

# THE ZONEWS

**FEBRUARY 2026**  
**FIRST EDITION: 1965**



## ZONTA CLUB OF ST. CLOUD

Board of Directors—  
FY 2025–2026

- **President: Rachel Thompson**
- **Vice President: Mary Robak–Saari**
- **Treasurer: Shawna Retka**
- **Recording Secretary: Mary Garding**
- **Communications Secretary: Rachel Thompson**
- **Board Members– 2nd term**
  - **Carol Barrymore**
  - **Mary Robak–Saari**
- **Board Members – 1st Term**
  - **Gayle Borchert**
  - **Susan Voletz**
- **Past President: Veronica Villeneuve/Laurie Oppel**

## NOTICE:

**VOTING FOR INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION DELEGATES & ALTERNATES  
(CLUB GETS 2)**

## THIS EDITION:

**Calendar of Events**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Financials**  
**Club Updates**

**BUILD A BETTER WORLD  
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Proposed Allocations by the Finance Committee: Rachel Thompson, Joal Peitz, Alicia Reif, LeAnne Miller, Shawna Retka, Debra Kellerman

As of January 25, balance on hand in Foundation:\$44,591.16

Less 2027 scholarship set aside \$ 5,500

Keep on Reserve \$4091.16 (so we work in round numbers)

Amount to be allocated: \$35,000

Formula: 10% Operations \$3,500  
25% ZI \$8,750\*\* vote results below  
**65% local agencies \$22,750**

If we maintain last year's allocations to our standard awardee

\$9,000 Anna Marie's

\$2,000 Crisis Nursery

\$2,000 Sexual Assault Center

\$5,000 Terebinth Refuge

\$1,000 Starfish\*\*change in leadership/program? allocate, but don't distribute until someone from Starfish gives a presentation to the members and members approve  
**TOTAL = \$19,000 or \$18,000**

**Mini grant funds \$3,750 (or more if reduce reserve on hand) Last year = \$6,000**

VOTING RESULTS:

1. WOW (women of worth) SC PDepart **Award \$1,000** (Last year awarded \$1,000)
2. (tied) SCYLA & Domus House **Award \$750 each** (Last year awarded in order \$1,000 and \$500)
3. (tied) Community Angels & Place of Hope **Award \$500 each** (Last year awarded in order \$1,000 & \$500)

Above allocations to 1, 2, 3 keep us under budget by \$250 and not touch the reserve in the checking account.

\*\*Top Vote Getters

Top Tied Rose Fund & Zonta Endowment Fund **60% each gets \$2,625 (5250/2)**

Next Tied Zonta Women in Business & Young Women In Leadership (scholarships)  
**40% each gets \$1,750 (3500/2)**

Respectfully submitted – Debra Kellerman, Secretary

# ENDOWMENT GOAL: \$150,000



2.2.2026

**\$107,975**

1.5.2026

**\$100,000**

January 2025

**\$90,000**

January 2024

**\$75,000**



**ZONTA**

CLUB OF  
ST CLOUD

FINAL  
CALL FOR

# Nominations

The Nominations Committee  
is seeking nominations for:  
Vice President  
Communications Secretary  
2 Board Director Positions

Terms starting July 2026  
These are 2 year terms

To submit a nomination,  
Contact Alicia, Joal, or Karla

\*Voting will occur in April 2026



# Emergency Food Box Donations Needed

## Catholic Charities Food Shelf needs our help.

They're collecting shelf-stable items to support single-household families in crisis with an  
Emergency Food Box

See the full list of needed items and download the flyer:

<https://www.ccstcloud.org/food-services>

**BRING ANY OF THESE ITEMS TO THE BOARD OR BUSINESS MEETING  
AND WE WILL GET THEM TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

Help us keep our Emergency Food Box service stocked with the essentials. All donated food items must include original package labeling. Please avoid oversized or bulk items (e.g., 10-lb oatmeal boxes).

### Each box includes:

- Pancake Mix
- Corn Muffin Mix
- Peanut Butter
- Mac and Cheese
- Premium White Chicken (can or pouch)
- Tuna (2 cans or pouches)
- Elbow Macaroni
- Oatmeal
- Jasmine Rice
- Tomato Sauce
- Mixed Vegetables
- Peaches (can)
- Chicken Noodle Soup (2 cans)
- Chili with Beans
- Pineapple (can)
- Cereal
- Toilet Paper

*We also welcome personal care products and feminine hygiene products.*

# HOLIDAY SOCIAL

**A huge thank you to all who attended and supported these efforts! What a fun evening!**

**\$560**  
**in Gift Cards**  
**to give to**  
**the agencies**

**\$600**  
**to Zonta Foundation**

**\$75**  
**for Change**  
**for Change**





Celebrating  
**75**  
Years

Join us for our 75<sup>th</sup> celebration

**April 9, 2026**

5-7pm at Anna Marie's Alliance  
505 10th Ave N, St Cloud, MN 56303



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
ST CLOUD

ZONTA CLUB OF ST CLOUD  
P.O. BOX 7453  
ST CLOUD, MN 56302-7453

**A night of celebration, scholarships, and inspiration.**

**RSVP by**  
**April 1, 2026**

**REQUESTED, NOT REQUIRED.**  
**ZontaStCloud@gmail.com**

# Walk

## TOGETHER

Uniting Against Trafficking

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Speaker 9-10am,

Followed by 3-mile  
Community Awareness Walk

Registration: 8:30 am

Location: Lake George/Eastman Park  
1101 7th St S, St Cloud, MN  
56301



Resister here!

