

ZONTA ZEST

Zonta Club of St. Louis

President's Message to the Club

Dear Zonta Sisters,

I want to begin this month's newsletter by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all committees for their dedication and hard work in creating and/or revising their committee's standard operating procedures. This effort represents countless hours of collaboration, thoughtful discussion, and commitment to strengthening how we serve our mission. These SOPs will ensure our club operates smoothly and consistently for years to come. If any committee needs support or guidance as they continue this important work, please reach out. I also want to thank everyone who attended our September membership meeting, where we learned about the four focus areas we advocate for and our shared days of activism for each:



1. **Gender Equality** — Advancing Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, including women's leadership at decision-making tables in the private and public sectors. **March 8 – International Women's Day, Zonta Rose Day**
2. **Climate Action** — Supporting the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action campaign, which addresses how climate change disproportionately increases gender inequality. **April 22 – Earth Day**
3. **Education for Girls** — Advocating for every girl's right to education, working to end child marriage, and promoting Zonta's scholarships and awards in aerospace, STEM, business, and public service. **October 11 – International Day of the Girl Child**
4. **Ending Gender-Based Violence** — Standing against psychological, physical, and sexual violence, and harmful practices such as intimate partner violence, harassment, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and human trafficking. **Nov 25 – Dec 10 – 16 Days of Activism / Zonta Says No**

Do check our clubs LinkedIn and Facebook pages for important messages around these topics! Looking ahead, I am excited about our **October membership meeting, sponsored by the Community Grants and Partnership Committee**. I can't wait to see all of you there — and please, bring a guest! Sharing our mission with friends, colleagues, and potential new members is one of the greatest gifts we can give to Zonta.

With gratitude and Zonta spirit,

Stacy Donovan

President

Zonta Club of St. Louis



**8
MARCH**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
ZONTA ROSE DAY**

This is the day to promote gender equality and advocate for women in decision-making positions. On this day we emphasize Zonta's commitments and activity in the United Nations (including the Commission on the Status of Women), the African Union and Council of Europe.



**22
APRIL**

EARTH DAY

This is the day for actions for climate justice and highlighting the work of Zonta Says NOW.



**11
OCTOBER**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

This is the day for emphasizing education equality and the elimination of child marriage.



**25 NOV
10 DEC**

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM/ ZONTA SAYS NO

This is the time for focusing on the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. Zonta Says No Summit on 10 December 2024.



August Board Meeting Updates:

- The club ended the year with a negative \$365 while the trust fund reached \$72,872, largely due to successful fundraising from the 100-year anniversary celebration.
- Charity clothing pick-up receipts reached \$60,800 this past year with an average of \$5,000/mo.
- In reviewing the budget, it was suggested increasing the STEM award to \$2,500 and adding \$500 for meeting expenses.
- Sue Ellbogen is looking into new opportunities for the Service Committee in providing hands-on opportunities for interested club members. She is looking for potential partners and has met with several directors of organizations.
- The Individual Enrichment Award will be renamed Hardship Fund as it is more explanatory.
- A memorial donation of \$100.00 will be made to the library phonics program in memory of our Zonta sister, Miriam Schuchardt.
- St. Louis Community College is working with the club to re-define Zonta Club Endowed Scholarship Criteria for applicants.

September Board Meeting Updates:

- The program committee proposed changing several monthly meetings to Saturdays to accommodate venue availability and agenda needs, which was approved by the board.
- The finance committee reported a strong year and recommended rebalancing the investment portfolio by shifting \$50,000 from equities to cash and bonds, which the board agreed to.
- The Individual Enrichment Program's name was changed to "Hardship Fund" at the August board meeting. It was decided to change the name to something less harsh. "Life Assistance Fund" was chosen to better describe the monies available to those in need.
- The Board is revising committee structures by rolling up some committees into broader committees and eliminating some committees that are no longer active.
- The PR and communications committee discussed strategies for social media and website updates.
- The board also discussed technical issues with document sharing and the challenge of finding meeting venues



October Board Meeting Updates:

- Community Grants and Partnerships is hosting the October Membership Meeting. Two former grant recipients will speak at the meeting.
- Community Grants is in the process of evaluating applications for the next round of grants.
- Clothing donations have increased our monthly income to \$5000. This money is used to fund our scholarships.
- Long Range Planning is updating their SOP and will start looking at updates for the club bylaws next month.
- The PR Committee has prepared content to be released on social media. They are in the process of programming release dates.
- Sue Ellbogen will be attending RUNG's "Fallunteer" Thank You Party and checking to see if they have another pickup ready for us.
- Zonta International changed some of the criteria for the Women in Business Leadership Award. Applicants must be 18-35. The award is geared more toward actual achievements. Applicants do not have to be pursuing educational endeavors.
- Club membership should have all received the District 7 Newsletter.
- Stacy Donovan is going to Cape Girardeau's Women of Achievement event November 13th. If you are interested in carpooling, contact Stacy at sdonovan1maryville.edu

**WOMEN
OF
ACHIEVEMENT**

50 ZONTA
CLUB OF
CAPE GIRARDEAU

NOVEMBER 13

**DRURY PLAZA
CONFERENCE CENTER,
CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO**

EXPO | DINNER | SILENT AUCTION
AWARDS CEREMONY | LIVE MUSIC BY GEN X

**Learn More Here!
Register to Attend!!**

ZONTA CLUB OF ST. LOUIS

**OCTOBER 15,
2026
6:00 – 7:30PM**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY
GRANTS PROGRAM**

Agenda

6:00 - 6:30 pm Networking

*During this time, please order food and drink if you like.
(Separate checks are offered)*

6:30 - 7:30 pm Program

*Presented by the Community Grants and Partnerships
Committee*

Techbridge STEM Program for Girls

Caroline Mitchell
Executive Director, YMCA

Women's Workshops and Social Program

Jessica Pachak
Executive Director, Archway Refugee Connection

Q&A

EVENT ADDRESS

In-person location:

Salt and Smoke - 4130 Rusty Rd, St Louis, MO 63128

Menu and Gluten-free menu

[Techbridge Girls](#) operates through local partner sites like after-school programs and community organizations, including area schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs, to deliver equity-focused STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education. They have partnered with the YMCA to provide the program in the St. Louis Area.

[Archway Refugee Connections](#) began as Kindness Begins with Me in March of 2022 in response to the influx of Afghan refugees resettling in St. Louis. At first, we started by organizing transportation for groceries and outings. We have since grown into a robust organization with over 100 active volunteers who service over 200 refugees on a weekly basis. We are now a registered non-profit in the state of Missouri and have received our 501(c)3 status.

RSVP HERE

November Membership Meeting - Save the Date!

Fellowship

ZONTA
ZINGO

Saturday, November 14th

Celebrate
Founder's Day

Join us for our "Friendsgiving" Celebration

Watch for additional information coming soon!

December Membership Meeting

Holiday Party

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 12th

Watch for additional information coming soon!



Zonta Club of St. Louis 2026-2027

Membership Meeting Dates & Events

Thursday: fellowship 6 PM, followed by meeting 6:30 PM - 8 PM

Saturday: fellowship 11:30 AM - 12 PM, followed by meeting 12 - 1:30 PM

All members, prospective members, friends, and family are welcome

SEPTEMBER

Thurs, Sept 17th

Planner: Program/United Nations

Plan: Learn about Zonta International Service Projects & local support for immigrant women and children

OCTOBER

Thurs, Oct 15th

Planner: Community Grants Recognition

Plan: Community Grant recipients share how the grant impacted women and girls in their organization

NOVEMBER

Sat, Nov 14th

Planner: Program; Friendsgiving - Founders Day

Plan: Host Zonta Zingo

DECEMBER

Sat, Dec 12th

Planner: Holiday Subcommittee

Plan: Holiday Gathering with gift exchange

JANUARY

Thurs, Jan 21st

Planner: STEM Committee

Plan: Details to be announced

FEBRUARY

Sat, Feb 20th

Planner: Public Relations and Communications

Plan: "Reignite your passion in your career and personal life" - workshop led by Staycee Dixson and Robin Hlava

MARCH

Sat, March 20th

Planner: Membership

Plan: Membership awards and recognition. Kitsugi activity led by Robin Hlava

APRIL

Thurs, April 15th

Planner: Program

Plan: Annual reports and elections/nominations

MAY

Thurs, May 20th

Planner: Incoming President Committee

Plan: Install board and Committee selections

JUNE

Sat, June 19th

Planner: Women's Another Chance Committee

Plan: Luncheon to celebrate all award and scholarship winners; speakers & activity



Service - Fellowship - Leadership - Community Impact



Zontians in *ACTION*

Our dedicated ladies on “clothing pick-up” duty are making great strides to increase our bottom line!

