



ZONTA

CLUB OF
JOLIET AREA

BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER



President's Message

BONNIE WINFREY



Dear Zontians~

What an incredible journey this has been!

As I reflect on these past two years serving as your president, my heart is full of gratitude and pride. It has truly been my honor to lead such a compassionate, driven, and visionary group of women. Together, we have accomplished so much—and I want to take a moment to celebrate you, and all that we've achieved as a team.

Let's look at how far we've come:

- We secured our 501(c)(3) status—an incredible milestone! This foundation is already thriving and opening doors to grants, corporate sponsorships, and legacy gifts. This sets us up to make an even greater impact in the years to come.

- Our Zonta on the Move Podcast has been a resounding success, bringing in inspiring guests like Amelia Earhart's great-nephew Richard Brehm, past ZI President Ute Scholz, and District Governor Isabel Vidal. We've discussed everything from women's health to disability rights to domestic violence—amplifying our voice and expanding our reach.

- We brought our technology into the 21st century—enabling online donations, registrations, and credit card payments. These tools have allowed us to streamline our work and connect more deeply with the community.

One of my favorite memories was our very first board meeting at Ceramic Creations—painting pottery while we dreamed about Zonta's future. That spirit of creativity and collaboration carried through every step of this journey—from strategic planning to our Art, Brew & Wine fundraiser where those artistic talents resurfaced beautifully.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Events Calendar

Membership Meeting
Information

Committee Updates

Change of Venue Ballot

President's Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I'll treasure the late afternoons on my patio with board members and committee chairs—times filled with vision, laughter, and friendship.

One of my biggest goals was to eliminate the question, "What's Zonta?" Thanks to your efforts, people now know who we are and what we stand for. Through hands-on projects, media coverage, and a strong social media presence, we have educated, empowered, and uplifted.

Here are a few more highlights we can all be proud of:

- Hosted two International Women's Day panel discussions, streamed globally on YouTube —covering domestic violence, human trafficking, bullying, and women's health.
- For the first time ever, men led the charge in our "Say No to Violence" March during the 16 Days of Activism.
- Honored Dr. Patricia Miller with the first Philanthropic Recognition Award at the Joliet inaugural brunch.
- Celebrated our 50th Anniversary—a monumental moment in our club's history.
- Reimagined our fundraising model, adding the capability for both spring and fall events.
- Introduced new roles: Program Chair, Leadership Chair, and Podcast Chair—to expand and strengthen our impact.
- Grew our membership, visibility, and outreach while continuing to support students with scholarships and nonprofits with financial backing.
- Formed our first Charitable-Foundation Board.
- Club founders Dr. Patricia Miller and Carmie Castagna were appointed honorary members of our Board of Directors.
- Financially, over the past two years, we have raised \$87,373 through fundraisers and donations; we also awarded \$24,500 in scholarships and distributed \$14,500 in grants to local organizations.

Events Calendar

MAY 13 MEMBER MEETING

Location: Al's Steak House
Time: 5:30 pm
Meal: \$30/Cod with greek potatoes, green beans with almonds, cheesecake with strawberries

MAY 27 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Location: Joliet Black Rd Library
Time: 6:00 pm

JUNE 21-22 NAIDM

Location: Novi, MI
North American Inter-District meeting
<https://www.zontanaidm.org>

• We've received Proclamations for our United Nations involvement and just recently, ZCJA has been awarded the 2025 recipient of the JJC Foundation Distinguished Partners in Excellence Award. We've shown up. We've spoken out. We've given back. And most of all, we've done it together. Zontians—because of you, I am a better person. Your dedication, support, and passion have inspired me every step of the way. While my presidency may be ending, my love for this club and its mission remains stronger than ever.

Zonta is on the Move!
Let's keep Zonta moving forward.
Let's keep building a better world for women and girls.

With love, gratitude, and pride,

Bonnie Winfrey
President
Zonta Club of Joliet Area

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT
Bonnie Winfrey

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Liz Walsh

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Essence Clark

TREASURER
Karen Pastell

SECRETARY
Cathy Miller

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lisa Pappas

DIRECTORS
Sylvia Acosta Chavez
Carmela Castagna
Peggy Field
Karen Lega
Dr. Patricia Miller

Membership Meeting Attendance

For attendance notification, contact Sylvia at
sylvia@spanishcenter.org

REASONS TO CONTACT SYLVIA:

- *Unable to attend
- *Standing NO
- *Standing No who plans on attending a meeting.
- *When you will be out of town for several months
- *Your choice of meal, if you will not accept the scheduled meal

Optional choices are fish or chicken, spaghetti with meatless marinara sauce, baked potato with side salad or side of vegetables, or a large salad.

