

“Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence.”

— Sheryl Sandberg



SPRING 2026

Governor's Message

Dear Fellow Zontians,

As we soon bring this biennium to a close, I am filled with deep gratitude for the dedication, passion, and resilience each of you has shown in advancing the mission of Zonta. Serving as your District Governor has been both an honor and a privilege, one that has continually inspired me through your commitment to building a better world for women and girls.

Over the past two years, we have faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and achieved meaningful progress together. From strengthening our clubs to expanding our advocacy and service efforts, your leadership at every level has made a lasting impact. Each project completed, each voice raised, and each life touched reflects the true spirit of Zonta.

I am especially proud of the way our district has come together, supporting one another, sharing ideas, and fostering a sense of unity and purpose. These connections are the foundation of our continued success and will carry forward into the next biennium.

As I pass the torch to Iraina in July at the International Convention in Vancouver, I do so with great confidence in the future of our district. I encourage each of you to remain engaged, continue to lead with courage, and never underestimate the power of collective action. Collaboration is a key component of how best to have lasting impact.

Thank you for your trust, your collaboration, and your unwavering commitment. It has been an incredible journey, and I am grateful to have shared it with all of you.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,
Lorraine Abess
District 2 Governor



Important Zonta Dates

- 26 May - Zonta Advocacy Series: Cybersecurity for Women and Girls
- 31 May - Last day to be counted for recognition in annual report (posted midnight CDT)
- 1 June - Start of fiscal year
- 1 June - International Dues due to HQ
- 11-14 July - 67th Zonta International Convention, Vancouver, Canada
- July - YWPA Award official announcement
- July - 2027 AE Fellowship materials available
- July - 2027 YWPA Award materials available
- 16 July - New Member Orientation
- 30 July - World Day Trafficking in Persons
- 18 September - International Equal Pay Day
- 11 October - International Day of the Girl
- 24 October - UN Day

DISTRICT NEWS



Amy DeVita, Oswego; Iraina Gerchman, Oswego; Debbie Vecchio, Syracuse;
Jeanine Noll, Syracuse; Liz Arnold, Cortland

A handful of D2 members gathered to meet the Golden Flyer II at City Hall in Syracuse. The Golden Flyer II toured the country to promote support for the ERA. It recreates the suffrage campaign from 1916, [Driving the Vote for Equality](#). The Sign4ERA campaign is looking for one million signature. [Visit sign4era.org to sign.](#)

The International Day of the Girl Child

October 11th will be here before you can blink. What is your club planning?

Did you know?

- 133 million girls are out of school today.
- Adolescent girls aged 15-19 are more likely to not be in education, employment or training than their male peers.
- Almost 4 in 10 adolescent girls and young women do not finish upper secondary school.
- Nearly 1 in 4 ever-married or partnered adolescent girls aged 15-19 have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.
- More than one third of adolescent girls and boys aged 15-19 consider a husband to be justified in hitting his wife under certain circumstances.
- The percentage of underweight adolescent girls aged 10-19 has only declined slightly in the last three decades, from 10 per cent to 8 per cent.
- With only five years remaining of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, no country with data has met even half of 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets crucial to adolescent girls' well-being.

Source: [Girl goals: What has changed for girls? Adolescent girls' rights over 30 years](#)

D2 Committee Corner

Membership

Lt. Governor Iraina Gerchman

Fit for the Future: Club Health Assessment

As Zonta International plans for the next biennium and beyond, they realized it is important for clubs to be strong and thriving. They are happy to announce a new resource for clubs to assess the strength of their clubs and provide resources. The Fit for the Future: Club Health Assessment. is a tool that can assist clubs and districts, in strengthen membership, increase service and advocacy all while becoming a strong presence in their communities.

Why was it created?

2024-2026 Biennial Goal #2 Club Success

Clubs serve as a welcoming and inspiring environment for Zontians working towards Zonta's mission and fostering the Zonta spirit. With the tools made available by Zonta International, the clubs critically analyze, what improvements can be made within each club to align with Zonta international's strategic plan while being a motivational environment for the club members and fit for the future.

What is a Club Health Assessment?

- Comprehensive Assessment of a Club's
 - Activities
 - Leadership
 - Communication
 - Meetings
 - Members' Involvement
 - Zonta International
- Measurable Responses
- Resource and Solution Oriented

Why should clubs fill out the Club Health Assessment?

