



## Chapter 17

### District 15 – North America<sup>1</sup>

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 15. As of 2018, District 15 had a total of 36 clubs in one state in the United States (Michigan) and one province in Canada (Ontario).

The history of District 15 dates from 1919 with the founding of the Zonta Club of Detroit, one of the nine clubs that established the Confederation of Zonta Clubs in November 1919.

#### **District 15 Conferences:**

To 2018, all District 15 conferences were hosted in Michigan.

- 2005: Mt Pleasant
- 2006: Detroit II
- 2007: Petoskey
- 2008: Saginaw
- 2009: Lansing
- 2010: Iron Mountain
- 2011: Southfield
- 2012: Leelanau
- 2013: Fenton-Flint
- 2014: Gaylord
- 2015: Grand Rapids
- 2017: Midland

Traditionally, District 15 had held an annual Fall Conference. In 2014, members were surveyed to determine if this tradition should continue. Most members responded that a one-day Governor's Summit in even years may reduce the cost to clubs and members and allow more to attend the international conventions also held during the even years. In 2016, the first one-day Governor's Summit was held in Roscommon.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Research compiled by Eva Nielsen. Contributors include: Karen Armaly.

<sup>2</sup> District 15 History-in-Brief December 2018 edition

## Zonta International Convention

1924: Hosted in Detroit, Michigan

1994: Hosted in Detroit, Michigan

## District Service and Advocacy Projects<sup>3</sup>

Due to its location on the Great Lakes, Michigan's international border is on water.

Consequently, it is one of the top U.S. states for trafficking of persons. Advocacy to stop trafficking has been a noteworthy focus of District 15. During the 2010–2012 biennium, district Zontians developed a poster in three of the languages common in Michigan (English, Spanish and Arabic) and placed them at several highway rest areas. This was precipitated by a partnership developed with the Department of Transportation. In 2016, laws were passed requiring information about human trafficking to be placed at bus stops, highway rest areas and passenger train stations. The Michigan Department of Transportation approached District 15 for permission to use the posters they had developed.

During the 2012–2014 biennium, district members worked with *Handbags for Hope*, a service organization in Detroit, to collect unwanted handbags and items to go into them with a goal of collecting 400. The generosity of district clubs resulted in over 4,000 handbags being collected for the organization. The organization placed items of greatest need in the handbags for women who escape domestic violence situations and leave their home with only the clothes on their back.

During the 2014–2016 Biennium, District 15 Zontians initiated a partnership with a film producer, Sophia Cruz, to make *Creating4Change*. The film showcases four women who are using creative ways to help other women, particularly those in domestic violence situations. This is done through a variety of expressions from dancing and painting to making clothes.

## Golden Z Clubs in District 15

Year	Golden Z Club No.	Name	Sponsoring Zonta Club
1994	387	Northern Michigan Univ. Golden	Zonta Club of Marquette
2009	599	MSU Golden Z Club	Zonta Club of Lansing
2013	197	Northwood University	Zonta Club of Midland
2016		Olivet College Golden Z Club	Zonta Club of Lansing
2012	0289	Golden Z at MMCC*	Zonta Club of Mt. Pleasant

\* This club is inactive as of 2018.

## Z Clubs in District 15

Year	Z Club No.	Name	Sponsoring Zonta Club
1985	276	Marquette Senior H.S. Z Club	Zonta Club of Marquette
1985	600	Traverse City Central	Zonta Club of Traverse City
1994	601	Traverse City West High School	Zonta Club of Traverse City
1998	439	Negaunee H.S. Z Club	Zonta Club of Marquette
2007	580	Charlevoix Area	Zonta Club of Charlevoix Area
2010	612	Brace-Lederle/MacArthur Southfield	Zonta Club of Southfield Area
2013	688	Lansing Everett Z Club	Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol Area

<sup>3</sup> Research and text, District 15 History-in-Brief December 2018

2016		Presque Isle County Z Club	Zonta Club of Rogers City
2016		Z-CLUB MAHS – SHE BELIEVED	Zonta Club of Marquette
2012	644	Lansing S.T.E.M. Academy*	Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol Area
2014	694	Southfield High School for Arts and Tech.	Southfield Area

\* This club is inactive as of 2018.

### Significant Zontians from District 15<sup>4</sup>

Ethel M. Francis (Zonta International President 1925–1926)

Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan.

