

Spring 2019 Newsletter





At the Mankato Fashion Show

ZONTA DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR Shelley Schultz

Governor's Message How to Create Zisterhood

Sisterhood... the feeling of kinship with a closeness to group of women of all women and the association, society, community of women who are linked by a common interest!

Yes, that is Zonta International (our Zisterhood) and our common interest is the empowerment of all women. We all work to create partnerships not only with like minded organizations but just as importantly with each other. I know without a doubt that my Zisters in Zonta Club of Mankato, as well as those in District 7, would be there for me in time of celebration, hardship, and support no matter what the situation.

How do we create Zisterhood? Well, many ways come to mind... through “fun with a purpose”, common actions of service projects and advocacy, networking via social media, support and celebration of members in our Club and District 7, cards, phone calls, and surprise visits to current and former Zontians.

A couple of years ago, the Mankato Membership Committee decided to send a personal note to each member. Mine was from a member that I had recruited. In part it said, “*Your expertise is valuable and you make any task we do fun.*” That card means more to me than any accolade or award and still hangs on my fridge! This is how we create Zisterhood.

Please keep the meaning and spirit of Zisterhood alive in your Club and District 7. Hope to see many of you at the Area Meeting in April.



In the Spirit of Zonta,

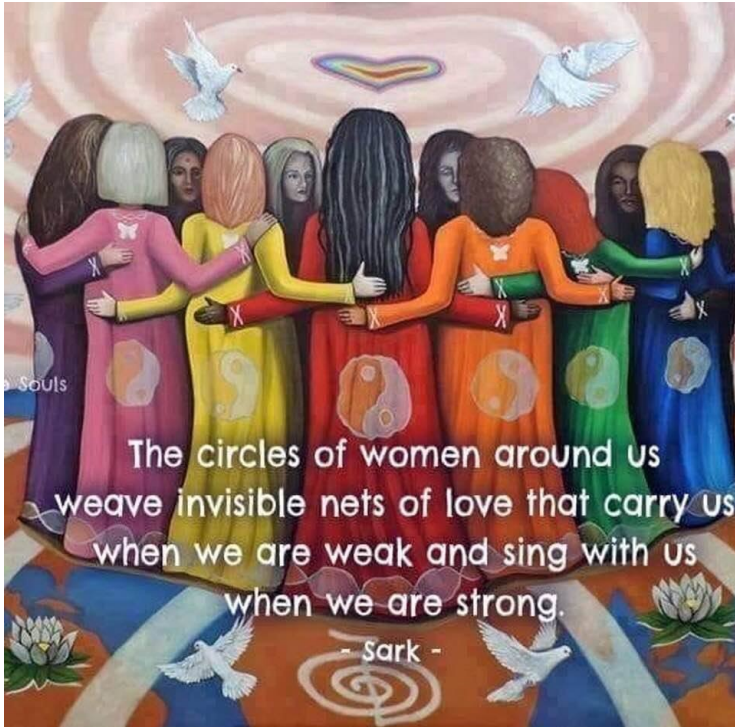
Shelley Schultz

District 7 Governor (2018-2020)

ZontaInternationalDistrict7@gmail.com

Shelley's Book Recommendation: “*Lilac Girls by Martha Hall*” - Historical fiction about sisterhood and the Rabbits, a group of concentration camp female survivors.

Zonta Zisters!



Thank you, Zisters for supporting Zonta and each other!

Last year, the Zisters of District 7 contributed **\$108,550** in service dollars! This does not include additional dollars donated to the Zonta International Foundation!

Congratulations to all the Clubs and special thank you to Presidents and Treasurers for submitting your figures and helping to identify this generosity!



**Zonta Club of Mankato
Winter Party**



**Amelia Earhart Luncheon
Kansas City**

"Of all the blessings we count over and over, it seems to me that none is greater than the consciousness of belonging to a family of thousands of sisters." - Stella George Stern Perry

ZONTA DISTRICT 7 STRATEGIC PLAN

Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

Goal 1

Zonta Centennial Anniversary

Celebrate ZI Centennial Anniversary with 100% D7 club participation by July 2020.

