



Chapter 9

District 05 – North America¹

Zonta International District 5 Summary

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 05. Today, District 05 has 17 clubs in three states in the United States.

The history of District 05 dates back to 1919 with the founding of the Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan which was one of the nine clubs that organized the Confederation of Zonta Clubs in November 1919.

Henrietta Rosenthal, charter member of the Zonta Club of Detroit, wrote of the first parts of the history of District V. She attended the organizing meeting of the Convention of Zonta Clubs in 1919 and wrote the first Confederation Bylaws. The next years of the District V history, through 1989, were written by Audra Francis from the Zonta Club of Saginaw, Michigan and Marjorie Wilson from the Zonta Club of Toledo, Ohio. Club histories are posted on the district website.

District Conferences

The first conference of District 05 (then District V) was held in Toledo, Ohio in 1947.

There was much discussion, pro et con, regarding important issues of the time: the Marshall Plan, European Relief and Rehabilitation, etc. It was decided that since Zonta was an international organization, members should let their governments (Canada and the USA) know how they felt.²

The discussion continued for the next two years with the conference themes “Zonta’s Place in the Community of the World” in 1948 and “Is Zonta Important in Today’s World?” in 1949.

The Cold War was reflected in the 1951 district conference theme, “How Can Zonta Help in Civil Defense and Other Civil Projects?”. There was also a keynote speech with the title, “Where Zonta’s Money Comes From and Where It Goes”.

¹ Research compiled by Eva Nielsen from sources including Marjorie Wilson, Zonta International History of District V, 1990. Contributors include: Jan Shearer, Nancy Maile, Jane Wiehe and Joyce Combs.

² District V History by Marjorie C. Wilson, p. 3

Overall, conference themes in the 1950s were international friendship, women's heritage and responsibility. In 1952, each club was given the name of an overseas club to contact with newsletters, letters, etc. In 1953, the district "voted to approve the recommendation from the Zonta International Board for international representation at convention (a per capita tax of USD\$0.15 per member in districted clubs)" (Marjorie C. Wilson, District V History, p.16).

In 1954, "Let's Grow in Understanding, in Fellowship, in Service" was the theme and in 1956, "Zonta Builds for the World of Tomorrow".

In 1958, the conference theme was "Zonta Opens the Door to World Friendship through Service" and during this year, members were urged to attend the European Congress held in Copenhagen from 23 May to 1 June the following year. Norway was the district's friendship country.

In 1961, "Towards the Light, Zonta Beckons and Builds with Beacons and Bridges" was the theme; others during the 1960s included "Expanding Dimensions" (meaning expansion of Zonta in the USA) and 'Overseas and International Friendship".

The Eva Mowbray Hostess Fund was established in 1962 by District V in honor of Eva Mowbray, a Zontian in London, England who hosted many visiting Zontians in her home. The following year, Zonta International President Ellen Harris adopted the idea and proposed honoring Eva Mowbray by naming Zonta International voluntary-contribution hostess fund after her.

In 1961, the district conference transferred USD\$500.00 from the District Reserve Fund to the District Organization Fund. A further USD\$500.00 was designated for organization of a Zonta club in Istanbul, Turkey, further to an organization survey which indicated that such an initiative was warranted. In 1963, the Zonta Club of Istanbul in Turkey was welcomed by Zonta International as a new club, with their fees and dues paid to Zonta International by Zonta Club of Flint, Michigan, as a service project.

In 1968, a District Luncheon was attended by 16 Finnish Zontians.

In 1976, the district conference theme was "Hats OFF to Zontians Past, Present, Future." The importance of attending the district conferences was underlined by the new Governor's Attendance Trophy awarded to the club that had the largest number of members at the conference and had travelled the greatest distance to attend.

In 1978, when the theme was "The Voice of Zonta Shall Be Heard Throughout the World," Eleanor Jammal (from the Ashtabula Club) the Zonta International UN Committee chair, addressed the conference concerning Zonta's role as an NGO at the UN.

In 1981, the keynote speech themes at the conference were "Zonta's role in the 80's- Something New in the '80's", and the "The Future: Is It Security or Want?".

Service Projects

Clubs in District 05 have a long tradition of local service projects focusing on girls' and women's education, and of donating considerable sums towards Amelia Earhart Fellowships.

In 1948, 152 acres of wooded land was donated for a Girl Scout camp and donations from the Columbus Club were made for an International House for international students at the Ohio State University.

In 1987, the service project of the Zonta Club of Marietta in Ohio recognized academic excellence of students graduating with high honors. They were recognized at a special banquet and were given the opportunity to acknowledge the teacher who had been most influential in their achievements.

