to promote Zonta International’s awards and scholarships. The award ceremonies can be an opportunity to increase Zonta’s visibility in the community, and the winners are potential new members. Gertraud will also encourage professional networking amongst members within each area and within the district.



### DISTRICT 15

**Karen Armaly**  
**Zonta Club of Detroit I, Michigan, USA**

- Lt. Governor: Cheryl Hall
- Treasurer: Bonnie Odom
- Secretary: Linda Nabers
- Area 1 Director: Anna Sylvester
- Area 2 Director: Barbara Schram
- Area 3 Director: Celina Shoji
- Area 4 Director: Ellen Dolsen

Karen is a retired director of COBRA administration, where she met with clients to ensure they knew Federal regulations, supervised staff to ensure regulations were adhered to and provided general customer service and problem solving. She is currently working part-time as a retail cashier and enjoys being able to interact with a variety of people every day.

Karen joined Zonta in 1989 because she wanted to be part of an organization whose focus was women. More than 20 years later, she is still a member because of the many friendships she has made with other members. As a member of Zonta, Karen is proud that she has learned about human trafficking in the United States and has used this knowledge to inform others who are not aware that the problem exists in the United States. Prior to being elected governor, Karen served as Lt. governor, district treasurer, area director and chairman of her district’s OMC committee.

To help increase Zonta’s visibility and credibility, Karen will work with her district board to ensure that all clubs in District 15 have the necessary tools to spread the word about Zonta and its mission. She will work with the district and club leadership to educate current members and provide them with the tools to promote Zonta in their local communities.



### DISTRICT 16

**Maureen Heine**  
**Zonta Club of South Auckland, New Zealand**

- Lt. Governor: Janette Irvine
- Treasurer: Souella Cumming
- Secretary: Pauline Maddock
- Area 1 Director: Lynda Garrett
- Area 2 Director: Barbara Pope
- Area 3 Director: Agnes White
- Area 4 Director: Robyn Cowley
- Area 5 Director: Ann Little

Maureen is the Chief Executive/Director of Mutual Superannuation Fund Ltd, a Fund whose goal is for contributors to retire with savings which have kept pace with, or exceeded inflation, through a secure investment policy which maximizes returns and minimizes risk. In her role, Maureen is responsible for analyzing, developing and establishing the Fund’s strategic direction and operational plans, reviewing and initiating policies and improving systems. She enjoys the challenges her role brings on a day to day basis and being associated with an organization that for more than 43 years has successfully enabled investors to retire with substantial savings.

Zonta’s mission to advance the status of women worldwide aligns with Maureen’s personal belief that women should be given every opportunity to improve their position in life, which is why she joined Zonta in 1998. She is proud to be a member of Zonta and is inspired by the international service projects, strategies to end violence against women and educational programs. She also appreciates the opportunity that Zonta provides her to meet and make friends with likeminded women at the club, district and international levels. Prior to being elected governor, Maureen served as area director, District 16 LAA Coordinator and Chairman of the District 16 OMC Committee.

To increase Zonta’s visibility and credibility, Maureen will increase advocacy initiatives on issues impacting women to ensure that District 16 is regarded as a leading and effective advocate for the rights of women and girls. She will create a higher profile for Zonta International in New Zealand by promoting Zonta’s goals and achievements,



strengthening the membership base and working collaboratively with likeminded organizations.



## DISTRICT 17

**Winnie Teoh**

**Zonta Club of Kowloon, Hong Kong**

Lt. Governor: Lalivan Karnchanachari  
Treasurer: Primitiva Perez Sison  
Secretaries: Margaret Chan and Teresa Lin  
Area 1 Director: Daisy P. Arce  
Area 2 Director: Linda Wang  
Area 3 Director: Anita Y. Sanchez  
Area 4 Director: Ophelia Tiangha-Flores  
Area 5 Director: Ana Isabel V. Johnston  
Area 6 Director: Palarp Sinhaseni

Winnie is Director of Jetage Company Limited, a company that specializes in investment, real estate development and administration, and consultancy services. In addition to managing the daily operations of the company, Winnie has worked for more than 25 years with the Hong Kong Tourism Board and has lectured on tourism management for three years at the University of Hong Kong School of Professional and Continuing Education. She enjoys organizing mega events and activities across multinational markets.

