

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis

President's Message to the Club

Dear Zonta Sisters,

At the May membership meeting, we welcomed our newest member, Robin Reece Hlava, whose inspiring leadership and expertise promise to enrich our community, and our new board was installed. I am honored to serve as your club President alongside some phenomenal women including Ellen Embry (Vice President), Judy Jensen (Secretary), Kathleen Braun (Treasurer), and our directors: Jill Cooper (Finance), Norma Nisbet (Long Range Planning), Mezzy Alexander (Membership), Staycee Dixson (PR/Marketing), and Sue Ellbogen (Service).



I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on Saturday, June 20th to honor and celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients. Additionally, our upcoming volunteer event at the St. Louis Diaper Bank on Saturday, June 27th offers a meaningful chance for fellowship with our Zonta sisters and service as we collaborate with another group to share our mission with the broader community. As always, Linda has all the details and MUCH more inside this edition of the Zest!

Lastly, I want to extend my deepest thanks to each member for your unwavering commitment and enthusiasm. Your efforts, whether through committee participation, event support, or simply bringing your inspiring ideas to the table, are the heartbeat of our club. In the spirit of inspiration and reflection, I also want to touch on the significance of the Zonta emblem. The emblem is a beacon of strength, unity, and hope for women everywhere. It aligns perfectly with the journal and pen many of you received at the May membership meeting (For those unable to attend, I hope to see you at the June meeting or will mail it). This gift is more than a token; it is an invitation to capture your ideas, moments of inspiration, and dreams for the future. Just as the emblem represents our collective mission, the journal is a personal space to document the sparks that drive our individual and collective journeys toward empowerment. May you find joy and motivation in every page you fill, and may your words continue to inspire the remarkable work our club accomplishes together.

With gratitude,

Stacy

President, Zonta Club of St. Louis



June Board Meeting Updates

- Club dues were paid to International and District on time, with three members removed from the roster including Miriam who went to emeritus status and two non-renewing members.
- Charity clothing pickup checks total \$57,000 through May, which is a \$4,000 increase over the previous year - increase is attributed to our partnership with the Women's Safe House and Charity Clothing Pickup working with us to pick up the donations we collect from them.
- The Program Committee is lining up membership meeting sites for the upcoming year.
- Discussions about a Fall retreat have begun - more to come.
- Our newest club member, Robin Reece Hlava, has offered her home as a possible location for a retreat or a winter holiday party.
- The June WAC Picnic recognizing our WAC students and other Zonta Award winners is well underway - Sugar Fire BBQ will be on the menu.
- A volunteer opportunity at the St. Louis Diaper Bank is coming up Saturday, June 27th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Contact [Sue Ellbogen](#) if you can attend.
- Website updates were discussed including updating pictures.
- Zonta Club T-Shirt and Polo options are available to order by June 7th - Stacy sent out a separate email to the club with information about ordering.
- The Women's Another Chance Committee accepted 3 more students into the program.

June Membership Meeting



Join us under the pavilion for a delicious meal and a fun, uplifting, and joyful afternoon as we celebrate past and present Zonta scholarship recipients.

Please RSVP by June 12 using the registration link below.

[Register Here](#)

A variety of meat sandwiches, side dishes, beverages, and desserts will be served. Vegetarian meals are available upon request and may be reserved in advance.

May's Membership Meeting

We celebrated a fantastic May Membership Meeting by welcoming our newest club member, Robin Reece Hlava, and inducting our new leadership team! 🎉 Mimi's Cafe provided the perfect backdrop with excellent food, great service, and a private room for our group. A special thank you to our Jefferson City sisters for gifting us the beautiful yellow roses from their luncheon earlier that day!



We are thrilled to welcome **Robin Reece Hlava** to our club! Following her inspiring presentation at our March Membership Meeting, Robin is excited to join us as an active member.

Here is a quick snapshot of what she brings to our community:

- **Executive Leader:** Chief Growth Officer at BAM Marketing Agency.
- **Expert Coach:** Founder of executive coaching practice MyCoachExec.
- **Published Author:** Creator of the *MyCoachExec* growth book and journal series.
- **Highly Credentialed:** Holds a Master's in Business Communication alongside advanced certifications in Management Development and Neuroscience Coaching.
- **Local Roots:** Based right here in the St. Louis and Louisville areas.

Welcome to the club, Robin!

Zontians in Action!

Service Opportunity at the Diaper Bank! Saturday, June 27th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We will be joining another group which gives us a unique opportunity to share our goals and mission with others. Email or text Sue Ellbogen ssellbogen@gmail.com or 630-248-9374 - **RSVP by FRIDAY, JUNE 19th.**



May's Volunteering Opportunity at RUNG was FUN!





