



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

NEWSLETTER

August 2025

Area 2 • District 6

2025–2026

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

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Helen Ludwig, President Elect
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Laureen Ward, Treasurer
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Cheryl Nowak, President
Joni Reese, Vice President
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TBA, Corresponding Secretary
Donna Conant, Recording Secretary

Foundation Board

Diana Barnett
Joanne Harris-Comodore
Debra Koller
Judith Lehman
Dawn Zehren

Send your newsletter submissions
to jonizonta@gmail.com

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

August 27th Club Meeting

5:30 PM social, 6:00 meeting

Program: Centennial Celebration Planning

Location: Sojourner Family Peace Center,
619 W Walnut St, Milwaukee

*****On-site service project for 3-5 members (4/4:30 – 5:30).**

See the notice on the next page! ***

Topic for the evening will be our upcoming Centennial Celebration, culminating in a gala event on November 7, 2026 at The Garage, the event space on the Harley-Davidson Museum grounds.

The Core Committee will share progress to date, committee status and needs, fund-raising goals, in-progress thinking on grants/awards, and thoughts on possible "events" leading up to and following the celebration. The key meeting activity will be brainstorming to identify possible ownable projects/programs for our awards.

*****Please plan to attend to be part of this important discussion as we need all club members to actively participate in our 100th celebration.**

We will be ordering dinner from Panera.

Please RSVP no later than August 22nd to Ruth at
ZontaRuth@gmail.com.

Here are the parking and entry instructions for Sojourner, 619 West Walnut, Milwaukee:

You may park in our gated parking lot off 7th Street or on the surrounding streets if the parking lot is full.

- Just prior to the gate you will push the call button for our receptionist. Let her know you are here for a meeting with Donna Neal, and they will open it.
- To enter the building, the second set of doors is locked. Please use the intercom outside the locked door to let the receptionist know you are here.
- When you enter the building turn left and proceed to the reception desk area for your visitor name badge and to be directed to your meeting room.
- If you use street parking, use our entrance on the corner of 6th and Walnut Streets. The second set of doors is locked. Use the intercom button to let the receptionist know you are here. There is often plenty of street parking on both sides of Sixth Street.
- For privacy reasons, please avoid using our entrance on Galena Street; that is for our shelter residents.

www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



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Dear Zonta Sisters,

Summer always seems to fly by much too quickly and before we know it the days start getting shorter and our gardens start looking tired. I hope everyone has been enjoying their summer so far.

After the July break, we look forward to resuming our meetings in August. New meeting locations will be tried out over the next four months. Sojourner Family Peace Center will be the site of the August meeting; the Shorewood Library in September; and the New Berlin VFW on Beloit Road will be the meeting location for October and November. December is our winter social event. Once again, the winter club meetings in January, February, and March will be held on Zoom to avoid travel during inclement weather.

The board will continue the strategic planning discussions initiated at Spring Workshop over the next few months with regular updates provided to the club and opportunities for questions and input. The plan will be completed by next Spring and implemented in the 2026-27 biennium.

A volunteer for the Zonta International and U.N. monthly newsletter updates is still needed. Please let me know if you have an interest in this.

If you are not currently serving on a committee, your participation is both welcome and needed.

I would also encourage you to help grow our membership by inviting friends and work colleagues to a meeting as guests.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person at our August 27th Club meeting at Sojourner Family Peace Center.

*Best wishes,
Carol Mangold
President Zonta Club of Milwaukee*

Notice for Club Meeting Service

3-5 members are needed in advance of our Club meeting (4 or 4:30 til 5:30 or so, depending on numbers) to help organize the shelter "back rooms"; sort donated items, straighten out donation space, and organize the food pantry for a major delivery the next week.

Contact Donna Neal to sign up. We will need to have names and expected times of arrival because we'll be working in a secured space.

Diane Lindsley - Aug 1st

Janan Najeeb - Aug 2nd

Karen Smith - Aug 11th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Christine Todd - Aug 15th

Margaret Holzbog - Aug 18th

Maggie Aboagye - Aug 24th

Cheryl Nowak - Aug 27th



HeartLove Place Annual Back to School Event

Volunteer for the HeartLove Place Annual Back to School event on Saturday, August 23.

There are still plenty of opportunities if you are available to help. Helen sent the signup link in an email:



<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kaZqXbFpg76fER8NEhgleS7WsruT4hklaYpiTtgImRs/edit?usp=sharing>

This year is the 25th Anniversary of Neu-Life...

and we are inviting you to Save the Date for our HUGE celebration in an absolutely GORGEOUS venue. For 25 years Neu-Life has been a staple in the Milwaukee Northside community. We've served thousands of families, organized hundreds of community events and made an impact on countless lives throughout the quarter century we've been present.

