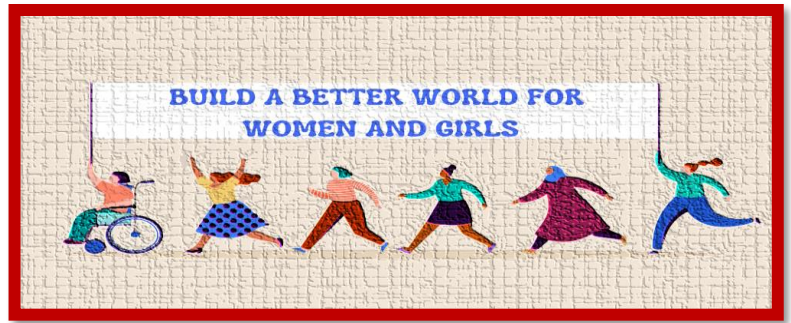


## Newsletter December 2023



### Governor's Message

Greetings!

I hope this message finds you well as we approach the holiday season. It is with great joy and gratitude that I share some highlights and reflections from our recent District 2 conference.

**Successful Conference:** Our District 2 conference was a resounding success, and I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all who participated. It was a pleasure to be together again, engaging in meaningful discussions, networking, and strengthening our bonds as members of this incredible organization.

**Business and Camaraderie:** During the conference, we efficiently conducted the business of the district while also enjoying each other's company. It was a perfect blend of productivity and camaraderie, resulting in so many highlights and lasting memories.

**Special Guest:** A highlight of the conference was the honor of hosting Zonta International's Board Liaison, Teresa Lin, from Hong Kong. Her presence added a global perspective to our discussions, and we are grateful for the insights she shared.

**Congratulations to the Incoming Board:** I extend my congratulations to the incoming board. I have full confidence that you will lead our district to new heights, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact you will undoubtedly make.

As we turn our gaze to the upcoming year, let us maintain the momentum we've built. There is much work ahead—more clubs to charter, more members to recruit—as we continue to strive for a better world for women and girls.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Governor of District 2, and I am immensely proud of the dedication displayed by all members of the District 2 board. Your commitment is truly amazing, and it inspires us all to work toward our shared goals.

During this holiday season, let's take a moment to reflect on the global challenges faced by women and girls, especially those affected by the ongoing conflicts in the world. May this festive season bring comfort and solidarity, and may we collectively strive for peace on Earth.

Season's greetings to all! Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed. Thank you for everything you do to Build a Better World for Women and Girls.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with hope and success.

Governor Liz

## District 2 News



## Incoming Board

Amy Quinn, Governor; Lorraine Abess, Lt. Governor; Dorothy Bonney, Treasurer; Debra Grobe-Searles, Area I Director; Cindy Thurston, Area 2 Director, Rita Loperfido, Area 3 Director; Tammy Thompson, Nominating Committee; Melanie Puerto-Conte, Nominating Committee; Liz Tesiero, Chair Nominating Committee

## Conference Memories





## Conference Memories



## Conference Memories



2023 Amelia Earhart Fellow Ariel Walter Speaks at Conference.



Area 4 Conference Attendees



Area 1 Conference Attendees



Area 3 Conference Attendees



International Liasian  
Teresa Lin Placing  
an orange hand  
on The Zonta Says  
No board



Area 2 Conference Attendees



# Congratulations!!! Zonta Club of Montreal, Canada, D2 95th anniversary

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**Save The Date  
Spring Workshop  
Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Oswego, NY**



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## Welcome New Members of District 2

Stephanie Wallace	Oswego
Holli Stone	Oswego
Amy DeJohn	Syracuse
Kimberly Bullard	Glens Falls
Gloria Bolesh	Glens Falls
Carrie Black	Glens Falls
Sommer Edwards	Utica
Susan Sendzicki	Albany
Deborah Irwin	E-Club of NY 1

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## Area Directors' Reports

### Area 1 Director: Lorraine Abess

#### Club of the Adirondacks:

A successful Witches Ball was held in Saranac Lake. The club is actively engaged in providing micro-grants for women in crisis, a feminine hygiene product drive, and boosting their scholarship funding and are hosting a "no pressure" membership open house on November 29. The club is actively engaging in the 16 Days of Activism campaign through social media.

#### Zonta Club of Albany:

Members held a Thanksgiving party for residents and children at a local domestic violence shelter, bus wrap for Zonta Says No campaign, and on Dec. 2 members are wrapping gifts, stuffing holiday stockings with hygiene supplies for women in a substance abuse shelter. The members will celebrate the holidays at a December meeting where they will auction donated items.

