



Chapter 3

1949–1962¹

(a) World history in brief

The Cold War to the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

1949 was a crucial year in modern history with the formation of the German Federal Republic (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany/DDR); the signing of the Western Defense Treaty and the founding of NATO; and the creation of the counterpart treaty, the Warsaw Pact, in 1955 when West Germany regained its sovereignty and joined NATO. (Austria also regained its sovereignty in 1955 but decided to become a neutral state.)

The Middle East was turned upside down. England gave up her Palestinian Mandate and Israel declared itself a sovereign state, leading to the First Palestinian War in 1948. The war ended with a truce in 1949 with USA, USSR and the UN recognizing the new state, Israel. In 1950, Transjordan incorporated areas west of the Jordan River and designated itself Jordan. The refugee problem became huge and none of the Arabic countries took action to address the problem. 1956 was a harsh year with the Suez Crisis, the Second Palestinian War, and the Soviet occupation of Hungary.

In Asia, India and Pakistan became sovereign states in 1947 and Indonesia in 1948. A war of independence was fought in French Indo-China from 1946 to 1954. In 1954, the Geneva Conference divided Vietnam into South Vietnam and Communist North Vietnam.²

The civil war, which had raged in China for several years, ended in 1949 with the creation of two states: The People's Republic of China (Communist Mainland China) and the Republic of China (ROC). The latter was located on the Island of Taiwan (named Formosa under Japanese rule 1895–1945) which was handed over to General Chiang Kai-shek who became president of the ROC in 1950. His country was represented in the UN Security Council until 1971 when Communist China was recognized and became a permanent member of the Security Council.

The Philippines gained sovereignty from Spain in 1946.

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen

² Author's Note: The term 'Asia' is used to refer to Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Philippines and Taiwan; and the term Southeast Asia is used to refer to Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In the aftermath of World War II, Korea was partitioned along the 38th parallel, with North Korea under Soviet control and South Korea under US occupation. North Korea became a Soviet style socialist republic, called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; South Korea became a western-style regime, called the Republic of Korea. In 1950, the Korean War broke out when North Korea invaded South Korea. An armistice, not a peace treaty, was signed in 1953 so the Korean peninsula remained divided at the 38th parallel in 2019.

After its surrender in 1945, Japan was occupied by the Allied forces until 1952. It became a member of the UN in 1956.

The Cuban Missile Crisis ended this period, testing the power balance between USSR and USA, and leaving the world deadlocked with two spheres of interest.

(b) Zonta International extension

Making Zonta great by creating new clubs had been on the agenda since Zonta's inception. In 1922, Zonta created the Organization and Extension Committee which became a very important and prestigious committee. Several chairs of this committee served at the highest level of the organization:

- 1944–1948: Elizabeth Armstrong Judge, Zonta Club of Cleveland, Ohio (Zonta International President 1948–50)
- 1948–1949: Louise C. Grace, Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan (Zonta International President 1946–48)
- 1949–1950: Helen W. Cleveland, Zonta Club of Toronto, Canada (Zonta International President 1930–32)
- 1950–1954 and 1956–58: Dorothea Radusch, Zonta Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota. (In between these two biennia, she was Zonta International President 1954–56.)
- 1958–1962: J. Maria Pierce, Zonta Club of Pasadena, California (Zonta International President 1962–64)
- Other Organization and Extension Committee members in this biennium were Elizabeth Dozier, San Fernando Valley, California (Zonta International President 1950–52), Louise Crew, Zonta Club of Pasadena, California, and all twelve district governors.

