Committees have always been a part of Zonta’s organization. Some committees date from 1919, others were created later; some have been amalgamated, others closed. Some are Standing Committees mentioned in the Zonta International Bylaws, others are ad hoc committees, appointed by the Zonta International Board. Some are Technical Committees, others are Program Committees (The Zontian, Zonta International Bylaws and Zonta International Directories).

1919: The first committees were established:
- Business Methods (and Classifications 1922–26)
- Convention Programs.
- Education
- Finance
- Intercity Relations
- Public Affairs
- Publicity (responsibility for The Zontian magazine)

1922: The important Organization and Extension Committee was added.

1924: The Education and Publicity committees from 1919 were amalgamated.

1926: Two new committees were added
- Classifications Committee
- International Relations Committee.

1928: The Bylaws, Article XIII, lists the following committees. The Service committee is new.
- Business Ethics and Methods
- Classification
- Constitution and Bylaws
The Organization and Extension Committee shall consist of at least five members, one from each district of the Confederation, whose duty it shall be to provide for the organization of new clubs. Said committee shall work in cooperation with the several district chairmen and the President. The secretary of the Confederation shall be an ex officio member without a vote. Said committee shall disburse the sum set aside for organization in the Confederation budget and all expenditure shall require the OK of the Committee Chairman (Section 6).

1935: Two new standing committees were added:
1. Legal Advisory Committee
2. Status of Women Committee.

1944: A committee coordinator was appointed.

1947: Public Affairs Committee amalgamated with Status of Women Committee.

1948: A new committee, the Resolutions Committee, was added and empowered to investigate public policy issues and prepare position statements.

1952: A Membership Committee was appointed with Audra A. Francis, Zonta Club of Saginaw, Michigan, outgoing District V governor, as chairman.

1954: The convention adopted the revised Constitution and Bylaws which stated that “there shall be such committees as these Bylaws provide and such others, standing or special as Zonta International or the International Board may authorize” (1954 Bylaws, Article XI).

The committees that year, listed in alphabetical order, were:
- Classification
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Convention
- Finance Committee
- International Relations – “International Relations Committee shall devise ways of creating a better understanding and greater fellowship among nations represented in Zonta. The Committee shall work in close association with Zonta clubs of various countries and their members” (Section 7).
- Legal Advisory Committee
- Organization and Extension Committee. The committee: shall consist of one member from each district. The executive secretary shall be an ex officio member of this committee. This committee shall promote and
provide for the organization of new clubs and shall cooperate with the International President and the District Governors in such organization. All expenditures for the work of this committee shall be paid from the Marian de Forest Fund for Extension. For the establishment of a club or clubs outside of North America, the chairman of the committee may appoint a subcommittee to take charge of the organization (Section 9).

- Public Affairs and the Status of Women
- Public Relations (responsible for The Zontian)
- Resolutions
- Service

The Bylaws did not mention all committees, specifically the Membership Committee which had been established in 1952. Zonta International in 2018 still has a Membership Committee.

1966–1968: In order to manage the 17 standing committees and eight special committees, a Committee Co-coordinator role was created.

**Standing Committees**
- Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards Committee
- Classification
- Convention
- Finance
- International Relations
- Legal Advisory
- Membership
- Nominating
- Organization and Extension
- Public Affairs
- Public Relations
- Resolutions
- Safety
- Service
- Status of Women
- United Nations
- Z Club

**Special Committees**
- EXPO ’67
- Field Service
- 50th Anniversary
- Hostess
- Liaison – Non-districted Clubs
- Past International Presidents
- Survey
- UN Observers

1970: The Zonta International Classification Committee, established in 1926, was amalgamated with the Zonta International Membership Committee.

1972: Zonta International established the UN Committee.


- Amelia Earhart Fellowship
- Bylaws
- Past International Presidents
- Public Affairs
Convention
Finance
International Relations
Legal Advisory
Membership and Classification*
Nominating
Organization and Extension

* amalgamated 1970

** closed 1980

1980: The following 18 Zonta International Committees (listed alphabetically) operated in this year:

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards
Bylaws/ Resolutions (two committees amalgamated 1982)
Convention
Finance
International Relations
Legal Advisory (closed 1992)
Long-Range Planning (1978–1990)
Membership and Classifications
Nominating

Organizations and Extension
Past International Presidents
Publications (closed 1990)
Public Affairs (closed 1982)
Public Relations (administered YWPA 1990–92)
Service
Status of Women
United Nations
Z Club

1982–1986: The Leadership Development Committee was added. Members of this Committee “shall be selected to serve as each specific project is undertaken”, according to the Zonta International Directory 1982 (p. 120).

1990 added Governors’ Training (not repeated in the next biennium), Media Relations, and Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA).

The 12 Standing Committees in that year, in alphabetical order, were:

Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee
Bylaws and Resolutions Committee
Convention Committee
Finance Committee
International Relations Committee
Membership and Classification Committee

Organization and Extension Committee
Public Relations Committee
Service Committee
Status of Women Committee
United Nations Committee
Z Club Committee

There was also a Nominating Committee.

