

## DISTRICT 27 NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

Dear all,



Latest news:

District 27 now has again **75 Clubs**

plus **2 Golden Z-Clubs** and **2 e-Clubs**

Last weekend we chartered **ZC Elbland**  
on the right side of the river Elbe.

It's a disembodiment of the ZC Dresden which is located at the left side of the Elbe.

This Club has existed since 1993. The Charter of the new club, Zonta Club of Elbland, No. 2032, was celebrated in Meißen.



President Simone Wurm, Vice-President Svenja Spröbig (ZC Elbland) and President Astrid Pawasser from SOM ZC Dresden. – The charter document was presented by Governor Ute Noeske.

The SOM Committee has identified a potential service project in the local community where the new club is going to be chartered.

Zonta Club Elbland has organized a so-called:  
**Karriere Event in Meißen 12. May, 2023 13:00-16:00.**



The participants gained insight into various companies and industries. They were able to learn how good their social media skills are and how much their own openness to technology is needed in every area of today's working life.

In the early evening the Charter was celebrated with ZIP Ute Scholz, the AD of Area 07 and the Governor of D27 and approx.40 Zontians.

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ZC Elbland has now 14 members, three of them are male.

At the dinner afterwards, AD Birgit Gutmann-Oks handed over the red lantern to the new club. An old custom. This lantern is always passed on from the last chartered club to the next newly chartered club.



The members of the new club organized a very interesting guided tour to the manufacture of the porcelain, a wonderful concert in the cathedral of Meißen and a dinner in one of the oldest wineries of the town.

**A very warm welcome to all the new members.**

Also from our chief club creator Ansmarie van Erp:

*“Welcome aboard ZC Elbland! Sending you my warmest congratulations all the way from 'Down Under' - Australia.” Wishing you all the best in building a better world for women and girls. Yours in Zonta, Ansmarie”*

**Over the past three months we have had various Zonta events:**

**I.Firstly:**

**Zontians worldwide attended the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) March 5-17,**

held in person in NYC and with hundreds of workshops available online. I was able to attend online.

The priority theme for the forum was **Innovation and Technological Change, and Education in the Digital Age for Achieving Progress Toward Gender Equality.**

The focus of the CSW annual session was to discuss the progress of women and the challenges they face to set policies and to set global standards. The session convened Ministers, high-level government officials, and civil society representatives at the United Nations in New York. CSW67 held over 700 events on a 24/7 basis; there were 400 virtual events and 350 events held in venues in and around the United Nations. Zonta International has consultative status at the United Nations and hosted/cohosted many events including:

- *An in-person discussion on Innovation and its Transformative Impact on all Aspects of Gender Equality hosted in collaboration with UNICEF USA.*
- *Say Her Name: Artists Speak Out Against Gender-Based Violence*
- *Violence Against Women in Leadership.*

The outcome of the Commission’s consideration of the priority theme during its 67th session took the form of agreed conclusions, to be negotiated by all Member States.

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The Agreed Conclusions are posted on the UN Women website ([CSW67 Agreed Conclusions](#))

### II. Secondly:

#### Our 2<sup>nd</sup> DB Meeting in Antwerp.

- **Our treasurer Géraldine Welvaert presented a budget** control based on the proposed budget in Leuven and the adapted budget proposal presented in Hanover and explained it in detail.
- The number of club members is decreasing, so less money will come in and apart from that the board is increasing with growing numbers of committees for the given tasks. Consequently more money is needed for the required reimbursements, which will cause financial deficits in the future.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to organize DB meetings and district conferences with the available budget, the travel costs for the participants included. Creative ideas to solve the problem are urgently needed.
- **Our Lt. Governor Ria Matthijssens** will offer a workshop (Creative membership) at the next DC and asked for our feedback and examples of best practice.
- **AD Karolien Dewitte** said that „young clubs“ attract new members more easily, but might lose them after two or three years. When they leave often time problems are mentioned, but there are obviously other reasons. How can we attract, include and make them feel good in the organization?

- **Reports and goals of the Area Directors**  
The area directors presented their main work areas, implemented projects, clubs information and further plans for this biennium.
- The topic with the majority of votes is “**City Walk**” (Area 01)  
The walk is part of the “Orange Week” a campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls and to end gender-based violence.
- The second topic is “**Elevator Pitch**” (Area 05) Zontians have workshops to find out what important facts have to be provided about Zonta. The information is collected in a power point presentation and members can memorize important facts about Zonta to be readily available if needed.
- Area 02 has a **button** with the questions: “I am a Zontian, ask me why.” (**Je suis Zontienne. Demandez-moi pourquoi.**) It helps to awaken interest in Zonta and start a talk.
- The third topic is “**Social Media**” (Area 07)  
The “Union deutscher Zonta Clubs” is working on this topic. Each club should have a committee for social media. Short videos play an important role, too.

We also spoke about the different awards:

- **Young Women in Public Affairs/Awardees (Carola Schäfer)**  
Zonta International offers 37 awards of US\$5,000 each to 32 districts. The five biggest districts get US\$ 5000 for a second winner. District 27 will have two winners. This year there are 70 applications and 25 club winners.