Winnie is very passionate about helping the underprivileged and empowering them to acquire the skills they need to obtain a better quality of life, which is why she decided to join Zonta in 1982. It gave her a new perspective and has provided the real meaning in her life for the last 30 years. As a member of Zonta, Winnie is especially proud of the projects she has been encouraging her local Zonta Club to take on, especially three women's empowerment centers named for the Club. Prior to being elected governor, Winnie served as a member of the International JMK Women in Business Scholarship Committee, Lt. governor, area director, district foundation ambassador, and chairman of her district's OMC and Young Women in Public Affairs Award committees.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, District 17 will work to "Reinvent the Zonta difference" by completing more high-quality service and advocacy projects and raising awareness of these projects in the community. All Zonta clubs in District 17 will be

encouraged to develop their own websites, if they have not already done so; and, clubs with existing websites will be encouraged to expand their content, including adding links to other relevant websites and considering the use of social media. Offline, District 17 will maintain close relationships with the local United Nations office, relevant government officials and community organizations to enhance their understanding of Zonta's objectives and to establish a higher profile for Zonta. All of these strategies will help establish Zonta as the Organization of Choice among volunteers.



## DISTRICT 18

**Gloriastene Agboola**  
**Zonta Club of Ibadan II, Nigeria**

The District 18 Board will be elected during the District 18 meeting at the Zonta International Convention in Torino, Italy.

Gloriastene is a kindergarten teacher at the Ibadan International School, a not-for-profit school established and supported by the Zard Foundation, in Ibadan, Nigeria. It is the only IBO (International Baccalaureate®) approved school in Nigeria. As a teacher, Gloriastene is responsible for all activities related to the learning and development of the children in her care. "I thoroughly enjoy watching the development of the inquisitive, active, noisy, happy and quick-witted five-year-olds who cross my path each year," says Gloriastene.

Gloriastene was invited to join Zonta in 1988. The international nature of the organization and its commitment to improving the status of women worldwide appealed to her desire to be of service to humanity on an international level. During her nearly 25 years of membership, Gloria has served in numerous positions at the club and district levels and has most recently served as a member of the International OMC Committee for the last two biennia. She is proud of Zonta's many service projects around the world and feels that in her own small way she is contributing to improving the status of women somewhere in the world.

To help increase Zonta's visibility and credibility, Gloriastene will work with her district board to develop specific strategies for clubs to use the various Zonta events

throughout the year to raise awareness of women's issues. They will also define clear strategies for each country in the District to advocate on at least one issue affecting women. Finally, they will set goals to increase the membership of the District and to increase the District's contribution to the Zonta International Foundation.



## REGION SOUTH AMERICA

**Jacqueline Dide del Puerto**  
**Zonta Club of Punta del Este-Maldonado, Uruguay**

Lt. Governor: Adriana Otero  
Treasurer: Anabell Aostalli  
Secretaries: Aída Domínguez and Ana María López de Neil  
Area 1 Directors: Alicia Barrios, Liliana Hidalgo and Ana Medina  
Area 2 Directors: Graciela Duce and Cecilia Vega

Jacqueline holds a degree in surgical instrumentation and works in a private clinic, where she organizes surgeries. She enjoys working as a member of a team. Her extensive interaction with members of the community also allows her to share her knowledge of Zonta and raise awareness of the organization in the community.

Jacqueline joined Zonta International in 2007 because she wanted to improve the situation of women living realities very different from her own. Five years later, she loves being a member of Zonta and is proud that she has helped to increase the membership of her club. She served as Lt. governor of Region South America, prior to being elected region representative for the 2012-2014 Biennium. As a member of the Zonta Club of Punta del Este-Maldonado, Jacqueline is especially proud of the Wig Bank her club sponsors, through which the Club provides free, natural hair wigs to women undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer, who would otherwise not be able to afford the expensive wigs.

As regional representative, Jacqueline will work to increase Zonta International's credibility and visibility by raising awareness of Zonta in the community, especially in professions where women are leaders.

*Continued on page 58...*



## DISTRICT 20

**Marja Koivula**  
**Zonta Club of Lahti, Finland**

Lt. Governor: Salla Tuominen  
Treasurer: Kaisa Kassi  
Secretary: Eeva Halme  
Area 1 Director: Agneta Ekstrand  
Area 2 Director: Eeva-Kaarina Kari  
Area 3 Director: Eija Pitkanen  
Area 4 Director: Ulla Virta  
Area 5 Director: Ann-Maarit Joenpera  
Area 6 Director: Maire Breede

Marja is Director, Regional Development for the Regional Council of Päijät-Häme in the City of Lahti, Finland. As Finland is a member of The European Union, the Regional Councils implement and supervise the programs of the European regional politics and work for integrative and continual development of the region. In her role, Marja is responsible for the general development strategy of the region and has the opportunity to collaborate with people from every European country within the international projects funded by the European Union, including some projects targeted to improve the status of women in business—an aspect of her work she particularly enjoys.

