

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis

President's Message to the Club

Dear Zonta Sisters,

The August membership meeting was a wonderful kickoff to our 2025-2026 Zonta year, filled with fellowship and renewed Zonta spirit! We formally inducted Bee Girresch, welcomed new members Staycee Dixson and Mezzy Alexander, met prospective member Jessica Rivas-Middleton, and unveiled our 100th year anniversary banner. Members served enthusiastically as they signed up for Club Committees and shared items for our two silent auction baskets that will be part of the marketplace at the District 7 Conference in Cape Girardeau Sept 19-21.



As part of Zonta International, we are connected to a global network of more than 30,000 members in over 1,200 clubs across 67 countries, all working to empower women through service and advocacy. Zonta International's vision is a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman can achieve her full potential. This year, Zonta International continues to focus on advancing gender equality, supporting education, and ending violence against women worldwide. At the September 11th Membership Meeting, we will learn more about the tools, programs, and resources on the Zonta International Website and My Zonta App. I will also host a "Zonta Insights: Ask and Learn Roundtable Discussion" based on questions submitted in advance and at the meeting. If you are curious about something you read or saw online about Zonta International or even our club and want to know more, click [here](#) to submit up to 5 questions - be sure to specify if your question pertains to Zonta International (ZI) or Zonta STL.

Our club's centennial celebration is not just a reflection of our local achievements, but also a testament to the collective impact of Zontians around the world. It is inspiring to see everyone stepping up to support the terrific work of the 100 Year Anniversary Committee! Let's keep the momentum going! Together, we are building a better world for women and girls, both here in St. Louis and globally.

Thank you for your continued commitment, your ideas, and your Zonta spirit. I look forward to seeing you at our September membership meeting and collaborating with you as we celebrate our past and shape our future.

With gratitude and excitement,

Stacy Donovan
President, Zonta Club of St. Louis



September Board Meeting Updates:

The Finance Committee met prior to the Board Meeting:

- As of August 31st, the Trust stands at \$1,182,925.00 - overall gain in investments was 7.9%
- The portfolio will be re-balanced to meet our investment criteria guidelines.
- The 990PF (tax return) is being reviewed and will be submitted in a timely manner.

Updates to Bylaws are to be made: increase the age for a Young Professional from 30 to 35 and clarify dues amounts.

A new club member was approved - there's a possibility that 2 new members will be inducted at the September Membership Meeting.

Kay is working with Charity Clothing Pickup to increase donations:

- Club members should sign up and share the word with friends, family and co-workers
- Send out an updated flyer that club members can share.

The St. Louis County Library is working with the literacy committee on their reading project (see August ZEST). We will also be able to have some sort of recognition on display at various campuses.

The Community Grants Committee received 5 applications by the September 1st deadline.

100 Year Celebration - Ellen Embry presented an organizational chart and framework for planning this November event. Thursday meetings are planned. Stacy Donovan is setting up everything in a GOOGLE Drive and Group Me App that can help keep us organized.

Some Maryville students are forming a Golden Z Club - they are trying to generate interest and possible activities.



Membership Meeting

The September Membership Meeting needed to be bumped up due to venue availability and to schedule around the upcoming District Meeting in Cape Girardeau.

September 11th - 6:00pm

at Moneta

100 S. Brentwood Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63105

* From Brentwood Blvd, turn East on Carondelet. The parking lot is the first lot on the right. The gate should be open.

Can't drive in? Join us via ZOOM!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87087923755?pwd=1OUeucGWW1DJwEbkvkAenX7fDaYpG6.1>

- ☑ NEW Member inductions!
- ☑ Learn more about Zonta International and the work they do.
- ☑ Round Table Discussion on the relationship between our club and Zonta International and how we work together to make world change.
- ☑ Receive your updated Zonta Membership Directory!
- ☑ Bring silent basket auction items for our baskets going to the District conference: St. Louis Food or Autumn Harvest. Register and see who is donating what [HERE!](#)

August Membership Meeting at Mimi's Cafe

Welcome to our club Bee!

Rebecca (Bee) Girresch is a research and development scientist at MilliporeSigma. Bee found interests in scientific research, policy, and education during her undergraduate studies at Maryville University. After earning her masters in cell and molecular biology from SLU, Bee worked at Rosati-Kain High School as a Biology teacher. She especially loved working in all-girls education. In 2023, Bee returned to research full-time at WashU studying cancer genetics. This year she moved into the pharma/biotech industry; in her current R&D role, she develops cell lines for gene therapy.

Bee brings a passion for science and girls' education to the Zonta Club of St. Louis. She hopes to explore various Zonta committees, starting with the STEM and Literacy groups.

When she's not in lab, you can find Bee optimizing her brownie recipe or riding her bicycle in Tower Grove Park. She and husband Sam recently bought a house in south city, where they live with their two cats and many houseplants.





Zonta Club of St. Louis

Celebrating 100 Years!!

