



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

NEWSLETTER

June/July 2025

Area 2 • District 6

2025–2026

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Officers

Carol Mangold, President
Helen Ludwig, President Elect
Karen Smith, Vice President
Laureen Ward, Treasurer
Shari Januszewski, Secretary

Club Board

Pam Knackert
Diane Lindsley
Christine Todd
Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Foundation Board Officers

Cheryl Nowak, President
Joni Reese, Vice President
Donna Neal, Treasurer
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

June 25th Club Summer Social

5:30/6:00 – 8:00 pm

Relax and enjoy summer vibes!

Please sign up and bring a dish to pass.

The sign-up sheet was distributed via email by the Program Committee. If you have any issues with the shared sheet, please contact Ruth, Karen or Joni and we can make sure the sheet is updated.

Address: S80W20719 Tyler Dr. Muskego.

(2nd house on right from Hillendale; with a tall flagpole).

Call Joni at 262-995-4838 if you have any issues.

Please RSVP no later than June 20 to Ruth at
ZontaRuth@gmail.com.

Milwaukee June Social
June 25th, 2025
6:00 pm

Join us at the
ReeseResort
for food and drink!

Hopefully the sun will
be shining and the
flowers blooming!

flowers blooming
be shining and the
hopefully the sun will

www.zontamilwaukee.org

President's Message



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Dear Zonta Sisters,



Congratulations to the new club and foundation officers and directors who were installed at the May meeting. I'm confident that I speak for the entire club in thanking them for their willingness to serve. Also, many thanks to the Nominating Committee who did the work of filling these positions.

Now that summer is a few days away, we look forward to a busy month in June. Events include the Wisconsin Miss Wisconsin Parade in New Berlin on June 15, NAIDM in Novi, MI from June 20-22, and the June social at Joni Reese's home on June 25 in place of our June club meeting. During the month of July, we'll take a summer break from Zonta activities. We hope that everyone returns rested and energized when a new season of Zonta work resumes in August.

The 2025-26 year will be exciting and busy as plans progress for the Fashion Show in November and the 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2026. The District 6 Fall Conference will be held in Bloomington, IL from October 10-12 this year. Helen Ludwig will be our voting delegate, and Pam Knackert will be the alternate. We hope that we will have a good turnout from our club in Bloomington. If you've not attended a Fall Conference in the past, it's a good chance to learn more about Zonta and develop relationships with Zontians from other clubs in District 6. It's also not too early to start thinking about attending the Zonta International Convention in Vancouver in July 2026.

During Spring Workshop in May, we narrowed down a club focus for strategic planning and that process will resume in late summer/early autumn. We also hope to have representatives from our Z Club at the University School of Milwaukee present at one of our meetings in September or October updating us on their project with Journey House Actions, Gashora, Rwanda. The 2025 Fashion Show Committee is also considering ways to involve the Z Club students in volunteering at our Fashion Show in November.

Please consider signing up for one of our Milwaukee Club Committees if you are not currently part of one. Serving on a committee is the best way to become engaged in the work of Zonta. We still need a volunteer to serve as our Zonta International Committee Chair to replace Marge Holzbog. While Marge was covering this job solo, there is no reason why this committee could not be expanded to include several interested members.

I hope to see many of you at our June social, but for those unable to attend, I wish you a wonderful, relaxing summer.

Best wishes,
Carol Mangold
President Zonta Club of Milwaukee



Club Updates



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

Dates to put on your calendars!

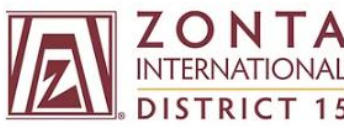


GREAT LAKES SUMMER CAMP

Ignite Your Passion

June 20-22, 2025

Novi, Mi
Hosted by Zonta District 15





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
Date!*

COPENHAGEN
68th CONVENTION

8-11 JULY 2028

Join us in Copenhagen!

We are excited to officially announce our 2028 Convention host city:
Copenhagen, Denmark.

Save the date and we will see you there!





