



## Chapter 2

### Zonta in North America – An Overview<sup>1</sup> including information on the early districts

#### United States: Names and Abbreviations of States and Territories

|                      |    |                |    |                |    |
|----------------------|----|----------------|----|----------------|----|
| Alabama              | AL | Louisiana      | LA | Oklahoma       | OK |
| Alaska               | AK | Maine          | ME | Oregon         | OR |
| Arizona              | AZ | Maryland       | MD | Pennsylvania   | PA |
| Arkansas             | AR | Massachusetts  | MA | Puerto Rico    | PR |
| California           | CA | Michigan       | MI | Rhode Island   | RI |
| Colorado             | CO | Minnesota      | MN | South Carolina | SC |
| Connecticut          | CT | Mississippi    | MS | South Dakota   | SD |
| Delaware             | DE | Missouri       | MO | Tennessee      | TN |
| District of Columbia | DC | Montana        | MT | Texas          | TX |
| Florida              | FL | Nebraska       | NE | Utah           | UT |
| Georgia              | GA | Nevada         | NV | Vermont        | VT |
| Hawaii               | HI | New Hampshire  | NH | Virginia       | VA |
| Idaho                | ID | New Jersey     | NJ | Washington     | WA |
| Illinois             | IL | New Mexico     | NM | West Virginia  | WV |
| Indiana              | IN | New York       | NY | Wisconsin      | WI |
| Iowa                 | IA | North Carolina | NC | Wyoming        | WY |
| Kansas               | KS | North Dakota   | ND |                |    |
| Kentucky             | KY | Ohio           | OH |                |    |

#### Canada: Names and Abbreviations of Canadian Provinces

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Alberta              | AB |
| British Columbia     | BC |
| Manitoba             | MB |
| New Brunswick        | NB |
| Newfoundland         | NF |
| Nova Scotia          | NS |
| Prince Edward Island | PE |
| Ontario              | ON |
| Quebec               | QB |
| Saskatchewan         | SK |

<sup>1</sup> Research compiled by Eva Nielsen

## Development of Zonta International in North America

| Year      | New Clubs | Closed Clubs | Gain/loss | Active Clubs |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1919      | 9         |              | 9         | 9            |
| 1920–1929 | 85        | 3            | 82        | 91           |
| 1930–1939 | 64        | 17           | 47        | 138          |
| 1940–1949 | 62        | 10           | 52        | 190          |
| 1950–1959 | 183       | 7            | 176       | 366          |
| 1960–1969 | 91        | 25           | 66        | 432          |
| 1970–1979 | 87        | 47           | 40        | 472          |
| 1980–1989 | 104       | 72           | 32        | 504          |
| 1990–1999 | 52        | 110          | -58       | 446          |
| 2000–2009 | 31        | 111          | -80       | 366          |
| 2010–2018 | 22        | 86           | -64       | 302          |
| Total     | 790       | 488          | 302       |              |

Olivia Ferry, Organization Membership and Classification (OMC) Committee chairman from 2002 to 2004, commented on developments in her report to the 2004 New York convention, saying:

With the consistent growth of Europe in the last 10 years, Europe has now overtaken North America as the largest Zonta continent, enjoying a 40 per cent share of existing Zonta clubs, followed by North America with a 33 per cent share. The same is true in terms of member share, with Europe now enjoying a 42 per cent share, up from 33 percent 10 years ago, while North America has a 34 per cent share, down about 12 percentage points from a decade ago.<sup>2</sup>

In her report to the 2008 Rotterdam convention as Zonta International President 2006–08, Olivia Ferry stated:

Retention was a focus of the North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM) last summer, and attrition rates for this region are slightly lower than at the end of March last year....The loss of members in disbanded clubs was higher than average this biennium. It appears that the pressure on these clubs either results in growth or in disbanding. The average size of disbanding clubs is significantly larger than in the past and now averages about 10 members....Many clubs especially in North America do not see the value of sponsoring a new club relative to the work involved.<sup>3</sup>

Though membership was on the agenda for the North American Inter-District Meeting in 2007, the Zonta International Membership Committee did not engage directly with the North American governors until the 2014–16 biennium. Membership Committee chairman Annette Binder's final report on North and South America at the end of the biennium stated that the committee had:

- been involved in the creation and introduction of the *Voices* membership pilot project in the U.S.
- chartered one e-club (Zonta e-Club of USA 2), with two more e-clubs in formation, and had educated members about e-clubs during the 2015 NAIDM and at various district conferences, resulting in an increase in district discussions and enthusiasm for future e-club charters
- engaged directly with governors and lieutenant governors for the first time in the region's history to focus on specific membership issues. The process started through e-activity and gained momentum with the formation of the Membership Task Force, which initially met online and finally met in person at the 2015 NAIDM

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<sup>2</sup> Olivia Ferry's report to New York convention, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Olivia Ferry's report to Rotterdam convention, 2008

- had to defer the District Review in North America to the next biennium.

### **Development of clubs in United States**

The organization founded its first nine Zonta clubs in the U.S. in 1919 – seven clubs in New York, one in Pennsylvania and one in Michigan. In 1924, Zonta had clubs in each of the four areas classified as regions by the United States Census Bureau.

Starting in 1920, Zonta clubs began to be organized in districts. The boundaries of the districts were not identical to state boundaries; some districts had clubs located in states that belonged to different regions/divisions; and some states had clubs in two or three districts. This remains the case in 2019.

The first Zonta club in Canada started in 1927. Zonta has no districts solely for Canadian clubs.

