

2016-2018 BIENNIUM • ISSUE FOUR • MAY 2018

The Zontian

The Voice of Zonta International



WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Empowering women through opportunities



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS**

Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of 14 employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation and supports the Zonta International Board in implementing policies and programs to further the objectives of Zonta International.

Our friendly, capable staff is ready to assist you!

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If you are visiting the Chicago area, we invite you to visit Headquarters. Enjoy a tour of our offices and see artifacts from Zonta's 98-year history. To schedule a visit, please call +1 630 928 1400 or stop by our offices during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CDT.

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Zonta International President Sonja Höning Schough and members of the Zonta Club of Kathmandu with the Right Honorable Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Republic of Nepal.

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In This Issue

- 3 Letter from President
- 4 Notes from Nepal
- 7 Leading the Way: CSW62
- 10 Amplifying our Advocacy Efforts
- 11 Empowering Women in Business
- 14 See you in Yokohama!
- 15 The Membership Path
- 24 The Impact of the Rose
- 25 The Impact of the Fellowship
- 26 Welcoming the Centennial Celebration
- 31 Welcome to New Clubs

Front cover: Participants of the Future We Want Project with their instructor at a tailor training program in the Dhading District of Nepal.

Allison Summers, Executive Director; Kate Edrinn, Community Engagement Manager; Communiqué Graphic Design, Design
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Photo by: Therese Schroeder

A MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT SONJA HÖNIG SCHOUGH

Together we are stronger
and by joining efforts,
we can do so much more.



CLICK HERE

to view an online photo
album featuring highlights
from Sonja's biennium.

Dear Zontians,

This last year, women's issues have been on the global agenda like never before. Let us ensure this is not only some 15 minutes of fame, but instead put the focus on the root causes of why women are treated differently and do not have the same possibilities in our society. We must look into the reasoning behind why there are fewer women on boards, why women are paid lower wages than men and why women take greater responsibility for the unpaid work in the homes. This focus on women is a golden opportunity for us as an organization. As Zontians we can promote our work more broadly and be active to create change.

We set up challenging goals for this biennium, and we are almost there. Without your support these achievements would not have been possible.

We have expanded our programs and improved member and donor services. We have increased website and social media content and introduced communities to facilitate internal communication. Our advocacy campaigns, like Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women, which focused on human trafficking this year, have been further developed and seen in all different parts of the world. We have raised our visibility and voice at the UN in all the cities where we have representatives, New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris and Bangkok. A global membership drive, our Add Your Voice campaign, has been introduced and laid the base for membership growth and just as important, member retention. With your support, I am confident we will see results in the coming biennium. I am also proud that we have launched the Zonta Leadership Program—an online learning system designed to provide Zonta members with opportunities to expand their leadership skills and Zonta knowledge.

Because of you and your donations to the Zonta International Foundation, women and girls are becoming self-sustainable, a prerequisite when we envision a world where women's rights are human rights. Personally I could witness this, when I visited Nepal earlier this year. By getting access to a vocational training, women could either get employment or knowledge on how to set up their own business.

Young women around the world have been awarded fellowships and scholarships, and our international service projects have reached so many. All of this could not have been done without the support of all our members.

I encourage you to continue working to make this world of equal rights a reality and to invite others to join us in our efforts. Gender equality is not a women's issue –it is an issue for all human beings and can only be achieved by women and men working together as equal partners. Together we are stronger and by joining efforts, we can do so much more. Our endorsement and support of the HeForShe campaign is part of this strategy and can be used by clubs to engage men and boys at the local level.

Soon we are meeting in Yokohama—let us celebrate our successes and prepare for the next biennium. Together, we are—creating a better world for women and girls.

My warmest thanks and regards to all of you—without you we are nothing.

Sonja Hönig Schough



NOTES FROM NEPAL:

At 06:30 in the morning, I was picked up to travel to Sindhupalchok, one of the districts in Nepal where Zonta International, through UN Women, supports returning migrant women. The trip was around 100 km (approximately 60 miles), but due to the bad conditions of the roads, the trip took around 3 ½ hours. It was raining heavily, and I was told this was very unusual; normally you should see the magnificent mountains from the road.

The earthquake from 2015 is still very apparent everywhere you go in Nepal. Not only are the roads in bad shape, many buildings are yet not repaired. But primarily you hear it through people's stories. Everyone knows exactly where they were on 25 April 2015 and how it impacted them.

At the education center, I met women who participated in information technology, knitting and tailoring classes. Part of the training also consists of entrepreneurship skills and how to set up a business of your own. Psychosocial counseling is an important part as many have experiences that need to be dealt with.

All the women wanted to tell me their personal story. They had been working abroad in many different countries but were now home again and wanted to stay with their families and be able to support themselves in their villages. I heard stories of women working many, many hours per day, often with salaries far below what they had been promised. Very young girls are leaving their homes to be nannies or domestic workers. One challenge in the project is that women who have been sexually trafficked do not want to tell anyone, not to risk the future—but after having got support for a long time, I now heard some admit what they had experienced.

Why do the women then decide to leave their family and home? The mapping report, that was the start of our project, shows that one of the underlying factors for migration in Nepal is violence against women (including domestic violence) and not only limited opportunities for women to earn their living. To get away from violence and a dream of a better life are strong motivators. Families hear about others who have come home with money and sell their land to be able to send their children abroad as well.

Besides supporting returning migrant women with vocational training, our project also focuses on advocacy to end violence against women and gender discrimination. One important action is to inform women of their rights and responsibilities in the society and train them to claim their rights. A booklet has been produced (with printing support from our Zonta club in Kathmandu) and RTI (Right to Information) champions have been trained to spread the message.

I also met students who participated in a gender equality class. The theme was *Sahi Ho*—That’s right. Everyone was challenged to participate in an essay writing competition. I met a 15-year-old boy and his story featured violence against women. All essays were going to be published in a book.

The Future We Want, the name of our project, reflects that women in Nepal want to shape their own lives. The goal of the project is not only to support and address individual women who have been subject to either unsafe migration or trafficking. The goal is also to be part of a process of changing the structures in the society and removing the reasons for women leaving the country under unsafe conditions. Besides meeting the direct beneficiaries in Sindhupalchok, I met politicians both on the local and federal level and participated in a roundtable discussion with policymakers from different ministries. The government of Nepal has made a commitment to combat human trafficking with a comprehensive approach of changing policies.