District 6 2025 Fall Conference
October 10-12, 2025

Navigating the Future
Our Path to Success



Awards

Please Share: Women in Business Leadership Award **\$2,000 + \$10,000**

ELIGIBILITY:

- Women, aged 18-35 at the time of application, who demonstrate evidence of the following, are eligible to apply:
 - a. Exceptional leadership in a business-related field of study or industry.
 - b. Entrepreneurial spirit.
 - c. Ethical conduct.
 - d. Significant contributions to addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls or climate justice
- Z club and Golden Z club members are eligible to apply.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Completion of the official application, including essay.
- Two recommendations from adults, not related to the applicant, such as teachers, school officials, employee supervisors or business leaders, which must be sent directly to the Zonta club or district and not through the applicant.
- Currently be employed (if applicable), enrolled as a full-time student (if applicable) or have legal residency (if applicable) in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Racine, or Kenosha counties.

HOW MAY I USE THE AWARD FUNDS?

- There are no restrictions on the use of funds. Please note: If the applicant is studying at a secondary school, university or college, Zonta International is offering a "scholarship" type of payment to be used for tuition and/or living expenses.
- Recipients are not permitted to defer the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award.
- Recipients may accept additional grants and awards from other sources.

ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE DETAILS:

- The Zonta Club of Milwaukee provides one \$2,000 award. The winner's application is sent on to Zonta District 6, which selects one application to be forwarded to Zonta International for consideration of a \$10,000 award.
- The 2025 Women in Business Leadership Award application is available now. Completed 2025 applications are due on or before July 1, 2025. Only TYPED applications will be accepted and considered. If the school stamp is embossed on the Enrollment Verification Form, lightly shade it with a pencil prior to submitting the application electronically.
- The PDF application can be found here on the [Awards page of our Zonta Club of Milwaukee website](#) or on the Zonta International Website.

2025

**ZONTA**
INTERNATIONAL

**ZONTA WOMEN IN BUSINESS
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Encouraging women to drive
innovation and impact in the
business world



1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award
Varies by club

10 international awards
US\$10,000 each

Applications must be received by the applicant's local Zonta club's deadline. To locate a club near you and download an application, please visit: zonta.org/womeninbusinessleadership.

CLUB DEADLINE:
July 1, 2025

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO:
zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org
OR
Deb Koller
210 S. Water St. Unit 521
Milwaukee, WI 53204

The Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award is a Zonta International program funded by contributions to the Zonta Foundation for Women. Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working to build a better world for women and girls.

Club Updates



ZONTA
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MILWAUKEE

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.

Invitations: Pam has sent the **Save the Date** to the club and our email list. **Also let Pam know how many invites you would like**, since hopefully you will send invites on your own. Again, we'd like each member to sell/buy a table of 10. (Invites will be available at our August meeting).

Sponsors: We are still looking for **sponsors**, so please contact businesses you use or frequent. A template letter with sponsorship levels was sent out again on June 2nd that you can use to ask. Please consider asking your accountant, financial planner, dentist, employer, etc. If you have names you do not want to contact yourself, please supply them to Carol. (And also encourage them to attend our fashion show and perhaps bring a table of people from their business).

We are currently looking for sponsors of this event.

Please consider sponsoring or registering your interest: <https://form.jotform.com/251115761619153>

All proceeds from this event directly supports women and girls in the community and internationally. You can truly make a difference.

Silent Auction & Raffle Items: 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 will be available at the end of June

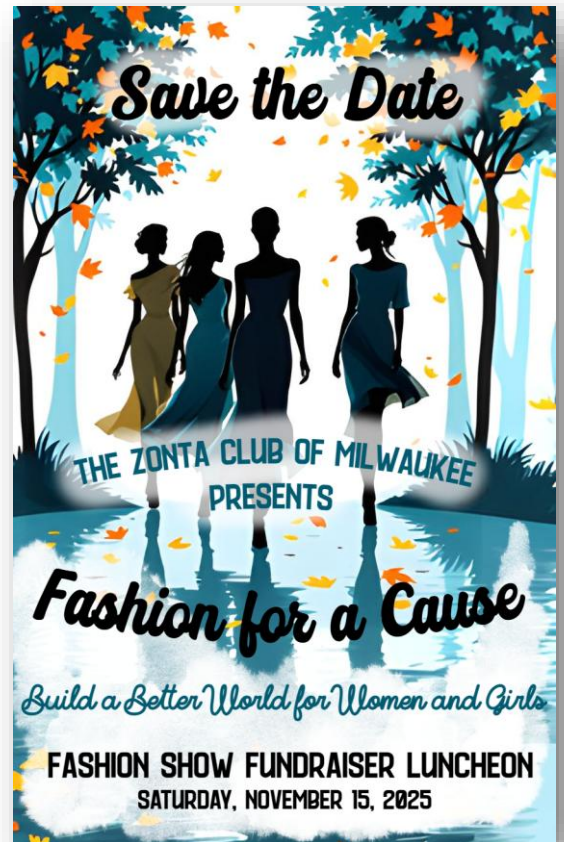
Gift Cards: If you received any **gift cards** you won't be using please consider donating them to the fashion show for our "gift card" tree or please purchase a few to donate. Looking for \$20 to \$25 gift cards (such as Panera, Target, other restaurants or stores). Please give to Deb Koller.

