



Chapter 6

District 02 – North America¹

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 02. As at January 2020, District 02 has 20 clubs in one state in the United States and two provinces in Canada.

The clubs of District 02 began in 1919. Clubs and members from the district were very active in the early Zonta years. Syracuse hosted the first annual convention and International President Mary E. Jenkins, president 1919–1921, was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse. The next president, Esther Parker from the Zonta Club of Ithaca, was elected at the Syracuse Convention in 1921. The third president, Harriet A. Ackroyd, president 1922–1924, was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Utica.

The third annual convention was held in Elmira, New York in 1923. District 02 is fortunate to be in possession of an early Convention Program. The original slogan “Fair, Square, Every Time, Every Where” was suggested by Addine Bissell of the Zonta Club of Syracuse and the official song “Hail Zonta” was written by Elizabeth Evans from the Zonta Club of Binghamton for the 1923 Convention.

When Harriet Richards became secretary of the Confederation, she was a member of the Zonta Club of Utica.

Katherine B. Sears, International President 1928–1929 and a member of the Zonta Club of Glens Falls, was one of three members who undertook the so-called “Friendship Tour” to Europe in 1929. Together with Past International President Louise C. Gerry 1926-28, she undertook an extensive program in the western part of the USA, chartering 57 clubs in two years.²

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen Research compiled by Eva Nielsen and Betsy Lucci (Zonta Club of Glens Falls, District 02 Archivist, Report to CAC 2016).

² Theresa De Langis, *Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide 1919-99* (ISBN 1-56311-591-3), p.89.

Patricia Fluharty, District 02 Governor 1990–1992, and her Board of Directors suggested that District 02 introduce the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women program (ZISVAW). She felt strongly that violence against women was a serious problem worldwide and needed to be eradicated. Numerous workshops, panel discussions, forums and seminars were conducted at clubs throughout District 02, often with presentations by victims of abuse and by trained counselors. Upon networking with Zontians in other districts and requesting that they adopt this service project in their communities, it came to the attention of the Zonta International Board.

A North American Summit focused on violence against women was approved by the Zonta International Board and was conducted in Washington D.C. from 8 to 10 June in 1995.

In 2000, Rita Cousino and Karen Macier, both past governors, developed the District 02 Leadership Development Institute (Zonta Leadership Program since March 2018) to educate current leaders and encourage qualified club members to accept leadership roles in clubs and at the district level (Betsy Lucci, Zonta Club of Glens Falls, District 2 Archivist Report to Centennial Anniversary Committee 2016).

Most District 02 clubs provide scholarships to young women and girls, and to adult women returning to the work force. District 02 Zontians encourage women to pursue engineering and aerospace coursework and support safe houses and shelters for domestic and sexual violence victims. Many clubs have awards which honor girls and women for service and achievement. Some clubs provide services to women with breast cancer.

The Schenectady club in New York is unique because they own a replica of Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Electra plane, which they proudly exhibit at the Empire State Aero Sciences Museum. They host an annual district-wide Amelia Earhart luncheon in January, designated as Zonta International's Amelia Earhart Month.

Many clubs participate in the Young Women in Public Affairs Award and the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. Jane M. Klausman was a well-loved District and ZI Parliamentarian from Syracuse, New York. Clubs also participate in the District 02 Jean M. Coon Memorial Scholarship. Jean M. Coon was a past District 02 Governor.

Early club histories³

In the fall of 1928, Josephine Howe, a Glens Falls Zonta member and an organizer of Zonta clubs, came to Poughkeepsie for the purpose of organizing a local club. She enlisted the help of Edith Pearce from the Chamber of Commerce and Emily Lane, Laura Russell, Frances Taylor, Cleona Glass, Mary Rowley and Laura Marshall. These seven women formed the committee to attempt to establish a Zonta club in Poughkeepsie. An invitation was sent to 60 executive and professional women in the area for a meeting on 12 January 1929 to hear President Katherine Sears, Zonta International president at the time, speak. Glen Falls club was our sponsor with International President Katherine Sears as organizer. 5 February 1929, 22 executive women met at the Nelson House hotel for the signing of the charter. The first officers were Helen Palliser, president, Rachel McCrimmon, vice-president, Edith Pearce, secretary, and Ethel Clapp treasurer. The charter luncheon was held at the Nelson House hotel on 7 October 1929,

