

DISTRICT 27 NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

Dear all,

Our Biennial Goals, which were approved by all of us at the 2022 Convention in Hamburg, Germany, urged all Zontians to create a world where women's rights are human rights.



I kick off this newsletter with a recap of our recent District 27 Conference, which took place at a historic place and an exceptional venue, located in the District Grund of the City of Luxembourg.



This capital city is complex and cosmopolitan like its inhabitants of round about 170 nations. Zonta is cosmopolitan as well. This Abbey, from my point of view, the history and the current use of the locality also fits Zonta (getting out of old thinking spaces but preserving what is tried and tested, describing new contexts).

The District Conference - besides its business as usual - like the elections of the next district leadership, the discussions and reports of the different fields of Zonta business is an important Zonta event during the biennium.

I was really happy to have Anne-Marie French Cudjoe our Liaison of Zonta International by my side at the conference.



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All in all 297 ladies took part in the Conference



with 13 Youngsters in their midst.



A really special event at this Conference was the handing over of the Zonta International Honorary Member certificate to H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg by Zonta International President Ute Scholz at the Opening Ceremony.

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The **Grand Duchess of Luxembourg** has engaged in Women's issues and has supported the Luxembourgish Zontians in their ZSN actions, for a long time.



Another special event at this Opening Ceremony was the handing over of a **cheque of 5.000 €** for the **Zonta International Foundation for Women** by the **Cycling Team of Area 05**. This team of several Lady Cyclists generated this money only by muscle power (Chapeau!!).



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The motto of this biennium conference: **“Zonta and its public health approach in the widest sense”** has developed from a coming together of older, experienced and younger, committed Zontians to the Zonta vision: Build a better world for women and girls.

I was so excited to see that the ideas of the youngsters and their plans matched with my ideas and considerations.

We had a special program designed from a special working group of Zonta Luxembourgish Clubs (Prof. Skerdilajda Zanaj and Dr. Kerstin Wagner) for the Alumnis and young Zonta members at this District Conference with very interesting and enlightening speeches and workshops from extraordinary speakers:

Dr. Amal Tawakuli (Gender bias, in Artificial Intelligence); Prof. Marie Friedel (Gender Bias in Health Care), this co-event was also very interesting for the elderly too.

And the speech of Prof. Catherine Van de Heyning (The Mental Health Crisis of our Youngsters through a social Media lens) was interesting for the Youngsters too.

Moreover, we had 4 engaging workshops, about Membership challenges and Opportunities (Ria Matthijssens, Area 06); How to keep new members (Sandra Renaud, Area 02); Zonta and the Power of Advocacy: A beginner’s guide to making an impact (Christiane Lemberg, Area 07) and one about ZAC: Zonta Awardees Connected (an international network within Zonta connecting all awardees) (Inge van Schelstraete, Area 05).

Dr. Bianca Schuchardt (Area 07) moderated the wonderful,

lively Business lunch with many Awardees and Zontians (“Great Girls Meet Great Women”) a highlight.

We really enjoyed that some Zonta Friends of the Ukraine could join us in these very difficult times.



Key decisions at District Conference

Several important decisions were taken at the 15th D27 Conference in Luxembourg:

ZI Bylaws Amendments and Resolution – Voting -

The Resolution regarding the “Zonta says NO to violence against women”- Campaign

The Resolution to extend Women in STEM Scholarship (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for another biennium.

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The Women in STEM Scholarship is to be continued as a fourth pilot cycle on club, district, and international level for women in all STEM fields.

A final evaluation shall be presented at the 2026 Convention.

The resolutions are adopted unanimously.

Elections

The following persons were elected for the 2024-2026 Biennium

- Governor Ria Matthijssens, ZC Antwerp
- Lt. Governor Marie-Anne Radek, e-club France 1 Lumière
- Treasurer Géraldine Welvaert, ZC Gent I
- Nominating Committee:
 - Britta Henss (chair), ZC Vechta
 - Claire Van der Ent Braat, ZC Luxembourg
 - Règine Deguelle, ZC Berlin1989



Award Ceremony YWPA, JMK – Dr. Bianca Schuchardt

Three international winners received special recognition:

JMK – International Awardee 2022

Anneleen Huyghe, (ZC Waasland)

YWPA - International Awardees 2023

Hannah Back, Germany and Luxembourg
(ZC Luxembourg Multikulturel)

Zakia Karwar, Afghanistan (ZC Brüssel Zavel)

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Aspects of Resolution 2 - ZI Strategic Plan Zonta, Gender Equity and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond

Our Liaison Anne-Marie French-Cudjoe presented the Strategic plan of Zonta International.

Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond

Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies 2023–2030

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
**STRATEGIC
PLAN**



There were questions about how clubs with limited membership and resources will manage to connect the climate action to their existing tasks.

Ute Scholz, Zonta International President, explained in detail her view of the strategic plan for the future of ZI and said that every club could choose its own topic. Clubs don't have to participate in all actions.

See you in Osnabrück 2025!

The next District Conference will be held in **Osnabrück in Germany**
October 3-5, 2025

organized by ZC Osnabrück
Westfälischer Friede,
Diepholz-Vechta, Oldenburg
and Osnabrück (All this clubs
belong to Area 03)



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Convention in Brisbane 2024

Presentation of the next Convention in Brisbane 27- 30 June, 2024

Our International Representative Anne-Marie French-Cudjoe shows a presentation about this coming event

Link! <https://www.zontaconvention.com/de>

One of the main issues, that will probably be discussed in Brisbane is climate change.

Zonta has released a detailed statement concerning climate change and it's disproportionate effect on women and children.

At the end of the last Business Day Jessie Thill (ZC Luxembourg) gave us a lecture to this topic and explained the difference between weather and climate, the greenhouse effect and its consequences. She gave examples of how women and men will be affected differently by the consequences of climate change.

After this awesome Conference with important decision-making was coming to an End the Conference was closed by our Liaison Anne-Marie French Cudjoe and the District Governor with a flowered thank you to all the active members who were part of the success of the conference.

A special Thank you to the Conference Chair and her whole team.



Donations District 27 Conference

Last but not least I would like to tell you with great pleasure that many of the participants of the Conference were very generous. The **Foundation Ambassadors Team of D27** could **transfer 10489 €** (including the result of the muscle power of the cyclists) to the Zonta International Foundation for women account.

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D27 news and updates

Young women in Public Affairs

The application material for the 2024

Young Women in Public Affairs awards are now available!

Please support us in promoting this fantastic award.

Club anniversaries

Zonta Club of Gent I A05, D27 celebrates 50 years on the 25th November, 2023. Congratulations!

Zonta Club Saint Hubert Redouté A01, D27 celebrates 30 years on December 2nd, 2023. Congratulations!

Important dates and events

November

*November 6-8 **Zonta says NO summit!*** You have received the invitation by a separate mail from ZI.

November 8th, Zonta anniversary

On November 8th, Zonta international will celebrate its 104th anniversary.

For over a century, our organization has been a force for positive change, championing the rights of women and Girls around the world.

You can celebrate Zonta's 104th birthday this November by joining the annual **Every Member Every November campaign**. Each donation to the Zonta Foundation for Women will empower women and girls by giving them a chance, an opportunity and a voice.

Every member has the opportunity to build a better world for women and girls.



This year the Every Member Every November campaign recurring monthly donations of a minimum of \$10 will be recognized through a friendly competition between the Zonta districts.

The winning districts and all active recurring donors will be recognized individually via the website, on social media and at the 2024 ZI Convention in Brisbane, Australia.

November 15 **AE Fellowship application deadline**

November 25 **International Day** for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

November 25 - December 10: **Zonta says NO**

Get ready for Zonta Says NO!

Plan your actions by having a look at all the resources provided by Zonta International!

Use the Zonta Says NO tool kit

Share your stories!

Join the conversation on the Zonta app.

Learn about 16days and the campaign on our United Nations pages.

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And:



The new Executive Director for Zonta International from 1st of October is Megan Radavich.

Megan's been a passionate member of the Headquarter's team since September 2009 and served as Interim Executive Director from May 2023.

Congratulation and all the best from all our members in D27!!

December

December 1 Half-year dues rate begins

December 17 Zonta says NOW

<https://zonta.org/zontasaysnow>

Inter Continental Think Tank

[https://zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Think_Tank.aspx?](https://zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Think_Tank.aspx?WebsiteKey=fa59e7e8-9db0-4736-b8df-7a6476fb9063)

[WebsiteKey=fa59e7e8-9db0-4736-b8df-7a6476fb9063](https://zonta.org/Web/Causes/ZontaSaysNOW/Think_Tank.aspx?WebsiteKey=fa59e7e8-9db0-4736-b8df-7a6476fb9063)

Zonta International Strategic Plan

For your information you can find the recording our Zonta International Board Liaison to District 27 Anne-Marie French Cudjoe, had presented at the District Conference.

Good question:

If the world does not learn to show respect to nature, what kind of future will the new generation have?

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

All the best!

Warm regards,

Yours

