31 Days of Zonta facts (used by the Quaboag Valley Club during its Calendar Fund Drive). Feel free to adapt to a campaign you are working on.

‘Each Day – Many thanks to all of our members and supporters for the amazing gifts in this month’s calendar. And thank you for purchasing tickets! Every dollar will be used locally and globally for projects supporting women and girls.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Zonta members are from diverse business and professional fields. Individuals attracted to Zonta membership believe in making the world a better place by empowering women. We find joy in doing this, in a community of like-minded people that even extends to other nations and cultures.
2. Zonta International is a volunteer-powered, leading global organization of women and men professionals working together to promote:
* Gender Equality – Women’s rights are recognized as human rights.
* Empowerment – Every woman is able to achieve her full potential.
* Access to all resources – Women are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men.
* A life free of violence – No woman lives in fear of violence.
1. Zonta International envisions a world in which women’s rights are recognized as human rights and every women is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.
2. Six women, led by Marian de Forest, founded the first Zonta club in 1919 in Buffalo, New York. They adopted the name “ Zonta” meaning honest and trustworthy from Lakhota, a language of the American Sioux peoples. It symbolizes the combined qualities of honesty and trust, inspiration and the ability to work together for service and world understanding. Within one month, 900 women chartered nine clubs in three states. They worked to improve the lives of women by decreasing restrictive labor laws, placing women in public office, and changing laws that discriminated against women.
3. Zonta is a community of diverse but like-minded professionals working together to empower women and girls and make the world a better place for all. Now, in our second century, approximately 27,000 women and men are members in one of nearly 1,133 Zonta clubs found in 63 countries. They are the heart of the service and advocacy work of Zonta
4. Zonta offers a number of unique membership opportunities. Individuals who believer in our mission can join a traditional club and participate in group efforts or join as supporting members and participate as they choose to bring about change for women and girls. We are forming an e-Club of the Atlantic Northeast soon for those near and far who want to be part of our District. Young professional members enjoy all the benefits of Zonta membership at a reduced rate. Students can make a difference in high school or college through membership in Z and Golden Z clubs. The world needs a strong, committed community of individuals working together to fight for gender equity. Join Zonta and make a difference locally and globally.
5. The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley was chartered in 1991. Our membership and service area back then included Palmer, Ware, Wilbraham, Ludlow, and Belchertown. Today we encompass a much larger area including the cities of Springfield, Holyoke and Westfield. We welcome women and men of all ages and careers to join Zonta and help us further our mission.
6. Zonta clubs around the world are organized into 32 Districts and each District is divided into Areas. The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is part of Zonta District 1 – covering all the New England States in the U.S. and Nova Scotia in Canada. District 1 is divided into two Areas – the six Massachusetts clubs (including the Quaboag Club) are in Area 2. We are also in the process of forming two new clubs in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Exciting times to be a supporter of gender equality, empowerment of women, equal access to all resources and a life free of violence!
7. Members of Zonta District 1 – covering the New England states in the USA and Nova Scotia in Canada -have a chance to meet together at least annually. A formal 2-day District Fall Conference is held biannually in odd-numbered years. Delegates, elected by club members, vote on business matters pertaining to the District. We attend workshops, hear inspirational speakers and enjoy fellowship. In even-numbered years we meet in the Spring for a day of educational workshops and inspiring speakers. Zonta is a wonderful fellowship of like-minded women and men.
8. Biannually in odd-numbered years, Zontians in the United States and Canada are invited to a North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM). Past locations for these 2-days of meetings and workshops have been Washington DC, Dallas TX, Cincinnati OH. The 2023 meeting will be in Indianapolis, Indiana in June.
9. Biannually in even-numbered years, a three-day Convention is held in different parts of the world, to do the business of Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women. Delegates elected by clubs represent them at the Convention to ensure Zonta lives up to the mission and achieves the vision. Past Conventions have been in Hawaii, Rotterdam, Torino Italy, Nice France and Yokohama Japan. In 2020 the Convention was virtual for the first time in 100 years. The 2022 Convention was in Hamburg, Germany in-person, with a virtual component. The 2024 Convention in Brisbane Australia will also be hybrid.