And we want to celebrate everything Neu-Life is and has done, and all it is becoming and will continue to do.

More details will be coming soon including an Eventbrite and RSVP but PLEASE Save the Date as we'd love to see you celebrate with us!



**Save the Date and come
celebrate 25 years
of Neu-Life!**



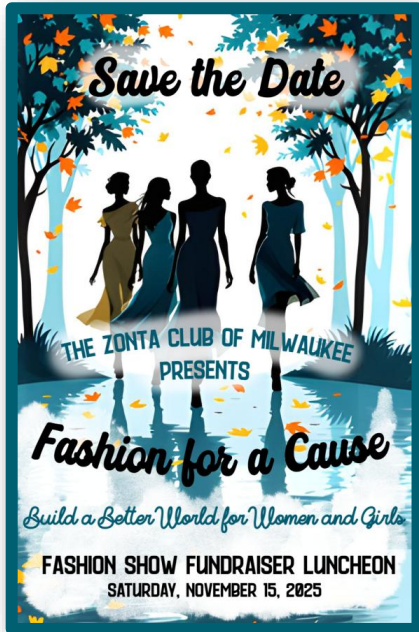
Club Updates



ZONTA
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Upcoming Club Meetings:

- September 24th meeting - Shorewood Public Library.
- October 22nd meeting – New Berlin VFW
- November 19th meeting - New Berlin VFW
- December 17th winter social meeting – Community room at St. Camillus



Upcoming Events:

- October 10th -12th – District 6 Fall Conference in Bloomington, IL
- November 15th – ***Our one & only annual fundraiser!***
- November 7th, 2026 – **Centennial Celebration!**




News and Events

2026 Convention
Vancouver,
Canada


VANCOUVER
Zonta Convention 2026

Save The Date

Join Zonta
International for our
67th Convention

11-14 July 2026
Vancouver, Canada



**Save the
Dates to put
on your
calendars!**





Awards

2025 Club of Milwaukee Women in Business Leadership Award Recipient

The awards committee selected **Jaquilynn Huff** as the 2025 Women in Business Leadership Award recipient.

Jaquilynn currently serves as Co-Chair of the LINC Donor Network at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County and as a board member for Playworks Wisconsin. Additionally, she is currently the Vice President of the National Council for Mortar Board, a national collegiate honor society that promotes scholarship, leadership, and service. Jaquilynn's involvement with Mortar Board spans five years, beginning as chapter president at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and evolving into a National Vice President volunteer role where she supports student leaders across the country. Jaquilynn is currently employed by the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Wisconsin as a Community Outreach Specialist.

Jaquilynn's entrepreneurial spirit is reflected in the founding of the Milwaukee chapter of the Wisconsin Women's Network's year-long mentoring program. This initiative, offered at no cost to participants, connects women across industries to foster professional development and peer mentorship. The goal is to ensure women have equitable access to opportunities that advance their careers and leadership potential.

Jaquilynn's career aspirations are to build and lead social impact programs in partnership with corporations, creating shared value for businesses and communities. She believes that meaningful, sustainable change is possible when companies invest strategically in initiatives that serve both their business goals and community needs.

To support her professional growth and deepen her strategic capabilities, Jaquilynn has been accepted into the Executive Program in Social Impact Strategy at the University of Pennsylvania. This opportunity will provide her with the tools and global network necessary to develop innovative programs that promote equity, especially for women and girls, through collaborative, cross-sector solutions. With the knowledge gained from this program, Jaquilynn aims to expand her impact by creating scalable models for community engagement, empowering women in the workforce, and driving lasting change.



Club Updates



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Fashion Show 2025

Save the Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the Marriott Milwaukee West

Theme: Fashion for a Cause: Build a Better World for Women and Girls

Chico's will be our vendor for fashions.

We will be distributing invites at our August 27th meeting. If you didn't let Pam know how many you wanted please let her know now. If for some reason you can't make the Aug. 27th meeting we will either mail them to you or if someone else can take for you let them know. We will be mailing invites to our invitee list shortly thereafter. Also an electronic version will be available. Eventbrite will be ready to go on August 15th <https://2025-zonta-fashion-show.eventbrite.com>. Deadline for reservations will be October 22, 2025. All members are asked to sell or purchase a table of 10 or donate ½ the cost of the ticket, since this is our only major fundraiser of the year.