How to make it happen:

1. Clubs will create special events/projects, materials, Facebook pages to call attention to the centennial.
2. Clubs will review and decide if they will apply for an Anniversary Grant with a like-minded organization.
3. Zonta District 7 Newsletter will be a communication tool to highlight the Centennial Anniversary and activities within District 7.
4. District 7 Conference (Sept. 13-15, 2019) in Kansas City, MO will be a BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY with 60 Zontians in attendance.
5. Attendance at Zonta International Convention (July 4- 8, 2020) in Chicago, IL will have 100% delegate attendance from every club in District 7.



Goal 2

Increase District 7 Membership

District 7 will have more members May 31, 2020 than on May 31, 2018.

How to make it happen:

1. Each club will work on retention, increase membership and diversity of members.
2. For smaller clubs, use different strategies, such as partnering with bigger club, virtual, and physical attendance of D7 Board at events and with membership drives.
3. New member applications from website will be closely followed to completion.
4. "One day Area project" will be explored with the clubs during each calendar year.
5. Two club joint projects will be explored.
6. Individual member idea will be explored (e.g., snowbirds).
7. ZI Common Action Weekend (11/8/19) will have involvement of all of District 7.

Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

Goal 3 Communication

District 7 will communicate with club presidents and individual members, using current and up-to-date tools.



How to make it happen:

1. Virtual meetings will be explored with possibilities of webinars, podcasts, etc.
2. The website will have up-to-date information and “looking ahead” section.
3. Information for Area meetings and Conference dates will be shared with clubs earlier than in the past.
4. Clubs will be energized by the communication for the Centennial Anniversary celebrations.
5. District 7 Newsletter will be sent out on a timely schedule.
6. Area Directors will establish the best communication tools for their group.
7. There will be an “Area Director” column in club communications.

Goal 4 Service & Advocacy

Promote ZI initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls

How to make it happen:

1. Clubs will support *Zonta Says No*.
2. Clubs/Areas will support advocacy efforts to oppose child marriage.
3. Clubs will work with like-minded organizations and other NGOs to advance the Sustainable Goal #5: *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*.
4. District 7 will implement the pilot program: Women in Technology Scholarship.
5. District 7 will continue to support existing educational programs focused on young women leaders in service, women in business, and women in aerospace.
6. District 7 clubs will use and promote the US Caucus materials.

The Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau is asking for your help!

As many of you know, the Haiti Project was started by the Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau in partnership with the Haitian American Caucus in Croix de Bouquets, Haiti in 2011. It was adopted as the District 7 project in 2013 for the 2014-2016 and 2016-2018 bienniums.



One of the primary areas of impact is providing medical and dental health services to the people of Haiti. To date, we have completed seven dental clinics and five medical clinics, and we stand committed to continuing these trips on an annual basis, with our next combined medical/dental clinic scheduled for March 8-12, 2019. Since inception, teams of Zontians & non-Zontians have traveled to Haiti and served over 5,000 women, children, and families. In addition to providing medical care, we also mentor youth and other health professionals in the community. Our recent medical trips have focused on greater education of women & children's health issues, breastfeeding, and maternal and child bonding, as well as training teachers at HAC and women in the community on adult, infant, and child CPR.

We are not able to provide these critical services to Haiti without the generosity and support of others who share our passion for empowering women in developing countries through international service. Our primary avenue to raise funds to purchase and deliver necessary supplies is our Annual Heels 2 Heal 5K for Haiti, a 5K and 1-mile fun run event held in Cape Girardeau, MO. **This is our 8th year of hosting this fundraising event, which will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019.**

Wondering how you can support our Haiti Project?