E-mail Sylvia by 5 pm the Friday before the Tuesday meeting. For the April meeting, contact Sylvia by 5 pm on Friday, May 9.

Meal Price: \$30
Cash, Check or Zelle

MAY MEAL

Cod with Greek potatoes, green beans with almonds
and cheesecake with strawberries

JJC Foundation Award

The JJC Foundation is proud to announce the **Zonta Club of Joliet as the 2025 recipient of the JJC Foundation Distinguished Partners in Excellence Award.**

This annual honor recognizes an outstanding employer, business, or industry group that has demonstrated exceptional commitment and support in advancing the mission of both JJC and the JJC Foundation.

The Zonta Club of Joliet has exemplified true partnership through its enduring commitment to student success through its endowed scholarship supporting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) students at Joliet Junior College.

This meaningful investment is helping to open doors for the next generation of innovators and leaders, making a lasting impact on both JJC students and the greater Joliet community.

The award will be formally presented at JJC's annual Night of Stars celebration on Tuesday, September 9, 2025. Registration will open this summer at www.jjc.edu/night-stars.

Please join us in congratulating the Zonta Club of Joliet for this well-deserved recognition and their outstanding dedication to service and education.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY

May 10

Kathy Cawley

May 12

Sylvia Acosta-Chavez

May 16

Essence Clark

May 26

Beth Colvin
Tracey Miller

Committee Updates

PR Committee

Thank you to my fellow PR Committee members, Lisa Pappas and President Bonnie Winfrey. In the past Zonta year, we have promoted not only the fundraiser but our service events, and have kept the website and social media humming with ZI news, our own service work, women's history and a host of useful and informative stories covering women's issues and covering activities of other clubs. We're all in this Zonta journey together, and it's great to see what other clubs and members are doing. We continued our podcasts and featured the club on WJOL and other radio stations, as well as in the Herald News and other publications. We were actively featured on Joliet Community Television, bringing our message to a wide audience. We raised our presence locally and with ZI, held our annual Women's History Month panel with an outstanding group of panelists, and spoke at the Fall Conference about how we do things the Joliet Zonta way to make sure the community never again has to ask, "Who is Zonta and what do you do?"

In the coming year, PR will continue our work to celebrate what our club does, promote our programs, and highlight women's issues. We appreciate the cooperation of all the other committees and members to help in our mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Perrier, PR Chair

Service & Advocacy Committee

Thank you to everyone who participated in the many projects and events organized by the Service and Advocacy Committee this year. Your dedication and collaboration helped make each initiative a success. Together, we supported impactful efforts such as Angels Against Abuse, Take Back the Night, the Say NO to Violence March and Rally, MLK Service Day, the International Women's Day Panel, and Walk a Mile—among many others. As we often say, Zonta is on the move, and in 2025, we made significant strides in raising our visibility across the community—further advancing our mission to empower women and girls. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead and hope you'll continue to bring your energy, ideas, and passion to the important work we do.

Sylvia Acosta Chavez
Essence Clark
Co-chairs

Program Committee

Mary Baudino will be our three minute speaker. There will not be a formal program due to Woman or the Year and Installation of officers.

Lora McGuire, Chair



Guardian Angel Community
Services Walk A Mile March
and Rally
April 30, 2025

Committee Updates

International Committee

This has been a successful year for our Zonta Club's international activities. In summary:

☐ United Nations Day (October 24): In the fall we received from the Joliet City Council and the Plainfield Village Board proclamations acknowledging UN Day in which Zonta's valuable work in promoting gender equality and empowerment for women worldwide was recognized.

☐ International Women's Day (March 8): Displays of books by women authors or about women and girls were featured in the Joliet and Plainfield libraries.

☐ UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69/Beijing +30) and NGOCSW Forum (March 10-21): Thousands attended the CSW sessions in New York City and also virtually, and Zonta members from 22 countries were represented. The sessions were inspiring. In today's political climate, however, there is question whether next year's CSW events will be held in New York City or perhaps Geneva.

☐ Zonta's International Programs and Projects: Funding for women and girls these days is becoming more and more vulnerable, and thus Zonta's contributions are very appreciated—projects in ending child marriage in 12 Asian and African countries, health care for girls in Peru, etc.

