



## Chapter 27

### District 13 – Europe (1986–2019)<sup>1</sup>

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 13. As of 2020, District 13 has clubs in Denmark, Iceland, Lithuania and Norway.

District 13 was created in 1886 as one of the successors to District XIII, the Nordic District.

The new District 13 was tiny, with eight Danish, nine Norwegian and four Icelandic clubs. Clubs feared the economy of the new district; distances were long, transportation very expensive and there were few members to share the costs. Even if the district did not start from scratch, many things had to be reorganized. The paramount issue was to organize new clubs and to get new members. Each of the areas in the new district did their utmost to fulfill this task and each biennium saw new clubs added to the district with the result that 21 new clubs were chartered: 13 in Denmark, two in Iceland and six in Norway during the seven biennia from 1986 to 2000, and one more was well on its way. In addition, the district took Zonta into a new country, Lithuania, and three clubs were organized there before the turn of the century.

Each biennium had a District 13 Conference. The venue rotated through the three national Areas: Norway, Denmark and Iceland. It was expected that Lithuania would be a conference venue after 1994 but that did not happen. The number of participants was approximately one hundred and sometimes more. In 1987, the district adopted Supplementary Rules for District 13 as well as conference and election rules. As far as possible, the language of the district would be Scandinavian (Danish, Norwegian or Swedish spoken slowly and pronounced distinctly) and motions would be in Scandinavian as well as in English. In 2015, the delegates at the District Conference adopted District 13 Bylaws. Again, there was a debate about language and again, the result was as in 2011 – the language of District 13 would be English and Scandinavian and motions would be in both Scandinavian and English.

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<sup>1</sup> Research compiled by Eva Nielsen. Contributors include Dorte Olesen.

Cooperation with the United Nations was taken for granted, partly because Zonta had advocated for the UN and the UN Commission on Women since 1945, and partly because of the work of Past International President Helvi Sipilä. Zontians in Copenhagen advocated strongly for UNIFEM. Past International President Helvi Sipilä had addressed Karen-Margrethe Ahlmann-Ohlsen in 1980 asking her to help establish a support group for UNIFEM. Birte Roll Brandt of the Zonta Club of Copenhagen I, later Copenhagen II, became the prime mover in starting this group. It was called FNUK (FNs Udviklingsfond for Kvinder, or UN Development Fund for Women), and it officially began in 1982 with Birte Roll Brandt as president for the following eight years.

District 13 grew to be strong, particularly from the mid-1990s. It was a district that wanted to influence Zonta International through offering candidates for international positions and through the Zonta Rose Project.

The period between 1986 and 2000 witnessed an increase in donations to service projects from the clubs in District 13. The District 13 service project took Zonta to Lithuania and there were projects in the new Zonta country. An unsigned letter (Copenhagen, 20 May 1996) records that Danish Zonta clubs had raised DKK70,000 (approximately USD\$11,000) for play, therapy and physiotherapy equipment in the treatment rooms of a Children's Clinic in Vilnius. A report from 2000 shows that the Danish Rose Project donated DKK30,000, and the Zonta Clubs of Hillerød and Aalborg each donated DKK5,000 to establish and run a Crisis Center for Battered Women in Alytus.

It was a sincere wish when the district was created that the role of governor should rotate through the three Areas – Norway, Denmark, and Iceland. However, in 2005 the district board and Area 01 Zontians decided to create Area 02, comprising the Lithuanian Zonta Clubs of Vilnius, Alytus, Marijampole and Kaunas.

Before the 2009 District Conference, the Area 02 Lithuanian clubs asked if the district would continue the practice of taking turns to nominate candidates for governor and lieutenant governor. The answer was in the affirmative and a Lithuanian name was placed on the slate. However, as the practice of rotating the roles through the areas was not compliant with Zonta International Bylaws, an alternative candidate was nominated from the floor. The Lithuanian clubs were very angry when the alternative candidate was elected and a lot of work has been done since 2012 to revitalize the Zonta spirit and strengthen bonds between the Lithuanian clubs and the district. This process bore fruit in 2019, when Rasa Birutiene from Vilnius was unanimously elected Lieutenant Governor.

Since 2002, Zonta clubs in District 13 have advocated for women's rights to education, and to access to decision-making positions in business, the professions and politics. There have been campaigns against female genital mutilation, and for foreign women's integration into society. The longest and most intensive effort has been in support of ZISVAW, Zonta's strategies to address violence against women. This was particularly the case during the 2012–2014 biennium, with the Zonta says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. This continued through the three biennia from 2014 to 2020.

