



December 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  
Donna Conant, Recording Secretary/  
Corresponding Secretary

**Foundation Board**

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

Send your newsletter submissions  
to [jonizonta@gmail.com](mailto:jonizonta@gmail.com)

**Visit us online at**  
[www.zontamilwaukee.org](http://www.zontamilwaukee.org)



Please plan to bring a dish to share. The Program committee has shared the document to sign up for a dish. RSVP to Ruth: [ZontaRuth@gmail.com](mailto:ZontaRuth@gmail.com). If you would like to participate in a fun gift exchange, please bring a \$15 wrapped gift.

[Zonta Holiday Party Signup.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)



**Upcoming meetings:**

January 28 - Zoom  
February 25 - Zoom  
March 25 - Zoom  
April 22 - New Berlin Library

# President's Message



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE



Dear Milwaukee Zontians,

The year is rapidly drawing to a close so it's time to reflect on the many achievements of our club during 2025. I am so grateful to be part of this amazing group of hardworking and dedicated women with big hearts and great minds!

## Over the past twelve months:

- In January, we chartered our new Z Club at The University School of Milwaukee
- Learned from several interesting speakers over the year and enjoyed great meals at our meetings organized by the Program Committee
- In the Spring, we hosted a successful Area Spring Workshop at MRA
- Participated in the Miss Wisconsin Parade in New Berlin in June
- Awarded funds to 2 young women chosen for the Women in Business Leadership Award and the Young Women in Leadership Award
- Awarded grants to 8 Milwaukee agencies advocating for and supporting women & girls
- Participated and donated to service projects organized by the Service Committee including Allies for Teens in Foster Care, Prospect Lions Club of New Berlin, HeartLove Place diaper collection and Back to School Family Rally, Period Supply Kits for Sojourner's Family Peace Center, Florence Eiseman Children's Clothing Sale, Milwaukee Diaper Mission period products, and an -in progress- holiday donation to the Waukesha Women's Center
- A dedicated Nominating Committee who filled our officer and director positions
- Contributed funds to Zonta International projects around the world
- Updates on legislation affecting women & girls from the Advocacy Committee
- 16 Days of Activism Advocacy postings
- Advocacy for Ending Child Marriage at the State Capitol in November
- Another successful annual Fashion Show Fundraiser in November
- A new, updated, and awesome Website
- Progress toward the 100th Anniversary Celebration fundraiser in 2026
- Progress toward a club Strategic Plan for the future
- We also find time to have fun! June social at Joni Reese's home and Holiday party at Chris Todd's home - St. Camillus next week.

My apologies for anything I've unintentionally omitted, but the list above is an accomplishment we can all be proud of! A big **Thank You** to everyone for making all this possible! You are the best!

Best wishes for the Holidays and the New Year!

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Carol Mangold**  
President Zonta Club of Milwaukee

## Current party sign-up list

	Specify item so no duplicates	Name of Zonta Member
<b>Appetizer</b>		
1	Salsa & tortilla chips	Donna Conant
2	Veggie tray and hummus	Donna Neal
3	Cheese & Crackers	Diana Barnett
4	Sausage and crackers	Gloria Jones
5		
<b>Salad</b>		
1	Chinese Cabbage Salad	Pam Knackert
2	Green salad	Helen Ludwig
3		
4		
5		
<b>Main Dish</b>		
1	Buffalo Wings	Viola Rembert
2	Lasagna	Carol Mangold
3	Meat Balls	Joni Reese
4	Rice and grilled meat	Janan Najeeb
5		
<b>Dessert</b>		
1	Karen Smith	Chocolate Mint Dream dessert
2	Carol Mangold	Christmas choc/cherry banana bread
3	Jackie Beaudry	Lemon bars
4	Dawn Zehren	Buche de Noel (Yule Log Cake)
5		
6		
<b>Beverages</b>		
Wine	Karen Smith	2 Red
Wine	Joni Reese	2 Red
Wine	Donna Conant & Donna Neal	2 White
Soda/Water	Dawn Zehren	8 Pack fizzy water
Other	Barbara	wine and sparkling water
Other		
<b>Paper Products</b>		
Dinner Plates	Karen Smith	
Dessert Plates	Karen Smith	
Cups	Karen Smith	
Napkins	Deb Koller	
Plasticware	Deb Koller	

# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
MILWAUKEE

## Service

### We asked and everyone responded! Great job!

Thank you to all who donated to our service project at our November fundraiser!!!