We will also be collecting raffle and silent auction items, so think of putting a theme basket together and soliciting from your businesses you frequent. Template solicitation letters and donation form were emailed June 23rd, but if you need another emailed to you please let Pam know.

If you received any **gift cards** you won't be using please consider donating them to the fashion show for our "gift card" tree or please purchase a few to donate. Looking for \$20 to \$25 gift cards (such as Panera, Target, other restaurants or stores). Please bring to August or September meeting and give to Deb Koller.

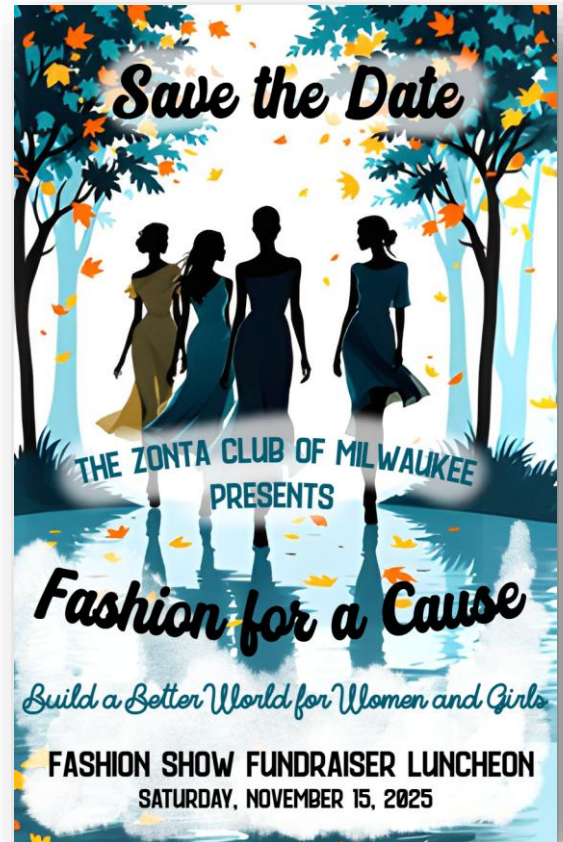
We will be collecting **bottles of wine** for our wine pull with a minimum value of \$20 or cash donations suggested of \$20. You can bring to our August or September meeting or get to Deb Koller.

Membership

If you have any prospective members, please invite them to our upcoming August, September, October and/or November meetings. We will probably not be having a prospective member event this November because of the late fashion show, so if you have anyone interested, please invite them to a meeting and/or give Pam their name so she can follow up.

We will be inducting Janan Najeeb, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition at our August meeting. Welcome Janan!

Shari will be sending out an updated roster if she hasn't already. Unfortunately, we've lost some members, so that's even more reason to invite some prospective members to our meetings.



Club Updates



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Foundation

Applications for 2025 Grants are now closed. Fifteen applications were received. The Board will review and make decisions at the end of August and will communicate to all in September. Awards will be given at the Zonta Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for November 15, 2025.

Service & Zonta Exposure

Miss Wisconsin Parade Zonta Participation on Sunday, June 15th



Club Updates



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Zonta Centennial Celebration: Planning Is Underway!

Save the Date – November 7, 2026

📍 **Venue:** *The Garage at the Harley-Davidson Museum*

📅 **Date:** *Saturday, November 7, 2026*

This stunning space was selected for its beauty, functionality, and accessibility. With high ratings for service and cuisine, it's the perfect place to honor 100 years of Zonta's legacy and look ahead to the future.

🔗 Event Committees

We'll be forming the following committees to ensure every detail shines:



- **Venue:**

Coordinates food, beverages, room setup, and liaises with the Harley-Davidson event planner.

- **Program & Entertainment:**

Plans music, speakers, a live/silent auction, and a "Wall of History".

- **Logistics:**

Manages invitations, RSVPs, seating, and related event coordination.

- **Fundraising:**

Oversees corporate sponsorships, donations, and onsite fundraising efforts.

- **Publicity:**

Develops promotional materials, videos, press releases, and posters.

- **History:**

A cross-team effort highlighting our rich past and legacy throughout the event.

We've already brainstormed some fun and meaningful ideas for each area, which we'll share once committees are formed.

🔗 Get Involved!

A **committee sign-up sheet** was circulated at our in-person meeting. A digital version will be sent out to ensure everyone can participate.

Let's make this milestone celebration unforgettable—together! Please make sure to attend the August meeting to help in the planning and coordination!