The September 1951 issue of *The Zontian* published part of the report given at the 1950 Miami Beach convention:

Citing the advantages of the Marian de Forest Fund for Extension, Dr. Radusch said the biggest problem was not money but personnel who could use the funds to expand Zonta. While paying tributes to Zontians who had generously volunteered their time, she stressed the fact that neither clubs, districts nor individuals were expected to finance new clubs. The committee wishes to place organization work on a business basis in order to speed results. For today the most rapid organization work (and at the lowest cost in both time and money) has resulted from the work from those on salary. Many hours and energy are required when the work is done on a strictly volunteer basis. Often there is repetition in effort, and when delays occur before the actual chartering is affected, prospects are eliminated through changes in classification or loss of interest. The ideal organizer...is a Zontian who can arrange her work now and then to give a few weeks to organization. Good prospects are members who are "between jobs", those who are in seasonal businesses having some slack periods; past service members, and educators who have some free time in the summer months. Appealing to anyone who would be interested, she assured them that funds are

available; a member may work in her own locality or go to some other area that needs development.

Because of the rapid growth of Zonta Clubs “in the USA and in foreign lands”, Dorothea Radusch told the 1952 Convention body that the Organization and Extension Committee had prepared a Manual of Procedure, which was to be used by all new clubs.

(i) Number of Members

(*The Zontian*, September/October/November 1994, and de Langis pp. 65–66)

- 1949 07,200 members
- 1954 10,528 members
- 1956 12,000 members (approximately)
- 1959 14,227 members

(ii) Number of Clubs

- In 1950, at the start of the decade, Zonta International had 206 active clubs.
- During the decade, Zonta chartered 213 new clubs:
 - 183 located in North America
 - 1 located in South America
 - 15 located in the Nordic countries
 - 13 located in European countries
 - 1 club located in Asia.
- During the decade Zonta lost seven clubs, all located in USA.
- During the decade Zonta had a net gain of 206 clubs.
- In 1959, at the end of the decade, Zonta international had 412 active clubs.
- During 1960 – 1962 Zonta chartered 48 new clubs:
 - 36 located in North America
 - 1 located in South America
 - 5 located in the Nordic countries
 - 3 located in the European countries
 - 2 located in South East Asia
 - 1 located in Asia
- During 1960–1962, Zonta lost 10 clubs, all located in North America.
- During 1960–1962, Zonta had a net gain of 38 clubs.
- In 1962, at the end of the year, Zonta had 450 active clubs.

(iii) Districts and Revision of the District Plan

The Zonta International Board had the prerogative to establish districts. According to the revised Zonta International Bylaws 1954:

Zonta International Board shall have the power to create districts and to establish their boundaries. A proposed change in the boundaries of a district shall be subject to approval by a majority of clubs in each district affected....Districts shall be named in numerical order (Article XII, section 1).

Each Zonta club within the established boundaries of a district shall be a member of that district (Article XII, Section 2).

The officers of the district were to be:

- A governor – elected at the District conference
- A lieutenant governor – elected at the District conference

- A treasurer – elected at the District conference
- A secretary – appointed by the governor

The officers were to constitute the District Board; the secretary did not have a vote.

Each district was to hold a district conference in the fall of each year. The voting members of the district conference were the officers (except the secretary) and the delegates of each club: “Each club is entitled to at least one delegate. If the membership of any club exceeds fifty (50) the club shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof” (Article X, Section 6).

Revision of the District Plan

1951: Due to the increase in the number of clubs, a re-districting committee was appointed by the Zonta International Board to establish a new district. Chair A. Helen Anderson (Denver, Colorado) was assisted by Anna Bossak (Colorado Springs), Gladys Oller (Casper, Wyoming) and May Anderson (Pueblo, Colorado). The new district, effective from 1952, was designated District XII, affecting District VII and District VIII. (For more details, see *Zonta in North America*.)

June 1954: *The Zontian* published a list of twelve districts with 255 Clubs. (The magazine was published June 1954; the text says the numbers are as of 01 July 1954!)

District	No. of Clubs	District	No. of Clubs
District I	15	District V11	24
District II	19	District V111	26
District III	21	District IX	35
District IV	22	District X	13
District V	30	District XI	16
District VI	21	District XII	13

There is a difference of 13 between the number of clubs in the main list in the author’s records and the number given in *The Zontian* of June 1954. The main differences are in District I and District IX. Part of the difference is due to the different time of counting (01 June/ 31 December).

