

Highlights from Mary Knight, Delegate



27 JUNE – 1 JULY

62nd Zonta International® Convention • Orlando, FL • USA • orlando2014.zonta.org



This Convention was an amazing and inspiring experience.

ZI President Lynn McKenzie predicted that Zontians from around the world would gather and be eager to discuss Zonta's future direction, learn the status of women worldwide, and enjoy the unique fellowship that comes from members' shared commitment to improving the lives of women and girls. She was right on!



2012-2014 Biennium Highlights:

- **Zonta International Board**

Front: Kathleen Hughes, Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard, Lynn McKenzie, Sonja Honig Schough Back: Elizabeth Woodgate, Joy Orlich, Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, Denise Quarles, Gabriella Samara Paphitis, Laura Peters, Maria Stefanova

- **Zonta International Foundation's** largest fundraising total ever -

US\$5.1 million! Top three districts for total contributions: District 21, 30 and 26.

District with the highest weighted increase: District 18. Districts with 100% of clubs contributing: District 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18, 21, District 22, 23, 25, 26, 30 and 31. Generous convention attendees contributed \$155,838 to start the next biennium! The Rose 5K event raised \$45,000 after expenses! Stay tuned for news about a Centennial Campaign!

- **Service Recognition Awards.** Thank you for your service efforts this past biennium!
Club Winners ~ First Place: Zonta Club of Ibadan II: Medical Outreach in Three Communities
Second Place: Zonta Club of Punta del Este-Maldonado: Zonta Center for Assistance to Women DV Victims
Third Place: Zonta Club of Muntinlupa & Environs: Crisis Center for Women and Children Victims of DV, Abuse
Fourth Place: Zonta Club of Hamburg Orchard Park: Behind Closed Doors
Fifth Place: Zonta Club of Brisbane Metro Breakfast: Zonta Says NO Walk
Sixth Place: Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills: Expect Respect
District Winners ~ First Place: District 23: Birthing Kits
Second Place: District 17: Educational Strategy for Gender Equality
Third Place: District 4: Birthing Kits
- **Membership** Numbers are finally starting to improve. 1186 clubs with 30,543 members (45% Europe, 28% No.America, 15% Asia, 10% Australia /New Zealand, 1% Africa [up 15%], 1% So. America [up 28.4%]). We added 4 new countries this biennium: Nepal, Lebanon, Uganda and Macau. Three new e-clubs started. Since 2006, we have had a 100% increase in Z and Golden Z clubs. We have an aging membership and need to focus on getting committed, dedicated individuals engaged.



Future Leaders supported by our donations

Eesha Choudhari, 2013 Young Women in Public Affairs Award recipient spoke at Convention about stories of her passion for working for women's equality. Michelle Kuhar, District 15 and International JMK Scholarship recipient shared her travels to India and her work with the Covenant House of Michigan. Laura Suarez Henderson received the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 2011 and 2013. She spoke to Zontians about her studies in aerospace engineering.

Zonta International's 62nd Convention provided an energetic start at the Opening Ceremony. We saw 67 colorful flags

representing our members from countries all around the world.



Keynote speaker Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, thanked Zontians for their unwavering support of UN Women and its mission, and inspired Zontians to advocate for gender equality. "Through Zonta's support, we are able to make the world a better place for women and girls worldwide," Phumzile said. "We are the generation to make a change, and we must hold ourselves accountable. We have nothing to lose."

Business Sessions

Delegates recognized the 2012-2014 leadership team, voted to approve the standing rules, accepted the convention program by unanimous consent, and heard the president's report and treasurer and secretary reports.

Delegates learned about the 2014-2016 leadership candidates through candidate speeches.

