



February 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

February 25th Club Meeting via Zoom

The meeting Zoom will open around 5:45 PM for members to join in social conversation before the meeting which starts at 6pm.

Topic: Zonta Club of Milwaukee Strategic Goals and our Centennial Celebration

Our February club meeting will focus on our strategic goals for the near term, looking at opportunities that our Centennial Celebration will bring in getting our club's name out in the community though both the Gala and signature project. Longer term club goals will follow after completion of our celebration.

The Centennial Committee will also provide updates on the planned event and project, which was selected by club member vote at our January meeting.

***Please make every effort to attend.
Zoom link will be in the email.***

As a reminder the March meeting will also be held on Zoom due to dark evenings and questionable roads.



President's Message



ZONTA
CLUB OF
MILWAUKEE

*The Zonta Club of Milwaukee Team **NEEDS YOU!!***

It's that time of year again when the nominating committee (Carol Mangold, Barbara Wyatt Sibley, and Ruth Robertson) will be reaching out to club members to serve in the open officer and director positions on the club and foundation boards. Please give serious consideration to accepting the honor by responding **YES** when you are asked.

With our Centennial Celebration Gala fast approaching in November, we need all hands-on deck to make this event a big success and continue to run the normal functions of the club. We are fortunate to have a team of members with the dedication, passion, talent, and work ethic needed to pull this off. Work by the Centennial leadership and committees is already under way and progressing but much effort will be required to birth this over the next 9 months. As we review the impact on the Milwaukee community of our club over the past 100 years and the remarkable women who preceded us, we can be proud of our legacy and inspired to continue to make a difference in the future. Together we can do this!!

The club has chosen a worthy project for our Centennial fundraiser that we can all be excited about supporting! A representative of Community Advocates will speak on Project Wellspring at our March club meeting, on Zoom, giving you an opportunity to ask questions and get to know each other as we begin this important partnership together. I'm very excited about supporting this new partnership through our Centennial fundraiser and hope that you are as well!

Spring Workshop in Belvidere is just around the corner on March 28th and is another great opportunity to meet and network with Zontians from other clubs in our area.

2026 is also an exciting year for us because of the July Zonta International Convention in Vancouver. We will be choosing our delegate and alternate soon, so please let us know if you are planning to attend.

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



Club Updates



ZONTA
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Centennial Fundraising Committee

Strong Foundation – Stronger Future

We are thrilled to announce that our centennial anniversary celebration and fundraising efforts will support local survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking as they transition into safe, stable housing with dignity through **Project Wellspring**.

Project Wellspring is a unique partnership between the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates that will furnish at least 12 households entering transitional or rapid rehousing with essential household furnishings. Participants will be empowered to make their own choices, while operating within a budget, to create their space and sense of home while building financial literacy and independence.

"**Strong Foundation - Stronger Future**," the theme of our Centennial Celebration, is exemplified in our signature project. **Project Wellspring** strengthens housing stability, supports long-term self-sufficiency, and delivers lasting benefits for survivors, children, and the broader community.

As we celebrate this year, our goal is clear: we will raise \$100,000 net, to fund Project Wellspring and continue our support of women and girls through Zonta International.

Great THANKS to members of the Centennial Celebration planning committees who are doing *amazing* work. (You'll learn more from their articles in this newsletter.) AND, we need the support of every Club member. We need *your* help.

Now IS the Time and You Are the One

While November 7th seems a long way off, NOW is the time for each member of Zonta Club of Milwaukee to claim their role and take action.

- What are your strengths?
- Which committee is the best match for you? Fundraising, Publicity, History, Venue, Logistics, or Program & Entertainment.
- Who do you know who might contribute their time, talent or money if they were asked?
- Who do you know who could be the next member of our Club?

You are the difference maker.

Together, we honor our Strong Foundation by building an even Stronger Future.

Thank you for who you are and all you do.

- Dawn Zehren



Centennial Fundraising Committee



We will be sending out in February Sponsorship packets to a list of companies who are 100 years old or more in the Milwaukee area along with or including family-owned businesses. **You will be receiving an emailed copy of this sponsorship packet. Also, we will be emailing a generic sponsorship letter that you can use with this 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 or Donna C. know.

Spring Zonta Family Challenge: Centennial Fundraising!

Double the impact of your donation this spring to our Club's 100th/Centennial fundraising effort by making an individual contribution to our Club's Zonta Foundation before May 31st, 2026.