We can be proud that our donations are supporting not only women in need, but also creating a sustainable development for women in Nepal, using synergies among all stakeholders.



Zonta International President Sonja Höning Schough participates in a roundtable discussion with local policymakers.

Under the **Future We Want (FWW) Project**, with every **US\$466**, one woman can benefit from a training program, which combines entrepreneurship and vocational skills development and psychosocial support for up to three months. Below, read how two women who received support through the joint initiative of Zonta International, UN Women and the International Organization for Migration took the skills they acquired to find economic independence and new opportunities for themselves and their families.

Som Devi Tamang



(c) Santoshi Basnet/F-SKILL

Som Devi Tamang is a 28-year-old returnee woman migrant worker participant of the three-month dressmakers' training under the FWW Project. Before the vocational and entrepreneurship development training, Som Devi migrated to Lebanon as a child care worker and then again to Cyprus to work as a housemaid.

After returning to Nepal to marry in 2014, Som Devi's husband migrated to work in Qatar and Som Devi returned to her parents' home. Som Devi said that it was her husband who suggested she attend the pre-training orientation and when the service provider under the FWW Project met with her recently for income verification, she shared that she was happy to have participated in the training and was now earning her own income.

Recently, Som Devi bought a tailoring machine with support from her parents and is operating a tailoring shop from her own house. She specializes in making clothes for women and children, which are in high demand in her local community.

"I am also getting many orders from the locals," Som Devi said. "I have been able to balance my work and household responsibilities efficiently. My family is supporting me by helping with the household chores. I am confident in doing my business and I am planning to open a tailoring shop in the city center so that I can expand my business and serve more people."

PROGRAM UPDATES



Liberia

In 2017, 109 women and girls received surgical treatment to repair an obstetric fistula; 44 of them enrolled in the rehabilitation and skills training program following treatment. More than 350,000 women, girls and elders benefited from fistula prevention advocacy.

Photo credit: (c) UNICEF/UN6969/RAMASOMANA





(c) Rukesh Ghimire/F-SKILL

Basanti Tamang

Basanti Tamang is a 30-year-old returnee woman migrant worker who worked in Lebanon for four and a half years as a housemaid. She participated in the three-month tailoring training under the FWW Project.

During the course of her training, there were times when Basanti thought she would not be able to reach the level of other participants since she did not have even the basic level of education. However, Basanti said the continuous support and motivation provided by the trainers and the counselors helped her to build confidence and believe in her abilities.

“What I felt was, if I could work hard in a place thousands of miles away, where I did not even know the language, away from family, then why should I be afraid to work in the place where I was born and also have the full support of my family?” thought Basanti. “This motivated me to complete my training.”

Upon successful completion of the training, Basanti decided to start her own business. She invested 70,000.00 Nepali Rupees (US\$674) with the support of her husband and started a tailoring shop.

Basanti further explained, “I did not know anything about tailoring before. This is the first time that I operated a machine. I used to be afraid even to talk to strangers, but now, I feel confident. I believe that I can earn a living through my tailoring business. My husband is also very supportive and helps me with calculating the cost of raw materials and setting the price of my products. I would like to thank all of those who have provided the training to returnee women migrant workers like me.”

Madagascar

1,000 households, caring for a total of 1,500 girls, received monthly cash transfers and one-time livelihood recovery grants to help them meet their basic needs and prevent them from turning to negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labor. 700 girls who had dropped out of school participated in catch-up classes, exceeding the original target by 42 percent.



Niger

41,475 adolescent girls received basic literacy training, sexual and reproductive health knowledge, access to and utilization of health services, and decision-making and financial management skills training, among other services, at 420 safe spaces in 2017. 421 adolescent girls returned to school and are on the path to realizing their full potential. 105,854 people participated in community dialogues that brought together parents, adolescent girls and community leaders to discuss girls' rights and other relevant issues.



LEADING THE WAY: CSW62

Zonta International President Sonja Hömig Schough with Mariarosa Cutillo, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, UNFPA, Laura Londen, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA, Madame Zeinabou Tari Bako Elback Adam, Minister for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, Niger, and members of the Niger Delegation to the CSW.

Zonta: A powerful voice for women and girls at the UN CSW

Zonta International's presence at the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) at the United Nations in March was stronger than ever this year. More than 70 Zontians from 15 countries were in attendance and a full schedule of events, including four side events co-hosted with Member States of the UN, two parallel events and a screening of the documentary, *Little Stones*. A common theme emerged throughout these Zonta-sponsored events: To end child marriage and other traditional practices that negatively impact the lives of women and girls, particularly rural women and girls, and to empower them to realize a different future for themselves, we must address the root causes of gender inequality – lack of quality education, little or no economic opportunities, lack of laws or enforcement of laws that protect the rights of women and girls, and social and cultural norms that perpetuate harmful practices.

More than 4,300 civil society representatives from 130 countries participated in the CSW, one of the largest annual gatherings of government leaders, non-governmental organizations, private corporations, United Nations partners and advocates for gender equality focused on the rights and empowerment of all women and girls around the world.

Each year, the CSW has a primary focus, as well as a review of a theme from a previous session of the CSW. This year's priority theme was "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls," and the review theme was "Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women."

Agreed Conclusions

The outcome of the meetings and discussions at the CSW are a set of [Agreed Conclusions](#), negotiated by all Member States. These agreed conclusions outline concrete measures to be taken by governments, civil society and other actors to lift rural women and girls out of poverty and ensure their rights and well-being, including:

- Ensuring adequate living standards with equal access to land and productive assets
- Ending poverty
- Enhancing food security and nutrition, decent work, infrastructure and technology, education and health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Ending all forms of violence and harmful traditional practices

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, spoke of the importance of translating the Agreed Conclusions into action, “The Commission’s agreement on measures to bring substantive equality to women and girls in rural areas is a vital step forward. In the Commission’s two weeks of dialogue we have heard clearly from the women and girls themselves what they want: from the rights to own property, to the need for quality infrastructure, to the rights to make decisions about their own bodies and lives. Effective action to bring the changes they need will take the continued engagement of all partners, from governments to civil society. Rural women themselves must be able to speak up and be heard in all consultations, and youth delegations must be included at all levels. These agreements are made in the meeting rooms of New York but must take effect in the lives of women and girls we are here to serve.”