Shown are only a portion of what we collected! We exceeded 10,000 individual products.

Thank you to the Z Club members who helped to pack them all up for the Milwaukee Diaper Mission!

**Fashion for a Cause**

This year, in keeping with "Build a Better World for Women & Girls", we have a special request:

Period Poverty is the inability to afford or access menstrual hygiene products. One in three low-income women & girls have reported missing work, school, or events due to a lack of period supplies.

Please help us meet this need by bringing Super Pads &/or Super or Regular Tampons to the Fashion Show. All donations will be collected by the Milwaukee Diaper Mission. Thank you!

**ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE**  
BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS  
Zonta Foundation Inc



# Club Updates



## Service Continued



**Sent via email last week from Helen Ludwig:** Please consider bringing a donation for Waukesha Women's Center to our holiday party next week. Here is their request:

*We are currently in need of full-size body sprays/perfume/or cologne right now for our holiday gift giving program! ☺ Think bath & body works sprays or a similar size/brand. Men's or Women's as we have many teenage boys throughout the year as well.*

Helen will deliver the donations to them on Thursday.

## Fashion Show 2025

Thank you once again to all our members—and especially the committee—for their hard work and dedication in making our “Fashion for a Cause” fundraiser on November 15th such a success. We welcomed 278 guests, and the feedback indicates that everyone enjoyed the event, including the lunch, program, and fashions provided by Chico's.



While final numbers are still being tallied, proceeds are expected to be close to \$34,000—our highest to date. With this achievement behind us, we now turn our attention to our upcoming 100th Celebration.

As Pam steps down from her role as co-chair of the fashion show, we invite anyone interested in serving in this position for the next event to reach out to Helen, who will be President at that time.

**Thank you again to our sponsors!**



## Club Updates



# Club Updates



## Membership

Approximately 20 attendees from the fashion show indicated interest in Zonta membership through their surveys. A list has been shared with all members so you can see which of your friends or relatives may be considering joining. These individuals have already received an email with information about Zonta, along with an invitation to our Holiday Social.

Please take a moment to follow up with them personally. We will be glad to accommodate them at the event if they are able to attend. In addition, please encourage them to join our January 28th Zoom meeting, during which we will be working on our strategic plan, an excellent opportunity for prospective members to learn more about who we are and what we do.

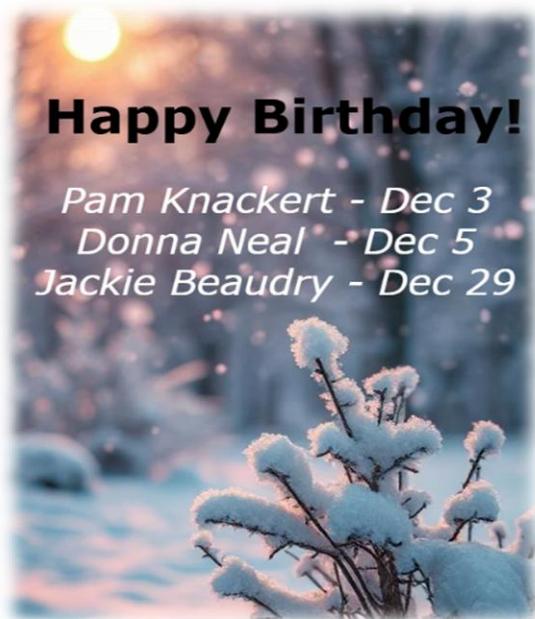
Also we'd like to welcome back Lynda Jackson Conyers. So happy to have you back Lynda. Her email is [lynjackconyers@gmail.com](mailto:lynjackconyers@gmail.com). Please add her back to our club distribution lists.