- Annual check-up – Is your club FIT FOR THE FUTURE?
- Identify club's strengths
- Identify areas needing attention
- Strategic planning/Goal setting
- Customizable

When should clubs fill out the Club Health Assessment?

- D2 will begin as soon as it is released
- After that March to April annually to provide a tool for strategic planning or goal setting for the upcoming year.
- At any time your club want to assess the club's health.

How does a club use the Club Health Assessment?

- Member Input
- Strategic Planning
- Goal Setting
- Resource Availability
- Membership Growth

How does the District use the Club Health Assessment?

- Assist clubs when membership is declining
- Identify areas where the district can support clubs
- Strengthen and expand the district membership by ensuring clubs are strong

What are the Resources?

- Resources are located at zonta.org
 - Tools
 - Governance
 - Manuals
 - Videos

When will the Club Health Assessment be released?

- Sneak Preview at Spring Workshop
- Before the 2026-2028 Biennium

D2 Committee Corner

Membership

Lt. Governor Iraina Gerchman

New Members Since Last Newsletter - Welcome All
Current District Total - 481 (up 15 since last newsletter)

Club Name	First Name	Last Name
BREWERTON, NY - FRIENDS FOR EQUALITY	Michele	Hicks
BREWERTON, NY - FRIENDS FOR EQUALITY	Sara	Leonard
BREWERTON, NY - FRIENDS FOR EQUALITY	Jennifer	Miceli
BREWERTON, NY - FRIENDS FOR EQUALITY	Julie	Mangicaro
CORTLAND	Heidi	Johnson
CORTLAND	Tricia	Lyman
CORTLAND	Camilla	Morgan
CORTLAND	Linda	Scotfield
CORTLAND	Kimberly	Sharpe
CORTLAND	Lisa	Snyder
CORTLAND	Joelle	Zimmerman
GLENS FALLS	Jill	Hunt
GLENS FALLS	Barbara	Kestler
GLENS FALLS	Katherine	Lapham
KANATA-STITTSVILLE	Isabelle	Fernandez
OSWEGO	Victoria	Carlson
SCHENECTADY	Susan	Austin
SCHENECTADY	Angelina	Corsetti
SCHENECTADY	Kelli	Clark
SCHENECTADY	Cheryl	Crockett
SCHENECTADY	Deborah	Moore
UPPER HUDSON VALLEY	Terri	Brew
UPPER HUDSON VALLEY	Lisa	Dwyer
UPPER HUDSON VALLEY	Nellie	Rustick-Meier

D2 Committee Corner

*Foundation Ambassador
Irene Orton*

[Donate Here](#)



As your D2 Foundation Ambassador for the past 4 years, I want to personally thank you for the opportunity and the privilege of motivating as well as presenting you with the progress this district has made over the last few bienniums.

I've had a lot of fun trying to be creative while at the same time trying to present the actual facts and figures of donations given by this District.

Thanks for stepping up, playing the games, and most importantly, reaching deep into your pockets to help women and young girls all over the world.



*Club Creator
Liz Tesiero*

As appointed District Club Creator this biennium, it was truly a pleasure to be part of the chartering of the Zonta Club Chenango County last year. Watching a new club come together and begin its journey of service was both inspiring and rewarding.

If you are aware of a community that may be interested in forming a new club, please contact the District 2 Board. They have the experience, guidance, and resources to help support the process every step of the way.

Clubs are the heart of Zonta; they are where friendship, leadership, and service come together to Build a Better World for Women and Girls.

D2 Committee Corner

Z and Gold Z Club Committee Chair

Christina Seado Vasquez

Z Club of Oswego High School – Spring Update

This spring has been an incredibly active and meaningful season for the Z Club of Oswego High School. Our members have remained dedicated to service, advocacy, and uplifting our community in a variety of impactful ways.

To support and connect with local senior citizens, our club created and distributed more than 250 Valentine’s Day cards, followed by additional handmade spring and Easter cards. These small gestures helped foster connection and bring joy to members of our community who may otherwise feel isolated.

We also organized a diaper drive to benefit our local Department of Social Services, providing essential supplies to families in need. Continuing our commitment to hands-on service, our members participated in Maker Madness, where they facilitated engaging craft activities for children, including creating mini lava lamps and tie-dye foil art.

Our advocacy work has been especially noteworthy this year. Through our ongoing efforts with Zonta Says NO, we were honored to receive the District 2 Service Award, recognizing our dedication to raising awareness and promoting action to end gender-based violence.

