

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis



President's Message to the Club

Hello Zontians, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday! What a special time with family and friends where gifts are not the center of the celebration. Just enjoying family and making new memories during the season of Giving Thanks for all our blessings we sometimes take for granted, like fresh water.



The full moon was spectacular from the vaulted view in the family room and it could not be ignored. Even the football fanatics had to turn away from the game to see the brightness as it slowly moved across the horizon.

Happy belated Birthday to members born in November and Happy Birthday to those celebrating in December. We appreciate all you do to help Zonta build a better world for women and girls!

Traditionally, we have held only one membership meeting on Saturday (Amelia Earhart). However, because of the lack of venue space availability, we held the November Meeting on Sat, Nov. 18th. We will also have the December 9, 2023 meeting on Saturday, at Firefly Restaurant in Chesterfield Valley 11:30- 3:00. Please feel free to bring someone with you. In this way, everyone gets to share Zonta with the community.

Laura Burton
President



November Board Meeting Updates:

- With all the meetings as of late, the Board Meeting will be rescheduled for a later date TBA.

December Membership Meeting Details

Hope to see you there!

Zonta Club of St. Louis Holiday Gathering and Ornament Exchange



**Saturday, December 9, 2023
11:30-3:00 PM**

**RSVP to Sharon Hales
(shales713@gmail.com)
By Wednesday, December 6th**

LOCATION

- **Firefly Grill in Chesterfield**
- **101 Chesterfield Towne Ctr,
Chesterfield, MO 63005**

BUFFET MENU

- **Appetizers:** Cajun spinach dip, hummus
- **Salad:** Firefly salad
- **Sides:** Brussels sprouts, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables
- **Main course:** Salmon, chicken parmesan
- **Breadsticks**
- **Soda, tea, coffee included**

ESTIMATED COST

- **Cash or check including taxes and tip ~\$38.00**
- **Credit card with Zonta Square device ~\$39.00**
- **Bar drinks are responsibility of individual members**

Optional: if you would like to participate in the ornament exchange, bring an unwrapped ornament.

November Membership Meeting Highlights and Pics!



CONGRATULATIONS... to our NEW club member, Sandra Cornell! She is a School of Medicine Research Planning & Operations Manager at St. Louis University. She graciously hosted our October Membership meeting on campus. Her mission there is to support the advancement of scientific discovery and innovation at SLU and to contribute to the improvement of health and well-being in the community.

Welcome to our club Sandra!!

November Meeting Service Project

Several Club Members stayed after the November Club Meeting celebrating Founder's Day. They stayed to assemble Blue Heart charms for Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking. The blue heart is an international symbol of raising awareness about human trafficking. The blue heart charms will be distributed to individuals and organizations throughout the year that demonstrate exceptional courage and devotion to support Gateway Alliance's mission.





A Zonta Club of St. Louis Tradition

Ringin' bells for the Salvation Army!

Oh what fun to laugh and sing... and the more we sang, the more donations we gathered. Judy Jensen placed our \$1000 club donation in the red bucket as well.



Weinman Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence



Jill Cooper and Linda White met at Plaza Frontenac for lunch at the Canyon Cafe and to fill out Christmas cards for the residents at the Weinman Shelter. The Zonta Club of St. Louis donates twenty-five \$50 Target gift cards to the shelter every holiday season.

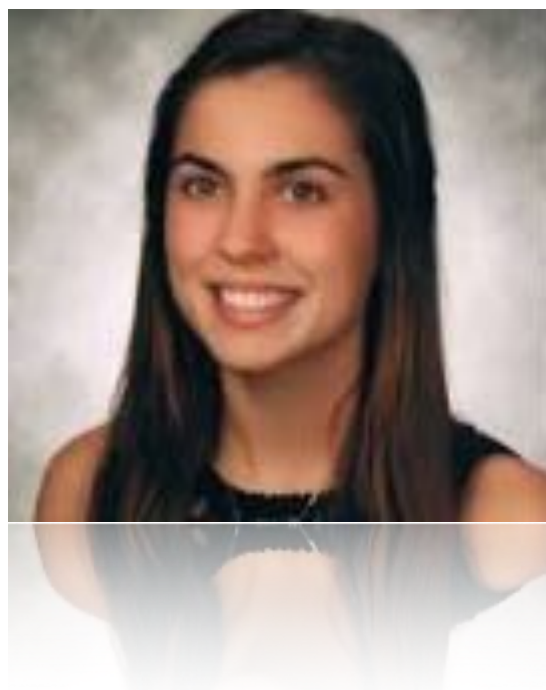
When Linda delivered the cards, she was told that the shelter really appreciates the donation and that it's the final gift the women receive during the shelter's Christmas party. The women are excited and appreciative of the ability to purchase things they need.

