

## DISTRICT 27 NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

District 27 Newsletter June 2024

Dear all:



**Latest news:**

**Zonta District 27 now has again 76 Clubs and a new Z-Club, the club Sakura of ZC Uzhhorod, Ukraine.**

At the end of April we chartered **ZC Schleswig** the northernmost ZC in Germany.

It is club number 2050, the 76<sup>th</sup> Zonta Club in District 27 and the 18<sup>th</sup> Club in **Area 03**.

Building this club took time, but they started with the largest membership I have ever heard about. Thirty-three members participated in the Charter ceremony. Look at the picture - there were so many members that it was difficult for the photographer to fit them all into one photo.

The Charter event was truly wonderful, beginning with a boat trip on the Schlei, followed by a guided tour of the old town of Schleswig, the Charter ceremony in Schleswig's town hall, in the presence of our ZIP Ute Scholz and concluding with a long-lasting "Come together" at a hotel in the evening.



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The **new Z-Club Sakura of ZC Uzhhorod** started around the same time in **Area 04**, in the presence of our D27 Refugee Aid Coordinator in Ukraine, Régine Deguelle.



I am truly impressed by the energy and the active role the Zontians in the Ukraine play with their help and support. May your strength be endless!

District 27 is very proud about your work and empathy!

**A very warm welcome to all the new members of ZC Schleswig and the Z-Club Sakura of ZC Uzhhorod!!**



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Over the past three months, I have participated in various Area Events:

In **March Area 07** held its last Area Meeting in **Göttingen**, where the Area Director Vicky Pulvermacher, ZC Potsdam took over for the Biennium 2024 -2026.

Topics discussed included practical applications of advocacy in the clubs, reducing expenses for upcoming Area Meetings and the history and the future direction of Zonta.

The Meeting was well organized and took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

From **March 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>** Zontians worldwide attended the **CSW68**, the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) held in person in NYC with hundreds of workshops available online. I was able to attend online.

The 68<sup>th</sup> session focused on the priority theme: “Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective”.

Currently 10.3% of women globally live in extreme poverty and they are poorer than men. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Progress towards ending poverty needs to be 26 times faster. Solutions to end women’s poverty are widely recognized: investing in policies and programs that address gender inequalities and boosting women’s agency and leadership.

From **April 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>**, the **5th DB Meeting of District 27** took place in **Beaune (France)**.

Our last DBM of this Biennium was held in Beaune, a wonderful picturesque place in **Burgundy of France**.



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First of all, at the Business meeting the minutes of DBM IV in Osnabrück were unanimously adopted.

On behalf of the District 27 Finance 2022-2024, our treasurer Géraldine Welvet announced that the financial problems of the District 27 which we inherited from previous Biennia and started with at the beginning of this Biennium, have been resolved. We can now pass the District 27 finances over to the next board in good standing.

Ria, the incoming governor of D27, reported on the meeting of all incoming Zonta governors from around the world held at Zonta Headquarter in Chicago. It was a warm-hearted encounter.

One main topic discussed was the Strategic Plan 2023-2030, which we had previously discussed at our last DBM in Osnabrück, as well as Sustainability, Climate justice – Climate change effecting women and how to engage districts and clubs.

I provided some information about the Convention in Brisbane. This included the solution we found for the Proxy Problems that some Areas of our district faced.

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The **District 27 Meeting at the International Convention will be on Friday June 28 at 8:00 in the KiKi`s**, and I also mentioned the Memorial Service and the training for Delegates of Area 03 and 07 in Hamburg.

I am pleased to report that all Proxy problems in our District are resolved and the voices of District 27 will be heard in Brisbane.

We also considered ideas for the future of the Areas and the District 27.

Christina Bremer led a discussion on this topic, focusing on our plans for the Strategic Plan and our contribution to the **10<sup>th</sup> European Inter-District Seminar ‘Standing up for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion’ in Copenhagen (May 2-4, 2025) - District 13.**

One highlight of this wonderful stay in Beaune was the presentation “Insight Unesco” by Ursula Bouchard (Chair of the Zonta Unesco team in Paris and delegate since 2014).

She also guided our tour of the Hotel-Dieu, Hospices de Beaune.

“A unique place where the spirit of the ducal Burgundy radiates!”

This hospital, “a palace of the poor” was established in 1443 by Nicolas Rolin, chancellor to the duke of Burgundy and his wife, Guigone de Salins. In this wonderful construction, in which the finest materials were used, ensuring its continued existence for centuries.





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After this impressive and informative visit, we had a very hospitable gathering in a beautiful private garden!



The next day we had our final Zoom Meeting with the Committee Chairs of District 27 for this Biennium.

All committee members and the incoming Area Directors (2024-2026) were invited.



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After my report on the Biennium 2022-2024, they shared their experiences with committee work, wishes for the future and suggestions for improvements.

We concluded this DBM with farewells and the presentation of some gifts in the true Zonta Spirit.



### **In early May Area 06 organized its second biennial Area Meeting in Brussels:**

It took place in the Erasmus room of the Federal Parliament.

The theme was: “How do we envision the future of Zonta?” and “How can we foster stronger partnerships with esteemed organizations such as UN Women, UNFPA, Guberna, all of whom work with great engagement for gender equality?”

The perspectives of the panel members - the director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Executive Director of Guberna, the Deputy Director of UN Women Brussels office and our District Committee chair for Advocacy Country View - offered valuable insights.