In addition, our club continues to lead a meaningful, ongoing project: assembling “birthday boxes” for families within our school district. These boxes include cake mix, frosting, candles, and cards, ensuring that over 380 families have the opportunity to celebrate birthdays in a special and memorable way.

We are also proud to share that our club president was awarded a Zonta Scholarship in recognition of her outstanding leadership and commitment to service.

Overall, this spring has been a testament to our members’ compassion, creativity, and commitment to making a difference. We look forward to continuing our work and expanding our impact in the months ahead.

Kayley Morse. Advisor



D2 Committee Corner

Z and Gold Z Club Committee Chair


Christina Seado Vasquez

Student Club Updates




**OUTSTANDING SERVICE PROJECT
OF THE YEAR**

Moonbee - The Golden Z Club

 In collaboration with Oswego community based organization, Zonta Club of Oswego, Moonbee was centered on the creation of reusable and sustainable menstrual hygiene products, providing both an immediate and long-term impact for individuals who face barriers to accessing essential resources. The purpose of Moonbee highlights the program's intentionality and forward-thinking approach to community care.

Oswego High School Z Club won the District 2 Z Club Service Award for their 16 Days of Activism Program.

Golden Z also won for "Outstanding Collaborative Program of the Year" with AAMEN "Flow State" Club members used stim devices to simulate menstrual cramps on male students.



OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL AWARD

The Outstanding Professional Award recognizes a dedicated professional faculty/staff member who has served as an advisor, coach, or mentor to one or more student organizations. The award honors their guidance, support, and contributions that have significantly influenced the growth, success, and development of the organizations they engage with. The recipient embodies the spirit of leadership and commitment, empowering students to achieve their goals and fostering a thriving campus community.

Our nominees include

**Lillian Evans, Bold Black Beauties
Christina Vasquez, The Golden Z Club
Kelly Cullinan, Paws@Oz
Harlene Grewal, Paws@Oz**

Updates for MPH- Z Club

The Manlius Pebble Hill Z-club continues to be a very active club with about 20 members. They have participated in multiple activities including collecting and donating period to a local shelter and distributing cards throughout the school, highlighting women in history and their accomplishments. Most notable is the annual International Women's Day breakfast they host for the teachers and staff. As a change this year, they invited the male staff as well, feeling they too should "celebrate" women on International Women's Day. Zonta District 2 recognized the Club President, with the Spirit Award for her work on the International Women's Day Breakfast.

Utica University Updates

In April, The Utica University Golden Z Club partnered with the local League of Women Voters group for a voter registration drive on campus.

They wrapped up the semester with a Take Back the Night Collaboration with the Utica University Women's Resource Center and Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention. Students gathered in the student union where information, activities, and refreshments were available and then participated in a walk around the campus to raise awareness. The Mohawk Valley YWCA had a table at the event as well.

Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Glens Falls

Presidents Karen Hartman & Stacey Wood

The Zonta Club of Glens Falls has been very busy planning our largest fundraiser of the year, our Arts, Crafts, and Curiosities Faire. The event took place on Mother's Day Weekend, May 9th and 10th, in Glens Falls City Park. This fundraiser is in its 5th year and has grown tremendously from 30 vendors to 120 vendors. It took many hands at work to succeed, but it couldn't have been done without Lorraine Abess's leadership.

In addition to the many craft, food, and children's activities vendors, Zonta held raffles, a plant sale, and a curiosities table. We featured women singers who performed throughout the day on Mother's Day. It was a joyful weekend watching families enjoy themselves, as we spent some time spreading the Zonta Spirit with others.

Our fundraising will help provide scholarships and awards for local high school seniors and returning students. We will be able to meet our scholarship and award recipients at our annual dinner on June 9th.



We posed for our annual Denim Day photo on April 28th. Earlier that day, members attended the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resource Fair at SUNY Adirondack. We gave away safety whistles and mini-flashlights.



Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Albany President Carol Tomlin

Zonta Club of Albany held a dinner and show on April 8, 2026, featuring an historic interpreter regarding the Unsinkable Molly Brown, survivor of the Titanic. Many maritime laws were created after the sinking of the Titanic.



Zonta Club of Albany held a breakfast to honor women for the International Day of the Woman. Members were given an opportunity to list women who should be recognized for their contributions toward building a better world for women and girls. All those that attended received a yellow rose.

President of the Zonta Club of Albany, Carol Tomlin, presenting new afghans, sweaters, hats and gloves to the clients of the Sidewalk Soldiers of Troy, NY. Once a week Sidewalk Soldiers holds a food give a way and often warm clothing.



Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta e-ClubNY 1

President Irene Orton

What can an eClub do? You ask....



*Zonta Club of The Adirondacks
President Martha Jackson*

ZONTA ADK AWARDS RECIPIENTS FOR SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE

Zonta Club of the Adirondacks is proud to announce the recipients of the annual Yellow R.O.S.E. Award for Recognition of Service and Excellence. This annual award recognizes women who have made a significant impact through leadership, community service, and dedication to uplifting others in their community. Congratulations to the 2026 recipients, Temnit Muldowney and Jesse Jakobe, for their dedication beyond their exemplary work as educators.

Members of Zonta ADK gathered on May 3 at Heaven Hill Farm to honor Muldowney and Jakobe as co-founders of Petrova Elementary's Multicultural Night, an event highlighting cultural diversity among students through music, food, and community. They also brought the "Ruby Bridges Walks to School" event to Saranac Lake, where over 90 students celebrated the 65th anniversary of the historic desegregation case by walking from Harrietstown Hall to Petrova Elementary, carrying signs showcasing the importance of empathy and kindness.

Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of the Upper Hudson Valley
President Celeste Alexander



Congratulations to all of the scholarship winners across the district.

Think about how you may track their success and connect them with Golden Z Clubs or regular clubs.

Club Highlights - Area 1

Area 1 Director Debra Grobe Searles

Zonta Club of Montgomery Fulton
President Liz Tesiero

The Zonta Club of Montgomery, along with a local movie theater, helped raise awareness during Crime Victims' Week in April.



We tabled at the Amsterdam Library for International Women's Day in March, bringing awareness and passing out some Zonta swag.



Montgomery-Fulton representing
at the District Workshop



Club Highlights - Area 2

Area 2 Director Dianne DiMeo

Zonta Club of Oswego

President Kristin LaBarge

The Oswego Elks Club was transformed into a sea of colorful polyester and curly red wigs on Friday, April 17th, as the community gathered for our inaugural Mrs. Roper's Romp. This vibrant event wasn't just a tribute to the iconic Three's Company matriarch, it was a high-energy fundraiser dedicated to supporting Oswego County Opportunities (OCO) Services to Aid Families (SAF), a program dedicated to ensuring survivors of domestic violence have the support needed to maintain a stable living environment free of violence.



Held on March 8th, we held our Annual Maker Madness at SUNY Oswego's Penfield Library! This annual event served as a local cornerstone for celebrating International Women's Day, spotlighting the ingenuity of regional creators while advocating for the empowerment of women and girls. The mission sponsor was Novelis in Oswego County.

On February 25th we sponsored a screening of the film "Picture a Scientist" about leading female scientists, discussing the inequalities they've faced as they write a new chapter in STEM for women. This event was made possible through a successful partnership between SUNY Oswego's CSTEP (Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program) and the SUNY Oswego Golden Z Club. We also accepted period product donations for the Oswego community for our Period Pantries across the county.

PICTURE A SCIENTIST

A CHRONICLE OF THE RESEARCHERS WHO ARE WRITING A NEW CHAPTER FOR WOMEN SCIENTISTS

HOSTED BY ZONTA CLUB OF OSWEGO IN COLLABORATION WITH CSTEP AND GOLDEN Z

WED., FEB. 25 | 6 - 7:30 PM
SUNY OSWEGO | MARANO 132

ZONTA CLUB OF OSWEGO
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

OSWEGO
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR PERIOD PRODUCTS FOR THE OSWEGO COMMUNITY OR USE OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

QUESTIONS OR TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATIONS CONTACT: OSWEGOTONTASKFORCE.COM

Club Highlights - Area 2

Area 2 Director Dianne DiMeo

Zonta Club of Chenango County President Kristin Giglio

The Zonta Club of Chenango County celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th with a community BINGO fundraiser held at Hidden Springs Brewhouse in Norwich. Over 100 people came together for an afternoon of fun and advocacy. In addition to Bingo, there were raffle baskets, prizes and the debut of our club sweatshirts! Complete with a "Z" game of Bingo, the afternoon raised close to \$900 for the club! Special thanks to Krista for being an excellent host! This is sure to become an annual event for our club!



