



April 2026

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

Visit us online at
www.zontamilwaukee.org

April 22nd Club Meeting

Social Time 5:30 PM, Meeting 6:00-8:00 PM

Location:

New Berlin Library, 15105 West Library Ln, New Berlin

Annual Business Meeting

April 22 will be our annual business meeting where we hold two separate business meeting sessions.

Carol Mangold, Club President



The first session will be the Zonta Club of Milwaukee business meeting where we approve our Club's 2025-2026 annual report, elect Club officers, and cover any business items.

Cheryl Nowak, Club President

The second session will be the Zonta Foundation Inc meeting, our 501(c)(3) Foundation for our club. All club members are also members of the Foundation. During this session, we will approve the Foundation's 2025 annual report for the foundation, elect Foundation officers, and address any open outstanding Foundation business.



Please make every effort to attend. Our meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.

If you can arrive at 5:30 to help with set up, please do so.

It is also an opportunity to spend some time socializing with other club members.

President's Message



ZONTA
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As the dates for the Zonta International Online Elections approach (April 27 - May 1, 2026) to elect the 2026-2028 Zonta International Leadership Team, I encourage each of you to review the Meet the Candidates Bios and Videos forwarded to you by email on April 9th. The slate includes candidates for International President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer/Secretary, Directors, and Nominating Committee.

The links to the candidate's information are included in the email. Each candidate has provided a bio in PDF format and a short video introduction. It will take some time on your part to review the information on all of the candidates, but is time well spent to ensure that we have the best leadership team possible to keep Zonta International relevant and effective going forward.

Go to Zonta International Website under MyZonta to Tools and then under Tools to Convention Business to find candidate bios and videos. Also, online sessions were recorded and may be available as well.



Please come to the April 22nd club meeting prepared to indicate our choices as a club for our voting delegate, Helen Ludwig.

Look forward to seeing you at the April 22nd meeting,

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mangold
President Zonta Club of Milwaukee



Club Updates



ZONTA
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Centennial Committee Updates

Strong Foundation – Stronger Future

GREAT BIG THANKS to every member of the Fundraising, Publicity, History, Venue, Logistics, and Program & Entertainment Committees for our Centennial Celebration. Your efforts are showing, and momentum is growing.

Centennial Fundraising Committee

We have achieved our first \$10,000 challenge match. Thank you to each and every one of you who have contributed or pledged. Anyone who has not please contact Barbara Wyatt Sibley to let her know your plans. And great news we have another \$10,000

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Project Wellspring
Zonta Club of Milwaukee
in collaboration with
Community Advocates

Zonta Club of Milwaukee Centennial Celebration November 7th, 2026

50 YEARS OF SERVICE 1976-2026 COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

anonymous donor who will match the next \$10,000 in donations. So spread the word to your family and friends especially those that may not attend the event and let them know their donation will be matched. You or they can go to www.zontamilwaukee.org/centennial to make your donation.

You have been emailed a copy of the sponsorship packet and a generic solicitation letter (packet also available on website). Use this letter and packet to solicit companies and business you know or do business with such as your financial advisor, broker, banker, etc. for sponsorships or financial donations.

We will also be soliciting items that may be grouped into bigger items for a silent auction at the event. If you have any connections to Brewer Tickets, or other high-valued items please let us know. We will be sending out the general solicitation in July.

Any other ideas or suggestions, please let Pam, Jackie, Donna C. or Barbara know. To donate now, use this link to our webpage zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/ and click the “Make a Donation” button.

Or mail a check payable to:

Zonta Foundation Inc

Mailed to: **Donna Neal**

2624 E Bellevue Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Centennial Fundraising Committee - Jackie Beaudry, Donna Conant, Pam Knackert, Barbara Wyatt Sibley

Save the Date!
November 7th, 2026

100 Years
Empowering Women & Girls

The Zonta Club of Milwaukee invites you to our **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**
The Evening of November 7th, 2026
The Garage at the Harley-Davidson Museum

www.ZontaMilwaukee.org



Centennial Venue Committee

Food choices are being narrowed down, and our taste testing is on Tues 4/21 at the Harley-Davidson event space. Next task will be to start designing the room layout.

Centennial Logistics Committee

We are still researching event platforms that can be used for tickets, check in, silent auction and paddle raises, while minimizing fees. In the meantime, Rally UP is being used with a donation page for collecting donation events and sponsorships.