*"Hello Zonta Members,  
I am the daughter of past Zonta Milwaukee Chapter  
member, Janet Mandy. I believe at one time she was the  
secretary of the club, the one arranging for guest  
speakers.  
She passed away Saturday, December 6, 2025.  
She was very proud to be a member of this group, I  
attended many events with her, I remember the fashion  
show was great fun.  
She held many precious memories in her heart of the  
women in the group and the work you do for the  
community and others.  
Her funeral service will be at Heritage Funeral Home Oak  
Creek location on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Her  
current last name is Weasler as she was happily married  
during retirement."  
Sincerely,  
Kristine Michalski  
[kristikarts@earthlink.net](mailto:kristikarts@earthlink.net)*



*We will miss Lynne Oehlke, a former member and long-time friend/contributor of our MKE Zonta Club, who passed in December.*



# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
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## Advocacy

### **Wisconsin Zonta Lobby Day November 18, 2025**

*Submitted by Cathy Myers, with participation from WI Clubs, including Milwaukee representatives:*

**On November 18th** Janesville members participated in a Lobby Day at the capital to talk to legislators about ending child marriage and supporting the WI ERA. Participating as well were the EClub, Milwaukee, and Madison clubs.

We secured thirty appointments and had very productive conversations with either legislators or their staff. It was a session day, so meeting with the legislator was not always possible. The Child Marriage Bill, AB656, SB634, received a couple more co-sponsors after our lobby day.

If we did not have an appointment, we dropped by their office and had a quick chat with staff members. We left behind materials on both the Child Marriage Bill and the WI ERA for all, and a little pillow with small wedding rings tied to it with lace and a business card tucked into the back that had a QR code with more information about the child marriage issue. We made 132 contacts in all.

Our state is politically very divided, and few, if any, representatives are willing to work across the aisle. So far, despite receiving a lot of positive responses on the bill to end Child Marriage, no Republicans have co-sponsored. Additionally, the ERA Joint Resolution appears to have no support from Republican members.

During our debrief, we discussed which Republicans may be persuadable and who may be willing to serve as a "champion" for children. We are still working on a follow-up plan. We are thinking of using social media to target people who live in the districts of persuadable Republicans and asking them to call their representatives' offices in support. We also have friends who live in those areas and who can like/share those posts and call the representative on behalf of the bill.

### **WI ZONTA LOBBY DAY — NOVEMBER 18, 2025**



### **E-Club of USA3 – Janesville – Madison – Milwaukee**

Front Row: Edie Barans, Janesville; Nancy Abraham, Madison; Barbara Burchfield, Madison; Pam Duane, Madison; Cathy Myers, Janesville; Edna Feldman-Schultz, Janesville; Sally Bean, E-Club of USA3.

Back Row: Lori Hanewold, Janesville; Laura Curtiss, Madison; Amber Vaughn Glass, Janesville; Rep Clint Anderson, D-Beloit; Sen Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit; JoAnn Gruber-Hagen, Madison; Debora Hoard, Madison; Gail Zaleski, E-Club of USA3.

Missing from picture: Ellen Ermer, Madison; Fatou Ceesay, Madison; Donna Conant, Milwaukee; Donna Neal, Milwaukee.]



## 2025: 16 Days of Activism

Thank you to Diane Lindsley for creating content and materials for the 16 Days of Activism and to Ruth Robertson for posting on Facebook & Instagram.

I hope our Club members had the chance to read, like, comment & share!

Gender-based violence is one of the most pervasive and yet least-recognized human rights abuses in the world.

Unknown

How does one become an effective activist and stop gender-based violence?

- ↳ By realizing that some changes can take years. Big change does not happen overnight but is the culmination of many small efforts over time. Do not become discouraged!
- ↳ By educating yourself about gender-based violence issues. If you don't understand the causes you want to focus on, your efforts are more likely to fall flat or even cause more harm than good.
- ↳ By partnering with others. Groups can share resources, attract more media coverage, and draw more supporters. Groups can also provide you with experience and effective plans to overcome hurdles.
- ↳ By raising awareness. Be prepared to discuss gender-based violence with others. Many people don't even recognize all the types of injustices. Raise your voice on your social media platform.
- ↳ By getting involved in political processes. That includes voting for officials and policies, both local and national. Know who are your local, state, and national elected officials are and don't be afraid to contact them about issues and pending legislation.

