

DISTRICT 5 HISTORY IN BRIEF

District 5 traces its origins to 1919 at the early organization of Zonta. In 1920, three Districts were established: Northern and Southern New York and the third District was the Western District. The Western District included the charter clubs of Buffalo and Rochester, New York; Erie, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; and Lockport, New York, which was organized by the Buffalo Club. These Districts formed a Confederation of Zonta Clubs.

The first convention of the Confederation was held in May, 1921. Convention delegates were authorized to serve at District Conferences. Since there were no funds available for delegates to attend Conferences, a per capita District tax was approved to provide funding for District Conferences.

In November, 1921 the Western District added the Zonta Club of Cleveland and the Zonta Club of Toledo.

The big problem for the Western District was the great geographical distance between clubs. The leaders of the Western District realized the importance of establishing more clubs, as there was competition from other women's organizations.

At the Confederation Convention in November, 1922, a national committee on Organization with the chairman being the Vice-President. A per capita tax for organization work was approved.

" ORGANIZATION" became the slogan for the Western District.

In 1922, Seattle, Washington, and by 1923, the District had 18 clubs, thus the Western District became the largest District.

In 1924, the original 3 Districts became 5-now to be alphabetically designated with the established clubs in Ohio and Michigan, Kansas City, Missouri and Indianapolis; Indiana was added and named District D. Louise Grace was District Chairman. Lower Canada was added to our District. Another change in 1929, District D became District II: Region A- included clubs in Michigan and Ohio; Region B- included clubs in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin. Windsor, Ontario was added in 1930 and Zonta became International.

District 5 was established by the action of the International Board at the International Convention in 1947 on Mackinac Island, Michigan. The Zonta International Board named the Districts numerically instead of alphabetically.

The organizational meeting of District 5 was held in Toledo, Ohio in 1947. Clubs were from Ohio, Michigan and Western Ontario. When clubs were organized in Kentucky they became part of the District. The 18 clubs were: Ann Arbor, Michigan; Ashtabula, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio;

Cleveland, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Dayton, Ohio; Flint, Michigan; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Highland Park, Michigan; Lansing, Michigan; Midland, Michigan; Port Huron, Michigan; Owosso, Michigan; Pontiac, Michigan; Saginaw, Michigan; Toledo, Ohio; Windsor, Ontario.

The first annual District 5 Fall Conference was held in Dayton, Ohio in 1948. The International Board announced that the title of District Chairman would be changed to Governor.

Since the Zonta Club of Detroit was one of the charter clubs, it was often called the Grandmother Club of District 5, because of the outstanding organizational work. The majority of the clubs in the District were organized by other clubs, which added strength to the new clubs.

In the late 60's there were 50 clubs in District 5 with a membership of 2064. The Area Director program was used in other Districts and District 5 voted to divide into two areas. The Area Directors were to be elected by the clubs in each area, and were to be voting members of the District Board.

Members of District 5 petitioned International to divide into two districts. Permission was granted. At the Fall Conference in 1970 in Toledo, Ohio, District 5 was divided into District 5a consisting of clubs in Michigan and Western Ontario; District 5b consist of clubs in Ohio and Kentucky. The clubs in northern western West Virginia petitioned to become part of District 5b and were welcomed into the district.

An interesting fact: Queenie Grable, Lexington, Kentucky, has the unique position of having served as Lt. Governor District 5b-1969-1970; and Governor of District 5- 1970-1972.

The International Board stated that all Districts in 1972 be named numerically: District 5a became XV and 5b became 5. Thus, District 5 now consisted of clubs in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia. In 1979, the District was divided into four areas: Area 1- Northern Ohio from Lorain west to the Indiana line; south to Findlay; Area 2- Commonwealth of Kentucky and the western section of Ohio to the eastern boundary of Route 23; Area 3- Northern Ohio east of Lorain to the Pennsylvania line, south to Youngstown/Warren; Area 4- State of West Virginia and eastern Ohio east of Route 23.

The active clubs and charter dates in 2016 are:

Area 1- Toledo 1- 1921; Findlay- 1959; Defiance- 1960; Greater Sandusky- 1961; Bowling Green- 1999

Area 2- Cincinnati- 1935; Springfield- 1952; Louisville- 1960; Elizabethtown- 1986; Paducah- 1988

Area 3- Cleveland- 1921; Ashtabula Area- 1927; Akron, Barberton, & Cuyahoga Falls- 1952; Hudson- 2012

Area 4- Columbus- 1929; Marietta- 1959; Newark- 1972

District Clubs: 17

Membership: 530

Clubs disbanded: Bedford, Berea, Central Ohio, Charlestown, Cuyahoga Valley, Dayton, Elyria, Geauga County, Heartland Area, Lexington, Logan County, Lorain, Mansfield, Marietta, Maumee River Valley, Parkersburg, Swan Creek, Toledo II, Youngstown, and Warren-Niles

District 5 has had it's share of hosting conventions:

Confederation: Detroit- 1922; Buffalo- 1924; Toledo-1925; St.Paul- 1928

International: Cleveland- 1931; St. Louis- 1932; Chicago-1933; Memphis-1941; Mackinac Island, Michigan- 1947; Cincinnati- 1954

Interdistrict Conference: Cleveland, Ohio-?

