



## Chapter 1

### Development of Districts Worldwide (1920–2019)<sup>1</sup>

**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>2</sup>. Seattle, Los Angeles and Dallas constituted the West Coast District and Clara Herrick was appointed Chairman of the district.

**1924<sup>3</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.

---

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

<sup>2</sup> *District IX History 1923–1954* by Past Governors Mayme Bonham and Blodwen R. Hunt, and *District IX History 1982*, p.1

<sup>3</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”.

- 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.

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>4</sup>

In December, the number of active clubs reached 32.

**1928:** A new District Plan was adopted with the districts designated by letters:

- District A comprising 10 clubs from New York and Massachusetts
- District B comprising 9 clubs from New York, New Jersey and District of Columbia
- District C comprising 9 clubs from New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario, Canada
- District D comprising 19 clubs from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Tennessee
- District E comprising 4 clubs. (Its territory was all States west of the Mississippi River.)

**1929:** The District Plan was revised to include regions. At the same time, it was decided to change the designation of the districts from letters to Roman numerals. While the Plan was effective from 1930, not all contemplated districts were established.

**1930:** The following list was published in *The Zontian* in 1930<sup>5</sup>.

- District I Region A with 27 clubs (4 in Connecticut, 7 in Massachusetts, 1 in Maine, 13 in New York, 2 in Vermont)
- District I Region B with 15 clubs (5 from New Jersey, 9 from New York, 1 from Pennsylvania plus 4 affiliated clubs – 1 from District of Columbia and 3 from Maryland. These four clubs were affiliated with this Region until District III was sufficiently developed to warrant change.)
- District I Region C with 15 clubs (8 from New York, 2 from Pennsylvania, 4 from Ohio, 4 from Ontario, Canada, and 1 from Quebec, Canada)
- District II Region A with 16 clubs (10 from Michigan, 5 from Ohio, 1 from Ontario, Canada)
- District II Region B with 12 clubs (5 from Illinois, 1 from Indiana, 2 from Missouri, 2 from Minnesota, 1 from Tennessee, 1 from Wisconsin). Clubs from Missouri, Minnesota and Tennessee were to affiliate with Region B until their respective districts were more fully developed and went into operation
- Districts III, IV and V (not yet established)

---

<sup>4</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>5</sup> There is a difference of two clubs between this list and records compiled by the author. The difference is probably attributable to different counting dates.

- District VI with 7 clubs (5 from Washington, 2 from Oregon. All were clubs from the former District E.)
- District VII with 12 clubs (8 from California, 1 from Colorado, 1 from Hawaii, 2 from Texas, 1 from Sydney, Australia. The two clubs from Texas affiliated with District VII until District V (clubs from former District E) was established.

**1932:**

- District I Region A with 24 clubs (2 in Maine, 10 in Massachusetts, 10 in New York, 2 in Vermont)
- District I Region B with 24 clubs (4 in Connecticut, 1 in District of Columbia, 3 in Maryland, 5 in New Jersey, 10 in New York, 1 in Pennsylvania)
- District I Region C with 17 clubs (4 in Ontario, Canada, 1 in Quebec, Canada, 10 in New York, 2 in Pennsylvania)
- District II Region A with 15 clubs (1 in Ontario, Canada, 9 in Michigan, 5 in Ohio)
- District II Region B with 15 clubs (6 in Illinois, 1 in Indiana, 2 in Minnesota, 2 in Missouri, 1 in Tennessee, 2 in Texas, 1 in Wisconsin)
- District III, District IV, District V (not yet established)
- District VI with 7 clubs (2 in Oregon, 5 in the state of Washington)
- District VII with 9 clubs (8 in California, 1 in Colorado).

Because of their great distance from other affiliated clubs, the following clubs were not yet districted: Hamburg (Germany), Honolulu (Territory of Hawaii), Sydney (Australia), and Vienna (Austria).

