



Call to Conference

DISTRICT 27 CONFERENCE

1 - 3 OCTOBER 2021

ELECTRONIC FROM LEUVEN, BELGIUM



Conference 1-2-3 October 2021
LEUVEN & BRUSSELS - BELGIUM



Contents

- Governor’s invitation 1
- Conference program @ a glance 2
- Rules of Procedure 3
- Notice to Clubs on the decision to hold an electronic District Conference 5
- Guidelines for Electronic Election and Voting 6
- Credentials information 9
 - Registration 9
 - Election Process before the District 27 Conference 2021 10
 - Voting Process during the District 27 Conference 2021 11
- District budget 12
 - Profit & Loss 2018-2020 12
 - Balance sheet 31/05/2020 15
 - Proposed Budget 2022-2024 16
- District candidates 2022-2024 17
 - For Governor 17
 - For Lieutenant Governor 19
 - For Treasurer 21
 - For Nominating Committee 24
- Proposed changes affecting Zonta International and the District 32
 - Zonta International Resolutions 32
 - District 27 – Rules of Procedure and Reimbursement Guidelines 34

GOVERNOR'S INVITATION

CALL TO CONFERENCE

Welcome to the 14th District Conference of District 27!

In January, we decided to have an electronic Conference. We wondered how Zonta would prosper in 2021? And how we could stay connected in friendship based on our common ideals?

We told you we could do this by embracing technology! We promised you that we want to bring you together for the Zonta Business and feel the Zonta Friendship and connectedness and experience FUN moments with an electronic Conference. We told you that Zonta could be in the living room of Zontians who have never been to a Zonta Conference before.

The District Conference 2021 starts here!

The District Board and the Conference team have fulfilled all these promises. The program will be slightly different from what we are used to, but the frame is partially the same.

Candidates for elections will present themselves in a short clip or PowerPoint with a voice over. Voting for elections will be during the week preceding the Conference. Voting for District rules, resolutions and reports will be as usual on Saturday morning.

One thing is sure; it will be an innovative way of doing Zonta business.

Besides the Zonta on Tour cyclists, Zonta Waasland organizes 'The Zonta Walk' challenge: all Zontians of our District can connect on Strava to participate in the challenge wherever they are.

Although we wanted to have an exceptional Conference with interesting speakers on the theme 'Education, key to empowerment', we realized that time is limited and that no one wants to sit behind their computer the whole weekend.

We promised you it would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience! We kept our promise. So here we are, and check it out!



Ann Naets
Governor 2020-2022
District 27

CONFERENCE PROGRAM @ A GLANCE

Pre-Conference Program

Saturday 25 September 2021 – Online

- 11h15 – 12h15 First-Timers session
- 14h00 – 15h00 Open Forum of Zonta proposals, amendments
Start Election of the new District Board

Conference Program

Friday 1 October 2021 - Online

- 16h00 - 17h00 Opening stream
- 17h00 - 19h00 Opening Ceremony
 - Welcome by the District Governor, the Conference Chair and the International Liaison
 - Welcome by Mohamed Ridouani, Lord Mayor of Leuven
 - Keynote Speaker Assita Kanko, Member of the European Parliament
 - Celebration of the international award and scholarship winners
 - Arrival of the 'Zonta on Tour' cycling team.

Saturday 2 October 2021 - Online

- 09h00 - 10h00 **Zonta Business Session 1**
 - Welcome & announcements
 - Credentials
 - Approval of the Governor's report, Membership report, Financial report & budget, Area Directors, Committee Chairs
 - Bylaws & resolutions
 - Result of the elections
- 10h00 - 10h30 *Break - Surprise Act*
- 10h30 - 11h45 Education, Key to Empowerment
 - Introduction by Dr. Miche De Meyer, Alumni Committee Chair
 - Keynote speaker Dr Nancy Vermeulen "The Sky is NOT your Limit"
 - Q&A moderated by Dr. Biance Schuchardt, Amelia Earhart Fellow
- 11h45 - 12h15 *Break - Surprise Act & Time for FUN!*
- 12h15 - 13h00 Bring your own lunch - breakout rooms

Sunday 3 October 2021 - Online

- 09h30 - 10h30 Open Forum: Planning for the Long Term Future of Zonta International (Resolution 2)
- 10h30 - 10h50 Memorial Service
- 10h50 - 11h10 *Break - Fun element*
- 11h10 - 11h50 **Zonta Business Session 2**

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Approved by the District Board on June 11th 2021.

1. The presiding officer of the District 27 Conference is the District 27 Governor.

ELECTRONIC MEETING PROTOCOLS

2. Appointed technology coordinators will be available to support attendees and voting members during the business sessions.
3. No tape or other recordings may be made of the proceedings of the meetings.
4. No photographs may be taken of the general proceedings unless announced to the attendees.
5. Microphones of attendees shall remain muted unless an individual is invited to speak. When invited to speak, the voting member or attendee shall state their name and club.
6. Voting members shall update their visible screen name by placing a 'D' (for Delegate) in front of the name. Attendees shall place an 'M' (for Member) in front of the name. This will assist the technical committees with management of the speakers and voting process.
7. Announcements of concern to the entire assembly shall be made from the platform by the presiding officer or a member of the Conference committee.
8. All procedural questions shall be presented by the voting members commenting in the chat.
9. The use of any electronic device capable of sending and receiving e-mails, text messages or other electronic communication is permitted provided the device is not used when a motion is under consideration. The device must be muted during all business sessions.
10. Timekeepers shall be appointed to serve by the presiding officer. It shall be the timekeeper's duty to indicate to each speaker a warning before the expiration of time allowed, at the expiration of time, and then mute the microphone.
11. Chat will be allowed during general sessions, workshops, and speakers. Chat is not permitted during official business sessions for comments, debate or to make pro/con statements.