The remaining 30 Zonta clubs in 1954 are distributed as follows:

Country	No. of Clubs	Country	No. of Clubs
Chile	1	Hawaii ³	5
Denmark	2	Iceland	2
England	1	Norway	1
Finland	4	Philippines	1
France	1	Sweden	5
Germany	3	Switzerland	4

Until 1962, only clubs in North America were districted. The Nordic and the European clubs started their cooperation early by arranging Nordic and European Meetings. From 1947 through 1954, eight successive annual meetings were held in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Nordic meetings were also held in 1956, 1958 and 1960. The first European

³ Hawaii did not become a State of the USA until 21 August 1959.

meeting was held in Zürich, Switzerland, in 1955 with participants from clubs in the Nordic countries as well as from clubs in the remaining countries in Europe. The European meeting was repeated in 1957 and 1959. (For more details see *Zonta in Europe*.)

1958: The Nordic Council was adopted as a forerunner for a proper district.

1960: At a pre-convention meeting in Toronto with Zonta International President Audra E. Francis, a decision was taken to create two new districts in Europe, in accordance with her motto: "Zonta opens the door to world friendship through service" (Karin Saeger, *History of District 30*).

1961: Two meetings were held in Europe. The first was Nordic Meeting No. 12 in Oslo, Norway, attended by Zonta International President, Ellen Harris. On the agenda was the decision to create two new European districts. The second meeting was the European Meeting in Vienna, Austria, for clubs in countries outside of the Nordic countries which had a similar agenda: the creation of District XIII with 31 clubs and District XIV with 19.

1962: The Zonta International Board approved the creation of the two new districts in Europe and amended the Bylaws by this addition:

For a district organized outside of the United States and Canada the International Board, by a two-thirds vote of its membership, may adjust the requirements, including the bylaws and per capita dues, for such a district and its members providing the purpose and spirit of the Bylaws of Zonta International are maintained (Article XIII, Section 1 B).

Zonta was aware of differences in culture and ready to view diversity as a strength.

(c) Zonta's objects

Besides the increasing number of clubs, the early 1950s saw several important changes in Zonta, among them a complete revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, the first for more than a decade. The revision adopted at the international convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA in 1954 was prepared by Edwina B. Hogadone, Zonta International President 1952–54, assisted by Sarah Corbin Robert, a well-known parliamentarian.

Compared to the 1944 edition of the Bylaws, there were few changes in the Objects. The changes were in points C and D where the wording was made clearer. Point C was also made more realistic by changing "in all commercial centers of the world" to "throughout the world".

Objects

(Bylaws 1954, Article II)

- A. To encourage high ethical standards in business and the professions
- B. To improve the legal, political, economic and professional status of women
- C. To promote and supervise the organization of Zonta clubs throughout the world
- D. To increase the service and value of Zonta clubs to their respective members and communities
- E. To foster the spirit of fellowship among Zontians and the Zonta clubs
- F. To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executive women in business and professions, united in the Zonta ideal of service.

Policy

“Zonta International, its Districts and Clubs shall be non-partisan and non-sectarian. This organization, its Districts and Clubs may express themselves upon principles and public questions having a bearing on the objects of Zonta International” (Bylaws 1954, Article III).

The Standard Constitution for Clubs 1954 repeated the objects from 1944 with the following addition (Object F of the 1954 Zonta International Bylaws): “To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executive women in business and the professions, united in the Zonta Ideal of service” (Standard Constitution for Zonta Clubs Article II, Objects).

The objects remained unchanged until 1990.

(d) The organization

(i) International Conventions

The highest authority of the organization was the International Convention which was held annually until an amendment in 1952 made conventions biennial. The first biennial convention was in 1954. According to the 1954 Bylaws, the International Convention was for: “determining the policies of Zonta International, of receiving reports of officers and committees, of electing officers, and for any other business that may arise” (Article VIII, Section 1).

Voting members of the International Convention were the officers of Zonta International (except the Executive Secretary), the governor of each district, and the delegates of each club in good standing.

Each club was entitled to one delegate and “if the membership exceeds 50 members, the club shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional fifty members or major fraction thereof” (Article VIII, Section 6).