A generous donor has pledged to match every new donation by individuals between now and May 31st, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

\$10,000 in individual donations this spring will become \$20,000 with this matching gift, and that gets us to 20% of our Centennial Fundraising goal of \$100,000!

All Club members are urged to donate and ask their family & friends who support Zonta to do the same. Participation by all club members says we support and believe in the Centennial initiative and the work of Zonta International. Donations to Zonta Foundation Inc are tax deductible We will have more information at our February Club meeting.

To donate now, use this link to our webpage <https://zontamilwaukee.org/> 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.



We can do this!

4 \$500 gifts = \$2,000
20 \$250 gifts = \$5,000
30 \$100 gifts = <u>\$3,000</u>
\$10,000 x 2 = \$20,000!!

Thank you in advance for your support.

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



Centennial Venue Committee

The Venue committee has been busy scanning the meal, hors d'oeuvre, dessert, and drink options for our event, and they all look delicious! Many questions and answers have gone back and forth between our assigned coordinator at the Harley-Davidson Garage and with our committees. Some next steps will be room layout, decorations, signage, etc. Stay tuned!

Centennial Logistics Committee

"Save the Date" has been created and has gone out to club members to be sent electronically to potential guests. Our event attire will be considered cocktail, which will be a step above the Fashion Show but not black tie. Of course, this is not policed, and all guests will be warmly welcomed!

We are looking into 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/>

ZONTA CLUB OF MILWAUKEE
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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

1976 2026
COMMUNITY ADVOCATES
Where Helping One Woman Inspires Many

A Collaboration of the Zonta Club of Milwaukee and Community Advocates

- ✓ 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.

Sponsorship Packages Offered

\$1,000 + \$10,000

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	
Ad in printed event program (page: 7 1/2" h x 4 1/4" 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](#)

February 2026

www.zontamilwaukee.org

Club Updates



ZONTA

CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

Centennial Publicity Committee

The Publicity committee has been busy with developing the sponsorship packet, collecting historical content and planning social media posts and centennial publicity needs for 2026. A social media template was created with options for targeting specific social media messaging for history and information regarding who we are and what we do. And, of course, publicity about the actual event!

Media content planning is underway – what, when and where to share.

If anyone would like to participate, the committee could always use new ideas.


With our social media, please follow on **Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn** and **like, comment & share!**

We've had a little fun with AI also.... 😊



Centennial History Committee

The History Committee has made tremendous progress, thanks mostly to Diane Lindsley's labors of love. We've assembled information about our launch and the early decades, Zonta Manor, the War Memorial, famous Zontians, Zonta quotes, projects through the decades, and more. Work is proceeding on the Spanish Center, Silk for Life, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking, and Zontians in Public Policy. We'll be sharing the information in an article or two in our monthly newsletters.



SUPERBOWL WEEKEND AND THE OLYMPICS ARE STARTING.....

THESE ARE EVENTS THAT INCREASE AWARENESS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HOWEVER, HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HAPPENING EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY!

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

For every 10 victims of trafficking in persons detected globally, five are adult women and two are girls. Trafficked women and girls encounter high rates of physical and sexual violence, including homicide and torture, psychological abuse, poor working and living conditions, and extreme deprivation while in transit.



Link to Zonta Intl's 1-hour video "Trafficking in Persons" created in May 2022. https://youtu.be/g49wWvn5nTs?si=E9O-1a_xrDs57xeU

- In Wisconsin: In 2024, Attorney General Kaul announced new partnership between the Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Forces.
- The Milwaukee Joint Human Trafficking Task Force uses a multidisciplinary team of experts to combat human trafficking in a victim-centered way.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SEE SOMETHING. SAY SOMETHING. 888.3737.888

ZONTA SAYS NO MORE

zontamilwaukee.org

DID YOU KNOW? IN THE 1920'S, WOMEN COULD NOT...

- Have their own name printed on a passport
- Wear whatever they wanted
- Have certain kinds of jobs
- Keep their citizenship if marrying a non-citizen
- Use their law degree to the fullest
- Work the night shift

zontamilwaukee.org

mentalfloss.com/article/520324/11-things-women-couldnt-do-1920s



Scholarship

Do you know someone who exemplifies leadership, volunteerism, and a passion for building a better world for women and girls? If so, we have an excellent award opportunity for these young women!

