



## Welcome to the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville Newsletter!

This newsletter provides updates on past and upcoming events:

- Club Chartering (Super!)
- Brisbane Convention
- Post-Convention Follow-up
- Meeting Zontians in Australia
- Club Member Suggestions for Club Projects
- Judith's Roles 2024-2026
- Fall Seminar

### Club Chartering and Follow-up

On 23 July, Yvonne Janvrin, Membership Sr. Coordinator at Zonta International, wrote:

**Congratulations! The Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville is an official club of Zonta International as of 22 July 2024, and has been assigned the club number: 2060.**

Contratulations to the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville charter members!

Judith Ainsworth, Pres  
Camelia Dubic, VP  
Kathleen Kardasz,  
Sec/Treasurer

Idris Fadipe  
Stephen Kardasz  
Kelly Laidlaw  
E. Jane Lyster

Elspeh Nickle  
Tyler Smith  
Olga Talanova  
Ron Teather

You will have received a screenshot of the official charter certificate but I include it again.

We now need to organise a Chartering Ceremony and invite local councillors, MPs, MPPs, representatives from like-minded organisations, media, etc. If you are a talented organiser and could help plan the ceremony, please let me know!

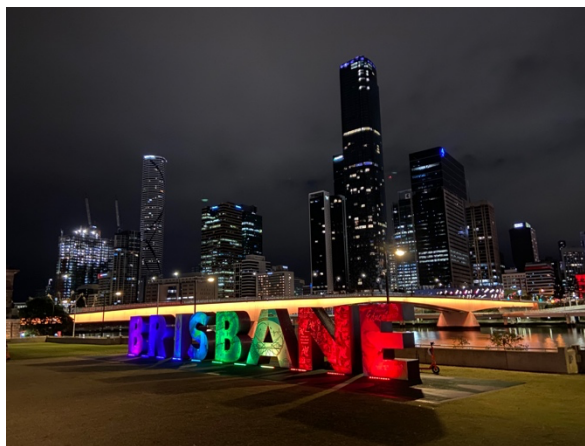
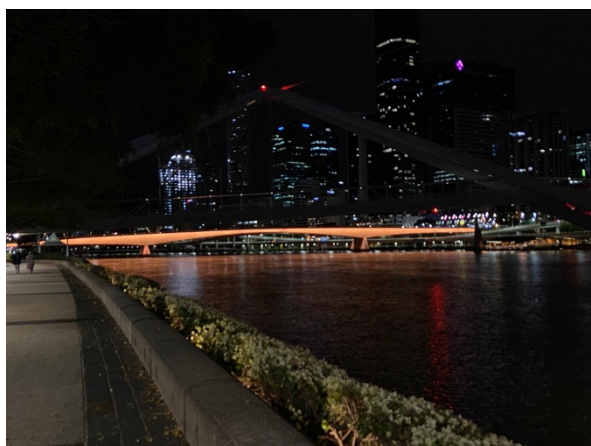
We need to set up a club website. Nora Anderson, District 2 webmaster, is happy to help us. She is available to meet any weekday evening. If your talents lie with technology and social media, please get in touch. I am happy to set up a meeting with Nora to get our website launched.



## ZI International Convention 2024 Brisbane, Australia

Last June, I had a wonderful time meeting Zontians from across the world in Brisbane, Australia. In particular, I was very happy to catch up with members of the Zonta Club of Accra II in Ghana. Lydia, outgoing club President, was there along with Sam (Zonta Club of Brisbane and Zonta Club of Accra II) both of whom became great friends while I was teaching in Ghana last fall.

Thanks to the City of Brisbane for lighting up one of the bridges in Zonta colours orange or yellow during Convention!



1. Delegates at Convention voted to change the names of three of our international education awards:

- Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship 2024-2026 → **Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award** 2026-2028 (There is some confusion around enacting this name change, so the information is from the ZI website 12.08.24.)
- Women in STEM Scholarship → **Zonta Women in STEM Award**
- Young Women in Public Affairs Award → **Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award**

2. Delegates also chose three international service projects in collaboration with the UN:

- **Global Programme to End Child Marriage: Phase III.** Partnering with UNICEF USA and UNFPA in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. Read more about the project. [PDF](#)
- **Climate Empower: Community Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action.** Partnering with UNFPA in Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan. Read more about the project. [PDF](#)
- **Laaha: A Virtual Safe Space for Women and Girls.** Laaha is a digital web-based platform created by UNICEF with women and girls from



crisis-affected regions. Currently, Laaha is deployed in Afghanistan, Ecuador, Iraq, Lebanon, Ukraine and Venezuela, with plans to expand to Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Moldova, Myanmar and Turkey in 2024. Read more about the project. [PDF](#)