The realities of the Cold War are mirrored in the following:

In the event that extreme emergency prevents the holding of a convention or conference, the International Board shall have the power to transact such business of Zonta International as may be necessary or expedient and to submit to each club for a vote by mail any questions that may require action by the clubs (Bylaws 1954, Article VIII, Section 12).

(ii) International Leadership

The annual convention elected the leadership composed of:

- Zonta International President
- Two Vice-Presidents
- The Treasurer

These officers plus the district governors, elected at the annual district conferences, constituted the Board:

District officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for two years and until their successors shall be elected and qualified. This shall apply to all district officers elected for their first term in 1950 and thereafter....District officers shall take office immediately after the conference at which they are elected (Bylaws 1950, Article V, Section 4).

An amendment to the Zonta International Bylaws from 1954 prescribed that: “the district officers shall be elected at the fall district conference and shall take office at the close of the conference that elects them. They shall hold office for two years” (Bylaws 1954, Article XII, Section 3).

Effective from 1949, the District Chairmen were named District Governors. The designation vice-governor was substituted by lieutenant governor. Effective from 1950, the term of office for Zonta International Officers and Committee Chairs was two years.

The title Executive Secretary was changed to Executive Director in 1957.

It is strange that the 1954 edition of the Constitution and Bylaws does not mention the President of a National Unit who, according to earlier constitutions, should be *ex officio* a member of the Board of Directors without vote, except upon matters affecting the clubs within her unit. Neither is the National Unit’s constitution mentioned.

(iii) Zonta International Committees

The Committees shall be of at least three members and shall be appointed by the president. The standing committees listed in this article shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the International Board. The president shall name the chair from among those approved by the board (Bylaws 1954, Article XI, Section 2).

The standing committees listed are as follows:

- Committee on Classification
- Committee on Constitution and Bylaws
- Convention Committee
- Finance Committee
- Committee on International Relations
- Legal Advisory Committee
- Committee on Organization and Extension
- Committee on Public Affairs and the Status of Women
- Committee on Public Relations
- Resolutions Committee (at least five members)
- Service Committee.

Other committees might be authorized (Bylaws 1954, Article XI, Section 1).

1952: Zonta International President Edwina B. Hogadone was the first Zonta International President to turn her attention to the need for building membership in existing clubs. To this end, she appointed a Membership Committee which has continued to the present 2018–2020 biennium (de Langis, p. 93).

(iv) Organizing New Clubs

The role of the Zonta International Organization and Extension Committee was to promote the organization of new clubs:

The Organization and Extension Committee shall consist of one member from each district. The Executive Secretary shall be *ex officio* a member. This committee shall promote and provide for the organization of new clubs and shall cooperate with the International President and the district governors in such organization. All expenditures for the work of this committee shall be paid from the Marian de Forest Organization

Fund for Extension. For the establishment of a club or clubs outside of North America, the chair of the committee may appoint a subcommittee to take charge of the organization (Bylaws 1954, Article XI, Section 9).

The rules from 1919 and 1921 for organizing clubs were still effective in 1954 with a few changes of the wording and one addition:

One Zonta Club only may be organized in a city whose population by the last census is one million or less. The International Board shall have power to divide a city whose population by the last census is in excess of one million into two or more areas for organization with a club in each area, and to approve the boundaries of these areas, provided that:

- a) the division as recommended is approved by the existing club or clubs within the city; and
- b) after the new boundaries have been approved by the International Board, each club, with the approval of the other club or clubs, shall be permitted to choose a member from a business or profession located within the boundaries of the other club or clubs.

One Zonta club may be organized in two or more adjacent communities not individually of sufficient population to support separate Zonta Clubs, in the same manner as required by Section 2, provided that after investigation the chair of the Organization and Extension Committee shall have approved the organization of such a club. A club organized in two or more communities shall conform to all requirements of classification and residence as if it were located in a single community, except that each community shall be permitted to fill its classifications as if it were a separate club (Bylaws 1954, Article IV, Sections 7 and 8).