### **Zonta in the United States by Census Regions and Divisions**

#### Region 1 Northeast, Division 1 New England

The total number of clubs chartered in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont) is 46. However, 34 of these are closed, leaving 12 active clubs as of 2017. In two states (Connecticut and Rhode Island), there are currently no Zonta clubs. The state in which the highest number of clubs has been chartered (21) is Massachusetts. In 2017, Massachusetts remained the state with the most clubs (eight) in the New England division.

#### Region 1 Northeast, Division 2 Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic division (Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) is Zonta's core land. To date, 116 Zonta clubs have been chartered but half of them have closed, leaving 58 in operation. There are 38 in New York, 11 in Pennsylvania and nine in New Jersey. Currently, there are no Zonta clubs in Delaware.

#### Region 2 Midwest, Division 3 East North Central

East North Central (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) is another core region for Zonta with 160 chartered clubs. Only 74 were still active in 2017. Michigan had the most (35 clubs) followed by Illinois (16) and Ohio (14); Indiana and Wisconsin close the list with five and four clubs, respectively.

#### Region 2 Midwest, Division 4 West North Central

Zonta's West North Central Division is comprised of clubs in Minnesota and Missouri, which launched in 1926. By 1951, Zonta was represented in all states in the region. Of the 59 clubs chartered, more than half are closed, leaving 22 in operation. Currently, there are no clubs in Iowa and Nebraska. Missouri hosts the Zonta e-Club of USA 1 (District 07 Area 02).

#### Region 3 South, Division 5 South Atlantic

Zonta came to Washington, D.C. with the chartering of its first club in 1922. In the 1930s, Zonta clubs were established in Georgia and Florida. The remaining states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia) became Zonta states in the 1950s. In all, 103 clubs have been chartered in the region, 64 of which have closed, leaving 39 clubs. Most of them (21) are in Florida. The West Virginia club closed in 2012.

#### Region 3 South, Division 6 East South Central

In 1927, Tennessee became the first state with a Zonta club in the division, followed by Alabama in 1940 and Mississippi and Kentucky in 1952. Of the 17 clubs chartered, nine were still active in 2018.

#### Region 3 South, Division 7 West South Central

In 1924, Texas became the first Zonta state in Region 3's West South Central division, followed by Louisiana in 1941, Oklahoma in 1954 and Louisiana in 1962. Of the 50 clubs chartered; 30 have closed, leaving 16 in Texas, two in Louisiana and one in each of Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Region 4 West, Division 8 Mountain

In Colorado, where 21 clubs have been chartered, the first club was established in 1927. The 1930s and 1940s were difficult times, and no clubs were organized in the state between 1928 and 1948. Colorado was home to a total of 10 Zonta clubs as of 2018. In the overall region, 62 Zonta clubs have been chartered; 36 are closed and 26 are still active. Apart from Colorado, the number of clubs per state ranges from one to five. Zonta has not been represented in New Mexico since 2008.

Region 4 West, Division 9 Pacific

Zonta came early to this division with the chartering of clubs in California, Washington and Hawaii in 1923 and Oregon in 1929. Arkansas followed suit in 1961. Despite Hawaii's remoteness and small population, its first club was chartered in 1923 and a total of seven clubs have been chartered, of which three have closed. In all, 117 clubs have been chartered in the Pacific division. However, as many as 89 have closed, leaving 29 active clubs as at 2017. Of these, 12 are in California, in addition to one e-club; in the division's other states, the number of clubs is 16.<sup>4</sup>

**Development of Zonta Clubs in Canada**

There are 10 provinces in Canada of which nine have been Zonta provinces, starting in 1927 with Ontario, followed by Quebec in 1928, and British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan in the years from 1949 to 1957. The first Zonta Club in Prince Edward Island was chartered in 1963.

Saskatchewan lost its last club in 1988, followed by Manitoba in 1997, Alberta in 2005 and Newfoundland in 2006. In 2018, clubs were present in four provinces. Ontario topped the list with 17 clubs, Quebec had one, and British Columbia and Nova Scotia each had two.

**Survey of Active Zonta Clubs in North America in Selected Years per Region**

To evaluate and understand Zonta International's work, it is important to know the number of clubs at a given time.

The number of clubs in selected years is listed below.

|                     | <b>1924</b> | <b>1929</b> | <b>1939</b> | <b>1949</b> | <b>1959</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Region 1: Northeast | 17          | 43          | 60          | 62          | 90          |
| Region 2: Midwest   | 10          | 24          | 33          | 41          | 102         |
| Region 3: South     | 2           | 5           | 12          | 27          | 53          |
| Region 4: West      | 3           | 15          | 28          | 51          | 100         |
| Canada              | 4           | 6           | 10          | 18          |             |
|                     | <b>1969</b> | <b>1979</b> | <b>1989</b> | <b>1999</b> | <b>2009</b> |
| Region 1: Northeast | 92          | 93          | 113         | 100         | 83          |
| Region 2: Midwest   | 129         | 141         | 141         | 130         | 111         |
| Region 3: South     | 76          | 85          | 104         | 96          | 80          |
| Region 4: West      | 108         | 112         | 106         | 82          | 65          |
| Canada              | 27          | 33          | 39          | 36          | 26          |

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<sup>4</sup> For more details, please see Appendix 5 Zonta Clubs per Region, Division and State in U.S.

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
|                     | <b>2017</b> |
| Region 1: Northeast | 70          |
| Region 2: Midwest   | 92          |
| Region 3: South     | 69          |
| Region 4: West      | 54          |
| Canada              | 23          |

### **Development of the North American Districts**

The November 8, 1919, meeting constituting the Confederation of Zonta Clubs authorized the elected officers of the Confederation to divide the clubs into districts, represented by district chairmen who would become members of the board of directors.<sup>5</sup>

Other key milestones include:

**1920:** According to *The Zontian*, clubs existed in the following locations:

- northern Pennsylvania, western New York, and Ohio
- central and eastern New York
- Michigan
- southern New York and eastern Pennsylvania.