***Let's plan some ZONTA FUN this year and
CELEBRATE!***

Celebration committee forming now!

***Contact Ellen Embry if you are interested in helping to plan
our BIG birthday celebration in November...***

Plus, other fun activities throughout the year!



SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S ANOTHER CHANCE PROGRAM by donating to Charity Clothing Pickup

- To schedule a pickup through their website:
www.clothingpickupstl.com
- Once you fill out their electronic form, you can select your charity preference.
- Select: **Women's Another Chance Missouri**
- Confirm your donation is waiting for pickup when prompted

- To schedule a pickup by phone: call **314-416-1300**
- Tell them you want to donate to **Women's Another Chance Missouri**
- Confirm your donation is waiting for pickup when prompted

Women's Another Chance Program

This local program is primarily funded by Charity Clothing Pickup and managed by the Zonta Club of St. Louis.

The program:

- Offers scholarship opportunities to single mothers, 24 years of age and older.
- Scholarships provide financial aid for tuition, books, lab fees, classroom supplies and day care support.
- Scholarship recipients are assigned to a mentor who provides guidance and a supportive relationship.



Founded in 1925, the Zonta Club of St. Louis continues the mission of improving the status of women locally through service, advocacy, scholarships and mentoring.

Learn more at <https://zontastlouis.org>



Walk To Win 2025

- Saturday, October 25, 2025
- 8:00 AM 11:00 AM
- Tiemeyer Park ([map](#))

Dear Zonta Sisters,

I hope you can join us this year at our annual walk. Saturday, October 25, 2025. 8a.m. to 11a.m. We are raising funds to purchase recliners for women that will undergo a double mastectomy. We want to continue to win lives where we can. We are forever grateful for your assistance in the past.

Valeda's Hope.

[Register or Donate Here.](#)

Your Sister in Zonta,

Valeda Keys



Save the date!

Dear Zonta Sisters,

The 2025 Gateway Alliance against Human Trafficking (GAHT) Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Westport Chalet.

Event details

- **Date:** Thursday, November 20, 2025
- **Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Sheraton Westport Chalet
- **Special guest:** Grammy Award-winning American soprano Christine Brewer will be performing.

GAHT's annual dinner is the organization's main fundraiser and provides opportunities for individuals and corporations to sponsor the event. More information, including ticket sales, can be found on GAHT's website closer to the date.

I hope to see you there!

Shima Rostami
Executive Director
Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking

Zontians in Action...



Sue,

On behalf of our team at The Women's Safe House, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for Zonta's generous support. Your commitment to service and advocacy - especially through your volunteer work with our agency - is greatly appreciated. We love partnering with you all for such meaningful days of impact!

We are also incredibly grateful for your recommendation and support of our recent Zonta Grant application, which we submitted today (8/28/25) through the online form. Your recommendation not only strengthens our proposal but also reflects Zonta's deep commitment to empowering women and children as they rebuild their lives free of abuse.

Your belief in our mission means the so much to us, and we look forward to continuing to grow our partnership!

Thank you so much,

Ashleigh Burnett

She/her

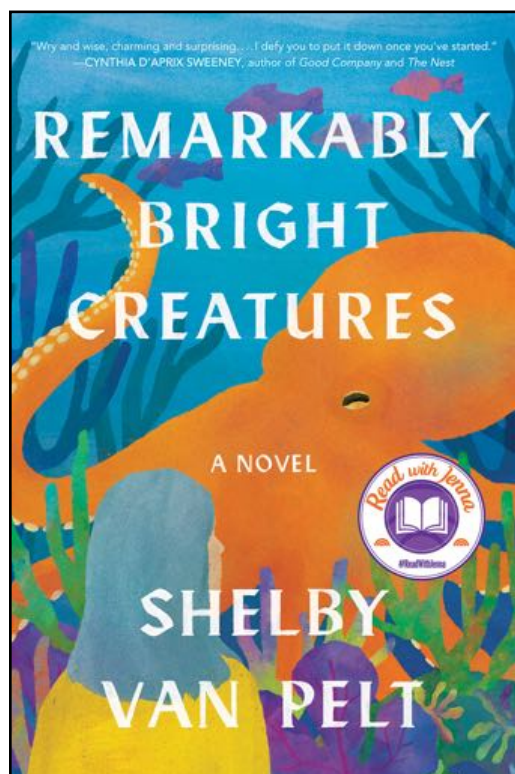
Grants Manager

(314) 916-0641

<https://twsh.org>

Amelia Earhart Book Club!