The Zonta Club of Chenango County has worked diligently their first year to support our local community. They actively empower local women and girls through targeted service and advocacy. As a vital part of the global Zonta International network, the chapter addresses key community needs ranging from gender equality and domestic violence support to educational equity. This spring, they were able to support 4 local agencies aligned with this mission and vision. By hosting engaging local events and collaborating with area professionals, local Zontians continue to foster a safer, more equitable environment across the Chenango County area.



The Zonta Club of Chenango County presented a check to the Liberty Resources - Help Restore Hope Center to aid in their efforts of providing confidential crisis services and support for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. In April we collaborated via social media to stand with survivors and our community partners at Liberty Resources to say: You are not alone. This campaign raised helped educate others during Sexual assault awareness month.

**[Read the latest Inspiring Impact:
Zonta Foundation for Women
Quarterly Report - Volume VIII |
May 2026](#)**

Find out how your Foundation dollars support women and girls through the international service projects.

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Canton

President Julie Miller

Mother's Day Fundraiser Saturday, May 9, 2026

Thank you to everyone who came out to see us at Coakley's Hardware in Canton this Mother's Day weekend. We had an amazing weekend providing food and drinks while many of you shopped for your mom, grandmother, wife, sister, aunt, or any woman that has made an important and profound impact on your life and the lives of others. Coakley's had an absolutely beautiful selection of flowers, and it was wonderful seeing all the happy and smiling faces walking away with their gorgeous flowers. We say this often and yet it bears repeating; we could not do the amazing things that we do without you, your generosity, and your kind and loving spirit for this community. With every donation we are given the opportunity to be that profound and important impact on women's lives right here in St. Lawrence County. Thank you again and stay tuned! We are moving into our busy season and will be out in the community so please look for us in the park during Dairy Festival. We will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a Bar-B-Que grill with all of the fixings in honor of Reginald L. Sapp and to learn a little bit about what Zonta does in our community.

March 2026 Zonta Rose Day

The Zonta Club of Canton is proud to recognize Roxy and John Coffey for the work they do in our local community with the VFW Canton Post and veterans, and their undying support for the Zonta Club of Canton. Without them we would not have the wonderful turnout and support of the community and its members.

John and Roxy we are truly honored to present you both with a yellow rose for the month of March and we knew immediately that there was no one else we would rather give this to. Thank you for all you do for Canton, Veterans in St. Lawrence County and beyond, and the Zonta Club of Canton! Congratulations!!



Sunday, May 3, 2026 Spring Bowling Tournament

Thank you to everyone who came out to our first spring bowling tournament. It was a fantastic turnout and we had such an amazing time with you all. Thank you for your support and generosity and we would like to give a big congratulations to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Thank you again and we cannot wait to see you at the next event

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

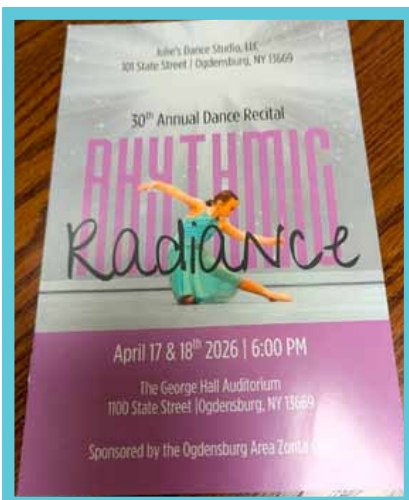
Zonta Club of Ogdensburg President Kathy Swan



Our ongoing Service Project has focused on collecting money and supplies for the Period Pantry. We created an Amazon Wishlist and complete strangers have jumped in to help our efforts! We've been receiving donation shipments of period products and our Facebook posts have received a lot of shares, helping to get the word out about our efforts.

Pictured is Ogdensburg Area Zonta Club Past President/Board Member/Service Committee Chair Paula Jacques donating Period Pantry Supplies, along with a check to purchase more feminine hygiene products, to Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center Director Tina Kellar.

"Recognize the Remarkable" Zonta Club of Ogdensburg Rose Day Dinner Celebration was held Tuesday March 17, 2026 at the Gran-View Restaurant in Ogdensburg. Our Club celebrated Hillary Skelly (rose presented by Emily TenEyck), Angela McRoberts (rose presented by Past President Tracie Fournier Kroeger) and Dawn Dawn Bronson Merz (rose presented by Past President Colleen Anderson) for their remarkable contributions to our community. Thank you to all three of you for making our community a better place! Thank you to our Program Committee Co-Chairs Emily TenEyck and Kathy Swan.



