



Chapter 16

District 12 – North America¹

Since 1920, Zonta International has organized its clubs in districts. The following is information on the formation of District 12. Today, District 12 has 20 clubs in four states in the United States.

The following account of the growth and development of District 12 has been compiled from the two district histories written by Beth Robertson², district historian/archivist 2014–2016, augmented by the work of her successor, Debbie Willis, and research by Eva Nielsen.

The sheer geography of District 12 in the United States has always dominated its place in Zonta's history. The Rocky Mountain ranges and foothills in Colorado, the windswept northern Great Plains of Montana and Wyoming, and the rugged Black Hills area of South Dakota greatly shape and define District 12's rugged individualism, isolation and independence.

In December 2018, District 12 had 20 clubs in four Areas in Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado. The driving distance is over 660 miles from the Zonta Club of Billings in Area 01 in Montana, to the Royal Gorge club in Area 04 in Colorado. South Dakota has five clubs in Area 01: Pierre/Fort Pierre, Rapid City (Black Hills), Custer (Southern Black Hills), Spearfish and Sturgis, all of which are over 200 miles from the Area 01 clubs of Billings and Glendive in Montana. In Area 02, the Cheyenne club in Wyoming is separated from the Converse County club by 128 miles. The Area 02 clubs of Fort Collins and Greeley in northern Colorado are nearly 70 miles from their nearest sister clubs of Laramie and Cheyenne. In Area 03, over 200 driving miles separate the oldest District 12 club, Denver, from the Area 04 Prowers County club in Lamar, Colorado. The Area 04 Royal Gorge club, headquartered in Canon City, Colorado, is only 50 miles from the Pikes Peak club in Colorado Springs, but 156 miles from the Prowers County club in Lamar, Colorado.

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen

² *Zonta International District 12 1952–2016 – History at Length* and *Zonta International District 12 – History in Brief from 1952 to 2016*

The daunting distances and rugged geography of District 12 define a uniquely Western interpretation of Zonta's values of economic, educational, and emotional self-reliance for women regionally and worldwide. The District's cowgirl logo perfectly captures the spirit of the independent, self-reliant Zontian.

As just one example, the second District Conference in 1953 was held in Billings, Montana. Governor Marguerite Mayer traveled 555 miles by car and train to reach the conference venue, while Lieutenant Governor Barb Cross traveled 326 miles from her home club (Converse County Club) in Douglas, Wyoming. By contrast, members of the Sheridan club in Wyoming traveled "only" 129 miles to attend the conference and meet their new District 12 "neighbors".

The Early History

The early history of Zonta in the Rocky Mountains and northern plains of the United States is closely interwoven with the formation of the Zonta Club of Denver. In February 1927, Gracian Warner, National Organizer for the Confederation of Zonta Clubs, came to Denver with the purpose of organizing the first Zonta club between Chicago and the West Coast. The first meeting of the 35 women she recruited was held on 11 March 1927 at Denver's historic Brown Palace Hotel. Louise Gerry, Zonta's sixth International President, presented the Denver club's charter on 18 August 1927.

For the first two years, Denver was included in District E with four clubs in Seattle, Los Angeles, Dallas and Honolulu – thousands of miles and an ocean apart. Denver's closest neighbors, the Chicago and St. Louis clubs, were in another district and hundreds of miles away as well. The Zonta Club of Denver began a monthly bulletin, *Smoke Signal*, in 1930 to communicate local club news and more distant Zonta International events. The *Smoke Signal* was still being published in 2019.

Zonta moved westward in 1928 and set up headquarters in Chicago, and by 1930, was an incorporated organization seeking growth and expansion. Throughout the 1930s the minutes of the Zonta Club of Denver show frequent assessments of potential locations for the organization of new clubs, with Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City and Kansas City as the most desired cities. The Zonta Club of Denver was instrumental in chartering the Kansas City club in 1937 and the Salt Lake City club in 1939. In 1940, Denver hosted the 20th Annual Zonta International Convention in Estes Park. Attendees from clubs in the eastern United States could see the need for more clubs in the Rocky Mountains and plains states. Wyoming was assigned as a field of endeavor to the new district.

