



Chapter 14

District 10 – North America.¹

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 10. As of 2018, District 10 had 19 clubs in four states in the United States

Five District 10 club histories have been found:

- Zonta Club of Dallas (club number 0032, chartered in 1924)
- Zonta Club of West Hidalgo County (club number 0188, chartered in 1947)
- Zonta Club of Fort Smith (club number 0585, chartered in 1967)
- Zonta Club of Houston II (club number 0985, chartered in 1981)²
- Zonta Club of Oklahoma (club number 1105, chartered in 2014)

As the oldest club in the district, the Zonta Club of Dallas has been selected to represent the district and its activities.

Zonta Club of Dallas

Club number 0032, the Zonta Club of Dallas, is the oldest club in District 10.³ The Club was organized in May 1924, with 22 members, and was the first classified service club for executive and professional women in Dallas.

In 1934, the club started a Zonta Service Award presented to a Dallas woman who had made a distinctly constructive contribution to the community life of Dallas through volunteer service, or who had significantly advanced the cause of women. This award was made annually for 50

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen.

² The club advised Eva Nielsen: "We regret that we do not have any detailed information on the original Houston Club that was founded in 1937. As far as we know, all the women who had been members are deceased and did not leave us any records"

³ *Our 97-year Zonta Club of Dallas History* (Editor's note: The history was published on the club's 92nd anniversary in 2016. Zonta International marked its 97th anniversary that year.

years. The presentation received recognition by the press – an outcome which has since become more difficult to obtain for service work.

In the 1930s, Sara T. Hughes, a member of the club, was named a judge on the 14th District Court, and later became the first woman to be named a United States federal judge. In that position, she administered the oath of office to Lyndon B. Johnson after President Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

Service during this period was directed to children and young people. As war clouds gathered, Zontians worked with the Red Cross, war bond drives, victory gardens and victory book drives. Zontians were very active in protesting discrimination against women in the armed forces, and protested discrimination by the Dallas School Board against married women as teachers in Dallas Public Schools.

Post-war planning, international relations and legislation to benefit veterans were important topics to the club in the 1940s. Education scholarships at Southern Methodist University were provided. Concern for the less fortunate encouraged the club to establish the Zonta Community House in West Dallas. Activities included prenatal and well-baby clinics conducted by the Dallas County Medical Society, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, home training and guidance for girls and women, legal aid and accounting advice for adults.

In the early 1950s, eight of the members were doctors, several were lawyers, and about half of the club members were the first women in their profession or field. Mildred McCool joined the club in 1947 and served as president from 1951 to 1952. In 1953, Dr Ruth Guy, president from 1961 to 1962, was one of the people who started the science of blood banking. Dr Guy taught at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and her former students have gone all over the world to establish blood banks. Texas utilities engineer, Ruth Maddox, joined the Dallas club in 1952 and recalls the many ways in which the efforts of the club changed Dallas. Her professional work designing commercial lighting gave Dallas thousands of illuminated buildings.

In the 1950s, the club raised money to pay the annual salary of a teacher working with children with emotional and behavioral challenges at Children's Development Center. They gave a scholarship to a student at the Center and paid for the treatment for a young boy, which paved the way for his adoption. Elderly at Woodlawn Hospital benefited from the redecoration and refurbishment of a recreation room, and new furnishings in the occupational therapy room. The club also provided newspaper subscriptions to Woodlawn.

As the new Children's Medical Center was built, Zontians urged that an extra floor be added to care for children needing psychiatric help, and voted to pay for a part of that floor. The Zonta Club of Dallas provided help for this hospital for more than 10 years. They furnished the family living room of the psychiatric floor, paid for the building and furnishing the Chapel Complex, installing a therapeutic playground, and redecorating the psychiatric section.

The Zonta Club of Dallas provided the initial USD\$1,000 to establish "The Family Place," the first shelter in Dallas for women and children who had experienced abuse.

A Zonta Greenspot was adopted as a gift to the city in 1976 to mark the bicentenary of the establishment of the United States. Cooperating with the Dallas Parks Department, a triangular parking lot in downtown Dallas at the intersection of Young, Marilla, and Akard Streets was chosen for landscaping and beautification for the enjoyment of visitors and citizens. USD\$20,000 was provided for this project from 1965 to 1971.

As director of the Dallas Public Libraries in 1986, member Lillian Bradshaw was the first woman to head a department of the City of Dallas. Under her leadership, the new downtown library and a network of branches were built.