The Zonta Club of Sandusky had an interest-free student loans program from 1973 to 1981.

Sponsoring Z clubs was on the agenda of more than one club throughout the district.

Impressive donations were given to nursing homes and hospitals, with Zontians often giving their time to help as well.

Clubs have also been devoted to fighting violence against women for many years.

The Zonta Club of Sandusky focused on projects helping naturalized citizens in 1971, 1974, 1980 and 1981.

However, not all service projects focused on girls and women. The following projects focused on the community as a whole:

- Maple Heights Centennial (1982)
- Bedford Garden Club (1985)
- Maple Heights Historical Society (1986)
- Local Fountain in downtown Defiance (1989)
- Trees and barrels for Woodland.

In 1950, District 05 gave a special donation of USD\$100.00 to Zonta International for the purchase of a filing cabinet.

Confederation Conventions

- 1922: Detroit, Michigan
- 1924: Buffalo, New York
- 1925: Toledo, Ohio
- 1928: St. Paul, Minnesota

International Conventions

- 1931: Cleveland, Ohio
- 1932: St. Louis, Missouri
- 1933: Chicago, Illinois
- 1941: Memphis, Tennessee
- 1947: Mackinac Island, Michigan
- 1954: Cincinnati, Ohio

Zonta International Presidents from District 05

- 1925-1926: Ethel M. Francis, Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan. Theme: "Let's See Zonta Grow".
- 1946-1948: Louise C. Grace, Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan. Theme: "Action for World Peace".
- 1948-1950: Elizabeth A. Judge, Zonta Club of Cleveland, Ohio. Theme: Community Service for World Service".
- 1958-1960: Audra E. Francis, Zonta Club of Saginaw, Michigan. Theme: "Zonta Opens the Door to World Friendship Through Service".
- 1966-1968: Edna Naim, Zonta Club of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Theme: "View From the Top".
- 1974-1976: Eleanor Jammal, Zonta Club of Ashtabula, Ohio. Theme: "Service Throughout the World: The Zonta Way of Life".
- 1980-1982: Shirley K. Schneider, Zonta Club of Springfield, Ohio. Theme: "Share with Others and Serve with Love".
- 1988-1990: Ruth Walker from the Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio. The theme was "Education, Understanding and Peace through Giving Time, Self, Money".

Zonta International Board Member

1966-1968: Marjorie Wilson, Zonta Club of Toledo, Ohio

Zonta International Foundation Treasurer

1989-1990: Donna Poulton, Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio

Zonta International/Zonta International Foundation Treasurer/Secretary

1989-1990: Marjorie Wilson, Zonta Club of Toledo, Ohio (Secretary)

2012-2014: Kathy Hughes, Zonta Club Springfield, Ohio (Secretary-Treasurer)

Zonta International Parliamentarian

1976: Zelma Bishop. Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio

Other International Positions held by District 05 Zontians

Billie Johnson, Zonta Club of Toledo, Ohio	International Sub-nominating Committee
Ruth Siegel, Zonta Club of Cuyahoga Valley/Cleveland, Ohio	International Sub-nominating Committee
Awatef Hamed, Zonta Club of Cincinnati, Ohio	Zonta International Amelia Earhart Committee Chairman (1980) Former Amelia Earhart Fellowship recipient (1967, 1969, 1970, & 1971)
Jeanne Long, Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio	Zonta International Public Affairs Committee chairman
Terri Purtee-Stein, Zonta Club of Cincinnati, Ohio	Zonta International Communications Committee
Kimm Hdrlica-Tigges, Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio	Zonta International PR & Communications Committee (2014-2022)
Margot Hoffman, Zonta Club of Columbus, Ohio	Zonta International Nominating Committee (2022-2024)

Timeline of District History Highlights.

Organization and extension were the most important focus for the district in the 1920s and 1930s.

1924: The following clubs were referred to as the Western District:

- Zonta Club of Detroit, Michigan (club number 0009)
- Zonta Club of Toledo, Ohio (club number 0013)
- Zonta Club of Cleveland, Ohio (club number 0014)
- Zonta Club of Grand Rapids Area, Michigan (club number 0015)
- Zonta Club of Lansing, Michigan (club number 0016)
- Zonta Club of Flint I, Michigan (club number 0025)
- Zonta Club of Ann Arbor, Michigan (club number 0030)

The District Plan was revised by Zonta International. Effective from 1925, the original three districts became five, designated as A, B, C, D and E.³

1928: Clubs were referred to as District D which comprised 26 clubs.

1929: District Plan was reviewed. District D became District II Region A for clubs in Michigan and Ohio, and District II Region B for clubs in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

1930: Clubs were referred to as District II, Region A.