MINUTES

12. District 27 Governor and the parliamentarian shall approve the record of the Conference proceedings.
13. Minutes will be distributed to all District members within 30 days of the Conference.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

14. At the first business session, the Credentials Committee shall report the number of voting members (no proxies) registered. The Credentials Committee shall make a supplementary report at the beginning of each day that business continues, and at other times as requested by the presiding officer.
15. Transfer of voting privileges from a delegate to an alternate can only be made through registration with the credentials' committee. There will be no transfers between delegates and alternates possible after Thursday, September 30th, 0:00 am CEST.

VOTING MEMBERS

16. The voting members are Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Area Directors, Treasurer,

and Delegates from each club in good standing certified by the Credentials Committee. Voting members may make motions, speak, and vote. To exercise these privileges, they must comment in the chat.

17. A voting member permanently leaving the Conference shall report to the Credentials Committee.
18. Voting members may not debate in chat or other electronic media or platforms. Voting members who do not follow the rules may be disqualified and removed by the Credentials Committee.

NOMINATIONS

19. There will be no nominations from the floor.

MOTIONS AND VOTING

20. The official language of the Conference shall be English.
21. Votes may be taken by unanimous consent, hand raise, or other voting system.
22. All motions and amendments shall be submitted in writing and moved by the maker and seconder (each of whom shall be a voting member of the Conference). Amendments to the motions are not possible, due to conducting the District Conference electronically.
23. In order to obtain the floor to present motions or to debate, the mover must comment in the chatbox.
24. Debate shall be limited to 1:30 minutes for each speaker and 5 minutes for each subject. Time may be extended at the discretion of the presiding officer. No voting member shall speak a second time until everyone who wishes to speak has spoken once. No voting member may speak more than twice on the same question without permission of the assembly.
25. After voting members have spoken, any registered non-voting member may participate in the discussion asking recognition by the same procedure as required for a voting member if time remains on the subject.
26. During the time a vote is being taken, there shall be no discussion in chat or outside of the meeting.
27. The members of the Elections Committee will prepare the report of the Committee as soon as possible after the polls have been closed and all the votes have been tabulated. The results will be announced while the Conference is in session.
28. The Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12th Edition, shall govern these proceedings in all cases to which they are applicable, and are consistent with the Bylaws of Zonta International and the District.

NOTICE TO CLUBS ON THE DECISION TO HOLD AN ELECTRONIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Approved by the District Board on June 11th 2021.

Having

- 1) reviewed the continuing situation created by the COVID-19 declared pandemic;
- 2) conducted a thorough review of contracts, expenditures, financial obligations;
- 3) investigated into risks associated with an in-person event; and
- 4) heard the voices of the District members; the District 27 Board approved the cancellation of an in-person District Conference.

While there is not a defined procedure for electronic District Conferences in the Zonta International Bylaws or District governing documents, we will follow the precedence established in 2020 when the Zonta International Convention was cancelled. The Zonta International Bylaws provide for the International Board to operate under 'emergency powers' and as such, make decisions regarding what would be considered as 'the next best thing' or 'as near as possible' for conducting business under the "Cy pres" doctrine which provides for boards to apply common sense. It is our intent to ensure that our District clubs may still fully participate in the democratic process that underpins all that we value.

Today, this message serves as the official notice to District 27 clubs on how we will proceed with an electronic District Conference.

- The District Conference will be held electronically
- The District Conference will be held on Friday October 1st to Sunday October 3rd 2021.
- All attendees will need to register electronically. A link will be provided.
- All clubs will be notified of the credentialing process by September 1st
- Elections will be held in advance from September 25st to September 29th 2021, but may be extended based on the recommendation of the Elections Committee if a quorum still needs to be achieved.
- Voting on District business will be held in the business meeting on October 2nd.

The District Board has adopted **Guidelines for Electronic Election and Voting Methods** which holds more details on procedures, and it is being provided to you today. This document does not require club member approval as it has been reviewed and adopted by your elected Board Members.

We hope these accommodations will permit the District to smoothly move business forward while still engaging our delegates and club members.

Club presidents should direct any questions to their respective Area Director who will in turn bring those questions forward to the District 27 Board.

GUIDELINES FOR ELECTRONIC ELECTION AND VOTING

Approved by the District Board on June 11th 2021.

VOTING MEMBERS

The voting members of the District Conference are the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Area Directors, Treasurer, and Delegates from each club in good standing. 'Good standing' eligibility will be based on the club's position and membership as of July 1st 2021.

To best manage the electronic voting environment:

- If a Club has more than one vote, they must have more than one delegate.
- Weighted votes for a single individual will not be permitted under electronic voting. Meaning one individual may not carry two or three votes.
- Proxy votes will not be allowed. All clubs should try to have a club member serve as their delegate.

Voting members must respect confidentiality and may not advise each other how to vote or announce how they have voted until after the voting period has closed.