- ◆ **Register as a "virtual" participant for our event.** A club that gets 5 or more members signed up by **March 29th** will receive recognition on our race t-shirts!
- ◆ **Sponsor** our 8th Annual Heels 2 Heal 5K for Haiti.
- ◆ **Make a Club or individual monetary donation.** Any amount is welcome, and donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to the Cape Girardeau Zonta Club Area Foundation and indicate the monies are for the Haiti Project. Please visit <https://capezonta.org/fundraising/heels-2-heal/> to find sponsorship info, online registration, and printable pdf registration form.

We truly hope you will consider supporting our efforts!

All my best,

Melanie Baxter, Service Committee Chair
Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau
Heels2HealHaiti5K@yahoo.com
(573) 768-2546

Age of Marriage in the United States

How Young is Too Young?

Marriage of a minor (less than 18 years of age) not only occurs in faraway countries where poverty and ancient customs are important factors, but it is not uncommon in the United States. Between 2000 and 2015, well over 200,000 children under age 18 were married in the U.S. The majority of them were girls, and the majority married adult men. Currently, most states' laws set the minimum age of marriage at 18 but allow for exceptions to the rule, such as parental consent or judicial approval, which in practice can lower the marriage age.

The complex legal regimes across and within states can leave many minors confused about what they can and cannot do on their own. This is why setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 is the clearest solution to the problem of child marriage in the United States.

Within Zonta's District 7, there is no minimum age in Missouri, whereas in the other states it is 16 years of age. In fact, half of U.S. states do not set any minimum age whatsoever, meaning that as long as exceptions are met, a child of any age could be married.

Should the age of marital consent be standardized to an age of 18?

Age of Marriage Zonta District 7 States

Kansas

No one under age 15 may marry. Minors 16–17 years of age can marry with consent of both parents or legal guardians. If the minors parents are dead and there is no legal guardianship, the district court judge may “after due investigation” issue a marriage license. Also, a district court judge “may, after due investigation, give consent and issue the license authorizing the marriage of a person 15 years of age when the marriage is in the best interest of the person 15 years of age.” Although a common-law state, Kansas does not recognize a common-law marriage contract if either party to the marriage contract is under 18.

Minnesota

Minimum age is 16. All minors are required to obtain judicial approval to marry. Minors may marry, with the consent of the person's legal custodial parents, guardian, or the court, “when, after a careful inquiry into the facts and the surrounding circumstances, the person's application for a license and consent for civil marriage of a minor form is approved by the judge of the district court.”

Age of Marriage in the United States

How Young is Too Young? (Page 2)

Should exceptions be permitted? Should there be a minimal age under which exceptions are not allowed? Should criteria be established for judges to grant exceptions to the minimum age? The summary information in this flyer is intended to assist in starting the discussion on this topic, which is one of Zonta's biennium goals.

CEDAW and the Minimum Marriage Age

Part IV, Article 16.2 of the United Nations *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) states that "The betrothal and marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory."

Further Reading and Resources

www.law.cornell.edu/wex/table_marriage

www.tahirih.org/pubs/falling-through-the-cracks-

www.unchainedatlast.org

www.girlsnotbrides.org

Age of Marriage

Zonta District 7 States

Missouri

Missouri's statutes allow for parental consent for children age 15 or older, and require judicial approval for children under age 15, with no age floor. For 15–17 year old minors, only one parent's consent is required and can be issued by a clerk of court. There are no residency requirements. Laws authorize the judge to grant a petition for good cause or special cause, if the judge deems the marriage advisable or desirable, or some similarly non-specific reason.

North Dakota

Minimum age for a minor to marry is 16. If a person is between age 16 and 18 years, the state requires consent of a parent or legal guardian and official proof of age. The law makes no provision for judicial approval of any marriage involving minors.