Being an activist means being passionate about an issue, being committed to change, and being determined even if change takes a long time to realize.



District 6 (Illinois, Indiana, & Wisconsin) Zontians

# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
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## Advocacy Continued

*From Donna Conant:*

See the attached, with info on the signing of **Assembly Bill 265**, authored by Rep Robert Wittke. "The bill, now [WI Act 56](#), was inspired by the work of Racine Investigator Luke Johnson, who also joined us for the bill signing. WI Act 56 delivers meaningful and long-overdue updates to Wisconsin's statute of limitation laws on human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, marking an important step forward in protecting survivors and holding offenders accountable."

These are all excerpts from an email sent by State Representative Rober Wittke.



This week, I was pleased to join Governor Evers as he signed **Assembly Bill 265**, which I authored. The bill, now [WI Act 56](#), was inspired by the work of Racine Investigator Luke Johnson, who also joined us for the bill signing. WI Act 56 delivers meaningful and long-overdue updates to Wisconsin's statute of limitation laws on human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, marking an important step forward in protecting survivors and holding offenders accountable.

**Human trafficking is not a far-away problem** — it's happening far too often in Southeastern Wisconsin. Recently, I was invited to speak at the launch of the **HEMAD** campaign, where **I discussed AB 265/WI Act 56**. Breaking the business model of trafficking by eliminating the demand is the mission of HEMAD, a 21-year-old faith-based nonprofit initiative of the [Convergence Resource Center](#) in Milwaukee and Madison. Their work engages men directly in the responsibility to end trafficking and protect vulnerable individuals in our communities. Traffickers destroy lives, and victims deserve more than delayed or uncertain justice — they deserve meaningful, certain, and lasting justice, which WI Act 56 helps law enforcement deliver. To **report suspected trafficking**, contact local law enforcement at 911 or the [National Human Trafficking Hotline at \(888\) 373-7888](#) or by texting 233733.

