



Chapter 21

Zonta in Central and South America – An Overview¹

Development of Zonta in Central and South America

Year	New Clubs	Closed Clubs	Gain/loss	Active Clubs
1940–1949	1		1	1
1950–1959	1		1	2
1960–1969	4		4	6
1970–1979	12	1	11	17
1980–1989	18	10	8	25
1990–1999	16	20	-4	21
2000–2009	4	12	-8	13
2010–2018	1	5	-4	9
Total	57	48	9	

1948–1970: The first club in South America was club number 0211, the Zonta Club of Santiago in Chile. It was chartered in 1948, followed in 1957 by club number 0402, the Zonta Club of Guatemala City in Guatemala. These clubs and all other Central and South American clubs were non-districted and remained so until 1982.

1970: Non-districted clubs world-wide were grouped into five areas: South East Asia, New Zealand and Australia, Asia, Africa and South America. South America was designated as Area 01 and comprised the following seven clubs in five Central and South American countries.

- Chile: Zonta Club of Santiago (1948) and Zonta Club of Valparaiso (1968).
- Colombia: Zonta Club of Barranquilla (1971) and Zonta Club of Bogota (1972).
- Guatemala: Zonta Club of Guatemala City (1957).
- Mexico: Zonta Club of Mexico City (1961).
- Uruguay: Zonta Club of Montevideo (1971).

1972: When the Zonta International Board changed the designation of 'area' to 'region', Area 01 became Region I.

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen, updated 13 August 2018.

1974: When New Zealand and Australian clubs became District XVI, the remaining non-districted clubs were regrouped into three regions: Asia, Africa and South America. South America became Region III and comprised 12 clubs in seven countries:

Argentina: Zonta Club of Mendoza (1976)
 Chile: Zonta Club of Santiago (1948) and Zonta Club of Valparaiso (1968)
 Columbia: Zonta Club of Barranquilla (1971) and Zonta Club of Bogota (1972)
 El Salvador: Zonta Club of San Salvador (1974-1977)
 Guatemala: Zonta Club of Guatemala City (1957)
 Mexico: Zonta Club of Matamoros (1974), Zonta Club of Mexico City (1961), Zonta Club of Mexico City II (1978)
 Uruguay: Zonta Club of Montevideo (1971) and Zonta Club of Trinidad-Flores 0734 (1973-1980)

1979: The president of Zonta International, Evelyn de Witt, promoted a meeting in Bogota, Colombia, which was attended by the International Board and delegates from clubs in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Uruguay.

The Zonta Club of Bogota hosted the meeting, organized by Gloria De Castro Córdoba, a prestigious lawyer and representative of the Third Region [Region III] of Zonta International. An important service project was announced at the meeting, consisting of eight health centers built by UNICEF, with Zonta International's support. Afterwards Zonta International sponsored a ZISVAW project in Honduras and Guatemala.²

1980: Zonta International organized the Region III clubs into three areas.

Region III Area 01

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1961	0478	Zonta Club of Mexico City I	1999
1974	0752	Zonta Club of Matamoros, Mexico	1996
1978	0853	Zonta Club of Mexico City II	2009
1980	0937	Zonta Club of Queretaro, Mexico	1982

Region III Area 02

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1957	0402	Zonta Club of Guatemala City	2006
1980	0924	Zonta Club of Tegucigalpa, Honduras	1990
1980	0929	Zonta Club of San Jose, Costa Rica	1995
1980	0967	Zonta Club of San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1990

Region III Area 03

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1948	0211	Zonta Club of Santiago, Chile	1995
1967	0596	Zonta Club of Valparaiso, Chile	
1970	0659	Zonta Club of Barranquilla, Colombia	1984
1970	0662	Zonta Club of Montevideo, Uruguay	
1972	0696	Zonta Club of Bogota I, Colombia	2001

² District 19 History-in-brief, *The Zontian* 1987, vol. 67-4, p. 14

1974	0755	Zonta Club of San Salvador	1977
1976	0786	Zonta Club of Mendoza, Argentina	1982
1979	0869	Zonta Club of Melo, Uruguay	2010
1979	0904	Zonta Club of Bogota II, Colombia	1982
1980	0943	Zonta Club of Punta Arenas, Chile	1997
1980	0945	Zonta Club of Cali, Colombia	1984
1980	0947	Zonta Club of Santa Maria, Colombia	1984
1981	0994	Zonta Club of Sao Paulo, Brazil	1984

1982: The Zonta International board decided to transform Region III into District XIX, initially comprising 20 clubs, organized in three areas.