Ethel was a charter member of the Detroit club and was a Zonta member for more than 40 years. She was a pioneer in the advertising business and headed her own agency in the early 1900s. Later in life, she joined the staff of *Detroit News* as the only woman on the advertising staff.

Louise C. Grace (Zonta International President 1946–1948)

Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan.

Theme: “*Action for World Peace*”

The first international service project for Zonta occurred during Louise’s biennium. She was committed to promoting the image of Zonta as an organization committed to peace. Under her leadership, Zonta voiced strong support for the newly formed United Nations. During her biennium, 30 clubs were organized – the largest growth in membership in Zonta’s history.

Audra E. Francis (Zonta International President 1958–1960)

Zonta Club of Saginaw, Michigan.

Theme: “*Zonta Opens the Door to World Friendship Through Service*”.

Audra was recruited to the Zonta Club of Saginaw with the classification of “homemaker” in an organization composed of executives in business and the professions. She led a delegation of 50 Zontians to Copenhagen and, with the support of the European Zontians, expressed an effort to clear the concentration camps established in World War II.

Edna Nairn (Zonta International President 1966–1968)

Zonta Club of Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

Theme: “*View from the Top*”.

Jacquie Gudmundsen

- District 15 Governor 1994–1996
- International National Nominating Committee 1996–1998
- International Leadership Development Task Force Facilitator 1998–2000
- International Director 2002–2004
- International Membership Committee Member 2004–2006
- International Leadership Development Committee Chairman 2006–2008 (ad hoc)
- International Leadership Development Chairman 2014–2016
- International Leadership Committee Member 2016–2018
- International Leadership Development Member 2018–2020
- District 15 Foundation Ambassador 2010–2012, 2012–2014, 2014–2016.

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<sup>4</sup> Research and text by Karen Armaly (2019)

### Sylvia Vukmirovich

- District 15 Governor 1990–1992
- Convention Co-chairman Detroit international convention 1992–1994
- YWPA Committee Chairman 1996–1998
- International Nominating Committee 1998–2000
- Organization, Membership and Classification Committee Co-chairman 1998–2000
- Organization, Membership and Classification Committee Co-chairman 2000–2001.

### Denise Quarles

- District Governor 2010–2012
- International Director 2012–2014
- International Membership Task Force Chairman 2012–2014
- International Service Committee Member 2016–2018
- International Service Committee Member 2018–2020
- International Nominating Committee Vice Chairman 2018–2020
- Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign Regional Representative 2017–2020.

### Mari Mackenzie

- International Treasurer 2018–2020.

### **Timeline of district history highlights**

**1947:** Clubs were part of District 05 when District 15 was founded in 1947, comprising clubs from Ohio, Michigan and Western Ontario.

When clubs were organized in Kentucky, they became part of District 05.

**1968:** District 05 had 50 clubs with a membership of 2,064. District 05 voted to divide into two districts. Permission was granted by Zonta International and was effective from 1970.

**1970:** At the Fall Conference in Toledo, Ohio, District 05 was divided into:

- District 5a, hosting clubs in Michigan and western Ontario
- District 5b, hosting clubs in Ohio and Kentucky. Clubs in northern and western West Virginia petitioned to become part of District 5b. They were welcomed into the district.

**1972:** The Zonta International Board decided all Districts were to be named with Roman numerals:

- District 5a became District XV, comprising clubs located in Michigan and Western Ontario, Canada.
- District 5b became District V, comprising clubs in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.

**1974:** 31 clubs in two areas, designated as Areas 01 and 02

**1978:** 34 clubs in three areas, designated as Areas 01, 02 and 03.

**1980:** 36 clubs in three areas.

**1990:** The Zonta International Board changed the designation from Roman numerals into Arabic numerals; District XV became District 15.

45 clubs and 1,920 members.<sup>5</sup>

**1995:** 32 clubs in three areas. Area 01 had 14 clubs, Area 02 had 12 clubs, Area 03 had six clubs.

**2002:** 47 clubs in four areas.

**2007–2010:** District 15 held strong with 35 - 40 clubs for most of its history. The U.S. recession of 2007-2010 hit the auto industry quite hard, which is the main manufacturing business of Michigan supporting a variety of complementary businesses. This resulted in the loss of about 200 - 300 members and the loss of eight clubs between 2005 and 2015.

In the twenty years between 1995 and 2015, there was very little club growth. Of the three clubs established in this time, only one remained truly viable in 2018.