Many District 5 members have provided leadership to Zonta International:

Ethel Francis, Detroit, Michigan- Confederation President- 1925-1926

Louise C. Grace, Detroit, Michigan-International President- 1946-1948

Judge Elizabeth Armstrong, Cleveland, OHIO- International President- 1948-1950

Audra Francis, Saginaw, Michigan-International President- 1958-1960

Edna Narin, Windsor, Ontario- International President- 1966-1968

Eleanor Jamal, Ashtabula, OHIO-International President- 1974-1976; Zonta International Long Range Planning Committee; Zonta International Foundation President

Shirley Schneider, Springfield, OHIO, International President- 1980-1982; continued to serve on various ZI committees

Ruth Walker, Columbus, OHIO, International President- 1988-1990; served as ZI Nominating Chair, Organization Chair, and Convention Credentials Chair

Donna Poulton, Columbus, OHIO, Zonta International Finance Chair; Treasurer/Foundation Treasurer, 1989-1990

Marge Wilson, Toledo, OHIO- Zonta International Secretary(only elected secretary)

Kathy Hughes, Springfield, OHIO- Zonta International Secretary/Treasurer, 2012-2014

Zelma Bishop, Columbus, OHIO- Zonta International Parliamentarian, 1976

Billie Johnson, Toledo, OHIO and Ruth Siegel, Cuyahoga Valley/Cleveland, OHIO – served as International Sub-Nominating committee members

Awatef Hamed, Cincinnati, OHIO- Zonta International Amelia Earhart Committee Chair-1980; former Amelia Earhart Fellowship recipient- 1967, 1969, 1970 & 1971. Ms. Hamed has been a member of the Zonta Club of Cincinnati since 1980.

Jeanne Long, Columbus, OHIO- Zonta International Chair Public Affairs

Service and Advocacy Projects

The Eva Mowbray Fund originated by District 5 in 1962 in honor of Eva Mowbray of London, England. She had hosted many Zontians in previous years and visited our District several times during Conventions. Zonta International subsequently established the fund as an International Fund.

In 1960-1961, our friendship country was Germany. During these two years, District 5 monies were collected to be used for Christmas gifts to the families in the Anna Frank Village.

During the World Refugee Year, District 5 adopted the Father Pires Refugee Village at Wuppertal, West Germany.

Clubs of District 5 have supported the Amelia Earhart Fund since its beginning. This support along with monies donated at District Conferences, many years funded a full Amelia Earhart Fellowship and at times several full fellowships in the same year. In 1929, Amelia Earhart stopped off in Toledo and Cleveland, Ohio during her participation in the Women's Air Race Derby. While in Toledo, she was hosted by the Zonta Club and also painted a directional arrow on top of a downtown hotel for pilots to find the suburban airport. The Zonta Club of Cleveland hosted Ms. Earhart at a luncheon during her stopover while in Cleveland. Columbus Zontians entertained Ms. Earhart during her visit to Columbus to dedicate the first airport.

For several years, District 5 created a Disaster Relief Fund to support those clubs that would have community disasters such as floods.

The Advocacy Committee has become involved in contacting State Legislators to promote passage of bills with stiff sentencing guidelines for those individuals involved in sex trafficking. Clubs at the local level has partnered with other organizations to create awareness and solutions to sex trafficking. The District created a quilt made with squares that each club made with a message for the campaign "Just Say No". The quilt travels to each club once each biennium to be displayed publicly. To further raise awareness, the Presidents of clubs sent letters to the editors of their local newspapers and requested proclamations from city councils promoting awareness.

At each of two District Conferences in the 2012-2014, the attendees made over 2300 birthing kits to be shipped to Haiti and Cambodia. Instructions were included for the health workers. The birthing kits were started by the Zonta Club of Toledo I; became Area 1's service project under Area 1 Director, Joyce Combs; adopted as a District project the following year.

District 5 has been chartering Z-Clubs and Golden Z's since 1974. The active Zonta clubs and their Z-Clubs/Golden Z's are:

Zonta Club of Hudson- Z-Club of Western Reserve Academy

Zonta Club of Bowling Green- Golden Z of Bowling Green State University

Zonta Club of Zonta Club of Findlay- Z-Club of Liberty Benton High School

Zonta Club of Newark- Golden Z of Newark Branch, Muskingum College

Zonta Club of Toledo I- Z-Club of St. Ursula Academy

District 5 Centennial Committee is grateful to the following members for their past historical data: Henrietta Rosenthal, Detroit, Michigan; Past International President, Audra Francis, Saginaw, Michigan; Past International Secretary, Marge Wilson, Toledo, Ohio; and Kathleen Voigt, Toledo, Ohio

Centennial Committee, 2016