**1934:** District III became effective by division of District I.

**1936:** There were 126 clubs in North America plus a few overseas clubs. The Zonta Club of Sydney was not mentioned. The non-districted clubs were: the Zonta Clubs of Honolulu, Vienna, Copenhagen, and Stockholm. The Zonta Club of Hamburg, Germany, worked underground during Nazi rule.

- District I: 35 clubs
  - Region A: 19 clubs from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont
  - Region B: 16 clubs from New York and Vermont (USA) and Quebec and Ontario (Canada)
- District II: 33 clubs
  - Region A: 16 clubs from Michigan and Ohio (USA) and Ontario, Canada
  - Region B: 17 clubs from Georgia, Illinois, Texas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota and Tennessee
- District III: 33 clubs
  - Region A: 18 clubs from New York and Pennsylvania (USA) and Ontario (Canada)
  - Region B: 15 clubs from Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and the District of Columbia.
- District IV and District V: not functioning
- District VI: 7 clubs from Oregon and the state of Washington
- District VII: 16 clubs from California and Colorado.

**1940:** District V became effective.

**1943:** District IV became effective.

**1945:** *The Zontian* published photographs of the seven District chairmen.

**1946:** Zonta International counted 155 clubs in 7 districts in North America:

- District I Region A comprising 20 clubs (11 from Massachusetts, 4 from Maine, 2 from Vermont, 3 from Connecticut)
- District I Region B comprising 17 clubs (14 from New York, 2 from Ontario, Canada, 1 from Quebec, Canada)
- District II Region A comprising 18 clubs (10 from Michigan, 7 from Ohio, 1 from Ontario, Canada)
- District II Region B comprising 11 clubs (8 from Illinois, 1 from Indiana, 2 from Wisconsin)
- District III Region A comprising 18 clubs (4 from Ontario, Canada, 11 from New York, 3 from Pennsylvania)
- District III Region B comprising 18 clubs (4 from Maryland, 8 from New Jersey, 4 from New York, 1 from Pennsylvania, 1 from District of Columbia)
- District III Region C comprising 7 clubs (4 from Florida, 1 from Georgia, 1 from Alabama, 1 from Tennessee)
- District IV comprising 9 clubs; 1 from Colorado, 1 from Iowa, 3 from Massachusetts, 3 from Missouri, 1 from Nebraska
- District V comprising 6 clubs (1 from Kansas, 4 from Texas, 1 from Louisiana)
- District VI comprising 10 clubs (5 from Oregon, 5 from the state of Washington)
- District VII comprising 20 clubs (15 from California, 5 from Arizona)
- Non-districted: 6 clubs:
  - Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
  - Copenhagen, Denmark
  - Aalborg, Denmark
  - Stockholm, Sweden
  - Gothenburg, Sweden
  - Reykjavik, Iceland.

While World War II was over, the Zonta Clubs of Hamburg and Vienna still had no contact with Zonta International.

**1947:** The new District Plan was adopted. With some changes in the district boundaries and several additions, this plan is still (2018) Zonta International's District Plan. In 1947, it encompassed 11 districts in North America. Some states had clubs in more than one district e.g. clubs from Kentucky are 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. The 1947 districts were:

- District I comprising clubs from Canada (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia) and USA (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont)
- District II comprising clubs from Canada (Ontario, Quebec) and USA (New York)
- District III comprising clubs from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and District of Columbia
- District IV comprising clubs from Canada (Ontario) and USA (New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) (See 1970 below.)

- District V comprising clubs from USA (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky East) and Canada (western Ontario)
- District VI comprising clubs from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky West, and Wisconsin
- District VII comprising clubs from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota (See 1952 below.)
- District VIII comprising clubs from Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, USA, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming (See 1952 below.)
- District IX comprising clubs from Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii (from 1957)
- District X comprising clubs from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas
- District XI comprising clubs from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

**1949:** The title District Chairman was replaced by the title District Governor.

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

Clubs from the following states/provinces were included in District XII: Colorado, Eastern Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming (USA) and Saskatchewan (Canada).