2026-2027 COMMITTEE SIGN-UP!

Sign up for Committees! Now is the time to explore a new committee or remain working on them. Preview the accompanying PDF which lists out all the committees, what they do and who is on them. Let President, [Stacy Donovan](#), know what committees you want to sign up for, any you want to move away from or if you want to chair any open committees as noted. The Awards Committee and Community Grants/Partnership Committees could use more volunteers! 😊 Please sign up by **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th**. An updated list will be sent to chairs and committee members.

Club T-Shirts and Polos



Women's LK110



Men's K110

Zonta Custom T-shirts and Polos! Please use the [apparel order form link](#) to place your pre-order for commemorative Zonta Club shirts by **SUNDAY, JUNE 7th**. Once all pre-orders are placed, they will be submitted to Missouri Print Express for processing and production. The order will be pre-paid. An email will be sent to you for the amount you owe - payable via check, cash, or Venmo.

Young Women in Leadership Award International WINNER!



CONGRATULATIONS ELSA MULLERSMAN on your INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION!!

We are thrilled to announce that our local St. Louis Club winner has advanced from the district level to win a prestigious \$5,000 Zonta International award!

Administered by [Zonta International](#), this honor is part of the **Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award** (formerly the Young Women in Public Affairs Award). The program recognizes young women ages 16-19 for their volunteer leadership achievements and commitment to public service. It aims to inspire future participation in public and political life.

This year, only 37 international awards were granted across the globe!

“The most rewarding part of my leadership journey has been the opportunity to serve others. I do not view leadership roles as just another box to check off or something to do for personal benefit, rather I have grown a passion for advocating, encouraging, and building up others. I have made the most of my leadership positions by advocating for educational funding on Capitol Hill, founding a community carnival that has raised over \$9000 for my high school’s clubs, facilitating a book drive that collected over 900 books, and more. Additionally, my experience with the National Student Council has deepened my global understanding by allowing me to engage with peers whose backgrounds and experiences differ from my own.”



Congratulations to Staycee Dixson on her recognition as a Woman of Achievement!

Zonta member Staycee Dixson was honored as a 2026 Woman of Achievement for her deep commitment to the foster care community. Her grassroots advocacy and leadership were celebrated at an award luncheon.

As a licensed foster parent, she has cared for over 50 children and founded the [Rise of the Champions Foundation](#) to empower foster youths and struggling families.

Here's a little History on the Women of Achievement Award:

In 1955, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* newspaper created an awards program that became known as the Women of Achievement Award, in order to recognize and honor the achievement of women who, through their volunteer efforts, have demonstrated their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in the St. Louis community.

The awards program was created on the belief that the community benefited immeasurably from the service of women volunteers and that public recognition would celebrate the women and serve as an inspiration to others.

The St. Louis Women of Achievement Award is the oldest, ongoing program in the area whose sole mission is to honor and recognize the volunteer efforts of women. St. Louis Women of Achievement, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, was established in 1993 by former recipients who wished to ensure the longevity of the award for future generations of St. Louis area women. Each year the organization's members continue to honor the women volunteers in the St. Louis metropolitan region who positively impact and enhance the quality of life in our community.

The 10 honorees selected are women representing diverse cultures, roles, and accomplishments, all of whom have demonstrated commitment to the betterment of the St. Louis area through significant volunteer contributions. Nominees must have a record of achievement and leadership, outside of their professional responsibilities, that have enhanced the quality of life and addressed a pertinent need, problem, or issue. The selection committees comprised of community leaders, sponsors, and past recipients of the Women of Achievement award, select the ten honorees each year.

The Zonta Club of Jefferson City Yellow Rose Luncheon

Kay Moss and Linda White proudly represented the Zonta Club of St. Louis at the Zonta Club of Jefferson City's Yellow Rose Luncheon. The uplifting program celebrated several local women who are making meaningful impacts in their community, providing a deeply inspiring experience for all in attendance.





ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Which of the proposed projects should our club vote on to support?

Zonta International is passionate about providing life-changing opportunities for women and girls through international service. By partnering with agencies of the United Nations and other recognized non-governmental organizations, Zonta has improved women's health, provided better economic opportunities and prevented gender-based violence in over 87 countries. Since our first service project, Zonta has contributed more than US\$39 million to our international service projects.

