

# THE ZONEWS

March 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:

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

## THIS EDITION:

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

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



**Zonta Board Meeting Minutes**  
**2/5/26**  
**Anna Marie's Alliance, St Cloud, MN and phone**

**Present: Rachel Thompson, Carol Barrymore, Mary Robak-Saari, Mary Garding, Laurie Ann Oppel, Gayle Borchart**

**Absent: Shawna Retka, Susan Voeltz**

**Guests: Debra Kellerman**

The meeting was called to order by President Rachel Thompson at 11:59am. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Code followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked. The agenda for today's meeting was presented for approval.

Carol Barrymore moved to approve the agenda, Mary Robak-Saari seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

**Consent Agenda**

Board minutes of 1/6/2026

Treasurer's report of December 2025

Motion to approve was made by Mary Garding and seconded by Mary Robak-Saari. Motion was approved.

**Correspondence & Requests:** Found in ZoNews and new thank you card from Anna Marie's Alliance was passed around.

**Business:**

**Ballot for 2026:** The ballot for delegates to Zonta International Conference in Vancouver was attached to email with ZoNews and meeting agenda. Members need to vote for club delegates by selecting four names (two delegates and two alternates) by the end of February.

**Conventions Delegates:** Question was raised if the board would or should make recommendation for the selection of delegates. There was some discussion on this matter. It was determined there are several methods of making this decision but currently the preference is for a club vote. This process can be reviewed in the future.

**February Business Meeting:** Rachel Thompson will be out of town and Laurie Oppel will chair the meeting.

**Calendar of Events:** This was published in the ZoNews but several items were clarified. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is tentatively set for a service event at Anna Marie's Alliance. The transition meeting will be a potluck evening event on June 4<sup>th</sup>. April 9<sup>th</sup> will be the club 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at Anna Marie's Alliance. Distribution of awards to community agencies will be at the annual meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Information will soon be sent out on the Area 3 meeting scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington.

**Committee Updates:**

**Advocacy and Service:** The next service event at Anna Marie's Alliance will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. More information on this will be sent out closer to the event. There are upcoming opportunities for advocacy. Terebinth trafficking awareness event is on 2-26-26 in Sauk Rapids. The Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center Walk Together event is on 4-25-26. Zonta club is a sponsor for this event. Anna Marie's Alliance has their annual Creating Hope Chefs Gala on 5-6-26.

**Marketplace:** Joel Peitz is working on a Zonta club t-shirt order.

**Scholarships:** Deadline for annual scholarships is coming up soon. The group is waiting for applications to be submitted. The National Leadership scholarship is now available and Gayle Borchart will be sending that out to local contacts.

**Kayak:** Planning committee for this will start soon as the date for event is 8-2-26.

**Christmas House:** No updates. Next house has been selected in West Wood area of St Cloud.

**Finance:** Report was sent out in email with ZoNews and meeting agenda. It outlines the amounts set to be distributed to local agencies. It also indicates funds for Zonta International contribution and small awards which was based on votes by club members.

**Foundation:** Currently have reached about 20% of goal. Efforts continue with members and contacting agencies.

**75<sup>th</sup> Zonta Anniversary Committee:** There is an upcoming meeting to discuss details for the event.

**Adjournment:** Gayle Borchart made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:48pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mary Garding  
Recording Secretary**



**Zonta Business Meeting Minutes**  
**2/12/2026**  
**The Crooked Pint, St Cloud, MN and Zoom**

**Present:** Lauri Ann Oppel, Acting President; Gayle Borchert, Paula Capes, Susan Dege, Mary Garding, Deborah Grant, Debra Kellerman, Glenn Olufson, Lori Rebischke, Alicia Reif, Belinda Ryan, Susan Voeltz, Pat Undersander

**Absent:** Rachel Thompson, Diane Arthur, Carol Barrymore, Jan Bensen, Kati Blum, Deb Dingmann, Debra Eid, Barb Johnson, Karla Krueger, Linda LaSota, Alice Lenzmeier, Linda Linn, LeAnne Miller, Kim Nagel, Mary Nimmerfroh, Joal Peitz, Shawna Retka, Mary Robak-Saari