³ Zonta Club of Poughkeepsie History 1929-1979 (the club closed 2005); received by the Centennial Anniversary Committee in 2016.

at which time International President Olivia Johnson of the Zonta Club of Minneapolis-St Paul presented the charter, thereby making the club a part of Zonta International.

The club has been actively involved in service to the community since 1929. The service projects have been many and varied – helping to maintain children’s parks, giving Christmas parties at senior homes, running a bicycle safety week, contributing necessary equipment to the local hospital, supporting the volunteer effort to retain the historic Bardavon Theater and many projects in connection with the Year of the Child. However, by far the greatest continued emphasis has been on educational scholarships.

Zonta was one of the first service organizations to establish a scholarship at Dutchess Community College. In 1965, the Dr Helen Palliser scholarship was established for student nurses at Hudson River State Hospital. A program was established in 1975 for providing scholarships to women returning to the work force or to help them upgrade their current position. In addition, many one-time scholarships were given and the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowships have been continuously supported throughout the years.

To finance these service projects, funds were raised by having card parties, style shows, rummage sales, theater parties, dances and golf tournaments. The Zonta Club of Poughkeepsie’s annual golf tournament was started in 1974 and was held each year until the club closed. Proceeds from the tournament were used to fund scholarships given to women returning to the workforce and upgrading their present position.”

Zonta Club of Ithaca records

This very important collection of documents about the early history of Zonta is stored in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at the Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York.

The collection includes:

- Bylaws, minutes of meetings (October 1919–December 1965)
- membership and committee rosters, committee reports, financial records (1919–1950)
- official correspondence (1920–1965)
- scrapbooks (2 volumes, 1932–1937)
- a file on Dr Esther Parker, the founding president of the Ithaca club and the second International President
- letters to Mrs Leeta Houghton, an active member from 1945 whom the local club had adopted under the “Adopt-A-Family” Plan Inc., concerning their family affairs, finances and health, and acknowledging the receipt of packages from the club
- songbooks
- photographs
- historical data and miscellaneous printed material
- scattered and incomplete records of the regional organization (1932–1951) including printed and mimeographed district conference minutes, reports, programs of Zonta International (1924–1963), constitutions, articles of association, and Bylaws
- annual convention programs and proceedings
- committee reports
- a Manual of Procedure
- membership classification guides
- financial statements

- a file on the Amelia Earhart Memorial Fund for scholarships
- copies of Zonta periodicals.

Timeline of district history highlights

1924: Clubs in Binghamton, Elmira and Ithaca in New York belonged to the South District (comprised of seven clubs – four from New York, one from New Jersey, one from District of Columbia and one from Texas).

Clubs in Glens Falls, Oneida, Rome, Syracuse, Utica and Watertown in New York belonged to the East District (comprised of six clubs, all from New York).

1925: The original three districts became five. They were designated as A, B, C, D and E.⁴

1928: Clubs belonged to either District A or District B.

1930: Clubs belonged to either District I, Region A, or District I, Region B.

1936: Clubs belonged to District I, Region B.

1946: Clubs belonged to District I, Region B.

1947: District II was established as part of a large redistricting. Five of the nine clubs which founded the Confederation of Zonta Clubs in 1919, became part of District II. The District encompassed a total of 18 clubs from Ontario and Quebec in Canada and New York in the US. From 1947 until 1986, the district grew by 14 clubs from New York. No clubs were added from Canada.

1952: 19 clubs.

1957: 23 clubs.

1962: 23 clubs.

1974: 25 clubs (no areas organized).

1978: 26 clubs (organized into three areas designated as Areas 01, 02 and 03).