3. At Convention, I was honoured to be asked to facilitate the Zonta Says NOW Climate Justice panel. I only have this picture with Lisa Blair, also a Convention plenary speaker. The other two panelists were Dipicha Bhujel and Carole Theobald, International Chair of the Zonta Says NOW Working Group and Think Tank. Lisa sails the world on her boat *Climate Action Now* and holds five world records: 2x fastest mono-hull to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around Australia and the first woman; 2x fastest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around Antarctica and first woman; first woman to sail solo around Antarctica with one stop (dismasted). This last accomplishment was the topic of her plenary talk. Very exciting and emotional!

Dipisha is a Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee. She is a menstrual equity advocate and social entrepreneur working to eliminate period poverty in Nepal. Dipisha

has been successful in raising awareness about menstrual health across Nepal. She challenges the taboo and stigma surrounding menstruation by promoting menstrual equity. As an entrepreneur, Dipisha is the Co-Founder and Chairwoman of Sparsa, a non-profit company that produces and sells compostable menstrual pads made of banana fiber.

Carole is a big-picture thinker and natural communicator. She enjoys bringing people together to find solutions to complex problems. Her skills have been honed through more than 30 years of diverse experience leading to state, national and international projects in the food safety, environmental health and transport sectors. The thought of climate change sending gender equality backwards and triggering more conflict ignites her passion to focus on climate justice activities, most recently as Chair of the Zonta Says NOW to gender-equal climate action Working Group.

## Post-Convention Follow-up

After Convention, I hope you had a chance to read International President (IP) Salla Tuominen's email ushering in and welcoming us to the 2024-2026 Biennium:

“The challenges that women and girls face globally are extensive and complex. They reflect deeply ingrained societal norms, systemic inequalities and discriminatory practices. But together, we have the power to build a better world in which women's rights are seen

as human rights. As per the **Biennial Goals** and **Strategic Plan**, it is vital that we realize a sustainable, equitable future for generations to come through four main goals:



**Biennial Goal 1: Credible and Visible Voice.** Clubs should support globally aligned and shared moments for activism on **Four Focus Dates** to ensure that Zonta is seen and heard as an influential force for gender equity globally.

**8 March:** International Women’s Day

**22 April:** Earth Day

**11 October:** International Day of the Girl Child

**25 November – 10 December:** Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women

All clubs do not need to plan activities on all four focus dates. The dates for activities and communications can be chosen based on local needs. However, 100% of clubs and Zontians will participate during the 16 Days of Activism, 25 November through 10 December, to elevate awareness locally, in social media and/or take part in actions for legislative changes to improve safety and protections for women and girls.

If you have any ideas for a Zonta event on these days, please let me know. All ideas and suggestions are most welcome!

**Biennial Goal 2: Club Success.** Under this goal, our Club may be interested in the new proposed **Twinning Program** for clubs wanting to increase their fellowship and global Zonta spirit with clubs in other countries. Club members have connections with Zonta clubs in Ghana, Togo, Nigeria and others. One of the newly elected International Directors, Margaret Akofio-Sowah, is a member of the Zonta Club of Accra II. Stay tuned for the program launch.

I look forward to working with club members on a Twinning Project once the program is launched. Please let me know if you are interested!

**Biennial Goal 3: Leadership and Sustainability.** Governance, leadership and internal structures are addressed to enable the effective achievement for Zonta’s mission.

Sustainability is crucial for any actions in building an equal, responsible, green and clean future where the human rights of women and girls are recognised and implemented.

**Biennial Goal 4: Engagement of Audience and Allies.** To further Zonta's mission and extend voice, Zonta develops collaborations with like-minded organisations.

## Meeting Zontians in Australia

Post-convention, I was able to travel up the Queensland coast by rail and stop at a few cities that have Zonta clubs. Much to my surprise, I discovered this labyrinth project that the Zonta Club of Hervey Bay installed to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I simply stumbled across it when I visited the Botanic Gardens.



When I arrived in Townsville, I had lunch with a Zontian from the Zonta Club of Townsville whom I met at Convention. She picked me up at the train station, drove me to my B&B and gave me a tour of the downtown city and beach. She will send me some information on efforts to end homelessness. In Cairns, three Zontians from the Zonta Club of Cairns met with me for coffee and cake. Such a fabulous time in Queensland, so much more to see and so many more Zonta clubs that I would love to visit!