This is Stacy's porch after a recent pickup from the Women's Safe House!! Club members are donating their time, and muscles, to help support our scholarship programs. Thank you to those helping in our efforts... some husbands are helping out as well!

If you are interested in helping, contact Sue Ellbogen at ssellbogen@gmail.com



Zonta June Awards Picnic Pics







Hello,

As the new Executive Director for Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking, I am so excited to continue the tradition of our biggest fundraiser, the Annual Dinner, with this year's theme being **Shades of Hope**.

Thank you so much for joining us at last year's event. Your support meant so much to us, and we're thrilled to invite you back for another special evening!

Registration is officially open for our 2026 Annual Dinner, **Shades of Hope**, happening on **November 20th, from 5:30–9:30 PM**, at a beautiful new venue: **The Reverie** in Chesterfield, located right next to The Factory in The District. The evening will include a seated dinner, awards, guest speakers, and a silent auction, all in support of GAHT's mission to prevent human trafficking and protect our community.

You can register here: givebutter.com/gahtdinner26

We loved having you with us last year, and we'd be honored to have you join us again as we continue this important work together. Seats tend to fill up quickly, so we encourage you to register early!

If you have any questions or would like to explore sponsorship opportunities as well, please don't hesitate to reach out.

We hope to see you there!

Katie Dalton, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director
Gateway Alliance Against Human Trafficking
kd@gahtmo.org | (636) 515-6919

Volunteer Opportunity!

Join our club by supporting this great cause. They will definitely need volunteers to help set up, run the event, and take down.

If you can help with this event, please let me know and mark your calendars.

Contact: Sue Swinger-Ellbogen
ssellbogen@gmail.com

Rung for Women - Thank You Event



We are so excited to invite you to Fallunteer, Rung's volunteer appreciation event. Our volunteers are a core pillar of our program, and we truly could not do this without you!

Date: Friday, October 23rd from 6-8pm

Location: 2717 Sidney Street, Saint Louis, MO 63104

Attire: Casual

What to Expect: Come enjoy an evening of delicious drinks, connecting with other volunteers, and making smores. Please bring a guest to celebrate with you!

Registration can be found [here](#).

We are deeply grateful for your time, energy, and dedication to Rung's mission, members, and alumni. With your support, we have served 700 women and are welcoming our 11th cohort at the end of the month.

One stat that we are especially proud of is that the average salary increase after the program was over \$20,000.

We would not be able to do this without you. We are excited to celebrate you! We invite you to bring someone along to enjoy this event with you.

Please reach out to me with any questions.

Thanks,

Lauren

lauren@rungforwomen.org

Zonta Partner Update...

Stacy and the Zonta Club,

“Buckle up—it’s been a busy few weeks!”

Our scholars are learning, growing, and taking on new challenges at full speed. There have been driver’s permits, new jobs, stage appearances, service projects, robotics, and even a few lessons in the surprisingly expensive world of car ownership!

Wanted to share just a few updates and **thank YOU** for making these and so many things possible with your support.

- Wai Su got her driver’s permit and got a job at Taco Buddha! Plus, she made the school play a few weeks ago and is already started on the robotics team (busy girl!).
- Our two De Smet juniors **started their service projects** at a retirement center to work with senior citizens and at a school to work with kids in need. They will be serving every week at their locations - and we look forward to seeing how they can impact others.
- High School Scholars participated in an **“Owning and buying a car” activity**, where they were given a monthly transportation allowance, selected their own vehicle, and drew random “uh-oh surprises” that presented them with unexpected car-related expenses or issues. Fun to see their choices - and surprise with how expensive things are (welcome to the real world 😊)

Jan Wacker
Major Gifts Officer



Hope Ignites
Formerly Boys Hope Girls Hope
Jan.wacker@hopeignites.org
314-776-9406
636-346-5649 cell



Zonta Partner Update...

Dear Debbie,

I'm writing because I wanted to thank you for making the Zonta connection with Community Development. **We are deeply appreciative of the grant Zonta provided to support our STEAM programming with underrepresented girls.** Hearing the recipients of scholarship awards at the summer event speak of their experiences and successes combined with the contributions to Community Development makes me realize the impact Zonta is having on women in so many ways.