A centennial event web page is available with event information and can be used to share messaging on the event with your prospective guests and donors.

<https://zontamilwaukee.org/centennial/>

\$1,000 + \$10,000

Sponsorship Packages Offered

Benefit	Platinum Sponsor \$10,000	Gold Sponsor \$5,000	Bronze Sponsor \$2,500	Silver Sponsor \$1,000
Tickets to Event	10 (Reserved table w/logo)	5 reserved		
Recognition on event Invitations	Logo			
Acknowledgement on presentation screen, event website and materials	X	X	X	
Add in printed event program (space 7 1/2" h x 4 1/2" w)	Full page	Half page	Quarter page	Name listed

+ PLATINUM SPONSOR \$10,000

- GOLD SPONSOR \$5,000

Includes:

- Organization Name/Logo displayed as a gold sponsor on event promotional materials
- Acknowledgement during the program
- Half page advertisement/recognition in the event program booklet
- 5 reserved complimentary tickets to the event

+ SILVER SPONSOR \$2,500

+ BRONZE SPONSOR \$1,000

[Become a Sponsor](#) [Sponsor Information Packet](#)

Event Tickets & Donations

+ Individual Ticket \$175

+ Table of 10 \$1,750

+ Make a Donation

Ticket Sales to begin August 15, 2026!

[Buy a Ticket](#) [Buy a Table](#) [Make a Donation](#)

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100 Years
Empowering Women & Girls

Strong Foundation Stronger Future

Founded in 1926, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee reflects the vision and commitment of local women in diverse businesses and professions. For 100 years, our members have worked to ensure that women, whether in their communities or across the globe, have the support needed to thrive through education, mentoring, financial assistance, and safe environments free from violence.

Join us on November 7, 2026 at the Harley Davidson Garage as well celebrate 100 years of service in the community!

To commemorate our centennial anniversary, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee is honored to announce our centennial signature project, Project Wellspring.

Project Wellspring

Build a Better World for Women and Girls
Zonta Foundation Inc

A Collaboration of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates

1976 2026
COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
Women Helping Women & Support Women's Issues

- ✓ Project Wellspring is a partnership between the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates designed to help survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking transition into safe, stable housing with dignity.
- ✓ The project will furnish at least 12 households entering transitional or rapid rehousing with essential household furnishings and items, while empowering participants to make choices within a budget - building financial literacy and independence.
- ✓ Led by Community Advocates with Asha Family Services and Fresh Start Learning, the program combines practical support with intensive case management that connects families to employment, health, legal, and wellness resources.
- ✓ A Zonta-funded flexible emergency fund will further remove barriers by covering urgent, unexpected needs that could otherwise derail progress.
- ✓ Launched as part of Zonta's 100th anniversary milestone, Project Wellspring strengthens housing stability, supports long-term self-sufficiency, and delivers lasting benefits for survivors, children, and the broader community.

Centennial Publicity Committee

The Publicity committee has been busy with developing social media posts and centennial publicity needs for the year. **With our social media**, please follow on **Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn** and **like, comment & share!**



Centennial History Committee

This month's piece of history concerns an extraordinary long-term partnership involving thousands of hours of hands-on service and thousands and thousands of dollars in financial support for a fledgling Milwaukee organization -- Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped. Note that the annual Style Show and Luncheon was the funding source for our contributions back in the 1970's – **we believe the first Zonta Fashion Show was held at the Pfister in 1968!**

In the next couple months, we'll share the story of Silk for Life, the partnership we entered in the mid-90's after Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped, and a piece on our last 25+ years of work working to end gender-based violence in Milwaukee and around the world.

Zonta Club of Milwaukee: 1970's through 1993

Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped originated from a woman's passion for helping blind children in school. In the late fifties, Sister Melmarie Stoll took six-year-old blind student, Lois Davis, into her classroom. At that time there were no materials available in braille for her to teach with.

Recognizing this need, a small group of trained braillists and braille students united to transcribe textbooks for the students in two Milwaukee area schools. When it became evident that Wisconsin had no central transcription agency to serve the entire state, this group decided to expand services statewide and include taped and large print materials.