CREDENTIALING

The Credentials Committee supervises the registration of voters. The delegate registration period will open on July 15th and close on September 1st 2021 but may be extended based on the recommendation of the committee.

The Credentials Committee will conduct a virtual training session pre-Conference and provide informational materials.

Prior to the opening of the electronic voting platform and prior to the live Conference, the Credentials Committee shall report the number of voting members registered. This will establish the quorum (see below).

A change from delegates to alternates will be possible up to Wednesday, September 29th 2021, 23:59 pm CEST.

Once the election and voting period is open, the Credentials Committee will offer voter support by the following persons via mail:

Francine Dieltiens for Credentials:	fran.dieltiens@skynet.be
Christine Gerberding for procedural questions:	cgerberdng@aol.com
Carla Hertleer for technical problems:	carla.hertleer@gmail.com

NOMINATING

The Nomination Committee maintains direct communications with all candidates.

The Nomination Committee will inform candidates of guidelines related to written bios and, if possible, speeches.

There will be no nominations from the floor due to the voting by mail.

QUORUM AND RULES

A majority of the voting members registered shall constitute a quorum. For example, if 60 voting members are registered at least 31 voting members must cast a ballot for the vote to be considered valid.

Voting members who cast a ballot will be considered 'present and voting'. This number will be used to determine the majority or two-thirds for passage.

A majority vote shall be necessary for the election of the District Board Members. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the balloting for the office shall continue. Only the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall remain on the second ballot.

A two-thirds vote shall be necessary for a proposed amendment to pass for the District 27 Rules of Procedure and Reimbursement Guidelines.

A majority vote shall be necessary for a District resolution to be adopted and it shall remain in effect for the biennium proposed.

A majority vote shall be necessary for submitting a proposed amendment for Bylaws of Zonta International, a proposed international resolution or other international level business. (See Zonta International Bylaws Article XIX, SECTION 2.)

The District Bylaws and Resolutions Committee members will prepare the report of the Committee as soon as possible after the voting period has concluded and all the votes have been tabulated.

The District Governor must submit any District-approved proposed amendment for Bylaws of Zonta International, a proposed international resolution or other international level business to the Zonta International Bylaws and Resolution Committee within 30 days of the conclusion of the District Conference.

ELECTIONS VOTING

Election voting will take place in advance of the District Conference. The voting platform being used is Election Buddy.

The official language of the platform shall be English.

The Elections Committee supervises the setup of the elections and voting platform and will provide delegates with sample ballots that can be printed out as a guide sheet prior to the opening of online voting.

The voting period will open on September 25st 2021 and close on September 29th 2021 but may be extended based on the recommendation of the Elections Committee if a quorum still needs to be achieved.

The members of the Elections Committee will prepare the report of the Committee as soon as possible after the voting period has concluded and all the votes have been tabulated.

The results of the election will be disclosed at the live District Conference and published in the District newsletter.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

To increase efficiency, the District business will be managed by 1) a call for unanimous consent or 2) by a vote of all delegates. The following chart indicates how the District will approach these items.

Adopt/accept by unanimous consent	Vote of all delegates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call to Order ● Credentials report ● Adoption of the Conference rules ● Adoption of the agenda for the Conference ● Committee reports ● Approve the financial review of the District statements and reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adopt the District budget ● Vote on change in District dues ● Bylaws amendments, amendments to rules of procedure, resolutions for consideration by the Zonta International convention ● Vote on any changes to the District bylaws and/or rules of procedure ● Vote on any resolutions for the District ● Implementation of any Zonta International action

Unanimous consent

As the presiding officer, the Governor will introduce items and call for adoption by unanimous consent. Delegates do not need to say or enter any remark in chat if they agree.

If any individual opposes adoption by unanimous consent and wishes to discuss an item and have an official recorded vote, then they enter 'no' in the chat. At that time, the item must be introduced, moved, debated, and have a recorded vote.

Vote

An item for vote would follow standard procedures of Parliamentary procedure. The item must be introduced, moved, debated, and have a recorded vote.

All motions will be pre-drafted in written form so that they can be seen on the shared computer screen.

During voting, all microphones must remain muted unless a designated speaker has been given the floor.

The presiding officer will follow the adopted standing rules for the Conference, including the management of time permitted for debate. An assigned timekeeper will monitor speakers and notify them when time is up.

During debate, delegates may comment in the chat to be placed 'in line' to speak.

When debate has concluded it is time for the vote. Delegates will cast votes through the polling feature in Zoom.

The teller will record the vote and announce the result before the presiding officer may move to the next item.

PRIVACY: RECORDINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

When conducting meetings electronically, the privacy, safety, and well-being of participants should always be protected. Business meetings/sessions should never be recorded.

- The potential of a recording could inhibit debate.
- Recordings could be taken out of context.
- Recordings could be improperly edited.
- Recordings could be distributed beyond an intended audience.
- Individuals who were not active meeting participants should only receive minutes of the meeting indicating the decisions made.

Additionally, participation also does not automatically equate to permission to take photographs. If photographs and screenshots will be taken, an announcement should be made at the beginning of the event or prior to the photographs being taken.