In the 1960s, several laws were passed improving the status of women. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination against women. The flood gates had been opened for women. The number of women in business and executive positions grew rapidly. So, therefore, did the Zonta club. With membership well over 100 members in 1973, a second Zonta club was organized: the Zonta Club of Dallas 2.

The club honored Annette Strauss in 1968 long before she became mayor of the City of Dallas. In the early 1970s, member Anita Martinez was the first woman to serve on the Dallas City Council. In 1973 the club gave a scholarship to a woman law student in honor of Sarah T. Hughes. This was continued for 25 years.

The United Nations International Women's year in 1975 was supported through activities which highlighted women's concerns, such as hunger and peace. Margaret Brand Smith, a member of the club and also an attorney and insurance executive, served on the Dallas Commission on the Status of Women.

Existing service projects continued: Children's Medical Center, the Zonta Greenspot, the Service Award, and the Sarah T. Hughes Scholarships. New projects included the occupational therapy unit at Presbyterian Hospital, purchase of a special scale for the Neurology Department at Scottish Rite Hospital, refurbishing the family room at Children's Medical Center, and funding for a storeroom for the Thelma Boston Home for foster children with disabilities. Time and money were also contributed to an organization supporting Myasthenia gravis.

Two library projects included the Dallas Public Library and furnishing books and money to the Groesbeck Library honoring former member Dr. Minnie Maffet. Dental care was provided to the Dallas County Detention Home for Children and internationally, three water wells were funded in Sri Lanka in honor of members: two past district governors, Pat Gordon and Bess Judd, a 50-year Zontian, and Edna Willingham, a 48-year member.

From 1924 until 1986, the club met twice a month: a program meeting and a business meeting. Since they did not take place at the same time, meetings usually adjourned in an hour. The club's history records that there were two or three parties each year at fabulous homes⁴.

From a small club of 22 members in 1924, the Zonta Club of Dallas counted 117 members in 1982. The Zonta Club of Dallas North was organized in 1988, and the Zonta Club of Dallas III

⁴ *Our 92-year Zonta Club of Dallas History*, p 4

was organized in 1989. Starting in 1988, consecutive Bess Judd Awards have been presented to members who represent the “Spirit of Zonta” through their service.

The club supported the Achievement Center of Texas from 1986 through 2001. The Center provides day care, educational assistance and community inclusion for children and young adults with special needs. The help of the Zonta Club of Dallas has enabled them to acquire needed special equipment for the students.

From 1986 through 2001, the Zonta Club of Dallas provided monetary assistance for the Open-Door Multi-Lingual Preschool, a program to prepare children from non-English speaking families for public school. They gave money annually for special needs and USD\$15,000 to complete a matching gift to secure a bus. In addition, members provided parties, Easter baskets, and birthday books to encourage literacy. Member Anne Snodgrass, CPA, has served many years on the school’s Board of Directors.

Other projects in the 1990s were the Senior Companions Program of the “Seniors helping Seniors” project of the Greater Dallas Senior Center, Happy House, an East Dallas Senior Center and Promise House, a shelter for runaway teens. In 1998 and 1999, new projects included Attitudes and Attire, a program to help women moving from welfare to work to have business clothes and training in interview skills; HOPE (Honoring of Peoples Everywhere), a cultural diversity program for 6th graders; Dallas Challenge, a program to help young girls who have been in the judicial system; and ELM (English Language Ministry), a program to help adults learn English.

In 2001, the club received a grant from Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) for the Bullyproof program. Member Kaleta Doolin had an idea for a program that targets seven to 12-year-olds and is designed to teach them how to understand and cope with bullies, abuse, violence, and the myriad emotions that accompany these social and psychological problems. The club collaborated on the proposal with The Family Place, a local nonprofit that empowers victims of family violence by providing safe housing, counseling and life skills. Zonta International chose the Bullyproof proposal as one of four recipients for a USD\$15,969 grant that year. The first year the program was taught in fifteen schools during six weekly sessions. It was later expanded to include 40 schools across the Dallas Independent School District. The Family Place continues to offer the Bullyproof program, now called the Be Project, as part of their services.

The club introduced the Young Women in STEM Award in 2011. Patterned after Zonta International’s Young Women in Public Affairs Award, the club’s award recognizes a young woman aged 16 to 19 who has excelled in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics curricula and has woven those skills into community service and volunteerism. In 2013 the award was renamed the Ruth P. Maddox Young Woman in STEM in tribute to deceased member Ruth P. Maddox.

