



## **Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA)**

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**(Information edited for District 5 club use by Sarojini Rao, Governor)**

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### The Young Women in Public Affairs Award - YWPA

- Was established in 1990
- Has had 661 recipients from 53 countries since that and
- Is a program on Club, District/Region and International levels of ZI
- The awards are paid from donations to Zonta International Foundation (ZIF):  
District/Region recipients: US\$ 1,500;  
10 international recipients: US\$ 5,000 each

### The Goal of the YWPA Award is:

To encourage more young women to participate in public affairs  
by

- recognizing a commitment to the volunteer sector,
- evidence of volunteer leadership achievements
- and a dedication to the advancement of the status of women.

### Who is eligible?

- Young women aged 16 – 19

(new age limit since 2011; before that it was the age of 16 – 20)  
at the time the application is submitted to the District;

Please note: The applicant must be at least 16 years old on 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of application and may not be older than 19 on 1<sup>st</sup> April;

- Living or studying in a Zonta District/Region or a citizen of a Zonta country  
Please note the changes: Pre-university, pre-college is no longer a precondition; the candidate can go to school, study or go to work (paid or unpaid).  
Of prime importance is the age;
- and who demonstrate evidence of:
  - active commitment to volunteerism,
  - experience in local or student government or workplace (paid or unpaid) leadership
  - volunteer leadership achievements
  - knowledge of ZI and its programs
  - support in ZI's mission of empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy

Please note: Z and Golden Z members are also eligible to apply.

Not eligible are:

- classified members and employees of ZI and ZIF
- and their family members

### How to get started?

- Develop strategies to stimulate participation, improve visibility and facilitate PR  
i.e. contact headmasters, teachers ...

### Application Form:

(I am working with Catherine Harned, district web editor, to post the YWPA application form and supporting materials on the district 5 website <http://www.zontadistrict05.org/>.)

The application forms are available on ZI website [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) – my Zonta – tools – award, scholarship and fellowship tools – young women in public affairs award.

The applicant has to fill the form with details to her person and her personal goals.

And she has to answer question 1 – 4. For each question there is a given limit of words.

FYI: At the District level, we are asked to check that the application includes:

- Application Cover Sheet for Clubs is filled out and signed by the club president

- Verification of current enrollment by school/institute official (if applicable), OR letter from employer stating employment (if applicable)
- Completed application materials, typed and in English
- Two confidential recommendations with signature
- Applicant's signature
- Please watch the given limit of words!!

### How to Evaluate?

- What are the 3 most important characteristics of excellence in regard of the 4 items of the application
- Student and/or Employee Activities
- Community Service Activities – Experience in local/ government, international or other projects or Workplace
- International Awareness
- Status of Women in your Country and Worldwide

### Club Award

Clubs are encouraged to organize an *Award Ceremony*, preferably

- in one of the schools/institutes, workplaces, organizations or local government offices, with teachers, co-students, employers, parents, government officials and members of the media, to publicize the YWPA Award Program.
- at a special club meeting – could be combined with other award presentations
- at a school assembly – provides publicity for Zonta and YWPA in the winner's school community

### Clubs can reward their winners

in any way they wish e.g.

- Certificate (template available on ZI website)
  - Financial reward
  - Book voucher, etc.
- or any combination of these
- Keeping in touch with the recipient, networking with her, inviting her to Zonta events
  - By any other form of recognition...

### Promote the Award!

- Make sure that Zontians understand that Awards and Scholarships **are just as important as every other Zonta Service**

- Make sure that Zontians understand **the importance of giving recognition to outstanding young women**, giving them a chance to realize their dream and leadership capabilities
- Make sure that Zontians understand how **these young women can be magnificent Ambassadors for Zonta and how this leads to membership conversions**

Our Goal is:

- to increase the number of clubs participating in the awards
- to keep networking with the recipients

because it is a good and easy way

- to get public recognition as local Zonta Club
- to sharpen the profile of the local Zonta Club
- to spread our international goal of advancing the status of women
- to recruit former YWPA recipients as new Zonta members

#### Timetable - Deadlines

Application is posted on the ZI website	in August
<b>Application received by Zonta Clubs Each club sets the individual deadline</b>	<b>by each Club</b>
<b>The club recipient is selected, the application is received by Governor/Region Rep.</b>	<b>by 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>
The District recipient is selected and the <b>Governor/ Region Rep. sends the application to ZI Headquarters</b>	<b>by 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>
Announcement of District/Region and International Recipients by International President	in July
Note: The Executive Committee of ZI Board must approve the District/Region recipient. The Executive Committee will do that in July. Before this date the District/Region cannot publish the name of the recipient!!	

Further Information and Forms - [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

Forms and further information should be available on the District 5 website --  
<http://www.zontadistrict05.org/> -- in the near future.

Please have a look at the ZI Homepage [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) – my zonta – tools – award, scholarship and fellowship tools – young women in public affairs award.

There you will get among other items:

- YWPA Application
- YWPA Poster – with translation into 5 languages
- YWPA Certificate – with translation into 5 languages
- YWPA Guidelines for Clubs and Districts
- YWPA Evaluation Committee Scoring Sheet
- YWPA Application Cover Sheets for Clubs and Governors
- YWPA Samples: News Releases and Announcing Recipients

And now – Let's promote our YWPA – Award

with Zonta Power... for the Young Women in the world