CREDENTIALS INFORMATION

Registration

To obtain the documents that allow you to vote at the Conference, you need to complete the official registration form for digital voting (see enclosed) and send it back - before 5 September 2021! – to

**the Governor: Ann Naets– ann.naets@telenet.be
AND**

the Credentials Chairman: Fran Dieltiens – fran.dieltiens@skynet.be

Election Process before the District 27 Conference 2021

The election process of the new District Board will be organized according to the following timeline :



On September 1st all the candidates' presentations (recorded videos) will be available for viewing on the Elections page of the Conference event site :

<https://www.zontad27-Conference2021-leuven.org/en/elections-of-the-new-District-board>

On September 25th, every delegate and voting member of the District Board will receive an e-mail with an electronic voting form. The form can be submitted until September 29th.

The election tool used for the elections is *Electionbuddy*; the tool guarantees anonymous voting.

If a second ballot is needed for one or more of the functions, the delegates and voting members of the District Board will receive an e-mail with a new electronic voting form on September 30th. The form should be submitted by October 1st.

The results of the elections will be communicated during the Zonta Business Session on Saturday, October 2nd.

Voting Process during the District 27 Conference 2021

During the Zonta Business Sessions on Saturday, October 1st and Sunday, October 2nd the delegates will be asked to vote in order to either adopt or approve the items on the Agenda.

Voting during this electronic District Conference will be by

- **Consensus:** in this case, you have to use the “raise hand” function in Zoom if your vote is NO;
- **Electronic voting:** We are sorry to inform you that, due to technical issues, the voting process during the Conference had to be re-evaluated
 - You will be informed about this as soon as possible in a separate communication.
 - We apologise for the inconvenience.

To make sure every voting member gets the procedures right, a test vote by consensus and by electronic voting will be organized during the First-Timers Session on September 25th and at the beginning of Zonta Business Session 1 on Saturday, October 1st.

The type of vote, by consensus or by electronic voting, will be clearly announced by the Governor.

The Tellers Committee chair will be in charge of controlling the process. She will be able to download the results of all the electronic votes at the end of the Business Session.

DISTRICT BUDGET

Profit & Loss 2018-2020

GENERAL BUDGET						
	BUDGET 2018/2020		P&L 31/05/2020		DIFFERENCE	
GENERAL DUES 2018/2019		22.879		23.023		144
GENERAL DUES 2019/2020		23.000		25.038		2.038
AREA 04 2018/2019		585		572		-13
AREA 04 2019/2020		585		637		52
SALE OF PINS				307		307
BANK INTEREST		200		94		-106
REIMB EXPENSES 2016/2018				1.652		1.652
OUT OF OMC FUND		2.600				-2.600
		49.849		51.323		1.474
DBM						
DBM BRUSSELS	7.500		7.476		-24	
DBM LEIPZIG	7.500		6.588		-912	
DBM VARSOVIE	7.500		6.971		-529	
DBM DIJON	2.500		3.326		826	
DBM BERLIN	7.500				-7.500	
	32.500		24.361		-8.139	
TRAVELS GOVERNOR						
1/6/18-30/09/2018	1.200		494		-706	
1/10/18-31/03/2019	1.200		1.198		-2	
01/04/2019-31/05/2019	1.200		711		-489	
1/6/19-30/09/19	1.200				-1.200	
1/10/19-31/03/20	1.200		1.343		143	
1/04/20-31/5/20	1.200				-1.200	
	7.200		3.746		-3.454	
CONVENTION						
OUTCOMING GOVERNOR	2.500				-2.500	

INCOMING GOVERNOR	2.500				-2.500	
AWARDS						
YWPA	2.100		2.450		350	
JMK	2.100		2.100		0	
DIVERS						
WEBSITE	1.600		2.559		959	
OFFICE+TEL	1.300		110		-1.190	
SOM CLUB	1.000		1.500		500	
BANK	36		1		-35	
MISCELLANEOUS	1.000		83		-917	
LOSS ON STOCKS			1.307		1.307	
	53.836	49.849	38.217	51.323	-15.619	1.474
		-3.987 €		+13.106 €		17.093

CONFERENCE BUDGET						
	BUDGET 2018/2020		P&L 31/05/2020		DIFFERENCE	
CONFERENCE DUES 2018		4.400		4.427		28
CONFERENCE DUES 2019		4.400		4.815		415
REVENUE CONF DIJON				2.000		2.000
AREA 04 (45 Members)2018		113		123		10
AREA 04 (45 Members)2019		112		110		-2
CONFERENCE	8.500		9.663		1.163	
	8.500	9.025	9.663	11.475	1.163	2.450
		+525 €		+1.812 €		1.287

SOLIDARITY BUDGET			
	BUDGET 2018/2020	P&L 31/05/2020	DIFFERENCE

SOLIDARITY DUES 2018		2.640		2.656		17
SOLIDARITY DUES 2019		2.640		2.889		249
AREA 04 (45 Members) 2018		67		74		7
AREA 04 (48 Members) 2019		68		66		-2
OUT OF SOLIDARITY FUND			-5		-5	
CONFERENCE	600		545		-55	
CONVENTION	600				-600	
DUES AREA 04	1.530		1.581		51	
	2.730	5.415	2.121	5.685	-609	270
		+2.685 €		+3.564 €		879
TOTAL		-777 €		+18.482 €		19.259