Through 92 years of service to the Dallas community, the club has singled out worthwhile newer organizations which had not a sufficient track record to secure mainstream funding from sources such as United Way of Metropolitan Dallas or other major funding sources to help them succeed. After these programs got on their feet, the club moved on to other worthy, newly

established organizations. Change was brought about when it was time, and help was offered to many in need.

Zonta Country Flags⁵

The Zonta Club of West Hidalgo County owns a complete collection of Zonta country flags. The collection dates to 1957. Flags are added when new countries become Zonta countries. District 10 has a flag parade at each District Convention.

District 10 members on the Zonta International Board and Committees⁶

- Dr. Mary Good was Amelia Earhart Chair for many years in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Darlene Kurtz, Zonta Club of Johnson county Texas, served as international treasurer during Beryl Sten's term as international president.
- Angela Smith (Austin), Sally Rankin (Houston) and Sharron Miles (Johnson County) served on the International Nominating Committee.
- Judy Kautz (Oklahoma City) served a term as director on the International Board.
- Janis Wood (Oklahoma City) served on an international committee.
- Marilyn Ward was chair of the 1990 Zonta International Convention in Dallas, Texas.
- Darlene Kurtz was chair of the 2010 Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

District 10 Z and Golden Z Clubs⁷

The Sara Metcalf Scholarship Award is given in honor of a former Zontian from the Zonta Club of Shreveport in Louisiana. Sara Metcalf was a member of Zonta for many years. Having served as local, district and international Z Club Committee chairman, she was instrumental in the formation and guidance of the Z Club and Golden Z Club programs. She died in 1992 and Zontians in District 10 developed this scholarship award in her honor in 1994, with the first USD\$500.00 award being presented in 1996.

The Sara Metcalf Scholarship Award Program was established to encourage Z Club and Golden Z Club members to enter careers or seek leadership positions in social policy making, government and volunteer organizations. This scholarship is designed to encourage all to participate in school, community, national and international serve projects. Additionally, the Program provides a public relations opportunity at the club and district levels to project the goals of Zonta International. As local communities follow the applicants to the district level, they are able to learn about the dimensions of Zonta International and its global efforts to improve the status of women worldwide.

As of July 2019, Zonta District 10 has 21 Z Clubs and three Golden Z Clubs.

Timeline of district history highlights.

1920: Five months after the Confederation of Zonta Clubs was formed, three Districts were established:

- The Northern District
- The Southern District
- The Western District

⁵ Research by Carolyn Phillips.

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⁷ Research by Carolyn Phillips.

1924: The Confederation had 31 clubs with 1,520 members. The Zonta Club of Dallas belonged to the Southern District.

The district plan was revised. The original three districts became five, designated as A, B, C, D and E⁸. District E's territory expanded to all the clubs west of the Mississippi River.

1928: The two clubs from Texas belonged to District E.

1929: The District Plan was revised, and the district designations changed to Roman numerals.

1930: The two clubs from Texas belonged to District VII.

1936: The three clubs from Texas belonged to District II Region B.

1946: Clubs from Texas and Louisiana belonged to District V.

1947: As part of a major redistricting, District X was established for clubs located in:

- Arkansas (the first club was chartered in 1967)
- Louisiana
- New Mexico (1949–2008)
- Oklahoma (the first club was chartered in 1954)
- Texas.

There were seven clubs.

1952: 11 clubs in Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.

1957: 20 clubs in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The Zonta International Directory in 1957 lists club 402, the Zonta Club of Guatemala City, as hosted by District X. In the following years, the Zonta Club of Guatemala City is listed with the non-districted clubs.

1963: 25 clubs.

1967: 29 clubs.

1974: 29 clubs. The Zonta International Directory reported no areas.

1978: 30 clubs in three areas, designated as Areas 01, 02 and 03.

1981: 33 clubs in three areas. Area 01 had 14 clubs, Area 02 seven clubs and Area 03 12 clubs.

1990: The Zonta International Board changed the designation from Roman numerals into Arabic numerals. District X became District 10.

32 clubs and 1,385 members.⁹

⁸ Marjorie Wilson, *Zonta International: History of District V*, 1990.

1993: 33 clubs in four Areas.

2002: 28 clubs in four Areas.

2004: 27 clubs in three Areas.

Mexico joined District 10, Area 03, in this biennium.¹⁰ The three Mexican clubs disbanded in 2005, 2008 and 2009 respectively.