With no funds to seed such an operation, nine enthusiastic volunteers sought donations from friends, organizations, and corporations to purchase materials and equipment. By 1965, and under the name of Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped, the hard-working group of 180 volunteers were serving all of Wisconsin and beyond." <https://www.mightycause.com/organization/Audio-Braille-Literacy-Enhancement-Inc-ABLE>

The newly incorporated Zonta Foundation became aware of the Volunteer Services' need for equipment and, more importantly, volunteers. Four of these first volunteers were Zonta Club members. Starting with \$1,000, the proceeds from a Style Show and Luncheon, the volunteers taped books, transcribed text into Braille using a Master Braillier, proof-read Braille, and collated copies into books at the Milwaukee Public Library's Library for the Blind. Five initial Braille machines (\$115 each) were purchased. Zontians also set up and managed the accounting system.

Through unspecified "connections", the Club was able to get 300 general admission tickets to Summerfest '70 for the blind and their families to accompany them.

In 1974, twelve Club members helped The National Braille Association plan their 1975 convention in Milwaukee. They helped with hotel meeting setups and meal planning.

Each year from the 1970s through 1993, funds were provided from some or all the annual Style Show and Luncheon proceeds, an amount totaling over \$48,000. Over the years, Zonta members donated thousands of service hours.

In 1982, the keynote speaker at the Fashion Show Luncheon was Marlene Fenger. Marlene used Volunteer Services to Braille her music and enable her to sing with the Bel Canto and Milwaukee Symphony Chorus.

In 1987, Marilyn Wise, the Coordinator of Volunteer Services wrote: *"We send our deep thanks to each of you who worked so hard to plan and carry off your wonderful Fashion Show/Luncheon Benefit last month. Being the primary beneficiary of this event is a great honor to Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped; we have*

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many good places to put the money to work! Thank you – each one-for your kindness to our organization. As I said in my talk on that lovely afternoon: We couldn't do it without you."

In October of 1987, the Club organized the first and largest event at the Milwaukee Public Museum for visually handicapped and sighted children working together in an educational activity. To learn more, please see the accompanying article entitled "The Archeological Adventure".

In 1988, Marilyn Wise wrote: *"The amount of \$2,378.38 will go a long way in helping our visually impaired students get their education – from Sr. Melmarie's class at Holy Assumption to those post graduate students throughout our state of Wisconsin and indeed the United States. So, to every member of the Zonta Club, we express our deep gratitude for another great event."*

The Volunteer Services became a separate 501(c) (3) nonprofit in 1988. In 2008, the name was changed to Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement, Inc. (ABLE) to better reflect the agency's mission and services. They are still located in the Central Public Library.

Club Relationships, Service, and Promotion...

Most of us know Florence Eiseman as a name on a tag — the kind of children's clothing you saved for special occasions and handed down because it was simply too beautiful to outgrow. But Florence Eiseman was one of us. A member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, she started her children's clothing company right here in 1945, and what she built became something special. Her designs dressed the Kennedy children and, decades later, the children of Michelle and Barack Obama — proof that quality and care never really go out of style.

That legacy now offers our club a remarkable opportunity.

The Florence Eiseman Company has generously agreed to promote our Centennial Gala and Project Wellspring at their annual warehouse sale — one of the most well-attended events on the local shopping calendar. Last year's sales drew more than 650 purchases over a single weekend. ***This year, every purchase will be accompanied by a flier inviting shoppers to support Project Wellspring and join us at the Gala.*** The company will also donate items for our silent auction, making this partnership a meaningful gift to our centennial celebration.

We Need Your Help

As we did last year, Zonta Club members are invited to volunteer alongside the Florence Eiseman team during the sale. It's a hands-on opportunity — expect cement floors, bending, lifting, and a lively crowd — and a chance to represent our club to hundreds of engaged shoppers.

Two volunteer shifts are available:

- **Friday, May 1** — 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 2** — 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



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Please sign up only if you're comfortable with the physical demands of the role and at ease in a busy, crowded environment. Email Deb Koller: dkoller75@yahoo.com

This is a wonderful way to honor a piece of our own history while advancing the work we're doing today. We hope to see you there!

This is the two-sided flyer that shoppers will receive:

Did You Know?
Florence Eiseman was a member of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee!

Celebrating 100 years of service and advocacy in Milwaukee—support our centennial project and help continue the legacy!

ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE
Founded in 1926, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee reflects the vision and commitment of women in diverse businesses and professions. For 100 years, our members have worked to assure that women, whether in their communities or around the globe, have the support needed to thrive through education, mentoring, financial assistance, and a safe environment free of violence. We live out our mission through hands-on service, advocacy, and fund-raising.

