



## Chapter 4

### 1962–1975<sup>1</sup>

#### **(a) World history in brief 1962–1975**

*from the Cuba-Missile Crisis to International Women's Year*

There were many wars in the 1960s, which also brought the space race to new heights. The race to land a man on the moon and bring him back ended with the Apollo 11 mission on 20 July 1969.

The arms race continued: in 1957, intercontinental rockets were developed. USA, USSR, England, France and China had A- and B-weapons in 1964. The Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (SALT), agreed on in 1972, tried to slow down the arms race.

After the Cuban Crisis in 1962, the world saw the rise of the Berlin Wall in 1963 and the Vietnam War 1964–1973. During this war, Vietnamese women's rights were seriously eroded. The Committee for Defense of Vietnamese Women's Human Dignity was established, giving women the right to protest against rape in war.

The charismatic Martin Luther King, a civil rights advocate and a talented speaker, used non-violent means. With the power of speech and the strong following he had, he managed to create change. In the USA, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and The Voting Rights Act of 1965 changed the lives of the African American minority by ensuring equal rights for all.

The Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China became a permanent member of UN Security Council instead of the Republic of China (Taiwan.) The Communists seized power in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in 1975.

The Caribbean Women's Association, CARIWA, was established in 1970 to fight for the improvement of the status of women. In Chile, women, desperate because of lack of food,

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<sup>1</sup> Research compiled by Eva Nielsen

organized "Marches of the Empty Pots" immediately before Augusto Pinochet's military takeover in 1973.

The Middle East was a scene of war in 1967 and 1973-75.

In 1972, horror struck the world, when the Olympic Games in Berlin were attacked by terrorists.

New states were born in Africa between 1957 and 1973.

The 1960s and 1970s were interesting years from a woman's point of view. Worldwide, while more women received a further or higher education and took an active part in business life and in politics, many more women did not get any form of education at all.

In Iran, the Shah embarked on a campaign to modernize and westernize the country with the result that women in Iran were granted voting rights in February 1963 and were able to vote in the election held in September of the same year. One of the elected senators was the charter president of Zonta Club of Tehran.

In India, Indira Gandhi, daughter of former Prime Minister Nehru, became the nation's third prime minister. In Israel, Golda Meir became Prime Minister in 1969, and in Great Britain, Bernadette Devlin from Northern Ireland was one of the youngest members of the British Parliament. Copenhagen got its first woman mayor, Edel Saunte, in 1962, and in 1971, Switzerland finally granted women citizens the vote.

In 1968, France faced the May Revolution resulting in civil and student protests and the birth of the "second wave" of the women's liberation movement. American women founded the Red Stocking movement in 1969. Feminism became an international revolution in 1972. In this year, Zonta International President 1968-70, Helvi Sipilä, Zonta Club of Helsinki, Finland, was appointed Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, the first woman ever to be elevated to this rank.

The 1960s and 1970s were transition years. For example, in Denmark the workforce consisted of 26.2 per cent women in 1960, 38.6 per cent in 1970 and 44.4 percent in 1981. Many women had no vocational education; they became unskilled workers in industry or in the public sector. When women did not stay at home to look after children and the elderly, the municipalities took over with institutions for children and homes for elderly people, thus creating new jobs for unskilled workers. In the beginning, this did not affect the gender roles in the families; responsibility for the family still belonged to the women. *The Feminine Mystique* written by American feminist Betty Friedan and translated into Danish in 1964 had a huge impact on the debate which focused on the double workload on women. In 1965, the Danish Social Democratic Prime Minister, Jens Otto Krag, appointed a Status of Women Committee, chaired by Edel Saunte. The committee worked until 1975.

1972, Equality Councils were appointed in Sweden, Norway and Finland; 1973 Iceland got an Equal Payment Committee; and finally, in 1975, an Equality Council was established in Denmark to make suggestions for gender equality legislation and deal with complaints of gender equality violations.

The most important impact on women's lives was the contraceptive pill, to which Danish women have had access since 1966. During the period 1966-1970, the number of births in

Denmark decreased from 88,000 to 70,000. The Danish Parliament legalized abortion in 1973.

In 1967 the United Nations adopted the international Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women, a summing up of earlier declarations on women's rights, and a forerunner to the convention of 1979. The UN had put women's rights on the agenda, culminating in the UN International Women's Year in 1975. The World Conference in Mexico City, with Helvi Sipilä as Secretary-General, designated the decade 1976–85 for (1) implementing the Conference's World Plan of Action and (2) provoking discussion of women's issues in all segments of the public arena.

