



## Information Paper for Orientation and Prospective Members June 2020

### Zonta International

Now, 29,000 members in 63 countries working together to improve the lives of women and girls.

### Mission

Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Since 1923, Zonta International has provided more than US\$41.2 million to empower women and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities and safe living conditions.

### Vision

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men and no woman lives in fear of violence.

### Structure

Zonta International's nearly 1,200 Zonta clubs are grouped into districts to facilitate Zonta business. Each district is led by a governor and district board. Districts then establish areas to implement administrative functions. Areas are comprised of clubs that pursue Zonta's mission and goals through funding projects to improve the health, educational and economic status of women. An international convention is held biennially in even years.

**Our Club is in District 3, Area 4.** District 3 holds a conference in the intervening year between conventions and Area 4 holds a workshop every spring. These events are hosted by clubs in the district.

Some clubs have established foundations to accommodate tax-exempt activities.

### International Service

Since 1923, Zonta International has been committed to supporting international service projects to improve women's lives in developing countries and countries in transition. In nearly 100 years since beginning, Zonta International has contributed nearly US\$19.2 million to projects benefiting women in 35 countries.

Through funding from the Zonta International Foundation, the Zonta International Service Program has provided training, education, health, sanitation, agricultural and micro-credit assistance to women, primarily through projects implemented by the agencies of the United Nations and recognized non-governmental organizations.

During the 2018-2020 Biennium, the Zonta International Foundation is supporting:

- Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls
- Eid bi Eid (Hand in Hand): Support to resilience and empowerment of Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women

In multi-year projects, Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation partner with UNICEF USA, UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund to end child marriage and human trafficking and eliminate obstetric fistula.

Zonta International programs include, among others:

- Amelia Earhart Fellowships for women pursuing doctoral degrees in aerospace-related fields,
- Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships,
- Young Women in Public Affairs Awards,
- Zonta International Strategies to End Violence against Women and Children,
- Legislative Awareness and Advocacy,
- Z clubs for secondary school students, and
- Golden Z clubs for colleges and university campuses.

### Meaning of “Zonta”

“Zonta” is derived from a Lakhota (Teton Dakota), a language of the Native-American Sioux peoples, word meaning honest and trustworthy. It was adopted in 1919 to symbolize the combined qualities of honesty and trust, inspiration and the ability to work together for service and world understanding. The Zonta emblem incorporates five Sioux symbols to portray this meaning.

### Why Join Zonta?

Change a life, belong to a group of people committed to helping women achieve their potential, volunteer, empower, become empowered – A world of opportunities, services and fellowship.

Members have opportunities to:

- Participate in service projects that help women achieve their potential.
- Advocate Zonta’s position on women’s issues locally and internationally.
- Achieve greater impact internationally by combining our voices with like-minded organizations and the United Nations.
- Work with government and community leaders who share common goals.
- Unite with other members in world fellowship.
- Connect with professionals globally who share the same passion to empower women.
- Receive mentoring and leadership development organized at the local and international levels.
- Discuss viewpoints and exchange ideas.
- Grow as a dynamic leader in organizing projects and activities.

To ensure professional diversity within each Zonta Club, membership is by invitation. Further information may be found at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org), [www.zontadistrictthree.org](http://www.zontadistrictthree.org), and [www.zontawashingtondc.org](http://www.zontawashingtondc.org).

### Zonta Club of Washington, D.C.

Formed in 1922, the club was the 17<sup>th</sup> to be chartered. There are 32 members in June 2020. It is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(4) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. As a member of Zonta International, the club must be nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

### Objects and Opportunities

The Zonta Club of Washington’s objects are the same as those of Zonta International, specifically to:

- Improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global & local level through service & advocacy.
- Work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill, & peace through a world fellowship of members.
- Promote justice and universal respect for human rights & fundamental freedoms.
- Be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support & fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations, and the world.

The club offers opportunities to:

- Meet professionals and executives in a wide variety of occupations and from many countries,
- Hear stimulating and provocative speakers on interesting topics,
- Develop your own leadership potential,
- Enjoy unparalleled fellowship, and
- Make a difference to women both in this community and beyond.