10. The Zonta Foundation for Women, funded by members, clubs and friends of Zonta, is making gender equality a reality for women and girls worldwide. 100 percent of all donations go directly to program support. The administrative expenses of the Foundation are covered by a grant from Zonta International and interest income. There are three major fund categories at the Foundation: International Service, Education, and Special Funds, including Endowment Funds and the Rose Fund, where gifts are used where best needed.
11. Since 1923, Zonta International has provided more than US$46.3 million to empower women and girls and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities and safe living conditions. Through donations to the Zonta Foundation for Women, Zonta improves women's lives, their children's lives and the communities in which they live and work.
12. As we work toward fulfilling our mission of empowering women worldwide, Zonta must focus on gender equality in education, an essential human right, critical to development for all. For women and girls, education provides the tools and resources to empower them to make decisions about their lives and the future of their families. Educated women can break the cycle of poverty; they can choose when to marry and if and when to have children; they can access quality health care to safeguard themselves and their children; they can educate their own children and ensure greater opportunities for future generations.
13. One of the education awards Zonta offers is the Young Women in Public Affairs Award. It recognizes young women, ages 16-19, who demonstrate superior leadership skills and a commitment to public service and civic causes and encourages them to continue their participation in public and political life. Each year, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley presents a local YWPA winner with $1000. The candidate then becomes eligible for additional awards from Zonta District 1 and Zonta International. To learn more about this educational award, visit zonta.org and click on Education.
14. Do you know a woman pursuing a degree in business and looking for college scholarships? Visit zontaqv.org for information about the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. This scholarship is for women pursuing undergraduate or master’s degrees in business-related fields. The deadline for submitting an application is June 17. Our Quaboag Valley Zonta club's recipient will receive $1000 and becomes eligible for additional scholarship money awarded by Zonta District 1 and Zonta International. To learn more about this educational award, visit zonta.org and click on Education.
15. Zonta’s newest scholarship is the Women in STEM award. This scholarship is for women pursuing undergraduate or master’s degrees in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree program. The deadline for submitting an application is June 17. Our Quaboag Valley Zonta club's recipient will receive $1000 and becomes eligible for additional scholarship money awarded by Zonta District 1 and Zonta International. To learn more about this educational award, visit zonta.org and click on Education.
16. Did you know that Amelia Earhart was a member of Zonta?? A Fellowship in her honor for women pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree in aerospace-related sciences or aerospace-related engineering was established in 1938. Each year, Zonta International awards 35 Amelia Earhart Fellowships of $10,000. To learn more about this educational award, visit zonta.org and click on Education.
17. Zontians advocate on issues related to human rights and gender equity. At the international level, Zonta advocates primarily through its General Consultative Status with ECOSOC at the United Nations and its Participatory Status at the Council of Europe. Zonta has been affiliated with the UN since 1969 and has been represented in the Council of Europe since 1983. Through these relationships, Zonta uses a strong voice to present our priorities and demand focused action when advocating for gender equality and women’s human rights worldwide.
18. In its advocacy at the international level, Zonta international partners with UN agencies UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women to financially support projects that empower women and girls to understand their rights and realize their full potential. Projects have focused on issues such as education, health, equality, economic empowerment, gender based violence, child marriage, human trafficking, safe cities and more. Learn more about our advocacy initiatives at Zonta.org. Join Zonta and make a difference locally and globally!
19. In its advocacy at the national level, Zonta districts, areas and clubs take action in support of, or in opposition to, legislation on issues affecting women and girls. One issue we are working on is the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Without the ERA, women do not have equal rights under the law. The Equal Rights Amendment will make it clear that sex discrimination in employment, education or any other space is a violation of women’s constitutional rights as Americans. If you are interested in more information, visit zontausa.org.