Zonta International President Sonja Hönig Schough with Senegalese hip-hop star and activist Sister Fa, featured in the documentary, *Little Stones*, and Zonta District 18 Governor Anne-Marie French-Cudjoe.

Zonta CSW62 Events

Challenges for Rural Women and Girls: Education, Empowerment and the Impact of Traditional Practices

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the UN and Zonta International with Dr. Auxilia Ponga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Zambia, Mariangels Fortuny from the ILO, and Dr. Shirley Randell, Zonta International Honorary Member

Ending Child Marriage in Niger: A Critical Strategy to Achieving Gender Equality

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Niger to the UN, UNFPA and Zonta International

Little Stones Documentary Screening: Art + Media for Gender Equality

Hosted by Driftseed, Zonta International and Global Fund for Women

Beyond a Pretty Face: Tackling Gender Bias in Media Industries

Hosted by Zonta International and the International Association of Women in Radio and Television – USA Chapter

Accelerating an End to Child Marriage: Girls as Drivers of Change

Hosted by UNICEF USA and Zonta International with panelists from UNICEF, UNFPA, Girls Not Brides and a youth delegate from NAWO

Showcasing Women’s Empowerment and Development in Nepal

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the UN and Zonta International with UN Women Nepal and special guest moderator, Dr. Yakin Erturk, Zonta International Honorary Member

The Nation’s Future: Ending Child Marriage

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the UN and Zonta International with panelists from the World Bank and Soroptimist International



VOICES OF CSW

Our Zonta club members who participated in the CSW are empowered to take what they learned at the CSW and translate it into action at the local, regional and national levels. Hear firsthand from some of our Zonta participants on their CSW experience and how they will take the experience forward into their service and advocacy work in their clubs and districts.

Why did you choose to go to CSW?

"[I wanted] to be more inside the women's struggle, to be informed about what the others do for solutions and what Zonta International has done."

If you could bring anyone to CSW, who would it be and why?

"[I would bring] other members of the Zonta Club of Istanbul to feel the same enthusiasm as me and hundreds of women."

Canan Helvacioğlu

*Zonta Club of Istanbul, Turkey
First time attendee of CSW*



What did you learn at CSW?

How does it impact your work with Zonta?

"I enjoyed the connection with the great leaders in their own area, sharing the common interests."

Also, I was so impressed and proud to be a member of Zonta International. This participation made me realize how great the organization is. The side events and parallel events held by ZI were differentiated from others in terms of the quality of program contents and the way of deployment."

HyunJu Lee

*Zonta Club of Seoul VII, South Korea
First time attendee of CSW*



What did you learn at CSW? How does this impact your life?

"I have a greater awareness of the global connection civil society has with the United Nations. The panels I attended all had UN representatives, and politicians and non-governmental organization representatives. I was greatly impressed by the cooperation of all sectors and the presence Zonta had at CSW62."

Growing up in New Zealand where women's rights campaigns have been successful in empowering women and girls for a very long time, I have always been concerned about social justice. As a public school principal in New South Wales, Australia, the involvement at CSW62 has strengthened my resolve that the vision for the school ensures equal opportunity for all students. The children are particularly engaged in leadership supported by a wide community base, sustainable environment and global issues. The theme for CSW62 was particularly interesting to me with the issues affecting women from rural, regional and remote communities and the secondary theme of women and technology."

Sharyl Scott

*Zonta Club of Macarthur Inc, Australia
First time attendee of CSW*



Sharyl Scott (left) with daughter, Nella Scott of the Zonta Club of London II

What is your best memory of CSW?

“When I met the Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Director of UN Women [Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka] – everyone calls her “Phumie.” I met her at the CSW NGO Consultation Day. We ran into each other; I introduced myself and we talked for a couple of minutes and I got a photo with her (below). I was thinking, ‘This is my first CSW, first day of anything, I’ve only been here for a few hours and here I am standing with the Executive Director of UN Women.’”

Who would you bring and why?

“I would bring my mom. She finds all of this fascinating but she has never really become involved in any of these community advocacy events to this extent. She would have a blast. I think it would really expand her mentality and perspective about the world in general. And I think besides that she would find it exciting to be in the UN.”

Shaina Egly

*Zonta Club of Washington DC, USA
First time attendee of CSW*



What was different about this CSW?

“The one [session] that stood out for me was the townhall meeting by UN Secretary General [António] Guterres in that he introduced himself by calling himself a feminist, which I had not anticipated. It was wonderful to know that that is the mentality of the UN at this point. He talked about his goals for within his time at the UN—making sure there is parity in the structure of the UN employees, that there’s gender equality in terms of opportunity for positions. Also he wants to make sure they stop sexual exploitation and sexual harassment. I was very pleased to hear that. Some folks had wanted to have a female secretary general this time around. And, when that didn’t come to pass, it is wonderful to know that we have a feminist secretary general.”

Bobbee Cardillo

*Zonta Club of Fairfax County, USA
Member of the Advocacy Committee
and Zonta USA Caucus
Fourth year at CSW*



What was different about this CSW?

“This was the first time that I was involved with the planning of three events. Along with Mary Ann Tarantula, I was co-chair of NGOCSW’s Orientation Committee, producing their orientation session, which was a brand new offering. I was also instrumental in producing Zonta International’s parallel event on dispelling stereotypes of women in the media, as well as our side event with UNFPA and the Mission of the Republic of Niger that focused on our Adolescent Girl Initiative in Niger.”

If you could bring anyone to CSW, who would it be and why?

“I would like to bring my granddaughters to introduce them to power of the global women’s movement.”

Pamela Morgan

*Zonta Club of Essex, USA
Member of the UN Committee
Fourth year at CSW*



Pamela Morgan (left)
with incoming District 3
Governor Joanne Gallos



AMPLIFYING OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Above: The Z and Golden Z clubs of Saint Michael's College of Laguna, Philippines, spearheaded the relaunch of iFight, a youth movement to end human trafficking and modern slavery in this generation.