ZI BOARD AND ZI FOUNDATION BOARD chosen to lead the next biennium:



Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard, President ~ Sonja Honig Schough, President Elect ~ Susanne von Bassewitz, Vice President ~ Bridget Masters, Treasurer/Secretary



Directors: Sally Bean, Nadia Bianco, Sharon Langenbeck, Catherine McEwan, Josephine Odedina, Gertraud Ribitsch, Winnie Teoh

International Nominating Committee

North, Central and South America: Lori Montigel ~ Europe: Tuija Heikkila ~ Africa: Gloriastene Agboola

Australia and New Zealand: Beryl McMillan ~ Asia: Narudee Kiengsiri

Members at Large: Kathleen Douglass, Ragna Karlsdóttir, Lynn McKenzie and Anita Schnetzer-Spranger



Dr. Marilyn Waring, Professor of Public Policy at Auckland University of Technology and an Honorary Member of ZI, gave an inspiring keynote speech and led a workshop on Leadership Development. Other workshop topics included Millennium Development Goals, Zonta on the Global Stage, Philanthropy and Women, and Why Join Zonta?

I was unable to attend the workshops due to extending business meetings where we were finishing up bylaw proposed changes.

2014-2016 Report of ZI Bylaws and Resolutions Committee

The order of precedence of Zonta International Governing Documents is as follows:

- Articles of Incorporation under the General Not for Profit Corporation Act, State of Illinois
- Bylaws of Zonta International, amended by a 2/3 vote at convention
- Rules of Procedure of Zonta International, amended by a majority vote at convention
- Operation Policies, approved by the Zonta International Board
- Operation Manuals, approved by the Zonta International Board.

Bylaws and Rules of Procedure of Zonta International must be followed, they cannot be suspended, and they can be enforced at all levels of Zonta. Bylaws, Article III, provide general policies (overall principles) for Zonta actions.

- (1) **About half of the proposals in this report are from the Zonta International Board suggesting that parts of current provisions be removed from Bylaws and placed instead in other Governing Documents.** The general rationale is that bylaws should not include the procedural rules, operational guidelines and processes of the organization, which are more appropriately located in rules of procedure, operation policies and operation manuals.
- (2) **A number of other proposals** are merely wording changes to make bylaws more inclusive, enforceable at all levels, to ensure consistency, to clarify, to remain flexible, or to update to current practice / common sense.

VOTING Summary on proposed amendments to the Bylaws:

1. **Article II Objects of Zonta APPROVED** – To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of members (instead of executives in business and the professions).
2. **Article III Policy / Principles and Public Issues APPROVED** – Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs may express themselves about, and become involved in principles and public issues having a bearing on the Objects of Zonta International, following the policies established by the Zonta International Board (instead of guidelines of the Board of Directors).
3. **Article IV Members APPROVED** – Section 2 (b) is renamed Diversity of Membership (instead of Classifications) and retains the belief and need for diversity in accordance with the objects of ZI. Section 2 is further changed by moving the operational details of chartering a club to the Marian de Forest Membership Manual; clarifying that Club membership will be terminated if the club does not meet its financial obligations or fails to function as a club and meet at least quarterly; and includes preserving Zonta history (archives) in the event a club is disbanded.
4. **Article V Dues and Fees APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:** Section 2 and 3 Amendments clarify that members present and voting at convention determine dues and fees, and move payment details and methods from the Bylaws to the Rules of Procedure. Section 4 amendment clarifies that NO fee is due when a current member transfers to another club during the year. Section 6 amendment clarifies that only the ZI Board may temporarily waive dues and fees.
5. **Article VI Officers and Directors APPROVED** – Duties of the Treasurer/Secretary and Directors are described elsewhere and removed here.
6. **Article VII Zonta International Board APPROVED** – Section 2 (e) is amended to read that a copy of the approved budget is sent (instead of mailed) to district board members and club presidents, allowing the use of electronic

delivery. Section 4 Emergency Powers clarifies that voting members (not each club) get a vote and specifies items for voting by referencing to bylaws provisions on the purpose of convention. Section 5 and 6 regarding conference calls, electronic meetings, notice of meetings are amended to comply with language required by the State of Illinois (where Zonta is incorporated). A new Section 7 is proposed (best practice for nonprofit organizations) allowing an officer or board member to waive the notice requirement if notice was not properly given.

FAILED Operational duties of the Board WILL NOT BE removed and replaced here with a general statement.