## **(b) Zonta's growth 1962–1975**

### **(i) Organization and Extension Committee**

The Organization and Extension Committee was still a prestigious committee. From 1962 to 66, Edna Nairn, Zonta Club of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, chaired the committee. She became Zonta International President in 1966. Her successor as committee chairman in 1966–68 was Zonta International President (1964–66) Ruth S. Knight, Zonta Club of Atlanta, Georgia, followed from 1968 to 1972 by Zonta International President (1962–64) J. Maria Pierce. Helvi Sipilä, Zonta International President (1968–70), was a committee member 1970–72.

In 1972–74 the committee was chaired by Olga Cloke, Zonta Club of Toronto, Ontario, Canada and in 1974–76 by Cornelia Hodges, Springfield, Illinois, who went on to become Zonta International President 1982–84.

**1963:** Edna Nairn wrote an article *What's New in Organization?* in *The Zontian*, and answered her own question:

A new Country  
A new Province  
New Concepts  
New Horizons.

A new country has been added...with the chartering of a club in Turkey; Canada has given us another Province, Prince Edward Island.

Districts and individual members have widened horizons for the Marian de Forest Fund. Enthusiasm for organizing new clubs in Europe has been generated by European conferences, and many enquiries have come from North American clubs about "do-it-yourself" organizational work.

The services of individual Zontians and of clubs have been offered gratis, and happily accepted for organization work. Several clubs are currently organizing new clubs in their districts.

We have also been fortunate in having clubs "sponsor" new clubs – that is, undertaking the work of organization plus costs involved....This extra service to Zonta International, and these contributions for special areas have provided an exciting incentive to this international committee for Expanding Dimensions. (*The Zontian*, Vol. 43. No. 3, Fall 1963, p. 20)

### **(ii) Number of Members**

The Membership Committee chairman, Jessie L.P. Church, wanted clubs to focus on membership goals for 1964–66 with the slogan: "For 66, our goal shall be – Club membership increased by three", meaning a net gain of three members per club.

From 1960 to 1975, membership numbers increased. By 1964 there were 17,012 members; by 1969, 20,089; and by June 1975, 23,500 (*The Zontian*, Vol. 55. No 2, June 1975). Looking at the number of clubs in the same period, it is clear that membership growth resulted from the organization of new clubs, as average membership per club remained almost static.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Average members /club</i>
1954	37.6
1959	36.8
1964	37.5
1969	35.5

The Membership Committee chairman stressed in 1969–70 that membership should be the heart of each Zonta club: “The pulsating vitality so necessary to all your club’s activities, programs, fellowship. Yes, even service. Membership may then be considered the pacemaker or surging impetus that keeps your club not only going but going forward-blazing fresh trails in service” (*The Zontian*, Vol. 49, No. 4, Winter 1969–70, p. 22).

### **(iii) Number of Clubs**

In the 1960s and 1970s Zonta clubs were founded in Southeast Asia, Asia, New Zealand, Australia and Africa, increasing the number of Zonta countries. Organizing of clubs in North America and Europe continued.

Zonta International President Ruth S. Knight began her biennium 1964–66 by initiating the international service project GROW (Growing Round Our World) and instituting the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to finance Zonta’s expansion into new countries. The idea was to open new countries for Zonta and particularly to establish companion clubs for isolated clubs so that they could enjoy year-round inter-club relationships as did many clubs in North America and Europe.

Linked to Object C (“to promote and supervise the organization of Zonta clubs throughout the world”), a resolution about organization was adopted at the 1968 convention:

- We believe in the ideal of continued growth for individual Zontians, for Zonta clubs and for Zonta International by joining together in bonds of international friendship those who share the mutual objectives related to the welfare of humanity. Therefore, be it resolved
1. that Zonta Clubs and Zonta Members extend the influence of the objectives of Zonta International by promoting the establishment of new clubs in all nations
    - a. through direct organization; and
    - b. by voluntary contributions for organization and extension
  2. that Zonta Clubs and Zonta Members take every opportunity to acquaint those in leadership positions in all countries with the aims and purposes of Zonta International and the privileges of membership.