For more details visit:  
[walktogethermn.org](http://walktogethermn.org)



## Register Now!

### Registration: \$30

Registration includes t-shirt

T-shirt and  
sponsorship  
**deadline:**  
April 3, 2026



Proceeds benefit  
Central Minnesota  
Sexual Assault Center

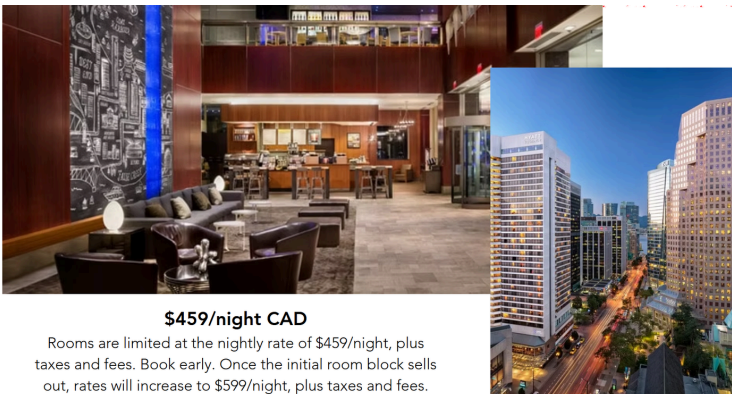


Walk Together: Uniting Against Trafficking



# Zonta International Convention 11-14 July 2026

	Ends 15 March	16 March-15 May	16 May-On-site
Member Full	US\$395	US\$445	US\$495
Guest (On-Site Only)	US\$160	US\$160	US\$185
Member Virtual Only	US\$195	US\$195	US\$220
Member Virtual + One Day On-Site	US\$260	US\$260	US\$285
Student Full	US\$60	US\$60	US\$60
Student Virtual Only	US\$30	US\$30	US\$30



**\$459/night CAD**

Rooms are limited at the nightly rate of \$459/night, plus taxes and fees. Book early. Once the initial room block sells out, rates will increase to \$599/night, plus taxes and fees.



# Zonta International Convention 2026 Schedule-at-a-Glance

DRAFT October 2025

	Friday 10-Jul	Saturday 11-Jul	Sunday 12-Jul	Monday 13-Jul	Tuesday 14-Jul
<b>Registration</b>	4:00 - 6:00 PM	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
<b>Credentialing</b>	Setup	8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	7:30 - 8:15 AM 12:30 - 1:30 PM	7:00 - 8:00 AM 12:30 - 1:30 PM	7:00 - 8:00 AM 12:00 - 1:00 PM 5:00 - 5:30 PM (device return)
<b>Voter Support</b>			5:00 - 6:00 PM		
<b>Foundation Booth</b>	Setup	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	7:00 - 8:30 AM 12:15 - 1:30 PM All breaks	7:30 - 8:30 AM 12:30 - 1:30 PM All breaks	7:30 AM - 9:00 AM 12:00 - 1:00 PM All breaks
<b>Store/ Marketplace</b>	Setup	Zonta Store 8:00 AM-5:00 PM Marketplace 8:00-11:00 AM	7:00 - 8:30 AM 12:15 - 1:30 PM All breaks	7:30 - 9:30 AM 12:30 - 1:30 PM All breaks	Zonta Store 7:30 AM-1:00 PM Marketplace 7:30-9:00 AM; All breaks
				<b>Zonta Says NO Day</b>	
6:30 AM		Wellness Wakeup	Wellness Wakeup	Wellness Wakeup	Wellness Wakeup
7:00 AM					
7:30 AM					
8:00 AM					Memorial Service
8:30 AM		Zonta Says NOW Walk/Run			Break
9:00 AM			Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker	Business Session #4	Breakout Sessions
9:30 AM					Business Session #6
10:00 AM					Break
10:30 AM					
11:00 AM		Breakout Sessions	Break	Break	
11:30 AM			Business Session #1	Bylaws	Breakout Sessions
12:00 PM					Business Session #7
12:30 PM		Lunch	Foundation Donor Lunch***	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM		Breakout Sessions	Business Session #2	Bylaws	Breakout Sessions
2:00 PM					Closing Ceremony Installation
2:30 PM					
3:00 PM				Break	
3:30 PM					
4:00 PM		Breakout Sessions	Business Session #3	Business Session #5	
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM		First Timer Meet & Greet			
5:30 PM				2026-2028 Team Reception***	
6:00 PM					
6:30 PM					
7:00 PM					
7:30 PM	President's Reception***	PIPS Dinner***	Governors' Reunion Dinner**	Ticketed Events*	Farewell Dinner & Celebration*
8:00 PM		Ticketd Events*			
8:30 PM					
9:00 PM					

