



## History Fact Sheet

### Membership

- 1919** Confederation of Zonta Clubs founded in Buffalo, New York, USA
- 1920** Zonta colors and emblem are adopted
  - The first issue of *The Zontian* magazine is published. It is currently published twice a year.
- 1927** The first club outside the United States is formed in Toronto, Canada
- 1930** “Zonta International” name is adopted
- 1931** First European club is established in Vienna, Austria
- 1948** First Z club is established in Burbank, California, USA
  - Through the Z and Golden Z Club program, Zontians work to bring Zonta International’s mission to empower women through service and advocacy to students around the world and to stimulate new and meaningful student-led service and advocacy projects.
- 1948** First Zonta club in Latin America is established in Santiago, Chile
- 1952** First Zonta club in Asia is established in Manila, Philippines
- 1965** First Zonta clubs are established in New Zealand
- 1966** First Zonta clubs are established in Australia
- 1970** First Zonta clubs are established in Africa
- 1987** Zonta International opens its world headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2012** First Zonta e-Club is established in Uruguay
  - Through electronic (e-) clubs, Zonta International offers an up-to-date, alternative, not locally-based way to establish clubs and fulfill Zonta’s mission.
- 2014** “Empowering women through service and advocacy” theme adopted
- 2019** Zonta celebrates its 100th anniversary

### Empowering women

- 1938** The *Amelia Earhart Fellowship* is established in honor of the famous Zontian, following her disappearance.
  - Today, the fellowship of US\$10,000 is awarded annually to up to 30 talented women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-applied sciences or aerospace-applied engineering around the globe. Zonta has awarded nearly 1,600 fellowships, totaling more than US\$10 million, to more than 1,100 women representing 73 countries.
- 1984** Zonta International Foundation is established.
  - Since 1923, Zonta International has provided more than US\$40.9 million to empower women and expand their access to education, health care, economic



opportunities and safe living conditions. Through donations to the Zonta International Foundation, Zonta improves women's lives, their children's lives and the communities in which they live and work.

- 1990** The *Young Women in Public Affairs Award* is established to encourage young women to continue their participation in public and political life.  
The award recognizes young women, ages 16-19, who demonstrate superior leadership skills and a commitment to public service and civic causes. Since the program's inception, Zonta has given more than 800 awards totaling more than US\$830,000 to more than 700 young women representing 56 countries.
- 1998** The *Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship* is established to encourage more women to pursue education and careers in business  
Zonta has given nearly 600 awards totaling more than US\$1.3 million to more than 400 women representing 57 countries.
- 2019** Zonta International launches *Women in Technology Scholarship* pilot program to encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology.  
To create a world in which men and women have equal opportunities, women need to have an active role in technology and technological developments. For the launch of this pilot program, the Zonta International Foundation will award up to US\$112,000 in scholarships: 32 district/region scholarships of US\$2,000 each and six international scholarships of US\$8,000 each.

### **Service and advocacy**

- 1923** The first international project is funded to care for 115,000 orphan children and women in Smyrna, Turkey
- 1962** Zonta International commits to first UN-partnered project in Jordan
- 1969** Zonta International receives consultative status at the United Nations
- 1983** Zonta International receives participatory status at the Council of Europe
- 1986** Zonta International becomes the first non-governmental organization to support UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (later merged with other UN agencies to become UN Women in 2010)
- 1998** Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) project is adopted as an ongoing program
- 2012** Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women annual campaign launches  
The campaign, which continues today, raises awareness of the global pandemic of women's rights violations and unites Zonta clubs worldwide in conducting impactful advocacy actions to fight violence against women and gender inequality.
- 2018** Zonta's commitment to end early marriage results in US\$2 million contribution to the Ending Child Marriage project in partnership with UNICEF USA and UNFPA.  
Zonta International commits to supporting the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