VISION & MISSION
Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls. There are now 25,000 members in 64 countries around the world.

Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman 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 an equal basis with men. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

Some Highlights of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's 100 Years

- On January 8, 1926, the Zonta Club of Milwaukee is chartered as the 39th club of Zonta International.
- After World War II the Milwaukee Zontians partnered with two other women's organizations to spearhead the creation of the War Memorial Center.
- In the 50's & 60's Zonta members were concerned about affordable housing for seniors and built Zonta Manor, a 14-story, \$1.3 million passive solar apartment building on East Cambridge, later sold but Cambridge Apartments still exist.
- In the 1970's a bequest from a Club Zontian, helped purchase the Spanish Speaking Center on National Avenue.
- In the 1980's a major project was making audiotapes for the blind through Volunteer Services for the Visually Handicapped.
- In the 1990's we partnered with Silk for Life on a unique global project to create sustainable silk-based, women-owned businesses in Colombia, steady income for Milwaukee Hmong women weavers, and to send household-size solar ovens to families in Togo, Africa.
- For the last 25+ years, Zonta has focused on ending gender-based violence via service projects, community advocacy, and financial support of over 80 non-profits. We've hosted community forums and Silent Walks, supported programs providing services to survivors, and partnered with Neu-Life Community Development to launch and implement a human trafficking awareness and education program for urban youth, which exists today as Neu-STEP.

Member Trailblazers Over the Years

- Dr. Bessie Childs – First president of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee
- Helen Brachman – Owner Henri's Salad Dressing
- Florence Eiseman – Owner of Florence Eiseman children's clothing
- Catherine Cleary – VP First Wisconsin Trust Co.
- Ernestine O'Bee-Wilson – First woman licensed mortician in Milwaukee
- Ardie Halyard – Co-founded with her husband the first African American-owned savings & loan, Columbia Savings and Loan
- Margaret Holzbog – Visited a Zonta International Service Project in Burkina Faso working with ending female genital mutilation
- Dee Sims – Co-founded and was CEO of Legacy Bank, the first African American, women-owned, chartered bank in the state of WI
- Debra Usinger – Vice President of Usinger's Famous Sausage
- Jacqueline Beaudry – Led Zonta International's effort to raise over \$10 million for the Zonta Foundation for Women's Endowment Fund

PROJECT WELLSRING
Project Wellspring is a partnership between the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates designed to help survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking transition into safe, stable housing with dignity.

The project will furnish at least 12 households entering transitional or rapid rehousing with essential household furnishings and items, while empowering participants to make choices within a budget—building financial literacy and independence. Led by Community Advocates in collaboration with Asha Family Services and Fresh Start Learning, the program combines practical support with intensive case management that connects families to employment, health, legal, and wellness resources. A Zonta-funded flexible emergency fund will further remove barriers by covering urgent, unexpected needs that could otherwise derail progress.

Launching in January 2027, Project Wellspring will strengthen housing stability, support long-term self-sufficiency, and deliver lasting benefits for survivors, children, and the broader community.

www.zontamilwaukee.org/centennial

Find out more at our website, or donate today either online or by using the QR code.

Save the Date!
November 7th, 2026

100 Years
Empowering Women & Girls

www.ZontaMilwaukee.org

Membership



**You are invited to the
Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Prospective Member Reception**
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
5:30 p.m. socializing
(light hors d'oeuvres will be served)
6:00 to 7:30 p.m. program
at the
New Berlin Public Library
Community Room
15105 W Library Lane
New Berlin, WI

Are You Interested in...
Expanding your professional network?
Engaging in service & advocacy?
Learning more about local & international issues impacting women?
Meeting women outside of your profession? And across the world?
Giving back to help others?
Enhancing your resume with leadership opportunities?

RSVP
to Pam Knackert at
pmknackert@gmail.com
or
cell 262-309-3927 by
Friday, April 24th

Come learn more about Zonta International and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee, an organization whose mission is to build a better world for women & girls locally and worldwide through service & advocacy. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.
For more information about Zonta & the Zonta Club of Milwaukee visit www.zonta.org and www.zontamilwaukee.org

Please welcome Andi Elliott, CEO of Community Advocates to our club. We are so happy to have you, Andi, as a new Zonta Club of Milwaukee member.