In 1948, Denver hosted the District VII Fall Conference. District VII now covered 24 per cent of the geographic area of the United States with only 34 cities with populations over 25,000. Delegates from Kansas City traveled 650 miles, the St. Louis delegates traveled 800 miles, Des Moines delegates traveled 800 miles, St. Paul and Minneapolis delegates traveled 1,000 miles. Duluth was proud to send one delegate 1,300 miles. The delegate from Duluth is reported to have said at the 1948 Fall Conference: "If District Conferences are to give what we want them to give in the way of fellowship, interchange of ideas, progress and reaching each other...we need to organize enough clubs to split into two Districts". Other challenges noted were the remoteness of Zonta International as a governing force, isolation leading to varied interpretations of local service programs, and a tendency toward self-sufficiency. These challenges have persisted into the 21st century in the life of Zonta clubs in the West.

In 1949, Zonta International and the Denver club chartered the Zonta clubs of Colorado Springs (merged with Pikes Peak in 1993), Casper (charter withdrawn by the late 1990s), Pueblo (closed in 2008), and Prowers County in Lamar, Colorado.

The Billings club in Montana and the Black Hills club in Rapid City, South Dakota, plus the Sheridan club in Wyoming, which disbanded by the 1980s, were all chartered in 1950. The clubs of Boulder County (Colorado) and Laramie (Wyoming), as well as the Converse County Club of Douglas (Wyoming) were chartered in 1951 and are still in existence. These clubs, including Denver, would become the new District XII in 1952. These eleven clubs in the Rocky Mountain region sent delegates to the International Convention in Houston (Texas). Marguerite Mayer of the Zonta Club of Denver was elected as the first District XII Governor at the inaugural district conference in 1953, with the theme "Responsibilities of the Women's Service Club". District XII was one of the larger American districts in sheer size with new clubs from the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, the high plains of Wyoming, Eastern Montana, the Black Hills area of South Dakota, and Western Kansas.

The Clubs in Area 01

The clubs in Area 01 have consistently shown a commitment to regional and international service.

The Zonta Club of Black Hills, founded in 1950, has always worked closely with the Rapid City business and non-profit community. Their annual Zonta Expo highlights local businesses and charities while raising funds, awareness and involvement in the mission of empowering women. From 1977 to 1986, Black Hills continued its investment in the business community by sponsoring candidates for the South Dakota Career Woman Award. Educational recognition was achieved in 1994 from the Rapid City Youth and Family Services for contributions to the *Girls Inc.* program. *Girls Inc.*, with support from Black Hills Zontians, developed the Operation SMART program to enable more than 400 girls to discover their interest in mathematics, science and computer technology.

The Black Hills club achieved recognition in 2004 as Outstanding Workforce Investment Act Partner, submitted by the Career Learning Center in Rapid City. The club continues to support the Center by contributing funds for students to receive high school equivalency diplomas.

The earlier years of the Zonta Club of Billings reflected the changing educational and economic needs in Montana's largest city. During the 1950s, the local Zontians taught self-improvement classes for working women, driver training classes, night citizenship classes for Spanish-speaking immigrants, and administered written exams. In the 1960s, the club conducted a career conference for high school girls on the Montana State University campus. As women entered the workforce in increasing numbers in the ensuing decades, educational goals changed as well.

An aeronautics degree scholarship program was created in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This was due to specific educational needs of the non-traditional female student trying to complete a final year of study.

In addition, during the 1980s, in recognition of women's unique societal achievements, the club helped initiate the existing Women's Studies Program at Montana State University with a USD\$30,000 two-year program that continues today and is now funded by the university.