Below: Members of District 6 advocate by saying "NO" to violence against women.



Learn more about Zonta International's advocacy initiatives at www.zonta.org/Global-Impact/Advocacy and add your voice to end violence against women and girls at www.zontasaysno.com.

No matter where our nearly 30,000 members call home, they come to Zonta with a common purpose to use their personal time, talents and resources to ensure all women and girls, wherever they may live in the world, enjoy the same rights and opportunities. Our strength as an organization is in our collective voice and our combined efforts to put women's rights and interests at the forefront of local, national and global conversations.

Two years ago, we set a goal to increase our advocacy efforts and elevate Zonta's position as a leading advocate for women's rights. Thanks to the efforts of our districts, clubs and individual members, we have seen great strides in our advocacy initiatives on a number of different fronts.

At the United Nations and UNESCO, our International UN Committee brought together experts and organized events on child marriage, migration, trafficking and girls' education, while following other high-level meetings and events on topics relevant to Zonta International's mission, including the monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Council of Europe Committee continued to monitor events at the Council of Europe and provided updated tools and resources on the Anti-Trafficking and Istanbul Conventions for Zonta clubs to use in their own advocacy efforts.

At the local level, across the Zonta world, our clubs found new ways to add their voices to end violence against women and girls through our Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. From turning local landmarks orange to supporting domestic violence shelters and engaging men and boys to show their support for the campaign, Zonta International was seen and recognized as an advocate to end violence against women and girls in all its forms.

This biennium, Zonta clubs were also encouraged to work together across district boundaries to engage in advocacy actions at the national level. Zonta clubs in Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland and the United States used this new opportunity to join efforts and elevate their actions to the national level.

Zonta USA Caucus: A new program for national advocacy in the United States

With 13 Zonta districts spread across the United States, US Zontians were eager to find a way to join forces to advocate more powerfully at the national level. After the success of the first Zonta Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill in June 2017, a group of US Zontians prepared a proposal for a Zonta USA Caucus, which was approved by the Zonta International Board in November 2017.

The Zonta USA Caucus unites all Zonta clubs and districts in the USA to support Zonta International's mission to empower women and girls through service and advocacy. Working under the direction of the International Advocacy Committee and with a representative from each US district, the Caucus is a platform for advocacy actions within the United States.

The Zonta USA Caucus' goals are to:

1. Encourage policy development by the United States of America's legislature and its committees and individual members, which promotes and sustains women's access to all resources;
2. Assist in the development, consideration, and passage of legislation, which facilitates every woman's ability to achieve her full potential and to live in a society free of violence;
3. Promote women's representation in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men;
4. Take action in support of, or in opposition to, proposed or enacted legislation and executive orders and regulations, implemented by the executive branch of government that directly or indirectly impact the lives of women and girls.



To support the efforts of the Zonta USA Caucus, Zonta International invested in an online advocacy platform that enables Zonta club members in the United States and other citizens to contact their elected representatives at the national and state levels to voice their support for, or opposition to, proposed legislation. This platform also enables the Caucus to track

movement on legislation relevant to Zonta International's mission and vision.

The first two opportunities for action via this new advocacy platform were for the Equal Rights Amendment and the bipartisan Campus Accountability and Safety Act, both of which were on the agenda for the Zonta USA Advocacy Day in 2017. Thank you to everyone who has already taken action on these two very important issues. Visit our [USA Advocacy Action Center](#) to learn more and take action today.



Berklee Morganto
2017 JMK Scholar
Citizenship: USA

“I think a lot of it is being empowered in yourself and not letting those kinds of expectations and what other people are going to think of you affect how you behave.”



Philisile Dube
2013 JMK Scholar
Citizenship: Swaziland

“People are starting to realize that women are capable of running a business and raising a family.”



Kanika Solanki
2017 JMK Scholar
Citizenship: India

“Although I am optimistic about the way companies and society as a whole is making strides in terms of empowering women, our low representation in high level roles concerns me. My concern is due to the fact that this issue has been prevalent for a while and the speed at which changes are being made doesn't reflect the urgency.”

EMPOWERING WO



Christina Jacobsen
2013 JMK Scholar
Citizenship: Denmark

“Be confident that if you think something is unfair, it probably is. And things won’t change unless you speak up and force people to change or at least force people to reconsider their behavior.”



Alana Scott,
2013 JMK Scholar
Citizenship: New Zealand

“Theory is one thing but how the world works in reality and how business functions in reality are really, really different.”



Viroopa Volla
2017 JMK Scholar
Citizenship: USA

“I think just changing the language in how successful women business leaders are recognized in media is really important.”

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

OUR WOMEN IN BUSINESS



Many things have changed for women in the 20 years that have passed since the Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship was created. We take a look at what it means to be a woman in finance, accounting, management and many other business fields, through the eyes of current and former JMK scholars.

In general, more women are entering the workforce globally, and there are numerous mentorship and diversity programs in place to support and encourage women around the world. At least one woman is in a senior management position at 75 percent of businesses across the globe, according to a March [2018 study by Grant Thornton](#), and at [5.2 percent](#), the number of woman CEOs of Fortune 500 companies continues to climb.

“I think from what I have seen, there has been a huge push to increase the number of women and to give them a fair shake, give them as much opportunity as any man would have,” said Lori Lewis, a 2013 JMK scholar from the United States who currently works as an accountant.

While research shows that globally the percentage of women leaders is growing, according to a [February 2017 report by Catalyst](#), the pace of growth is much too slow and there are still many barriers inhibiting women from reaching equal opportunities.

JMK scholars are as varied as Zontians; they come from around the world, with different backgrounds and experiences and each provides a unique perspective on what it means to be a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field and what can be done to reach equality.

One example is Viroopa Volla, a 2017 scholar from the United States currently studying at Harvard Business School, who goes into every situation confident that she is on an equal playing field.

“I’ve never actually thought about myself as a ‘woman in business,’ so I think honestly that has helped me so much,” she said. “Because... if you go into a meeting thinking that you’re a woman and you have a handicap, that’s not going to go well.”

