



ZONTA CLUB OF LAFAYETTE

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

District 10 Area 2, Club 0858
Charter Date – September 8, 1978

Bayou News

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Our Mission: Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy

2022 – 2024 Zonta Club of Lafayette

Officers

Geeta Dalal – President
gedalal@yahoo.com
Clancy Ratliff – Vice President
Ismatara Reena – Secretary
Paulette Yandle – Treasurer

Directors

Joelle Doguet – Director
Stacy Delatte – Director
Sharon Hardy – Director

Club Chairs

Advocacy – Sharon Hardy
Membership – Suzanne Daigle
Nominating – Dory Thomassie
Service – Marietta LaBauve
Amelia Earhart – Tracy LeBlanc
Historian/Archives – Karen Lestelle
Public Relations – Karen Lestelle
Scholarship – Lisa LeBlanc
United Nations – Clancy Ratliff

Newsletter submissions go to editors
[Dory Thomassie](#) or [Geeta Dalal](#)

Visit us online at
www.zontalafayette.org
or on FaceBook at
Zonta Club of Lafayette

President's Message

Well, it is time to take a deep breath! We have had very busy last several months, all of us have been hard at work, some more than the others. We all deserve “pat on the back.” Looking forward, my focus will be to continue to grow as we have been doing. Thanks to Suzanne and Karen for actively recruiting new members. Once installed it will be our job as a club to retain them. **Recruit, integrate and Retain!** Every stage takes active participation on the part of each and every one of us. Best way to get to know each member, is to meet them in small group in relaxed setting without any agenda or pressure. The more we know each other, the more we will be able to understand and know other person's strength. We need to find the strength in each one of us. It takes active effort and will. Appreciating other person's strength is what will make us stronger individually and as a group. Metaphorically, each flower has its own beauty but bouquet is so much more attractive! Every flower complements the size, shape, color and fragrance of other flowers! We together want to make a big beautiful bouquet! We have embarked on new projects and are continuing earlier ones. Thank you all for being such active soldiers, without which this won't be possible. I greatly appreciate each and every one of you, even though I may not tell you often enough. My idea of having an International Day is to truly enjoy ourselves, and bring out our special skills and culture. I hope all of you will make an attempt to come. I know we all have many commitments but we just have to choose what is important to us.

Geeta Dalal
Zonta Lafayette
President 2022-2024

Meetings are on February 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1, 2023. The meetings will be in person at Comfort Suites We are considering adding ZOOM. The social gathering will be at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:00p.m.

Achiever Spotlight



Kathy Yates

Zonta Club of Lafayette

Kathy Yates is a longtime member of Zonta. She joined the Zonta Club of Lafayette in January of 2006. Kathy has held many positions at the local club level. She has been the Area 2 Director for District 10.

She understands the difficulty many women face in dealing with adversity. Kathy's determination has helped her overcome health issues and provided her with the desire to go to college in her forties and receive a Bachelor's degree.

Kathy is a proud mother of 4 children. She enjoys time with them and their spouses. She is the grandmother and great grandmother. Her children feel they can always count on her as they are her priority.

Since Kathy retired she has time to enjoy the outdoors. Her adventures include white water rafting. She is eager venture out and be ready at a moment's notice, to do whatever comes her way, whether it is to help the family or take a trip with a friend or even just to have an unplanned adventure with her sister.

All these qualities of strength, resolve, love, compassion fits in perfectly for her to be a great Zontian!

Thank you, Kathy, for all you do in service to others.

Be Kind – not for any reason other than it is the right thing to do.

Scholarships

Lafayette Woman Scholarship

(local)

Application, due March 1

Young Woman in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award

(local, district, and International)

Application, due March 15

District 10 Rose Scholarship

(district)

Application, due April 1

Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Scholarship

(local, district and International)

The goal of the STEM Scholarship is to encourage more young women to pursue a higher education degree in science, technology, engineering or math, while also encouraging leadership achievements in science, technology, engineering and/or math and a dedication to the advancement of the status of women. We are targeting currently enrolled undergraduate female students who are majoring in a STEM field.