Women in STEM Scholarship

Our St. Louis Club winner Aneliese Hebenstreit, went on to win at District and at the International level. Congratulations Aneliese!

In 2019 and 2021, Zonta International was pleased to support the Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarships to encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in information technology. In June 2022, the Zonta International membership voted to continue the program with an expanded focus on all STEM fields, not only technology. With this change, the Zonta International Board approved a name change and will offer the Zonta International Women in STEM Scholarship for the third cycle of the scholarship program in 2023.

The 2023 Women in STEM recipients will receive an international scholarship of US\$5,000 from Zonta International.



Student Updates!

WAC STUDENT NAOMI MITCHELL-NEIL WELCOMES NEW DAUGHTER

Current WAC student Naomi Mitchell-Neil gave birth to daughter Catilayah on November 20th. Naomi is a Child Development major at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley. She has two other children Ro'Nez, age 7 and Royalti, age 6. She is on track to graduate next May. (The father of her two other children passed away several years ago)



WAC STUDENT ERICA THOMAS IS CONTINUING HER EDUCATION



Empowerment in ***ACTION!***

Erica Thomas graduated from SLCC with an Associate Degree in Nursing after we voted to support her 2 extra semesters. She graduated over 2 years ago and has already completed her Bachelors Degree in Nursing and has been accepted into a dual doctorate program in Family Nurse Practitioner and Acute Gerontology Critical Care.

She has accomplished this with 4 children (3 with special needs), losing her mother, stepfather and cousin, as well as a house fire.

Mary D'Angelo was her mentor and says the extra support we gave her was well worth it! Totally life changing!!

4-Ever a Zontian at Heart - Message from Debbie Redmond

You can find Zontians everywhere if you look!

Greetings everyone!

I just got back in town after attending the Service Club Leaders Conference. I had several conversations with Zonta leadership discussing the need for archiving as well as the work being done on the Strategic Plan by International Executive officers. I was attending as a representative for the Y's Men (YMCA) but I always enjoy being able to meet and get to know the people from Zonta. I think our Long Range planning committee needs to see and possibly discuss the new Strategic Plan that is being developed. I'm not sure how much information has been shared at this time.

The Service Club Leaders Conference is an annual event. It is a group of Service Clubs such as Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist, Shriners, and Y's Men. It is open to anyone involved in their own service club and generally there is a staff member from the service organization and an officer or active club member that attends. The advantage to this meeting is we not only get to discuss our common challenges and brag about some of our accomplishments, we also have tourist and hospitality groups that come in to talk to us such as Calgary, Norfolk, Memphis and Louisville (they sponsor some events and/or meal) and companies that assist in providing services to club such as Salesforce and Event Groove. If it is in Kansas City or St Louis next year, the club might consider sending an actual representative to it. There is a website called "Service Club Leaders Conference" if you want to check it out!

Debbie Redmond



Pictured left to right:
Megan Radavich/ZI Headquarters
Executive Director;
ZI President Ute Scholz;
Debbie Redmond/our club member
attending on behalf of Y's Men;
ZI President Elect Salla Tuominen

Zontians in *ACTION!*



Expand legal representation for survivors of violence

Studies have shown that when survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are represented by an attorney, their ability to break out of the cycle of violence increases dramatically. However, these survivors often cannot afford a lawyer.

The bipartisan Ensuring Representation for Survivors Act (S. 3124), introduced during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, works to ensure that all survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault have access to free legal representation if they need it.