Marja first joined Zonta in 1991 because the Zonta Club of Hämeenlinna provided opportunities for networking with professionals in many fields, working together and having fun. It was later that she became familiar with Zonta's mission of advancing the status of women worldwide and the international service projects. As a member of Zonta, Marja is most proud of District 20's donation of US\$100,000 to the Zonta International Foundation in honor of Past International President Helvi Sipilä. Prior to her election as governor, Marja served as lt. governor, area director, vice-area director and chair of her district's service committee.

Under Marja's leadership, District 20 will influence the Central Government to improve the status of women by commenting on legislative proposals and will continue the discussion of CEDAW. The District will also

collaborate with UN Women and 1325 Network and will continue the "Prevention of Violence against Women" project in Estonia. To make its work more known in the community, District 20 will improve its information, public relations efforts and use of social media.



## DISTRICT 21

**Liisa Sulin Elmqvist**  
**Zonta Club of Jönköping II, Sweden**

Lt. Governor: Marianne von Hartmansdorff  
Treasurer: Lena Wahlgren  
Secretary: Carolyn Belgrave-Rappedstad  
Area 1 Director: Ruth Isaksson  
Area 2 Director: Karin Andersson Lundkvist  
Area 3 Director: Kaisa Adlercreutz  
Area 4 Director: Anna Lind  
Area 5 Director: Marie-Louise Hegewald  
Area 6 Director: Anita Apine

Liisa is a human resource consultant with 25 years of experience in staff issues. Her ability to assist clients in unique ways in the labor market encourages them to take new steps in life. Helping clients reach their individual goals involves training, practice and lectures, which are also a large part of Liisa's work. The variety of developments and careers demands that she be an open- and broad-minded person, and Liisa enjoys meeting many different people through her work.

Liisa was asked to join Zonta in 1990. More than twenty years later, she is still a member because she likes Zonta's mission to advance the status of women worldwide. She is also proud to be a Zontian because of the engagement of Zontians in club activities. Prior to being elected governor of District 21, Liisa served as lt. governor, area director, vice-area director and chairman of her district's OMC and UN committees.

District 21 will focus on increasing global awareness of Zonta through service and advocacy initiatives, district and club websites, and the effective use of social media at the district and club levels. District 21 has also developed a 3-minute elevator speech that explains what Zonta is. The goal is to have all Zontians in District 21 learn the elevator speech and to be proud to share that they are members of Zonta International.



## DISTRICT 22

**Judith Anderson OAM**  
**Zonta Club of Brisbane Inc, Australia**

Lt. Governor: Judith Trevan-Hawke  
Treasurer: Elaine Harrington  
Secretary: Julie Mannion  
Area 1 Director: Narelle Fraser  
Area 2 Director: Denise Wilschut  
Area 3 Director: Amena Reza  
Area 4 Director: Kathleen Everett  
Area 5 Director: Hilary Grant

Following a career which included secondary teaching, health education, journalism, human resource management, and the international marketing of education, Judith spent 13 years as General Manager of Queensland Ballet, the State's professional ballet company, before retiring in late 2010. Since retirement, she has worked as a part-time Senior Advisor to the Governor of Queensland, the personal representative of Queen Elizabeth II in the State. This position is constantly stimulating and interesting as it involves preparing background briefings for events which the Governor attends or hosts and updates on the large number of organizations of which she is the Patron, as well as drafting speeches and special correspondence, writing reports on high level meetings, and conducting historical research and preparing material for public displays and publications about Queensland's heritage-listed Government House.

Judith was invited to join Zonta as a charter member of the Zonta Club of Rockhampton in 1982. She accepted the invitation for the opportunity to work with like-minded women to improve the status of women worldwide. Thirty years later, she is still a member because there is still so much work to do, and Zonta offers a way for her voice to be part of the international chorus to improve women's lives. Judith served as district secretary, area director and chairman of her district's PR committee prior to being elected governor.

District 22 will increase public recognition of Zonta as a credible and trustworthy 'brand' by improving member and public understanding of Zonta's unique mission and record of achievement in service and advocacy.



### DISTRICT 23

**Ann Horrocks**

**Zonta Club of Bendigo Inc, Australia**

- Lt. Governor: Erica Majba
- Treasurer: Paula Lioret
- Secretary: Bernadette Wood
- Area 1 Director: Debbie Schmidt
- Area 2 Director: Jodi Knoop
- Area 3 Director: Carole Theobald
- Area 4 Director: Jane Adornetto
- Area 5 Director: Lois Green

Ann is a retired industrial chemist and project manager. She initially worked in the research laboratory of an international food manufacturer and later in a heavy engineering metallurgical laboratory. After managing this laboratory for a number of years, her role expanded to include project management of defense projects, including a multi purpose specialist military vehicle. This involved managing the design, production and manufacture of these vehicles, as well as contract negotiations with both Australian and overseas armies. She enjoyed the challenges that were part of her work on a daily basis and the opportunity to work with and manage many different personalities.