**Guests:** Amy Notsch, Deb Night, Jamie Deering, Chris and Deb Stalberger

**Call to Order:** Laurie Ann Oppel called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and Zonta Code followed the call to order. Pin Penalty was invoked.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Paula Capes, seconded by Belinda Ryan. Additions to agenda: Area meeting and Patches for the club. Motion was approved.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes of January 2026 Business meeting  
Treasurer's reports for December 2025

Alicia Reif made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published in the ZoNews. Deb Kellerman seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Introductions were done for potential new members and guests.

**Correspondence & Requests:** Found in ZoNews and new thank you card from Anna Marie's Alliance was passed around.

**BUSINESS:**

**Christmas House Photo Book:** A picture album of the decorated house was presented to home owners, Chris and Deb Stalberger. This was done to show appreciation for their willingness to assist in this event.

**Conventions Delegates:** A ballot was sent out in the email with meeting agenda. Members can respond by email or fill out paper form available at today's meeting. There is a need for 2 delegates and 2 alternates to convention in Vancouver. The names receiving the most votes will be designed these roles.

**Calendar of Events:** This was published in the ZoNews.

**Area 1 & 3 Meeting:** Information will soon be sent out on the Area meeting scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington. The agenda for the meeting includes sharing of club activities. There will be a fun night on Friday with an escape room at Mall of America. A raffle basket for the meeting is needed.

### **Committee Updates:**

**Nominations:** Committee is looking for candidates for the upcoming open positions (Vice President, Communication Secretary and 2 board positions). These are needed by end of March for voting in April.

**Advocacy and Service:** The next service event at Anna Marie's Alliance will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. More information on this will be sent out closer to the event. There are upcoming opportunities for advocacy. Terebinth trafficking awareness event is on 2-26-26 in Sauk Rapids. The Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center Walk Together event is on 4-25-26. Anna Marie's Alliance has their annual Creating Hope Chefs Gala on 5-6-26.

**Marketplace:** Joel Peitz is working on a Zonta club t-shirt order.

**Scholarships:** Deadline for annual scholarships is March 1st. The group is waiting for applications to be submitted. The National Leadership scholarship is now available and application deadline is a little later.

**Kayak:** Planning committee for this will start soon as the date for event is 8-2-26. Additional members are needed for this committee.

**Christmas House:** No updates. Next house has been selected in St Cloud area.

**Finance:** Report was sent out in email with ZoNews and meeting agenda. It outlines the amounts set to be distributed to local agencies. It also indicates funds for Zonta International contribution and small awards which was based on votes by club members. The Board has reviewed this and supports the plan along with not doing distribution to Starfish until more information is known about their change in leadership.

**Foundation:** No update to report.

**75<sup>th</sup> Zonta Anniversary Committee:** Currently have reached about 20% of goal. Efforts continue with members and contacting agencies. There are a number of ideas for fund raisers and letters to other community businesses. The celebration event will be on 4-9-26 at Anna Marie's Alliance.

**Patches:** The board discussed the potential of patches similar to those done at kayaking event. The design for the patch was displayed and potential cost is just a little over \$1 each. The Board is looking for general consensus on this plan. Susan Dege made the motion to develop and purchase these patches. Motion was seconded by Gayle Borchert. Motion approved.