Wine: 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 in-person meetings or get to Deb Koller.

Membership

If you have any prospective members, please invite them to join us for our June 25th get together. It will be a fun time and a great way for them to meet our members.

We hope to be installing Janan Najeeb, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition at our August meeting.





Service & Zonta Exposure

Miss Wisconsin Parade Zonta Participation Sunday, June 15th

We are planning to participate in the Miss Wisconsin Parade on Sunday, June 15th

Details so far:

- Check-in is between 12:30 and 1:30 between Glengary & Crowbar
- Step Off is at 2:30
- The parade travels east down National Ave and ends at the Historical Society, where they have their open house (less than a mile). The Historical Society will be open, the Historical Society and Prospect Lions will be selling food, and the Miss Wisconsin contestants will be mingling with the public after the parade.

There will be about 29 contestants in cars and then other local groups (New Berlin Lions, etc) and some poms and band groups perhaps as part of the parade, with the groups interspersed between cars. We are entry 8.

Deb Koller will be driving her convertible. The rest of us would walk behind carrying a banner and handing out little Zonta cards or candy. It's a little less than a mile route.

We purchased a new banner made to carry. Information was sent regarding parking offsite at Orthopaedic Assoc. Sports Complex at 5330 S. Racine and shuttling to the start of the parade. Pam purchased some candy to give away.

These are the members who indicated an interest in participating in the June 15th Miss Wisconsin Parade so far, if you would like to also let Pam know: Deb Koller, Joni Reese, Ruth Robertson, Karen Smith, Pam Knackert, Donna Conant and Cheryl Lucas-DeBerry.

Miss Wisconsin
Scholarship Organization

HOME ABOUT ▼ MISS WISCONSIN 2024 – MANDI GENORD MISS WISCONSIN'S TEEN 2024 – ELLA BEY DELEGATES ▼

COMPETITION WEEK 2025 ▼ TICKETS LOCAL COMPETITIONS APPEARANCES ▼ SPONSORS SUPPORT US

Miss Wisconsin >> 2025 Schedule of Events

2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 15

Miss Wisconsin Delegates Arrive

Miss Wisconsin Parade 2:30pm – National Ave., New Berlin. Concluding at the New Berlin Historical Park.

Meet and Greet at New Berlin Historical Society's Father's Day Beer Garden 2-5pm

Club Updates



ZONTA
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Zonta 100-Year Anniversary: Planning Is Underway! ***Save the Date – November 7, 2026***

We're excited to announce that the planning for our **100th Anniversary Celebration** is officially underway!

