APRIL 8, 2026

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis

President's Message to the Club

Dear Zonta Sisters,

Happy April! I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work our club has accomplished so far this year. The annual reports submitted by committee chairs highlight the remarkable impact we made **together**. From service projects to advocacy efforts, fundraising, and membership growth, each committee has played a vital role in advancing our mission. Thank you to everyone for your contributions—you are the heart of our Zonta family, and your efforts truly make a difference!

Membership Milestones

Please join me in recognizing members who celebrated membership milestones including:

Judy Jensen (40 years), Betty Davidson (35), Sherry Brooks (30), Kay Moss (30), Nancy Schmich (30), Miriam Schuchardt (25), Gerda Thalheimer (25), and Malaika Horne (15).

Supporting Our Zonta Sisters

Kudos to **Staycee Dixson**, a Woman of Achievement Honoree for Fostering Support! The Honoree Luncheon is on Tuesday, May 19 at the Ritz-Carlton, from 11:15 am - 1:30 pm. Reservations are $60 per person and can be made online woastl.org/event. I am looking forward to supporting Staycee!

Kudos to **Malaika Horne** on her recent Dred Scott Freedom Award. Malaika is a volunteer researcher for the Mill Creek Exhibit at the History Museum. Her sister, Gwen Moore, is the exhibit curator. On March 26, Judy Jensen and I viewed the exhibit and attended the documentary screening and panel discussion. It was an eye opening and educational experience –check it out! The exhibit runs until July 12th.

Area Meeting and Convention Delegates

Follow up information about the Areas 2 & 4 Meeting was sent out via email on April 4th. Area Meeting information is also included in the Zest. **Early bird $65 registration fee** if you register by **Friday, April 17, 2026. $80 after April 17**.

Judy Jensen and Linda White will be representing our St. Louis Club as voting delegates for the International Convention Elections. Kay Moss will be our alternate. We will discuss and select candidates for our club's collective vote at our April Membership Meeting on Thursday, April 16th. Be sure to read the candidate bios in the Zest!

A heartfelt thank you for all that you do to support our mission **and** each other.

With gratitude,

Stacy Donovan
President, Zonta Club of St. Louis

April Board Meeting Updates:

- There was some discussion about changing board meeting nights and it was decided to keep the board meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.
- The Clayton Post Office has not supplied a second key to our box. They seem disorganized. Jill Cooper had passed on that the Brentwood office might be better. The Chesterfield office was also discussed. More to come…
- The idea of creating a Zonta Club T-Shirt was presented. Stacy Donovan is checking into pricing with her contact.
- WAC has 5 applications and 3 openings to fill. There was some discussion on raising award amount due to inflation but no changes voted on at this time.
- The WAC Awards Picnic is coming up in June.
- Kathleen Braun, treasurer, has not received many Zonta Club renewals thus far. Some in attendance had sent their renewals to Jill Cooper.
- Robin Hlava was approved for membership.
- Venmo might be a possibility for allowing the club to accept electronic payments easily. Stacy Donovan was going to see if the District Meeting planners were going to use Venmo.
- $500 was approved for a fleece purchase to make Blankets for St. Luke's Special Care Nursery.
- The Golden Z Club dropped off donations they collected, along with our donations, to the Women's Safe House.
- Community Grants made awards:
  - $5000 - YMCA/STEM Program
  - $5000 - IHELP (In Home English Learning Program)
  - $2500 - Hope Ignites (increased to $5000 by unanimous vote)
  - $2500 - Archway Refugee Connection (Increased to $5000 by unanimous vote)
- Judy Jensen will represent the club as delegates to the International Convention in July. Kay Moss will act as an alternate.

April Membership Meeting

SQWIRES
HISTORIC
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
RESTAURANT

1415 South 18th Street
St Louis, MO 63104

DINE WITH FRIENDS!

April 16th

6:00 Fellowship

6:30 Meeting

WATCH FOR RSVP!!

Preview the Menu Here

ELECTIONS!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2026-2027 Term

Officers	Candidate
President	Stacy Donovan
VP	Ellen Embry
Treasurer	Kathleen Braun
Secretary	Judy Jensen

Directors	Candidate
PR	Staycee Dixson
Finance	Jill Cooper
LRP	Norma Nisbet
Membership	Mezzy Alexander
Service	Sue Ellbogen

Additional candidates may be nominated from the Floor and added to the slate prior to voting...

Nominating Committee: **Laura Burton**
Edith Holmes
Malaika Horne

Club Member Trustee-at-Large:
Kay Moss (6/1/2024 - 5/31/2028)

Celebrating.... Length of Membership!!

Judy Jensen

Why did I join ZONTA?

I first became aware of Zonta when a co-worker, and later very good friend, Sharon Carmody, spoke about it. This was in 1985. After attending several meetings and meeting the various women, I decided to join and have never looked back. I am a nurse and most of my career was spent around doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. It was so interesting to meet women who were trailblazing outside of the expected career paths for women. And... the work being done around the world by Zonta was so appealing! Making a difference by working with the UN in parts of the world I would never see and having a "hand" in helping to improve the quality of life for women, and children is very rewarding. Through Zonta International we helped obtain water wells in Sri Lanka, provide OB-GYN assistance for women with vaginal fistulas and joined the fight against female genital mutilation. We were fighting child marriage and human trafficking before it was the "thing to do". Here at home our club worked with organizations to improve living conditions for women in our own communities. The crown jewel is our Women's Another Chance Scholarship. We undertook many growth challenges to get where we are now but it was the correct thing to do. I have made many friends within our club and clubs in our area and district. Such an honor.