The club achieves these objects by contributing money, time, and effort to service projects that benefit women by:

- Contributing funds to the Zonta International Foundation for Amelia Earhart Fellowships,
- Contributing funds to various charitable organizations that enhance opportunities for women and girls,
- Providing undergraduate, nursing and medical scholarships to women at local universities,
- Supporting local organizations with goods and gift cards to improve the safety, comfort and status of women and girls, and
- Providing opportunities for fellowship to our members.

The service projects and the plan for raising funds to support the projects are proposed by appointed committees and approved by the membership annually.

### Structure

The club leadership consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and four directors. Terms of office, election procedures, and duties are defined in the club bylaws.

In addition to an elected Nominating Committee, there are 10 standing committees:

Advocacy	Investment
Communications	Membership
Edith SeVille Coale Medical Scholarship	Program
Fellowship	Scholarship
Fundraising	Service

Committee membership is usually designated by the president in line with individual preferences.

### 2020 – 2021 Officers and Directors, Zonta Club of Washington, D.C.

President – Ramona Stoltz	Directors:
Vice President – Carol Widmayer	Sonya Baskerville (2021)
Secretary – Rosa Goldsmith	Mary Ellen Bittner (2021)
Treasurer – Michele Smith	Marilyn Brekka (2021)
	Katelyn DiBenedetto (2022)

### **Zonta Club of Washington Foundation**

Established in 1981, the foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that allows funds contributed for service projects to be tax deductible.

All members of the Zonta Club of Washington, D.C., are members of the foundation, however, the foundation has a separate board of directors from the club. The foundation board is elected at the annual meeting which is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the club. It is important to maintain the separation between the club and the foundation.

The foundation funds service projects recommended by the service committee and approved by the membership. The service projects adopted for a particular year are financed by a \$300 annual membership assessment and funds raised by the fundraising committee the previous year; that way, the amount available for charitable purposes is known prior to drafting the service budget.

## 2020 - 2021 Officers and Directors, Zonta Club of Washington Foundation

President - Marta Calderon (2021)	Directors:
Vice President – KT Harroun (2023)	Judith Fitzpatrick (2022)
Treasurer - Marilu Del Carpio (2022)	Gwendolyn Pla (2023)
Secretary – Kathy Deutsch (2021)	Ramona Stoltz, President, Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. (ZCWDC)
	Carol Widmayer, Vice President, ZCWDC
	Jennifer Christensen, Immediate Past President, ZCWDC

## 2019-2020 Service Activities (Will be updated for 2020 - 2021 when activities/budget are approved)

For this fiscal year, the Zonta Club of Washington Foundation approved funding for the following:

Undergraduate Scholarships	\$6,000
ZIF Amelia Earhart Fellowships	\$3,000
The Advocacy Project	\$2,000
Kakenya Center for Excellence	\$2,500
Calvary Women’s Services	\$3,500
Greater DC Diaper Bank (FHP)	\$1,000
My Sister’s Place	<u>\$2,000</u>
TOTAL	\$20,000

See *How We Help* and *Our Scholarships* tabs at [www.zontawashingtondc.org](http://www.zontawashingtondc.org) for descriptions of projects.

## 2019 – 2020 Fundraising Activities

The following summarizes the fundraising for this year to be dispersed in 2020 - 2021:

<u>Revenue</u>	
Assessments paid to the ZCW Foundation	\$9,640
Holiday card donations	\$3,030
Corporate donations	\$300
General Donations	\$402
<u>Expenses</u>	
Credit card fees	<u>(\$59.62)</u>
TOTAL	\$13,192.38

## Scholarship Activities

- Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Since 1923, the Club has supported women in their educational pursuits. Beginning with funds to help several young women finish high school, the project expanded in 1924-25 to provide loans to women pursuing higher education and preparing for business and professional careers. Over ensuing years, the scholarship program was established and has awarded over \$400,000 in scholarships to women pursuing baccalaureate degrees at D.C. educational institutions.

- Edith SeVille Coale Medical Scholarships

These scholarships were established in 1965, funded by a bequest from Dr. Coale, a local physician who served as club president in 1933-34. Nearly \$1.3 million in scholarships has been awarded to female medical students entering their second and third year of medical school.

- Virginia Longest Nursing Scholarships

Named for its benefactor, a former nursing executive and club member, the scholarship was established in 2005. Since then, \$48,500 has been awarded to support women pursuing nursing master's degree or doctoral programs with an emphasis on nursing education at The Catholic University of America School of Nursing.