In April 1920, the confederation officers created three districts, each with a district chairman as leader:

- The Northern New York District
- The Southern New York District
- The Western District.

**1921:** The Western District had five clubs in three states.

**1923:** The West Coast District came into existence with the organization of the first Los Angeles Club<sup>6</sup>. Seattle, Los Angeles and Dallas constituted the West Coast District and Clara Herrick was appointed Chairman of the district.

**1924<sup>7</sup>:** In September, the confederation had 31 clubs with 1,520 members. A revised district plan was adopted. In addition:

- The East District comprised six clubs, all from New York.
- The South District involved seven clubs—four from New York, one from New Jersey, one from Washington, D.C. and one from Texas.
- The West District comprised 16 clubs—six from New York, one from Pennsylvania, five from Michigan, two from Ohio and two from Illinois.
- The West Coast District comprised three clubs—one from California, one from Hawaii and one from Washington.

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<sup>5</sup> The Zontian November 1929, p 8

<sup>6</sup> *District IX History 1923–1954* by Past Governors Mayme Bonham and Blodwen R. Hunt, and *District IX History 1982*, p.1

<sup>7</sup> *Zonta International – History of District V*, 1990, by Marjorie Wilson (p. 3): “1924. The original three districts became five – now to be alphabetically designated. We lost five clubs in New York State and the Erie Pennsylvania club. We still had Seattle, Los Angeles and Honolulu and Sydney Australia. We received no new clubs and no new territory”.

In December, the number of active clubs reached 32.

**1925:** The district plan was revised once more to designate five districts labeled A (former Eastern District), B (former Southern District), C (formerly *part of* the Western District), D (formerly *part of* the Western District) and E (former West Coast District).<sup>8</sup>

In December, the number of active clubs reached 32.

**1928:** The May 1928 issue of *The Zontian* reports on the district conferences held May 14, 1928. From this report, the following information can be deduced, but does not provide the full picture:

- District A: 10 clubs (nine from New York, one from Massachusetts).
- District B: nine clubs (six from New York, two from New Jersey, one from Washington, D.C.)
- District C: 9 clubs (six from New York, one from Pennsylvania, two from Ontario)
- District D: 19 clubs. The report does not include the names of the clubs in District D; it mentions only that “17 of the 19 clubs attended district conference”. It is known that Milwaukee (club no. 39) and Ottawa did not attend and there were two new clubs: Memphis (club no. 137) and Pontiac (club no. 50). According to the report, a round table discussion, suggested that “District D and District E in particular were in need of concentrated organization to strengthen existing clubs and give them neighbors within striking distance”. From the club register, put together from address lists in the *Zontian*, the clubs appear to have been from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Tennessee.
- District E covered everything west of the Mississippi River. The report in *The Zontian* says: owing to the great distance between the clubs constituting District E, it was impossible to hold a conference. However, two clubs in the district, Los Angeles (0052) and Dallas (0032), were reorganized and new clubs were formed in Tacoma (0049) and Fort Worth (0115).

As of December 31, Zonta had 66 active clubs. According to the district plan, clubs were organized in five districts, designated A, B, C, D and E. Years later, *The Zontian* described them this way: “The organization was divided into five districts, namely A, B, C, D and finally E, the latter area covering everything west of the Mississippi River.”<sup>9</sup>

**1929:** Due to the expansion in Districts I and II and unorganized territory in other districts, the Confederation Board recommended that a new plan be considered and appointed a Redistricting Committee with these members:

- Dora E. Neun, Zonta Club of Rochester, chairman
- Caroline Stickle, Zonta Club of Boston
- Margaret Boisen, Zonta Club of Memphis
- Bertha Allen, Zonta Club of Seattle
- Martha Haskell, Zonta Club of Pasadena.

The district plan was revised to include regions, and the district designations changed from letters to Roman numerals. While the plan became effective in 1930, not all contemplated districts were put in place.

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<sup>8</sup> *District IX History 1923–1954* by Past Governors Mayme Bonham and Blodwen R. Hunt; *Zonta International – History of District V*, 1990, by Marjorie Wilson; and *The Zontian*. The District plan was not effective until 1925. The West Coast District is mentioned in the Bonham-Hunt history but not in the Wilson history.

<sup>9</sup> *The Zontian*, November 1944.

**1930:** The Zonta District plan, with Districts, Regions and Clubs, is shown in the tables below. Club numbers are indicated, when known. The charter year is included for clubs for which no record of the number has been found.<sup>10</sup>

District I Region A: 27 clubs (four in Connecticut, seven in Massachusetts, one in Maine, 13 in New York and two in Vermont)

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Albany, New York, 0074          | New Haven, Connecticut (1929)    |
| Alexandria Bay, New York (1927) | New London, Connecticut, 0095    |
| Amsterdam, New York (1928)      | Newton, Massachusetts, 0099      |
| Auburn, New York, 0035          | Oneida, New York, 0031           |
| Bangor, Maine, 0110             | Poughkeepsie, New York, 0069     |
| Boston, Massachusetts, 0045     | Rome, New York, 0018             |
| Burlington, Vermont, 0106       | Rutland, Vermont (1929)          |
| Cambridge, Massachusetts (1928) | Salem, Massachusetts, 0101       |
| Glens Fall, New York 0027       | Schenectady, New York, 0043      |
| Hartford, Connecticut (1929)    | Springfield, Massachusetts, 0072 |
| Hudson Fall, New York (1929)    | Utica, New York, 0008            |
| Lynn, Massachusetts (1930)      | Syracuse, New York, 0005         |
| Malden, Massachusetts, 0062     | Watertown, New York, 0010        |
| Meriden, Connecticut, 0096      |                                  |