Some of the new countries were in Africa where clubs were non-districted but grouped in Area V from 1970 and in Region II from 1974. (For more details see *Zonta in Africa*.)

Zonta International President-Elect France de la Chaise-Mutin visited the African clubs and reported on the visit in *The Zontian*, June 1975. She had decided on club visits, not on a regional conference. She wanted each club to arrange a club board meeting and a workshop for all club members. Some clubs only managed to arrange one meeting. She visited the

clubs in Dakar, Freetown, Monrovia, Abidjan, Accra, Kumasi, Tema, Lagos, Ibadan and Nairobi and wrote:

Generally, Zonta clubs in Africa are dynamic and young. Zontians have excellent classifications. Services are well chosen, and they are useful and often indispensable. Thanks to their service projects, Zonta clubs are very well known in their cities and local authorities maintain excellent relationships with Zontians and very often ask for their advice and help. The only exception I found was the Zonta Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone, which is experiencing great difficulties. Except for the loyal nucleus of four or five, members no longer attend meetings, nor do they pay their dues. Club President...and club secretary are trying hard to recruit new members, but, because they have no contact with other African clubs, they feel isolated and unsupported. The feeling of isolation is one that is shared by many other clubs. There is little or no contact between clubs, even between clubs in the same country. As is often the case in Zonta clubs the world over, members are not well informed. Perhaps club presidents are responsible for not passing along information, but very often in young clubs (and all African clubs are young), presidents "do not know" and charter presidents, trained at the time of the organization of the club, are no longer members or do not attend meetings (*The Zontian*, June 1975, p. 12).

The GROW project stopped in 1976.

There was a special committee in the biennium 1966–68 called the Field Service Committee. Zonta International President Edna Nairn commented on this committee in *The Zontian* (Winter edition, 1966–67, p. 4.):

In clubs where the membership has fallen to, or below, the required minimum are we willing to admit that we have exhausted our efforts to successfully increase the total? Do we realize that the request for Field Service should be made while the club is of sufficient strength to attract qualified women, or do we delude ourselves into believing that ultimately, we can rebuild the club? On the other hand, do we request Field Service before we *have* exhausted the community potential? This is another view.

1960. At the start of the decade, Zonta International had 412 active clubs.

- During the decade 1960–69, Zonta chartered 180 new clubs:
  - 91 clubs in North America
  - 4 clubs in South America
  - 18 clubs in the Nordic countries
  - 36 clubs in the European countries
  - 11 clubs in South East Asia
  - 14 clubs in Asia
  - 6 clubs in Australia/New Zealand.
- During the decade 1960–69, Zonta lost 25 clubs, all located in North America.
- During the decade 1960–69, Zonta had a net gain of 155 clubs.

1969. At the end of the decade 1960–69, Zonta International had 567 active clubs.

- During the period 1970–75, Zonta chartered 141 new clubs:
  - 49 clubs in North America
  - 7 clubs in South America
  - 13 clubs in the Nordic countries
  - 27 clubs in European countries
  - 10 clubs in Africa

- 5 clubs in South East Asia
- 16 clubs in Asia
- 14 clubs in Australia/New Zealand
- During the period 1970–75, Zonta lost 38 clubs, 35 in North America, 1 in Europe, 2 in Asia.
- During the period 1970–75 Zonta had a net gain of 103 clubs.

At the end of 1975, Zonta International had 670 active clubs.

#### **(iv) Districts**

Zonta International had 14 districts by the end of the convention in New Orleans in 1962: 12 in North America and two in Europe (District XIII for clubs in the Nordic Countries, and District XIV for clubs in the remaining Western European countries).

1965: The Zonta International Board decided on some border revisions in North America and *The Zontian* published a district map of North America showing the 12 North American districts and their boundaries.

1969: In her message to the District Conferences in Fall 1969, Zonta International President Helvi Sipilä focused on the work of the Survey Committee in planning the structural changes needed because of the increase of clubs. She mentioned that the Zonta International Board did not recommend the committee's 1968 proposal concerning the redistricting and the changes of district boundaries:

It was unanimously felt that, before going into any detail, a decision on the principle on which the redistricting had to be based was needed. Focus should be on the interrelationship between the districts and the composition of the International Board. If we follow the present Bylaws, having every district governor as a member of the Board, we have to ask ourselves, what number of Board Members is really necessary, what number practical and what number can we afford?