**2008:** 45 clubs in four areas.

**2010:** District 15 welcomed their first male members in the newly chartered Zonta Club of Troy-South Oakland.<sup>6</sup>

**2016:** 37 clubs in four areas.

**2017:** One club was chartered in Michigan. Since 1978, no clubs have been chartered in Ontario.

**2018:** 808 members.

**2019:** 698 members.

## United States

### Michigan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1919	0009	Zonta Club of Detroit I	04	
1921	0015	Zonta Club of Grand Rapids Area		2017
1922	0016	Zonta Club of Lansing	03	
1923	0025	Zonta Club of Flint	03	
1924	0030	Zonta Club of Ann Arbor		2002
1928	0050	Zonta Club of Pontiac-North Oakland	03	
1928	0083	Zonta Club of Port Huron		1987
1929	0063	Zonta Club of Owosso	03	
1929	0087	Zonta Club of Southfield Area*	04	
1938	0156	Zonta Club of Saginaw	02	
1947	0197	Zonta Club of Midland	02	
1949	0232	Zonta Club of Muskegon Area		2009

<sup>5</sup> *The Zontian* 1990 - 1992 Program Issue

<sup>6</sup> District 15 History-in-Brief December 2016

1951	0256	Zonta Club of Bay Area		2010
1951	0261	Zonta Club of Royal Oak-Ferndale		1982
1951	0270	Zonta Club of Ypsilanti		1992
1952	0289	Zonta Club of Mt Pleasant	02	
1953	0304	Zonta Club of Dearborn		1996
1956	0355	Zonta Club of Ludington Area	02	
1956	0356	Zonta Club of Traverse City	02	
1957	0400	Zonta Club of Cass City		1997
1957		Zonta Club of Birmingham-Bloomfield		1973
1958	0422	Zonta Club of Milford	03	
1958	0424	Zonta Club of Big Rapids Area	02	
1959	0435	Zonta Club of Lenawee County**	04	
1960 (1959)	0454	Zonta Club of Jackson		2004
1960	0464	Zonta Club of Kalamazoo		1997
1963	0519	Zonta Club of Alpena	01	
1971	0683	Zonta Club of Petoskey Area	01	
1972	0713	Zonta Club of Marquette Area	01	
1875	0776	Zonta Club of East Lansing Area	03	
1976	0780	Zonta Club of Gaylord Area	01	
1977	0812	Zonta Club of Flint II		2011
1979	0880	Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County	04	
1980	0928	Zonta Club of Rogers City Area	01	
1981	0977	Zonta Club of Lapeer		2015
1981	0997	Zonta Club of Iron Mountain-Kingsford Area	01	
1983	1061	Zonta Club of Detroit II	04	
1984	1072	Zonta Club of Downriver Wayne County Area		2011
1984	1081	Zonta Club of Michigan Capitol Area	03	
1984	1086	Zonta Club of Roscommon County Area	02	
1985	1132	Zonta Club of Southeast Oakland County		2000
1986	1138	Zonta Club of Benzie Area	02	
1988	1203	Zonta Club of Leelanau County	02	
1988	1215	Zonta Club of Alpena-Tri County Area	01	
1989	1238	Zonta Club of Charlevoix Area	01	
1990	1279	Zonta Club of Traverse City		2005
1992	1355	Zonta Club of Macomb		2011
1992	1374	Zonta Club of Newaygo County Area		2011
1993	1416	Zonta Club of Metro Detroit	04	
1993	1425	Zonta Club of Meridian East		2013
1994	1477	Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi	04	
1994	1491	Zonta Club of Fenton Area	03	
2008	1837	Zonta Club of Cadillac		2014
2010	1968	Zonta Club of Troy-South Oakland	03	
2012	1907	Zonta Club of Ann Arbor Washtenaw		2017
2017	1974	Zonta Club of Brighton-Howell	03	

\* Previously known as the Zonta Club of Highland Park.

\*\* Previously known as the Zonta Club of Adrian.

## Canada

### Ontario

<b>Year Chartered</b>	<b>Club Number</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>Area as of 2018</b>	<b>Closed</b>
1930	0098	Zonta Club of Windsor-Essex County	04	2019
1948	0213	Zonta Club of Chatham-Kent	04	
1952		Zonta Club of Sarnia		1976
1978	0839	Zonta Club of Sault Sainte Marie Area	01	