This official part of the meeting was closed by a wonderful gospel choir performance.

The meeting also honored those responsible for the Area Board and the Club Presidents of the ending Biennium.



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I participated and was impressed by the well-organized meeting and the warm atmosphere.

This inspiring meeting ended up with an exclusive guided tour of the “behind-the-scenes” areas of the Belgian Federal Parliament and Senate.

### **In early June 2024 Area 05 organized its second biennial Area Meeting in Ledegem:**

“The FESTIVE AREA DAY of Zonta Area 05!” with around 80 people.

Before this meeting, some Zontians invited me to Ghent, where we explored the interesting city by foot on a



wonderful evening without rain!!

The next day we had a really busy Agenda with several speeches and a great thank you to many members of Area 05.

It was a wonderful retrospective of the past two years of this Area in the true Zonta Spirit, with the exchange of club presidents, area board and area committees, followed by the opening of the new biennium 2024-2026.

### **For all those interested in the “Great Girls meet Great women” program:**

**This global cross mentoring program helps participants develop future mindsets, attitudes, skills, connectedness, ideas and solutions for concrete professional and/or private challenges.**

**Kick-off workshop - Time and Location**

**June 29, 2024, 2:00 – 5:00PM**



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Zonta International Convention, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Mezzanine 5 and 6.

Participation: In-person; online participation is also possible (hybrid)

### Registration:

If you are interested in being part of the cross-mentoring-program (limited spots), please register as soon as possible, latest until June 20, 2024 at:

<https://forms.gle/1a4ye3vTdGBfHzN19>.

**This program is cost-free for Zonta members.**

I think it's worthwhile to take part in.

Remember the event (Great girls meet Great women) at our last D27 conference in Luxembourg (09/2023) it was really exciting and stimulating.





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### Thanks

- I. Dear all, some days ago I received the following letter from Dr. Mary Ann K. Rubis, the Zonta Foundation for Women Development Committee Chair 2022-2024:

*Dear Ute,*

*As we approach the end of the biennium, on behalf of the Zonta Foundation for Women Development Committee members and the many women and girls who have been positively impacted by D27's donations, thank you and Maria-Rosina, Josiane, Sandra, Regine, Christine and Cornelia, your Foundation Ambassador Team for all of your hard work.*

***Thanks to your efforts, we have surpassed our US\$4,573,000 biennial goal!!!***

***Your district has much to be proud of this biennium:***

***Third in total giving, first in club donations and the district, (with more than 1,000 active club members), with the highest weighted increase over the last biennium!***

*Your commitment to and support of the Zonta Foundation for Women is much appreciated!*

*Please extend our thanks to all members for their incredible generosity.*

*I hope to thank you in person in Brisbane.  
Sincerely,  
Mary Ann*

**Gladly, I will do so!!**

**I too was really impressed throughout the Biennium by the lasting engagement Maria, the Chair and her Foundation Ambassadors team showed.**

D27 is the second largest district in the Zonta world but has been in eighth place for donations to ZIF in recent years.

**The D27 is now in second place in the District comparison - a great result!!**

And now the figures:

<b>Biennium 2020-2022:</b>	<b>\$ 234.074</b>
<b>Goal 2022-2024 + 10%</b>	<b>\$ 255.382</b>
<b>End of Biennium 2022-2024</b>	<b>\$ 323.049</b>

(incl. Endowment) (31. May 2024)



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I would like to thank everyone who was inspired to donate to ZIF by the profound presentations and tireless commitment.

As I keep repeating, Zonta needs us not only as members, but also as donors. Many, many thanks!

II. Dear all, I have enjoyed spending these two years for and with District 27.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Board, who searched for solutions with me in countless Zoom meetings and together we found them.

This includes our efforts to manage the global flow of donations for our hard-pressed Zontians in Ukraine and to steer them in the right direction with the help of our Ukraine aid coordinator.

The visits to all areas, to all club foundations in northern Germany and our joint District Board Meetings, as well as the great District Conference in Luxembourg, have introduced me to many Zontians in the District. These were

wonderful, enriching encounters and I would like to thank everyone who worked on them, both in the fore- and background.

### Important Notes and Dates:

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the prizes (2024) awarded to several young women from District 27:

#### YWPA:

D27 A03: Mahlah Hossein Zadeh, Germany, ZC Hamburg (1.)

D27 A03: Paulina Molteni, Germany, ZC Hamburg-Hanse (1.)

The certificates will be mailed along with the pins towards the end of July to the 2024-2026 Governor.

#### AE Scholarship:

D27: Johanna Bürger, Germany, TU Braunschweig Physics

“The physical properties of lunar regolith”





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The aim is to characterize the lunar surface in preparation for future lunar missions.

### June

June 27-July 1 Zonta International Convention, Brisbane, Australia

### July

2025 Amelia Earhart Fellowship materials available

2025 Young Women in Public Affairs material available

### August

Amelia Earhart wings and certificates mailing to Governors

August 15<sup>th</sup> Women in Business Club applications due to District Young women in Public Affairs Award materials available

### Save the date!

- European Inter-District Seminar will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

„STANDING UP FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION INCLUSION“

- District 27 Conference 2025 will take place in Osnabrück, Germany, October 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**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**

*Treat people as if they were what they should be and  
you help them to become what they could be.*

J. W. von Goethe

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

Bye, bye and warm regards,

Yours



*Dr. Peter Boeghe*