Judy

Beatrice Armstrong-Logan

(Emeritus Status)

I know that Zonta's strong, beautiful and dedicated ladies will continue with their efforts to improve the status of women.

Bea

Betty Davidson

35 Years!

I joined Zonta in 1991 because I love the commitment to building a better world for women and girls by improving women's lives and empowering them so they can develop to their full potential. I have made so many wonderful friends over the years and I loved the friendship of women of diversity and different careers.

Professionally, I was a principal at Missouri School for the Blind, Deputy Director of Rehabilitation for the Blind of Missouri in Jefferson City, taught college for 30 years, and directed the countywide programs for the visually impaired and the orthopedically impaired for Special School District of St. Louis County.

Currently, I am a chair on the Governor's Council for Disability, vice-president and acting president of the SSM St. Clare Hospital Auxiliary, and outgoing president of Inclusivity Media.

I am married, have two children, and 5 grandchildren.

I am currently a Women's Another Chance Mentor. Other positions I've held include: Zonta Club Board Member, President (2000-2001), Vice-President/President Elect over Program Committee, Inner City Chair, Community Grants Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Hospitality, Membership, Awards and Yellow Rose fashion show committee, International Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations Chair, Long Range Planning Chair, Women's Another Chance Board. While president of Zonta Club of St. Louis, we partnered with Charity Clothing Pickup!

Betty

30 Years!

Sherry Brooks

Sherry introduced us to Santa's Helpers. For several years we would wrap presents for other organizations to distribute. Much fun was had by all. We miss you Sherry Thank you for your continued support!

Kay Moss

Kay Moss is truly our most traveled member. She's often off on some adventure! However, she finds time to contribute to the club. She has has held many positions, including club President 2002-2003 and 2019-2021. Most recently, she donated her time to help with the club's Centennial Celebration in November. Currently she is working with Charity Clothing Pickup on a postcard campaign to increase donations.

Thank you Kay for all that you do!

We are celebrating Nancy Schmich and her 30 years affiliation with the Zonta Club of St. Louis and Zonta International! Thank you for your continued support!!

Nancy Schmich

Gerda Thalheimer

In 1999 two of my patients were Zontians and they asked me to join but at the time I was serving as President of the Greater St Louis Dental Society so I declined. Although I did check out Zonta by attending a fashion show and going to a trivia night. I was very impressed with the Zonta group in that their mission aligned with my own sentiments. I joined after my commitment to the Dental Society was over. I have found over the years that the membership consists of high quality, energetic people who have since become friends. Joining Zonta was a good decision that I have never regretted.

Gerda

I'm grateful for my association with ZONTA although it doesn't seem it's been for 25 years.

The service projects were the source of most of the friendships I made. Our time and efforts built close relationships.

Thanks to each of you for what we built.

Miriam Schuchardt

Miriam Schuchardt

My most gratifying experience is working with the women in Women's Another Chance.

Malaika Horne Wells

Malaika Horne Wells

Owens-Culbertson Award

In recognition of her dedication to the club, Peggy Gilbertson passed the Owens-Culbertson Award on to Ellen Embry at our March membership meeting. Congratulations Ellen!!

Here's a little history behind the award:

Martha Culbertson was given a necklace for her fifty years of service to the club. She was an owner of Culbertson Jewelry. The circular pendant has the years of membership and her initial on the back - 1931-1981 M.H.C. When Martha died her family gave the necklace to her friend Elizabeth Owens, a Zonta member and librarian for Mercantile Bank. After Elizabeth died her family returned the necklace to the club and it was decided to institute the Owens- Culbertson Award.

Celebrating Membership at our last Meeting!!

We had a lovely March meeting at the Salt and Smoke. Length of Membership members attending included Judy Jensen (40 years), Kay Moss (30 years) and Gerda Thalheimer (25 years).

Items we collected for the Maryville University Empower/ Golden Z Club - the items will be donated to the Women's Safe House.

Judy receiving her 40 Years Length of Service Award!

Peggy Gilbertson passed the Owens-Culbertson Award on to Ellen Embry! Congratulations Ellen!!

Watch for additional information coming soon!!

This is one of our signature events where we celebrate young women's accomplishments in meeting their educational goals.

It's a great meeting to bring a "future" Zontains as a guest!

The Zonta Club of Jefferson City's Yellow Rose Luncheon is an annual fundraising event that raises money for their Second Chance Scholarships and specialty charity projects. Lifetime Achievement winner and honors two deserving local women who have made vast contributions to their community. Your ticket includes access to our vendor expo of local female run businesses and non profit entities, a seat at the luncheon, a plated lunch and dessert. There will be presentations and photo opportunities

Zonta Club of Jefferson City
2026 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT YELLOW ROSE LUNCHEON
Celebrating Women of Action

Click on the Rose above to Learn More!