## Area 1 Continued

### Zonta Club of Upper Hudson Valley:

Club members participated in a Kohl's coupon fundraiser to fund their scholarship program. They also held a fun lady's night out to benefit holiday shopping for the Columbia-Greene Domestic Violence Shelter on November 14th. The club inducted two new members.

### Zonta Club of Saratoga County:

Members are participating in the Say No to Violence campaign with two billboards that will be erected in Saratoga County. Members raised funds at a very successful fundraiser in downtown Saratoga and are using the funds to start a scholarship program for their year-old club.

### Zonta Club of Glens Falls:

Club membership is growing with 2 inductions in October and 1 in November. We have just received 2 prospective member applications as well. We are actively participating in the Zonta Says No campaign with high volume social media posts and reels. We planted 50 road signs with Zonta Says No to Violence, Child Marriage, and Climate Injustice messages throughout the community. The city also hung our Zonta Says No lamppost flags in downtown Glens Falls. Coming up is the Glens Falls Holiday Festival, where we will table and auction off two high end prizes to supplement our foundation funds, we are also decorating a tree in the Kiwanis Spirits in the Trees event in Crandall Park. The lighting of the trees will take place on Dec. 11th. The holiday party is scheduled for Dec. 14th and our Zontian of the Year will be named. Fun, food, and smiles all around during this festival celebration.

### Zonta Club of Schenectady:

The club held its annual witches' ball on October 27. It is a signature fundraiser for their club and profits will go to support their scholarships and service projects.

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## Area 2 Director: Barb Allen



### Oneida Area

#### Zonta Club Z Club Induction

In September, the Z Club at Oneida Senior High School inducted 28 new members. This Z Club was chartered in 1970 and is one of the oldest in the country. They currently have over 100 members and are involved in many community service endeavors that help build a better world for women and girls.

### Syracuse Zonta Club

To mark the beginning of the 2023 Sixteen Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence, several members of the Zonta Club of Syracuse dressed in orange and gathered in downtown Syracuse by a big sculpture of a hand raised to say We Say No to Violence Against Women and Girls!!



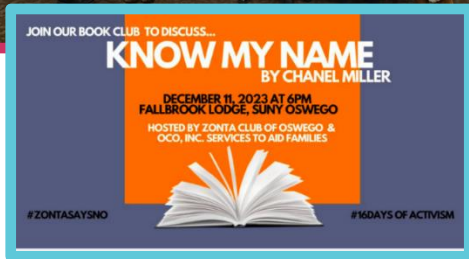
### Status of Women Achievement Dinner

Oneida Area Zonta recently celebrated Zonta's birthday by honoring Jodi Brandis as this year's Status of Women Achievement Award winner. Jodi is a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) nurse, who in addition to her many other accomplishments, has been instrumental in establishing the SANE nurse program in Madison County. Jodi Brandis is shown with her award plaque in this photo.



### Oswego Zonta Club

Zonta Club of Oswego is doing an excellent job of advocacy during these 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence. Every day there is a new advocacy post on their club Facebook page, including their club photo here. On December 11, in collaboration with Oswego County Opportunities Services to Aid Families, they are hosting a Book Club meeting with Chanel Miller, author of the memoir *Know My Name*. Whether you read all, part of the memoir or just want to join the discussion, Oswego Zontians would love to see you!



### Utica Zonta Club

In October, Utica hosted a successful 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Champagne Brunch. The club organized a combination of Silent Auction and Basket Raffle. They gained the support of several notable local businesses. The array of baskets and silent auction items was impressive, and many attendees left happy, with prizes in hand! Celebrity waitstaff were members of Utica University's ice hockey team. Funds raised will go toward Utica's service projects to build a better world for women and girls.



# Committee Reports

## Membership Minute

Amy Quinn, Lt. Governor

[membership@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:membership@zontadistrict2.org)

If you regularly review the Zontian Magazine or follow any of ZI's social media accounts, you are likely aware that Zonta has completed an extensive review of its own methods and systems, resulting in a new strategic plan for moving into our second 100 years and beyond. In reviewing the plan myself this fall, I have noticed some very concerning statistics:

There has been a 20-year declining membership trend across Zonta International.  
No previous Zonta International goals for increasing membership have been achieved.  
And most alarmingly, 54% of those who have joined Zonta since 2016 are no longer members.

I want you to think about that for a minute.

Where do we go from here?