Z Clubs were sponsored at three Billings high schools during the 1980s. A more recent ongoing commitment is the professional mentorship and teaching opportunities at the local Billings YWCA Job Club for Women. This program focuses on career exploration and job readiness, and targets training and job opportunities. In addition, the club supports two Zonta International programs: the Young Women in Public Affairs Award and the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship.

The club has added the Audubon Conservation Education Center scholarships for girls, an aviation scholarship program at Rocky Mountain College, and funding of the "Best Woman Writer" award for the High Plains Book Fest.

Recently, the Zonta Club of Billings started focusing on ending violence against women in the community, part of the larger Zonta International *Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women* campaign. Billings Zontians committed to a three-year program to educate club members about domestic violence, create a community promotion and presentation for other service organizations, and conduct a year of such presentations. Out of these efforts, the club developed the Blanket Program which provides comfort blankets to be kept in all police cars to give to women involved in domestic violence calls. It also funds the provision of rape kits at a local hospital as part of the SANE Program, and an art project at a local business to give victims of domestic violence a creative outlet and alleviate anxiety and stress.

The tiny eastern Montana community of Glendive is the Dawson County seat of government tucked away between the Yellowstone River and the Badlands. The Zonta Club of Glendive Area was organized in the new district in 1953 with 17 members. A clever early fundraiser that reflects the Western way of life occurred early in the club's history. The small club was struggling to raise funds in the mid-1950s and cattle rancher and Zontian, Ellenor Newton, asked her husband what she could do to raise money for the new club. Since they raised cattle, he donated a calf to the Zonta club. Eventually nicknamed "Little Z", the calf grazed on the Newton's ranch all summer and in the fall, he was sold at auction with the proceeds going towards the Zonta Club of Glendive Area.

Activities sponsored by the Zonta Club of Glendive Area over the years represent general social concerns. These include sponsorship and donations to boys and girls clubs, the Community Concert Association, a bloodmobile, the Special Olympics and the 2010 Coats for Kids service project. The Coats for Kids Project recognized that needy families represent women's economic concerns and as a result coats are bought for children ages one through 18 with funds from community pie baking sales. Information about the Coats for Kids project is given to schools, daycare centers, domestic violence shelters and child and family service programs for families in need. The Glendive community also contributes to the success of this program.

In 1962, the Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre hosted its first district conference. At the conference, the young club received an achievement award for its Dental Welfare for Children project, described as "the most unique project in all of Zonta International". Beginning in 1956, this was the club's first major service project. The program provided dental care funds for needy children. In 1957, the club provided free toothbrushes to Pierre and Fort Pierre first-graders in schools. The County Welfare Director said "The Zonta club's fund for dental welfare is the only direct service for dental care for needy children....Without Zonta's funds for dental care...the county office would be without aid for many

children needing care”. Project expansion continued in 1963 as the club sponsored and assisted a Pierre dentist in conducting the first ever dental survey of all school students in first through sixth grades to assess dental care needs. This first survey included over 1,000 students of which 840 were directed to a family dentist for care. The club sponsored a poster contest for dental health for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders. The project continued until 1976.

Again, the Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre achieved Zonta International Advocacy recognition in 2012 with the Real Men Raise Their Voices Against Violence poster program. Club members partnered with the local volunteer fire and rescue squad to create posters with the slogan “Real Men Raise Their Voice Against Violence”. The posters included domestic violence hotlines and emergency phone numbers. They were placed throughout the Pierre-Fort Pierre area and at Interstate 90 rest areas. The poster project was featured in the March 2013 United Nations UNITE to End Violence Against Women electronic newsletter. It was an honor for the South Dakota club to be included with international projects from around the world. The 2013 District 12 Advocacy Award was given to this innovative poster project. In 2013, the club expanded on the project by creating posters with the Pierre High School Football Team State Champions. As club members explained: “we are supporting the cause of eliminating gender-based violence by influencing the attitudes of people through education and addressing the cultural aspects that underlie any societal change”. By using young men in the picture and slogan, the club included local young adults in the fight to end violence against women and girls. These young men were willing to stand up in front of their peers and be counted in the fight to eliminate violence against women.

