



Appendix 18

Zonta's Student Clubs – Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs

It has been difficult to get an overview of Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs but there are two very useful resources. First, Judith S. Cohen, Zonta International Z-Club and Golden Z-Club chairman 1998-2004 compiled a directory of all Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs as of June 2000. She listed them by district (there were 30 districts at that time), giving charter year and number, name, club contact/advisor, and sponsoring Zonta club with name, number and district. In her foreword to the directory, she says: "It has been a tedious task, as many clubs did not reply to our request". A second valuable source is Wilma Swantz's paper which contains student-clubs of District IX from 1948 to 87 as well as some comments on the situation at large.

Established in 1948, the Z Club and Golden Z Club program is one of Zonta International's longest running programs. Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs help high school, college and university students develop leadership skills, promote career exploration and encourage members to participate in community, school and international service projects.

1948–1958: Zonta Club of Burbank, California, USA founded the first Z Club at Burbank High School in 1948.

Recalling the experience of establishing the Z Club, Wilma Swartz wrote:

It was not from some noble thought of teaching girls to do good and worthwhile things for others that Z Clubs were born. Instead, it was the principal of Burbank High School in Burbank, California, on his way to a meeting of the Key Club in the summer of 1948, who commented to Dr. Elta Pfister, supervising staff members for Burbank School District and charter President of Zonta Club of Burbank, "Why don't you start a club for girls like Key Club (a boys-club sponsored by Kiwanis)" Dr. Elta jokingly responded "You want Zonta to start a Z club?" And he answered "Sure, why not?"

So, a Z Club gave girls the opportunity to meet with 35 women in the Zonta Club of Burbank and explore careers and professions other than teaching, nursing and secretary. The girls were also encouraged to follow Zonta's example by engaging in community activities. Zonta International had been encouraging Zonta Clubs to advocate young women to enter the diplomatic corps, to attend colleges and

universities. So, to support the organization of Z Clubs was a further effort to promote young women for the improvement of Zonta International and the world (Wilma E. Swantz, p.3).

With the success of the Burbank club, District 9 introduced the concept to Zonta International. The program was adopted and the first four Z Clubs were soon organized in Southern California. The movement then began to spread: Tampa (Florida), Boise (Idaho), Paterson (New Jersey), Yuma (Arizona) and Billings (Montana).

The Burbank Z Club remains active in 2019.

The first three Golden Z Clubs were at Junior colleges in Boise (Idaho), and in Santa Barbara and Riverside (California).

Within 10 years, twelve Z Clubs and three Golden Z Clubs had been chartered.

1964: The first three Z Clubs outside the USA were organized at Lakeport Secondary School, in St Catherines, Ontario, Canada and in Lyon and Paris, France.

By **1968**, 90 Z Clubs and Golden Z Clubs had been chartered, including the first Z Club founded in Puerto Rico (Unincorporated Territory of USA).

1974–1975: A Z Club was founded in Quezon City, the Philippines, followed by a Z Club in Hong Kong in 1975.

1978: The Zonta International Convention in Denver made it optional to include male members in the student clubs. The purpose was to inspire youth to work together in a world fellowship of service and understanding.

By **1994**, there were 195 active student-clubs: 158 Z Clubs and 37 Golden Z Clubs in 15 countries, sponsored by 79 Zonta Clubs.

They were found in the following 15 countries (in alphabetical order): Australia, Canada, Chile, Finland France, Ghana, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Sierra Leone and USA. Clubs had been chartered but were later closed in Belgium, Colombia, Greece and India.

Number of student clubs per geographic zone and country as of June 2000

Geographic Zone	Z Clubs	Golden Z Clubs	Total Clubs
Africa	12	5	17
Ghana	1	1	2
Ivory Coast		1	1
Nigeria	8	3	11
Sierra Leone	2		2
Togo	1		1

Asia	30	12	52
Hong Kong	11	2	13
India	1		1
Philippines	27	9	36
Taiwan	1	1	2
Australia/NZ	6	1	7
Australia	3	1	4
New Zealand	3		3
Europe	8	7	15
Bulgaria		1	1
France	1		1
Ireland	2		2
Italy	4	6	10
Switzerland	1		1
North America	110	8	118
USA	88	7	95*
Canada	19		19**
Bahamas	3	1	4
South America	1		1
Chile	1		1
Total	176	34	210 in 20 countries

*Clubs are located in 28 of the 50 US states.