7. **Article IX Executive Director APPROVED** – edited to read: “...and to perform such other duties as are prescribed by these bylaws and rules of procedure or as may be required by the Zonta International Board.

8. **Proposals pertaining to Convention**

FAILED Three amendments proposed for Section 2 – Time, Place and Program – were voted down.

Section 3 **APPROVED** – This amendment proposes the official Call to Convention be published not just in the Zontian magazine but also posted on the Zonta International website at least ninety (90) days before the convention. This is a more efficient and economical way to insure all Zontians have access in a timely fashion.

Section 4 **APPROVED** – Convention Voting Members – it is proposed that clubs with 30 (instead of 40) members will be entitled to a second delegate, and clubs with 60 (instead of 80) members will be entitled to a third delegate. The change reflects the average club membership decline and is seen as a mechanism to generate more activity and interest.

9. **Article XI, Zonta International Nominating Committee APPROVED** – This amendment streamlines and consolidates the duties of the Nominating Committee and provides for the situation where there is an insufficient number of candidates for any position on the slate. In these circumstances, the amendment allows an election to occur. ‘Provide the official slate ..’ includes actively recruiting candidates when needed.

10. **Article XII ZI Committees – FAILED** Six amendments to make clarifications, provide consistency and remove specific duties from the Bylaws to the appropriate operational manuals were voted down.

11. **Article XIII Districts**

FAILED: Section 2 the procedure for changing district boundaries will stay in the Bylaws. Section 7 the duties of district officers will stay in the Bylaws. Section 10 specific duties of the board will stay in the Bylaws.

APPROVED:

In Section 2 and 4, the numerical reference for Districts and Areas is deleted because not all are numbered in the order they were established. Section 5 Dues – the process for paying District and Area Dues are moved from the Bylaws to the Zonta District Manual. Section 6 Officers the phrase “...with experience in a decision-making capacity,” is deleted to be consistent with amendments in Article XIV. An amendment combines subsections on the election of officers for clarity and addresses the role of a new position: vice area director. Section 11 is amended to specify which officers are district conference voting members (not to include vice area directors) and to remove unnecessary language. Section 12 the title Audit is changed to “Financial Oversight” and a wording change is proposed to give districts flexibility in performing an examination of financial records at any time that is in the best interest of the district. Section 13 – Nominating Committee – three amendments make provisions consistent with other proposed changes and move operational processes from the Bylaws to Rules of Procedure. Section 15 amendments clarify that all district rules of procedure must conform to the Rules of Procedure of ZI, and that voting members must be present and voting at the district conference for the vote to be counted.

12. **Article XIV Clubs**

FAILED: Section 5 and 6 – Duties of Officers and Board will stay in the Bylaws

APPROVED ~~~ AMEND CLUB BYLAWS AS APPROPRIATE TO REFLECT THESE CHANGES

(1) Membership shall be drawn from women and men with experience in a recognized business or profession; (“actively engaged in a decision making capacity” is removed)

(2) A candidate must be willing to actively support and implement the Objects of Zonta International.

(3) All candidates for membership, meeting the requirements for membership in these bylaws, shall be considered.

(4) The club Membership Committee shall review proposals for membership, whether by application or invitation, and present the names of all candidates to the club board with its recommendations. Approval for membership is made by the club board – unless club bylaw provides otherwise.

(5) Provisions to be deleted from the Bylaws include ‘duration of membership’, leaves of absence, and club attendance

requirements.

(6) Provisions regarding timing of dues payment and guidelines for meetings and committees are removed from the Bylaws because they are operational in nature.

Section 10 – the title Audit is replaced with “Financial Oversight”.

13. **Article XV International identification FAILED** proposal to delete specific reference to *The Zontian* was voted down.
14. **Article XVII Resolutions APPROVED** Section 4 The process for Exemptions from Requirements is proposed to be deleted as it is operational in nature.
15. **Article XIX Amendment to Bylaws APPROVED** Section 5 Articles of Incorporation – proposed wording is added to clarify that the articles may be amended using the same process as for amending by laws.
16. **NEW Article XXI Glossary - APPROVED** definitions, details to aid in common understanding in all Districts.
Amended: Glossary may be amended by the ZI Board or Convention.