Age of Marriage in the United States

How Young is Too Young? (Page 3)

The Issues

The motives for minors to marry frequently are other than love and being together forever. These include getting around the statutory rape laws, marrying simply due to pregnancy, or being forced into marriage by family or religious customs. **Marrying as a minor, however, has substantial legal, social, economic, and health implications:**

- ***Minors have limited rights and options:*** A minor may be legally unable to take critical steps to protect herself. Depending on the state, a girl may not be able to leave home without being taken into custody and returned by police. She may not be able to stay in a domestic violence shelter at all or in a youth shelter for longer than a few days. If friends take her in, they could risk being charged with harboring a runaway or contributing to the delinquency of a minor. If she tries to get a place of her own, she may find no one willing to rent to her. Depending on the state, a girl who is being forced into marriage may not be entitled to file on her own for a protective order against her parents or a dating partner. Even after marriage, in some states, she will not be automatically given the rights of an adult.

Age of Marriage

Zonta District 7 States

South Dakota

Minimum age for a minor to marry is 16. If a person is between age 16 and 18 years, a notarized statement of consent to marry from one parent or one legal guardian is required. Judicial approval is mandated based when a minor lacks parental consent for the marriage. The state also requires official proof of age for all marriage licenses.

The application for a marriage license in South Dakota for all applicants also requires the following statement:

“The laws of this state affirm your right to enter into this marriage and at the same time to live within the marriage free from violence and abuse. Neither of you is the property of the other. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, battery and assault of a spouse or other family member, as well as other provisions of the criminal laws of this state, are applicable to spouses and other family members and violations thereof are punishable by law.”

Both parties must sign and acknowledge having read this statement.

Age of Marriage in the United States

How Young is Too Young? (Page 4)

The Issues Continued

- **Marriage of Minors are Not Long Lasting:** Between 70% and 80% of marriages involving individuals under age 18 end in divorce. For teen mothers, getting married and later divorcing can more than double their likelihood of poverty.
- **Education is Often Interrupted or Discontinued:** Opportunities to pursue education is often lost when a minor marries, limiting her ability to become financially independent in the event of domestic violence or divorce. Women who marry before age nineteen are 50% more likely to drop out of high school than are their unmarried counterparts, and four times less likely to complete college.
- **Risks to Physical and Mental Health:** The unequal power balance of a minor marrying an adult also puts her at risk of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, which she has little power to escape. Women who married as children experienced significantly higher rates of psychiatric disorders, and they are more likely to experience a range of serious medical problems.

Potential Actions in Response:

- Develop a short, 30-second 'elevator' speech on the issue where you can quickly grab your audience's attention.
- Research the issue specific to your state or locale. Get statistics from governmental entities (including local officials) so you can speak knowledgeably and accurately on the size and impact of the issue.
- Connect the dots between the age of marital consent and other laws. Learn the statistics related to poverty, lack of education, and damaged lives related to early marriages.
- Create allies on the issue and raise community awareness by discussing it with other groups with similar concerns and interests, community leaders, and others.
- Develop a relationship with local media by sending out stories, talking to reporters, and keeping them notified of community discussions.
- Contact legislators to gauge interest in the issue and to develop an awareness about the need for changes to state laws.
- Assist legislators by providing draft legislation.

Scholarship Shout-Out!

Jane M. Klausman, Women in Business Scholarship

Women make up nearly 50 percent of the global workforce. However, gender equality is not yet a reality in senior management and corporate boardrooms around the world.

According to Catalyst in January 2019, only 21.2% of Fortune 500 companies' board seats are occupied by women and just 4.8% of CEOs are women.

To encourage more women to pursue education and careers in business, Zonta International established the *Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship*. Zonta International offers up to 32 scholarships of \$2,000 at the district level and six international scholarships in the amount of \$8,000.



1 APPLICATION, 3 OPPORTUNITIES

Club award Varies by club	32 district awards US\$2,000 each	6 international awards US\$8,000 each
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Therefore, **CONGRATULATIONS to Lindsey Strange**, the *Jane M. Klausman, Women in Business Scholarship* nominee from the Zonta Minneapolis Club who won the District 7 scholarship of \$2,000. Lindsey is studying business at BARD College.