Sponsored by the STEM Committee



Meet and Discuss
Monday, October 6th
6:30 - 8:00pm

Judy Jensen hosting
8 Big Country Circle
Dardenne Prairie, MO
63368-8080

*Watch for reminders and ZOOM link
if you can't attend in person:)*

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE 2025

POWERED BY PURPOSE:
EDUCATE – ENGAGE – EMPOWER

September 19-21, 2025
Cape Girardeau, MO
Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau



Link
to District 7
Conference Information

Zonta International



HOW IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACTING GENDER EQUALITY: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

A joint webinar of the Zonta International Advocacy and Council of Europe Committees

9 September 2025

Join Zonta International for a webinar on how AI is impacting gender equality. In this session, you will learn about:

- How algorithmic biases and discrimination are inherent to AI.
- Solutions for dealing with these biases and discrimination and how AI can be used to reduce gender inequalities.
- A young person's perspective on navigating the use of AI.
- How the Council of Europe is tackling the unchecked development of AI.

Sep 9, 2025 12:00 PM

Register

Zonta International

ZONTA SAYS NOW INTERCONTINENTAL THINK TANK

14 September 2025

Plastics are polluting our world—and threatening women's health. Join us to explore the dangers of plastics, their impact on health and the actions we can take to create a safer, more sustainable future.

Zonta Says NOW
Intercontinental Think Tank

**Toxic Truths:
plastics, pollution
and health**

**Sunday 14 September
6 pm UTC (1 pm CDT)**

Plastics are everywhere, from the products we use to the food we eat. They're polluting our oceans, land, and air, but did you know they're also affecting our health?

From toxic chemicals in packaging to microplastics in our bodies, plastics are putting women's health at risk—and harming the planet. Join us as we explore ways to address them.

REGISTER HERE

REGISTER HERE



 **ZONTA**
INTERNATIONAL
BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

 **ZONTA SAYS NOW**
TO GENDER-EQUAL CLIMATE ACTION

zonta.org/zontasaysnow

Zonta International

INTERNATIONAL EQUAL PAY DAY

18 September 2025

Zonta International observes International Equal Pay Day to raise awareness about the gender pay gap and advocate for pay equity globally.

NEW MEMBER WEBINAR

18 September 2025

Are you new to Zonta? Join members of the Zonta Headquarters Team as we welcome you. We will provide a history of Zonta, highlights of the programs we support and tips for the resources available to you. This is also an opportunity to meet longtime members who serve on the International Membership Committee and other new members from around the world.

Option I | 9:00 AM

[Register](#)

Option II | 6:00 PM

[Register](#)

PLANNED GIVING WEBINAR

24 September 2025

On Wednesday, 24 September, join us for an empowering and informative webinar hosted by the Zonta Foundation for Women in partnership with the CAP STRAT Women's Forum (part of SageView Advisory Group). Whether you're just beginning to think about your financial future or have an established plan, this session will help you better understand how to align your resources with your values and life goals.

Topics include:

- Exploring the alignment of your values and purpose with the actions you are taking.
- Understanding drivers of your financial behavior and cultivating a positive money mindset.
- Practical steps for making financial decisions at any stage of life.
- How to fulfill your legacy goals during and beyond your lifetime.

This is a great opportunity to explore how you can make a meaningful difference in your life – and the lives of others!

Sep 24, 2025 2:00 PM

[Register](#)

Zonta International

IN-PERSON ONLY: BEIJING+30 - FROM PROMISE TO POWER

22 September 2025 | 1:00 PM ET | 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY, USA

Thirty years after the landmark Beijing Platform for Action was adopted, women and girls worldwide are still facing persistent inequalities, violence, and barriers to education. Our upcoming workshop alongside UNGA, Beijing+30: From Promise to Power, will bring together civil society leaders to honor progress made, confront the gaps that remain, and chart a shared path toward justice and equality in a rapidly changing world.

The program will highlight Zonta International's contributions since 1995, including advocacy efforts, global service projects, and education programs that empower women and girls. It will also engage partner organizations, including Soroptimist International and the U.S. Women's Caucus, in a dynamic panel discussion on accelerating progress in ending violence against women and advancing education equality.

Together, we will reaffirm our commitment to transforming promises into power for women and girls everywhere.



Thirty years after the landmark Beijing Platform for Action was adopted, women and girls worldwide are still facing persistent inequalities, violence, and barriers to education.

BEIJING+30 - FROM PROMISE TO POWER

22 September 2025
1:00 PM EST

777 United Nations Plaza
11th Floor
New York, NY

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

★★★★★
U.S. Women's Caucus

Join our Civil Society discussion to:

- Bring together Civil Society Organizations,
- Confront Gaps,
- Chart a shared path toward equality

RSVP TODAY!



CSW70 ORIENTATION

9 OCTOBER 2025

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the largest annual gathering on women's rights worldwide, and is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Join Zonta's UN Committee Chair, Pamela Morgan, to learn about how ZSW operates, what you should know before attending virtually or physically, how to participate as a Zontian and specifically about **CSW70**

Oct 9, 2025 11:00 AM

[Register](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

September

4th Board Meeting
11th Membership Meeting
at Moneta

October

2nd Board Meeting
16th Membership Meeting

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

September

3rd Kit Whittington
11th Mildred Whitted
24th Barb Meyer
25th Carol Camp-Yeaky

October

7th Kay Moss
27th Bea Armstrong-Logan