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

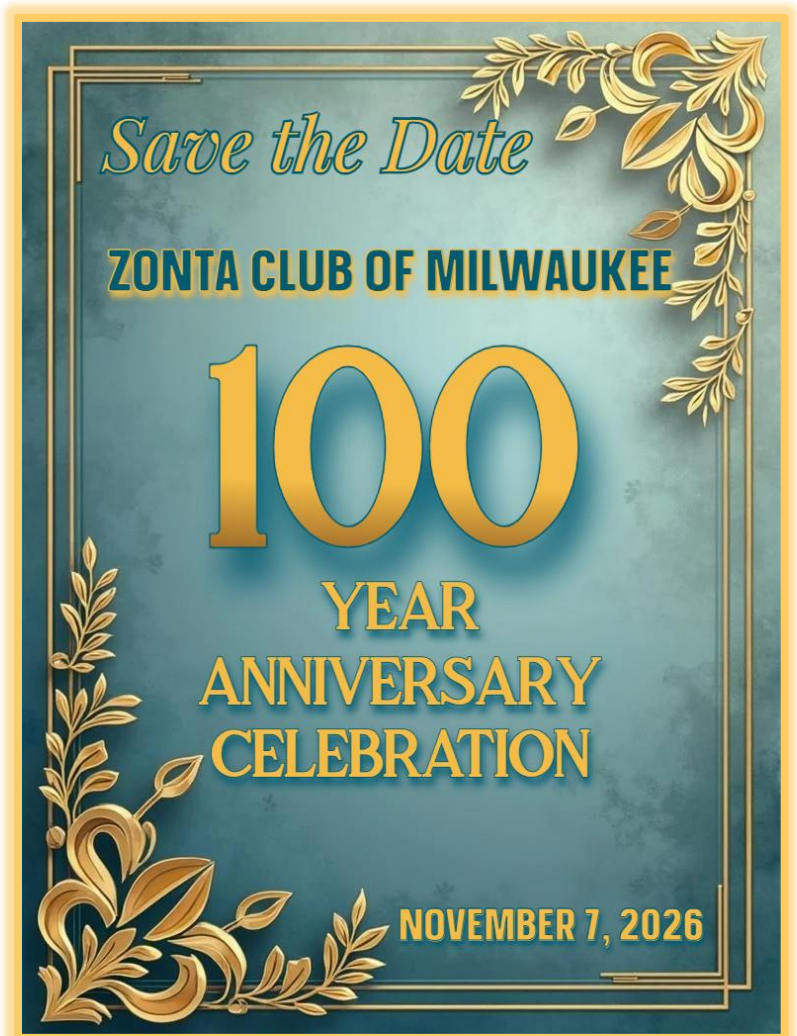
📅 **Date: *Saturday, November 7, 2026***

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 on **April 23rd**. A digital version will be sent out to ensure everyone can participate.

Let's make this milestone celebration unforgettable—together!



Advocacy

For those of you who were not present at our May Club Meeting, you missed a heartfelt discussion of growing worldwide misogyny, incidents of violence against women, and the racial disparity of violence to Black women and girls.

The next day's *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* featured an article about the need for a task force to address this racial disparity. State Rep. Shelia Stubbs (D-78th Assembly District) plans to reintroduce a bill to create such a task force. This will be her third attempt during the last four years.

Statistics include:

- "Black women in Wisconsin were 20 times more likely to be murdered than White women in 2019-20, according to research from Columbia University published last year. Wisconsin had the greatest racial disparity in homicide rates in the study, which spanned from 1999 to 2020 and analyzed 30 states."
- "A *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* review of homicides related to domestic violence between 2016 and 2022 in Milwaukee County found nearly 40% of the victims were Black women. Experts have said racial inequalities in housing, income and access to safety resources are part of the overrepresentation."

In 2021, Minnesota was the first state to establish a task force for missing and murdered African American women. It led to a permanent office that supports families during law enforcement investigations and distributes missing persons materials, among other roles.

Gov. Evers included funding for such a task force in his budget proposal. It would support an existing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives task force. However, the Joint Finance Committee removed that funding on May 8th. We'll be watching for any bill introduced this Session and then we'll contact our State Senators and Representatives.

Missing Black Women Task Force Pitched

Hope Karnopp

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

In Neu-Life's May Newsletter:

Featured Story: Joann Harris-Comodore Honored by Marquette University

"We're proud to share that Joann Harris-Comodore, founder and CEO of Neu-Life, was recently honored with the 2024 IWL Transformational Leadership Award from Marquette University's Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL)."

This prestigious award recognizes trailblazers who have created lasting, systemic impact for women. Joann's work with Neu-Life—supporting youth through education, leadership, and life skills—has transformed countless lives since the organization's founding in 2000.

"My goal was always to make a difference, to have an impact. From the beginning, the youth were integral in shaping Neu-Life's direction. They were the catalyst."

—Joann Harris-Comodore, Founder & CEO

We are thrilled to see her vision and commitment celebrated in this way."



Club Updates



ZONTA
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Z Club

The Upper School had a bake sale, and the girls helped the fifth graders in the Middle School run a penny war.

Derrick Rugema, a young man who grew up in Gashora and worked at Journey House Actions Rwanda, is now a student at North Park University in Chicago and twice came to USM to speak to 5th graders studying Rwanda and the Upper School Z Club. Inspired by him, the students coordinated two fundraisers to benefit the Pennies for Pigs program. Derrick explained to the students how the pig farm allows the organization to sustain itself and provides jobs to women and elderly in this rural township. They raised a total of \$832, with some generous support from MKE Zontians!