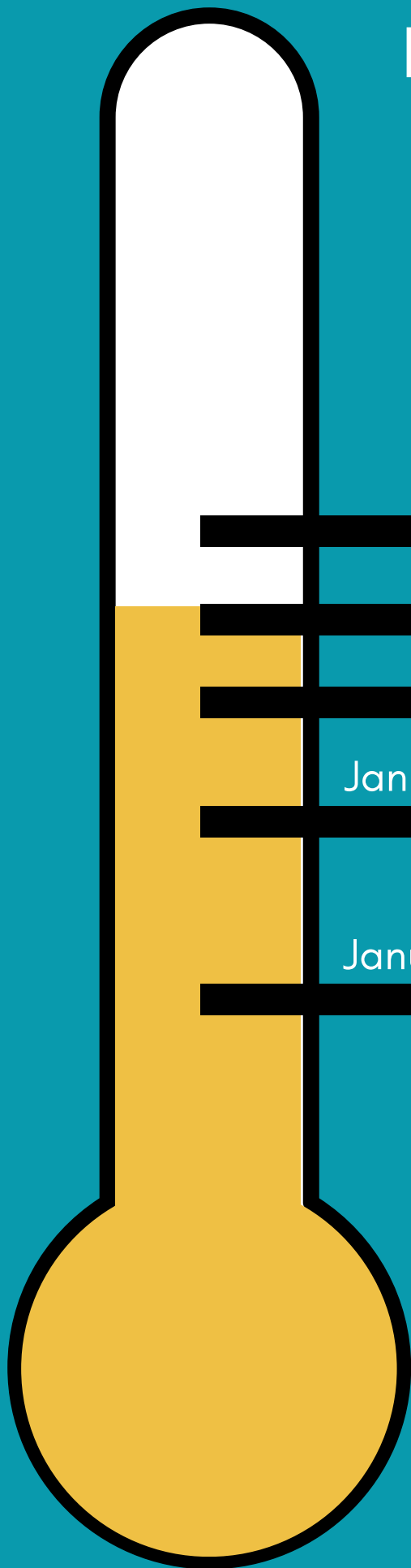
**Announcements:** Paula Capes passed out fliers on an event at Pantown Brewing in celebration of International Women's Day and in honor of Amelia Earhart. This will be Wednesday, March 11th from 4pm to 6pm.

**Adjournment:** Paula Capes made a motion to adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 12:51pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Mary Garding*  
**Recording Secretary**

# ENDOWMENT GOAL: \$150,000



2.25.2026

**\$110,700**

2.2.2026

**\$107,975**

1.5.2026

**\$100,000**

January 2025

**\$90,000**

January 2024

**\$75,000**



**ZONTA**

CLUB OF  
ST CLOUD



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
ST CLOUD

# Zonta Club of St. Cloud Celebrates International Women's Day

**Pantown Brewing Company**  
**Wednesday, March 11th**  
**4:00–6:00PM**



**Amelia Earhart**

**Come have a FLIGHT with us!**

**In tribute to a pioneering aviator and devoted Zontian, Amelia Earhart, we will observe a ceremonial ordering of Flights to commemorate her legacy of courage, vision, and determination.**

The IWD 2026 Give To Gain Campaign encourages a mindset of generosity and collaboration. Give To Gain emphasizes the power of reciprocity and support. When people, organizations, and communities give generously, opportunities and support for women increase. Giving is not a subtraction, it's intentional multiplication. When women thrive, we all rise.

Whether through donations, knowledge, resources, infrastructure, visibility, advocacy, education, training, mentoring, or time, contributing to women's advancement helps create a more supportive and interconnected world. What will you Give to Gain gender equality?

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



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

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

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

**REQUESTED, NOT REQUIRED.**

**[ZontaStCloud@gmail.com](mailto:ZontaStCloud@gmail.com)**

Put the  
**FUN**  
back into the  
**Fundamentals**

Elevating engagement with  
members, clubs, and our communities!



ZONTA 1 & 3 AREA  
MEETING  
MINNEAPOLIS



## SAVE THE DATE

### Zonta Area 1 & 3 Meeting

**Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11**

Embassy Suites by Hilton Bloomington

2800 American Blvd W, Bloomington, MN 55431

Room Block: Zonta Area 1 & 3 Meeting

#### Friday Night Event

Escape to the Mall of America for food and fun!