**HEMAD: Human trafficking Educators working with Men and boys to stand Against the Demand**

# Club Updates



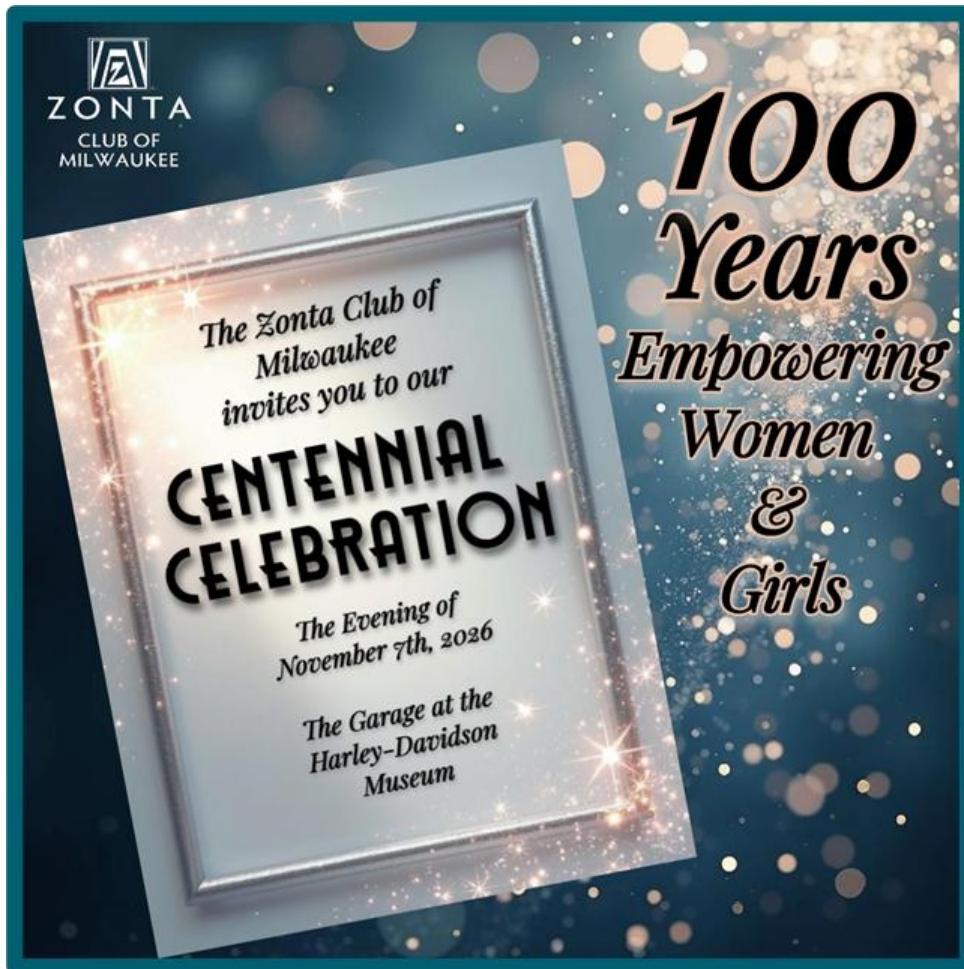
## Centennial Event Update

Committees have been assembled and at work over the last couple of months. **More members are needed on the committees.** **Fundraising** has been developing strategies and lists of potential sponsors/donors. **History** has been at work going through archives and is beginning to develop stories and accomplishments in national and local context. **Logistics and Venue** have met at the facility. **Program and Entertainment** has begun planning.

**The Core Four team** has developed a google docs site for committee reporting and information sharing, and committee representatives have been trained. We have also been working diligently with Sojourner and Community Advocates to develop formal project descriptions and proposals for the Club's consideration.

### In January:

In early January, we will email the proposals to every Club member for review and comment. There will be a deadline for comments, most likely two weeks from the mailing. We will discuss the proposals as well as fund distribution options at a possible Joint Board meeting, and at our January Club meeting where we will be focused on strategic planning. Raising a large amount of money and distributing it is definitely a strategic priority for us in our Centennial year!



# Club Updates



## Z Club Update

### Kids Matter Inc.

Students have identified Kids Matter Inc. as the organization with which they will partner this year. Kids Matter is a non-profit that supports child victims of neglect and abuse. They will:

A. Organize Hope Packages

- They are doing a bake sale 12/9 and 12/10 to raise funds to purchase items for the packages as needed.
- They will organize a drive in Jan to collect items for the Hope Packages. List of specific items needed by teens will be provided by Kids Matter.
- Packages will be assembled at one of the Z club's meetings (dates for second semester meetings are TBD)

B. Teens that are part of Kids Matter will come in during one of Z club's meetings to speak with the club about their firsthand experiences.

### Zonta Club and Leadership School Assembly

Z Club has requested one of the slots reserved for all school student assemblies. The Z Club is hoping that members of Zonta Club of MKE will come in to present to the student body on leadership and their work within the community. The goal is to raise awareness and interest in the club.

They have requested an assembly date either during the first two weeks of March or April. We are waiting to hear back from the admin that creates the schedule to know the exact date. Assemblies run from 1:40 - 2:10 p.m.

### Pennies War

The club will again run a penny drive. Proceeds will go to teen girls in Gashora Rwanda. The specific project is to be determined.



# Club Updates



**ZONTA**  
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## Area, District and ZI Updates

**Save the Date: Area 2 Spring Workshop – March 28<sup>th</sup> in Belvidere, IL.**

**And hot off the press.....Our 1-day 2026 D6 Fall Conference!**

A screenshot of the Zonta Convention 2026 Vancouver website. The header features the Zonta International President's photo and the text "Zonta International President Salla Tuominen and your convention team in Vancouver, Canada can't wait to see you! [Join us 11-14 July 2026!](#)". Below the header are four circular icons with animals: a moose, a raccoon, a bear, and a beaver, each with a call-to-action button below it.