The bill expands and improves the Legal Assistance for Victims grant program, managed by the Office of Violence Against Women. Specifically, it:

- Increases the authorized amount of the grant program to \$80 million.
- Allows states to receive and distribute a designated percentage of total grant funding to implement, expand and establish advocacy efforts, including through pro bono representation. The legal support provided can include asserting a victim's rights in a criminal proceeding, obtaining a protective order, and support in related civil proceedings such as divorce, custody, housing or health care.

"Survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence should never have their voices silenced, but too often, they face significant barriers to legal representation," said Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA). "Representation is essential; when survivors have access to an attorney, they are more than twice as likely to win their cases."

**Take Action on
this Act**

**Sign up to receive
Fast Action Friday's**

Zonta International: Women and children most at risk in armed conflicts

Nearly two months after Zonta International issued its statement, condemning all attacks on innocent members of civil society and all forms of violence in conflicts, innocent civilians continue to suffer as war rages on, not only in Israel and Gaza, but also in Ukraine and many other countries.

As Zonta, we focus on the rights of women and girls in conflict. **Zonta reiterates its call**, per UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on all parties to “respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians.” UN Security Resolution 1325 further “calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.”

6 DECEMBER 2023

Read Zonta International’s statement on women and children in armed conflicts, originally issued on 16 October on our [Statements page](#) and below:

There have been horrific reports of murder, kidnapping and rapes of members of civil society in Israel, especially of women and girls. As often in conflicts, this leads to an escalation of hate and violence and even more innocent civilians get involved and are suffering as a result, as we currently see in Gaza. In such armed conflicts, women and children are often the most adversely affected.

Zonta International condemns all attacks on innocent members of civil society and condemns all forms of violence in conflicts. There is no justification for such acts of inhumanity.

According to UNFPA, there are currently 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza who are unable to access essential health services, 5,500 of whom are due to give birth in the next month. That equates to 166 births per day taking place without access to healthcare or clean water. Zonta International joins UN Secretary-General António Guterres in calling for rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza to ensure that all civilians, especially women and children, have access to essential supplies and healthcare services.

Zonta calls, per UN Security Council Resolution 1325, on all parties to “respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians.” UN Security Resolution 1325 further “calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.”

For more actions you can take to advocate for women and girls in conflict situations, please refer to [Zonta International’s Statement on Women’s Rights in Armed Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings](#).

Zonta International

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

10 December 2023

Human Rights Day commemorates the day in 1948 when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.

ENGAGING YOUNG ZONTIANS:

HOW TO ATTRACT, INVOLVE AND RETAIN YOUNG MEMBERS IN ZONTA

15 December 2023

The Young Talents Working Group would like to invite Zontians from all clubs to a one-hour webinar on challenges, best practices and ideas regarding the integration of Young Professionals into Zonta Clubs with the intention of diversifying clubs and involving women from all generations in the Zonta Spirit. While we present thoughts and ideas from our working group, we are especially interested in your experiences and questions regarding attracting, involving and retaining young members. We are looking forward to your participation and a lively discussion!

Session 1 | 10:00 AM CST

Register

Session 2 | 5:00 PM CST

Register

ZONTA SAYS NOW INTERCONTINENTAL THINK TANK

17 December 2023

All members are welcome to join the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action Intercontinental Think Tank. Come share your ideas and gather inspiration on how we can address Gender-Equal Climate Action NOW

6:00 - 7:30 PM UTC



Register

AMELIA EARHART MONTH

1-31 January 2024

Each January, Zonta International celebrates the spirit and impact of legendary pilot Amelia Earhart, one of our most famous former members.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

December

9th Membership Holiday Get-together and
Ornament Exchange at the Firefly Grill
11:30 - 3:00

January

4th Board Meeting
18th Membership Meeting TBA

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

December

24th Genevieve Gibson-
Newman
26th Uma Eachempati
27th Jill Cooper

January

9th Nancy Schmich
11th Lisa Lillie
16th Judy Jensen
30th Gloria Johnson
30th Miriam Schuchardt
30th Julia Moss