The Zonta Club of Spearfish Area holds a Festival of Trees each December as a fundraiser to highlight Zonta’s advocacy and empowerment messages to local women. Each April, the club sponsors a leadership training program for high school girls bringing together Black Hills State University members, high school teachers and administrators, Zontians and community mentors. The Spearfish club also contacts schools each year to distribute clothing to children in need.

Due to the characteristic geographic isolation of this part of the United States, many clubs had worked on more generalized social service and local community goals without the necessary focus on women’s empowerment. During the mid-1990s, 1996–1998 Governor, Dorothy (Bunny) Tyler from the Zonta Club of Black Hills, brought the focus of District 12 clubs back to Zonta’s specific goals of advocacy and service for women and families.

Clubs in Area 02

With low populations, the Zonta Club of Burlington in Colorado (formed in 1953), the Zonta Club of Goodland in Kansas (formed in 1955) and the Zonta Club of Cody in Wyoming (formed in 1955) produced a small number of active new members when the clubs were first chartered. As the original members became older and very few new members joined these clubs, all three were disbanded by 1981. Ultimately, the health and continued growth of many small-town clubs was hampered by declining populations and geographic isolation.

The struggles of the Sterling club in Colorado were noted in 1996. The Area 02 Director’s report indicated that the club, chartered in 1955, had a “static” membership “with members getting older but not being replaced”. Although an 88-year-old Sterling club member kept members aware of District

and Zonta International activities in a newsletter and chose a Zonta theme for each meeting, the club was disbanded in 1998. A Rock Springs club was formed in 1975 but was disbanded five years later. Some of these clubs struggled to develop and maintain a main service project and fundraiser. The Loveland club in Colorado, chartered in 1981, withdrew its charter in 2007. The 1996 Area 02 Director's report noted that Loveland suffered from some "internal lack of communications" and lack of follow through with "long range plans", especially trying to find a "focus for service and fundraising activities".

Douglas, with a population of 6,000, is the county seat of Converse County. With 65 members, the Zonta Club of Converse County had a large membership for the town's size and described its early members as "strong-valued women" who knew how important it was to reach out and become involved in the lives of other women.

The Zonta Club of Cheyenne in Wyoming (chartered in 1956) further developed the Area 02 region of District 12. The original membership of 18 grew to over 100 members in the 1980s but has since steadily decreased, like other District 12 clubs overall.

In 2006, Governor Morrow was concerned that only 18 out of 22 clubs sent representatives to the district conference hosted by Fort Collins. Two of the four clubs who did not attend did not even send a voting proxy. Membership surveys and a clearer definition of club responsibilities were important goals between 2006 and 2008. Once again, the geographic isolation of this large Rocky Mountain and plains district contributed to a lack of connection to Zonta International.

Clubs in Areas 03 and 04

Human trafficking is an important, long-standing issue of focus in District 12. Colorado Zontians in Areas 03 and 04 worked with the Polaris Project to raise awareness of human trafficking and with state legislators and professional associations to strengthen licensing regulations on massage parlors, often a front for forced prostitution of trafficked women and girls.

In 1962, the Zonta Club of Denver incorporated Zonta Chapel, a not-for-profit Colorado corporation, to raise money to establish and furnish a non-sectarian chapel within the University of Colorado Medical School teaching hospital. One of the Zonta Chapel organizers was International President Leota Pekrul (1970–72) who was the personnel director at University Hospital during the 1960s. Governor Virginia Razeo from Denver (1970–1972) remembered interviewing architects and artists to design the doors and decor of the Chapel. In 1978, however, the Chapel's purpose was broadened to include support of any service project approved by the Zonta Club of Denver or Zonta International. The Chapel was maintained by the Zonta Club of Denver until the University moved its hospital in 2007, at which time its name was changed to Zonta Club of Denver Foundation. The Foundation makes grants from USD\$30,000 to USD\$40,000 annually to local agencies that serve at-risk women.