Application, due May 15

Jane M Klausman (JMK) Woman in Business Scholarship

(local, district, and International)

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships are awarded to women undertaking business studies who have demonstrated outstanding potential in the field. Zonta International offers up to 32 scholarships of US\$5,000 each at the district/region level. Any woman undertaking a business program at an accredited university/college/institute, including online students, in at least the second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a Master's program at the time the application is submitted to the local Zonta club, is eligible to apply. The scholarship may be used at any university, college or institute offering accredited courses and degrees.

Application, due August 1

Amelia Earhart Fellowship

(International)

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship is awarded annually to women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering. The Fellowship of US\$10,000, awarded to 30 Fellows around the globe each year, may be used at any university or college offering accredited post-graduate courses and degrees in these fields.

Application will open in July 2023.

Calendar

- **February 2** | Groundhog Day
 - **February 12** | Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
 - **February 14** | Valentine's Day
 - **February 21** | Mardi Gras
 - **February 22** | Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent
 - **March 8** | Holi
 - **March 8** | International Women's Day
 - **March 12** | Daylight Savings
 - **March 14** | Pi Day
 - **March 15** | Ides of March
 - **March 17** | St. Patrick's Day
 - **March 20** | First Day of Spring
 - **March 23** | Save Ze TaTaz
 - **March 25** | District 10 Area 2 Meeting
 - **March 25** | Celebration of Holi
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Zonta Club of Lafayette Events

Zonta Club of Lafayette and the International Women's Day and Rose Day



On March 8, 2023 Zonta Lafayette showed their support of our communities on International Women's Day & ROSE DAY. They collected and donate feminine hygiene products to 3rd through 12th grade girls at local schools for the Period Purse Project. We look forward to continuing our service throughout the year by collecting, stuffing purses, and distributing them to local schools and their teachers.

Zonta Club of Lafayette Member Mary Neiheisel Honored



On Friday, March 10 2023, Mary Neiheisel received the Connections' 2023 Career Achievement Award. Congratulations to our Zonta Club of Lafayette member! We very proud of you! Mary is a very deserving individual who has supported her community in so many ways.

Zonta Club of Lafayette and the Butterfly Effect Prom Dress Giveaway



On Sunday, March 12, 2023, Zonta Lafayette Club members and New Day Community Outreach helped over 150 young ladies find the PERFECT PROM DRESS & SAY "YES TO THE DRESS" for The Butterfly Effect Project Prom Dress Giveaway from 11 am – 5 PM at Northgate Mall Lafayette LA that was open to high school students.

(L-R) Ziuta Blaes, Dory Thomassie, Tia LeBrun, Karen Lestelle, Geeta Dalal & Sharon Hardy

Zonta Club of Lafayette UL Women's Leadership Conference

On Thursday, March 16, 2023, Zonta Club of Lafayette Club members attended and exhibitors at the 16th UL Women's Leadership Conference. They enjoyed very informative speakers and breakout sessions on advancing women's diversity, equity, and inclusion.



Pictured L to R: Suzanne Daigle, Lisa LeBlanc, Karen Lestelle, and Ziuta Blaes. Not pictured: Mary Farmer-Kaiser

Zonta Club of Lafayette Save ze TaTaz



The 12th Annual Save ze TaTaz was held on March 23, 2023 at River Oaks Catering and Event Center. The evening included dinner, a Silent Auction and a Live Auction. Two guest speakers spoke to those in attendance. Sylvia Masters, Miss Louisiana USA 2023, expressed the need for more awareness of screening and early detection for cancer. Tony Quinn, BHSc, MCSP, Cert, MDT, from Quinn Physical Therapy also spoke about cancer, early detection and the importance of the lymph system in the body.



Fred Mills was the emcee for the event and the evening was a great success. Proceeds from Save ze TaTaz benefit Zonta Club of Lafayette Scholarships and Service Projects.

Zonta Club of Lafayette Hosts District 10 Area 2 Meeting



Zonta Club Area 2 Participants

A very educational Zonta District 10 Area 2 Workshop was hosted by Zonta Club of Lafayette Louisiana to learn more ways to Build a Better World for Women and Girls.