☐ Women and Girls in Afghanistan: Our Joliet Area Zonta Club continues to help Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)/Sakena Fund/Jebreel in their difficult work within Afghanistan. We have sent more than \$1000, with more on the way. We should be very proud of this. Thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year!

Sincerely,
Chair Pam Hunte

Leadership Committee

Thanks to all who attended Leadership sessions this year. I am looking forward to another year of fun and learning along with you after Summer Break!

In the meantime, for newer members, if you were unable to attend in person ZI has wonderful resources under MY ZONTA-TOOLS-LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TOOLS-CORE COMPETENCIES. I encourage every member to browse through the Club Tools and Leadership Development Tools sections, as well as Zonta Spirit and see all the wonderful material we have access to!

Newer members, you can access the recorded New Member Welcome video or sign up for a live session.

All Members, I encourage you to watch the Zonta Spirit Club President Session. It is inspiring; we can always use a bit of inspiration. You will find this in TOOLS-ZONTA SPIRIT.

Please visit the Zonta Store in MY ZONTA. There's more than orange shirts--like Zonta LOGO items for everyday use and wear. This is a simple way to get our name out there!

continued on page 6

Save the Date

2025 Fall Conference

October 10-12

Bloomington-Normal Marriott
Hotel & Conference Center

201 Broadway, Normal, IL 61761

Come Meet Our International
Representative Unna Huh, traveling to visit
with us from Seoul, Korea



CONTACT US

ONLINE
jolietzonta.org
zonta.org
zontadistrict6.org

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2608
Joliet, IL 60434



DELEGATES NEEDED

We will be voting
at the May
meeting on
delegates to
attend the Fall
Conference in
Bloomington on
October 10-11

CONTACT US

ONLINE
jolietzonta.org
zonta.org
zontadistrict6.org

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2608
Joliet, IL 60434

Committee Updates

Leadership Committee

To register for live New Member Sessions, go to the [ZI website](#), NEWS AND EVENTS at the top (you don't need to sign in to My Zonta for this.) Under EVENTS scroll the list of webinars:

May 15th and July 17th. Both dates offer 10am and 6pm CST

***Special note to all. PLEASE let me know if you watch any of the Core Competencies videos on your own. We do track these and send a report in to the area/district. Send me an email with the CATEGORY-SESSION NUMBER-TITLE
example: Governance-1.1 Zonta Essentials

Have a great summer and I will see you back in August with renewed Zonta Spirit!

Cathy Miller

Scholarship Committee

We are pleased to announce that we have four young women who will be receiving Young Women in Leadership scholarships for 2025. We had four winners because there was a tie in the scoring, and fortunately, the fund-raiser was successful enough that we could afford it.

Our winners are Madilyn Hagwell, a senior at Providence Catholic High School who plans to become a nurse-midwife; Kathryn Leeders, a senior at JCA who wants to go into occupational therapy; Grace Mennenga a senior at Morris Community High School whose career goal is to become an account; and Alivia Schertz, also from JCA, who plans to become an entrepreneur focusing on music and art.

Congratulations to four very accomplished young women. We wish them the best as they pursue their dreams.

JoAnn Potenziani, Chair



Committee Updates

Attendance Committee

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR 25/26 ZONTA MEETINGS

BALLOT

We as a club have an opportunity to change our venue for 25/26 membership meeting. A brief description of the choices is offered below. Please mark your venue choice next to the description. This vote will take place at the meeting on 5/13. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please e-mail balive20@gmail.com with your choice before 5/13 and your vote will be counted. Please note that each location can provide a projection screen for AV needs. We would still need to bring projector and laptop.

Al's Steakhouse

If Al's is selected, nothing will change except a possible price increase. Al's has only indicated a decision has not been made for an increase but given the state of the economy, it is very possible.

The price is currently \$30 which includes the tip.

MARK BALLOT FOR AL'S: FS

Curator's Café at the American Legion, 2625 Ingalls Ave

The menu will change monthly and include salad/soup, entrée, dessert. There will be table service for food and drinks. Coffee or tea will be included in the price of \$30. Price increase may occur as well.

Parking is ample. Cocktails are less than Al's and will be served at the table. We will have our own room for the meeting.

MARK BALLOT FOR CURATOR CAFÉ: FS

Indicate if you would be open to family style service for the choice you make by circling FS.

Thank you, Barb Leiber

**CONTACT
US**

ONLINE
jolietzonta.org
zonta.org
zontadistrict6.org

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 2608
Joliet, IL 60434