20. Did you know that up until last year in Massachusetts, 12 year old girls can marry, with parental approval? Unbelievably, this is true. Zonta members were part of a coalition of activists to End Child Marriage, No Exceptions in Massachusetts – AND WE DID IT!! Today, Massachusetts is one of **seven** states on the east coast which have passed legislation making 18 years of age the legal limit with no exceptions. (Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and now Vermont). Hopefully Connecticut will be next. If you want to learn more about the negative impacts of child marriage or how you can make a difference, visit zontausa.org and let your voice be heard.
21. In 2012 Zonta International launched the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women, a global campaign to raise awareness of and increase advocacy actions to end violence against women and girls. Every year, during the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence (Nov. 25-Dec.10), Zontians around the world take action and advocate to end gender-based violence in all its forms.
22. In 2021 Zonta International issued a statement about Climate Change and its impact on Women and Girls, and we have since launched the Zonta Says NOW – to gender equality and climate action. We are gathering facts, leading by example, adding our voice to influence our communities, advocating for gender equality and climate action, and collaborating with like-minded organizations. Interested in getting involved? Reach out to info@zontaqv.org! We need you.
23. At the local level of Zonta advocacy, clubs monitor laws and policies and their impact on women, participate in activities, and host workshops and events to raise awareness about issues affecting women in our communities. If you are interested in learning about the safety signal for domestic violence, what you can do to fight human trafficking, how women and girls are more heavily impacted by climate change, or what resources are available for protecting teen dating violence, contact a Zontian.
24. Did you know that Zonta sponsors clubs for high schools called Z Clubs and for Colleges Golden Z Clubs. The first Z and Golden Z clubs were founded in Burbank California in 1948. The Zonta Club of Berkshire County sponsors a Z Club at Miss Halls School and the Zonta Club of Medford has a Z Club. We would love to see more of the clubs in high schools and college to teach young people how to advocate for themselves and others. We need connections and enthusiastic educators to work with us. Interested?
25. **Local and global service are integral to Zonta International’s mission.** Zonta improves women’s lives by increasing their access to education, health care, legal services and economic opportunities while supporting efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls in all its forms. Programs and projects are funded through donations, made by members, clubs, and supporters of Zonta, to the [Zonta International Foundation](http://foundation.zonta.org/).
26. Zonta of Quaboag Valley holds three fundraisers each year. Our 28th annual golf tournament will be held this year at Cold Spring Country Club on September 10th. We sell Poinsettia plants in late fall. We used to hold a Silent “no more!” Auction in May before Covid. This calendar Raffle has replaced that event for the time being. We are very grateful. 100% of the profits are used locally and globally to promote the mission of Zonta. Service and advocacy is at the heart of everything we do.
27. Profits raised during Zonta club fundraising activities are earmarked solely for service and education initiatives . One-third of the monies go directly to the Zonta International Foundation for Women to fund global initiatives. Two-thirds of the money raised are spent locally on education awards and service projects that meet the criteria of Zonta’s mission. Recent grants have been awarded to Second Times a Charm - Prom Boutique located in Three Rivers, helping young girls and young boys find a Prom wear at none to little cost; and Safe Passage of Northampton to offset printing of program booklet for Say Something - 8-hour skills-focused training program grounded in effective strategies of bystander intervention and empowerment self-defense. #SafePassage #secondtimesacharm
28. Zontians love hands-on service projects! Each year in February, we sponsor #The Period Project to raise awareness and collect items needed during a monthly menstrual cycle. Hundreds of packets are donated to homeless and domestic violence shelters, food pantries and family resource centers. We have worked with local women veterans on projects that support their health and welfare, participated in Habitat for Humanity’s women-built project, assisted at Dress for Success clothing drives, walked to raise money for numerous causes that benefit women and girls, just to name a few. If you are interested in using your time and talents in service to others, join our community.
29. Zonta International is a volunteer-powered, leading global organization of women and men professionals working together to promote:
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We could not do what we do in the world without our supporters. If you are interested in taking part in some aspect of supporting women locally or globally, please consider partnering with us. ZontaQV.org is our local website with contact information.