District I Region B: 19 clubs (one in Washington, D.C., three in Maryland, five in New Jersey, nine in New York and one in Pennsylvania)

|                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Annapolis, Maryland*, 0058   | Ithaca, New York, 0007               |
| Binghamton, New York, 0003   | Jersey City, New Jersey (1926)       |
| Bayonne, New Jersey (1930)   | Newark, New Jersey, 0093             |
| Brooklyn, New York (1929)    | New Rochelle, New York (1929)        |
| Elmira, New York, 0004       | New York, New York 0020              |
| Englewood, New Jersey (1930) | Penn Yan, New York (1928)            |
| Frederick, Maryland*, 0094   | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 0068     |
| Hager's Town, Maryland, 0102 | Washington, D.C. *, 0017             |
| Hoboken, New Jersey (1924)   | Watkins-Glen Montour, New York, 0036 |
| Hornell, New York, 0047      |                                      |

\*Clubs affiliated with this Region until District 3 was sufficiently developed to warrant change.

District I Region C: 15 clubs (eight in New York, two in Pennsylvania, four in Ontario and one in Quebec)

|                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Buffalo, New York, 0001         | Niagara Falls, New York, 0029         |
| Erie, Pennsylvania, 0006        | Olean, New York, 0084                 |
| Geneva, New York, 0066          | Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 0119         |
| Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 0082 | Rochester, New York, 0002             |
| Jamestown, New York, 0012       | St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, 0090 |
| Kenmore, New York, 0038         | Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 0053        |
| Lockport, New York, 0011        | Warren, Pennsylvania, 0051            |
| Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 0085  |                                       |

<sup>10</sup> There is a difference of two clubs between the number of clubs in Eva Nielsen's list for 1930 and Zonta International's 1930 register. This is most likely due to different counting dates.

District II Region A: 16 clubs (10 in Michigan, five in Ohio and one in Ontario)

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ann Arbor, Michigan, 0030    | Highland Park, Michigan, 0087 |
| Ashtabula, Ohio, 0081        | Lansing, Michigan, 0016       |
| Birmingham, Michigan (1929)  | Owosso, Michigan, 0063        |
| Cleveland, Ohio, 0014        | Pontiac, Michigan, 0050       |
| Columbus, Ohio, 0086         | Port Huron, Michigan, 0083    |
| Detroit, Michigan, 0009      | Toledo, Ohio, 0013            |
| Flint, Michigan, 0025        | Warren, Ohio (1926)           |
| Grand Rapids, Michigan, 0015 | Windsor, Ontario, 0098        |

District II Region B: 12 clubs (five in Illinois, one in Indiana, two in Missouri, two in Minnesota, one in Tennessee and one in Wisconsin)

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chicago, 0033                  | Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 0039     |
| Evanston, Illinois, 0093       | Minneapolis, Minnesota, 0040 * |
| Indianapolis, Indiana, 0088    | Moline, Illinois (1924)        |
| Kansas City, Missouri (1928) * | Ottawa, Illinois, 0019         |
| La Salle, Illinois, 0034       | Saint Louis, Missouri, 0037*   |
| Memphis, Tennessee, 0137 *     | Saint Paul, Minnesota, 0041*   |

\*Clubs affiliated with Region B until their respective districts became more fully developed and went into operation.

District VI: 7 clubs (five in Washington, two in Oregon)

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Everett, Washington, 0078 | Seattle, Washington, 0021 |
| Olympia, Washington, 0056 | Spokane, Washington, 0057 |
| Portland, Oregon, 0060    | Tacoma, Washington, 0049  |
| Salem, Oregon, 0067       |                           |

District VII: 12 clubs (eight in California, one in Colorado, one in Hawaii, two in Texas). The club in Sydney, Australia, was also grouped with District VII:

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dallas, Texas, 0032*          | Pasadena, California, 0077       |
| Denver, Colorado, 0042        | Riverside, California, 0092      |
| Fort Worth, Texas, 0115*      | San Francisco, California (1928) |
| Fresno, California (1930)     | Santa Barbara, California, 0091  |
| Glendale, California, 0076    | Santa Monica, California (1929)  |
| Honolulu, Hawaii, 0024        | Sydney, Australia                |
| Los Angeles, California, 0052 |                                  |

\*Dallas and Fort Worth were affiliated with District 7 until District V was established. (As of 1930, District III, District IV and District V had not yet been established.)

**1932<sup>11</sup>:** The Zontian published the following information:

- Each district was to be supervised by a chairman.
- Districts I and II, because of their size and extent, were divided into regions overseen by regional chairmen, who worked in conjunction with district chairmen.

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<sup>11</sup> There remained a difference of two between the number of clubs in 1932 according to Eva Nielsen's list and the number on Zonta International's 1932 register. As was the case for the 1930 records, this is most likely attributable to different counting dates.



- Districts III, IV and V were not yet functioning as districts. The districts were expected to begin to function as soon as enough clubs were organized within a certain territory in those districts to enable them to be considered regions. In the meantime, the isolated clubs were affiliated with a neighboring district and region in that district.
- Districts VI and VII, which extended over a considerable area, did not include enough clubs to warrant regions. Therefore, these two districts had no regional chairmen, but the district chairmen had vice-chairmen as their assistants.