The intention of Article IV Section 7 was to allow more Zonta clubs to be organized and to protect existing Zonta clubs. From files in District 13 archives, we know that this provision precluded the organization of a second club in Copenhagen for many years. It has not been possible to find out if this was a single episode or was experienced in other districts as well.

Section 8 successfully helped the growth of Zonta, as many clubs with the word Area in the name were organized in two or more adjacent communities.

Membership of a new club was required to be at least 15 women (Bylaws 1954 and 1962, Article 4, Section 3).

(v) Membership, Rules for Election of Members, Duration of Membership

Besides the Constitution and Bylaws, the Classification Guide was revised. The archives of Zonta International hold the revised edition of The Official Classification Guide to Zonta 1954 with clarifications from 1956. This guide comprises and explains all existing rules:

the Classification Guide should be strictly adhered to and no exception made in any case (Introduction p. VI).

It is not the purpose of Zonta to get as large a membership as possible but to have recognized businesses and professions of the highest type represented in Zonta by women of the finest caliber who are the most truly representative of those businesses and professions (Introduction p VII).

As this wording might have been misunderstood, it was changed in a General Information Sheet (1956) to: "It is the purpose of Zonta to secure as large a membership as possible

composed of women of the finest caliber representing recognized businesses and professions” (General Information Sheet, point II).

Zontians also needed a clear definition of the term: an Executive Position. The Classification Guide gave the answer:

What constitutes an executive is subject to debate, but in general Zonta has adopted the simple rule that it is a person who formulates, determinates or influences the administrative policies of a business. Typical executive positions represented in Zonta are owner, co-owner, an officer of a company, director, or department head (Introduction p. VII).

Compared to the 1939 Constitution and Bylaws, there are no changes in the types of membership or in the definitions of the membership types which are:

- Active Membership
- Past Service Membership
- Honorary Membership
- Past International President (since 1939, the Constitution had no longer provided for Associate or Non-resident Membership).

Rules for election of members

The rules for election of members show that Zonta International wanted to oversee the membership of the clubs. The Official Classification Guide 1954 gave a detailed description of the process of electing members for the clubs:

1. During the organization of a club and for a period of two years after the club is chartered, all proposals for individual membership shall be subject to review and check as to qualifications at International Headquarters in accordance with the procedures established by the Board. It may deny membership to one who has been proposed for membership if, in its judgement, the best interests of Zonta International require such action. The decision of the Board shall be final. No local Membership-Classification Committee, organizer or club shall take action upon one proposed for membership unless authorized to do so by International Headquarters.
2. Following the expiration of the two-year period, proposals for membership shall be cleared by local clubs, but immediate notification of acceptance to membership shall be forwarded to International Headquarters and the district governor as required by the International Board (Introduction p IX).

Procedure in the clubs

The procedures in the clubs are almost the same as described in the 1929 Standard Bylaws for clubs:

- Section 1. Proposals for membership shall be presented to the (Club) Membership Classification Committee upon approved Prospective Membership Cards, signed by two members who are acquainted with the one proposed, and accompanied by a statement by them that they personally endorse the one proposed and consider her desirable.
- Section 2. The membership committee shall investigate and pass upon all proposals for membership, after which they are submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors shall vote upon each name submitted, two valid objections excluding from membership and further consideration for the period of one year (Introduction p IX).

- After the approval by the Club Board of Directors, the name of a proposed member should be submitted to the entire membership and ten days allowed for the filing of objections with the board. Valid objections filed by two members prevented the granting of a membership.
- Valid objections were grouped into 3 categories:
 - Classification. It is possible that some members may possess knowledge not brought to light by the investigation of the Classification Committee or the Club Board, which would show that the proposed member fails to measure up to classification requirements. Such an objection would be valid if sustained by further investigation.
 - Good Business reputation. It is quite possible that some member might be advised of questionable financial standing as to make the one proposed an undesirable representative of her business or profession.
 - Good Character. It would be proper, if well founded, to attack the honesty, the fairness or moral uprightness of the one proposed. It would seem self-evident that personal prejudice or individual dislike cannot constitute a valid objection. If such objections could control, it would surely not be in keeping with Zonta's high ideals of fair and square dealing. A valid objection would be one susceptible of proof and should not be entertained by the Board unless its reasonableness and soundness can be sustained by proper investigation and inquiry.