Ann initially joined Zonta in 1988 as she worked and lived in an all-male environment and wanted to not only enjoy the company of other women, but to engage with them to assist her local community. After joining, she realized that Zonta was much bigger than her local club and that, as a group, Zontians could achieve so much more to improve the lives of women worldwide. More than 20 years later, Ann is still a member because she sees the difference that Zonta makes and she wants to continue to work towards improving women's lives. Ann has served as secretary of her district twice, as area director and as chairman of her district's Amelia Earhart and service committees. She was a member of the 2006 ZI Convention technical committee and assisted at the 2008 Convention in a similar role.

As governor, Ann will continue the work of previous boards while working with her new team to update District 23's goals and develop a strategic plan to align with Zonta International's 2012-2014 Biennial Goals and

encourage clubs to work towards meeting them. She will promote the publication of Zonta projects and successes through all areas of the media to highlight Zonta's contributions to advancing the status of women at all levels. This increased visibility of Zonta should lead to more members and greater support from the communities in which we work.

She is looking forward to the challenges and successes of the coming biennium.



### DISTRICT 24

**Kerrie Bigsworth**

**Zonta Club of Sydney Inc, Australia**

- Lt. Governor: Margaret Bateman
- Treasurer: Irene Moritz
- Secretary: Leanne Elliott
- Area 1 Director: Carroll Howe
- Area 2 Director: Rae Weston
- Area 3 Director: Patricia Funnell

Kerrie is a retired urban economist and senior government official. Her career included roles in strategic planning and strategic policy development for public sector human service organizations, including organizations providing health and housing services. She now provides strategic guidance and performance and compliance oversight as a board member for not-for-profit organizations in human services. Her major commitment is to Relationships Australia NSW, an organization that focuses on family relationships and enables people to strengthen their relationships with family and community and to manage conflict and change. She enjoys being able to contribute as part of a team, including learning from other team members with backgrounds quite different from her own.

Kerrie was first introduced to Zonta when she was invited to speak at a local club meeting. She joined Zonta in 1999 because she discovered the fellowship and support for her in her career from a fascinatingly diverse group who shared her desire to ensure women have the best possible chance to fulfill their potential. More than 10 years later, she remains impressed by Zonta's impact worldwide and wants to contribute to that impact. Kerrie served as Lt. governor and chairman of her district's OMC committee prior to being elected governor.

To increase Zonta's visibility and credibility, District 24 will target its service projects and advocacy efforts to those initiatives that most effectively advance the status of women, extend its use of awards to promote Zonta in the community, continue to work publicly with like-minded organizations to advocate for issues impacting women at the district and national levels, and develop resources to help clubs take on advocacy roles at the local level. District 24 will also expand and improve its website and use of social media so that members and others can better see who Zontians are and what they do.



### DISTRICT 25

**Marlene Abeyewardene**

**Zonta Club of Colombo I, Sri Lanka**

- Lt. Governor: Mahazaver Dalal
- Treasurer: Suzette De Alwis – Colombo 01
- Recording Secretary – Sumithra Fernando
- Corresponding Secretary – Chathuri Ranasinghe
- Area 1 Director: Shahnaz Nathani
- Area 2 Director: Shaharuk Rahman

As a consultant obstetrician and gynecologist, Marlene has treated various obstetric and gynecological problems in both government and private sector hospitals. She has also worked with the Ministry of Health, as past president of the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to improve the maternal mortality and morbidity and neonatal and perinatal mortality rates in Sri Lanka. For Marlene, delivering babies and bringing life to the world is a most rewarding occupation.

Marlene joined Zonta in 1989 because she felt Zonta would give her the opportunity to contribute to the well-being and empowerment of women in Sri Lanka in more ways than just health. In her 23 years of membership, Marlene is especially proud of the projects she has been involved with to help women in Sri Lanka, including well woman clinics for women in the slums and efforts to improve the lives of women inmates in the main mental hospital and prisons in Colombo. She also values the great relationships that exist between Zontians in Sri Lanka, District 25 and Zonta International. Prior to her

*Continued on page 60...*

...Continued from page 59

## DISTRICT 25

election as governor, Marlene served as Lt. governor, area director and chairman of her district's Z Club committee.

District 25 will work to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and prevent obstetric fistula and reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in Liberia through contributions to Zonta International Foundation. They will also work to increase public awareness of these issues through the media and district website. The District also plans to create awareness of the programs of Zonta clubs in District 25 and to publicize the clubs' success stories as a means of increasing Zonta's visibility and credibility and thus the vision of Zonta International.