What is it that is holding us back? Zonta's survival as an organization actually depends on this, and you are part of the mission.

We have to think about the way we treat one another in our clubs and in our district.

We have to think about the way we invite others to join our important work.

We have to build a stronger base and attract new allies and partners to leverage our work and our missions across new platforms.

We have to be open to starting new clubs, recognizing that there is not one way— but a million ways— to be a Zontian and that there is power in numbers.

I know that Zontians sometimes like their contests, but the truth is, none of this is a contest. We are actually all one.

So here is your homework as we round the corner into 2024:

How can we make Zonta attractive and accessible in a way that is different than we did before?

This is our challenge. Life in 2023 is very different for women than it was in 1919, but in some ways, that lends an additional challenge: in an ironic way, advancing the cause of women has made it harder to find the women who we would like to join our organization.

Our Zonta clubs are competing for the time of potential members who have careers, are obtaining advanced degrees, are running small businesses, are sitting on town or village boards, are volunteering for multiple organizations, who belong to golf clubs and yoga studios, who are training for marathons or traveling the world. And it's not just that. In fact, a Wall Street Journal poll released in March of this year indicated that among Americans surveyed, only TWENTY-SEVEN PERCENT of them value being involved in their community— down from 62% just 4 years ago. That is a staggering figure. But that is the reality. We know what we are up against here.

What do we do next?

We need to consider new pathways to membership. We need to spend time discussing retention of members. Let's remember that building a better world starts with building a better club. So at your next meeting, perhaps you might consider taking a few minutes to ask each other the following questions. This might be a great activity for your end of the year club holiday social event, too!



## Membership Minute Continued

**What specific thing does your club do that makes you happiest?**

*(It can be very tiny, very specific-- it does not have to be a project.)*

**What is one thing your club has never tried before to get new members that just might work?**

*(Our club members are the experts on their own communities— you are your own best PR firm.)*

**What's one more group you can engage that you haven't tried before?**

*Who is an untapped but aligned community partner in your city or town with which your club could collaborate?*

**Finally, who is ONE person that you can invite to join Zonta at the top of the new year?**

*(Could it be a new neighbor, a new in-law, an old friend, a co-worker. SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST WAITING TO BE INVITED. We have to remember that. We have to remember that this is not a sorority, an invite only party or group for people from a certain part of town and we have to remember that some people may not know that.)*

I hope that these questions bring some new energy to your membership and to your membership efforts. We certainly had a robust discussion using them as prompts for a membership workshop at our recent district conference.

Sending you the very best for healthy, peaceful and happy holiday season.

---

**Foundation Ambassador**

**Irene Orton**

[foundation@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:foundation@zontadistrict2.org)

Happy December to one and all Zontians in D2!!!

It has been a very busy Autumn for us all. Conference, Every Member November, 16 Days of Activism, Zonta's birthday on November 8<sup>th</sup>.....not to mention getting ready for family gatherings during this most thankful time of the year.

As your D2 Foundation Ambassador, I am sincerely thankful for all that you do for Women and Girls all around the globe. I reposted in this message from ZI about the EASY way to show your support to our organization, (an International Organization). Please join me in setting up a simple, easy way to show your support to Zonta's Foundation for Women. Remember, **100%** of donations made to the Zonta Foundation for Women go toward the implementation of our projects and programs.

Since the beginning of this Biennium, 2022 – 2024 to October 31, 2023, District 2 has given \$43,724.21 to the Zonta Foundation for Women. 86% of our 22 Clubs have supported this mission. It is not too late..... We are so close to 100% participation by all clubs. Why not consider signing up today to automatically give a monthly recurring donation!

Again, thank you for your financial support and I wish everyone in D2 a very happy holiday together with their family and friends. Most of all, a very healthy New Year!

**Jean M Coon Award**  
**Betty Sundstrom, Chair**  
[jmcoon@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:jmcoon@zontadistrict2.org)

**It Is Time to Send Out Jean M Coon Applications**

Fall is fading by rapidly, and it is time for District 2 Clubs to prepare and send out the Jean M Coon Award application to school districts and youth civic groups. Please indicate a return date and the address or email of your club.

The application and instructions, which are found on the District 2 website, have been revised to include our new logo and clarify instructions.

Students must submit applications at the club level first. A winning entry from each participating club is then submitted to the district chair at [jmcoon@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:jmcoon@zontadistrict2.org) by April 1, 2024. The district award is \$1000. Clubs may offer a monetary award or recognize the local winner with a small gift or certificate.