Don't forget to invite your friends or relatives who have indicated interest in Zonta at the fashion show (or anyone else interested in Zonta) to our **Prospective Member Reception on Tuesday, April 28th** at the New Berlin Public Library starting at 5:30 pm.

You should have received the invite to forward to your prospects, and it is attached again so please forward and follow up and let Pam know who is coming. Also, we will be asking members to offer to bring an appetizer to this event. Pam has or will be forwarding a link to a Google Sheet for you to sign up. Hopefully many of you can attend even if you don't have a guest since we want to have a good showing of our members. Many of you have been asked to be on the agenda as well so Pam will be sending out a

reminder and info you should include in your presentation, only a few minutes long for each.

ZONTA Club of Milwaukee had a booth at the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce 4th Annual Nonprofit Showcase, March 19th.

Attendees were generally Chamber Members looking to network and find ways to connect/contribute in the community. Approximately 20 organizations had tables, from St. Coletta's & St John Vianney's to Make-A-Wish Foundation & Walk to End Alzheimer's to Food With Friends and the Zonta Club of Milwaukee. We both made good connections with attendees *and* leaders of other nonprofits.

Viola Rembert and Dawn Zehren met members of the chamber plus leaders from other nonprofits. It was great to hear how other nonprofits are serving the community and how they raise awareness & funds.



We shared some of our ZONTA history and our future. Our signature Project Wellspring was well received. We are following up with a chamber member who may be able to help promote our Centennial Gala & Project Wellspring fundraising efforts.

- ***“Word of mouth” remains the most effective way to promote any endeavor.***
- ***Who do you know that wants to make a difference?***

Club Updates



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Strike up a conversation. Share the awesome news that between now and May 31st, their donation will be doubled by an anonymous donor who promises to match up to \$10,000. Ask who else they know who wants to make a real and positive impact in our community.

More than an “ask” this is an opportunity to have fun & be part of a change for the better.
Thank you for all you do!
Dawn Zehren

Z Club Update



The Z-Club met on Wednesday, the 1st, and planned their April 27 meeting with a representative of Kids Matter in Milwaukee to learn more about the foster care system in general and the work of Kids Matter in particular. They made \$200 during the February Candy Gram fundraiser and brainstormed ideas for another fundraiser May 5-8. The group is working on identifying students who will take over leadership of the club as the seniors move on!

Photos from the Area 2 Spring Workshop March 28th in Belvidere, IL





Nominating Committee 2026-2027 Slate of Officers & Directors

Committee Chair: Carol Mangold

Committee Members: Barbara Wyatt Sibley and Ruth Robertson

Club Board Nominations (*Slate approved by club vote at Club Meeting March 25, 2026*)

Continuing Officers: None

President: Helen Ludwig - 1st year of 2-year term 2026-2028

President-elect: _____

Vice President: _____

Treasurer: Karen Smith - 1st year of 2-year term 2026-2028

Secretary: Ruth Robertson - 1st year of 2-year term 2026-2028

The Nominating Committee continues to work on filling the President-elect and Vice President openings. Once nominees are identified, they will be voted on at a future club meeting.

Continuing Directors Club Board:

Pam Knackert - 2nd year of 2-year term 2025-2027

Diane Lindsley - 2nd year of 2-year term 2025-2026

New Directors Club Board:

Janan Atta-Najeeb - 1st year of 2-yr term 2026-2028

Kate Gay - 1st year of 2-year term 2026-2028

Laureen Ward - 1st year of 2-year term 2026-2028

Marge Holzbog - 1st year of 2-year term 2026-2028

Continuing Directors Foundation Board:

Joann Harris-Comodore - 3rd year of 3-year term 2024-2027

Cheryl Nowak - 3rd year of 3-year term 2024-2027 (current President)

Joni Reese - 3rd year of 3-year term 2024-2027

Diana Barnett - 2nd year of 3-year term 2025-2028

Judith Lehman - 2nd year of 3-year term 2025-2028

Dawn Zehren - 2nd year of 3-year term 2025-2028

New Directors Foundation Board:

Barbara Wyatt Sibley - 1st year of 3-year term 2026-2029

Carol Mangold - 1st year of 3-year term 2026-2029

Director Open _____

The Nominating Committee continues to work on filling the open slot for Foundation Board. Once a nominee is identified, the nominee will be voted on at a future club meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Mangold
Committee Chair

April 2026

www.zontamilwaukee.org



Scholarship

Meet our 2026 Zonta Club of Milwaukee Young Women in Leadership Award Recipient! Our club awards one \$2,000 scholarship. ***Congratulations to Genevieve!***

The award committee selected **Genevieve Skibicki** as the 2026 Young Women in Leadership Award recipient.