## DISTRICT 26

**Sadako Miyake**  
**Zonta Club of Okayama, Japan**

Lt. Governor: Yukiko Toyota  
Treasurer: Yoshiko Okabe  
Secretary: Sawano Sawai  
Area 1 Director: Fumiko Seki  
Area 2 Director: Takako Yasuda  
Area 3 Director: Noriko Okazawa  
Area 4 Director: Yoshiko Yoshinaga

Sadako is the founder and President of Mikuni World Corporation, a company that supplies furniture and fixtures to offices in the Okayama area. She is also a volunteer adviser to The Business Women's Club of the Tamano Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairperson of the Okayama Prefecture Cooperation on Defense Businesswomen's Club. She finds personal fulfillment in increasing global awareness of, and contributing to, efforts to advance women's status both locally and globally.

In 1978, on the advice of her mother, Sadako and her older sister joined the Zonta Club of Okayama as charter members. Being a member of Zonta, therefore, not only honors the memory of her late mother; it also gives Sadako a sense of pride in supporting Zonta's ideals and goals. Sadako has served as Lt. Governor, District Secretary, Area Director, District Foundation Ambassador and Chairman of the district's OMC

committee. In addition to District 26's relief work for the Tohoku region in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, Sadako is also proud of the many good friends she has made around the world as a result of her Zonta experiences.

During the 2012-2014 Biennium, District 26 is focusing its efforts on increasing its membership. Every day, Zontians in District 26 promote Zonta International's programs to advance women's legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status globally and locally in order to raise awareness of Zonta International in Japan.



## DISTRICT 27

**Christa Timmermann**  
**Zonta Club of Bremen, Germany**

Lt. Governor: Myriam Troubleyn  
Treasurer: Rita Reed  
Secretary: Liesbet Van Landegem  
Area 1 Director: Claudine Speltz  
Area 2 Director: Suzanne Lorenzo  
Area 3 Director: Margrit Kolbe-Hopp  
Area 4 Director: Olha Sydorenko  
Area 5 Director: Griet De Prycker  
Area 6 Director: Claire Awouters  
Area 7 Director: Freia Sucker-Hoelscher

Christa is a German certified tax advisor and co-owner of "Christa Timmerman and Henning Mueller, Tax Advisor" in Bremen, Germany. She has managed the business with her co-partner and six employees for the last 30 years. Her role is to give tax advice and to support her clients in personal and financial matters, which involves a high level of trust and responsibility on both sides. During her many years of self-employment, Christa has developed excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and she enjoys working with clients, young and old with many different personalities, to find solutions for their financial matters.

Since she first joined Zonta in 1994, Christa has been convinced of the importance of Zonta's mission to advance the status of women worldwide. In her part of the world, women have privileges but looking beyond her own borders, she sees the problems and difficulties other women have to face and she knows that they need Zon-

ta's help. As a member of Zonta, Christa has become more interested and has gained a better understanding of the real economic, social and political issues facing women outside the Western world, but she also learned what needs to be done for women's rights in the Western world too. Meeting women from other countries with different cultural background and different positions has also enriched Christa's life in many ways. Prior to being elected governor, Christa served as Lt. governor, district treasurer and chairman of her district's finance and OMC committees.

To enhance the internationality of Zonta, Christa will focus on increasing the visibility of Zonta in the countries of District 27. To achieve this goal, she will work to increase awareness of Zonta International's programs within Zonta's clubs, which will involve creating materials in all five languages spoken in District 27. She will also support the district committees, especially LAA and service, in attending more area meetings to report on the progress and results of the service projects.



## DISTRICT 28

**Sonia Albanese Carotti**  
**Zonta Club of Roma Ostia, Italy**

Lt. Governor: Helena Buehler  
Treasurer: Therese Rychener  
Secretary: Fernanda Gallo Freschi  
Area 2 Director: Magdalena Weidenfeller  
Area 3 Director: Maura Manghi  
Area 4 Director: Regine Ammann-Henning

Sonia is a medical doctor, specializing in general surgery and cardiac surgery. Her current position is Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon with Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, the principal pediatric institution in Italy and one of the most important in the world. She finds her work scientifically and technically very interesting, and enjoys that every day is a challenge; however, the best feeling is when she is able to save the life of a child. Sonia is also President of the Pediatric Section of the Italian Society of Cardiac Surgery.

Drawn to Zonta by the example of some professional women for whom she had great respect, Sonia joined Zonta in 1986 and has remained a member in the more than 25 years since because Zonta embodies her ideals for the advancement of women. She

was and is proud to contribute to change and to keep improving the condition of women in the world. Sonia served as Lt. governor, area director and chairman of her district's OMC committee prior to being elected governor of District 28.