The Jean M Coon Award is unique to District 2. For over 40 years, this award has been open to high school juniors and seniors (both male and female) who excel in service to their community and school. It is not sent to Zonta International. Jean M Coon was an attorney, a member of the Zonta Club of Saratoga County, a past district governor, and an International Board member. Her humanitarian efforts were legendary. This award recognizes her achievements and honors young people who continue her legacy by doing good for others.

Your club committee members will find judging guidelines and scoring sheets on the district website. There is a drop-down menu under district awards and a link to the Jean M Coon Scholarship.

Let's take the time to honor and reward the achievements of our talented teens. Last year a record-breaking fourteen clubs participated. Wouldn't it be great if all District 2 clubs were represented? If that were to happen, the winning club would receive a monetary bonus from the district.

I look forward to receiving your winning applications by April 1, 2024. If you have questions, please contact me.

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**District 2 Z Club and Golden Z Club**  
**Claudia Jasinski, Chair**  
[zclub@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:zclub@zontadistrict2.org)



Around District 2, Z Club (high school) and Golden Z (college and university) students are making a difference on their campuses and in their communities. As they participate in service projects and other activities, they are learning valuable leadership and life skills and introducing fresh ideas to build a better world for women and girls.

Congratulations to the Z Club of Oneida as they celebrate their 54<sup>th</sup> year! Advisor, Patricia Vaccaro, noted some activities they have focused on in recent years include the Breast Cancer Walk, collecting donations for the Golisano Children's Hospital, sponsoring a family for Christmas, Thanksgiving luncheons, Autism Walk, PTO Babysitting, hosting the Semi Formal and many more.

## District 2 Z Club and Golden Z Club Continued

The Golden Z Club of Utica University collaborated with the campus Women's Resource Center to host a screening of the movie Barbie followed by a panel discussion.

Other student club projects around District 2 this semester include activities for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Domestic Violence Awareness and the Sixteen Days of Activism to end gender-based violence. Students raised money, walked in walkathons, collected items for shelters and pantries, handed out information and giveaways at tabling events, participated in self-defense training, and helped out at their sponsoring Zonta Clubs' events.

Thank you to all the Zontians who make our Z and Golden Z Clubs possible! Your efforts have more impact than you will ever know!



## Website/IT

**Iraina Gerchman, Chair**

[webmaster@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:webmaster@zontadistrict2.org)

I hope that you are all enjoying the new look of the District 2 websites and your club websites. The migration was a touchy process, but Kelly at Empire Webpage persevered and was finally able to complete the process. I want to thank her for all of her hard work and creativity.

Updates can be made by emailing me at [webmaster@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:webmaster@zontadistrict2.org). Give detailed instructions about changes or updates. Be sure to include the name of your club.

Training will be coming sometime this spring. I will send out information when available.

## Club News

### Zonta Club of Auburn



The Zonta Club of Auburn participated in their local College's Holiday Craft Fair, where they showcased our dedication to service, advocacy, membership, and fundraising through vibrant and informative poster boards. Their message resonated as they distributed a compelling flyer titled "When you join the Zonta Club of Auburn," unveiling the myriad ways our club actively contributes to Zonta's noble mission of "Building a Better World for Women and Girls." Together, we're making a meaningful difference, and we invite you to join us in creating positive change.





## Zonta Club of Albany

In a bustling November, the Zonta Club of Albany engaged in various charitable activities, distributing gift tags to women and children at The Next Step, St. Paul's Center, and a CCRM family, with plans to wrap and deliver gifts at their upcoming December meeting. The club also organized the Fall Table runner raffle to support 16 Days of Activism and sponsored a bus wrap on a local CDTA bus promoting their stand against violence towards women. Thanksgiving festivities were held at St. Paul's Center, featuring games, crafts, and prizes for women and children, culminating in a pizza party. Collaborating with Capital Cities Rescue Mission, the club created "birthday gift bags" to be delivered to Grass Roots Givers, addressing the needs of the poor during a month of simple giving. Additionally, they prepared holiday stockings with essential items for women at The Next Step, and a silent auction raffle of beautifully decorated donated items is planned for their December meeting



Former Area 1 Director Patricia Polan visited the Occoquan Reginal Park Suffrage Memorial in Virginia. Zonta District 2 contributed to the park.