There has been a focus on the Young Women in Public Affairs Award and Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship. District 13 has also had applicants for the most prestigious Zonta program, the Amelia Earhart Fellowship. In 2004, Iceland had an Amelia Earhart Fellow, followed by Norway in 2008 and Denmark in 2014.

The clubs have had very interesting service projects, both local and abroad, and have donated to the Zonta International Foundation.

### **District 13 Zontians at the International level**

During the period between 2000 and 2016, District 13 made an impact at the International level.

Dögg Palsdottir, Mari Ramsten Vangdal, Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard, Ragna Karlsdottir and Heddy Tangen Steffensen were elected International Directors after they served as district governors, and several District 13 Zontians have been appointed members of Zonta International committees:

- Past International Director Kirsten Theisen served for two biennia as Zonta International Status of Women Committee chair and also served as a director on the Zonta International Foundation Board.
- Past International Director Ragna Karlsdóttir served as Zonta International Committee Chair of OMC from 2010 to 2014.
- Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard was elected Vice President, President-elect and served as Zonta International President from 2014–2016, the first Zontian from District 13 in this position.
- Inge-Lise Søbjerg, from the Zonta Club of Koge, was member of the Zonta International Public Relations and Communications Committee from 1998 to 2000.
- Eva Nielsen, from the Zonta Club of Esbjerg, was member of the Zonta International YWPA Committee from 2008 to 2010 and the Zonta International Centennial Anniversary Committee from 2010 until 2020.

### **Z and Golden Z Clubs**

Only one Golden Z Club has been chartered in District 13 – the Golden Z Club Roskilde in Area 01 in 2003. The club closed in 2009.

### **The Zonta Rose Project**

The first Zonta rose was presented at the Sydney Convention in 1984. At the District 13 Conference in 1995 in Reykjavik, the Area Director from Iceland talked about a Finnish project which raised funds by selling silk roses. The Danish PR Committee adopted and developed the idea of a Rose Project. Inge-Lise Soebjerg, a member of the Zonta Club of Køge and chair of the district's PR Committee, contacted rose grower Martin Jensen of Bogense, Denmark, and rose breeder Robert Harkness from the UK. Together, they developed a new rose for the project, which was named "Zonta 98". The 1998 Zonta International Convention Committee agreed to market the rose during that year's convention in Paris, and Harkness Roses from the UK donated 500 pre-chilled roses for the event. The roses were used as decorations and in ceremonies such as memorial services and the installation of officers and directors. The Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen were the venue of the christening of "Zonta 98" on 31 July 1999. Martin Jensen donated a large rose bed to the Tivoli Gardens, and he and Robert Harkness attended and made speeches. Many Zontians had decided to spend the afternoon in the Tivoli

Gardens for the event, among them Lieutenant Governor Mari Ramsten Vangdal from Norway and Area Director Maria Jose Oestergaard. The roses were also used to market Zonta at conventions in Oahu in 2000 and Gothenburg in 2002.

### **European Seminars**

The first European Seminar took place in 1995 in Lübeck. Then, after a period of seven years without seminars, the seminars started again in Stuttgart in 2002. There have been European Seminars on a regular basis ever since. While not many Zontians from District 13 have attended, the district has been represented at each seminar.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Baltic Seminars**

The Baltic Seminars started in 1999. Since then, 10 seminars have been arranged. It has proved difficult to find detailed information on the seminars. However, basic information on the dates, location and theme is listed below:

- The First Baltic Seminar: 1–2 May 1999 in Jelgava, Latvia. “Situation and Development in the 21 Century.”
- Second Baltic Seminar: 29–30 April 2000 in Tartu, Estonia. “Street Children – Our Future Citizens, NGOs helping Street Children.”
- Third Baltic Seminar: 14 September 2002 in Valmiera, Latvia. “Women’s rights in the Baltic States.” Included Zonta Club of Valmiera’s charter ceremony.
- Fourth Baltic Seminar: 23–25 May 2003 in Marijampolė, Lithuania. “Nordic and Baltic Countries in Action; Focus on Our Mission, Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide.”
- Fifth Baltic Seminar: 22–23 May 2004 in Tartu, Estonia. “Lessons from Trafficking of Human Beings.”
- Sixth Baltic Seminar: 17 September 2005 in Bauska, Latvia. “Gender Equality in Theory and Reality.” Included Zonta Club of Bauska’s charter ceremony.
- Nothing is found in the archives of District 13 for 2006 and 2007.
- Ninth Baltic Seminar: 15–18 October 2008 in Latvia. “The Situation of Girls and Young Women; Promotion and Mentoring in Latvia.”
- Tenth Baltic Seminar: 23 May 2009 in Vilnius, Lithuania. “Status of Women in Lithuania.” Estonian Zontians did not participate, as the invitation did not reach them. (Information from Tiina Rebane, Zonta Club of Tartu, Estonia.)