The Z Club also sent along to Voices of Hope, a support group for young women of Gashora, three "Girl Talk" videos about menstrual health and career aspirations; they hope to hear back from them soon to build the partnership.



Derrick Rugema at USM



The pig farm in Gashora



Still photo from Z-Club Girl Talk video



Foundation

Now Accepting Applications for 2025 Grants!

The Foundation Board is soliciting requests from agencies now with a due date of July 31, 2025. The 2025 Application for funding is now available on our website.

ZONTA Foundation, Inc.

Funding Guidelines

And Application

for 2025 Grants



Please share with worthy agencies in the Milwaukee area that are a good fit for our mission and goals.

We are seeking applications from 501(c)(3) non-profit agencies/organizations for specific programs, projects, or services that are designed to empower women and/or girls in the greater Milwaukee area, in keeping with the mission and goals of Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. Individual grants typically range from \$1,000-\$3,000 per year, with commitments of up to 3 years. However, the Foundation Board will consider requests for larger awards. Preference is generally given to funding requests for specific programs, projects, or services versus unspecified contributions to a general operating fund.

The Board will review and make decisions by August/September timeframe. Awards will be given at the Zonta Fashion Show Fundraiser scheduled for November 15, 2025.

Zonta Foundation, Inc. is the charitable arm of the club. All members of the Club are members of Zonta Foundation, Inc. The Foundation of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, exists to raise and disburse funds. One third of funds raised are used to support Zonta International Service Projects in several parts of the world. Two thirds of funds raised remain in the greater Milwaukee area and have been used to help other 501 (c) 3 non-profit agencies, fund our scholarships/awards and support service activities.



Attendees at the 5/17 A2 Workshop



Zonta Club of Milwaukee Meeting Minutes Wednesday May 28, 2025

In person meeting at the New Berlin Library was called to order by Vice Present Ruth Roberson at 6:33 pm.

Speaker: Carmen Pitre – President & CEO of Sojourner Family Peace Center spoke to Club regarding issues of domestic violence.

Installation of New Officers and Board Directors: Joann Harris-Comodore recognized the outgoing officers and directors on the Club and Foundation Boards. Joann then inducted the new officers and board directors present at the meeting.

Nomination for Fall Conference Delegate. Pam Knachert moved Helen Ludwig as our delegate at the 2025 Fall Conference. Barbara Wyatt-Sibley seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Donna Neal moved Pam Knachert as our alternate delegate. Joni Reese seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

By-laws Change: Diane Lindsley presented a by-law change regarding branding standards proposed by Joni Reese. Pam Knachert moved we approve the amendment. Donna Conant seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Financial Reports: Treasurer Laureen Ward gave the April Treasurer's report.

Beginning bal.	\$ 7,173.92
Expenses:	\$ 819.84
Income (includes dues):	<u>\$ 2,388.82</u>
Balance in bank:	\$ 8,742.90

Outstanding checks:	<u>\$ 223.44</u>
Check book balance:	\$ 8,519.46

Committee Annual Reports and Budgets:

Service Committee:

- Helen Ludwig reported that she will send out a Google document to sign up to volunteer at the HeartLove Place annual back to school event.
- Pam reported the New Berlin Lions Club is looking for volunteers to work in the food and beer tents at the 4th of July celebration on the 3rd, 4th & 5th of July. Pam will send out an email to the club with further information.



Club Updates



ZONTA
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PR: Joni reported:

- She has been updating the website. It is missing club history from 2010 – present. Diane Lindsley agreed to forward the history information to Joni.
- Our website will need a technical upgrade. We will need to decide if we should keep our own website or have a club page on the District 6 new website. Joni will put together a proposal with regard to the cost and benefits of continuing to maintain our own website and present it at a future meeting for consideration. She has renewed our current website hosting for one year.

Fashion Show: Pam Knackert reported that she sent the proposed invitation list to all members. Please review and provide her with deletions or corrections.

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting: June 10, 2025 at 6:00 via Zoom.

Miss Wisconsin Contest Parade: New Berlin, June 15, 2025 (wear teal T-shirts)

Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting: June 20 – 22, 2025 in Novi, MI.

Next General Club Meeting: June 25, 2025 at 6:00 – Social event at Joni Reese's home.

Google sign-up list will be emailed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41.