## Zonta eClup of New York 1

## Zonta Club of Brewerton, Friends for Equality

The newest Zonta club in forming Central New York, the “Zonta Club of Brewerton, Friends for Equality,” stands with Zonta International and UN Women in “16 Days of Activism,” a campaign started in 1991 for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The color for the campaign is orange. The 16 Days start on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25, and end on December 10, Human Rights Day.



Gender-based violence is of the most widespread and persistent human rights violations in our world today. It appears in physical, sexual, and psychological forms including intimate partner violence, sexual violence, harassment, cyber violence, child marriage, human trafficking, and female genital mutilation. One in three girls is a victim of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse in the United States. One in four women will experience violence in their home. And, on average, more than three women are murdered by their partners in the United States every day. In 2021, [criminaljustice.ny.gov](https://criminaljustice.ny.gov) reported the number of domestic violence cases in Onondaga County alone totaled 3,888 plus 752 violations of orders of protection. For these reasons, Zonta Brewerton was visible in their community during the 16 Days of Activism in the following ways:

The club called on allies to wear orange during the 16 Days. They encouraged self-education on healthy relationships, the signs of abuse, and the help available to victims in our area by setting up a display at a library with information about Zonta, books recommended for reading, and community resources.

They also invited guests to their November meeting (“Cookies, Cheese, Coffee & Conversation”) held at the same library with the club’s Zonta Says NO display, where a speaker from a local women’s shelter gave an interactive talk on domestic violence and formation of gender roles and answered the groups’ many questions. During the evening, in an activity inspired by the October District 2 conference in Clifton Park, guests pledged to Say NO to violence against women, using a poster and writing their name on handprints.

Lastly, the club mounted a social media campaign inviting members to take action to end violence against women and girls and start conversations on related topics by being a digital activist (Read, Like, Share, Comment the club’s 16 Days posts) and to search online using hashtags for #ZontaSaysNO, #16Days, and #OrangeTheWorld, or visit [www.ZontaSaysNo.com](http://www.ZontaSaysNo.com) to find other posts. Friends were encouraged to add their single voice to Zonta, a group united to eliminate gender violence.



## Zonta Club of Elmira



We gave out personal bags at our Soup Kitchen. We have folks who bath in the Chemung River...so sad.

## Zonta Club of Glens Falls

We have been very busy the past few months. Our recent focus has been on the 16 Days of Advocacy Campaign. We purchased 50 lawn signs with messages relating to Stopping Violence Against Women. Members have displayed the signs in their neighborhoods and around city parks. In addition, banners have been displayed on light poles in downtown Glens Falls. We wore orange to our November member meeting on November 14th and took a group photo. Our guest speakers that night were from The Domestic Violence Project of Warren and Washington Counties. Most recently, on December 1st-3rd, we participated in the Adirondack Holiday Festival in Glens Falls. Members volunteered to sell raffle tickets for future projects and share our mission with the community.





## Zonta Club of Montgomery-Fulton



Members of the Zonta Club of Montgomery-Fulton handed out stockings filled with snacks and toiletries to women in a local nursing home.

Club President Cindy Schultz with yard signs set out for the 16 Days of Activism.



## Zonta Club of Ogdensburg

Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club and Canton Area Zonta Club take turns hosting the October Dinner Meeting. On Tuesday October 17, 2023, Zonta Club of Ogdensburg hosted 4 members of the Canton Area Zonta Club for a fun evening of Food & Fellowship and Zonta International District 2 Area 4 Director CJ Blake also joined the fun! And she brought a guest from Mallorytown, ON that is interested in learning more about Zonta. You could feel the Zonta Spirit in the room

♥ October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We wore purple in honor of that.



## Ogdensburg Continued

🇺🇸🍷🥰🎄🧑‍🎅❄️ Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club has proudly done "Operation Christmas Cards" for our Troops as a Veteran's Day/ Christmas Service Project for 11 years ❤️

Here is the link to the organization in case anyone wishes to do this with other groups. You just need to be sure they receive them no later than December 5th (details in the link).

<https://www.usasoa.org/christmas-cards-for-our-deployed...>

## 2023 - 518 Cards

2022- 545 cards

2021 - 868 cards

2020 - 693 cards

2019 - 634 cards

2018 - 620 cards

2017 - 674 cards

2016 - 642 cards

2015 - 263 cards

2014 - 384 cards

2013 - 334 cards

Pictured is Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club Past President and Service Committee Chair Paula Jacques donating Period Pantry Supplies that were collected at our 10th Annual Witches Night Out and 2nd Annual Little Witches Ball Fundraisers to Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center Director Tina Kellar.

Zonta Club of Ogdensburg, building a better world for women and girls.

# Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center

230 Caroline Street

Ogdensburg, NY

Open Monday – Friday, 9am-3pm

Director: Tina Kellar

(315) 713-8036

Email: [ogdenburgnc@slccdp.org](mailto:ogdenburgnc@slccdp.org)

Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club is hosting a feminine product drive to help women and girls in our community who are in need. While struggling women, children, and teens get help in other ways, the SNAP & WIC program does NOT cover access to hygiene items like period products.

The goal of this drive is to give a bit of relief to those women who already have so much on their plates. With your support, we can make an impact on those in our community. Please consider donating tampons and pads. Any member of the [Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club](#) will accept your donations or Call Paula



## Ogdensburg Continued

Bouchard Jacques at 315-393-7128 to make drop-off arrangements or email [ogdensburgzonta@gmail.com](mailto:ogdensburgzonta@gmail.com)

Proper access to menstrual materials, safe and hygienic facilities, and the right to manage menstruation without shame or stigma, is fundamental for anyone who menstruates. Unfortunately, the reality is that some women and adolescent girls live in period poverty. More than 800 million people menstruate daily and many of them are denied the right to manage their menses in a dignified and healthy way.

PERIOD POVERTY: Period poverty, or the lack of access to feminine hygiene products for women is a global problem.

Menstrual products, are a necessity but are not covered by government assistance like SNAP, and Medicaid.

Thank you for supporting our community projects building a better world for women and girls.

Pictured is Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club Past President and Service Committee Chair Paula Jacques donating Period Pantry Supplies that were collected at our 10th Annual Witches Night Out and 2nd Annual Little Witches Ball Fundraisers to Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center Director Tina Kellar.  
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## Ogdensburg Continued



Zonta Club of Ogdensburg adopts a family every year as a Club for a Christmas/16 Days of Activism Service Project and we cannot describe how powerful an experience it is. This year, our family consisted of the Mom, a 7 year old girl and a 16 year old girl. Delivery was made to Renewal House today! Thank you to everyone that contributed.

St. Lawrence Valley Renewal House helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout St Lawrence County. "From Your House to Renewal House" is a special Christmas program that Renewal House runs to help victims of violence in St Lawrence County to have a Christmas. Help them believe in the magic of Christmas in this very difficult time in their lives.

Adopt a family today! Call Renewal House 315-379-9845 to learn more. Or if you simply just wish to donate money, you can do that right on their website: <http://slvrenewalhouse.org/>

### [#ZontaSaysNO](#) [#16days](#)

As a 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence/Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Service Project, Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club members thank local first responders for their hard work and dedication to saying no to violence against women.

Zonta Club of Ogdensburg, building a better world for women and girls.

Pictured left to right: Michael Paige President of Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad, Zonta Recording Secretary Donna Pirie, Zonta Member and OVRs Member Kim Cilley, OVRs Chief of Emergency Services Ken Gardner.

Zonta Club of Ogdensburg thanks [Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad Inc.](#) for their unending service and dedication to our city/area.



Zonta Club of Ogdensburg thanks The New York State Troopers for their unending service and dedication to our state. Zontian Marcia Thompson-Amyot presents holiday goodies to Captain James Harris and Mark Shellenberger.

As a 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence/Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Service Project, Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club members thank local first responders for their hard work and dedication to saying no to violence against women.

Zonta Club of Ogdensburg, building a better world for women and girls.

[#16DaysOfActivism](#) [#ZontaSaysNO](#)

## Zonta Club of Oneida



## Zonta Club of Saratoga County



Members of the Zonta Club of Saratoga County met with Donna at the Guardian House in Ballston Spa. The Guardian House is just one of two supportive housing programs for female veterans in New York State. We thank you for the tour of the beautiful home and grounds, as well as the opportunity to discuss future collaborations!

For more information on the Veteran & Community Housing Coalition, visit [www.vchcny.org](http://www.vchcny.org)

Saratoga had two billboards placed in local areas for Zonta Says No.



The Zonta Club of Saratoga County says no to violence against women at City Hall, Downtown Saratoga Springs.

Left to right: Joanna Zangrando, Treasurer Paulette Azon, Amy Lavin, President Marjorie Lavin.



## Zonta Club of Schenectady

Domestic Violence: Donating hair products and feminine products to the YWCA based on the list provided and focusing on women and girls of color for their specific hair type.