April 17-18, 2026

Zonta Club of Ogdensburg proudly sponsored the 30th Annual Julie's Dance Studio Dance Recital. Owner Julie Hooper is a member of our Club and this tradition began with Dumas Dance Studio many, many years ago. It's an amazing showcase of local talent, all while fundraising for the Zonta Club of Ogdensburg to build a better world for women and girls. We had 923 paid attendees and one parent of each dancer is admitted for free. We are grateful for this ongoing annual event.

The Scholarship Committee is busy selecting our award winners!

We are also busy donating our fantastic fundraising funds to the organizations in our community that work to build a better world for women and girls. We are thankful to celebrate our successful fundraising with paying it forward to support our mission.

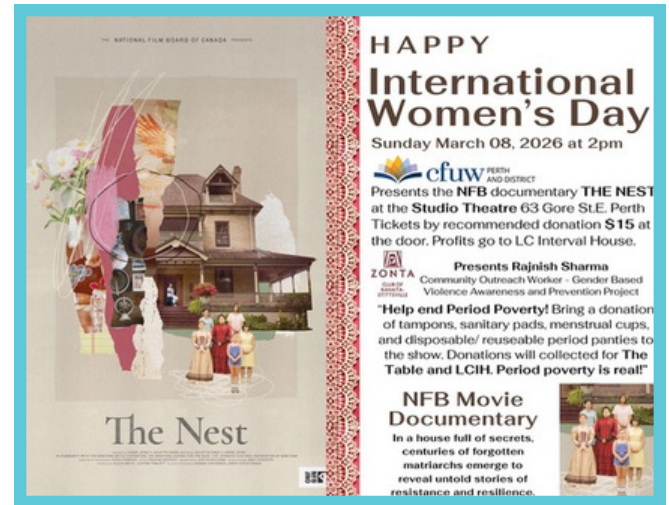
Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville
President Judith Ainsworth

Action 1 - International Women's Day

The Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville and the Canadian Federation of University Women Perth & District presented a special screening of the National Film Board documentary "The Nest". The ZK-S hosted the follow-up special guest speaker, Rajnish Sharma, Program Coordinator with [Immigrant Women Services](#) Ottawa (IWSO), a community-based agency dedicated to supporting immigrant and racialised women as they navigate life in Canada.

An event poster with a red and white background. At the top left is the ZONTA CLUB OF KANATA-STITTSVILLE logo with the tagline "BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS". To the right are logos for the World Food Forum and the United Nations. The main title is "Shaping Policies and Agri-food Systems: A Conversation with Youth Advocates". Below the title, it says "Join us Online at 6:30pm, Thursday May 7th (Click for Zoom Link)". There are three circular portraits of speakers: Lila Sonmez, Ousman Njie, and Laia Charles Saigne. Below each portrait is their name and affiliation. At the bottom, there are two paragraphs of text describing the World Food Forum (WFF) Quebec Chapter and the McGill Youth Advisory Delegation (MYAD).

ZONTA CLUB OF KANATA-STITTSVILLE
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

WORLD FOOD FORUM

Shaping Policies and Agri-food Systems: A Conversation with Youth Advocates

Join us Online at 6:30pm, Thursday May 7th
([Click for Zoom Link](#))

 <p>Lila Sonmez Major in Political Science and International Development, Minor in Economics, United Nations Youth Advocate</p>	 <p>Ousman Njie MS Food Science, Nexus Lead, MA Gilliam Institute for Global Food Security, McGill University</p>	 <p>Laia Charles Saigne B.A. Honours Political Science, Management and Environment, United Nations Youth Advocate</p>
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World Food Forum (WFF) Quebec Chapter, a youth-led initiative aligned to the principles and mission of the UN's WFF, empowering young people to address agri-food issues across the province

McGill Youth Advisory Delegation (MYAD), an empowered youth-focused organisation holding special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2006

Action 2 - Focus on SDGs 2 and 5

Special guest speakers at the ZK-S May meeting were United Nations Youth Advocates and leaders in agri-food systems. We learned about the launch of the [World Food Forum Quebec Chapter](#) (aligns with the UN's WFF), [McGill Youth Advisory Delegation](#) (MYAD) (consultative status with UN ECOSOC) and up-to-date research on [Global Food Security](#). Note the infographic: Without ending child marriage, eight Sustainable Development Goals will not be met.

