# Being a Governor of the second biggest District in the Zonta world is a challenging task. How to do justice to this task?

In my view leaders of Zonta first of all have to be loyal to the Organization and all its members, personally to all of you with whom I'll work together.

I want to recognize the vision and I think we need to push for change.

#### My objectives are:

- To work for the Advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of members.
- To improve the legal, political, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy.

I would like to improve the world measurably and demonstrably.

The ZI-Goals for the next Biennium remain aligned with Zonta's mission (new mission: Build a better world for women and girls) and vision and are centered around five objectives:

- 1. Stand Out for Gender Equity
- 2. Represent Global Citizenship
- 3. Develop Future Leaders
- 4. Celebrate Ourselves
- 5. Position Zonta for the Future

The content of the first objective is our vision to aim for a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights; and, as a result, advocacy and action have moved to the forefront of much of what we do.

This means for our District: to take on advocacy initiatives!

As a result, all Clubs are encouraged:

- 1. to select one cause (like awareness building, education sessions, petitioning to change laws, or meeting with legislators and government agencies on behalf of women and girls).
- **2.** to take part and promote the week of International Women's Day (8<sup>th</sup> of March) as a global week of action.
- **3.** to ensure and illustrate our commitment to a life without fear and protecting the environment for women we will participate in the "Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women" campaign, during the 16 Days of Activism from 25 November through 10 December.

My goal is that 100% of the clubs in District 27 participate in an action to combat gender-based violence, which may include taking part in the "Orange the World" (OtW) effort, over the 16 Days of Activism.

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If the OtW can be put into practice in this year, is not clear at the moment regarding the energy crisis. We have to think about this issue and I'm sure there will be alternatives.

One of our Advocacy Team will give information about the ZsN actions, too.

- **4.** In addition the District and its members will work for the awareness and take decisive actions for the related projects of our partners UNFPA and UNICEF. We will have a foundation ambassador in each country and the chair of this group will prepare the projects as understandable and informative as possible so that all foundation ambassadors speak with one voice.
- 5. There should be a constant update of the work of CSW and the UN in this matter.

The second objective comprises all the work we do for Advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of clubs and individuals with the purpose of serving their communities, their nations and the world.

For example the work of the Zonta Foundation for women in order to fully commit themselves to international service projects and educational programs.

The "Zonta says No" activities; our decisive action to stop child marriage; our awareness of climate actions regarding our international service projects in this biennium.

More visibility of the local services or charitable efforts by using the social media will be intended.

The content of the third objective is the aim we have dealt with for several years. We strive to ensure every woman has access to education and resources and that more women are represented in decision-making positions. These are the contents of our Scholarships and Award programs, ensuring that the awards are appealing to the next generation of women leaders.

Here I would like to adopt an example of District 29: the so-called:

ZAC (Zonta Awardees Connected) they do this virtually by Linkdln.

All clubs in our District are encouraged to deal with these

JMK-, YWPA-, Women in STEM-, AE- programs.

All our clubs are also encouraged to establish a service project for a Young Zonta Club, integrated in their own club.

Last but not least there should be launched a Cross-Mentoring Program in order to bridge the gap between generations and offering them the opportunity to learn from each other.

The content of the fourth objective to celebrate ourselves embraces the idea of fostering friendship and lasting connections locally and internationally. It also includes the necessity of honoring the elderly with their long-lasting commitment to Zonta

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International. Without them it would not be possible to take Zonta into the next century.

In the future there will be a shift from a more technical orientation to this so called "Zonta Spirit:" which should be like a spider's web: smooth, flexible and durable. Which again should be understood as an attitude.

To trust each other, be careful with another, believe in our self-efficacy and that we should live this. Also, these are "Role-Models".

A new understanding of the Diversity of society and its necessity implicate that Zonta believes that fostering a diverse and inclusive global community is a powerful platform to bring about the social change needed to make our vision for gender equality become a reality.

**The fifth objective** is a new but also long-lasting task: Membership-retention! As a result of the Resolution 2, one of the goals of the last Biennium, including a study of Zonta's future whose results were discussed in Hamburg.

It deals with change in different perspectives and on an overall basis.

Chartering of clubs will become a priority for the organization.

A new task for the next Biennium: to initiate so-called Club Creators, whose only task is to focus on chartering new clubs in their own country and also in new ones. I hope this group will grow.

I also hope that the idea of the last Biennium to establish a new e-club in Poland will come to a good end in this Biennium.

A specific task for this Biennium will be the help and support for the three clubs in the Ukraine.

This will be a continuous task with a good end hopefully. Luckily we have well established connections and our Refugee Aid Coordinator in Ukraine will do her utmost so that the situation for the Zontians will take a turn for the better.

#### And now:

A big thank you for all your efforts. Welcome aboard to you all and thank you so much for putting your trust in me.

I hope that all of you feel installed according to your talents. Anyone of you who doesn't feel happy, should tell me and we will find a solution.

I count on you in our teamwork and partnership.

I would like to give you all a lift into an exciting new Biennium.

My Motto is an old African proverb:

If you want to go fast, go alone!

If you want to go far, go together

In this spirit: let's set off together!

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If you want to go fast, go alone! If you want to go far, go together!

Build a better world for women and girls