Genevieve is currently a Sophomore attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As a Freshman, Genevieve became the only 1st year student on the UW Engineers Without Borders Board of Directors and part of a project team installing solar panels on rural health clinics in Puerto Rico. She is also serving as the Outreach Director for the UW American Society of Civil Engineers and leading the Office of Sustainability Green Labs Team on campus. The most inspiring aspect of these roles for Genevieve is the chance to work with incoming students, campus staff, and community leaders, sharing her passion with them.



Outside of school Genevieve's most formative leadership and volunteer role is as the founder and current President of Greendale Robotics, a non-profit serving underserved students in the Milwaukee area. Genevieve has raised thousands of dollars, developed a sustainable funding plan, developed partnerships with local businesses and universities, and created a program that has now taught after-school STEM classes, summer camps, and workshops to thousands of kids and operates 5 robotics teams--including the first all-girl Vex V5 Robotics team in Milwaukee--free for any student whose school or learning situation doesn't offer one. Today, 50 students from 15 different schools participate, gaining experiences and opening doors they wouldn't have otherwise.

Genevieve's career goal is to use her Civil Engineering and Environmental Studies Degrees, and her experience with policymaking, to pursue a career implementing community-based solutions to environmental challenges. Community service and leading positive change is essential to who Genevieve is. As a Milwaukee County Youth Commissioner Genevieve was able to work with local lawmakers to research and consider policies that affected young

people--like creating grant programs to serve homeless youth. For almost a decade, she has spent at least 250 hours annually volunteering in her community. In high school she was able to create local changes such as installing sustainable irrigation systems in her school garden.

Genevieve believes women in the United States have more opportunities than in many other places, but there are still challenges. Through robotics, Genevieve works continually to create a welcoming environment for girls to find a place in the STEM community. That is where she thinks one of the biggest challenges facing girls in the US can be found, that there's a persistent belief that there are "girl jobs" and "boy jobs," and unfortunately, girls start to believe it. Genevieve finds it reprehensible that only 20-30% participation in robotics teams are girls, so that's why she worked to get an all-girl robotics team started in her organization--research showed that girls were far more likely to join a team if it was all girls.

Thank you so much for this award. The work of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee is inspiring, and I am truly grateful for everything you do to support young women in the Milwaukee area. I first learned about this opportunity a few years ago through my high school, Greendale High School, which shared a list of local scholarships with students.

I have attached a photo to this message. Please let me know if it works or if you need anything else from me.