Because of their great distance from other affiliated clubs, Hamburg (Germany), Honolulu (Territory of Hawaii), Sydney (Australia), and Vienna (Austria) had not been placed in a district by this time.

District I, Region A: 24 clubs (two in Maine, 10 in Massachusetts, 10 in New York, 2 in Vermont):

District I, Region B: 24 clubs (four in Connecticut, one in Washington, D.C., three in Maryland, five in New Jersey, 10 in New York, and one in Pennsylvania):

*District I, Region A*

Augusta, Maine, 0089  
 Bangor, Maine, 0110  
 Arlington, Massachusetts, 0113  
 Boston, Massachusetts, 0045  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts (1932)  
 Lynn, Massachusetts (1930)  
 Malden, Massachusetts, 0062  
 Newton, Massachusetts, 0099  
 Quincy, Massachusetts (1932)  
 Salem, Massachusetts, 0101  
 Somerville, Massachusetts, 0120  
 Springfield, Massachusetts, 0072  
 Albany, New York, 0074  
 Auburn, New York, 0035  
 Glens Falls, New York, 0027  
 Hudson Falls, New York (1929)  
 Oneida, New York, 0031  
 Poughkeepsie, New York, 0069  
 Rome, New York, 0018  
 Schenectady, New York, 0043  
 Syracuse, New York, 0005  
 Utica, New York, 0008  
 Burlington, Vermont, 0106  
 Rutland, Vermont (1929)

*District I, Region B*

Hartford, Connecticut (1929)  
 Meriden, Connecticut, 0096  
 New Haven, Connecticut (1929)  
 New London, Connecticut, 0095  
 Washington, D.C., 0017  
 Annapolis, Maryland, 0058 \*  
 Frederick, Maryland, 0094 \*  
 Hagerstown, Maryland, 0102 \*  
 Bayonne, New Jersey (1930)  
 Englewood, New Jersey (1930)  
 Hoboken, New Jersey (1924)  
 Jersey City, New Jersey (1926)  
 Trenton, New Jersey, 0112  
 Binghamton, New York, 0003  
 Elmira, New York, 0004  
 Hornell, New York, 0047  
 Ithaca, New York, 0007  
 Mt. Vernon, New York, 0111  
 New Rochelle, New York, 0061  
 New York, New York, 0020  
 Penn Yan, New York (1928)  
 Town of Hempstead, New York (1932)  
 Watkins Glen-Montour Falls, New York, 0036  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 0068

\*These clubs remained affiliated with District 1, Region B, until District III had developed sufficiently enough to warrant change.

District I, Region C: 17 clubs (four in Ontario, one in Quebec, 10 in New York and two in Pennsylvania)

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 0053  
 Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 0082  
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 0119  
 St. Catharines, Ontario, 0090  
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 0085  
 Buffalo, New York, 0001

Kenmore, New York, 0038  
 Lockport, New York, 0011  
 Niagara Falls, New York, 0029  
 Olean, New York, 0084  
 Rochester, New York, 0002  
 The Tonawandas, New York, 0117

Dunkirk-Fredonia, New York, 0114  
Geneva, New York, 0066  
Jamestown, New York, 0012

Erie, Pennsylvania, 0006  
Warren, Pennsylvania, 0051

District II, Region A: 15 clubs (one in Ontario, nine in Michigan, five in Ohio)

District II, Region B: 15 clubs (six in Illinois, one in Indiana, two in Minnesota, two in Missouri, one in Tennessee, two in Texas, one in Wisconsin)

*District II, Region A*

Windsor, Ontario, 0098  
Ann Arbor, Michigan, 0030  
Detroit, Michigan, 0009,  
Flint, Michigan, 0025  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 0015  
Highland Park, Michigan, 0087  
Lansing, Michigan, 0016  
Owosso, Michigan, 0063  
Pontiac, Michigan, 0050  
Port Huron, Michigan, 0083  
Ashtabula, Ohio, 0081  
Cleveland, Ohio, 0014  
Columbus, Ohio, 0086  
Toledo, Ohio, 0013  
Warren, Ohio (1926)

*District II, Region B*

Chicago, Illinois, 0033  
Chicago's South Side, Illinois, 0116  
Evanston, Illinois, 0093A  
La Salle, Illinois, 0034  
Moline, Illinois (1924)  
Ottawa, Illinois, 0019  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 0088  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 0040\*  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 0041 \*  
St. Louis, Missouri, 0037  
Memphis, Tennessee, 0137  
Dallas, Texas, 0032 \*  
Fort Worth, Texas, 0115 \*  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 0039  
Kansas City, Kansas (1928)

\* These clubs were affiliated with District II, Region B, until their respective districts were established

District VI: seven clubs (two in Oregon; five in Washington)

District VII: nine clubs (eight in California, one in Colorado)

*District VI*

Portland, Oregon, 0060  
Salem, Oregon, 0067  
Everett, Washington, 0078  
Olympia, Washington, 0056  
Seattle, Washington, 0021  
Spokane, Washington, 0057  
Tacoma, Washington, 0049

*District VII*

Fresno, California (1930)  
Glendale, California, 0076  
Los Angeles, California, 0052  
Pasadena, California, 0077  
Riverside, California, 0092  
Santa Barbara, California, 0091  
Santa Monica, California (1929)  
San Francisco, California (1928)  
Denver, Colorado, 0042