Social media campaigns to advocate against violence against women, including human trafficking & interpersonal violence

Festival of Lights: YWCA Tree Decorating, Festival of Lights, Zonta Says No To Violence Holiday Tree

Working on Girls Group of Schenectady: Period Pantry and donating feminine products donated to Schenectady City Schools

Zonta Says No: Lawn signs were distributed and posted on Southern Saratoga and Schenectady County Zonta members' lawns and businesses.

Zonta Holiday Giving Tree: Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Survivors donating gifts, food, and Christmas tree/decorations to 2 families.

Street Soldiers: In December, we donate pizza, and in January, we are doing the "chili." Individual meals prepared by our members for over 150 Schenectady Community members who are either in unstable homes or food insecure.

Providing lawn signage, letter writing, and advocacy to help prevent the closure of The Burdet Birthing Center at Samaritan Hospital. It is the only birthing center east of the Hudson River and serves primarily underserved and marginalized communities of black and brown families without transportation and limited resources.



The Zonta Club of Schenectady and the Zonta Club of Montgomery/Fulton came together to host a Witches ball fundraiser on October 27, 2023 at the Terrace at Water's Edge in Glenville, NY

Proceeds were for Scholarships and Service Projects.





## The Zonta Club of The Adirondacks



## Zonta Club of Upper Hudson Valley

Members of the Zonta Club of Upper Hudson Valley braved the elements to get the message to the public as we continue saying "No!" to domestic violence.



# International News

## Things to Talk About at Your Next Club Meeting

Looking ahead, these are a few items you may wish to discuss with your club:

- **Save the dates for the best Convention rates!** [Early Bird registration](#) opens in January and ends in March. We are excited to welcome many visitors to Brisbane and expect events to be very popular. Booking early for convention, accommodations and ticketed events is highly recommended. Watch for emails, the Zonta app, social media and the [convention website](#) for more information and book your [tours](#) and [accommodations](#) now.
  - **Empower yourself with the incredible content from the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Virtual Summit.** For a limited time, you can view all the inspiring talks and discussions from the summit. [Purchase the full recordings](#) for just US\$25 until 10 December. All proceeds will go to the Zonta Foundation for Women International Service Fund.
  - **Tell us your Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women action.** Zonta members across the world are already sharing how they are [saying "NO" in their communities](#). [Share your story with us today](#), and it will be posted for the whole Zonta community to see on the [Zonta Says NO website](#) and [social media](#).
  - **Have you submitted your art to the Zonta Says NOW virtual gallery yet?** Take part in the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action campaign by unleashing your creative spirit. Submit your art to the [Zonta Says NOW virtual art gallery page](#) by 15 December.
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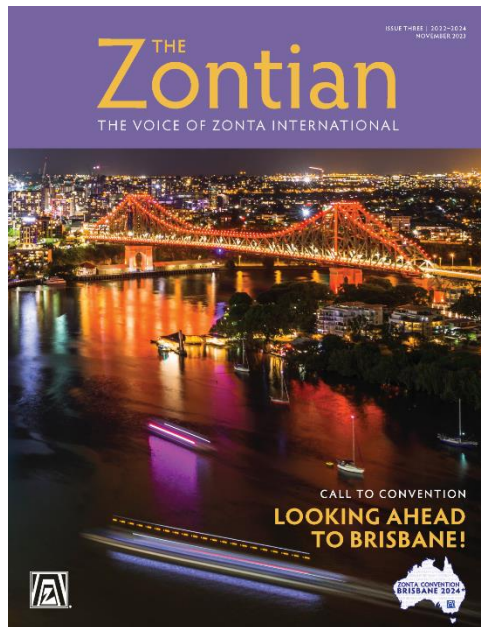


## Read your copy of *The Zontian* now!

The latest issue of *The Zontian* is now available online and the printed version will be in your mailbox soon! Read about President Ute's visits with Zontians across the globe, the thriving Zonta Spirit and making bold decisions via the [Strategic Plan](#) to ensure that Zonta is in the best position to remain a leading global organization to empower women and girls and more!

### Call to Convention

Join hands with your fellow Zontians in beautiful Brisbane, Australia, for the 2024 Convention. Embrace the thrill of new experiences and unite in celebration as you embark on a journey into the new biennium.



*Please expect the printed copy in your mailbox soon.*

### Join your fellow Zontians at CSW68

Make plans now to join the Zonta delegation to the [68<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As a non-governmental organization (NGO) with General Consultative Status at the United Nations, Zonta is invited to [participate in the annual CSW](#), and all Zontians may join virtually or special sessions in person. You will have a voice in exploring solutions to myriad problems facing women around the world; receive a phenomenal educational experience regarding critical issues affecting women worldwide by attending side and parallel events; and network with like-minded attendees from all over the globe. If you are interested in learning more, [please fill out this form](#).