District 10 News

Advocacy

Advocacy is a key tenet of Zonta International's efforts to empower women. Zonta International recommends action in accordance with the Objects of Zonta International to improve the status of women and to promote legislative awareness, advocacy and equal rights. The Leadership Team is working hard to provide clubs with the tools they need to help women and girls.

Service

D10 has taken on a new service project **Period Poverty**. D10 is excited to announce a toolkit which will assist clubs with planning and executing an event around Period Poverty that combines Service, Advocacy and Membership! The goal is that clubs will sponsor an event during the week of March 6-10 to coincide with Rose/International Women's Day on March 8. The toolkit is divided into three goal areas: educating and raising awareness about period poverty and reducing the stigma around menstruation, as an aspect of advocacy; advocating for legislation that promotes period equity; and conducting a service project to provide period products where they are needed. Clubs can accomplish all three goals in one event or can plan more than one event to carry out these activities.

Links to the toolkit, a sample letter, and a sample postcard are below:

[Zonta District 10 Period Poverty Toolkit](#)

[Sample letter for period poverty](#)

[Period Poverty Post Card Sample](#)

ZONTA International News and Events

[ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE PEOPLE OF SYRIA AND TURKEY](#)

Posted on 2/9/2023

We share the sorrow of the Syrian and Turkish people at the tragic loss of life and the impact these earthquakes will have on the lives and livelihoods of all those affected.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ENTERPRISING JMK WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLARS](#)

Posted on 2/17/2023

We are proud to share more information on the 2022 Zonta International Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholars.

[REMARKABLE BIOCHEMIST, ACTIVIST AND POLITICIAN SHARES HER POWERFUL STORY](#)

Posted on 2/23/2023

Former Sierra Leone Member of Parliament Isata Kabia is also the founding director of Voice of Women (VoW) Africa. Read her powerful story.

[ONE YEAR OF WAR IN UKRAINE HAS DEVASTATING IMPACTS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN](#)

Posted on 2/28/2023

As we mark one year of war in Ukraine, we recognize our Zonta members in Ukraine who immediately mobilized to provide support and services to displaced women and children.

[CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY](#)

Posted on 3/7/2023

Watch a special message from President Ute Scholz as she shares her best wishes and goals for the world while at the 67th Session of the CSW in New York.

[ZONTA INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND ZONTA ROSE DAY 2023](#)

Posted on 3/8/2023

On 8 March, International Women's Day, Zonta International joins the global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The Zonta community also marks 8 March as Zonta Rose Day. Read our statement.

[REMARKABLE CLIMATE ACTIVIST AND JMK WOMEN IN BUSINESS SCHOLAR SHARES HER POWERFUL STORY](#)

Posted on 3/24/2023

JMK Women in Business Scholar Emma Beal is a core member of the climate/sustainability and energy practice areas at the Boston Consulting Group office in Melbourne, Australia. Read her powerful story.

[ZONTA-SUPPORTED PROJECT PROVIDES HEALTH CARE TO MORE THAN 20,000 GIRLS IN PERU](#)

Posted on 3/21/2023

In 2022, 37,426 adolescents (20,629 girls) received health care in Ucayali and Huancavelica. Read our recent update on Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru to learn more about the project and its achievements.

[SHARING THE LEGACY OF MARIAN DE FOREST](#)

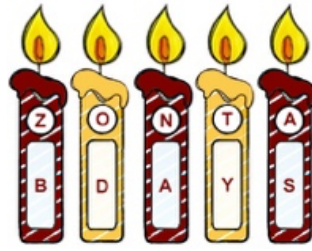
Posted on 3/23/2023

The memory of Zonta founder and fourth president, Marian de Forest lives on in Buffalo, New York, USA.

[REMARKABLE AGRICULTURAL LEADER SHARES HER POWERFUL STORY](#)

Posted on 3/30/2023

Sue Middleton is a well-known entrepreneur, skilled advocate, and influential leader for rural and regional Australia. Read more about her powerful story.



February

February 9th Ella Crochet

February 25th Stacy Delatte

March

March 4th Sangeeta Shah