1980: 26 clubs (organized into three areas).

1981: 25 clubs (organized into three areas).

1983: 25 clubs (organized into three areas).

1986: 28 clubs.

1990: 28 clubs and 1,245 members⁵

⁴ Marjorie Wilson: ZI History of District V, 1990.

⁵ *The Zontian* 1990 – 1992 Program Issue.

The Zonta International Board changed the designation from Roman to Arabic numerals. District II became District 02.

1993: 28 clubs (organized into four areas).

2002: 23 clubs (organized into four areas).

2008: 20 clubs (organized into four areas).

2016: 19 clubs (Only one more than in 1947, when the district was established).

Between 1986 and 2015, no clubs were added, and several clubs disbanded, but in 2016, the Zonta Club of Skaneateles was chartered.

Clubs were grouped into four areas. Area 01 had five clubs, Area 02 had six, and Areas 03 and 04 had four clubs each.

- New York, USA was Areas 01, 02, 03, 04
- Ontario, Canada was Area 04
- Quebec, Canada was Area 04.

2017: One new club was chartered – the Zonta Club of The Adirondacks

2018: 502 members.⁶

2019: 493 members in 20 clubs including three of the original nine clubs in the 1919 Confederation.⁷

History of formation of District 02 clubs

Canada

Ontario

Year Chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1930	0119	Zonta Club of Ottawa*	04	
1943	0178	Zonta Club of Kingston		2000

* The Zonta Club of Ottawa changed its name in 2019 to Zonta Club of Ottawa Canada.

Quebec

Year Chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1928	0085	Zonta Club of Montreal	04	

USA

New York

Year Chartered	Club number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1919	0003	Zonta Club of Binghamton		2014

⁶ Zonta International directory.

⁷ District 02 Treasurer's records.

1919	0004	Zonta Club of Elmira	03	
1919	0005	Zonta Club of Syracuse	02	
1919	0007	Zonta Club of Ithaca		1997
1919	0008	Zonta Club of Utica	02	
1920	0010	Zonta Club of Watertown		1932
1922	0018	Zonta Club of Rome	02	
1924	0027	Zonta Club of Glens Falls	01	
1924	0031	Zonta Club of Oneida Area	02	
1925	0035	Zonta Club of Auburn	03	
1925	0036	Zonta Club of Watkins Glen-Montour Falls	03	
1927	0043	Zonta Club of Schenectady	01	
1927		Zonta Club of Alexandria Bay		1932
1928		Zonta Club of Penn Yan		1937
1928		Zonta Club of Amsterdam		1931
1929	0069	Zonta Club of Poughkeepsie		2005
1929	0074	Zonta Club of Albany	01	
1929		Zonta Club of Brooklyn		1932
1929		Zonta Club of Hudson Falls		1933
1945	0181	Zonta Club of Ogdensburg	04	
1947		Zonta Club of Troy Area		1970
1952	0280	Zonta Club of Potsdam Area		2001
1955	0341	Zonta Club of Saratoga County		1994
1955	0344	Zonta Club of Oswego	02	
1957	0397	Zonta Club of Herkimer County		2015
1957		Zonta Club of Oneonta-Cooperstown		1962
1959	0447	Zonta Club of Norwich		1981
1970	0645	Zonta Club of Kingston		2003
1972	0709	Zonta Club of Cortland	03	
1973	0727	Zonta Club of Watertown		1982
1976	0791	Zonta Club of Newburgh/Mid-Hudson Valley		2012
1983	1047	Zonta Club of Montgomery-Fulton County Area, NY	01	
1984	1085	Zonta Club of Columbia/ Greene Counties*	01	
1985	1118	Zonta Club of Tioga County		1995
1986	1155	Zonta Club of Canton Area	04	
2016	1954	Zonta Club of Skaneateles	02	
2017	1965	Zonta Club of The Adirondacks	01	

*The Zonta Club of Columbia/Greene Counties changed its name in 2006 to Zonta Club of Upper Hudson Valley.