**All 19 of the Canadian clubs are in the province of Ontario.

2014, as of 1 September: 279 active student clubs: 202 Z-clubs and 77 Golden Z-clubs in 19 countries

2016, as of 22 May: 327 active student clubs: 224 Z-clubs and 103 Golden Z-clubs in 20 countries

2018, as of 8 September: 373 active student- clubs: 258 Z-Clubs and 115 Golden Z-clubs in 24 countries

Number of Student clubs per geographic zone and country as of September 2018

Geographic Zone	Z Clubs	Golden Z Clubs	Total Clubs
Africa	17	1	18
Ghana	2	1	3
Nigeria	15		15
Asia	83	73	156
Bangladesh	3	1	4

Hong Kong	17	8	25
India	1		1
Japan	2	11	13
Nepal	1		1
Philippines	47	43	90
South Korea	1		1
Sri Lanka	1	2	3
Taiwan	7	4	11
Thailand	3	4	7
Australia/NZ	26	1	27
Australia	21	1	22
New Zealand	5		5
Europe	4	6	10
Austria		1	1
Bulgaria	1		1
France		2	2
Germany		2	2
Hungary	1		1
Italy		1	1
Romania	2		2
North America	128	34	162
USA	104	29	133*
Canada	23	3	26**
Bahamas	1	2	3
Total	258	115	373 in 24 countries

*Clubs are located in 29 of the 50 US states.

**All 26 of the Canadian clubs are in the province of Ontario.

Between 1994 and 2018, the number of student clubs increased by 178: 100 Z Clubs and 78 Golden Z Clubs. The program has a special appeal to Zonta clubs in Asia; European clubs have not responded to the program because there is little or no tradition of clubs in European schools. The first Z club at Burbank High School is still active.

1961: Emma L. Conlon Annual Z Club Service Awards

These awards recognize the student club projects and programs which best express the ideals of Zonta International through local and international service and advocacy to empower women worldwide. The first awards were presented at the 1962 Zonta International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Emma L. Conlon was born in 1900 and from 1944, was a member of the Zonta Club of Paterson Area, New Jersey, USA, going on to serve as Zonta International President 1956–58. In her biennium, 50 Zonta clubs were chartered, among them the Zonta Club of Guatemala City, the first Z Club in Central America. Following her Zonta International presidency, she focused her

service on students' clubs. Between 1958 and 1960 she traveled and undertook research for the UN as chairman of the Refugee Camp Study Committee. She died in 1955.

Information on how the award program started is contradictory. De Langis in *A History of Zonta International 1919-1999* (p. 68) says: "1961: Annual Emma L. Conlon Z Club Service Program, personally funded by PIP Emma Conlon, is inaugurated", with a reference to an article in *The Zontian* 1996 Winter North/Summer South.

The Z and Golden Z club manual (p. 30) also states that Emma L. Conlon "conceived and funded the Emma L. Conlon service award". However, p. 31 tells a different story about its funding:

The idea originated with Maymie Pierce, Zonta Club of Boise, Idaho, who served as chairman of Zonta International Z Club Committee from July 1960 to her death in April 1961. She named it in honor of Emma Conlon, who continued to underwrite the award for Zonta International until her death in 1995. Since that time, Zonta International has underwritten this award. The award was established in 1961 by the International Board as a continuing feature of the Z Club and Golden Z Club program

1962–1980: The competition was only for Z Clubs; all winners were from USA

- 1st prize USD\$50.00
- 2nd prize USD\$25.00
- 3rd prize USD\$25.00

1981–2000: The competition was only for Z Clubs from 1981 to 1986; since 1987 there have been two parallel competitions, one for Z Clubs and one for Golden Z Clubs.

In 1983, the Zonta Club of Lakeport Secondary School, Canada, was the first Z club outside of the USA to become a prize-winner. From 1983 through 2002 the club was a prize winner 13 times!

No awards were given in the 1996–98 biennium.

- 1st prize USD\$100.00
- 2nd prize USD\$50.00
- 3rd prize USD\$50.00

2001–2010:

- 1st prize (Z and Golden Z Clubs) USD\$500.00 each
- 2nd prize (Z and Golden Z Clubs) USD\$250.00 each
- 3rd prize (Z and Golden Z Clubs) USD\$100.00 each

2011–2017: In 2010, the Zonta International Board increased the awards to:

- 1st prize (Z and Golden Z Clubs) USD\$1,000.00 each
- 2nd prize (Z and Golden Z Clubs) USD\$500.00 each
- 3rd prize (Z and Golden Z Clubs) USD\$250.00 each

2018: In December 2017, the ZIF Board and the ZI Board approved an additional award of USD\$250.00 to be awarded to one Z Club and one Golden Z Club that had been chartered for less than two years. Other award levels remained the same.

These awards are internal Zonta awards which means they are administered and financed by Zonta International, not by the Zonta International Foundation.

Sources:

1. Wilma E. Swantz, District IX Historian: History of the District IX Z Clubs and Golden Z-Clubs, 1948-87, reviewed and updated by Evelyn Guenther, Zonta International Z Club and Golden Z-Club Committee chairman 1980-1984 and Committee member 1984-1986.
2. Z-Club and Golden Z-Club Directory 2000, compiled by Judith S. Cohen, Zonta International Z Club and Golden Z Club chairman 1998-2004
3. Z and Golden Z club manual, 2015 edition
4. A few District Historian Reports to CAC 2016-18,
5. Zonta International Directory online, locate a student club
6. List of Emma L. Conlon Awardees 1962-2018 and
7. De Langis: A History of Zonta International 1919-1999)