\*Paid ticketed event    \*\* Registration Required Event    \*\*\*Invitation only

The Hyatt Regency Vancouver will be the location of the 2026 Zonta International Convention.

## **Archive Tidbits**

**Founded on educational support and responsibility of community, the Club supported the following community service projects**

- In 1965, we donated funds to build the new student union on SCSU campus**
- In 1966, Judge Lang donated back to the Club \$100 (the amount of his daughter Sylvia's scholarship), the Club invested it and in 1979, \$5,000 was donated to the SC Library for the Children's Room**
- In 1967-68, we joined forces with AAUW, BPW, LWV, and created a steering committee/Women's Council to seek out and encourage women to join/be appointed to Boards and run for public office**
- 1968, we also helped establish a United Way Fund Drive**
- In 1968, we pledged \$500 to the St Cloud Hospital**
- In 1970, the Club donated \$100 to the Lake George Fountain fund**
- In 1976, held a benefit roast of Grace McDowell (one of our members).Funds were given to the March of Dimes**
- In 1980, we held a dinner at the Newman Center, proceeds were given to support abused children**
- In 1982, we donated funds for the ZI Float in the Rose Bowl Parade**

**From: Tania Hughes <taniahughes@yahoo.com>**  
**Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 12:52 PM**  
**Subject: District 7 Foundation Update as of November 30, 2025**

**Hello Governor Jane and District 7 Board, Below please find an update on ZFW and Endowment giving from District 7. Apparently I missed the window to get the October reporting, so the comparison I have for you for updates is from September 30, 2025. The numbers as of year-end are not yet available, but I expect them next week.**

**Our small, but mighty, district continues to be generous beyond our size with total giving as of November 30, 2025, reaching \$81,240.38!!! This increase from September of \$23,449.89 is due to significant giving at District Conference, Every Member, Every November efforts by various clubs, and two additional club contributions. This is a 31.8% increase in ZFW giving over this same time period in the last biennium. Thank you all for your great work to educate on the importance of the Foundation and Endowment and to encourage your clubs and members to give.**

**In additional good news, we continue to hold our spot as the 2nd highest district by % of members donating to the Endowment Fund! Other, larger districts have contributed more money, but we have a higher percentage of members who are giving, which underscores our district's commitment to Zonta's future success.**

**I will be following up with Eva as our club donations went down from 100% to 82%. Even with a change in the number of active clubs due to disbandment, 100% of any number is still 100%. I hope to have this corrected for the December year-end reporting.**

<b>District 7 Zonta Foundation for Women Update – November 20, 2025</b>			
<b>November 2025 Results</b>	<b>September 2025 Results</b>	<b>Change over 2 Month Period</b>	<b>Progress toward district biennial goals</b>
<b>Total Donations: \$81,240.38</b>	Total Donations: \$57,790.49	\$23,449.89 increase - due to generosity at District Conference, Every Member, Every November, and two club donations.	n/a – we do not have a target dollar amount
<b>9/11 active clubs indicated in reporting – Tania following up with Eva at HQ</b>	11/11 active clubs donated = 100%	Tania following up with Eva at HQ. Even if the # of active clubs have changed, it wouldn't impact the % of clubs donating as 100% of any number is still 100%.	Biennium goal of 100% of clubs within district donating achieved
<b>100/312 individuals donated = 32%</b>	95/303 individuals donated = 30%	Increase of 2%	Not quite half-way to our goal of 50% of individual members donating. The challenge is to reach individuals who don't normally donate
<b>\$9,631.56 in total giving to Endowment by 36 members or 12% and 2 clubs or 18%</b>	\$8,791.56 in total giving to Endowment by 30 members or 10% and 2 clubs or 13%	Increase of 2%.  <b>12% of membership donating to the Endowment Fund is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest membership percentage among all districts as of November 30!</b>	Our goal is 50% of clubs donate and 20% of individuals  Although we are making great progress, this is an area to continue to educate and promote importance especially among clubs.

**Tania Hughes-Kremers**  
**Foundation Ambassador**  
**Zonta International District 7**  
**c: 612-845-8737 | email: taniahughes@yahoo.com**  
**Zonta Club Minneapolis St. Paul Area, USA**  
**Build a Better World for Women and Girls – Donate Today!**