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Ottawa

President Renuka Gamage

ZCO CA 2026 Award Winners



Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada is proud to announce our '2026 Jean M. Coon Humanitarian Award' Winner – Sifa Gulin Tarakci

Sifa is a Grade 12 student at Merivale High School whose community service is driven by a deep commitment to inclusion. As a Muslim immigrant woman, she is dedicated to inclusivity and creating spaces where everyone belongs. Some of her notable initiatives include founding the Panorama Multicultural Festival, which drew over 650 attendees and raised more than \$1,000 for a non-profit supporting newcomers and launching a women's swim initiative so Muslim women in her community could stay active without compromising their religious values.

Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada is proud to announce our 2026 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award winner Umaiza Ahmmed

Umaiza Ahmmed is a grade 12 student planning to pursue health sciences, with a strong interest in neuroscience, particularly research for Parkinson's disease. She is the co-founder of Care for Cubs, where she leads interactive workshops designed to reduce children's fear of healthcare environments, reaching hundreds of participants. As a member of her school's robotics team, she contributes to both technical and business operations, including organizing outreach events and securing sponsorships. She is very dedicated to volunteering in several causes and has contributed extensively to her community through volunteer service, reflecting her commitment to healthcare education and outreach.



Congratulations to our ZCO CA 'Zonta Women in STEM Award' Winner Rija Ansari



Rija Ansari is a chemist, chemical engineer and data scientist dedicated to developing innovative solutions to climate change. Holding an Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Toronto and a Professional Education Certificate in Applied Data Science from MIT, she is currently completing a Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering with an emphasis in Data Analytics and Machine Learning at the University of Toronto. Rija's research career is rooted in clean energy and environmental science. As a Research Council Officer at the National Research Council of Canada, she has led projects in sodium-ion battery development, hydrometallurgical battery recycling, and carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS). Her work has resulted in IP filings, peer-reviewed publications, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in research funding. She is engaged in applying cutting-edge data science techniques to accelerate sustainable energy solutions. Her MEng project focuses on using machine learning models to predict the carbon capture capacity of novel combinations of amine-functionalized silica.

Club Highlights - Area 4

Area 4 Director Colleen Anderson

Zonta Club of Brewerton, - Friends for Equality
President Marnie Annese



Zonta Club of Brewerton had a busy month of March, Recognizing Remarkable people doing great things for women. We also held a community "ZINGO" (Zonta Bingo) to let locals know more about Zonta in a fun way, with prizes!

In April, we hosted a Taco Tuesday for local teens.



Our April 15th club meeting had a hybrid (online/in-person) Plastics & The Environment presentation in honor of Earth Day and especially to raise awareness of how climate change impacts all, especially females. It speaks to What is Climate Change? Who is Lisa Blair and what is she doing about plastics in the ocean? What is Zonta doing about it? Why does Zonta Say NOW? What did Zonta Club of Syracuse do about it? Dr. Eileen Gilligan tells about the Trex Challenge her club undertook and lastly, what can we do about it? Many people doing a little makes for an enormous impact! The presentation is now available for individual or club viewing at <https://youtu.be/Uiux4eMYqfI?si=Qki75N3gCh7zOZD3>. Lastly, our club happily welcomes 4 people to membership during the Add Your Voice Campaign.



From the Zonta USA Caucus

[Visit the Zonta USA Caucus Website](#)



The USA Caucus is comprised of the following committees:

- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)
- Drive for ERA
- Child MarriageZonta Says No to Violence Against Women (VAW)
- Climate Justice
- Commercial Exploitation/Human Trafficking
- Health/Reproductive Rights
- International Advocacy Committee

[Click here to read the latest bulletin for updates.](#)

Oklahoma just banned child marriage! From Unchained at Last

Oklahoma just became the 17th state where we have helped to ban child marriage! Gov. Kevin Stitt declined to sign or veto the bill the legislature sent him to make the marriage age 18, no exceptions — so it passed into law without him.

Until now the marriage age in Oklahoma has been ZERO, and some 3,452 minors were entered into marriage in the Sooner State between 2000 and 2021, mostly girls wed to adult men. And the suffering of these girls is profound: Oklahoma's marriage-age laws have created a workaround for statutory rape laws and for human trafficking laws.

Besides, marriage before age 18 is recognized as a human rights abuse and as a particularly egregious form of forced marriage, which is a form of modern slavery.

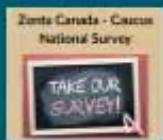
So the law that just passed, which will go into effect in November, is a huge win for the nearly 490,000 girls in Oklahoma. But 33 other states — home to some 26 million girls — still allow child marriage.