The 2026 Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award \$2,000 + \$5,000

- Aimed at young women ages 16 to 19, pursuing education, careers or seeking leadership positions in public policy making, government, and volunteer organizations are eligible for the Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award.
- Applicants must show their commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to building a better world for women and girls through service and advocacy.
- The Zonta Club of Milwaukee awards one \$2,000 award and forwards the winner's application on to Zonta District 6, which may submit one application for consideration of one of 37 Zonta International awards of \$5,000 each.
- The Zonta Club of Milwaukee awards are open, and promoted, to young women in the six-county greater Milwaukee metro area (Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties).
- The 2026 Young Women in Leadership Award application is available now. **Completed applications are due on or before March 22, 2026.**

Details including the application description, application form, and informational poster can be found online at the Zonta Club of Milwaukee's website here: <https://zontamilwaukee.org/awards/>

Please spread the word! If you have any questions, please contact Deb Koller or zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org.

2026



ZONTA YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Recognizing young women for their commitment to volunteerism, volunteer leadership achievements and dedication to empowering women worldwide



1 APPLICATION, 2 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award US \$2000	37 international awards US\$5,000 each
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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/ZYWLA.

CLUB DEADLINE: March 22, 2026	SUBMIT APPLICATION TO: Zonta Club of Milwaukee c/o Deb Koller 210 S. Water St. Unit 521 Milwaukee WI 53204 OR: zcscholarship@zontamilwaukee.org
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The Zonta Young Women in 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.



Service

Posted by the Milwaukee Diaper Mission



Top 5 Period Supply Drives of 2025:

1. Let It Flow Period Party - 9,007
2. Zonta Foundation Fashion Show - 8,292
3. Old Republic Insurance - 4,574
4. Nolen Rausch Eagle Scout Project - 4,358
5. Lakefront Brewery - 3,085

Let It Flow Period Party

Zonta Club of Milwaukee

Old Republic Insurance

Nolen Rausch Eagle Scout Project

Lakefront Brewery

Club Updates



ZONTA
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Area, District and ZI Updates

Save the Date: Area 2 Spring Workshop March 28th in Belvidere, IL

Watch for workshop registration information coming to our club members soon!

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6

2026 SPRING WORKSHOP

AREA 2

MARCH 28TH
8:30 AM - 2:15 PM

Sustainability: Our Clubs, Our Planet
Spirit: Amplify in our Clubs and Communities
Human Rights are for Everyone

LOCATION
SENIOR CONNECTIONS
2141 HENRY LUCKOW LANE
BELVIDERE, IL 61008

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VANCOUVER
Zonta Convention 2026

Zonta International President Salla Tuominen and your convention team in Vancouver, Canada can't wait to see you! [Join us 11-14 July 2026!](#)

- Explore daily tours
- Check out ticketed events
- Volunteer at Convention
- Purchase a program ad

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

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6

Save THE DATE

Saturday, October 10 2026

2026 District 6 Fall Conference

Embassy Suites Lombard IL



**Zonta Club of Milwaukee
Club Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2026
Virtual Via Zoom**

President Carol Mangold called the meeting to order at 6:04pm CST. There were no guests.

Financial Report

Treasurer Laureen Ward reviewed the financial statement for December 2025: Beginning balance of \$6,249.12 plus deposits of \$116.50 membership dues collected from Lynda Jackson Conyers less \$34.00 submitted for Janan Atta-Najeeb membership dues for an ending balance of \$6,331.62 as of December 31, 2025. The CD value is \$5,940.01. Dawn Zehren's motion to approve was seconded by Barbara Wyatt Sibley and passed unanimously.

Two Funding Projects for Centennial Celebration – Membership Vote

Donna Neal sent a synopsis of each proposed project to members via email on January 6, 2026 to solicit feedback and provide a two-week window for any questions. As several members have voted by absentee ballot, there would not be any other discussion prior to taking the vote. The votes tallied were as follows:

Absentees: Sojourner Camp Hope 2; Wellspring 1; Abstained 1.

Present: Sojourner Camp Hope 4; Wellspring 14; Abstained 1.

Donna Neal and Dawn Zehren will communicate the decision to support Wellspring in meetings scheduled with both entities and asked that no communication of the decision be shared until after Friday January 30, 2026.

Distribution of Funds from November 2025 Fashion Show Fundraiser – Membership Vote

Donnal Neal called the Foundation Meeting to order at 6:19pm CST as all Club Members are also Foundation Members.

Donna Neal presented the recommendation of the Foundation Board, with the Club Board's endorsement, to submit one-third of the proceeds raised at the 2025 Fashion Show Fundraiser to Zonta International Rose Fund as that has been the shared percentage consistently and the Rose Fund has the greatest amount of flexibility to allocate funds. The motion to round up the amount to \$11,500 did not carry. After a short discussion, Karen Smith motioned to submit \$11,470 to ZI Rose Fund. Shari Januszewski seconded the motion, and the motion carried by majority. Donnal Neal will send funds.