If we create a new kind of International Board, consisting, for example, of a given number of representatives of each continent, according to its Zonta membership, then we can deal with the redistricting in a different way – trying to find the most practical solution for the administration and cooperation within the respective areas.

Between these two alternatives there is still a possibility for a compromise solution – to have district governors as members of the International Board as they have been, but to reduce the number of districts and governors respectively, and to change the name of the former, and possibly new Districts to Areas with an Area Director who should assume a great deal of the responsibility which the Governor has at the present moment (*The Zontian*, Vol. 49, No. 4, Winter 1969–70).

No decision was taken on these principles until the 1980s. (See Chapter 5 – 1975–1989.)

Canadian Zontian, Dorothy Thompson, introduced Zonta International to New Zealand and re-introduced it to Australia in 1965–66 with the organization of 12 clubs, one in each Australian capital city, and five in New Zealand (District 16, *History in Brief*). (See *Zonta in Australia and New Zealand*.)

1970: District V was divided into Districts V(a) and V(b), and the non-districted clubs were grouped into five Areas:

- Area I, Clubs in Central and South America

- Area II, Clubs in Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Iran
- Area III, Clubs in Australia, New Zealand
- Area IV, Clubs in Taiwan, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand
- Area V, Clubs in Africa (Zonta International Directories, 1971, 1972–73).

1972: The Zonta International Board decided that Areas for non-districted clubs would be called Regions and all districts designated by Roman numerals, which meant that District V(a) became District XV, and District V(b) returned to the designation District V.

On 2 July 1972, The Zonta International Board agreed that Region III was to be granted district status. At the Region III Conference held at the Intercontinental Hotel, Auckland, in August 1973, the 17 Zonta Clubs present voted unanimously to form District XVI for clubs in New Zealand and Australia.

1974: District XVI became effective from 20 July and the Regions were regrouped:

- Region I for clubs in Bangladesh, Taiwan (ROC), Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Region II for clubs in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone
- Region III for clubs in Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Uruguay.

### **(c) Zonta's objects**

Zonta International President J. Maria Pierce described the organization and its aims in May 1963, at the European Inter-district Conference in Hamburg:

The aims and objectives of Zontians are the same the world over. We may approach these differently in some areas, but we are agreed on our purposes. Service is our reason for being. Service, in the largest sense of the word, motivates us in all we do. We do not see service as being confined to the charitable and philanthropic act, worthy as that is. We know that all we can do to help women help themselves is service in every sense of the word. We must do all in our power to improve the legal, economic and social status of women; we must give women our loyalty and cooperation when they achieve positions of influence in our communities and our countries. We recognize the fellowship we develop among Zonta members within a district and in Zonta International as a means to the kind of understanding, which points the path to peace among peoples of the world. What greater service can be ours? (District XIII archives).

The comprehensive review of Zonta International Bylaws completed during the 1952-1954 biennium brought only minor changes to the six objects of Zonta International. No further changes were made until 1990. However, a new trend can be seen in the 1960s, closely linking resolutions to the six objects of Zonta International. (See some examples of this trend below.)

### **(d) The organization**

#### **(i) International Leadership**

In this period, there were no changes in the Zonta International Bylaws concerning the International Convention, and the Zonta International officers still consisted of members of the Zonta International Board as the officers elected at convention, the Executive Director (without a vote), and the district governors. As of 1962, the Zonta International Board for the first time included two European governors because District XIII and District XIV became

effective on the last day of the 1962 convention. From 1974, the Australia-New Zealand governor joined the Zonta International Board.

The election in 1968 of the first Zonta International president from outside North America demonstrated Zonta's evolution from a North American organization with international members, into an international service organization.

Helvi Sipilä, Zonta International President 1968–70, Zonta Club of Helsinki I, was an attorney by profession. She served as Finland's official delegate to the UN General Assembly and as representative to the UN Commission on the Status of Women which she chaired in 1967. Some Zontians were concerned about the expense of bringing Helvi Sipilä to meetings and district conferences in North America where most meetings took place. However, she was successful in quelling such fears. Her extensive international travel itinerary made it possible for her to attend Zonta International conventions and district conferences and, in her own words, to "accomplish a great deal in many parts of the world with very little cost to Zonta International". More than anyone else, Helvi Sipilä linked Zonta to the United Nations.