1936: 16 clubs. Clubs were referred to as District II, Region A.

1946: 18 clubs. Clubs were still referred to as a District, Region A.

1947: District V was created as part of a large re-districting. The organizing meeting was held in Toledo, Ohio.

Clubs were from Ohio, Michigan and Western Ontario. (Clubs from Kentucky would join the district 1960). The new District V encompassed 18 clubs.

1949: 940 members.⁴

1951: 1,035 members.

1952: 27 clubs; nine in Ohio, 15 in Michigan and three in Ontario, Canada.

1953: 29 clubs and 1,253 members.

1957: 34 clubs (ten in Ohio, 21 in Michigan and three in Ontario, Canada).

³ Marjorie Wilson: Zonta International History of District V, 1990, District 9 History-in-Brief, 2016-2018.

⁴ Marjorie Wilson: Zonta International History of District V.

1958: 1,635 members.

1960: At the District V Conference, the continuation of the Area Director Plan was adopted for two years including the increase of USD\$0.50 per capita dues.

1962: 49 clubs and 1,957 members.

After a three-year trial, the Area Director Plan became permanent, and four area directors were elected. District dues were increased to include an additional USD\$0.50 to cover Area Director expenses. District dues now equaled USD\$1.50.

1967: 2,136 members

1968: 50 clubs and 2,064 members.

District V voted to divide into two districts. Permission was granted by the Zonta International Board.

1970: The division was effective from the Fall Conference in Toledo, Ohio. District V was divided into:

- District V a: comprised of 30 clubs in Michigan and Western Ontario and 1,256 members
- District V b: comprised of 20 clubs in Ohio and Kentucky and 808 members. The clubs in Northwest West Virginia, which belonged to District IV, petitioned to become part of District V b and they were welcomed into the district.

1971: District V b encompassed 22 clubs (two from Kentucky, 18 from Ohio and two from West Virginia). There were two areas.

1972: The International Board decided that all District- numbers were to be written solely in Roman numerals.

- District V a became District XV, comprising clubs in Michigan and Western Ontario (See separate history of District XV for developments after this point).
- District V b became District V, comprising clubs in Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia.

1974: 2 clubs organized in two areas.

1976: At the district conference, delegates from Area 01 voted to divide the area into two. The division was effective from the beginning of the 1978-1980 biennium, taking the number of areas to three from that date.⁵

1978: District V dues increased from USD\$2.50 to USD\$4.50.

1980: District V comprised 25 clubs organized in three areas.⁶

1981: The 25 clubs were divided into four areas.⁷

⁵ District V History, annual conferences

⁶ Zonta International Directory 1980-1981 p. 15.

⁷ District V 1980 Conference decision

- Area 1 was in Northwest Ohio (Northern Ohio from Lorain, west to the Indiana line and south Findlay). It included seven clubs.
- Area 2 was in Southwest Ohio and Kentucky (Commonwealth of Kentucky and the western section of Ohio to the eastern boundary of Route 23). It included six clubs.
- Area 3 was in Northeast Ohio (Northern Ohio east of Lorain to the Pennsylvania line, and south to Youngstown/Warren). It included seven clubs.
- Area 4 was in Central/Southeastern Ohio and West Virginia (State of West Virginia and Ohio east of Route 23). It included five clubs.

1982: District V dues were USD\$7.00 per capita per year.

1990: The Zonta International Board changed the designation from Roman to Arabic numerals: District V became District 05.

27 clubs and 1,009 members.⁸

1993: 24 clubs.

1995: 23 clubs.

2002: 20 clubs in four areas (Area 01 – seven clubs, Area 02 – five clubs, Area 03 – four clubs, and Area 04 – four clubs)/

2012: The last club in West Virginia was disbanded.

2016-2018: 17 clubs (three in Kentucky and 14 in Ohio) and 467 members. In 2017 the Zonta Club of Marietta and Environs changed its name to The Zonta Club of Mid-Ohio Valley to encompass members living in West Virginia.

In 2018 District agreed to change its borders between Area 2 and Area 4 to balance membership between the two areas. The Zonta Club of Springfield became part of Area 4 effective 1 June, 2019.

2019: 381 members.

History of formation of District 05 clubs

As of June 2019, Area 01 had five clubs and Areas 02, 03 and 04 each had four clubs.

Canada

Ontario (Western Area)

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018*	Closed
1930	0098	Zonta Club of Windsor-Essex County		
1948	0213	Zonta Club of Chatham		
1952		Zonta Club of Sarnia		1976

*Clubs were moved to District 15 in 1971.