**1934:** District III was established through a division of District I.

Redistricting Committee Chairman Louise Grace, from Detroit, stated in 1934 that "with Districts I, III, VI and VII efficiently organized, for another year at least, there would be no necessity for redistricting". However, she noted that District II faced the threat of major change "when, as and if organization work in the South and Southwest provides enough clubs to justify the formation of a new district". She added that "the first activity of the Redistricting Committee probably will be to

consider the allocation of Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Memphis and St Louis to a new region of District II, which will form the nucleus of the contemplated District V".<sup>12</sup>

**1936:** In North America, the following 124 clubs existed, plus a Zonta club in Honolulu, three overseas clubs, and a Zonta club in Hamburg, Germany, which worked underground due to the Nazi regime.<sup>13</sup>

- District I Region A: 19 clubs (three in Maine, 11 in Massachusetts, four in Connecticut and one in Vermont)
- District I Region B: 16 clubs (13 in New York, one in Vermont, one in Quebec and one in Ontario)
- District II Region A: 16 clubs (nine in Michigan, six in Ohio and one in Ontario)
- District II Region B: 17 clubs (one in Georgia, six in Illinois, three in Texas, one in Indiana, one in Wisconsin, one in Missouri, three in Minnesota and one in Tennessee)
- District III Region A: (18 clubs; 12 in New York, three in Pennsylvania and three in Ontario)
- District III Region B: 15 clubs (three in Maryland, six in New Jersey, one in Pennsylvania, four in New York and one in Washington, D.C.)
- District VI: seven clubs (two in Oregon and five in Washington)
- District VII: 16 clubs (15 in California and one in Colorado)
- District IV, District V had not been established
- Five clubs had not been districted: Honolulu, Vienna, Copenhagen, Stockholm and the underground Hamburg Zonta club.

**1940:** District V became effective.<sup>14</sup>

**1943:** District IV became effective.<sup>15</sup>

**1946:** According to Zonta International records, there was a total of 155 clubs in seven districts in North America, plus one club in Hawaii and five non-districted clubs in the Nordic countries:<sup>16</sup>

- District I Region A: 20 clubs (11 in Massachusetts, four in Maine, two in Vermont and three in Connecticut)
- District I Region B: 17 clubs (14 in New York, two in Ontario and one in Quebec)
- District II Region A: 18 clubs (10 in Michigan, seven in Ohio, one in Ontario)
- District II Region B: 11 clubs (eight in Illinois, one in Indiana and two in Wisconsin)
- District III Region A: 18 clubs (four in Ontario, Canada, 11 in New York, three in Pennsylvania)
- District III Region B: 18 clubs (four in Maryland, eight in New Jersey, four in New York, one in Pennsylvania and one in Washington, D.C.)
- District III Region C: seven clubs (four in Florida, one in Georgia, one in Alabama and one in Tennessee)
- District IV: 9 clubs (one in Colorado, one in Iowa, three in Minnesota, three in Missouri and one in Nebraska)
- District V: six clubs (one in Kansas, four in Texas and one in Louisiana)
- District VI: 10 clubs (five in Oregon and five in Washington)
- District VII: 20 clubs (15 in California and five in Arkansas)

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<sup>12</sup> *The Zontian*, October 1934.

<sup>13</sup> *The Zontian*, 1936.

<sup>14</sup> *The Zontian*, December 1940, p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> *The Zontian*, 1943 Nov.–Dec., p. 5.

<sup>16</sup> *The Zontian*. Between this list and Eva's main register, there is a difference of two North American clubs, probably due to different counting dates.

- Not Districted: six clubs (Honolulu in Hawaii, Copenhagen and Aalborg in Denmark, Stockholm and Gothenburg in Sweden, and Reykjavik in Iceland). World War II was over; however, the Zonta clubs in Hamburg and Vienna still had no contact with Zonta International.

**1947:** Zonta International adopted a new district plan. This plan, with some changes to district boundaries and additions, remained the District Plan at the date of writing (2018).

In 1947, there were 11 districts in North America. Some states had clubs in more than one district (e.g. clubs from Kentucky were in Districts V and VI, clubs from New York are in Districts II, III and IV; and clubs from Pennsylvania are in Districts III and IV).

- District I – clubs from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont
- District II – clubs from Ontario, Quebec and New York
- District III – clubs from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Washington, D.C.
- District IV – clubs from Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. (see 1970 below)
- District V – clubs from Michigan, Ohio, eastern Kentucky and western Ontario
- District VI – clubs from Illinois, Indiana, western Kentucky and Wisconsin
- District VII – clubs from Colorado (see 1952 below), Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota (see 1952 below)
- District VIII – clubs from British Columbia, Alberta, Idaho, Montana (see 1952 below), Oregon, Washington and Wyoming (see 1952 below)
- District IX – clubs from Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii (from 1957 below)
- District X – clubs from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas
- District XI – clubs from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

**1949:** Zonta International replaced the District Chairman title with District Governor.

**1952:** District XII was added, affecting Districts VII and VIII.

The new District was for clubs from Colorado, eastern Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming in the U.S. and Saskatchewan in Canada.

On Zonta International's map of North American districts, the district boundary line, drawn in 1952 between District XII and District VII (referred to as the dotted line), is described as: "The newly organized clubs on either side of the dotted line become part of the district to which they are most accessible – transportation-wise".

**1965:** Some boundary revisions regarding U.S. districts occurred. The revisions involved:

- District I – for clubs Prince Edward Island Nova Scotia, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.
- District II – for clubs in Ontario, Quebec and New York.
- District III – for clubs in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Washington, D.C.
- District IV – for clubs in eastern Ontario, western Quebec,, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia (see 1970 below)
- District V – for clubs in mid-Ontario, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky.
- District VI – for clubs in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

- District VII – for clubs in western Ontario, Manitoba, eastern Saskatchewan, Iowa, eastern Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, eastern Nebraska, North Dakota and eastern South Dakota.
- District VIII – for clubs in British Columbia, Alberta, Idaho, western Montana (see 1952) Oregon and Washington.
- District IX – for clubs in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.
- District X – for clubs in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
- District XI – for clubs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.
- District XII – for clubs in Saskatchewan, east Alberta, Colorado, western Kansas, eastern Montana, western Nebraska, Wyoming and western South Dakota.