### **District 13 Conference locations and themes (1987–2019)**

- 1987: Oslo (UNIFEM)
- 1989: Reykjavik (Status of Women in Modern Society. Is Zonta still needed?)
- 1991: Copenhagen (Zonta and Eastern Europe)
- 1993: Trondheim (Women’s Lives, Work and Status. Preparations for the 1994 Nordic Forum.)
- 1995: Reykjavik (Women’s Health and the Role of Zonta)
- 1997: Hilleroed (Status of Women and Zonta. Development or Termination?)
- 1999: Stavanger (Sprat Fishing, Oil Industry and Women)
- 2001: Akureyri (How to Make the Dream of the Strength of Women Come True?)
- 2003: Copenhagen (Integration. Roadblocks and Possibilities.)

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<sup>2</sup> See below: European Seminars 1995 – 2019

- 2005: Reykjavik (Women in Iceland 1905-2005)
- 2007: Bergen (Why Zonta?)
- 2009: Roskilde (Women Can)
- 2011: Akureyri (Women and Climate)
- 2013: Sandnes (Women making Decisions)
- 2015: Billund (The World Women Want. How can Zonta District 13 contribute to shaping the path to this world now?)
- 2017: Reykjavik (Women on the Move)
- 2019: Copenhagen (Empower Women – Develop the world , Centennial Celebrations).

#### **District 13 Amelia Earhart Fellows (1986–2015)**

- 1991–1992: Hilde Erlandsen, Norway  
Attended the University of Oslo. Her field of study was astrophysics.
- 1993–1994: Hilde Erlandsen, Norway
- 2004–2005: Hrefna Marie Gunnarsdottir, Iceland  
Attended Stanford University. Her field of study was electrical engineering.
- 2008–2009: A Norwegian recipient  
Attended University of Oslo. Her field of study was nuclear science.
- 2014–2015: Lonnie Grove Petersen, Denmark  
Attended University of Copenhagen. Her field of study was biomedical science.

#### **District 13 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship Recipients**

- 1999: Sandra Margrét Sigrujonsdottir, Reykjavik, Iceland (District 13 had five applicants)
- 2000: Maria Runarsdottir, Iceland
- 2002: Louise Ellekilde Fogstrup, Frederiksberg, Denmark (District 13 had two applicants)
- 2003: No District 13 applicants
- 2004: Line Juul Christensen, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2010: Hrefna Ingadottir, Herlev, Denmark
- 2012: Hildur Tryggvadottir Flovenz, Kopavogur, Iceland
- 2013: Christina Legarth Jacobsen, Frederiksberg, Denmark, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2014: Carolin Petra Brueckmann, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2015: Julia A. Kositzki, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2016: Zainab Alatraktchi, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2017: Janke Erna Kolb, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2018: Line Wedam Fruergaard, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2019: Annika Peters, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I

#### **District 13 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardees**

During the first years of the program from 1991 to 1997, no clubs from District 13 participated and there is no statistical information for the years 1998 through 2000. In the period between 2001 and 2006, the number of participating clubs was two each year. From 2008 through 2014, a handful of clubs forwarded applications each year. 2009 was the year with the greatest number of applications –12.

- 1998: Stine Berner, Lejre, Denmark, Zonta Club of Roskilde
- 1999: Marie Ildvedsen, Denmark
- 2000: Indrė Mackeviciute, Vilnius, Lithuania, Zonta Club of Vilnius