Of course, building this confidence takes time, resources and persistence. One important resource is having female role models and mentors.

When Madeline Glosemeyer, a 2017 scholar from the United States, met with a female leader in finance, it changed a lot of things for her.

“Just her being able to tell me ‘Yes, I realize that me being in this position is very unconventional, but it’s definitely doable,’—it gives you a little bit more motivation,” Madeline said.

[Click here](#) to learn more about these scholars and others and to hear them talk about the opportunities and obstacles that come with being a woman in business.

Being able to see women leaders in her field of accounting has made Amanda Saad very grateful for how societal perceptions have changed.

"I look at the women who are partners in the firm that I'm going into and all I can say is thank you to them for the situation they've put me in, the environment that they've created," the 2017 scholar from the United States said. "It means a lot to know that I can focus on doing accounting instead of worrying about [if people are] going to take me seriously."

Christina Jacobsen is a 2013 scholar from Denmark who is currently an assistant commercial manager at a shipping company in Norway. She said she is hopeful for the future because of the fact that a greater number of people seem to be striving for equality.

"I think in general the organizations and people are ready for a change, and in general they agree on gender equality," Christina said. "But it might not be everyone who knows how to bring about change, so it's time for us females to engage and help teach everyone else around us what kind of place we see for ourselves."

ADVANCES FOR WOMEN

Since starting the 2016-2018 Biennium, many unique advancements have happened for women around the globe in all industries and fields. Here are some notable events:

2016

JUNE: The Ministry of Women's Affairs in Palestine commits to preventing violence against women by establishing the National Observatory on Violence Against Women. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

JULY: (28 July) Hillary Clinton becomes the first female presidential candidate of a major political party in the U.S.

SEPTEMBER: (29 Sept) Liberia passes the Equal Representation and Participation Act, establishing that at least five of seven 'Special Constituency' seats must be filled by women. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

OCTOBER: (10 Oct) Kersti Kaljulaid elected President of Estonia, becoming the first female head of state in Estonia and the youngest President at age 46. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

2017

MARCH: (8 March) The world celebrates International Women's Day, and the Fearless Girl statue arrives on Wall Street in New York City. The statue of a young girl standing confidently in front of the famous charging bull statue is meant to symbolize women taking a stand against adversity. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(26 March) Carrie Lam becomes the first female Chief Executive of Hong Kong. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

MAY: (20 May) Kanchhi Maya Tamang, Pemba Dorje Sherpa and their Sherpa teammates climb to the summit of the world's highest peak on Mount Everest for gender equality and women's empowerment. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

JUNE: (2 June) Patty Jenkins becomes first woman to direct a studio superhero comic book live-action theatrical release film with Wonder Woman. The film also becomes the highest-grossing superhero origin film. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(15 June) Ana Brnabic becomes first woman and first openly gay person to be elected Prime Minister of Serbia. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

AUGUST: (3 August) Parliament of Jordan abolishes a law that allowed rapists to avoid punishment by marrying their victims. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

SEPTEMBER: Zonta announces support for the HeForShe campaign, a global movement that aims to mobilize 1 billion men to accelerate the achievement of gender equality. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(2 Sept) At 665 days total, Peggy Whitson breaks the record for the most cumulative time in space by an American. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(18 Sept) The Equal Pay International Coalition launches in Latin America and the Caribbean to reduce the gender wage gap. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

OCTOBER: (15 Oct) #MeToo movement gains momentum across the globe as millions of women and some men speak out and share their stories of sexual harassment and sexual assault on social media using the hashtag #MeToo. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(26 Oct) Jacinda Ardern is elected the 40th Prime Minister of New Zealand, becoming the world's youngest female head of government at age 37. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

DECEMBER: (18 Dec) TIME Magazine names "The Silence Breakers" as Person of the Year 2017, highlighting people who stood up against sexual assault and helped to promote the #MeToo movement. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

2018

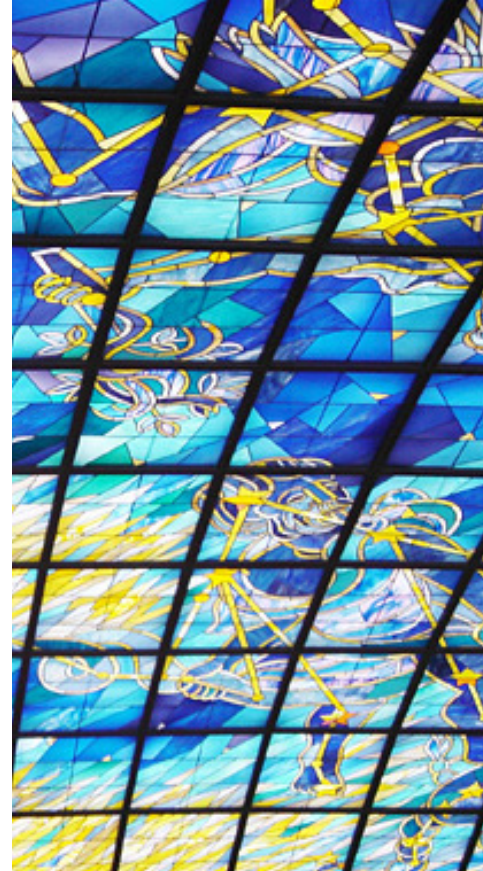
JANUARY: (1 Jan) Hollywood celebrities launched the Time's Up Movement against sexual harassment in the workplace. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(1 Jan) Iceland requires companies to prove they pay women equally. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

FEBRUARY: (12 Feb) Zonta launches USA Advocacy Action Center. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

MARCH: (4 March) Actress Frances McDormand raises awareness for the policy of Inclusion Riders, a requirement an actor or actress can include in their contract to demand a level of diversity on set. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

(12 March) Paraguay passes law to end violence against women and criminalize gender-based killings of women. [CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)



(c) Pacifico Yokohama

SEE YOU IN YOKOHAMA!

Cherry blossoms have been in full bloom in Japan along with plans for the 2018 Convention. The registration rates have exceeded recent convention records, and the building excitement for the five-day event is telling of what we can expect from our members in Japan.