To increase Zonta International's credibility and visibility throughout the world, Sonia believes Zonta must transmit its ideals in a simple and direct way to new generations. To do so, efforts must be made to increase the visibility of Zonta's leaders and projects.



### DISTRICT 29

**Catherine McEwan**  
Zonta Club of London II, England

Lt. Governor: Marijke Jongbloed  
Treasurer: Monika Geise  
Secretary: Cornelia Zemskeris  
Area 1 Director: Monique Vernet  
Area 2 Director: Julia Gúthoff  
Area 3 Director: Britt Gustawsson  
Area 4 Director: Caja Schuurman

Catherine is an independent property developer. She researches the market to find and develop property that after renovation will generate income from either sale or rental. She has been involved in multi-site commercial property management for 25 years and was Managing Director of Serviced Office Group Plc. Prior to that, Catherine developed and managed three self-storage companies for Safeland Plc. As a result of the success of those businesses, she decided to use her entrepreneurial skills to become independent and work for herself.

Catherine joined Zonta in 1998 because she had been very fortunate in her own career and wanted to help other women do the same. When she was first introduced to Zonta, she was very impressed by the caliber of women she met with whom she had an instant rapport. Nearly 15 years later, she is still a member because of the wonderful fellowship amongst members in Zonta and the more involved she gets with Zonta the more she gets back. Today, she is also concerned about the unequal effects of the current economic situation on women. Prior to being elected governor, Catherine served as Lt. governor, area director, vice-area director

and chairman of her district's OMC and PR committees.

To increase Zonta's credibility and visibility during the 2012-2014 Biennium, Catherine will focus on improving members' knowledge of Zonta's service and advocacy work so they can speak confidently about Zonta. She will do so through the use of technology and social media. Catherine will also encourage members to stay up-to-date on developments at the UN, Council of Europe, government and other organizations and to provide feedback and information on issues related to Zonta's mission.



### DISTRICT 30

**Nadia Biancato**  
Zonta Club of Alessandria, Italy

Lt. Governor: Michèle Rossano  
Treasurer: Gabriella Mornaghini  
Secretary: Anna Girello  
Area 1 Director: Marie-Paule Perez  
Area 2 Director: Erika Ortmanns-Müller  
Area 3 Director: Anna Maria Rambaudi  
Area 4 Director: Thérèse Degoumois  
Area 5 Director: Vladimira Tracheva

Nadia is a freelance journalist and owner of S.H.E. Nadia Biancato Comunica, a communication and PR agency she founded in Alessandria, Italy—one of two businesses she has started in the last six years. Companies and other clients turn to Nadia to improve their image or to strengthen their market position, which Nadia does through press releases and events organized to promote their activities. Nadia enjoys the creative work it takes to start and complete new projects. Her most recent and exciting project involved coaching 53 students in publishing their own magazine.

Nadia is proud to be a charter member of the Zonta Club of Alessandria, which she joined in 2000. She joined Zonta because women's rights are not respected everywhere in the same way and because violence against women is such a prevalent issue and one she hopes to help change. Prior to being elected governor, Nadia served as Lt. governor, district foundation ambassador, District Conference Alessandria 2003 Committee Chair, and as chairman of her district's OMC, PR and Z club committees. She is also proud

to be the SOM Chair of the Zonta Club of Casale Monferrato and Zonta Club of Galati. In addition to her membership in Zonta, Nadia is a delegate of the UN Women Italian Committee and a member of several non-profit associations.

District 30 will focus on increasing Zonta's visibility during the 2012-2014 Biennium. To do this, Zontians in District 30 will need to be fully aware of Zonta's mission and role in advancing the status of women worldwide. Nadia will also encourage clubs in each of District 30's eight countries to focus on advocacy work that supports women's rights.



### DISTRICT 31

**Huey-Er Lian Lee**  
Zonta Club of Kaohsiung,  
Republic of China (Taiwan)

Lt. Governor: Hsin-Hsin Yang  
Treasurer: Shu-Lan Heieh Chiu  
Secretary: Lih-Chiu W. Lee  
Area 1 Director: Hui-Ling Lin  
Area 2 Director: Joanna Lee

Huey-Er is a professor at Kaohsiung Medical University, former Dean of the Dental School, and now the Director of the Dental Department at Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital. In these roles, she teaches graduate and post-graduate students, takes care of patients and conducts research. The first Golden Z club in Taiwan was also established in Kaohsiung Medical University.