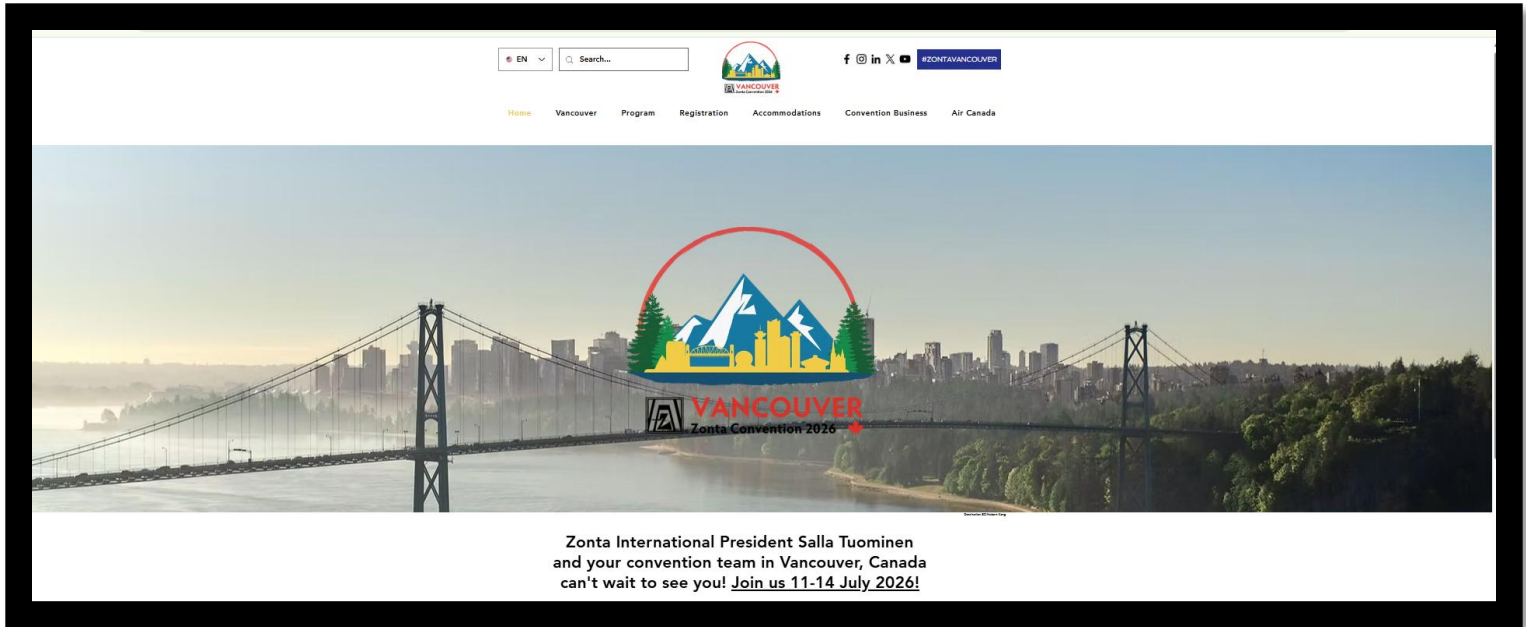
Thank you again. I am honored and very grateful to receive the Zonta Club of Milwaukee Young Women in Leadership Award.

Appreciatively,

Evie Skibicki



EVIE SKIBICKI
Civil Engineering and
Environmental Studies



Save the Date:
District 6 Fall
Conference –
October 10th in
Lombard, IL

**ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 6**

Embassy Suites Lombard IL

**Save
THE DATE**

**Saturday,
October 10
2026**

**2026 District 6
Fall Conference**



**Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Club Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2026
New Berlin Library**

President Carol Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm CST.
Guest: via Zoom Andi Mallman-Elliott

PROGRAM - Project Wellspring-Community Advocates -Andi Mallmann-Elliott, CEO

“Springboard to Housing Stability: Project Wellspring”

Community Advocates was founded in 1976 to ensure that families have basic needs to live with dignity; they merged with Milwaukee Women’s Center in 2007 to meet the needs of Milwaukeeans at every stage of crisis and stability: crisis response and safety, transition housing and stabilization, bridge housing and resolution, and prevention and support.

Project Wellspring’s particular partnership with Zonta aims to support survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking as they transition to safe, stable housing with dignity. The specific goals are to furnish 12+ households in transitional housing, provide essential items, empower participants to choose items within a budget, and to use the Zonta-funded Flexible Emergency Fund to cover urgent, unexpected needs to prevent setbacks. The estimated cost per household is \$2,000 per individual or \$4,000 per family; the total estimated investment is \$48,000. The estimated cost for the Zonta Flexible Emergency Fund is \$22,000 to assist 20 households. The program enrollment will start January 1, 2027. They envision long-term benefits for the survivors, their children, and the community.

*Save the Date for the Community Advocates 50th Anniversary Celebration: Friday, September 18th, at 5:30 pm at the Baird Center.

INDUCTION NEW MEMBER - Andi Mallmann-Elliott by Pam Knackert, Donna Neal is her sponsor, JoAnn Harris-Comodore is her mentor.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Laureen Ward

February: no expenses or incoming funds. Current balance: \$6331.62. CD value: \$5940.01.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION UPDATE -

- Dawn Zehren announces that the emcee for evening and bidding has been engaged.
- Barbara Wyatt-Sibley updated that the goals for the challenge grant for the club, starting March 1, lasting 90 days, to raise \$10,000 dollars, has been met. The club has received an anonymous donation of \$10,000. So, pledges and gifts are at \$20,000 currently. Another anonymous donor offers a matching grant of \$10,000 in the next step of the challenge.
- Pam Knackert is sharing a sponsorship packet, printed and digital, as well as a generic letter seeking sponsors for members to use. The club has already received three \$1000 commitments for sponsorships.
- Dawn Zehren and Viola Rembert represented Zonta at the Brookfield event for non-profit organizations to meet members of the Chamber of Commerce. Zonta is pursuing further connection with the publisher of a new local venture, Brookfield City Lifestyle Magazine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Nominating: Carol Mangold

This is the updated roster for Club Officers and Board and Foundation Board which was voted on and approved by the chapter with the understanding that we will still seek to fill the open slots.