Boulder Zontians take an active part in domestic violence awareness events. The Zonta Club of Boulder actively plans and participates in the district's Empty Shoes Art Auction, as well as hosting the annual Beth Haynes Memorial program in memory of Beth Haynes, a Boulder police officer killed in a domestic violence call. The club supports attendance at national domestic violence awareness

conferences by local police officers. In 2001, the Boulder District Attorney's Office awarded the Boulder club a plaque for their "commitment to end violence against women and children".

The Area 04 clubs all grew and thrived with the same challenge of geographical isolation, infused with the creative spirit of independence that typifies all Zonta clubs in the district. Not surprisingly, given the distances between cities, it was Denver air pilot and Zontian Frances Carpenter who was credited with organizing the Zonta Club of Prowers County in Lamar, Colorado, in 1949. On one of her flights, Carpenter happened to be stranded in Lamar for a few hours. Being a resourceful Zontian and not one to waste time, she contacted several Lamar women interested in Zonta. These women later became charter members of the Zonta Club of Prowers County and Carpenter returned on 22 April 1949 for the first organizational meeting. On 4 May 1949, a meeting to welcome the new club was held with the president of the Zonta Club of Denver, Marguerite "Peg" Mayer, in attendance as well as Frances Carpenter. Both spoke about organizational details. On 11 May 1949, the Zonta Club of Prowers County officially chartered with the charter dinner held on 22 May. In attendance were 21 members, representatives of the sponsoring club, the Zonta Club of Denver, members of the recently formed Colorado Springs club, and Dr. Dorothea Radusch, Zonta International President. All this activity came about because an air pilot who was stranded in Lamar, Colorado, was determined to make the best use of her time in the true Zonta spirit. Prowers membership climbed dramatically, reaching a peak of 84 in 1960 and honored with the "Ruby Award", a Zonta international Membership Award, at the 1960 Toronto international convention.

Colorado Springs hosted the 1956 District Conference. Then-Senator Richard Nixon stopped by the Conference and stressed his belief in the value of women's service clubs like Zonta and the value of women in government. Colorado Springs in 1967 was one of the first to respond to a plea from the American Red Cross for community groups to produce "friendship kits" for displaced Vietnamese children during the Vietnam War.

Two more recent innovative service programs are Zonta Wings and Launching Families. Zonta Wings works with the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado to meet the emergency transportation needs for the rescued and vulnerable victims of trafficking. Launching Families is a program funded by the Zonta Club of Pikes Peak that provides emotional support for 18-year-old foster girls who are no longer eligible for foster care but are bound for college and working. The girls are provided with homes, care packages and matching family support. Additional local groups that have received funds include the Women's Resource Agency, the Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado, Red Cross Shelter, Leadership Pikes Peak Women's Community Leadership Initiative, and Trampled Rose, which works to eradicate fistula and support education in Ethiopia.

Summary

The vast western mountains and high plains of District 12 run from the Montana clubs through South Dakota and Wyoming to the urban environs of the Denver–Colorado area and the foothills of the Rockies. The sweeping vistas of the Royal Gorge, Colorado Springs and Lamar regions bring a sense of purpose, self-reliance and responsibility that typifies the Western Zontian character. Rugged independence co-exists with neighborliness and cooperation, enabling all District 12 clubs to create, enhance and provide empowerment for local women, from the 'Real Men Say No' poster campaigns of Pierre, South Dakota and the birthing kit project in Laramie, Wyoming, to the Area 03 Empty Shoes Art

Auction, highlighting the “empty shoes” of lives lost to violence, and the Zonta Club of Pikes Peak’s support of the Southern Colorado Human Trafficking Task Force.