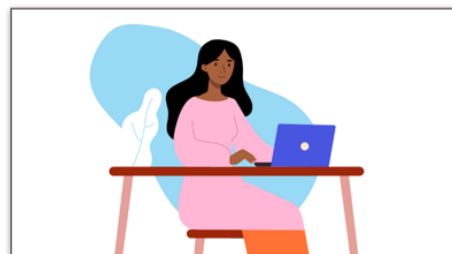
Current International Service Projects



[Climate Empower](#)



[Ending Child Marriage](#)



[Laaha](#)

Proposed 2026-2028 International Project Descriptions. Which service projects would you vote for?

- Global Programme to End Child Marriage | [PDF](#)
- Gender Transformative Mechanism in Climate Adaptation (GTM): Placing gender equality at the heart of climate action | [PDF](#)
- Laaha: A Virtual Safe Space for Women and Girls | [PDF](#)
- Standing with Afghan Women: Expanding Community-Led Solutions to End Gender-Based Violence (Delegates' Choice) | [PDF](#)
- Global Feminist Tech & Innovation Lab, ACT to end violence against women and girls (Delegates' Choice) | [PDF](#)

Zonta International

2026 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

11-14 July 2026

Join us in Vancouver for the 67th Zonta International Convention. Dates and times are subject to change, but the Zonta Spirit remains committed!

[Meet us in Vancouver](#)



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

16 July 2026

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.

[Register](#)

Option 1

July 16th at 9:00 AM CT

[Register](#)

Option 2

July 16th at 6:00pm CT

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

30 July 2026

Zonta International observes World Day Against Trafficking in Persons each year to raise awareness about human trafficking and promote the rights of victims. Trafficking is a violation of human rights and call for governments to take action against it. Zonta also encourages its members to participate in activities to recognize this day.

Zonta USA Caucus

Provide Economic Security for Domestic Violence Survivors

Gender-based violence continues to impact millions across the United States. Nearly 1 in 4 women experience physical violence from an intimate partner during their lifetime, and 1 in 4 women report an attempted or completed rape. Beyond the immediate physical and emotional harm, survivors often face serious economic consequences that affect their ability to recover, support their families, and safely leave abusive situations.

The Safe Access for Essential Services (SAFE) for Survivors Act of 2026 seeks to address these barriers by strengthening workplace and financial protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The legislation recognizes that no survivor should have to choose between personal safety and their paycheck, employment, or financial stability.

U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) reintroduced the bipartisan Security and Financial Empowerment (SAFE) for Survivors Act (S. 4635), which would provide survivors with up to five weeks of job-protected leave, including two weeks of paid leave, to attend court proceedings, seek legal assistance, access medical care, or develop safety plans. It would also ensure survivors can access unemployment benefits if abuse forces them to leave a job or results in termination.

In addition, the SAFE for Survivors Act would prohibit workplace discrimination against survivors and require reasonable accommodation to help individuals manage the aftermath of violence. The legislation also includes important insurance protections, preventing companies from denying or limiting coverage because a person is a survivor of abuse.

“When we talk about domestic violence, we must recognize how many survivors are financially tied to their abuser, which ends up being a significant reason they stay with an abusive partner,” said Congresswoman Dingell. “Survivors have unique needs in their journey to safety and economic independence, and this bill will support their ability to provide for their families whether they choose to enter, remain, or take time off from the workplace.”

“I know what it’s like to flee an abuser,” said Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-WI-04) “In a life-or-death situation, no survivor should have to worry about money or a job. We need the SAFE for Survivors Act so that survivors can have economic protections they need as they work to rebuild their lives.”

Economic security is essential to survivor safety and long-term recovery. By advancing the SAFE for Survivors Act, lawmakers can help ensure survivors have the protections and resources needed to rebuild their lives with dignity and stability.

Please use our pre-drafted letters to urge your senators to co-sponsor and support the Security and Financial Empowerment (SAFE) for Survivors Act (S. 4635). If they have already sponsored or co-sponsored the bill, you can send a message of thanks.

TAKE ACTION!



Directory Update Time!

Watch for an email in the next few weeks verifying your contact information!



What are you doing this summer?

Send in some pics for the August Newsletter. Share your adventures with your zonta sisters!

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

June

20th WAC Awards Picnic

July

Vacation Month!

11th - 14th Zonta Convention
Vancouver, Canada

UPCOMING CLUB BIRTHDAYS

June

5th Sherry Brooks

17th Norma Nisbet

18th Valeda Keys

July

1st Edith Holmes

4th Staycee Dixson

15th Sue Ellbogen

17th Mezzy Alexander

30th Bee Girresch