Convention is one of the few opportunities in the biennium for members from across the globe to gather face-to-face to share their passion for our mission of empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. While Convention is our time to elect new leaders, set goals for the future and approve our new projects and programs, Convention is not only about business and bylaws. This gathering is also an opportunity to share ideas about how to best conduct efforts in service, advocacy, membership and contributions to the Zonta International Foundation. During the Share Your Story Festival, you will learn how club events and activities can spur region-wide momentum and effectively change the world.

Workshops

The four convention workshops have diverse topics and have been designed to offer attendees insight on areas that matter to members. Learn how to use social media to attract attention to your local service and advocacy efforts; how to achieve goals by developing better communication skills and overcoming differences; how to create an action plan for your local advocacy actions; and how to create a club culture that delivers on Zonta's mission and exceeds member expectations.





Program

Convention is not just for delegates. But, they have an important role in the election of new leaders and the process of approving new goals and programs for Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation. It is vital that Zonta chooses the right path for the next 100 years and seeing the effectiveness of our goals and projects is the best way to make the right choices. Speakers from our partner organizations and recipients of our scholarships and awards programs will join us in Yokohama to share how our work and efforts have changed the world for women and girls.



Speakers

Joining Helen Clark as a notable speaker is Naoko Yamazaki (top), the second Japanese woman to go to space when she boarded the space shuttle Discovery at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA as a mission specialist to carry equipment and materials to the International Space Station. See Naoko, an International Honorary Member and Amelia Earhart Fellow, address the convention body on 2 July.

You will also hear Holly Ransom (center), a Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship winner from Australia, and Saanya Subasinghe (bottom), a Young Women in Public Affairs Award winner from Sri Lanka, speak about how Zonta International has impacted their lives.



Tours

To capitalize on this once-a-biennium opportunity to connect with old and new Zonta friends, multiple events outside of the program have been organized including ticketed dinners, day tours and pre/post-convention tours. Because of the excitement of our early birds, seats for tours are limited, but some are still available.

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN US IN JAPAN:

- 一 Make new friends.
- 二 Be part of history at Japan's first Zonta International Convention.
- 三 Set the tone for the Centennial Celebration.
- 四 Learn how to live the Zonta mission in workshops.
- 五 Bring home new ideas from the Share Your Story Festival to inspire your club's work.
- 六 Connect with leaders and network with motivators.
- 七 Be part of the sticker challenge at the ZIF booth. Will your district win?
- 八 Take your picture at the Centennial Booth.
- 九 Recognize districts, clubs and individual Zontians for their hard work throughout the biennium.
- 十 Hear from women who have pioneered new horizons—in the board room and beyond!



The path to membership in a Zonta club is as unique for each member as the leadership roles they hold. For some, Zonta is the key to making change in their own neighborhood, while for others it is the opportunity to expand their own life's goals of making an impact on an international level. Being a part of a club gives all members a new personal network and resources to empower themselves through leadership opportunities.

THE MEMBERSHIP PATH

Daniela Pedrini, Zonta e-Club of Italy

Daniela Pedrini first learned of Zonta when she received an email about the Amelia Earhart Fellowship. After being awarded the fellowship twice (2013 and 2014), she became more connected with her local Zonta clubs. Impressed by the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, Daniela's interest in supporting Zonta grew and she decided to join.

"I was initially influenced by the members of the club of Cremona, who I met first and made me feel their enthusiasm in being part of Zonta," Daniela said. "I felt the need to join; however, there was no traditional club located in Tuscany, where I live and work."

Under the guidance of District 28 Lt. Governor Fernanda Gallo Freschi and Elena Federici Ballini (both from the Zonta Club of Milan-Sant Ambrogio) and Emanuela Tanzi (Zonta Club of Parma), Daniela formed the Zonta e-Club of Italy. This gave her the option to join Zonta despite the absence of a nearby traditional club and the opportunity to become a leader in Zonta.

"My role as a leader naturally grew up once our mentors proposed me to set up the e-club," Daniela said. "I was honored to accept a role of president of a new e-club, and at the same time the members who joined the e-club showed their appreciation in having me as a president."

Daniela is not the only program recipient in the club; five other members are Amelia Earhart Fellows, two are Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholars and one is a recipient of the Young Women in Public Affairs Award. The members' main motivation is to support the educational mission of Zonta, especially female STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

Above: Zonta e-Club of Italy President Daniela Pedrini and member Jessica Cenni pose on their return trip from the Frankfurt, while looking forward to their next Zonta meeting.

Left: Zonta e-Club of Italy President Daniela Pedrini was presented with an image, representing the path from traditional to electronic club.





Claudia Exenberger, Zonta Club of Vienna

Sometimes the path to membership is shorter than expected.

“I didn’t know what Zonta was in the beginning,” recalls Claudia Exenberger. “A friend of mine called me and said it’s a women’s organization and she wants to be a part of it. She was a student at the time and the [Zonta Club of Vienna] told her she could found her own Golden Z club. She asked me if I wanted to start the club with her.”

Claudia took advantage of the opportunity and thought that Zonta itself was quite interesting.

“Zonta gave us the opportunity to build up new projects, to inform other people about human rights and in particular women’s rights and show that there are people interested in these topics,” Claudia said. “We found out fast that there are quite a lot of young people, not only just women, who are interested in these topics and want to support them as well.”

The next steps in membership went fast for Claudia as she was approached soon after by Ingeborg Geyer, a member of the Zonta International UN Committee to join the committee so as to become a secretary on the UN Committee on Sustainable Development in Vienna. This also led Claudia to become a young professional member in the Zonta Club of Vienna.

“It was a great opportunity for me. I wanted to learn more and thought, ‘Why not try it and do it?’ and that’s how I ended up here,” she said.

Even with her role on the committee and membership in the Zonta Club of Vienna, Claudia is still involved in her Golden Z club and serves as the president of the Golden Z club and as a connection between the two clubs.

“For me, it’s important,” Claudia said. “I get a better view of what is Zonta International, and the aims and goals. Also with the local club here, I know what projects they are working on. On the other way around, I can inform them of the Golden Z club projects and how the sponsor club can support us. It’s a great opportunity to bring the [Golden Z and Zonta] clubs together.”