Balance sheet 31/05/2020

BALANCE SHEET 31/05/2020			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Fixed assets	2.010,63	Exceptional Fund	13.700,00
		General Fund	6.415,82
Inventories	1.545,41	Extension & Membership Fund	14.339,94
Deferred expenses	2.627,81	Results 2018/2020	18.481,77
Cash assets	78.447,68	Reserves	52.937,53
<i>Current assets</i>	<i>82.620,90</i>	Deferred income	30.294,00
		Accrued expenses	1.400,00
	84.631,53		84.631,53

Proposed Budget 2022-2024

General dues 2022 (1800 members)	23.400	Conference dues 2022	4.500
General dues 2023 (1750 members)	22.750	Conference dues 2023	4.375
Out of Organization and Extension Fund	2.500		
Bank Interest	-		
DBM		Conference	8.500
DBM 1	7.500		8.875
DBM2	7.500		375
DBM 3	7.500		
DBM 4	3.500	Solidarity dues 2022	2.700
DBM 5	7.500	Solidarity dues 2023	2.625
TRAVEL COSTS GOVERNOR		OUT OF SOLIDARITY FUND	
1/6/22-31/10/22	1.200	Conference	600
1/11/22-28/2/23	1.200	Convention	1.800
01/03/23-30/6/23	1.200	Dues Area 04	986
1/7/23-31/10/23	1.200		
1/11/23-28/2/24	1.200		3.386
1/3/24-31/5/24	1.200		5.325
CONVENTION		TOTAL	-5.436
Outcomming Governor	3.000		
Incomming Governor	3.000		
AWARDS			
YWPA	2.100		
JMK	2.100		
Women in Technology Scholarship			
OTHER EXPENSES			
Website (out of OMC Fund)	2.300		
Office +Tel	1.200		
Bank	300		
Som Club	500		
Auditors	200		
Miscellaneous	1.000		
	56.400		48.650
			-7.750

DISTRICT CANDIDATES 2022-2024

For Governor

One candidate, one has to be elected.



Ute NOESKE (Area 07 - Germany)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Hannover**

Zontian since **2010**

Present position in Zonta: Lt. Governor

Past positions in Zonta: Area Director 07 (2018-2020), Vice Area Director 07 (2016-2018), President Zonta Club Hannover (2014-2016)

Since the beginning of my Zonta membership, I have been engaged in the Advocacy and UN Activities of my Area. I have taken part in four Conventions, three European Inter-District Seminars, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva, District Conferences and loads of Area Meetings.

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: Expert Adviser in Public Health Examinations, Pharmacist, MPH

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Being on the committee of the Lutheran Church of my hometown for many years.

After the Fall-Out of Chernobyl I was a member of a civil team of women who started an exchange program for children of White Russia (where 70% of the radioactive Fall-Out came down). For 10 years, we organized each year for 40 children a summer holiday in families in our towns. Each year we had a concert (Children Playing for Children) in our house with up to one hundred guests to collect money for this undertaking. We have visited White Russia several times.

In my student days, I was a liaison secretary for the German students of Pharmacy and organized the exchange of German students to pharmacies in the whole world.

I was active in the parents' council of my daughter's schools. For instance, I organized different workshops to make the children aware of the dangers of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: German, English, French, Italian

Management and Leadership skills:

As a pharmacist, I worked in different pharmacies in a leading position for many years. After my second Studies of Public Health, I first worked at the University and later on as a Consultant for Health Management and also as a lecturer in pharmacology at an Academy for Nursing Sciences.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

Since my school days, I have learned how necessary it is to know other people in different countries, to get in touch with them in order to achieve a better understanding of the different opinions of the same problem. Luckily, up to now, I have always had the opportunity to travel a lot and to experience the gift of making really good friends worldwide.

My personal characteristics

For me, it is and has always been a pleasure to arouse people's enthusiasm for connecting ideas and to bring them together in individual projects. With my experience, reliability, well-structured working, patience, and last but not least my sense of humor, I'm delighted to work closely together with others to achieve our goal: Empowering Women through Service and Advocacy.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

With Zonta I have found the field where I am committed to going the extra mile for the goal that women's rights will be appreciated as human rights. Since my school days, I have dealt with the role of women and their opportunities of taking part in society, politics, etc. worldwide. I'm very pleased that there are so many different efforts to involve young women in Zonta. They are the future also for the organization and have to understand that it is a privilege and at the same time a commitment to be a member of a global organization. My aim is to lead this second biggest District in a good way together with all its 1850 members.

The German psychiatrist and philosopher Karl Theodor Jaspers (1883-1969) once said:

Responsibility is always concrete: it has a name, an address, a "house number".

I'm willing to take on more responsibility.

For Lieutenant Governor

One candidate, one has to be elected



Ria Matthijssens (Area 06 - Belgium)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Antwerpen**

Zontian since **1987**

Present position in Zonta: Secretary District 27

Past positions in Zonta: Area 06 Director (2006-2008), several positions on District, area and club level.

- ***In my club***, I served as a secretary, as president, and in the Board for several biennia. Actually, I am president again, since the previous president resigned for health reasons.
- ***On area level*** I was Area Director in 2006-2008, member and chairman of several committees, mostly focused on Advocacy.
- ***On District level*** As AD, I was part of the District Board in 2006-2008 and currently, I am the secretary of D. 27-Board. I also was the chairman of the District Conference 2013 in Antwerp.

Since 1996 I have attended most of the Conventions and District Conferences.

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: Owner M-ProConsult, consultancy in labour law and industrial relations

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Secretary cycling club.
- Volunteer vaccination center.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: fluently – Dutch, English, French, elementary – German.