Proposed new items in the Rules of Procedure of Zonta International

- **APPROVED Operation policies**, as approved by the ZI Board, shall be followed at all levels of Zonta International.
- **APPROVED Dues and Fees** – International Per Capita Dues and Nonpayment of international dues and fees – provisions are moved HERE from the Bylaws.
- **APPROVED District and Club Voting** – provisions are moved HERE from the Bylaws.

Proposed Resolutions

1. **APPROVED 99.5% OF VOTING MEMBERS: RESOLUTION** regarding the “Zonta Says NO”- Campaign

The campaign “Zonta says NO” shall be continued AND DEVELOPED in the biennium 2014 – 2016.

2. **APPROVED FOR NICE CONVENTION: RESOLUTION ON DAILY REGISTRATION FEE AT ZONTA CONVENTIONS**

In addition to the full registration fee, a daily registration fee prorata temporis is offered allowing Zonta members, who are not delegates, and guests to attend conventions for single days. The Board may also determine fees for single events.

3. **PROPOSED AT CONVENTION AND APPROVED BY 95% OF VOTING MEMBERS: ZI Board has authority to charter student clubs – both Z and Golden Z.** Never formally stated in past!



2014 – 2016 Proposed Biennial Goals received 100% approval from voting members

The proposed goals for next biennium focus on key challenges and position Zonta as one of the main players addressing women’s issues. Living up to our mission with conviction, commitment and courage and strengthening every single link of our organization will ensure sustainability and long lasting impact in the lives of women around the world.

- (1) **Service** Zonta International selects the International projects among proposals from UN Agencies with focus on root causes. - Delaying early marriage - Prevention of violence through education - Improving women’s health. Service and Advocacy are integrated parts of all Zonta International Service projects. Lasting impact is ensured through involvement of local and national governments and NGOs. Local projects are in line with our mission and vision
- (2) **Advocacy** All advocacy actions shall be in line with the strategic plan and shall have measurable impact
The activity at the UN/Council of Europe levels is increased utilizing consultative and participatory status.
Zonta International influences UN and Council of Europe documents and actions
Districts and clubs initiate advocacy actions in cooperation with like-minded organizations when relevant.
- (3) **Resources** Clubs recruit and retain committed and skilled members. Leadership skills and competencies are increased at all levels. The structure of Zonta International districts is optimized for mission achievement and vision fulfillment. The reporting system at all levels is simplified and the use of the reports implemented. The communication, knowledge management, dues processing and donations platform is improved. Zonta International Foundation has sustainable resources and the sources of income are broadened.

2014 – 2016 Proposed ZI and ZIF Budgets were reviewed and adopted

The Zonta International budget has been challenging to develop because of the continuing decrease in total membership numbers, which impacts the level of membership revenue. After a detailed review of all revenue and expenses, the budget was developed based on the following key assumptions:

- A balanced budget was achieved without a membership dues increase
- The number of paid members for the 2014-2016 biennium is assumed to be 30,660
- Headquarters staffing will remain at current levels
- Areas of expenditures have increased in line with inflation and/or market trends and also reflect the biennium plans of the 2012-2014 President Elect, the Executive Director and the headquarters management team
- A small contingency is included in the budget to be used in the event that membership goals are not achieved and/or other unexpected expenses occur. In addition, there are sufficient reserves to make up any shortfall.

The Zonta International Foundation budget was developed with the following key assumptions:

- A balanced budget was achieved with a fundraising goal of US\$5,306,000
- The proposed 2014-2016 International Service Projects and Awards are budgeted for a total of US\$5,306,000 #
- Direct expenses for donor recognition and development are to be covered by a grant from Zonta International, in order to ensure that members can be confident that 100% of their donations are used for International Service Projects and Awards. The grant of \$126,500 equate-s to 2.4% of budgeted contributions.