Above: Claudia Exenberger, member of the Zonta Club of Vienna, speaks with other members.

Below: During the European Inter-district meeting, which coincided with a Zonta International Board meeting, President Sonja Hönig Schough (right center) and President-Elect Susanne von Bassewitz (left) presented the Golden Z club of Vienna with their chartering certificate.



"These and the social and economic gender inequalities, in Thailand as well as around the world, motivated me to want to be part of an organization which aims to address these issues."

Orayaporn "Gib" Karnchanachari, Zonta e-Club of Thailand I

Under the influence of her mother and friends, Orayaporn "Gib" Karnchanachari first joined Zonta in 2012. To Gib, Zonta was an organization that addressed issues such as violence against women, which she saw occurring in her life.

"I have read and heard many stories on sexual and physical violence on women, both from the news but also from my own friends who have experienced such terrible acts," Gib said. "These and the social and economic gender inequalities, in Thailand as well as around the world, motivated me to want to be part of an organization which aims to address these issues. Zonta was the perfect platform."

Gib was a member of the Zonta Club of Bangkok XIII for five years before she was invited by her sister, Naruporn, to help take on the task of chartering the first e-club in Thailand, of which she is now the treasurer and her sister is the president.

"We believed that an electronic club was enticing for younger generations as well as giving members from across Thailand the freedom to participate without being in one specific area together," Gib said. "Being from the digital generations, our management styles rely on electronic communications and monthly meetings. This was effective as we have members living across different regions of Thailand. However, we also meet face to face for the social gatherings, brainstorming and service activities."

Making connections with other Zontians has been important to Gib.

"The opportunity to meet and connect with capable, kind and strong women worldwide has been eye-opening, intellectually stimulating and most of all empowering," Gib said. "I have learnt a lot from our members in the Zonta communities both in Thailand and other countries, especially when attending the Zonta inter-district conference and international convention as well as the Commission on the Status of Women 61 and 62."

The Zonta e-Club of Thailand I celebrates their chartering ceremony.



CELEBRATE ZONTA'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

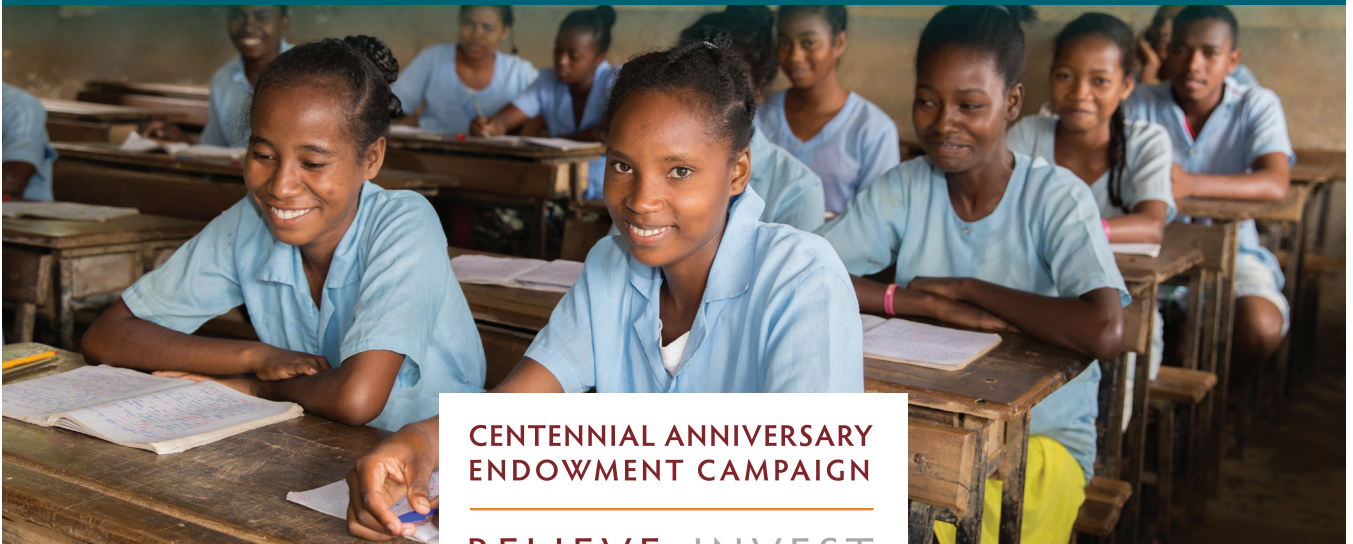
Join the many Zontians who are already celebrating Zonta's Centennial Anniversary with a commitment to the Endowment Fund as part of the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign (CAEC).

By contributing to the CAEC with a gift, which is significant for you, you ensure that Zonta will be able to sustain projects and programs to meet the needs of future generations of women and girls.

Leave your legacy, celebrate this milestone in our history, and support future generations by making your CAEC gift today. Choose the option that is best for you:

- A pledge to be paid over three years
- A one-time gift
- A future gift through estate planning

The Zonta International Foundation CAEC Committee is happy to advise you on opportunities to participate.



CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

BELIEVE • INVEST
EMPOWER

Learn more about the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign at:
www.zontaendowmentcampaign.org

THE IMPACT OF THE ROSE



On Rose Day, members of the Zonta International Headquarters team joined the Zonta Club of Oak Brook and the Zonta Club of St. Charles-Geneva-Batavia, Illinois, USA at the Zonta Club of Oak Brook's annual International Women's Day Breakfast.



(left to right) Dame Patsy Reddy, the Right Honorable Helen Clark and Honorable Julie Anne Genter at the International Women's Day Breakfast at the New Zealand Parliament hosted by the Zonta Club of Wellington and the UN Women's National Committee of Aotearoa NZ. Attribute: Government House



The Zonta Club of Kauai, Hawaii, USA, celebrate Rose Day with each member being presented with a yellow rose.

Thanks to donations made to the Zonta International Foundation, Zontians are able to invest in a future with equal rights for women and girls through the International Service Program (ISP) and Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women (ZISVAW) projects, and the education programs that are the core of our mission of empowering women and girls worldwide.