Each November, all current year scholarship recipients are invited to the club's dinner meeting and talk about their career aspirations and how the scholarship has supported their goals.

### **Membership (Club Bylaws Article IV.)**

To be invited to membership, a candidate must be willing to support and implement the objects of Zonta International.

To be eligible for membership, a candidate shall be, or have been, actively involved in a decision-making capacity in a recognized business or profession.

### **Sponsorship of a New Member**

After contact through the website or personal recommendation, the sequence is as follows:

- A [Prospective Member Form](#) is completed by the prospective member and sponsor (a club member) and then forwarded to the chairman of the Membership Committee. The form is available in the Member Resources section on the website, [www.zontawashingtondc.org](http://www.zontawashingtondc.org).
- The Membership Committee presents the proposal to the club board.
- Following approval by the Club Board, the proposal is sent to all Club members in the monthly newsletter.
- If there is no objection from Club members, a Membership Committee representative sends a letter of invitation to membership and requests completion of the New Member Information Form and payment of dues and a \$15 initiation fee.
- The prospective member accepts the invitation by submitting the form, requisite dues and initiation fee as requested.

**Note:** New members are not required to pay the annual assessment the first time they pay dues.

- The Membership Committee representative sends a letter of welcome to the new member and notifies the president, the sponsor, the club treasurer, and the database manager.
- The president and sponsor welcome the new member to the club.
- The president assigns the new member to one or more committees as appropriate.

A candidate for membership becomes a Zontian when all initial dues and fees have been received by Zonta International, regardless of when the formal induction ceremony occurs.

### **Member Responsibilities**

Briefly stated, member responsibilities can be captured as follows:

- Attend club and relevant committee meetings. A reasonable expectation is to attend at least two meetings per year and participate as a member of at least one committee. The minimum cost of a dinner meeting is \$40.  
**Note:** Once a dinner reservation is made, the member is responsible for payment unless cancelled before the deadline for reservations.
- Participate in service and fundraising projects. A member is expected to support at least one service or fundraising project committing either time/energy or money, preferably both.
- Pay all dues, fees and assessments promptly.

Membership in Zonta International involves commitment of both personal and financial resources

- One commitment is payment of annual dues.
  - The Zonta year is June 1 - May 31. **Annual dues for our club are \$165 payable on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>.** The dues include \$91 for Zonta International (ZI), \$20 for District 3, and \$54 for the Club.
  - A new member joining between June 1 and November 30, inclusive, pays full annual dues; joining between December 1 and March 31, inclusive, pays \$99 (\$15 ZI new member fee, \$47 for ZI, \$10 for District 3, and \$27 for the Club); or joining between April 1 and June 1, inclusive, pays full annual dues, such amount to be applied to the following year's dues.
  - For a Young Professional member (members under age 30 years), dues are \$121 for a full year (\$47 for Zonta International, \$20 for District 3, and \$54 for the Club). Half year dues are \$77 (\$15 ZI new member fee, \$25 for ZI, \$10 for District 3, and \$27 for the Club).
- Another major commitment is payment of the annual assessment.
  - **The \$300 annual assessment is paid to the Foundation and is tax deductible.** The assessment was adopted to relieve pressure on sponsoring fundraising activities. Payment of the assessment is required for continuing membership.
    - **While new members are not required to pay the assessment the first time they pay dues; they will be assessed annually thereafter to continue membership.**
  - Members may choose to pay the assessment in two semiannual installments of \$150 payable on April 1 and October 1, respectively. Failure to pay an installment within 60 days of the due date shall result in termination of membership.
- Be familiar with club bylaws, standing rules and parliamentary procedure. Each member receives a password to access Member Resources on the club's website that contains the bylaws and standing rules and other pertinent documents.
- Participate actively in meetings and deliberations and accept majority decisions.
- Accept leadership roles and give time, talent and enthusiasm to the organization.
- Identify and suggest prospective new members.
- Attend area meeting/workshops, district conferences and international conventions, if possible.
- Support the programs of the Zonta International Foundation.

Make a difference in the lives of women.  
Step into Zonta and open up your world.  
Zontians work together to make women's equity a reality,  
not just in our local communities but in our global community as well.