District 12 has rewarded and encouraged young women through Z Clubs, notably with the Emma L. Conlon award-winning Z Club of Laramie, Wyoming, and through Young Women of Promise scholarship winners such as Audra Burke of the Pikes Peak area, Annalise Warner of Billings, Montana and Grace Nixon of Black Hills, South Dakota. Jane M. Klausman Scholarships were awarded to Lori Lewis of Laramie and Samantha Johnson of Spearfish in 2013. The Amelia Earhart Fellowship has been awarded to four University of Colorado Boulder graduate students. All of these awardees demonstrate District 12’s commitment to higher education and scholastic and vocational opportunity and achievement.

District 12 has come a long way from its ranching roots and local club fundraisers such as the Zonta Club of Glendive’s 1950s “Little Z” calf fundraiser. Through numerous examples of innovative club achievements, advocacy and service projects and outstanding individual leadership, District 12 has a proud history of the “can do spirit” of independence and confident self-reliance that is uniquely Western, American and Zontian.

In March 2018, Debbie Willis, District 12 Historian and archivist concluded:

Many of our clubs have major fundraisers yearly. In Billings, Montana we have our annual Trivia Night, in Fort Collins, Colorado it is the Zonta Expo and an author’s luncheon which serves as a fundraiser for their scholarships [and in] Spearfish, South Dakota [there is] a Festival of Trees, just to name a few.

During the year, each club continues projects and adds to them, such as the Zonta Rose Garden from the Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre. A new rose has been planted each year to mark Zonta Rose Day and, in 2019, a plaque was also installed to commemorate the Zonta International Centennial. In March 2018, the Zonta Club of Fort Collins had a Main Street Square Project for which their members spent time supervising rides, face painting and playing games at the Kids’ Zone in the Square.

Each club in District 12 honors the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* campaign in many different ways.

In recent years, clubs have begun to participate in the Red Sands Project. Clubs partner with city, state and federal agencies to spread red sand in sidewalk cracks to raise awareness of women who have “fallen into the cracks”. Recent activities have also included a *#MeToo* project which included a dinner (donated) with eight tables where members could sit with guests to discuss topics such as legislative action, murdered and indigenous women, history of women, etc. This project was pursued again in 2019.

The Zontians of District 12 believe that Zonta is a motivating part of each community. They all work to get the Zonta name and projects out to the communities to promote Zonta’s core values of service and advocacy.

International Conventions and International Presidents from District 12

1940: Denver and Estes Park, Colorado (then District VII)

1978: Denver, Colorado.

1970–1972: Leota Pekrul. Denver, Colorado.

1986–1988: Amey Grubbs. Fort Collins, Colorado.

District 12 Conference Hosts

1952: Zonta Club of Denver	1986: Zonta Club of Pueblo
1953: Zonta Club of Billings	1988: Zonta Club of Glendive
1954: Zonta Club of Pueblo	1989: Zonta Club of Cheyenne
1955: Zonta Club of Casper	1991: Lakewood-Golden in Colorado
1957: Zonta Club of Black Hills	1992: Zonta Club of Billings
1958: Zonta Club of Cheyenne	1994: Zonta Club of Boulder
1959: Zonta Club of Denver	1995: Zonta Club of Black Hills
1960: Zonta Club of Prowers	1996: Zonta Club of Prowers
1961: Zonta Club of Boulder	1997: Zonta Club of Denver
1963: Zonta Club of Laramie	1998: Zonta Club of Laramie
1964: Zonta Club of Billings	1999: Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre
1966: Zonta Club of Glendive	2000: Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area
1968: Zonta Club of Prowers	2002: Zonta Club of Cheyenne
1969: Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre	2003: Zonta Club of Billings
1970: Zonta Club of Denver	2004: Zonta Club of Prowers
1972: Zonta Club of Casper	2005: Zonta Club of Boulder
1973: Zonta Club of Billings	2006: Zonta Club of Ft Collins
1974: Zonta Club of Black Hills	2007: Zonta Club of Spearfish
1975: Zonta Club of Cheyenne	2008: Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area
1977: Zonta Club of Boulder	2009: Zonta Club of Denver
1978: Zonta Club of Royal Gorge	2010: Zonta Club of Laramie
1979: Zonta Club of Pueblo	2011: Zonta Club of Black Hills
1981: Zonta Club of Billings	2013: Zonta Club of Royal Gorge
1982: Zonta Club of Denver	2015: Zonta Club of Boulder
1983: Zonta Club of Laramie	2017: Zonta Club of Greeley
1985: Zonta Club of Black Hills	

