About the author

Eva Nielsen holds an MA in history from the University of Copenhagen and was awarded the University’s Gold Medal in 1963 for her research. Eva has since taught history from first grade to university level in Denmark, and from 1975 to 2001 was Principal of Aabenraa Statsskole, an academic high school with boarding facilities for students.

After joining Zonta in 1996 as a charter member of the Zonta Club of Sonderborg, Eva transferred to the Zonta Club of Esbjerg when she moved to the island of Fanoe on the west coast of Denmark in 2006. With the closure of the Esbjerg club in 2019, she transferred to the Zonta Club of Copenhagen II (club no. 0822).

In District 13, Eva has served as club president, area director, lieutenant governor, governor (2014-2016), and as a member of several committees at all levels of Zonta, notably dedicating a decade to Zonta International as a member of the Centennial Anniversary Committee (CAC) from its establishment in 2010.

Zonta International is Eva’s organization of choice because of the access it gives to an international network of educated women, and because Zonta advocates for women’s rights as human rights.

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I hope that this history will be helpful for those who seek information on the development of Zonta International, and in the spirit of Zonta, I cannot end without acknowledging one of my mentors: author and translator Aslaug Moeller (née Mikkelsen), one of the founders of the Zonta Club of Copenhagen I.

The greatest care has been taken to ensure that this history is factually correct. Any mistakes and inaccuracies are mine.

Eva Nielsen
January 2020
Recommended Reading
The following list suggests sources of further information on different aspects of Zonta International’s history and development.

Zonta International

- Bylaws. Biennial editions
- Zonta International Directories: Annual, later Biennial editions since 2016 ZI on-line directory
- The Zontian. HQ has a complete collection in the HQ-library. D-13 archives hold several issues, but not a complete collection. Some issues are published at www.zonta.org
- ZI e-newsletters, www.zonta.org

Zonta Districts

- District 17: *Zonta’s Vibrant Presence in Asia & the Pacific*, Erlinda E. Panlilio, 2020
- *Zonta International District 12 1952-2016*, Beth Robertson, 2017
- *History of District IX 1921-54*, M.E. Bonham and Blodwen R. Hunt
- *History of District IX*, Wilma M. Swantz, 1982
- *ZI History of District V*, Marjorie Wilson, 1990
- *Zonta International District 4*, Mary Yunker and Vivian Cody, 2016

Zonta Clubs


Zontians


United Nations
- Hilkka Pietilä, The Unfinished Story of Women and The United Nations, Development Dossier, UN 2007

**Status of women**

- *Equal career opportunities, facts or fiction?* Published December 1975 by District XIII and XIV
- *Attitudes and Background of European Career Women. A Survey Among the European Members of Zonta International*, Helsinki 1978

**Service clubs**

- Anton C. Zijderveld, *Tradition linked to modernity. A sociological Interpretation of Service Clubs* (Kiwanis, Soroptimists, Zonta, Rotary Lions), the Netherlands, 1978