From Zonta Canada

[Visit the Zonta Canada Website](#)



Zonta Canada - Caucus News



[Survey Link](#)

Zonta Canada - Caucus Survey

Zonta Canada - Caucus has re-engaged this biennium with increased district delegate representation and additional non-voting members to identify Canadian legislative actions needed and to develop campaign toolkits for the 19 Canadian clubs across five cross-border districts. Thank you!

This important survey has been drafted to understand the needs of our Zonta Canada clubs, Advocacy Committees and their members. These questions are designed to help us determine how to best utilize Zonta Canada and assist Canadian members and their clubs.

Thank you for your anticipated help in completing the form!

In Zonta Spirit,
Zonta Canada Committee



Zonta Canada Caucus Website - [Site Link](#)

Check out the website for toolkits, advocacy actions for anti-human trafficking, gender-based violence, ending early child marriage & Zonta Says NOW. Access to Signal for Help Kit.



Interested in Joining Zonta Canada - Caucus?

We'd love to have more Canadian members participate.

Contact: Sheena Poole, Zonta Canada Convener
at zontacanada@gmail.com



May is Sexual Violence Prevention Month

Ending Sexual Violence Association of Canada's [May newsletter Link](#); you might want to subscribe.



Status of Bills Affecting Women & Children - [Link](#)

The Current list of Bills under consideration in the House of Commons. [Link to Document](#)

Consider Developing a Club Land Acknowledgment

Land acknowledgements are an honest and historically accurate way to recognize the traditional First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit territories of a place. They help Canadians recognize and respect Indigenous peoples' inherent kinship beliefs regarding the land. Land acknowledgements must be meaningful; it's not something you do "because you have to." Research and education are essential to drafting a meaningful script.



Land Acknowledgment Toolkit



[Online Toolkit link](#)



www.zontacanada.ca



zontacanada@gmail.com



International News

2026-2028 Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women Boards

International President-Elect

- Sandra Venn-Brown, D22, Zonta Club of Stanthorpe Inc, Australia

International Vice President

- Renée Coppock, D12, Zonta Club of Billings, USA

International Treasurer/Secretary

- Monika Geise, D29, Zonta Club of Münster, Germany

International Directors

- Kathrin Laubacher, D28, Zonta Club of Liestal, Switzerland
- Ria Matthijssens, D27, Zonta Club of Antwerpen, Belgium
- Jennet (Jen) McKinlay-Birkin, D16, Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand
- Opeibea Omaboe, D18, Zonta Club of Accra II, Ghana
- Sheena Poole, D04, Zonta e-Club of Cross Border (Canada-USA), Canada
- Shreejana Rana, D25, Zonta Club of Kathmandu, Nepal
- Jutta Trube, D14, Zonta Club of Aschaffenburg, Germany

2026-2028 International Nominating Committee

Africa

- Margaret Mercy Akofio-Sowah, D18, Zonta Club of Accra II, Ghana

Asia

- Primitiva (Baby) Sison, D17, Zonta Club of Manila I, Philippines

Australia and New Zealand

- Lynne Foley, OAM, D22, Zonta Club of Toowoomba Garden City Inc, Australia

Europe

- Ruta Jasioniene, D13, Zonta Club of Alytus, Lithuania

North, Central and South America

- Lorene (Lori) Robinson, D04, Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, Canada

At Large

- Ofelia (Lia) Bautista, D17, Zonta Club of Greater Rizal I, Philippines
- Christine Dersch, D28, Zonta Club of Marburg, Germany
- Dorte Olesen, D13, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I, Denmark
- Salla Tuominen, D20, Zonta Club of Helsinki 1, Finland

International News

Zonta International Convention 11-14 July 2026

Let us know if you will be attending,
so we can get together as a district.

For complete Convention information visit
<https://www.zontaconvention.com/>

Find details on the following items:

- Registration
- Accommodations
- Air Canada
- Tours
- Schedule



[Read up on Convention News in the Club Mailings](#)



Member of the Zonta Club of Oswego to be honored at Convention

Hi Trisha;

We really love your artwork that you submitted and as part of our promotional efforts for Zonta Says NOW and the art gallery I would like to use it on a small pin with Zonta Says NOW and a credit to you to hand out at the Zonta convention. Do you have any objection to this? It will be a give-away and helps promote the next art gallery launch in 2027. Please let me know what you think. Attached is a photo mockup.



Many thanks,

Julie

Julie Trone

Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery Coordinator