Advocacy

In the Club's June Newsletter, I mentioned that State Rep. Shelia Stubbs (D-78th Assembly District) planned to reintroduce a bill to create a task force to address missing and murdered Black women and girls. Last year such a bill was passed in the State Assembly but was blocked in a State Senate committee for months and never made it to the floor for a vote.

On July 25th, Rep. Stubbs reintroduced a bill to create a 17-member task force to examine the systemic causes of violence African American women and girls face and develop policy solutions to prevent others from going missing and being murdered. Coauthors of the new bill include Rep. Pat Snyder (R-Weston), Sen. Jesse James (R-Thorp) and LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee). The bill includes one position supported with state funding of \$80,200 in 2025-26 and \$99,500 in 2026-27.

This initiative is supported by State Attorney-General Josh Kaul and Gov. Tony Evers who included a task force in his budget proposal, but the Joint Finance Committee did not include it in the final budget proposal. However, there appears to be more compromise possible in this legislative session.

"People are ready to step up," Kaul said. "The problem now is not whether there is interest among folks in collaborating and working to identify solutions. What we need is legislative will. We need the legislators and the Senate and the Assembly to pass legislation that will help ensure we have this task force... It's clear that there is a need not just for action, but for there to be an investment so that we can seriously consider these issues."¹

1. "Lawmaker pushes again for Wisconsin task force on missing and murdered Black women and girls" by Baylor Spears, Wisconsin Examiner, July 28, 2025



For newer Club members who may not be aware that Amelia Earhart was a member of Zonta International, the Amelia Earhart Fellowship (\$10,000 each) was established in 1938 in honor of the famed pilot who was mysteriously lost in 1937 trying to fly around the world. For those Club members of a certain vintage, we have been following several attempts over the decades to locate her plane and artifacts.

Now we learn in a Weekend Exclusive in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* that "a new expedition may just be what one official described as the "greatest opportunity ever" to finally bookend the enduring mystery. On July 2, the Purdue Research Foundation and the Archaeological Legacy Institute announced a joint effort to locate Earhart's plane in a lagoon off a Pacific island

between Australia and Hawaii, where a popular theory suggests Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, may have landed on May 20, 1937.

A field team of researchers on Nov. 5 will journey by sea to the island Nikumaroro, part of the Phoenix Islands in the western Pacific Ocean, to determine whether a visual anomaly known as the "Taraia Object," seen in satellite and other imagery in the island's lagoon, is what remains of Earhart's plane. They will spend five days on Nikumaroro inspecting the "Taraia Object," according to the Purdue Research Foundation. If the initial expedition proves successful, the field team plans to return in 2026 to uncover and help return what remains of Earhart's plane, the foundation said. -- Diane Lindsley



“Women's Equality Day is observed annually to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing some women the constitutional right to vote. More than a century after gaining the right to vote, women continue to experience voter inequalities due to disenfranchisement, barriers to access the polls, and restrictive voter ID laws. The Wisconsin Women's Network recognizes Women's Equality Day, in order to bring awareness to the inequalities (at the polls and beyond) that many Wisconsinites experience because of their gender, race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexuality, ability, identity, and socioeconomic status.”

“Our Women's Equality Day event serves as a fundraiser to sustain the Wisconsin Women's Network and our work to advance the status of women and girls in Wisconsin.”

“We hope you will join us at the 2025 Women's Equality Day celebration on Thursday, August 28, from 5:00-8:00pm. Location: Suggested price of \$35 Goodman Community Center - Brassworks Building | 214 Waubesa St, Madison, WI 53704”

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Speaker Program: Hear from bold voices who are breaking barriers and building momentum across Wisconsin.

Excellence in Advocacy Award: Celebrate this year's recipient for their unwavering commitment to advancing the status of Wisconsin's women and girls.

Networking Opportunities: Connect with fellow community members passionate about social and gender justice.

Exciting Raffle: Participate for a chance to win amazing prizes from local businesses! Raffle tickets will be sold at the event. **Refreshments & Cash Bar:** Enjoy a complimentary appetizer buffet, plus spirits, beer, and wine available for purchase from the Goodman Community Center.

Club Updates



ZONTA
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Summer Social!





The NAIDM 2025 Experience (June 2025)!



Many of our District 6 members!



Club Updates



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Joni won the early bird prize!



Dawn & Joni with new friends!



Club Updates



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**Service Project:
A Project Beloved**



**Preparing
Beloved
Bundles**



August 2025

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