Management and Leadership skills:

I hold my own company since 1996 with a team of legal consultants and from 2014 till 2018 I was partner at BDO Legal Services.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

In business: I dealt with many multinational companies in various activities and from different regions, e.g. for the negotiation with the trade unions.



Personally: we like to travel all over the world to meet new people and cultures and Zonta is an international inter-cultural organization.

My personal characteristics: creative, pragmatic, result-oriented, on one side with patience, but also driven to get results. Negotiator, mediator, but not afraid to take decisions when necessary.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

I got the opportunity to study, to form my own company, to have a nice family and a good life. A lot of women do not have that possibility, and I want to sustain those women, help them to get a better life on a structural basis, by all the initiatives taken by Zonta.

For Treasurer

Two candidates, one has to be elected



Cornelia Klingler (Area 03 - Germany)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Hamburg Elbufer**

Zontian since **2011**

Present position in Zonta: President ZC Hamburg Elbufer

Past positions in Zonta: Treasurer ZC Hamburg Elbufer – 5 years.

10 years' member of ZC Hamburg Elbufer, supporting several fundraising activities, Centennial project in Hamburg (500 participants).

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: Bank Director

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Zonta.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: German, English

Management and Leadership skills:

32 years of banking experience, project leads in Germany and Poland, Branch Manager in different areas of Germany.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

Integration Office Unicredit after buying 1/7 of former National Bank of Poland.

My personal characteristics: energetic, strategic views, strong in motivating communication, deep numbers.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

During a nice motivation call with Petra (current treasurer), I am interested to have more international contact with our District activities, supporting the ambitious goals of the Board.



Géraldine Welvaert (Area 05 - Belgium)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Gent I**

Zontian since **2010**

Present position in Zonta: Treasurer Area 05, club member ZC of Gent I

Past positions in Zonta: President ZC of Gent I, Secretary Area 05

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: COO laboratory (construction), civil engineer

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Zonta, for almost 11 years, I'm an active club member with 3 biennia in the board of my club and 3 biennia in the area board.

The most relevant aspect of my Zonta experience, relevant to apply as a candidate for treasurer of the District, is my current position as treasurer in the Area. I'm very proud to have used my meticulous yet efficient way of working in Zonta. As I'm been told, for the first time in the history of Area 05, a real budget has been prepared in June 2018 with a clear follow-up and a positive balance at the end of the biennium, which made it possible to donate a huge amount of money to a center against sexual abuse.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: Dutch – native language, French and English – full professional proficiency.

Management and Leadership skills:

I started my career in 1998 as a manager of a small laboratory in the construction world. After several acquisitions and consolidations, I'm now the technical COO of the group, responsible for a diverse team of more than 100 people, from field workers to engineers. One of my most important realizations during my career was the transformation of the group into an ISO-certified organization (NBN EN ISO 17025) for more than 100 test methods on construction materials and on-site investigations.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

Although my work has only a limited international dimension, I'm very interested in internationalization. During my daily work, I'm working with more than 10 different nationalities. I hope I can apply (and further develop) my skills within the District.



My personal characteristics: go-getter, perfectionist, realist, optimist, honest, loyal, worker.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

I want to increase my active involvement in Zonta, not only as a club member, by using my experience as treasurer of the Area within the function of treasurer of the District. I've talked to a former District treasurer and I'm fully aware that this job involves a lot of work, but taken into account my personal characteristics, this doesn't scare me. I'm looking forward to be part of a board consisting of dynamic women trying to improve the status of women worldwide!

For Nominating Committee

Five candidates, three need to be elected.



Petra E. Böhmer (Area 03 – Germany)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Luebeck**

Zontian since **2000**

Present position in Zonta: Past Area Director, Nominating Committee Area 03

Past positions in Zonta: President ZC Luebeck, Vice Area 03 Director, Area 03 Director

In the last 8-10 years I have been to nearly all Area Meetings, District Conferences and Conventions.

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: orthodontist, own office

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Zonta activities.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: German, English

Management and Leadership skills

International experience and inter-cultural skills

My personal characteristics: open-minded and eager to promote the Zonta issues.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

I have been active in Zonta on Area and District level. So, I know a lot of ambitious women.



Petra Helf (Area 03 – Germany)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta-Club Hamburg Hafen**

Zontian since **2006**

Present position in Zonta: Treasurer District 27 (2020-2022), President Foundation ZC Hamburg Hafen (2020-2024).

Past positions in Zonta: Treasurer Area 03 (2018-2020), Past President 2014-2016, Vice President 2012-2014, 4x Club Treasurer.

One of four initiators of our ZC Hamburg Hafen, set up from scratch our Service Project “Madame Courage” with several fundraising exercises. Core organization team of our Zonta Centennial celebration in Hamburg (more than 500 attendees).

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: Financial Consultant, leader and owner.

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Supervisory Council of a non-profit organization.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: German, English, French – fluent, Italian – basic.

Management and Leadership skills:

More than 24 years of experience in international banking leading national and international teams (London, Paris) and projects. More than 16 years leading a financial consulting company.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

See above.

My personal characteristics: open-minded, internationally focused, strong in communication and in motivating people.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

As a current member of the District Board, I realized how important it is to encourage and motivate Area Directors in supporting ZI biennial goals, particularly in exceptional situations, such as the pandemic. What motivates me is to find highly motivated females from different countries who are highly prepared to serve Zonta in this function.