## Club Member Suggestions for Club Projects

**1. Writing Letters to MPs.** Elspeth suggests that the club might write letters to our MPs and MPPs whenever a government proposal protects women's and girls' human rights, helps women and girls, and coincides with Zonta's mission and values. My MP, Rachel Bendayan, seems to appreciate the positive feedback from constituents. She included this letter from a constituent in her most recent newsletter.

Elspeth has volunteered to write letters. Others are most welcome to help. Members would only need to add the name of their MP or MPP and email the letter to that person.

**2. Women in Trades.** During the NGO CSW68 Advocacy training, Marcia Braundy, member of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and Women in Trades & Technology (WITT), wrote about a great idea if UN Women created training programs around the world for women in trades. Those women could work on projects rebuilding war-torn countries or where earthquakes and other disasters have caused housing to disappear. Marcia mentioned that we might involve the [International Labour Organisation](#) (ILO), the [Canadian Labour Congress](#) and the [Canadian Apprenticeship Forum](#). Vicky Smallman, Human Rights Director at the Canadian Labour Congress, would be a good person to approach for collaboration. (Refer to [Issue 3](#) for more details.)

So this got me thinking about Women in Trade and Apprenticeship programs in Canada, specifically Ontario. The K-S Club might consider partnering with these organisations to promote women into apprenticeship programs. I asked Stephen, who is currently apprenticing to be a plumber, to research these organisations and any others that deal with trades and women. Here is what he found:

I was looking for Women in Trades and Technology organization in Ontario but from what I can see that organization only has their own websites in Western Canada. I see the Yukon, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, but not Ontario. Individual colleges in Ontario do have a women in trades section which would offer support in terms of education. Like I said in the meeting, educational support is great but apprentices need a journey person or company that is willing to sponsor them. Without that sponsor they won't get hours towards the license and they can't go to school.

Part of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum is another organization I was looking at called Supporting Women in Trades (SWIT). They are national and based on their website the goal is to increase the number of journeywomen and women apprentices. The strategy they're using is to appeal to current employers or journey people to hire women and offer more apprenticeships to women. That in my mind is the key to increasing the number of women in trades. People must be willing to hire and train women with the goal of getting them licensed, educated and competent so they can continue the cycle of women apprentices finding good journey people.

Having supports in trades colleges across Canada is necessary of course but incentivizing and pushing people to be open to hiring women apprentices is key. The CAF has the goal connecting people in the trades, whether that be apprentices or journey people. They want to help everyone have a chance to be an apprentice, because it's not the easiest thing to get into



really. Like any field there are barriers to entry, and only a certain number of positions. Ideally getting journeypeople connected they can share stories and experiences, making giving a chance on a woman apprentice sound more appealing. SWIT I know has a 'Take the Pledge' section where they want journeypeople to sign up and say that if they have the opportunity they will give women a fair chance at being their apprentice.

A big issue is the 1:1 ratio of journeyperson to apprentice. If a journeyperson doesn't want an apprentice, because there's no incentive, those apprentice positions will continue to be highly coveted. The 1:1 ratio is not inherently a bad thing, people need to be trained properly. However it means that making a decision on who to invest time into is a big one for employers/journeypeople.

My opinion is that on the job training is more valuable than classroom work in the trades. The process should be - show the apprentice, let the apprentice do what they were shown while being supervised and asking questions, and when they are comfortable the next step is doing the work themselves. The 1:1 ratio doesn't seem to be appropriate in my mind for the full length of the apprenticeship. That's a whole other issue though.

We might try organising a panel with Marcia, Vicky and someone from the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. Let me know if you would be interested in collaborating on this event/project.

**3. 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.** In [Issue 4](#) of the ZCK-S newsletter, I wrote about “Orange Ladies” for the 16 Days of Activism campaign 25 November – 10 December. The Zonta Club of Oswego in District 2 uses these orange ladies during the 16 Days to raise awareness of this women’s human rights violation. The Zonta logo and club name are on the cut-outs along with information and statistics on gender-based violence. The club asks local businesses to stand these ladies at their place of business.



The Oswego club asked high school tech/shop teachers and students to create the ladies out of plywood, then asked art teachers and students to paint them orange. Club members provided wording for the posters designed by students.

I started contacting secondary schools in Kanata and Stittsville to see if this project would be feasible for tech and art students this fall. We need 16 ladies so perhaps more than one school will participate. I will keep you posted.

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If we move forward with this project, volunteers will be needed to contact local businesses to ask them to display a lady for the 16 Days. Someone will also be needed to inform the local media and post on social media each day of the 16 Days and encourage everyone to like and re-post.