⁸ The Zontian 1990-1992 Program Issue.

United States

Kentucky

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1960	0468	Zonta Club of Louisville	02	
1960	0471	Zonta Club of Lexington		2001
1986	1139	Zonta Club of Elizabethtown	02	
1988	1216	Zonta Club of Paducah		2021

*Organized by Field Representative of Zonta International Dorothea Loudon.⁹

Michigan

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1919	0009	Zonta Club of Detroit I		
1921	0015	Zonta Club of Grand Rapids Area		2017
1922	0016	Zonta Club of Lansing		
1923	0025	Zonta Club of Flint		
1924	0030	Zonta Club of Ann Arbor		2002
1928	0050	Zonta Club of Pontiac-North Oakland		
1928	0083	Zonta Club of Port Huron		1987
1929	0063	Zonta Club of Owosso		
1929	0087	Zonta Club of Southfield Area/Highland Park*		
1929		Zonta Club of Birmingham		1932
1938	0156	Zonta Club of Saginaw		
1947	0197	Zonta Club of Midland		
1949	0232	Zonta Club of Muskegon Area		2009
1951	0256	Zonta Club of Bay City Area		2010
1951	0261	Zonta Club of Royal Oak-Ferndale		1982
1951	0270	Zonta Club of Ypsilanti	1960	1992
1952	0289	Zonta Club of Mt. Pleasant		
1953	0304	Zonta Club of Dearborn		1996
1956	0355	Zonta Club of Ludington Area		
1956	0356	Zonta Club of Traverse City		
1957	0400	Zonta Club of Cass City		1997
1957		Zonta Club of Birmingham-Bloomfield		1973
1958	0422	Zonta Club of Milford		
1958	0424	Zonta Club of Big Rapids Area		
1959	0435	Zonta Club of Lenawee County/Adrian**		
1960	0454	Zonta Club of Jackson		2004
1960	0464	Zonta Club of Kalamazoo		1997
Ohio	0519	Zonta Club of Alpena		

*Highland Park was later removed from the club name.

**Adrian was later removed from the club name.

⁹ District V History.

Ohio

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1921	0013	Zonta Club of Toledo I	01	
1921	0014	Zonta Club of Cleveland	03	
1923		Zonta Club of Findlay*		1924
1926		Zonta Club of Warren		1932
1927	0081	Zonta Club of Ashtabula Area	03	
1929	0086	Zonta Club of Columbus	04	
1935	0134	Zonta Club of Cincinnati	02	
1940	0167	Zonta Club of Dayton		1992
1948	0208	Zonta Club of Warren-Niles		2004
1952	0275	Zonta Club of Akron, Barberton & Cuyahoga Falls	03	
1952	0286	Zonta Club of Springfield	04	
1954	0328**	Zonta Club of Bedford Area		1997
1959	0431	Zonta Club of Findlay	01	
1959	0449	Zonta Club of Mid-Ohio Valley***	04	
1960	0469	Zonta Club of Defiance	01	
1960		Zonta Club of Hudson Area		1963
1961	0480	Zonta Club of Greater Sandusky	01	
1962	0498	Zonta Club of Lorain		2008
1962		Zonta Club of Geauga County		1969
1962		Zonta Club of Elyria****		1963
1964	0528	Zonta Club of Berea/SW Cuyahoga County		1981
1966	0574	Zonta Club of Youngstown*****		1987
1969	0632	Zonta Club of Maumee River Valley		2008
1972	0704	Zonta Club of Newark	04	
1978	0862	Zonta Club of Toledo II		2001
1979	0908	Zonta Club of Mansfield		1987
1982	1033	Zonta Club of Central Ohio		1998
1986		Zonta Club of Logan County		1993
1999	1647	Zonta Club of Bowling Green	01	
2002	1732	Zonta Club of Swan Creek Area		2006
2012	1899	Zonta Club of Hudson	03	

*Only one reference found. The first club is mentioned once, the second club is club number 433.

**Club number 0328 merged with part of club number 0275 in 1984 and became club number 0328 under the name of Zonta Club of Cuyahoga Valley.

***Name changed from Zonta Club of Marietta & Environs.

****Disbanded because of loss of members.¹⁰

*****Merged with club number 0208, Zonta Club of Warren-Niles, in 1987.

¹⁰ District V History.

West Virginia

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2018	Closed
1959	0448	Zonta Club of Parkersburg*		2012
1961	0479	Zonta Club of Charleston*		1977
1971	0671	Zonta Club of Morgantown		1996
1978	0831	Zonta Club of Charleston MAR		1992

*In District IV until 1971.

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