- 2001: Ida Bigum Nielsen, Aabenraa, Denmark, Zonta Club of Sønderborg
- 2002: Jette Christensen, Egersund, Norway, Zonta Club of Egersund
- 2003: Marianne Larsen, Løjt Kirkeby, Denmark, Zonta Club of Sønderborg
- 2004: Hafdís Sunna Hermannsdóttir, Isafjordur, Iceland (District 13 and International winner)
- 2005: Line Seglem Larsen, Hafrsfjord, Zonta Club of Stavanger, Norway (District 13 and International winner)
- 2006: Linn Therese Sævik, Herøy, Ålesund , Norway, Zonta Club of Ålesund
- 2007: Sunniva Østergaard Sandbukt, Hørsholm, Denmark
- 2008: Gwenn Gruener-Widing, Struer, Denmark
- 2009: Ida Sørensen, Rørvig, Denmark, Zonta Club of Nordvestsjælland (District 13 and International winner)
- 2010: Agnė Mankeviciute, Alytus, Lithuania, Zonta Club of Alytus
- 2011: Amalie Gyde Larsen, Sydals, Denmark, Zonta Club of Sønderborg
- 2012: Annemette Simone Møller, Sorø, Denmark, Zonta Club of Vestsjælland
- 2013: Sidsel Høgsgaard Andersen, Egå, Denmark, Zonta Club of Aarhus
- 2014: Rikke Regitze Nøhr Nielsen, København, Denmark, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2015: Sofie Amalie Poulsen Denmark, København, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 2016: Thit Hammerich Clausen, Denmark, Zonta Club of Vestsjælland
- 2017: Anna Rebien Lund, Denmark, Zonta Club of Sønderborg
- 2018: Amy Goodman, Denmark, Zonta Club of Aarhus
- 2019: Emilie Sloth Spliid, Denmark, Zonta Club of Aarhus.

#### **District 13 Women in Technology Scholarship Recipient:**

- 2019: Kristina Dudonyte, Lithuania, Zonta Club of Alytus.

#### **Honorary Members of Zonta International from Norway and Iceland**

- 1988: Liv Ullman, Norway, Actress and former Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF
- 1999: Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, Iceland, Former President of the Icelandic Republic and first woman elected head of state of a parliamentary democracy
- 2015: Ingibjörg Solrun Gísladóttir, Iceland, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Representative to Turkey.

#### **Area 01 Honorary Members**

- 1941: Her Majesty Queen Ingrid\*, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 1946: Thora Pedersen\*, Zonta Club of Aalborg
- 1985: Helen Schou\*, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 1996: Princess Alexandra, since 2005 Countess Alexandra of Frederiksborg, Zonta Club of Copenhagen I
- 1999: Grethe Jacobsen\*, Zonta Club of Aalborg.

\*deceased

#### **Area 03 Honorary Members**

- 1944: Margret Rasmus, Zonta Club of Reykjavik

- 1957: Dora Thorhallsdottir\*, married to the second President of Iceland, Zonta Club of Reykjavik
- 1976: Halldora Eldjarn\*, married to the third president of Iceland, Zonta Club of Reykjavik
- 1987: Friede Briem, Zonta Club of Reykjavik
- 1999: Ellen Sighvatsson, Zonta Club of Reykjavik
- 1999: Svava Jónsdóttir\*, actress, Zonta Club of Akureyri
- 1999: Gunnhildur Rye\*, housewife, Zonta Club of Akureyri
- 1999: Ragnheidur O. Bjornsson\*, grocer, Zonta Club of Akureyri
- 1999: Thorhildur Steingrimsdóttir\*, sports teacher, Zonta Club of Akureyri
- 1999: Margret Eiríksdóttir\*, music teacher, Zonta Club of Akureyri
- 1999: Josefina Gísladóttir, Zonta Club of Isfjordur-Fjorgyn.

\*deceased

#### **Area 04 Honorary Members**

- 1965: Magnhild Haarberg, Zonta Club of Oslo I
- 1968: Crown Princess Sonja (until she became Queen in 1991), Zonta Club of Oslo I
- 2007: Ebba Haslund, Zonta Club of Oslo I.

#### **Timeline of district history highlights.**

**1986:** Zonta International divided District XIII into three districts effective from July 1986:

- District XIII with 22 clubs (nine in Denmark, nine in Norway and four in Iceland)
- District XX with 43 clubs in Finland
- District XXI with 44 clubs in Sweden.

**1990:** The designation of the districts changed from Roman to Arabic numerals.

27 clubs and 839 members.<sup>3</sup>

**1994:** Zonta Club of Vilnius was chartered as the first Zonta club in Lithuania. The Lithuanian clubs became part of Area 01. They were with the Danish clubs in this area until 2005, when District 13 established Area 01 for the Danish clubs and Area 02 for the four Lithuanian clubs and one in the process of being organized. However, it was never chartered. Area 03 was for clubs in Iceland and Area 04 was for clubs in Norway.

**2016:** Clubs were organized in four Areas:

- Area 01 in Denmark with 22 clubs
- Area 02 in Lithuania with three clubs
- Area 03 in Iceland with seven clubs
- Area 04 in Norway with nine clubs.

**2018:** Zonta Club of Sandnes-Jaeren was lost. There were 1,026 members as of March and 1,032 as of August. (source: Zonta International Online Directory)

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<sup>3</sup> The Zontian 1990 – 1992 Program Issue

The Zonta Club of Vigrestad og Omegn was chartered.