**1970:** District V was divided into:

- District V a, comprising clubs in Michigan and western Ontario.
- District V b, comprising clubs in Ohio, Kentucky and northern West Virginia. (Three clubs in northwestern West Virginia, which were in District IV, petitioned to be part of District V.)

**1972:** The Zonta International Board decided all districts should be designated by Roman numerals.

- District V a became District XV.
- District V b returned to the District V designation.

**2019:** As of this year, no further changes to the North American District boundaries had been made since 1972.

Because of decreasing membership and club closures, the number of clubs and members in North American districts is now significantly smaller than the number in European districts. Most are almost the same size as European areas, making it difficult for European Area Directors to understand why they are not eligible to vote at international conventions when they represent the same number of clubs as some North American governors. Similarly, more scholarships are available in North America than in Europe because of this skewed distribution.

The biennial goals for 2014–2016 and 2016–18 included a review of North American districts but, at the time of writing, it had not taken place.

### **Comments on the Development of Zonta in North America**

The years between 1920 and 1924 were an experimental stage; and 1925 to 1929 were very active years during which many clubs were established. Members and clubs gave time, money and office facilities enthusiastically. The first Canadian club was launched in 1927 and by the end of 1929, Canada already had four Zonta clubs.

In 1928, Zonta opened its headquarters in Chicago. In 1930, the Confederation of Zonta Clubs changed its name to Zonta International and was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois. Shortly after, the name Zonta and the name of the organization's publication, *The Zontian*, were registered as trademarks. In 1936, the names were registered in Canada.

During the Depression, particularly during the first part of the period, the organization experienced a decided letdown; however, it did not stop entirely. Due to the economic conditions and related problems, members found it necessary to concentrate on their personal and business affairs. An evaluation of this period made in 1944 in the *Zontian* says, "Clubs became more unified through a better understanding of individual problems and the opportunity to serve one another".<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *The Zontian*, November 1944, p. 11

The Marian de Forest Memorial Fund, established 1935, resulted in better, more stabilized extension work. Particularly, the plan of employing experienced, salaried organizers helped in the effectiveness of this work.

In 1939, at the end of the first 20 years, the spirit of Zonta remained strong and enthusiastic, despite the usual difficulties that can accompany a still-young and rapidly growing organization.

The 1940–1949 period was challenging due to world conditions, as well as new possibilities and responsibilities that came to executive women. *The Zontian* reported increasing membership in all established clubs and the strengthening of smaller clubs. The period was also characterized by cooperation with other classified service clubs, businesses and professional women’s groups, as well as government agencies and bureaus. The North American Zonta clubs were represented at meetings on peace and postwar planning.

In 1944, at Zonta’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mary E. Jenkins, a charter member of Zonta Club of Syracuse, New York, and the first Confederation president, stated:

Zonta, to be a dominant force in the world tomorrow, must grow. Stagnation spells death. Zontians must cease to be satisfied with delightful associations and small activities of their local clubs and they must think deeply and with vision. There is strength in numbers and every club must be developed to its full capacity of its locale. Then Zonta International will go forward.”<sup>18</sup>

In North America, 1950–1989 marked great expansion years for Zonta, with peaks in the 1950s and the 1980s.

In her address to the Fall District Conferences audience in 1969, on the eve of Zonta’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Zonta International President, Helvi Sipilä, expressed a special wish for Zonta in North America:

Sometimes I dream about what a big organization Zonta International would be if the provisions in our bylaws, allowing a Zonta club for each 250,000 inhabitants in the big cities, were implemented in the USA and Canada, where there are so many of these cities. What about really starting now to plan for this kind of growth? What about trying to form new clubs for younger women in executive positions, such as we were when we became Zontians? What about beginning these plans now and bringing them to Buffalo on November 8<sup>th</sup> to make the Golden Anniversary not only an anniversary but also a rebirth of a still young, vigorous growing organization?”<sup>19</sup>

The number of North American Zonta clubs peaked in 1989 at 504. The United Nations designating 1975 as the International Women’s Year and its 1976–85 Decade for Women program might have influenced some of the energy to establish new clubs, but unfortunately, Helvi Sipilä’s dream of Zonta’s extension did not come true. The two decades between 1990 and 2009 saw a decreasing trend with many more clubs closing than were chartered.

The economic Recession in the U.S. from 2007 to 2010 may be one reason. For instance, it affected District 15 rather hard because it hit the auto industry, which is Michigan’s main manufacturing business, supporting a variety of complementary businesses. Clubs lost between 200 and 300 members and eight District 15 clubs between 2005 and 2015.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *The Zontian*, November 1944, p. 13

<sup>19</sup> *The Zontian*, Winter 1969, Vol. 49 No. 4, p. 5

<sup>20</sup> Report from District 15 Governor to Centennial Anniversary Committee, 2018.

The health and continued growth of many small-town clubs in District 12 was hampered by declining populations and geographic isolation. Some suffered from an internal lack of communications and a lack of follow-through with long range plans – especially trying to find a focus for service or fundraising activities. Some clubs’ geographic isolation hampered their connection to Zonta International.