Suzanne Lorenzo (Area 02 - France)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Beaune**

Zontian since **1996**

Present position in Zonta: Member of Zonta Club of Beaune, always active since 2014 in scholarships and awards committee's club.

Past positions in Zonta: President ZC of Beaune 2008-2010, Vice Area Director 2010-2012, Area Director 2012-2014, D27 Foundation Ambassador 2014-2016, Zonta International JMK Committee member 2014-2018, District 27 Nominating Committee member 2016-2018.

My Zonta background made me a person committed. I have attended all Zonta International Conventions, all District Conferences, all Area meetings since 2008. Due to my different positions in Zonta, I know a lot about the structure of Zonta and the goals we have to reach.

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: medical secretary

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Captain of Beaune Women Golf team 1992-2012, President of Literary Prize of Zonta club of France 2014-2018.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: English, Spanish.

Management and Leadership skills:

After a short career as biology teacher, I worked 30 years with my husband, radiologist, as medical secretary managing employees of our office.

As captain of the Beaune Women Golf team, I used to manage the team, to organize a lot of golf tournaments. I stopped because of my positions in Zonta.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

As a Zonta International JMK Committee member for 4 years I learned a lot through all the persons I met, from numerous countries, I shared their culture. I travelled a lot in my personal life and met different cultures.

My personal characteristics: I am a committed person, serious, respectful of the rules, always enthusiastic and pedagogical.



Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

I have been a Zontian for 25 years. Thanks to my several positions in my past, not so far, I realize the chance I have had to meet and to know a lot of Zontians in numerous countries, especially in the countries of my large District 27, to meet friendship and “Zonta spirit” in the Zonta meetings I have had the chance to attend. Thanks to my knowledge of Zonta rules, I think I’m able to find the good persons for the required positions.



Ute Rittmeier (Area 07 – Germany)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Leipzig**

Zontian since **2004**

Present position in Zonta: President ZC Leipzig

Past positions in Zonta: President ZC Leipzig (2008-2012), Vice-President (2006-2008)

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: Lawyer

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Zonta.

Board-member in our riding club, which mainly gives the opportunity to ride on school horses for children and youngsters.

Member of a working group named “family in divorce” (members of several professions are discussing and working together for the benefit of children and parents in a situation of separating or divorce etc.).

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: German, English

Management and Leadership skills:

I am having my own office for over 23 years now, working together with 2 employees. I am working as a lawyer in family affairs. I am able to communicate in an appreciative way with all kinds of persons, looking every time for good solutions for the involved children and also trying to find good solutions for all the involved, adult persons. If it is necessary, I am able to push through for the benefit of children or people, who really need help.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

In my daily work and private time, I am in contact with all kinds of people and cultures (people from Arabic states, Vietnamese, African, etc.). And since 2013 we are guest-parents for many students from several countries. Some did stay with us for 6-9 months.

My personal characteristics: communicative, solution-oriented.



Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

I want to help to find good women for the right positions to move Zonta forward.



Susanne Tiedchen (Area 07 – Germany)

ZONTA EXPERIENCE:

Member of **Zonta Club Berlin 1989**

Zontian since **1998**

Present position in Zonta: Area Director 07/27

Past positions in Zonta: Vice President 2000-2001, Vice President 2008-2010, President 2010-2012, Vice AD 2018-2020.

I took part in the International Conventions in Rotterdam, San Antonio (as delegate), Nice (as alternate), in the District Conferences in Bremen, Metz, Berlin, and Dijon, and in many Area Meetings.

BUSINESS/PROFESSION: Judge, Head of a Chamber at the Berlin-Brandenburg Tax Court.

NON-PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Zonta.

Member of “Friends of the Jewish Museum Berlin”, “Friends of Staatstheater Cottbus”, “Carl-Blechen-Gesellschaft”.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ABILITIES FOR THIS POSITION?

Language proficiency: German, English, French

Management and Leadership skills:

As Head of a Chamber at the Berlin-Brandenburg Tax Court, I coordinate the work of my fellow judges in the chamber. I was the court’s spokesperson for some years. I teach a course “Accounting and Corporate Taxation” at the Freie Universität Berlin each winter term.

International experience and inter-cultural skills:

During my training as a lawyer, I spent three months at a law firm in New York City. I am a member of the German-Israeli Lawyer’s Association and the International Association of the Tax Judges.



My personal characteristics: I usually see the bright side of life, I am open-minded and well-organized.

Why am I applying to this position? What is my motivation?

I have served Zonta in many positions and I wish to continue to do so. I love meeting old Zonta friends and getting to know new ones. Why not try to win them over for a position in District 27 while doing so? A position as a member of the Nominating Committee gives me a perfect “excuse” to take part in all kinds of Zonta Conferences – not that I need one, though.

PROPOSED CHANGES AFFECTING ZONTA INTERNATIONAL AND THE DISTRICT

Zonta International Resolutions

1. RESOLUTION ON DAILY REGISTRATION FEE AT ZONTA CONVENTION

In addition to the full registration fee, a daily registration is offered allowing Zonta members, who are not delegates, and guests to attend the conventions for single days. The Board may also determine fees for single events.