Preponderance Regulation

Sometimes it was necessary to adjust Zonta's strict rules to be able to recruit members in areas dominated by big companies, institutions, etc.

The Official Classification Guide mentions that if one fifth of the population in a club's area is employed in one major field, an executive woman from each unit or from each company may be admitted to membership under the Preponderance Regulation, provided positions of executives are not duplicated:

Preponderance shall be defined as:

1. A Company, Organization, Institution or Government having subsidiaries or divisions operated as separate classification units, and whose total employees comprise one fifth of the population.
2. An industry consisting of several companies, whose total employees comprise one fifth of the population.

The Guide also mentions: "Permission shall be granted for each individual member, after filing the required statistics at the International Headquarters" (Introduction p. XI, 1962 Standard Bylaws for Zonta clubs). (See Chapter 4 – 1962–1975.)

Duration of Membership

The rules were the same as prescribed in the 1939 Constitution and Bylaws. The main rule was that active membership endured for life, however, was terminated if a member abandoned the business or profession through which she secured her classification for membership. (See Chapter 2 – 1919–1949.)

(vi) Dues and Fees

1954: the charter fee for a new club was US\$5.00, the same as in 1947.

Dues were different: one rate for clubs in or attached to a district; another rate for non-districted clubs.

For clubs in or attached to a district, the semi-annual per capita dues were US\$3.50 including a subscription to *The Zontian* (US\$0.50 more than in 1947) plus US\$1.00 per capita annually to the Marian de Forest Extension Fund.

Outside of North America, the non-districted clubs paid club tax, not per capita tax:

The annual dues of a club not located in or attached to a district shall be three dollars, payable to Zonta International in advance between 01 June and 15 June of each year. These dues shall include two subscriptions to *The Zontian*, one of which shall be sent to the president and the other to the secretary of each club (Bylaws 1954, Article XIII, Section 5).

In urgent cases, the Zonta International Board might submit to each club in or attached to a district the question of an emergency per capita assessment, which should not exceed US\$2.00 per capita. An affirmative vote of a majority of clubs within 45 days was necessary to approve such assessment.

1960: The Charter Fee for a new club was raised to US\$10.00.

Semi-annual per capita dues for clubs in or attached to a district in North America plus the annual fee to the Marian de Forest Extension Fund remained the same as in 1954.

For clubs not located in or attached to a district:

the annual club dues shall be a minimum of three dollars, payable to Zonta International between 01 June and 15 June each year. Per capita dues are not required but may be voluntarily established by any club not located in or attached to a district to replace the annual dues, or voluntary increases of annual dues may be made by the club (Bylaws 1960, Article XIV).

The urgency provision from 1954 is repeated (Dues and Fees 1962). (See Chapter 4 – 1962–75.)

(vii) District Dues

Bylaws 1954, Article XII, Section 11 mentioned only that the district treasurer was required to receive district dues, not the amount. It stayed this way through to 1962.

(viii) Headquarters

Zonta headquarters had been in Chicago since 1928. From 1932 it was in the Buckingham Building, 59 East van Buren.

Harriet Richards, who was appointed Executive Secretary in 1924, retired in 1950. Her successor was Ellen Fireoved, who held office until 1957. In that year the title of Executive Secretary was changed to Executive Director (non-voting member of the Zonta International board) and Lucille Crawford replaced Ellen. Lucille stayed till 1961, when Pauline Fyler was appointed Executive Director.

(e) Programs, service and advocacy projects

(de Langis, editions of *The Zontian* in District 13 archives)

1950: Zonta International President Elizabeth Dozier launched “Pioneers for Women in Diplomacy”, an informal service program to encourage young women to study for political

positions, public office and diplomatic service. She made the first goodwill tour to the European Zonta clubs. Upon her return she initiated plans for the Friendship Project instituted during the next biennium.