District 19 Area 01

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1961	0478	Zonta Club of Mexico City I	1999
1974	0752	Zonta Club of Matamoros, Mexico	1996
1978	0853	Zonta Club of Mexico City II	2009
1980	0937	Zonta Club of Queretaro Region, Mexico	1982
1989	1260	Zonta Club of Tapatío Guadalajara	1995

District 19 Area 02

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1957	0402	Zonta Club of Guatemala City	2006
1970	0659	Zonta Club of Barranquilla, Colombia	1984
1972	0696	Zonta Club of Bogota I, Colombia	2001
1979	0904	Zonta Club of Bogota II, Colombia	1982
1980	0924	Zonta Club of Tegucigalpa, Honduras	1990
1980	0929	Zonta Club of San Jose, Costa Rica	1995
1980	0945	Zonta Club of Cali, Colombia	1984
1980	0947	Zonta Club of Santa Marta, Colombia	1984
1980	0967	Zonta Club of San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1990
1988	1202	Zonta Club of Santo Domingo	1991

District 19 Area 03

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1948	0211	Zonta Club of Santiago, Chile	1995
1967	0596	Zonta Club of Valparaiso, Chile	
1970	0662	Zonta Club of Montevideo, Uruguay	
1976	0786	Zonta Club of Mendoza, Argentina	1982
1979	0869	Zonta Club of Melo, Uruguay	2010
1980	0943	Zonta Club of Punta Arenas, Chile	1997
1981	0994	Zonta Club of Sao Paulo, Brazil	1984
1988	1209	Zonta Club of Lima, Peru	1993
1988	1217	Zonta Club of Rio De Janeiro	2008
1989	1264	Zonta Club of Buenos Aires, Argentina	2007

(1031 Zonta Club of Kingston, Jamaica belonged to District XI Area 03 from 1982 to 1984; the club disbanded 1984³)

³ Zonta International Directory 1983-84, p. 22

1987: In February, at the Zonta International board meeting, the board approved the itinerary for the June 1987 Zonta International “Study Tour” in Latin America and allocated USD\$10,000 from the Marian de Forest Fund for extension within District XIX. International President Amey Grubs (1986–1988) encouraged this visit by Zontians to integrate the Latin American clubs into the Zonta world. The group consisted of more than 28 Zontians from the U.S., Germany, Belgium, Australia, Guatemala, Nigeria and Switzerland. After an initial visit to Bogota, Colombia, the group traveled to Santiago and Valparaiso in Chile.⁴

1988: Zonta International President Amey Grubbs invited Dr Mabel Bianco, a feminist medical doctor, to the Zonta International 1988 Convention in Finland. Dr Bianco had founded FEIM, an NGO working to improve women's rights, and returned home to Argentina inspired to organize a Zonta Club. The Zonta Club of Buenos Aires was chartered in 1989 followed by the Zonta Club of Rio Gallegos in 1993.⁵

1990: As more clubs were chartered, a new district plan was adopted. District XIX became District 19 for clubs in South America and District 22 was founded for clubs in Central America.

District 22 encompassed two areas with clubs from Honduras and Mexico as Area 1 and from: Columbia, Costa Rica, The Dominican Republic, and Guadeloupe as Area 2. (All districts in 1990 were designated by Arabic numerals.)

District 22 Area 01

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1957	0402	Zonta Club of Guatemala City	2006
1961	0478	Zonta Club of Mexico City I	1999
1978	0853	Zonta Club of Mexico City II	2009
1980	0967	Zonta Club of San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1990
1989	1260	Zonta Club of Tapatío Guadalajara, Mexico	1995
1990	1291	Zonta Club of Norteno, Mexico	1998
1996	1542	Zonta Club of Metropolitano, Mexico	2002

District 22 Area 02

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1972	0696	Zonta Club of Bogota I, Colombia	2001
1980	0929	Zonta Club of San Jose, Costa Rica	1995
1988	1202	Zonta Club of Santo Domingo, Dominican Rep.	1991
1992	1380	Zonta Club of Bogota II, Colombia	1995
1993	1417	Zonta Club of Pointe A Pitre, Guadeloupe	1997
1995	1521	Zonta Club of Bogota Monserrate, Colombia	
1997	1590	Zonta Club of Dominicana, Dominican Republic	

By September of that year, District 19 had eight clubs and a total of 157 members, and District 22 had nine clubs and 183 members.⁶

1992: Incoming D-22 governor Miriam Martinez stated:

⁴ District 19 History-in-brief, *The Zontian* 1987, vol. 67–4, p. 14

⁵ *The Zontian* 1998-2000 Biennial issue Six, p.7

⁶ *The Zontian* 1990-92 program issue

I think that there is a big opportunity for Zonta in Latin America because there are only a few clubs compared to the population. There are financial problems in organizing new clubs in this area, but they are the same problems that existed when we formed my club (Dominican Republic). Even though we couldn't buy dollars or send money out of the country we found a way to pay the dues and to fulfill our responsibilities. I think the same thing could happen in other countries if there are women interested in becoming Zontians. If we want to grow we have to work together to educate others so that growth can occur.⁷

1995: The only club in Bolivia (Zonta Club of Sucre) disbanded.

2000: As there were insufficient members to sustain District 22 in Central America, the district was closed.⁸ Recalling the closure, PIP Val Sarah wrote in e-mail to Eva Nielsen on August 17, 2016:

When I attended the D22 Conference in Mexico City in 1999, it was my sad task to advise that, due to the very low membership across the clubs, they faced no longer being a district. They were very understanding, and we looked at ways to increase the membership if at all possible, prior to the Board Meeting in 2000 where a final decision would be made. No good news was received, and Zonta International's board decided to close down District 22 in 2000.

The Zonta International directories and maps from the early 2000s reveal the challenges confronted by Zonta International in managing this progressive decline.

The 2000–2003 directory lists a Region Central America and South America comprising clubs from Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia. The district map for 2000–01 shows:

- clubs in the far north of Mexico in District 9
- clubs in New Mexico in District 10
- Zonta Club of Bogota I, Colombia (no. 0696) (The club was not assigned to a district and is known to have disbanded in 2001.)
- Zonta Club of Dominicana, Dominican Republic (The club joined District 11 in 2000 but disbanded 2003.)

The Zonta International Directory from 2002-03 shows three Mexican Zonta Clubs as non-districted: Mexico City (no. 0853), Metropolitano (club no. 1542) and Mexico Bosques (no. 1725). They joined District 10 in 2004.

The District maps in 2002–04 show a Region Central America, comprising Mexico and Guatemala. The Zonta Club Guatemala City (no. 0402) is listed as a club “not assigned to a district” in 2002–03 and again in 2004–06. However, by 2006–08, it has disappeared from the directory.

2010: With the closure of the last club in Brazil (Zonta Club of Costa Do Sol), District 19 lost its status as a district and became Region South America because the district had fallen below the minimum number of 200 members required for district status.

2011: The last club in Mexico (Zonta Club of San Luis Rey) closed.

⁷ The Zontian March/April/May 1992, p. 22

⁸ The district number 22 was allocated to a new Australian district in 2008.

2012: The first e-Club in the region, the E-club of Uruguay 1, was chartered. It would close in 2018.

2016: As of June 2016, the region encompassed two areas with clubs from Argentina and Chile in Area 01) and clubs from Uruguay in Area 02

2017: The last club in Argentina (Zonta Club of Rio Gallegos) closed.

2018: Region South America encompassed five clubs with 108 members. In Area 01, Chile had three clubs with 32 members and Area 02 had two clubs in Uruguay with 76 members.

Area 01

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1948	0211	Zonta Club of Santiago, Chile		1995
1967	0596	Zonta Club of Valparaiso, Chile,	RSA 01	
1980	0943	Zonta Club of Punta Arenas, Chile		1997
1989	1264	Zonta Club of Buenos Aires, Argentina		2007
1992	1365	Zonta Club of Gabriela Mistral, Chile		1993
1993	1438	Zonta Club of Rio Gallegos, Argentina		2018
1993	1444	Zonta Club of Huarmicuna, Argentina		1997
1997	1571	Zonta Club of Vina Del Mar, Chile	RSA 01	
2000	1679	Zonta Club of Santiago, Chile	RSA 01	

Area 02

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area	Closed
1970	0662	Zonta Club of Montevideo, Uruguay	RSA 02	
1979	0869	Zonta Club of Melo, Uruguay		2010
1988	1209	Zonta Club of Lima, Peru		1993
1988	1217	Zonta Club of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil		2008
1990	1304	Zonta Club of Punta Del Este Maldonado, Uruguay	RSA 02	
1993	1435	Zonta Club of Sucre, Bolivia		1995
1993	1436	Zonta Club of Asuncion, Paraguay		2003
1993	1437	Zonta Club of Artigas, Uruguay		1995
1994	1453	Zonta Club of Rio Branco-Cerro Largo, Uruguay		1997
2005	1802	Zonta Club of Costa Do Sol, Brazil		2010
2012	1908	Zonta e-Club of Uruguay		2018

2019: Region South America has 115 members in five clubs.