**2019:** The Zonta Club of Copenhagen Multicultural was chartered and the district slowly gained members in the “individual members” category approved at the 2018 convention. During 2019, the district lost the Zonta Clubs of Esbjerg and Isafjordur-Fjorgyn.

As of December 2019, District 13 comprised 41 clubs: 22 clubs in Denmark, three in Lithuania, seven in Iceland, and nine in Norway.

### History of formation of District 13-clubs

#### Denmark

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1935	0135	Zonta Club of Copenhagen I	01	
1937	0154	Zonta Club of Aalborg	01	
1978	0822	Zonta Club of Copenhagen II	01	
1980	0948	Zonta Club of Randers		2013
1980	0964	Zonta Club of Aarhus	01	
1982	1022	Zonta Club of Copenhagen III	01	
1984	1080	Zonta Club of Gentofte		2007
1985	1137	Zonta Club of Odense	01	
1986	1157	Zonta Club of Lillebelt*	01	
1987	1164	Zonta Club of Roskilde Area	01	
1989	1229	Zonta Club of Hillerod	01	
1989	1265	Zonta Club of Koege	01	
1992	1389	Zonta Club of Esbjerg	01	2019
1992	1397	Zonta Club of Silkeborg	01	
1994	1464	Zonta Club of Frederiksberg, Denmark	01	
1996	1538	Zonta Club of Naestved	01	
1996	1550	Zonta Club of Sonderborg	01	
1997	1558	Zonta Club of Aarhus II**	01	
1997	1603	Zonta Club of Herning		2003
1998	1615	Zonta Club of Elsinore		2005
1998	1620	Zonta Club of Holbaek***	01	
2000	1672	Zonta Club of Sydhavsoerne	01	
2001	1686	Zonta Club of Fyn		2005
2006	1812	Zonta Club of Thy	01	
2008	1847	Zonta Club of Viborg	01	
2010	1864	Zonta Club of Ikast		2012
2011	1877	Zonta Club of Vestsjaelland	01	
2011	1881	Zonta Club of Skagen		2015
2016	1955	Zonta Club of Greve	01	
2019	1987	Zonta Club of Copenhagen Multicultural	01	

\* Between 2017-2018, the club name changed from the Zonta Club of Vejle to the Zonta Club of Lillebelt.



\*\* Renamed in 2014 from the Zonta Club of Aarhus 1996.

\*\*\* Renamed from the Zonta Club of Nordvestsjælland in 2014.

### Iceland

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1941	0176	Zonta Club of Reykjavik	03	
1949 (1948)	0221	Zonta Club of Akureyri	03	
1972	0711	Zonta Club of Selfoss		2016
1983	1082	Zonta Club of Akureyri-Thorunn-Hyrna	03	
1988	1223	Zonta Club of Embla	03	
1997	1556	Zonta Club of Isafjordur-Fjorgyn	03	2019
2003	1741	Zonta Club of Sunna-Hafnarfjordur	03	
2012	1891	Zonta Club of Borgafjordur, Uglá*	03	

\* Named changed from the Zonta Club of Borgafjordur in 2015

### Lithuania

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1994	1487	Zonta Club of Vilnius	02	
1995	1526	Zonta Club of Alytus	02	
1998	1619	Zonta Club of Marijampole	02	
2004	1766	Zonta Club of Kaunas		2012

### Norway

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1947	0198	Zonta Club of Oslo I	04	
1958	0407	Zonta Club of Bergen*	04	
1967	0594	Zonta Club of Trondheim		2012
1974	0753	Zonta Club of Oslo II		2012
1977	0810	Zonta Club of Troms		2003
1977	0813	Zonta Club of Stavanger	04	
1979	0868	Zonta Club of Bergen II		2001
1984	1098	Zonta Club of Haugesund	04	
1985	1114	Zonta Club of Oslo III		1987
1987	1166	Zonta Club of Trondheim**	04	
1988	1213	Zonta Club of Aalesund	04	
1989	1301	Zonta Club of Kristiansand		2011
1998	1609	Zonta Club of Egersund Og Omegn	04	
1999	1646	Zonta Club of Sauda Og Omegn	04	
2004	1782	Zonta Club of Sandnes – Jaeren	04	2018
2018	1981	Zonta Club of Vigrestad og Omegn	04	

\* Organized in 1955. Name changed to the Zonta Club of Bergen I in 1979 and then again to the Zonta Club of Bergen in 2015.

\*\* Name changed from the Zonta Club of Trondheim II in 2015.