1952: The convention adopted a second international service project, the "Friendship Project". Matching Zonta clubs with sister clubs in other districts or regions, the program goal was to strengthen cultural and professional exchange among Zonta's international membership. "Many little friendships make for international peace" explained a Hamburg Zontian. The program helped to heal the fragmented, post-war world, and it was instrumental in closing the gap between distant clubs.

1954: A third international project was developed in cooperation with the Status of Women Committee to encourage the training of young girls and women for higher-level positions in business and the professions.

1956: When Soviet troops marched into Hungary in October, leading to mass arrests and mass expulsions, Zonta established the "Zonta Fund for Hungarian Patriots" to provide food, shelter and English classes for immigrant refugees.

Clubs were asked to study the status of older and retired women.

1960: To observe UN International Year of the Refugee (1959), the Nordic clubs recommended and Zonta International Board adopted the Displaced Persons in Wuppertal and the Anne Frank Village in Wuppertal Project as a Zonta International service project for 1960–62.

1961: PIP Emma L. Conlon (1956–58) established and funded the Emma L. Conlon Z Club Service Awards to encourage and recognize promising young people.

1962: Zonta cooperated closely with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and defined equality as a basic human right:

We believe human dignity to be a universal necessity, and that human rights belong to everyone regardless of sex. Therefore, be it resolved that Zonta gives special attention to the improvement of the economic status of women; furthering the advancement of women everywhere.

To implement the resolution, Zonta International instituted support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees in 1962. Zonta founded the Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan, the only one of 10 UNRWA schools that provided vocational training for women. Zonta International donated 573 scholarships for women. The program existed for 14 years (1962–76).

1962: Zonta International President Ellen Harris proposed honoring London Zontian Eva Mowbray by naming a voluntary-contribution Hostess Fund for her. The fund served to fulfill in part the Zonta object "to foster the spirit of good fellowship among Zontians and Zonta Clubs".

(f) Summing up 1949–1962

1949, Zonta International had 206 active clubs. There were clubs in the five Nordic countries, in England, Switzerland, West Germany and one club in Chile, South America, established in 1948. However, most clubs were in North America.

By 1962, the number of active clubs outside North America had increased to 450 and Zonta was now represented in 19 countries in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Southeast Asia.

The clubs chartered in Asia were: 1952 the Philippines, 1960 India and Pakistan, 1961/62 Japan, 1963/64 Taiwan ROC, 1966 South Korea, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. Clubs were also chartered in Iran in 1963 and in Latin America (1957 Guatemala and 1961 Mexico).

The period 1949 through 1962 was characterized by a booming economy, development of infrastructure and an adaption of the world economy to the Cold War. In the decade 1950–59, 183 new Zonta clubs were chartered and by the end of 1962, Zonta was represented in 50 states in the USA.

The number of districts increased by one US and two overseas districts, bringing the number to 14. Zonta leadership was not amended but the governors of the new districts became members of the Zonta International Board. The International Relations Committee helped clubs broaden their international understanding through the Friendship Project.

A total revision of Constitution and Bylaws took place in 1954 and, in the same year, an Official Classification Guide was published, showing that Zonta still wanted to be an elite organization with an active membership of business and professional leaders. Retired members could not exceed 20 per cent of the club membership, and they could not represent the club nor be club officers.

As was the case earlier, working with young women was on the agenda. More Z-clubs were founded and in 1961, Zonta International President 1956–58, Emma L. Conlon, established and funded the Emma L. Conlon Z Club Service Awards to encourage and recognize promising young people.

Zonta cooperated closely with the UN Commission on the Status of Women, focusing on women's rights. In 1962, Zonta adopted the Ramallah Service Project with UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees) and founded the Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan, the only one of 10 UNRWA schools that provided vocational training for women.

Celebrating Zonta's 40th anniversary, Zonta International President, Audra E. Francis, led a delegation of 50 United States' Zontians to the European Conference in Copenhagen in 1959.