#### 4. Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa (ATEHO).

Once again the ATEHO will partner with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa to facilitate an experiential learning activity called “The Empathy Project – Le Projet Empathie”. The UofOttawa published articles on [28 November](#) and [30 November](#) 2023 when the offices of Social Accountability and Francophone Affairs at the Faculty of Medicine partnered with the ATEHO. Last February Elspeth and I volunteered to participate in the activity. You can read about it in [Issue 3](#) of the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville newsletter.



Sophia Kelly-Langer, ATEHO Interim Engagement Manager, sent the following message in English and French. I registered to help with the French language event on Friday 6 September. If you would like to learn more, please contact Elspeth or me.

Dear Volunteers,

It's that time again! We're so pleased to announce that we're heading back to the University of Ottawa. We can't thank all of you enough for your dedication to the Empathy Project over the past year. Whether you're a new recruit, a time-tested volunteer, or a volunteer who has patiently waited a full year for a new event, we truly could not do this without you.

1. New lead: new booking system. If you're available to join us for the French language events on **Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** and/or **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**; and/or the English events on the morning of **September 10<sup>th</sup>** and/or the afternoon of **September 10<sup>th</sup>**, you can [register in English here](#) or in [French here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Atlas Ruth-Purdie at [atlas@endhomelessnessottawa.ca](mailto:atlas@endhomelessnessottawa.ca).

2. Note that if you have already been trained, you **do NOT need to retrain**. Please complete the booking page as an RSVP and indicate you will not require a training date.

3. Please consider sharing the booking link with your network. Volunteering is best done with a pal. We are particularly in need of French speaking volunteers as part of our commitment to run this year's French events 100% francophone.

#### Zonta District 2 Fall Seminar – Please Register!

I hope you received the flyer from ZD2 Governor Amy Quinn inviting you to [register](#) for the District Fall Seminar. I copy it here. Please use this [link](#) to register. The Governor followed up with an email to all Presidents asking them to encourage club members to attend. The Fall Seminar is virtual this year and is free! Please check your calendars and register to join us on Monday 16 September at 6:30 p.m. I registered and will attend. I hope to see many Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville members there!

A vertical flyer for the Zonta District 2 Fall Seminar. The background is a gradient of purple and blue. At the top, a yellow banner reads "REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for this year's Virtual Fall Seminar". Below this is the Zonta International District 2 logo, which includes the text "ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 2 BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS". The main text in white and yellow says "Join us online on Monday, September 16 6:30-8:30 pm". Below that, it says "Unite and innovate this fall!" and "Join our virtual FALL SEMINAR to share and develop actionable club strategies inspired by District and International Zonta leadership goals." At the bottom, another yellow banner reads "SIGN UP HERE NOW! FREE! ALL ZONTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LOG ON AND JOIN US!".



## **Judith's International Roles**

For the 2024-2026, I am serving on two international committees:

- Zonta Excellence in Service and Advocacy Award Jury, chaired by Dunstanette Macauley, Zonta Club of Lomé, Togo
- Zonta Says NOW Think Tank; Zonta Says NOW Working Group is chaired by Carole Theobald, Zonta Club of Perth Inc., Australia

### ***Let's make a difference in the lives of women and children!***

Here is a summary of actions from this newsletter where you can get involved. Please note that often several members will work together or the whole club may be involved.

- Plan/organise our chartering ceremony
- Webmaster to develop our website
- Social media specialist
- Four Focus Dates: Organise an event or webinar (with like-minded organisations)
- Invite speakers and plan club meetings
- ZI Twinning Program
- Participate in Empathy Project with ATEHO
- Chair or join a committee (Service/Advocacy, Membership, Awards and Nominating)

More topics:

- Outreach to secondary school girls concerning financial literacy training (I will share information from the Zonta Club of Adelaide, Australia about a very similar project.)
- Gender equal climate action (Some funding is available from the city of Ottawa that we might apply for.)

Together, there is so much we can accomplish to help women and girls locally and globally.

### ***And we can have fun!***

**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and let's plan to attend!**

**Zonta District 2 Fall Seminar  
Monday 16 September 6:30-8:30 (Virtual)**

**Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM) 2025  
District 15 – Midland, Michigan, USA**

**Zonta International Convention 2026  
11-14 July, Vancouver, BC, Canada**

***These are fabulous events to learn, be inspired, connect and  
reconnect to build a better world for women and girls!***

***We can't help everyone. But everyone can help someone.***