2008: 26 clubs in three areas.

The last club in New Mexico disbanded. No clubs were chartered after 1959.

2015: Zonta e-Club of USA 2 was assigned to District 10.

2016: 20 clubs, including the Zonta e-Club of USA 2. Clubs were located in four states, grouped in three areas:

- Arkansas clubs were in Area 01 (no clubs were chartered after 1967)
- Louisiana clubs were in Area 02 (no clubs were chartered after 1978)
- Oklahoma clubs were in Area 01 (no clubs were chartered after 1986)
- Texas clubs were in Areas 01, 02 and 03 (no clubs were chartered after 2007).

2018: 596 members.¹¹

History of formation of District 10 clubs.

Mexico*

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1978	0853	Zonta Club Mexico City II		2009
2002	1725	Zonta Club of Mexico Bosques		2005
2004	1762	Zonta Club of Malinalco		2008

* Clubs from Mexico in 2004–2009 belonged to District 10.

United States

Arkansas

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1962		Zonta Club of Little Rock		1974
1967	0585	Zonta Club of Fort Smith	01	
1967		Zonta Club of Pine Bluff		1971

⁹ *The Zontian* 1990–1992 Program Issue

¹⁰ See comments under District 19 and District 22

¹¹ Online Zonta International Directory

Louisiana

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1941	0175	Zonta Club of Shreveport	02	
1959	0446	Zonta Club of New Orleans		2016
1960		Zonta Club of Bossier Parish		1962
1963	0504	Zonta Club of Baton Rouge		2006
1978	0858	Zonta Club of Lafayette	02	

New Mexico

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1949	0225	Zonta Club of Albuquerque		2008
1959	0442	Zonta Club of Santa Fe		2008

Oklahoma

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1954	0330	Zonta Club of Oklahoma City		1996
1963	0506	Zonta Club of Tulsa		1981
1985	1105	Zonta Club of Central Oklahoma	01	
1986	1156	Zonta Club of Cleveland County Area		1995

Texas

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1924	0032	Zonta Club of Dallas	01	
1927	0115	Zonta Club of Fort Worth	01	
1934	0126	Zonta Club of San Antonio		2018
1937	0153	Zonta Club of Houston****		1988
1939		Zonta Club of El Paso		1941
1947	0188	Zonta Club of West Hidalgo County	03	
1947	0196	Zonta Club of Amarillo		1994
1949	0220	Zonta Club of Corpus Christi (Coastal Bend)		2010
1949	0228	Zonta Club of Harlingen		2015
1951	0258	Zonta Club of Austin	03	
1954	0324	Zonta Club of Willacy County		1984
1954	0331	Zonta Club of Fredericksburg	03	
1955	0340	Zonta Club of Longview	02	
1955	0352	Zonta Club of Mineral Wells	01	
1956	0366	Zonta Club of Stephenville	01	
1956	0375	Zonta Club of Kings Vile		1982
1957		Zonta Club of East Hidalgo County		1970
1959	0451	Zonta Club of Brownsville	03	
1963	0520	Zonta Club of Lubbock		1982
1966	0559	Zonta Club of Tyler		2002
1972	0699	Zonta Club of Dallas II		2000

1973	0733	Zonta Club of Seguin	03	
1974	0740	Zonta Club of San Marcos		1980
1977	0815	Zonta Club of Arlington		2008
1980	0933	Zonta Club of Kerrville* ¹²		1981
1981	0978	Zonta Club of Beaumont		1983
1981	0985	Zonta Club of Houston II****		1988
1981	0990	Zonta Club of Johnson County**	01	
1988	1211	Zonta Club of Dallas North		1997
1988	1220	Zonta Club of Houston****	02	
1989	1239	Zonta Club of Dallas III		2003
1992	1376	Zonta Club of Harlingen II		2005
2000	1662	Zonta Club of New Braunfels		2004
2002	1709	Zonta Club of Parker County	01	
2003	1737	Zonta Club of Granbury		2011
2005	1796	Zonta Club of DFW ***		2012
2007	1835	Zonta Club of Greater East Texas	02	

* Club not listed in Zonta International Directory from 1981 or later

** Previously called Zonta Club of Cleburne

*** Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex

**** Zonta Club of Houston (no. 153) and Zonta Club of Houston II (no. 985) merged to form club no. 1220.

e-Clubs

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
2015	1934	Zonta e-Club of USA2	02	