Through March 2018 we have raised 74 percent toward our US\$5.4 million fundraising goal. We need your help to fully achieve the goal by the end of the biennium.

Throughout the biennium, the Foundation promotes various fundraising initiatives to support our biennial goal. One of the most popular is Zonta Rose Day, celebrated annually on 8 March in conjunction with International Women's Day. The first Rose Day was observed in 1999 as a pilot project designed to connect Zontians globally and increase Zonta's public visibility.

The beauty of a single yellow rose serves as the symbol of Zonta Rose Day. Zontians worldwide are encouraged to publicly distribute yellow roses or items bearing the image of yellow roses, accompanied by information about Zonta International and women's empowerment.

Zonta Rose Day also invites Zontians to make a donation to the Rose Fund and send a virtual yellow rose representing friendship and joy in honor of a special person who has served as an inspiration in their lives.

While donors are able to designate their gift to any of the Foundation's funds, gifts designated to the ISP, ZISVAW or educational program funds are restricted to their specific purpose. Donations to the Rose Fund are unrestricted. This flexibility allows Rose Fund donations to provide additional funds to Zonta International Foundation programs not fully supported by fund-specific contributions and enables the Foundation to support new program development.

As we near the end of the biennium, we strongly encourage donors to consider designating their end of biennium donations to the Rose Fund. A donation to the Rose Fund will ensure all of Zonta's life-changing projects and programs that empower women and girls worldwide are fully supported.

Thank you to all of our clubs, areas, districts and members for your continued support. These donations create an environment where women and girls are safe, educated, empowered and able to achieve equal opportunity.



THE IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Rose Marie Licher

As a young girl, Rose Marie Licher was asked by her mother's friend, "What do you want to do when you grow up?"

"I said I wanted to fly and she said 'Oh, you want to be an airline stewardess' and I said 'No, I want to be the pilot,'" Rose Marie said.

With the help of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1951, Rose Marie attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where she joined the glider club and "learned to fly like the birds."

"I think we need to honor women as women; that they can do whatever they want to do. I think that's what Amelia did. She wanted to be a pilot and she did it, whether that was what was wanted or not. And I think we need to honor that ability or that desire to be more than what you could be."

Since 1938, Zonta International has been funding women like Rose Marie in their pursuit of a Ph.D. or doctoral degree in aerospace-related engineering or aerospace-related sciences through the Amelia Earhart Fellowship.

Many things have changed since the now 90-year-old attended MIT, including how women in the field are treated.

"When I was at Oklahoma University, I started taking mechanical engineering courses, but I heard roundabout that the professor was going to flunk me because [he thought] women shouldn't do engineering," Rose Marie said of her undergraduate studies. "Today, I'm sure there are still some [people that think] women belong in the house and not in the workplace... [but] I think it's much less and women are more accepted in what they want to do."

Although there are many reports that show more women are studying in STEM fields today, the percentages are still rather low. Rose Marie said she thinks it is vital the Fellowship continues to aid young women and honor Amelia Earhart.

"She was a pioneer in helping women establish new ways of being instead of just being stuck in the house as the homemaker," she said. "I think we need to honor women as women; that they can do whatever they want to do. I think that's what Amelia did. She wanted to be a pilot and she did it, whether that was what was wanted or not. And I think we need to honor that ability or that desire to be more than what you could be."



CLICK HERE

to watch a video to see how the Amelia Earhart Fellowship continues to help women reach new horizons.



WELCOMING THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

For the last 98 years, Zontians have made women's equality their mission. As we have expanded globally, our impact has been felt through our projects, programs, and most importantly our members.

Celebrating Zonta's Centennial Anniversary will be a wonderful opportunity: It's perfect for honoring our history and for opening the doors to Zonta's future. Starting at the 64th Zonta International Convention in Yokohama, Japan this June, embark on a journey of what it truly means to be a Zontian as we learn more about our past while looking ahead to what the next 100 years holds for our mission and members.

Celebration Design

The Centennial Anniversary icon encapsulates this purpose: The square and the Z represent two essentials of Zonta International's visual identity. The gold "100" is one of our official colors, whereas the bright teal is new to Zonta's color palette. This color was chosen after consulting neurophysiological research on colors. The bright teal/turquoise is almost universally associated with "joy" and "enjoyment" and that is exactly what our Centennial celebration is about.

Based on a detailed briefing, Ulrike Heuter, member of the Zonta Club of Düsseldorf I and owner of a design agency in Düsseldorf, developed the icon and donated the work to Zonta. Special thanks to Ulrike!

To highlight our celebrations, the design may be used by all clubs and districts throughout the entire biennium. Find more about the icon under Centennial Anniversary Tools on membership.zonta.org.



WELCOME TO THE ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY!

Zontians from District 17, Area 4, at their district conference.

ZONTA CLUBS

Maricopa

District 9, Area 5

Brighton-Howell

District 15, Area 3

The New Territories II

District 17, Area 2

e-Club Thailand I

District 17, Area 6

Kirkkonummi-Kyrkslatt

District 20, Area 1

Mie

District 26, Area 2

e-Club Italy

District 28, Area 3

GOLDEN Z CLUBS

University of Arizona

District 9, Area 5

NTC Education Bantanga Inc.

District 17, Area 1

Brugge/"Young Zonta Brugge"

District 27, Area 5

Hannover

District 27, Area 7

Vorarlberg

District 28, Area 4

MCU

District 31, Area 1

Z CLUBS

Langley High School

District 3, Area 4

Northview High School

District 11, Area 1

Roxas National High School

District 17, Area 4

TCU

District 17, Area 5

Young Zonta Luxembourg

District 27, Area 1



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
 EMPOWERING WOMEN
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Get Social



@Zontantl



Zonta International



Zonta International Official Group



Zonta International



Zontiantl

Mark your calendars for the Share Your Story Festival at the 2018 Convention

9 a.m. – Noon
Friday, 29 June
Pacifico Yokohama

Every day, around the world, Zontians are working to improve the lives of women and girls—and we believe these innovative and inspiring stories need to be shared. We will feature great Zonta stories of service, advocacy, membership and fundraising on the main stage at the 2018 Convention.

Leave inspired with new ideas to bring back to your club.