In addition, this year's six International winners of \$8,000 included 2 women from the United States.

For more information about the *Jane M. Klausman, Women in Business Scholarship*, login to your Zonta International page and view the 2016-2018 JMK Chairman Training PowerPoint: <https://membership.zonta.org/Tools/Award-Scholarship-Fellowship-Tools>.

Jane M. Klausman
**WOMEN IN BUSINESS
SCHOLARSHIP**

Expanding opportunities
for women in business

Zonta Technology Scholarships

Scholarship applications are open for Zonta's *Women in Technology Scholarship*. Visit: www.zonta.org/Global-Impact/Education/Women-in-Technology-Scholarship



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

The world economy, industry and sciences are becoming increasingly digitized, and these developments are disrupting society and familiar social processes. Women, however, are still largely underrepresented in technology fields. To create a world in which men and women have equal opportunities, women need to have an active role in technology and technological developments. Zonta International is pleased to offer its new Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship to encourage women to pursue education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology.

Eligibility

Women pursuing a technology degree or closely related program, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field, are eligible to apply.

Women not enrolled in a university are also eligible as long as they submit:

- Evidence of completed trainings and outstanding performance.
- Description of current job with information about path that led to that job.
- Employer confirmation and recommendation or client testimonial supported by evidence.
- Reason for applying and description of desired career.
- Evidence of educational project plan (e.g. proof of course opportunities).



Zonta Individual Membership

Individual Zonta Memberships are open and available to those who support the Zonta mission, but are not necessarily interested in attending monthly meetings.

To learn more about individual memberships, visit Zonta's Individual Membership FAQ document:

www.zonta.org/Portals/0/Membership/Tools/MembershipTools/Individual%20Membership_Prospective%20Member%20FAQs.pdf?ver=2018-10-25-144840-327



Little Stones Documentary Zonta Club of St. Louis



The Zonta Club of St. Louis held a successful premier showing of the *Little Stones Documentary* in the fall. It was held in partnership with Maryville University and Gateway Human Trafficking.

Besides showing the documentary with Director Sophia Kruz present, there was an interactive workshop prior to the documentary for students. 80 students participated in the workshop lead by the Director. The evening of the event included a silent auction, reception, a lead in by the Natya Padhanjali School of Dance and a Q&A after the film of 4 local experts moderated by Sophia Kruz.

After the event four of the team were interviewed by a local TV station. Proceeds of this event allowed the Zonta Club of St. Louis to give \$1,500 each to Gateway Human Trafficking, International Crisis Aid, and Safe Connections. Additionally, it gave \$2,000 to ZISVAY and a \$1,000 sponsorship to an upcoming Women's Leadership Luncheon "Sex Trafficking: Now that I Know, What Can I Do?"

Because of the partnership with Maryville, the Zonta Club of St. Louis was introduced to a group of young women, EmpoWEr, who will soon become a Golden Z Club. To access the local TV station interview, visit: kplr11.com/category/commentary/the-pulse-of-st-louis/.



Zonta Voices of Influence

The Zonta Club of Jefferson City was featured in a special section of the News Tribune called **Voices of Influence**.

The focus of the article was how things have changed over the years for women and how things have remained constant.

Advancing the status of women was a theme, and the Zonta Club of Jefferson City was recognized for **raising \$300,000** for scholarships through our annual Yellow Rose Luncheon.



11th Annual 5K Fundraiser

The Zonta Club of Jefferson City hosted its 11th annual 5k!

The event raised funds supporting the Zonta International Foundation. Prizes were awarded for the overall winners in both the walking and running events for women and men.



NORTH AMERICAN INTERDISTRICT INVITATION

June 7—9, 2019



Dear Zontians,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the 2019 North American Interdistrict Meeting at the Embassy Suites - Hilton, DFW Airport South, Dallas, Texas June 7-9, 2019. The theme of this year's meeting is "Empowering Women – Past, Present and Future" in celebration of Zonta's 100-year anniversary.