### **(ii) International Committees**

A new ad hoc committee was appointed in 1966, designated the Survey Committee, under the chairmanship of Isabelle Sauberli, a member of the Zonta Club of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and a former District II Governor. There were three other former governors and one PIP appointed to examine the entire structure of Zonta International, its bylaws, nominating and election procedures, districting, financing and other administrative policies (*The Zontian*, Winter 1966–67, p. 4).

To plan for Zonta's Golden Anniversary in 1969–70, an ad hoc committee was appointed to serve for four years and create a program in which the entire membership could participate.

To celebrate Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, 22 June 1967 was designated Zonta Day at Expo '67 in Montreal, Quebec, and an Expo '67 Committee was appointed to complete arrangements for Zontians everywhere to attend.

In 1969: Zonta International's International Relations Committee reorganized the system for the assignment of Friendship Countries, in order to permit a wider interchange between clubs:

- Group A Districts I-XII 431 clubs
- Group B Non-districted clubs 36 clubs
- Group C Districts XIII and XIV 97 clubs.

For example, clubs in District III (A) could choose clubs in the Philippines (B) or clubs in Denmark (C); Danish clubs could have a program with clubs in the Philippines and/or District III.

To promote closer relations between the UN and Zonta clubs, Zonta International established its United Nations Committee in 1972. In 1974, the Membership Committee, established in 1952, amalgamated with the Classifications Committee, established 1926.

### **(iii) Membership Categories**

The 1962 Standard Bylaws for Zonta clubs mention these types of membership:

- Active Members
- Past Presidents of Zonta International



- Merited Members
- Honorary members.

The definitions show that only the designation Merited Member was new; it replaced the designation Past Service Membership. The number of Merited Members could not exceed 20 per cent of the Active Members.

The 1966 Bylaws mention:

- Active members
- Senior Active members
- Merited members
- Associate members
- Past International Presidents
- Honorary Members.

Senior Active Members were members who had been classified for 10 or more years. A Senior Active Member had the same rights and privileges as an Active Member. A club could admit into membership another member with the same classification.

A Merited Member was a member retired from the workforce, who could not therefore be an Active member, but was a member in good standing and had given noteworthy service to Zonta.

An Associate Member was a member who had been a Zontian for more than five years and who, for any reason, had become ineligible for classified membership. An Associate Member could not represent the club or hold elected positions. The number of associate members could not exceed 10 per cent of the club's membership.

#### **(iv) Duration of Membership**

The main rule was that active membership endured for life, but terminated if a member abandoned the business or profession through which she secured her membership classification.

Merited membership should terminate automatically, if or when a member having such a membership re-entered active business or professional life, or, if a change of residence made it impossible for her to continue attendance at and participation in the affairs of the club (1962 Standard Bylaws for Clubs, Article VII).

#### **(v) Dues**

In 1962, semi-annual per capita dues for clubs in or attached to a district in North America were increased to US\$4.50 plus an annual US\$1.00 per capita fee to the Marian de Forest Organization Fund.

Among the consequences of the growth and the expected further growth of Zonta outside of North America were the provisions in Article XIV, Section 5:

- Non-districted clubs organized after July 1962 shall pay to Zonta International per capita dues of fifty (50) cents in United States currency. The International Board shall have power to grant an extension of time for payment of this tax in cases where, in its judgement, local conditions make such an action necessary. If by reason of unusual rates of exchange, a club in purchasing US currency to cover its

payments, must pay a premium by unusual regulation, the International Board shall have a power to adjust the payments due from that club. Each club shall be entitled to two subscriptions to *The Zontian* one of which shall be sent to the president and the other to the secretary.

- The annual dues of a club not located in or attached to a district shall be a minimum of US\$7.50 payable to Zonta International in advance between 01 June and 15 June of each year. Per capita dues are not required of clubs organized before July 1962 but may be voluntary established by a club not located in or attached to a district to replace the annual dues, or voluntary increases of annual dues may be made by the club.

These provisions meant that the annual minimum club dues of non-districted clubs, chartered before 1962, were raised from US\$3.50 to US\$7.50 in 1962.

There is no mention in the 1962 Bylaws of dues for the new Districts XIII and XIV. Headquarters' mailings to clubs (District XIII archives) show that international per capita dues were US\$1.00 in 1962, US\$2.00 in 1964, and US\$4.00 in 1971, plus US\$1.00 to the Marian de Forest Fund for Extension.