Donna Neal adjourned the Foundation Meeting at 6:23pm CST.

Carol Mangold recalled the Club Meeting at 6:24pm CST.

The vote to support the Wellspring Project exclusively with proceeds raised at the 2026 Centennial Celebration event precipitates that the remaining two-thirds of the proceeds raised at the 2025 Fashion Show Fundraiser will be held and the decision to distribute those funds to applying agencies will be deferred until 2027 when applications for grants will resume, and funds will be presented at the 2027 Fundraiser.

Distribution of Funds from 2026 Centennial Celebration - Discussion

Dawn Zehren shared that the proceeds from this event, net of expenses, will be directed to support the funding of the Wellspring Project as decided by Club Members earlier in this meeting. We will request that Community Advocates provide greater details of the funding breakdown. The goal is to raise \$100,000. The actual distribution of funds will be based on the amount determined to be paid to ZI, which as noted above has customarily been one-third of proceeds raised. However, the desire is to keep the majority of the funds locally.



Jackie Beaudry requested that Donna Neal express the current position of the Foundation Board on this sharing arrangement. Donna explained that the Foundation Board feels that one-third to ZI would be unprecedented as this is a special fund-raising effort. However, the desire is to distribute a similar dollar amount of money and thereby retain the recognition the Club receives for its contribution at this level, and perhaps a slight increase as well, but not committing to the one-third as in the past.

After the finances of the event have been settled, the Foundation Board will present their recommendation with specifics of distributing funds; both to ZI and to Community Advocates at a Club Meeting for Membership voting.

Marge Holzbog asked how the percentage split between ZI and Community Advocates will be reflected in sponsorship solicitations and how it should be communicated. Joni Reese responded that the sponsorship package will include project details and the \$100,000 goal but not be specific as to the percentage split; only to state that the majority of funds will remain local to support the Wellspring project and a portion of funds will go to ZI to support international projects.

Other Business

Strategic Planning – Carol Mangold shared that the Board made the decision to revisit strategic planning following the Club's vote on the project choice so that initiatives could be specifically identified to support the Centennial Celebration and the project in the year ahead and other initiatives could be identified for future years. The Board will resume strategic planning discussion at the February Board Meeting.

Annual Convention – Carol Mangold reminded members to complete the survey that Karen Smith will re-send to indicate attendance at the convention in Vancouver and interest in being our delegate or alternative delegate.

Committee Reports

Centennial Celebration – Pam Knackert sent members a list of companies in Wisconsin that are 100 or more years old. Sample letters to solicit sponsorship have been created. Any member who has a personal connection to any of these companies is asked to take the lead in requesting sponsorship. Karen Smith suggested contacting Ellenbecker Investment Group, as they host a weekly podcast highlighting Milwaukee's Philanthropic Community and the EIG Charitable Foundation supports organizations important to the community and their employees.

Donna Neal reported that the respective committees confirm these details:

- The event will be November 7, 2026 at The Garage at the Harley-Davidson Museum from 6:00-10:00pm.
- Ticket price will be \$175 per person.
- Cash bar for cocktails.
- Music; may be live or a DJ.
- The theme is Strong Foundation – Stronger Future.
- An emcee will facilitate the program segment of the evening.
- A speaker from Community Advocates will make a presentation on the project.
- The silent auction will feature fewer, higher-value items and the raffle will be for 2 higher-value items.
- A 'paddle raiser' will be live for donations; consideration is being given to having an auctioneer for this and perhaps a few higher-value items as Diana Barnett and Debra Koller have connections to an auctioneer.
- An anonymous donor has donated \$10,000 – THANK YOU!

Program – Karen Smith will work towards scheduling a speaker on the Wellspring Project for a future Club meeting.

Public Relations – Joni Reese requests that committee reports to be included in the monthly newsletter be submitted to her by the 7th of each month. The committee is in need of additional members to serve.

Club Updates



ZONTA
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UN – This committee is in need of a chairperson.

Announcements:

- February Board Meeting – February 10, 2026 6pm. CST via Zoom
- February Club Meeting - February 25, 2026 6pm CST via Zoom
- March Board Meeting – March 10, 2026 6pm. CST via Zoom
- March Club Meeting - March 25, 2026 6pm CST via Zoom
- Spring Workshop = March 28, 2026 in Belvidere, IL. (Information, invitation, and registration instructions expected first week of February.)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm CST.