Huey-Er joined Zonta in 1984 because she liked Zonta's mission and taking care of people who need help. Nearly 30 years later, she enjoys being a member because Zontians throughout the world are like a family and get together and do good things for the world and are willing to serve for the people. Prior to being elected as governor of District 31, Huey-Er served as Lt. governor, District 26 area 2 director, club president of Kaohsiung club and chairman of her district's OMC and Z club committees.

This biennium, Huey-Er plans to increase Zonta International's credibility and visibility in District 31. She will increase her visits with members and will talk with them to understand their viewpoints and what they want from their membership. Huey-Er and her

*Continued on page 62...*

...Continued from page 61

### DISTRICT 31

district board will work with clubs and members to increase the district's membership and charter new clubs, including Z clubs. They will emphasize the importance of leadership and will spend more time educating the members and the public about the mission and goals of Zonta International. They will encourage members to volunteer their time for Zonta, and they will hold charity events in honor of Zonta International on Rose Day and other events to support the Zonta International service projects. All members will be asked to contribute to efforts to increase gender equality, human rights and environmental protection.



### DISTRICT 32

**Eun Ok Yoo**  
**Zonta Club of Seoul V, South Korea**

Lt. Governor: Hyang-Eui Chang, Seoul VI

Treasurer: Jin-Ju Hong, Seoul I

Secretary: Young-Sun Yoo, Seoul V

Area 1 Director: Young-Ja Lee, Seoul I

Area 2 Director: Chung Hee Noh, Busan II

Area 3 Director: Young-Ok Kim, Jeonnam

Eun Ok has been a director for more than 10 years and is currently an Advisor of Genematrix.Inc, a leading company in personalized medicine and products for cancer and infectious diseases, including hepatitis and HIV. Genematrix is a diagnostic technology based on RFMP (restriction fragment mass polymorphism). In her role, Eun Ok advises on overall business matters and assists with the registration of new medical technology. Her responsibilities also included getting the company listed on the KOSDAQ, finding

opportunities for co-projects and business with other companies and institutions, publicizing products and technology, and coordinating with relevant organizations.

Having worked for many years at foreign companies, Eun Ok became accustomed to the Western culture of equality in education, opportunity and human rights. Recognizing that she could help more people achieve this same equality as a member of a group, rather than by herself, she joined Zonta in 1996 to work towards the goal of equality for people worldwide. Zonta's objectives and activities align with her personal values, and she is especially proud of Zonta's international service projects. As a member of Zonta, Eun Ok has served in numerous leadership positions at the club and district levels, including as district AE coordinator, chairman of the district PR committee, area director and lieutenant governor, before being elected to serve as governor for the 2012-2014 Biennium.

As governor, Eun Ok will oversee the process for Zonta Korea (District 32) to become a corporate body and obtain a legal status authorized by the Minister of Gender Equality & Family. The District's goal is to increase membership, and progress has already been made towards this goal with 10 new members inducted in May 2012. ■

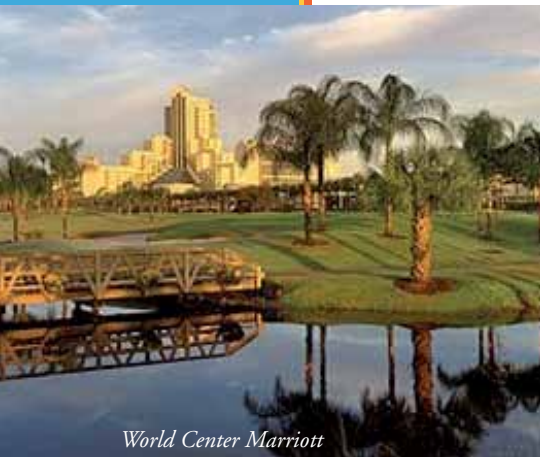


# Zonta International Takes New Approach to Advocacy

A renewed sense of the need for Zonta International to be more action-oriented in its advocacy efforts as we go forward into the 2012-2014 Biennium has brought together the Chairmen of the United Nations Committee, the Legislative Awareness & Advocacy Committee and the Council of Europe Committee. The decision was made to bring advocacy issues to all the districts and clubs in a unified effort to make advocacy "real" for all of our members. During this biennium, the UN Committee and the Council of Europe Committee will become the providers of information as to the emerging and enduring issues faced by women all over the world. The Legislative Awareness & Advocacy Committee will then disseminate the information and suggest ways that our districts and clubs can begin to make an impact on these issues.