District Conferences and Governor's Summit

- Area 01 clubs have hosted District Conference 19 times; the most recent being Black Hills (Rapid City, South Dakota) in 2011.
- Area 02 clubs have hosted District Conference 14 times plus the Governor's Seminar (Cheyenne) in 2014.
- Area 03 clubs have hosted District Conference 13 times plus the Governor's Seminar (Denver II) in 2012.
- Area 04 has hosted District Conference 16 times, the most recent being the 2013 Royal Gorge (Canon City, Colorado) Conference.

Timeline of district history highlights

1924: The District Plan was revised.

1928: The District Plan was revised again and included the Districts A, B, C, D and E. The Zonta Club of Denver probably belonged to District E.

1930–1943: The District plan included District I with Region A, B and C, District II with Region A and B, District VI and District VII. The Zonta Club of Denver belonged to District VII.

1943–1947: The Zonta Club of Denver belonged to District IV.

A new district plan including 11 districts became effective.

Clubs in Colorado and South Dakota belonged to District VII, clubs in Montana to District VIII.

1952: At the Zonta International Convention in Houston, Texas, the decision was made to create District XII, covering the states of Colorado, East Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The District was established with 11 clubs.

The decision affected District VII and VIII.

The new District XII includes clubs in the Eastern part of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota.

Miss A. Helen Anderson, Denver, is chairman of the committee appointed by the Zonta International Board to establish this new district, and on October 18 and 19, 1952, she presided at the first fall conference in Denver. She was assisted by Miss Anna Bossak, Colorado Springs; Miss Gladys Oller, Casper, Wyoming; and Miss May Anderson, Pueblo, Colorado.³

1952: 11 clubs.

1954–1981: Clubs from Western Kansas belonged to District XII. Other parts of Kansas belonged to District VII.

1957: 19 clubs.

1960: 21 clubs.

1970: 22 clubs.

1972: 18 clubs.

1974: 20 clubs. No areas were mentioned in the Zonta International Directory.

1978: 22 clubs in three areas. The first area directors were installed.⁴

³ *The Zontian* October-November 1952, p. 16

⁴ District 12 History, 2016

1980: 21 clubs grouped in three areas (Area 01 – six clubs, Area 02 – clubs, Area 03 – nine clubs).

1990: The Zonta International Board changed the designation from Roman to Arabic numerals; District XII became District 12.

26 clubs and 973 members.⁵

1993: 25 clubs in four areas. (Area 01 – two clubs from Montana and four clubs from South Dakota, Area 02 – three clubs from Wyoming and three from Colorado, Area 03 – eight clubs from Colorado, Area 04 – five clubs from Colorado. See tables below.)

2002: 20 clubs in four areas.

2016: 21 clubs located in four states, organized in four areas.