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- **Women in Business (Dr. Ute Noeske)**  
Invitation of five winners to the DC in Luxembourg  
The following costs will be reimbursed to awardees participating in the district conference: registration 50 €, travel costs and 150 € for accommodation (two nights).
- In this biennium **STEM** is again a pilot project and not part of the fundraising goals of ZI.

**District 27 supports the motion of other districts to convert STEM into a scholarship in 2024.**

- **2024 Amelia Earhart Fellowship**  
\$10,000 Fellowships are awarded by Zonta International each year, to “women pursuing full-time Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and spaces sciences. Applications are submitted directly to Zonta International and are evaluated per the stated criteria. The 2024 AE Fellowship applications will be open July 2023, and must be submitted by November 15, 2023.

### **DC in Luxembourg (Claire van der Ent Braat for her team)**

Claire van der Ent Braat shows us photos of the hotels and the conference center ‘Abbey of Neumünster’ and a short film about Luxembourg which you will be able to register for very soon.

On our District website you will find the hotels (that will welcome you in Luxembourg with the booking and promo codes), the Draft Conference Agenda and the Sightseeing program.

The ZC of Luxembourg and the Committee, which I again warmly thank, are preparing an exceptional welcome for you all

- **What’s going on in the Ukraine? Report from Régine Deguelle**

*You can read her elaborated report!* She gives a report on the use of the donations, her visit to Ukraine and the current situation.

<https://www.zonta-district27.org/news-events-1/diary-of-a-journey-to-lviv-ukraine>

- **Zonta International Foundation for Women: Foundation Ambassador Chair Maria Uhlenkamp** presented the international service projects and educational programs in detail (see her PPT!). Maria Uhlenkamp will keep the area directors informed about the current donations of the clubs. District 27 is the second biggest district in the Zonta world, but when it comes to donations, it is in eighth place.

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- With our four Education Programs Zonta is dedicated to achieving gender equality in education and supports scholarships, fellowships and awards for women and girls pursuing education and careers in these traditionally male-dominated fields.

**Thus I would like you to send your donations for the first year of the biennium before 31 May!! to Zonta International**

**Thanks a lot for your generosity!**



Members of the DBM in Antwerp at the end.

### III. Thirdly:

#### 9. European Interdistrict Zonta Seminar 28 – 30 April 2023

Women and Finance – between Challenges and Chances

The seminar offered a weekend of inspiring panel discussions and workshops with female entrepreneurs and leaders on the brink of a new digital era.

An extraordinary panel discussion took place with Prof. Dr. Alexandra Niessen-Ruenzi, Dr. Barbara Böhnlein, Dr. Ricarda Engelmeier, Dr. Katharina Barley, Karin Nordmeyer (UN Women), Katharina Gehra, CEO & Co-Founder of Immutable Insight, hosted by Bettina Weiguny, ZC Bad Soden/Kronberg.

They all discussed the questions: Women in finance are still an exception, especially at the top.

But it's more than that – women seem to avoid financial questions in general, even at home. So what are we dealing with here – a gender bias or personal preferences?

- What is it that prevents women from founding a brand new Fintech company?
- Why do women leave personal investments, tax and pension matters to their partners?
- And most important of all: What does it take to change that?
- Or is the young generation of women already doing math?

**The answers in this discussion were very different. The following are some of them:**

- Women look more into sustainable investments;
- Homophily: men give men the money;

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- Men have more risk appetite;
- The consciousness of women has to be developed;
- It takes a long way to change the Norma rules;
- What helps are role models;
- We need more he for she;
- To look for alliance is also an intergenerational work;
- The need of financial education;
- To be come more aware, looking holistic.

It was really inspiring to see and to listen to all this dedicated and enthusiastic ladies!

Some Awardees of D27 had been invited. Anneleen Huyghe, the 2022 JMK Women in Business Scholarship Winner, received her Award in Frankfurt.



### IV. Fourthly:

As a matter of course I'm ending with the start of this Newsletter:

Zonta International is counting on you to grow our big Zonta family by recruiting new members through the "Add your voice" campaign to strengthen Zonta's voice to further Zonta's mission and vision.

**"Add Your Voice!!"**

**A Global membership Campaign (1 April 2023- 31 May 2023)**

The Add your voice Membership Campaign 2023 continues through May and all club members are encouraged to participate!

Take the opportunity to spread the Zonta spirit and our mission in the world. It's time well spent! The goal of the 2023 membership campaign is to recruit new members to help achieve our mission. The campaign period began 1 April 2023 and ends 31 May 2023.





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## Important dates and Events

### June

June 1 International dues to HQ

### July

YWPA official announcement

AE fellowship materials available

## Save the Date

**District 27 Conference in September**

**22. - 24.09.2023, Luxembourg**

**More information will follow**

In the coming months don't forget to practice the Zonta Spirit.

*The "Z-spirit" which should be understood as an attitude; to trust each other, be careful with another, believe in your self-efficacy and that we should live this.*

**Good to know:**

***A word, after a word, after a word is power! (Margaret Atwood)***

I wish you health, success and delight in what you are doing!

All the best!

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dr. Rita Bougher'.