**1962:** Two new international districts were added:

- District XIII, the Nordic District, with clubs from Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden
- District XIV, the European District with clubs from European countries except the Nordic countries.

**1965:** Some boundary revisions were undertaken regarding American districts. (For details, see Appendix 18 *Zonta in North America*.)

**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

The non-districted clubs were grouped into five Areas:

- Area I: Chile, Columbia, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay
- Area II: Bangladesh, Ceylon, India, Iran, Pakistan
- Area III: Australia, New Zealand
- Area IV: Taiwan (Republic of China), Hong Kong, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand
- Area V: Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone.

**1972:** The Zonta International Board decided that Areas for non-districted clubs were to be called Regions and that all districts were to be designated by Roman numerals.

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

**1974:** In this year:

- The Zonta International Board had decided in 1972 to grant District status to Region III. This was effective from 20 July 1974
- District XVI for clubs in New Zealand and Australia, was added
- Regions were regrouped:
  - Region I for clubs in Bangladesh, Republic of China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand
  - Region II for clubs in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone
  - Region III for clubs in Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.

**1980:** A new district (District XVII) was added for clubs in Asia, effective from the last day of convention 1980.

**1982:** Regions II and III were transformed into two new districts:

- District XVIII comprising clubs in Africa
- District XIX comprising clubs in Central and South America.

**1986:** District XIII was split into:

- District XIII for clubs in Denmark, Iceland and Norway
- District XX for clubs in Finland
- District XXI for clubs in Sweden.

**1990:** Roman numerals were changed to Arabic numerals as designation for the Zonta Districts. A massive re-districting was undertaken – new districts were needed because of an increase in the number of clubs.

District XVI became:

- District 16 for clubs in New Zealand
- District 23 for clubs from Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory
- District 24 for clubs in Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

District XVII became:

- District 17 for clubs in Hong Kong, Indonesia (until 2002), Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia (from 1996), and Macau (from 2014)
- District 25 for clubs from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka
- District 26 for clubs from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan (Republic of China).

District XIX became:

- District 19 for clubs in South America
- District 22 for clubs in Central America.

**1994:** The Zonta International board decided to split District 14, the European District, effective from July 1994 into:

- District 14: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary and Italy
- District 27: Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland and Ukraine (from 1997)
- District 28: Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Turkey
- District 29: England, France, Germany, Guadeloupe (from 2004), Ireland (to 2012), Spain (from 2005), Netherlands, Russia and Scotland (to 2016)
- District 30: Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Macedonia (from 2004), Monaco, Romania (from 2006) and Switzerland.

**2000:** The Zonta International Board decided to close District 22 (Central America) because of a decreasing number of clubs.

**2002:** Zonta International Board decided to group the remaining clubs in Central America into Region Central America. The Zonta International Directory 2002-03 lists club no. 402 from Guatemala, and clubs no. 853, 1542 and 1725 from Mexico as belonging to this region. A Regional Representative is also mentioned.

**2004:** The Zonta International Directory 2004-2006 includes a map entitled "Region Mexico and Central America"

**2004:** The Zonta International Board decided to create Region Mongolia.

**2006:** The Zonta International directory 2006-08 includes a map entitled "Region Mexico". It is not repeated in the 2008-10 directory.

**2006:** A redistricting took place in Asia with District 26 split into:

- District 26 for clubs in Japan
- District 31 for clubs in Taiwan (Republic of China)
- District 32 for clubs in South Korea.

**2008:** The Zonta International Board decided to divide District 24 into:

- District 22 comprising clubs in Queensland plus (at their request) the Zonta Club of Northern Rivers, New South Wales (The district number 22 had come available since the closing of the Central American District in 2000.)
- District 24 comprising clubs in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

**2010:** District 19 became Region South America because of a decreasing number of clubs and members.

**2016:** District 31 (comprising clubs in Taiwan) welcomed clubs from Mongolia. Region Mongolia was closed.