1992: The Environment Committee was added.

1992: The Long-Range Planning Committee was closed, and long-range planning became a major responsibility of the Zonta International Board, who had the power to appoint a Task Force to work on Long-Range Planning, if required.
1992–1994
Danielle Bridel, Zonta Club of Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Committee Coordinator, wrote an article in The Zontian (June/July/August 1992, p. 1) under the headline Communication to Create Successful Biennium for Committees:

After 15 years of chairmanship of different international committees, I dare say the job is often frustrating. You must notice that the clubs in a certain measure do not care to implement the different programs or are not aware of them. Where programs are implemented, feedback is often rare. As for the committee members, they often feel themselves to be useless because their contributions are not solicited or there is no follow-up to their suggestions…All chairmen have asked to have members on their committees representing all continents. Such representation should help them to implement their programs all over the Zonta world. Due to funding, it is difficult to gather members of each committee together to meet regularly, so committee matters are generally handled in writing.

1994: Four new committees were added:
- Committee on Aging
- Literacy Coordinators (closed 1996)
- Special Committee on Archives
- Violence against Women Committee (which continued to 1998 with the designation ZISVAW).

1996: At its June 1996 meeting, the Zonta International Board established the Electronic Communications Committee and a home page on the World Wide Web was organized. It went live in 1997.

1998: The Paris convention simplified the committee structure. The first three of the 12 standing committees continued; the next nine were re-structured into four committees as follows:
- Bylaws and Resolutions Committee
- Convention Committee
- Finance Committee
- Organization, Membership and Classification Committee (formerly nos 6 and 7)*
- Public Relations and Communications Committee (formerly no. 8 extended)
- Status of Women Service Committee (formerly nos 9 and 10)**
  a) Subcommittee: Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards Committee (formerly no. 4)
  b) Subcommittee: Z Club Committee (formerly no. 12)
- United Nations Committee (formerly no. 11)

* The two committees with responsibility for membership (Organization and Extension Committee and Classification and Membership Committee) were amalgamated into the new Organization, Membership and Classification Committee (OMC).

** As authorized by the 1988 convention, the new Status of Women Service Committee coordinated the service programs, including Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards and Z-Clubs..
The following committees were added:

- Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Committee
- Jane M. Klausman Scholarship Committee
- Environment Committee

**2000–2008:** Changes in the committee structure were seen particularly in the new approach of organizing of the Status of Women Committee into a series of sub-committees. (See below.)

- **Technical Committees**
  - Bylaws and Resolutions
  - Convention
  - Finance
  - Nominating

- **Program Committees**
  - Archives Committee (until 2006)
  - Organization, Membership and Classification Committee (amalgamated 1998)
  - Public Relations and Communications

- **Status of Women**
  - Sub-committee – Service
  - Sub-committee – Local Service (2006-08)
  - Sub-committee – Amelia Earhart
  - Sub-committee – Jane M Klausman
  - Sub-committee – Legislative Awareness and Advocacy
  - Sub-committee – Young Women in Public Affairs
  - Sub-committee – ZISVAW

Status of Women Service Committee chairmen during this period were:

- **2000-2004** Kirsten Theisen, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I, Denmark (Past International Director)
- **2004-2006** Gabriele Springer, Zonta Club of Essen, Germany
  - Lesje Vermeulen-Haanappel, Zonta Club of Kennemerland-Zuid Area, Netherlands
- **2006-2008** Lynn McKenzie, Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand

Other committees during this period were:

- United Nations Committee
- Council of Europe Committee
- Project Five-O 1991-2009 (Zonta withdraw from the project 2009)

**2008–2010**

- **Technical Committees**
  - Audit
  - Bylaws and Resolutions
  - Convention
  - Finance
  - Nominating

- **Program Committees**
- Amelia Earhart
- Council of Europe
- Jane M. Klausman
- Legislative Awareness and Advocacy
- Organization, Membership and Classification
- Public Relations and Communications
- Service Committee
  - Z and Golden Z Clubs
- Young Women in Public Affairs
- United Nations
  - Geneva
  - New York
  - Paris
  - Vienna

**2010–2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advocacy*</th>
<th>Nominating (elected at Convention)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws and Resolutions</td>
<td>Public Relations and Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial Anniversary</td>
<td>Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Council of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment (from 2014)</td>
<td>Z and Golden Z Clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Development (from 2014)</td>
<td>Amelia Earhart Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translations (from 2014)</td>
<td>JMK Women in Business Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuals and Policies (established 2018)</td>
<td>Young Women in Public Affairs Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership**</td>
<td>Women in Technology Scholarships***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Designated Legislative Awareness and Advocacy in 2010-2014
**Designated Organization, Membership, Classifications Committee (OMC) in 2010-14
***Pilot program during 2018–2020 Biennium