2018: 520 members.⁶

2019: 506 members.⁷

History of formation of District 12 clubs

Colorado

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area 1993	Area 2018	Closed
1927	0042	Zonta Club of Denver*	03	03	
1949	0222	Zonta Club of Colorado Springs/ Pikes Peak **	04	04	
1949	0226	Zonta Club of Pueblo	04		2008
1949	0227	Zonta Club of Prowers County***	04	04	
1951	0252	Zonta Club of Boulder County	03	03	
1953		Zonta Club of Burlington			1978
1955	0343	Zonta Club of Sterling	02		1998
1959	0455	Zonta Club of Fort Collins	02		1997
1961	0489	Zonta Club of Englewood-Littleton	03		1994
1973	0715	Zonta Club of Canon City/ Royal Gorge	04	04	
1977	0817	Zonta Club of Lakewood-Golden****	03	03	2017
1981	0987	Zonta Club of Loveland	02		2001
1982	1006	Zonta Club of Foothills Club of Boulder	03	03	
1982	1025	Zonta Club of Aurora	03		1994
1985	1136	Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area**	04		1992

⁵ *The Zontian* 1990 - 1992 Program Issue

⁶ ZI Directory online

⁷ ZI Directory online

1986	1148	Zonta Club of Denver II	03	03	
1993	1418	Zonta Club of Jefferson****	03		2008
1997	1593	Zonta Club of Fort Collins		02	
2003	1738	Zonta Club of Douglas County		03	
2004	1771	Zonta Club of Gillette			2011
2013	1911	Zonta Club of Greeley		02	
2018	1976	Zonta Club of Colorado North Forty		02	

* The Zonta Club of Denver was organized in District VII by professional organizer, Gracian Warner, and incorporated as a non-profit in 1932. In March 1949, 22 Denver Zontians chartered a plane and flew to Colorado Springs to attend the charter dinner of the new, 19-member club.

** In 1985, the Zonta Club of Pikes Peak was chartered with number 1136. In 1992, the Zonta Club of Colorado Springs merged with Pikes Peak. The club retained the Colorado Springs club number and the Pikes Peak name.⁸ The same source⁹ says the merger took place in 1993. The Zonta International Directory in 1993 lists it as 0222 Pikes Peak Area.¹⁰

*** The club was started by Denver pilot, Frances Carpenter. In one of her flights, she was stranded in Lamar for a few hours and contacted women to establish a Zonta club. She returned to the first organizing meeting on 22 April 1949. The Zonta Club of Prowers County was chartered 11 May 1949.

**** In 2008, club 1418, the Zonta Club of Jefferson, merged with club 0817, the Zonta Club of Lakewood-Golden.

Kansas

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Orig. Area	Area 2018	Closed
1954	0336	Zonta Club of Goodland			1981
1956		Zonta Club of Colby			1972

Montana*

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Orig. Area	Area 2018	Closed
1950	0247	Zonta Club of Billings**	01	01	
1953	0311	Zonta Club of Glendive Area	01	01	

* Clubs from eastern Montana were in District XII; the remaining Montana clubs were in District VIII.

** Moved to District XII in 1952.

South Dakota

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Orig. Area	Area 2018	Closed
1950	0246	Zonta Club of Black Hills	01	01	
1955	0351	Zonta Club of Pierre-Fort Pierre	01	01	
1957	0381	Zonta Club of Sioux Falls			1989
1959	0438	Zonta Club of Deadwood-Lead			1990

⁸ District 12 History in Brief p. 27

⁹ District 12 History in Brief p. 3 & p. 23

¹⁰ The ZI Directory, 1993, p. 131

1972	0703	Zonta Club of Sturgis Area			2017
1987	1191	Zonta Club of Spearfish Area	01	01	
1995	1503	Zonta Club of The Southern Black Hills	01	01	

Wyoming

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Orig. Area	Area 2018	Closed
1949	0223	Zonta Club of Casper			1990
1950		Zonta Club of Sheridan			1964
1951	0257	Zonta Club of Laramie	02	02	
1951	0259	Zonta Club of Converse County	02	02	
1955		Zonta Club of Cody			1961
1956	0372	Zonta Club of Cheyenne	02	02	
1975	0773	Zonta Club of Rock Springs			1980