PROPOSED by District 27

RATIONALE:

1. Daily registration fees have been successfully offered at several Conventions, enabling Zonta members who could not participate in the whole Convention to participate at least in some events.
2. In order to effectively allow attendance of motivated members who cannot attend the whole convention, the “daily” fee should be an actual and reduced fee, adequate for and proportional to the attendance.
3. The decrease of income for the fees will be compensated for by the increased income due to more Zontians attending the convention.
4. The considerations having motivated the vote of this proposal at the previous conventions are still pertinent:
 - To allow Zonta members to attend conventions only for single days (due to lack of free days, desire just to taste the character of a convention, not able to leave children alone during 6 days, the convention city is too close or too well-known to spend holidays in).
 - To create revenues from those members who (without day tickets) would not attend at all.
 - To attract more volunteers assisting the convention for single days (who would not want to pay the full registration fee for only single days or who cannot leave their jobs for 6 days or who can only volunteer part time).
 - It is nowadays technically feasible to create name tags indicating for how many and for which days registration fee has been paid. Those name tags would also facilitate checking on identities of attendees and/or volunteers. In the past some members used a fellow member’s entry card to avoid paying.

2. RESOLUTION regarding the “Zonta Says NO to violence against women”-Campaign

The campaign “Zonta says NO to violence against women” shall be continued in the biennium 2022 – 2024.

PROPOSED by District 27.

RATIONALE:

“Zonta says No” was developed in 2012 to promote Zonta’s credibility and visibility, according to the goals of the biennium 2012-2014 and was successfully continued in the following biennia. The need to attract attention for Zonta’s mission is an ongoing demand and should not be ended. Therefore, it is proposed that the campaign should be continued, since it helps to bring Zonta into the public consciousness and raises awareness for Zonta’s mission. Besides, the campaign has a strong impact within the Zonta world. It shall be continued for the following reasons.

1. The campaign “Zonta Says No to violence against women” is a Zonta-owned instrument that will further enhance Zonta’s credibility and visibility.
2. Also, it is a tool that helps all clubs to work on Zonta’s mission. It combines local action with the International Service Projects run by ZI. “Zonta says No to violence against women” links the local work to ZI and helps to promote at a wider range.
3. The campaign involves all main Zonta fields of activities (Advocacy, Service, PR & Communication, UN and Council of Europe, Membership). Furthermore, it helps Zontians on all levels to get connected and work together. Consequently, the campaign supports the exchange and networking of all members within the Zonta world.
4. Many Zonta Clubs around the world already take part in “Zonta says No to violence against women”. This can be seen at “zontasaysno.com”. This fruitful work should not be jeopardized by discontinuing the campaign. All clubs should have the opportunity to benefit from lessons already learned.

District 27 – Rules of Procedure and Reimbursement Guidelines

PRESENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING
<p>3. District Dues</p> <p>3.1. District Funds</p> <p>Total District 27 Dues: 17,00 Euro per capita</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Operating Dues 13,00 Euro p.c. - District Conference Dues 2,50 Euro p.c. - Solidarity Dues 1,50 Euro p.c. 	<p>3. District Dues</p> <p>3.1. District Funds</p> <p>Total District 27 Dues: 17,00 Euro per capita</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Operating Dues 13,50 Euro p.c. - District Conference Dues 2,50 Euro p.c. - Solidarity Dues 1,00 Euro p.c.

Rationale:

The amount recovered from the District Operating Dues is not sufficient to fund the work in the District. On the other hand, we have lost 3 out of 6 clubs in Area 04. Less than 50 % of the Solidarity Fund has been used over the last 3 years. The proposed change of allocation of fees therefore will not minimise our solidarity with the Clubs of District 04 but simply reflect the changing needs for funding in our District.

PRESENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING
<p>3. District Dues</p> <p>3.2. Members who join during the second half of the fiscal year pay 50% of the total dues (Dec 1st - May 31st).</p> <p>3.3. The District Treasurer shall send a membership dues payment transmittal form to each club for the payment of per capita dues based upon the numbers of members registered in the club on March 31st. All bank transfer costs shall be paid by the club.</p> <p>3.4. District dues and fees shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members at District Conference.</p>	<p>3. District Dues</p> <p>3.2. Members who join during the second half of the fiscal year pay 50% of the total dues (Dec 1st - May 31st).</p> <p>3.3. Members who are younger than 30 years old (Young Professionals) pay 50 % of the total dues.</p> <p>3.4. The District Treasurer shall send a membership dues payment transmittal form to each club for the payment of per capita dues based upon the numbers of members registered in the club on March 31st. All bank transfer costs shall be paid by the club.</p> <p>3.5. District dues and fees shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members at District Conference.</p>

Rationale:

Following the example of ZI, the District wants to support Young Professionals and make it easier for them to participate in ZONTA by reducing their dues.

PRESENT WORDING	PROPOSED WORDING
4. District Conference	4. District Conference 4.13. Emergency Powers In the event that extreme emergency prevents the holding of a District Conference, the District Board shall have the power to transact such business of the District 27 as may be necessary, and to submit to voting members for a vote by mail or any other communication equipment all items that require action in accordance with Section 4.2. of these Rules of Procedure.

Rationale:

In line with ZI, the District needs to have fixed rules on how to deal with an emergency situation, like the Covid pandemic, which prevents the District from holding a District Conference in person. The proposed rule enables the District Board to arrange for voting by mail. The wording is in line with the rules established by ZI.