Thursday - May 21, 2026
Luncheon: 11:30 - 1:00pm
(Doors open at 11:00am)

Capitol Plaza Hotel
415 W. McCarty
Jefferson City, MO 65101

PURCHASE TICKETS

(Online sales end May 13th)

Celebration Speaker: Gina Goff, Film Producer

We're excited to announce that Gina Goff, a Jefferson City native and film producer, will be our 2026 Yellow Rose Luncheon Celebration Speaker. As the founder of Goff Productions, operating in Los Angeles and Missouri, Gina will share her experiences in the film industry. Her films have garnered dozens of prestigious worldwide awards and recognition over the years.

Zonta International - Website Access

*** You will need this access to view some items pertaining to the upcoming Convention.**

Registering for member access to Zonta International's website opens the door to additional information and resources available to club members!

Link to Zonta International's website

First-time user:

- Your username is the email address you provided to Zonta International.

First-time password or password reset:

- Go to the "Sign In" page and click on "Forgot Password?" below the Sign In button.
- You will receive an e-mail that includes your username. When you click on the link provided, it will take you to the "Sign In" page to create a new password.
- Enter your chosen new password. It needs to be at least 7 characters long. Once you have clicked submit, it will take you to the Zonta homepage.
- To access your profile, click at the top of the page where it says, "Hi NAME."
- If you ever want to change your password from your profile, select the "My Settings" tab on your profile. There you will be able to select "Change Password" and follow the prompts.

If your password has been reset by Zonta International Headquarters:

- After you have emailed and received a response from Zonta International Headquarters, please go to the "Sign In" page.
- When you log on, your username will be your current email that you have provided Zonta International Headquarters.
- The temporary password will be provided to you within the email sent to you by Zonta International Headquarters.
- You will be able to re-set your password by clicking at the top of the page where it says, "Hi NAME."
- When you see your profile, scroll down and select the "My Settings" tab on your profile. There you will be able to select "Change Password" and follow the prompts.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

* You will need login access to Zonta International's website - see previous page.

The International Nominating Committee has published a slate of candidates for election to Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women boards and to the International Nominating Committee. Clubs will be voting on representation at the convention. Here's access to a nice paper copy of the slate and a link to the bios as published on YouTube:

Printable Slate

Bios

ZOOM IN TO MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

13-17 April 2026

Zonta International will be hosting six sessions, two per group, to allow members to meet the candidates for the 2026-2028 Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women Boards and International Nominating Committee before elections open at the end of April. Each section will be recorded and made available under the **Nominations Tools page** until results are announced.

International Officers - maximum 60 minutes

- Session One: Tuesday, 14 April, 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time | **REGISTER**
- Session Two: Thursday, 16 April, 6:00 a.m. Chicago Time | **REGISTER**

International Directors - maximum 90 minutes

- Session One: Wednesday, 15 April, 11:00 a.m. Chicago Time | **REGISTER**
- Session Two: Friday, 17 April, 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time | **REGISTER**

International Nominating Committee - maximum 90 minutes

- _Session One: Monday, 13 April, 3:00 p.m. Chicago Time | **REGISTER**
- Session Two: Wednesday, 15 April, 9:00 a.m. Chicago Time | **REGISTER**

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES: Members are invited to submit questions in advance of the sessions. Members will have the option of addressing the question to a specific candidate or to candidates overall for a specific office/position. Questions will also be taken the day of the session. Submit questions via the form here:

Questions For Candidates

Zonta International

ZONTA STEP FORWARD FOR EQUALITY ON EARTH DAY

22 April 2026

Connecting climate change with gender equality is a challenge. While the issue of climate has become politicized in recent years, it has always unequally affected women and girls, truly making it a women's rights issue. Addressing the climate crisis is an opportunity to address gender norms and change them as we build a better world for women and girls.

This Earth Day, we are taking a "Step Forward for Equality" to focus on awareness and education, highlighting the links between gender equality and climate justice. While climate justice has been a challenge to embrace, Zontians have always been the first to understand how women are disproportionately affected by climate crises. By focusing on gender-equality in climate policies and taking local actions, we know that we will be taking a step in the right direction.

Learn More About the Campaign

A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

REMARKABLE WOMEN POWERFUL STORIES

Remarkable Women - Powerful Stories

Thank you to everyone that is helping when the Women's Safe House calls for a pickup! On Saturday, March 28, Ellen Embry, Jill Cooper, and Peggy Gilbertson drove down to the Womens SAFE House and picked up truck/car loads of donated items that they are not in need of and drive them over to Zonta member Jessica Rivas-Middleton's home where she will schedule a WAC pick up. She graciously gave up 1/3 of her garage for the items to be stored until the pick up can happen. Jessica is a former WAC student.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

April

16th Membership Meeting
Business Meeting: Elections

May

7th Board Meeting
21st Membership Meeting

June

4th Board Meeting
20th Awards Picnic

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY

April

14th Debbie Redmond

May

3rd Cheryl Bielema
11th Stacy Donovan
14th Shima Rostami