We plan to touch on such pressing issues as violence against women, trafficking and women's health, among others. At all times, we will be mindful that underpinning all the issues and our advocacy efforts are the Millennium Development Goals set out by the United Nations. Not coincidentally, the themes of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women for the next two years are Violence against Women and the Implementation of the MDGs for Women and Girls. It is hoped that districts, clubs and individual members will welcome this initiative with enthusiasm. In the coming months, watch this new plan unfold and grow on the Zonta International website, [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org). Visit it often. ■

[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)



World Center Marriott

## Invitation to the 62nd Zonta International



**Orlando, Florida**—a family destination!! The city prides itself in providing something for everyone. Orlando is located in central Florida and is the most visited tourist destination in the United States. Visitors of all ages will find any experience or activity imaginable, day or night. Although Orlando is best known for the world's top theme parks and water parks, there are a multitude of lakes, springs and rivers for swimming, boating, water skiing and fishing. Furthermore, there are plenty of golf courses, tennis courts and hiking trails for those interested in

sporting activities. In addition to Orlando's major attractions and activities, visitors have the opportunity to enjoy an area rich in history, arts and culture.

Attending the 2014 Convention, you will discover and experience all of the fun and excitement Orlando has to offer. Come earlier and stay later to fully realize the opportunities available: the world's top theme parks and water parks with spectacular rides and shows such as Walt Disney World, Epcot, Universal Studios, Sea World, and most recently Legoland; and the rich history and culture, including The Charles Morse Museum of American Art, which houses the largest collection of Tiffany glass from the artist's renowned stained glass windows to his famous lamps, as well as The Orange County Regional History Center, which explores life in Orlando before Walt Disney world, when the area was first known for its cattle ranches and later orange groves.

Are Shopping and dining your passion? Orlando offers a wealth of shopping and dining opportunities including luxury malls, outlet stores, unique boutiques, theme park stores, museum and art gallery shops, antique stores and farmers markets. Visit Celebration—developed by The Walt Disney Company as the ideal

### HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER

The site of the 2014 Zonta International Convention is the Orlando World Center Marriott golf and spa resort. Visit [www.marriottworldcenter.com](http://www.marriottworldcenter.com) for more information.

Single Rooms	US\$169/night*
Single/Double Rooms	US\$189/night*
Quad Rooms	US\$209/night*

American neighborhood, featuring a wide variety of shops, restaurants and entertainment, along a picturesque waterfront.

No visit to Florida and the Orlando area is complete without a visit to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor complex. Enjoy tours of behind-the-scenes areas with views of space shuttle facilities and launch pads and view Cape Canaveral —then and now, which traces the space program from the original NASA launch sites to the present. You may want to experience astronaut training with a variety of interactive anti-gravity activities, as well as take the helm at Mission Control under the supervision of a NASA astronaut cop member.

District 11, as host district for the 2014 Convention, welcomes you and looks forward to providing you with a wonderful convention and visitor experience. ■

\*Does not include taxes.



# Zonta International®

*Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide*

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USA  
www.zonta.org



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## Welcome New Zonta Clubs

*The Zonta International Community extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta clubs and Z and Golden Z clubs, chartered since October 2011.*

### Zonta Clubs

- Zonta Club of Borgarfjordur, Iceland, District 13, Area 3
- Zonta Club of Gunma, Japan, District 26, Area 2
- Zonta Club of Hiidenvesi, Finland, District 20, Area 5
- Zonta Club of Oak Brook, USA, District 6, Area 1
- Zonta Club of Sen Himeji, Japan, District 26, Area 4
- Zonta Club of Takamatsu, Japan, District 26, Area 4
- Lansing STEMS Academy Z Club, USA, District 15, Area 2
- Mercy Z Club, USA, District 4, Area 4
- Odessa-Montour Z Club, USA, District 2, Area 3
- Shoalhaven High Z Club, Australia, District 24, Area 2
- Spring Hill ISD Z Club, USA, District 10, Area 2
- St. Hilda's Collegiate Z Club, New Zealand, District 16, Area 5
- St. Therese School Z Club, Philippines, District 17, Area 5
- West Visayas State University Z Club, Philippines, District 17, Area 3
- Z Club of Burbank, USA, District 9, Area 3
- Z club of Naga City Science High School, Philippines, District 17, Area 5
- Zee Club Zonta III, Dhaka, Bangladesh, District 25, Area 2

### Golden Z Clubs

- Cagaya State University at Aparri Golden Z Club, Philippines, District 17, Area 4
- Dhaka Golden Z Club I, Bangladesh, District 25, Area 2
- Golden Zee Club, Zonta III Dhaka, Bangladesh, District 25, Area 2
- Kurashiki Sakuyo Golden Z Club, Japan, District 26, Area 4
- Oregon State University, USA, District 8, Area 4

### Z Clubs

- Batavia High School Z Club, USA, District 4, Area 4



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