The disruption caused by new technology may have intensified the trend. The rise of social media hastened the proliferation of volunteer organizations dedicated to an infinite variety of causes – many of which were similar to Zonta’s. Several Zonta clubs renewed their focus on empowering women, and the *Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women* campaign helped to energize and engage the membership; but attracting younger members remained challenging for the clubs. The North American Inter-District meetings from 2003 to 2017 and the new tools developed by the Zonta International Membership Committee may serve as remedies that will change the trend.

### **Zonta Clubs in USA by Region, Division and State**

(November 1919–31 December 2017)

#### **Region 1: Northeast**

| <b>Division 1</b>  | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Connecticut (CT)   | 6                                    | 6                               | –                 |
| Maine (ME)         | 9                                    | 7                               | 2                 |
| Massachusetts (MA) | 19                                   | 11                              | 8                 |
| New Hampshire (NH) | 4                                    | 3                               | 1                 |
| Rhode Island (RI)  | 1                                    | 1                               | –                 |
| Vermont (VT)       | 4                                    | 3                               | 1                 |

| <b>Division 2</b>   | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Delaware (DE)       | 1                                    | 1                               | –                 |
| New Jersey (NJ)     | 26                                   | 17                              | 9                 |
| New York (New York) | 61                                   | 23                              | 38                |
| Pennsylvania (PA)   | 19                                   | 8                               | 11                |

#### **Region 2: Midwest**

| <b>Division 3</b> | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919 – 2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Illinois (IL)     | 46                                     | 30                              | 16                |
| Indiana (IN)      | 12                                     | 7                               | 5                 |
| Michigan (MI)     | 56                                     | 21                              | 35                |
| Ohio (OH)         | 25                                     | 11                              | 14                |
| Wisconsin (WI)    | 12                                     | 8                               | 4                 |

| <b>Division 4</b> | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Iowa (IA)         | 4                                    | 4                               | –                 |
| Kansas (KS)       | 7                                    | 5                               | 2                 |
| Minnesota (MN)    | 8                                    | 3                               | 5                 |
| Missouri (MO)     | 13                                   | 8                               | 5 + 1 e-club      |
| Nebraska (NE)     | 3                                    | 3                               | –                 |

|                   |    |   |   |
|-------------------|----|---|---|
| North Dakota (ND) | 10 | 6 | 4 |
| South Dakota (SD) | 3  | 2 | 1 |

### Region 3: South

| <b>Division 5</b>         | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Florida (FL)              | 53                                   | 32                              | 21                |
| Georgia (GA)              | 7                                    | 6                               | 1                 |
| Maryland (MD)             | 10                                   | 4                               | 6                 |
| North Carolina (NC)       | 8                                    | 7                               | 1                 |
| South Carolina (SC)       | 10                                   | 4                               | 6                 |
| Virginia (VA)             | 9                                    | 5                               | 4                 |
| District of Columbia (DC) | 1                                    | –                               | 1                 |
| West Virginia (WV)        | 5                                    | 5                               | –                 |

| <b>Division 6</b> | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Alabama (AL)      | 6                                    | 2                               | 4                 |
| Kentucky (KY)     | 4                                    | 1                               | 3                 |
| Mississippi (MS)  | 3                                    | 2                               | 1                 |
| Tennessee (TN)    | 4                                    | 3                               | 1                 |

| <b>Division 7</b> | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Arkansas (AR)     | 3                                    | 2                               | 1                 |
| Louisiana (LA)    | 5                                    | 3                               | 2                 |
| Oklahoma (OK)     | 4                                    | 3                               | 1                 |
| Texas (TX)        | 36                                   | 2                               | 15 + 1 e-club     |

### Region 4: West

| <b>Division 8</b> | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Arizona (AZ)      | 11                                   | 6                               | 5                 |
| Colorado (CO)     | 21                                   | 11                              | 10                |
| Idaho (ID)        | 8                                    | 6                               | 2                 |
| Montana (MT)      | 5                                    | 3                               | 2                 |
| Nevada (NV)       | 4                                    | 3                               | 1                 |
| New Mexico (NM)   | 2                                    | 2                               | –                 |
| Utah (UT)         | 4                                    | 3                               | 1                 |
| Wyoming (WY)      | 7                                    | 4                               | 3                 |

| <b>Division 9</b> | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Alaska (AK)       | 2                                    | 1                               | 1                 |
| California (CA)   | 75                                   | 63                              | 12 + 1 e-club     |
| Hawaii (HI)       | 7                                    | 3                               | 4                 |
| Oregon (OR)       | 13                                   | 7                               | 6                 |
| Washington (WA)   | 18                                   | 13                              | 6                 |



### **Zonta Clubs in Canada by Province (November 1919 – 31 December 2017)**

The first Zonta club in Canada was established in 1927 in Toronto, Ontario.

Clubs in Ontario are in different districts.

| <b>Province</b>            | <b>Clubs chartered<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs lost<br/>1919–2017</b> | <b>Clubs 2017</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Alberta (AB)               | 2                                    | 2                               | –                 |
| British Columbia (BC)      | 5                                    | 3                               | 2                 |
| Manitoba (MB)              | 1                                    | 1                               | –                 |
| New Brunswick (NB)         | –                                    | –                               | –                 |
| Newfoundland (NF)          | 2                                    | 2                               | –                 |
| Nova Scotia (NS)           | 2                                    | 1                               | 1                 |
| Ontario (ON)               | 34                                   | 15                              | 19                |
| Prince Edwards Island (PE) | 3                                    | 3                               | –                 |
| Quebec (QB)                | 1                                    | –                               | 1                 |
| Saskatchewan (SK)          | 1                                    | 1                               | –                 |