Discussion then ensued on how to recruit new members. One suggestion is connecting with young professional groups in Milwaukee, such as YNPN.

CLUB BOARD

Continuing Officers: NONE

President – Helen Ludwig (new 2026-2028)

President-elect – _____

Vice President – _____

Treasurer – Karen Smith (New 2026-2028)

Secretary – Ruth Robertson (New 2026-2028)

Continuing Directors Club Board:

Pam Knackert - 2nd year of two year term 2025-2027

Diane Lindsley - 2nd year of two year term 2025-2026

Four Open Positions, filled:

Janan Atta-Najeeb (2 yr term - 2026-2028)

Kate Gay (2 year term - 2026-2028)

Laureen Ward (2 year term - 2026-2028)

Marge Holzbog (2 year term - 2026-2028)

FOUNDATION BOARD

Continuing Directors:

Joann Harris-Comodore - 3rd year of 3 year term 2024-2027

Cheryl Nowak - 3rd year of 3 year term 2024-2027 (current President)

Joni Reese - 3rd year of 3 year term 2024-2027

Diana Barnett - 2nd year of 3 year term 2025-2028

Judith Lehman - 2nd year of 3 year term 2025-2028

Dawn Zehren - 2 nd year of 3 year term 2025-2028

Three Open Positions, 2 filled:

Barbara Wyatt Sibley (3 year term 2026-2029)

Carol Mangold (3 year term 2026-2029)

OPEN _____

Membership: Pam Knackert

Reminder: April 28, Prospective Member Event 5:30-7:30 New Berlin Library. Pam is sharing a sign-up to bring hors d'oeuvres or to speak about an aspect of Zonta.

Z-Club: Kate Gay

The club is building their connection with the Kids Matter, and they will invite Zonta members to that meeting when a Kids Matter representative will speak to the students.

Program: Karen Smith

The committee will present the calendar of meeting locations at the April meeting.

Reminder: Florence Eiseman Event is May 1 – May 2.

More information to come from Deb Koller and Dawn Zehren

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Spring Workshop - March 28, 2026 in Belvidere, IL
Next Board Meeting - April 14, 2026 - 6:00 PM ZOOM
Next General Club Meeting - April 22, 2026 - 6:00 PM New Berlin Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

**Interesting excerpt
from JoAnn Gruber-
Hagen, Zonta Club
of Madison
President, from their
April newsletter...**

One thing that I personally found interesting from the Workshop. Am I ...

An Accidental Leader? A high-potential individual promoted without adequate preparation or training, often leading to role strain, burnout, and impostor syndrome. These managers, common in fields like academia and healthcare, struggle with moving from technical roles to administrative ones. If this is you, you might think *"How in the world did I end up here?"*

A Reluctant Leader? Often called by a need rather than seeking power, these leaders are uncomfortable being the primary decision-maker, leading to hesitation. However, their reluctance often stems from high standards and a desire not to act based on personal benefits, making them potentially more effective and ethical leaders. If this is you, you might think *"This is so important but I'm not confident I'm ready to lead yet."*

An Intentional Leader? This is deliberate, not accidental. It involves being conscious of the difference one wants to make and acting purposefully, often including mentoring and building a strong team culture. This approach involves shifting from "doing" to "leading" and moving from "control" to "influence". If this is you, you might think *"This is important. I have ideas how to achieve these goals, and I know there are some things I will need to learn along the way. But I can."*

I found myself pondering these questions following the workshop. D6 Lt Governor Brandy Harrington included this leadership model in her comments regarding Sustainable Leadership for our clubs. She further shared that about 80% of leaders are accidental leaders – interesting but the high percentage is surprising to me.

**And congratulations on 70 years to the
Zonta Club of Kankakee!!**

Time to Celebrate!

ZONTA CLUB OF KANKAKEE

70th Anniversary

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

SATURDAY, April 25

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Kankakee Country Club

TICKETS: \$50 per person

Mail Check to:
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Bourbonnais, IL 60914

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venmo