History of foundation of clubs in Central and South America

Countries are listed alphabetically, and clubs are ordered chronologically in their respective countries.

Argentina (District 19; Region South America)

Year chartered	Club number	Club Name	Closed
1976	0786	Zonta Club of Mendoza	1982

1989	1264	Zonta Club of Buenos Aires	2007
1993	1438	Zonta Club of Rio Gallegos	2017
1993	1444	Zonta Club of Huarmicuna	1997

Bolivia (District 19)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1993	1435	Zonta Club of Sucre	1995

Brazil (District 19; Region South America)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1981	0994	Zonta Club of Sao Paulo	1984
1988	1217	Zonta Club of Rio de Janeiro	2008
2005	1802	Zonta Club of Costa Do Sol	2010

Chile (District 19)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1948	0211	Zonta Club of Santiago	1995
1967	0596	Zonta Club of Valparaiso *	
1980	0943	Zonta Club of Punta Arenas	1997
1992	1365	Zonta Club of Gabriela Mistral	1993
1997	1571	Zonta Club of Vina del Mar *	
2000	1679	Zonta Club of Santiago *	

* Part of Region South America (RSA) as at December 2019

Colombia (District XIX 1982–90; District 22 1990–2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1970	0659	Zonta Club of Barranquilla	1984
1972	0696	Zonta Club of Bogota I	2001
1979	0904	Zonta Club of Bogota II	1982
1980	0945	Zonta Club of Cali	1984
1980	0947	Zonta Club of Santa Marta	1984
1992	1380	Zonta Club of Bogota II	1995
1995	1521	Zonta Club of Bogota Monserrate	1998

Costa Rica (District XIX 1982–90; District 22 1990–2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1980	0929	Zonta Club of San Jose	1995

Dominican Republic (District XIX 1982–90; District 22 1990–2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1988	1202	Zonta Club of Santo Domingo	1991
1997	1590	Zonta Club of Dominicana	2003

Guadeloupe (District 22 1990–2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
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1993	1417	Zonta Club of Pointe A Pitre	1997
2004	1768	Zonta Club of Baie-Mahault/ Fleur de Canne *	

* District 29, Area 3 as of July 2016. Since 2004, clubs in Guadeloupe have been in District 29. Guadeloupe is a French territory

Guatemala (District 22 1990–2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1957	0402	Zonta Club of Guatemala City	2006

Honduras (District XIX 1982–90; District 22 1990-2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1980	0924	Zonta Club of Tegucigalpa	1990
1980	0967	Zonta Club of San Pedro Sula, Honduras	1990

Mexico (District 22 1990–2000)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1961	0478	Zonta Club of Mexico City I	1999
1974	0752	Zonta Club of Matamoros	1996
1978	0853	Zonta Club of Mexico City II *	2009
1980	0937	Zonta Club of Queretaro	1982
1989	1260	Zonta Club of Tapatio Guadalajara	1995
1990	1291	Zonta Club of Norteno	1998
1996	1542	Zonta Club of Metropolitano	2002
2002	1725	Zonta Club of Mexico Bosques	2005
2004	1762	Zonta Club of Malinalco **	2008
1976	0820	Zonta Club of San Luis Rey Area ***	1981
1987	1188	Zonta Club of San Luis Rey****	2011

* Part of District 10 2004–2009

** Part of District 10 2004–2005

*** This club on the US border was part of District IX until its closure in 1981

****The club was operated out of Oceanside, California, and was part of District 09, but drew its membership from this Mexican border town. Zonta International Directory listed the club with clubs from Arizona.

Paraguay (District 19)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1993	1436	Zonta Club of Asuncion	2003

Peru (District 19)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1988	1209	Zonta Club of Lima	1993

Uruguay (District 19; Region South America)

<i>Year chartered</i>	<i>Club number</i>	<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Closed</i>
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1970	0662	Zonta Club of Montevideo *	
973	0734	Zonta Club of Trinidad-Flores	1980
1979	0869	Zonta Club of Melo	2010
1990	1304	Zonta Club of Punta Del Este Maldonado *	
1993	1437	Zonta Club of Artigas	1995
1994	1453	Zonta Club of Rio Branco-Cerro Largo	1997
2012	1908	E-club of Uruguay 1	2018

* Part of Region South America (RSA) as at December 2019