Details: <http://orlando2014.zonta.org/Portals/0/images2014/Final%20Program%20Book.pdf#nameddest=FinanceReport>

Proposed 2014 – 2016 International Service and ZISVAW Projects were reviewed and approved

The main focus for next biennium's International Service and ZISVAW Projects is preventing root causes through education.

2014-2016 International Service Projects and ZISVAW Projects:

- Eliminating Obstetric Fistula in Liberia in partnership with UNFPA
- HIV-Free Generation in Rwanda in partnership with US Fund for UNICEF
- Gender Responsive Schools in Vietnam in partnership with UN Trust Fund
- Delaying Early Marriage in Niger in partnership with UNFPA
- Voices Against Violence in 12 Countries in partnership with UN Women

Summary reports, speakers and videos about these projects were compelling!

Details: <http://orlando2014.zonta.org/Portals/0/images2014/Final%20Program%20Book.pdf#nameddest=ProposedServiceProjects>

The full convention handbook is at orlando2014.zonta.org for your reading pleasure! The Zontian magazine – due out shortly – will provide a comprehensive review of key decisions made in during Convention.

Convention pictures are available at <http://orlando2014.zonta.org/News/ArticleContent/tabid/64/ArticleId/49/Convention-Photos-Available-from-Official-Convention-Photographer.aspx>

Note: the nominees from our District for International offices were NOT elected but did great in their presentations!



Zonta International Closing Banquet, Installation Ceremony

Zonta International's 62nd Convention concluded with a closing banquet thanking the 2012-2014 leadership for their support and dedication the last two years. Following, was an installation ceremony welcoming the 2014-2016 leadership team.

Zonta International President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard gives her inaugural address at the Installation Ceremony.



Lynn McKenzie, 2012-2014 Past International President thanking Zontians for their support during the biennium.



Final Credentials Report:

Total number of clubs in ZI: 1189

Clubs represented by delegates or proxy: 1095

Final Attendance Report:

International Board: 11

Past International Presidents (PIPs): 9

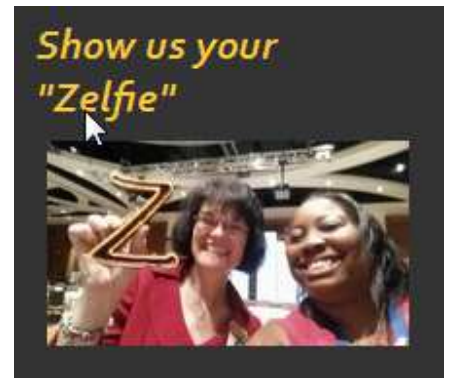
District Governors: 31

Other Members Registered: 1374

Guests Registered: 167

Total: 1592

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the next Conventions: 7/2 – 7/6/2016 ~Nice France
2018 ~Yokohama Japan**



Being a delegate and attending a total of 12 business sessions kept me very busy, but I had a chance to meet a LOT of incredible people from every continent during breaks, informal luncheon round-tables and evening social events. Final reflections:

- The dedication and commitment of our Zonta Leaders and the attendees at the Convention was unmistakable. There were different perspectives raised on a number of issues, but there was 100% agreement about making 2014-2016 our best biennium yet.
- 125 runners from 67 countries participated in the Zonta Rose 5K on Saturday morning and raised more than \$45,000 for the Zonta International Foundation. Thank you so much for your support!
- At the beginning of each business session at convention, music Tarakihi (The Locust), performed by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, was played and enjoyed:
<http://www.amazon.com/Maori-Songs-Tarakihi-The-Locust/dp/B000THFT4G>
- I am so blessed to be a part of Zonta International. I was reminded daily I can make a difference in someone's life just by being a part of this organization.
- The Zonta Says No campaign effort was embraced by all members and is credited with our increased visibility this biennium.
- I was so impressed with the free exchange of ideas and networking, of pins and items from various countries, the feeling of pride in what we stand for... attending an International Convention is something every member should experience at least once.



Zonta Marketplace