### Membership Matters

#### Database upgrade completed - Changes to online payments

The database upgrade has been completed, and there are some changes to the online dues payment check-out process. Check out the [updated step-by-step instructions](#) on how to manage your club online.



[Instructions](#)



## Half-year membership dues are here

Encourage your network to take advantage of half-year membership dues. Available from now to 30 April, this is [a great opportunity](#) for any gender-equal advocate to be part of Zonta's mission.

1/2

## Young Talents Working Group webinar

Discover the power to attract, engage and retain young members in your club with the Young Talents Working Group webinar.



**Friday, 15 December**

10:00 AM CST

Find your time: [Meeting Planner](#)

**Register**

5:00 PM CST

Find your time: [Meeting Planner](#)

**Register**

## Do you have new members?

Please encourage all new members to join Zonta International **on 18 January** for one of two new member sessions that offer insights into the history of Zonta, the programs we support and the resources available to them. Visit the [Zonta Events page](#) to register.



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## Zonta received "clean" audit in 2023

Zonta received an unmodified "clean" opinion on the 2023 fiscal year consolidated financial statements and notes to consolidated financial statements. Supplementary information provides separate statements of financial position, activities and functional expenses for both Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women. The Finance Committee's thorough review of the audit plan and results, combined with their insightful questions about internal controls and financial risk, demonstrate our organization's dedication to responsible financial stewardship. The [2023 audit is now available](#) on the Zonta International website.



**Read the 2023 audit**

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## Zonta Foundation for Women 2022-2024 Giving Totals\*



Amelia Earhart  
Fellowship

**42%**

US\$233,164.88  
US\$560,000.00



Women in Business  
Scholarship

**25%**

US\$82,429.81  
US\$370,000.00



Young Women in  
Public Affairs Award

**68%**

US\$192,124.05  
US\$283,000.00



International Service  
Program

**43%**

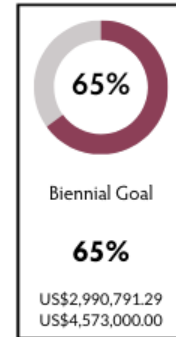
US\$1,371,655.75  
US\$3,200,000.00



Rose Fund

**689%**

US\$1,102,755.80  
US\$160,000.00



\*As of 31 October 2023

**Help us reach our goal!**

Click the button above to donate.

### Join the Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Thank

The Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action Intercontinental Think Tank is open to all members. [Join the conversation today!](#)



**Sunday, 17 December | 7:00 PM UTC | Find your time: [Meeting Planner](#)**

**Register**

Check [www.zonta.org/events](http://www.zonta.org/events) to plan ahead for the next Think Tank meet ups!

### Meet ElsaMarie, a Remarkable Woman!

ElsaMarie D'Silva is the founder of the Red Dot Foundation in India and the president of the Red Dot Foundation Global in the U.S. She created the technology platform Safecity, which crowdsources personal experiences of sexual violence and abuse in global public and private spaces. Since its launch in 2012, Safecity has become the largest crowd map on sexual violence and abuse in India and abroad.



[Hear ElsaMarie's story on demand](#) and learn why she is a remarkable woman!

## Start planning for Brisbane, Australia

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Zonta International Convention from 27-30 June 2024! Prepare for an unforgettable adventure as you explore the various [tours and activities](#) available on our [website](#).

Book your tours before 1 January 2024 to take advantage of our special rate and embark on the journey of a lifetime. Join your fellow Zontians to explore and create unforgettable memories. And, mark your calendars for January when the [early bird registration rate](#) goes live!



*Zonta's 2024 Convention is supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland.*

## Important Dates

### December

- JMK Scholarship official announcement
- 1 December-Half-year dues rate begins
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Canada Boxing Day & Kwanzaa Begins
- 31 December-Last day for gifts for calendar year to be counted (posted midnight CST)

### February

- 14 Valentines Day
- 19 Canada Family Day
- 28 February – Last day to add new members to be included in convention vote count

### January

- 2024 JMK Scholarship materials available
- 11 January-AE Day
- 31 January-Tax mailing to US donors

### March

- Global Week of Action – Clubs organize member recruitment events
- HQ informs clubs of vote counts for convention
- Club Mailing/Pre-Convention materials
- 8 March-International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day
- CSW68

*Happy Holidays*