# 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

*You're Cordially Invited to Celebrate*

# **POLISHED & POWERFUL**

*75 Years of Spirit*



## *Zonta Club of St. Cloud* **ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY 20, 2026**

**5:00PM- 8:00PM**

**IRON STREET DISTILLERY**

**ST. CLOUD, MN**

**TICKETS: \$50 PER PERSON**

Includes Dinner by Jules' Bistro & Signature Cocktail or Mocktail

5:00 PM: Club Meeting

5:30 PM: Spirit Social

6:00 PM: Annual Meeting

*Cocktail Attire Requested.*

**REGISTER BY MAY 10, 2026**

**REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON!**

# Anna Marie's ALLIANCE

## MAY 2ND

**ZONTA SERVICE PROJECT WITH RESIDENTS  
MAKE AND TAKE FLOWER BOUQUETS + PLANTING**





# 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**

CLUB OF  
ST CLOUD

**DELEGATES:  
DIANA ARTHUR  
PAULA CAPES**

**ALTERNATES:  
SUSAN VOELTZ  
DEBRA KELLERMAN**



# 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		Business Session #4	Breakout Sessions
9:00 AM			Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker		Break
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		Lunch	Foundation Donor Lunch***		Business Session #7
12:30 PM				Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM		Breakout Sessions	Business Session #2	Bylaws	Breakout Sessions
1:30 PM					Closing Ceremony Installation
2:00 PM					
2:30 PM					
3:00 PM				Break	
3:30 PM		Breakout Sessions	Break		
4:00 PM			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

- In 1966 the St Cloud Club hosted the District 7 Conference; registration was \$25, rooms ranged from \$4-\$8 per night
- In 1966, the Zonta International Convention was held in Minneapolis.
- In 1965, the ZoNews was started, referred to as a “news bulletin”
- In the 1960’s, a coalition of AAUW, BPW, LWV and Zonta St Cloud created a “steering committee to seek out and encourage women to join or be appointed to boards and/or run for elected office. Grace Mc Dowell, who joined in 1954—and stayed for life—credits Zonta and BPW as among her biggest supporters when she ran for the St Cloud City Council in the 60’s; in 1964 she was elected to be its President and in 1965, she was named St Cloud’s Woman of the Year (some of this information came from her daughter Mary Lou Kerber).
- In 1958, Alma Rau (founding member), was selected through a George Gallop Poll, assisted by our local Chamber of Commerce, to be the city’s representative to a Ford Motors Consumer Conference, held on October 8-9 of 1959 (one of nine representatives from MN). The Chamber held a random drawing of all chamber groups and Zonta’s name was selected, the Club chose Alma. Alma was given a brand new Ford (from Lloyd Tenvoorde, Tenvoorde Ford) to test drive and report her findings at the Conference. She then was offered that car or a new car of her choosing at the dealer cost less 10%. She chose a 1959 Galaxie Club Victoria “a full 6-passenger expression of Thunderbird luxury at a modest Ford price”,
- BTW...I think, based on a letter dated October 31, 1950, from Dorothy R. Spicer, ZI, Alma was instrumental in organizing the Club. Alma’s business, the Vogue Shop was located in the St Cloud Hotel, where Dorothy was staying, the two met that day, put their heads together...and the rest is history!!
- In 1951, Chloe Schellinger was selected as our very first ZI delegate—convention was held in Chicago.
- In 1954, Dr Dorothy Radusch, a member of the Minneapolis Zonta Club, was elected International President. Her funds are the basis of our D7 \$300 membership grants.
- In December, 1999, Zonta St Cloud member Dixie Brunet wrote a grant proposal to ZI; St Cloud was one of ten Zonta Clubs to receive a \$25,000 ZISVAW grant; funds were used to help educate students on conflict resolution skills at the Boys & Girls Clubs and Talahi Elementary school.
- Our first scholarship--\$33--was awarded to Carol Becker, in May of 1951, to attend St Cloud Teacher’s College.
- Nancy Kasch, Tech HS graduate, daughter of Mr & Mrs Warren Kasch, and Colleen Johnson, Cathedral HS graduate, daughter of Mr & Mrs Floyd Johnson, were the 1952 scholarship winners--each receiving \$100 – equivalent to one full year of tuition plus fees to attend St Cloud Teacher’s College.