On Friday morning, June 7 at 9 a.m., we will present Training Skills for Zonta, recommended for club and district leaders charged with responsibility for training other Zontians. Attendees will receive a certificate upon completion.

On Friday afternoon, we are thrilled to invite you to participate in an advocacy workshop, "Ending Early Marriage-a Strategy Session for North America," from 1:30 – 4 p.m. It will be jointly conducted by Fraidy Reiss and Samra Zafar. Fraidy is the founder and executive director of Unchained At Last, an organization that works to end child marriage in the United States. A survivor of a forced marriage, she dedicated her life to advocating for women and girls. Samra was a child bride in a forced marriage suffering 10 years of abuse in Canada. She is the founder of Brave Beginnings, a non-profit organization to support abuse survivors in their journey to build a life of respect and freedom.

Friday evening will include a buffet and round-table discussions with experts on various Zonta topics. Saturday will feature a general session, workshops, and lunch and dinner, both with speakers. There will be more workshops on Sunday morning followed by a breakfast croissant and fruit and a recap of all the information presented.

International President Susanne von Bassewitz will present our keynote address in conjunction with the International Board. Our president and board will enjoy the NAIDM and then hold an International Board meeting at the conclusion of the NAIDM in the hotel.

This is a superb opportunity for you to talk with Zonta International's leadership, become more familiar with our biennial goal to end child marriage, learn new information on service

NORTH AMERICAN INTERDISTRICT INVITATION

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and advocacy, leadership and innovation, media and partnerships, and membership and outreach, spend time with Zontians from all over the United States and Canada, and perhaps spend a little time visiting, shopping and touring the Dallas area.

Early registration is now open. PayPal is available to accommodate credit cards on the NAIDM 2019 page on Zonta District 10 website. The NAIDM 2019 website includes our comprehensive program, link to reserve rooms, hotel information and Dallas-area attractions.

Early registration, through March 15, is \$235.

Standard registration from March 16 through May 15 will cost \$250.

Late registration after May 15 is \$275.

The registration fee includes the program as well as the Friday night buffet, Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday light lunch. Hotel rooms will cost \$129 a night plus fees from June 6 to June 14. The hotel is conveniently located right next to the Dallas Fort Worth Airport and there is a free shuttle available to and from the hotel.

See you at NAIDM in Dallas!

Kind regards,

Judy Kautz

Host Committee Chair, 2019 North American Interdistrict Meeting

jkautzzonta@gmail.com


405-831-3935

Website: zontadistrict10.org/2017/north-american-interdistrict-meeting/




SAVE-THE-DATES!

Join Us & Be Part of Strengthening the D7 Zisterhood!



Zonta International
Empowering women since 1919



Zonta District 7 Area Meetings

“Save the Date”

Join fellow District 7 Zontians in combined Area Meetings this April to connect more deeply with Zonta during our centennial biennium through learning sessions, best practice sharing, member networking and fun!

Area 1 & 3 Meeting
April 5th & 6th, 2019
Country Inn & Suites
Mankato, MN

Area 2 & 4 Meeting
April 26th & 27th, 2019
KC Marriot @ Country Club Plaza
Kansas City, MO

Save the date and we will see you in Mankato or Kansas City this spring.

Honor and Empower
Zonta100.org



DISTRICT 7 CONFERENCE

September 13-15, 2019

Zonta International District 7 will have its conference in Kansas City, MO on September 13– 15, 2019.

Do you know of a Zontian who would like to help plan and lead the Memorial Service at the District 7 Conference?

District 7 will still be asking for submissions from each Club of deceased members since our last conference. Please contact Shelley at shelley7.schultz@gmail.com if interested on working with her to create a very special service.

ZONTA

100

YEARS

**EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH
SERVICE AND ADVOCACY**

Zonta International District 7

Spring 2019

www.zontadistrict7.org