#### **(vi) District Dues**

The Bylaws in 1962 made the following provision:

Between 1 September 1 and 15 September each year each club within a district shall pay to the district treasurer annual dues of 1 dollar per capita based upon membership as reported in the September semi-annual report. A district may vote to raise its district dues above the one-dollar minimum. These dues shall be for the purpose of the expenses of the district and its officers (1962 Bylaws, Article 13, Section 13).

District XIII dues were: 1962: 8 Swedish Kroner (SEK); 1963: 11 SEK; 1965: 15 SEK; 1971: 25 SEK and 1975: 50 SEK (District XIII archives).

#### **(vii) Headquarters**

Since 1932, the address of Zonta International Headquarters had been the Buckingham Building 59 East Van Buren, Chicago.

1961, Pauline Fyler had succeeded Lucille Crawford as Executive Director. She held office until 1970, when Martha Baumberger was appointed Executive Director.

### **(e) Resolutions, programs, service and advocacy projects**

#### **(i) Resolutions**

The following are sourced from various editions of *The Zontian*.

1968: The Minneapolis convention adopted the following resolution linked to Object B ("to improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women"). It was resolved that:

- Zonta clubs work for the elimination of inequities and discrimination in educational and employment opportunities, in pay and promotion practices, in local and national laws with the rights and responsibilities of women to serve on juries recognized in those countries, where a jury system exists,

- Zonta Clubs encourage the formation of Commissions on the Status of Women in their nations, provinces and states. Each Zonta club study the findings reported and consider ways by which it may implement the Commission's recommendations,
- Zonta Clubs urge their governments to appoint qualified women as delegates to the various Commissions and Committees of the UN,
- Zonta clubs urge women to accept their full participation responsibilities in government at all levels, including serving in appointed and elective offices and the endorsement and support of qualified women in policy-making posts,
- Zonta International and Zonta clubs study the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women dated 07 November, 1967,
- Zonta clubs urge their nations to ratify all conventions of the UN and its specialized agencies for the benefit of women.

The following resolution was adopted at the 1968 Minneapolis convention, linked to Object F ("to work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executive women in business and the professions, united in the Zonta ideal of service"):

We are aware of the complex international problems which face our universe and recognize the need for women's participation and leadership in activities which further international cooperation. Resolved.

- Each Zontian regard herself as the bearer of the Zonta message of goodwill, when she meets with people throughout the world.
- Zonta clubs provide meaningful study on economic planning and cooperation among the nations.
- Zonta clubs and their members continue to study and support the activities of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies such as UNICEF, UNRWA, UNHRC, ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO.
- Zonta clubs continue to support with contributions on a voluntary basis the UNRWA Training School for Girls in Ramallah.
- Zonta clubs and their members support the efforts of the UN in solving the legal and technical problems raised by the conquest of outer space.
- Members of Zonta International strive to increase their understanding of the relationship of disarmament to world peace.
- Zonta International through its consultative status in the UN takes an increasingly active role in furthering the advancement of women everywhere.
- Finally, be it resolved each Zonta club implement the resolutions as adopted by the convention and make them the basis for the planning of program and service during the 1968-1970 biennium.

1972: The convention in Portland, Oregon, adopted a service resolution:

Recognizing that service has no geographical boundaries and that certain human problems are of worldwide concern, convention delegates resolved that: "Every Zonta club has the responsibility to support, through both monetary contributions and personal service, projects to its own local community, but also those Zonta International service projects directed toward the world community.

Reading these resolutions, it is clear that Zonta friendship was not the only *raison d'être*; Zontians were expected to work hard to educate themselves and to create a better world for women locally as well as internationally.

### **(ii) Co-operation with the UN**

During the 1960s, Zonta International worked to advance the status of women through close cooperation with the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

1962: Equality was defined as a basic human right for women:

We believe human dignity to be a universal necessity, and that human rights belong to everyone regardless of sex. Therefore, be it resolved that:

- Zonta International cooperate with other organizations in creating favorable public opinion and working for human rights, particularly as they apply to women;
- Zonta give special attention to the improvement of the economic status of women;
- Zonta take an increasingly active role in furthering the advancement of women everywhere (Resolution, 1962 convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA).

1963: Thanks mainly to the efforts of Zonta International President (1960–62), Ellen Harris, ECOSOC (the United Nations Economic and Social Council) granted Zonta International roster-level status, officially recognizing it as a UN-affiliated NGO.