Over the summer Community Development YMCA reached 227 students across 8 strategic community hubs to bridge the STEAM opportunity gap. Using the engineering design process with hands-on innovation, students explored physics, drones, snap circuits, and straw tower challenges. Even more, students reported they felt a sense of belonging and social emotional safety. Below are a few images from our summer programming. We were busy, but it was so rewarding.

This fall we will deliver nine more STEAM programs with 4 of them specifically targeted to reach girls and then, of course, we will have underwater robotics next spring. What are your suggestions for applying for the Zonta grant again this year? Mantra and I would be happy to come present at a meeting if you think the group would enjoy seeing and interacting with some of our programming.

Again, thank you and the Zonta organization for making this work possible.

Gratefully,

Carol Fitzsimmons, Ed.D.
Senior Program Director
YMCA Community Development



Zonta International

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

11 October 2026

Zonta International actively supports and celebrates International Day of the Girl, an annual observance dedicated to recognizing girls' rights and the unique challenges they face globally.

CSW71 ORIENTATION

21 October 2026

We are getting ready for another exciting Commission on the Status of Women session in 2027. Register to learn how you can participate with Zonta. Read more about Zonta's role below...

[Register](#)

9:00 AM

The [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) is the principal global intergovernmental body at the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, while [Zonta International](#) is a leading global non-governmental organization (NGO) that holds top-tier consultative status with the UN and actively participates in CSW to advocate for women's rights. The Commission on the Status of Women meets again in March.

Zonta International has maintained General Consultative Status—the highest and most exclusive level of consultative status granted to NGOs by ECOSOC—since 1969. Out of thousands of NGOs, only a small fraction hold this rank.

This high-level status gives Zonta direct access to official UN discussions, panels, and side events during the annual CSW sessions, allowing them to bring civil society perspectives directly to global policymakers.

Zonta maintains permanent representatives at major UN centers (including New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Paris) and operates as a major financial supporter of UN Women programs focused on achieving Sustainable Development of Gender Equality.

Zonta International

UN DAY

24 October 2026

Zonta International celebrates United Nations Day, which marks the anniversary of the UN's formation in 1945. Since 1969, Zonta has held consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Past Zonta International President Helvi Sipilä, the first woman assistant secretary-general of the UN, served as secretary general for the First World Conference on Women in 1975 in Mexico and went on to spearhead the establishment of UNIFEM, now UN Women.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE: WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ACTION VIRTUAL EVENT

28 October 2026

Join the Zonta International UN Committee for a virtual event commemorating UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This interactive session examines how gender equality, human rights and women's leadership build a lasting culture of peace. Click below to register

[Register](#)

10:00 AM

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

19 November 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](#)

9:00 AM

[Register](#)

6:00 PM

Miriam Schuchardt

Miriam's memorial service, on September 14th, was quite touching. Eight Zontians were able to attend, including Kim Prosser, who now lives in Colorado and is a member of a Club there, as well as being their District Treasurer.

In Memoriam, the Club is making a donation in her name to support reading literacy.

[Obituary Link](#)



UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS & EVENTS

October

- 15th Membership Meeting
Hosted by: Community Grants Committee
- 23rd Rung for Women Fallunteer-
Volunteer Thank You Event

November

- 5th Board Meeting
- 14th Saturday Membership Meeting
"Friendsgiving"
Founder's Day Celebration
Zonta Zingo
- 20th Gateway Alliance Against Human
Trafficking Annual Fundraiser Dinner
"Shades of Hope"

RECENT AND UPCOMING CLUB BIRTHDAYS

August

We need some August Birthday members!

September

- 3rd Kit Whittington
- 24th Barb Meyer
- 25th Carol Camp-Yeakey

October

- 7th Kay Moss
- 27th Bea Armstrong-Logan

November

- 7th Jessica Rivas-Middleton
- 9th Sharon Hales
- 12th Mary D'Angelo
- 16th Aslihan Vuruskan
- 17th Betty Davidson
- 18th Cynthia Kirkpatrick
- 24th Peggy Gilbertson
- 25th Malaika Horne
- 27th Laura Burton
- 28th Ellen Embry