1964 and 1966: With increased political participation for women a special focus at conventions in these years, it was resolved that Zonta clubs urge women to:

- keep informed on public affairs,
- accept their full responsibilities to participate in government at all levels,
- serve in appointive and elected offices, and
- endorse and support qualified women in elected positions .

1968: The UN General Assembly designated the year 1968 as International Year of Human Rights and prepared a regional Human Rights Seminar at Manila, the Philippines, in December that year. The program called for exploring measures required for the advancement of women, particularly with reference to the establishment of a long-term program. Zonta International was represented by three Manilla Zontians: Trinidad Legarda (the first female ambassador of the Philippines), Tecla Ziga (Member of the Senate), and Magnolia Antonio (Representative to the Congress of the Philippines). Mrs Legarda presented a statement, explaining Zonta's keen interest in human rights and the advancement of women. With it, Zonta International President Nairn submitted a copy of the Resolution on Human Rights adopted unanimously at Zonta's convention in Miami in 1966. The December session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 1968 was presided over by Helena Benitez, Zonta Club of Manilla.

1969: During Helvi Sipilä's biennium as International President, Zonta's status with the United Nations ECOSOC was elevated to Category II. (For more details, see Appendix 16 – *Zonta and the UN.*)

1971: After being granted consultative status with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Zonta was granted consultative status with UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) in 1972, and with ILO (International Labor Organization) in 1975.

### **(iii) International Service Projects**

1962–76: Zonta International supported the UN Relief and Work Agency for the Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan

1968–70: Tibet (UNHCR)

1972–74: Zonta International supported the Mobile Medical Units Project in Cooperation with UNICEF, serving the health needs of children and mothers in rural areas in Ghana.

1974–76: Zonta International supported the Pan African Training and Research Center for Women in cooperation with UNICEF, focusing on the recruitment and financing of the African Women’s Volunteer Task Force which addressed the needs of women in rural areas.

**(f) Summing up**

Growth characterized the years 1962 to 1975. By the end of 1975, Zonta International was represented in all continents after adding clubs in 30 new countries:

- 3 countries in Asia
- 6 countries in Southeast Asia
- 2 countries in the Antipodes (New Zealand and Australia)
- 8 countries in Europe
- 4 in Central and South America
- 7 in Africa.

By the end of 1969, Zonta clubs were found in 49 states in USA in these Regions:

<b>Region</b>	<b>1969</b>	<b>1975</b>
Region 1: Northeast	92 clubs	96 clubs
Region 2: Midwest	129 clubs	141 clubs
Region 3: South	76 clubs	81 clubs
Region 4: West	108 clubs	108 clubs

On the eve of Zonta’s Golden Anniversary, Helvi Sipilä made a request:

What a big and strong organization Zonta International would be if the provisions in our Bylaws, allowing a Zonta club for each 250,000 inhabitants in the big cities, were implemented in the USA and Canada, where there are so many of these cities. What about really starting now to plan for this kind of growth? What about trying to form new clubs for younger women in executive positions, such as we were when we became Zontians? What about...making the Golden Anniversary not only an anniversary but also the rebirth of a still young, vigorously growing organization? (*The Zontian*, Vol. 49-4, Winter 1969–70, p. 5).

Membership Committee chairman Waltraut A. Wilson gave this evaluation at Zonta’s 50th anniversary:

Zonta is a classified service organization of executive women in business and the professions. We are selective in choosing our members. We strive to invite into membership the top executive women measuring up to the high standards we have established. We have always stressed quality rather than quantity in recruiting members. The fact that we are particular and adhere to rigid bylaws and a classification manual makes Zonta the outstanding women’s service organization of the world and makes our membership precious and enviable (*The Zontian*, Vol. 49-4, Winter 1969–70, p, 22).

To boost publicity, Zonta International Headquarters decided to sell road signs. The winter edition of *The Zontian* 1964–65 carried the following advertisement:

Let it be known to all who pass by – in daylight or darkest night – that there is a Zonta club in your city. You can include the name of your city, and information as to where the club meets on the day and time, if you wish. The signs are 30-inch circles, on which the Zonta emblem and the words ZONTA INTERNATIONAL – in gold and mahogany reflectorized colors – appear on a white background. Costs – US\$24.20 per sign, plus shipping charges from Chicago.