

Zonta International District 5 2026 Fall Summit Registration



A promotional graphic for the Zonta International District 5 2026 Fall Summit. The background features a group of diverse women smiling in a sunlit outdoor setting. At the top, three circular icons represent the themes: a circular arrow with a leaf for 'RENEW', a green plant for 'SUSTAIN', and a raised fist for 'EMPOWER'. Below these icons, the text 'Building Stronger Clubs for the Future' is prominently displayed in a large, dark serif font. Underneath this, 'DISTRICT 5 FALL SUMMIT' is written in white inside a dark purple rounded rectangle. Further down, a calendar icon precedes the dates 'October 16 - 17, 2026', and a location pin icon precedes 'Deer Creek Lodge & Conference Center'. The Zonta International District 5 logo is in the bottom left corner. A decorative rainbow-colored wave with a starry pattern curves across the bottom right of the graphic.

RENEW **SUSTAIN** **EMPOWER**

Building Stronger Clubs for the Future

DISTRICT 5 FALL SUMMIT

 **October 16 - 17, 2026**

 **Deer Creek Lodge & Conference Center**


ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 5

Governor's Welcome

Welcome to the new biennium! We are delighted to invite you to the 56th District 5 Fall Summit at the centrally located Deer Creek State Park and Conference Center in Mt. Sterling, Ohio. The park, with its Lakeside Lodge/Conference Center, will be steeped in rich fall colors and may just warrant a little longer stay.

With many changes ahead for Zonta International and District 5, this promises to be an engaging conference and biennium. District leaders will share the latest information, including highlights from the Vancouver convention, key goals for 2026–2028, and updates on the Blueprint for the Future.

In keeping with our biennial theme, Building Stronger Clubs, the District Board and Conference Committee have created a program that draws on the expertise within our clubs. Sessions will offer creative ways to strengthen leadership, expand and sustain membership, and discover new ideas for fundraising, while leaving plenty of time for fellowship.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Angela M. Brake, Area 3 Director and past president of the Zonta Club of Akron, Barberton and Cuyahoga, will present “If Not Me, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?”, exploring the growing challenge of finding willing leaders.

Additional Summit highlights include sessions on building successful mentorship programs, creating leadership award programs for young women, using AI effectively, and making advocacy relevant and approachable.

Thank you to Conference Co-chairs Melinda Hepfner and Natalie Welker for leading the committee and shaping such an exciting program. Thank you as well to each of you for joining this important work and bringing your passion, energy, and ideas to the weekend. May we leave inspired, equipped, and determined to build a Better World for Women and Girls.



Connie S. Kingsbury
Governor, 2026-2028

Schedule-at-a-Glance			
	Friday – October 16 th	Saturday – October 17th	
8:00 AM			
8:30 AM		<u>Sustain</u> Parade of Presidents 1st Timers Welcome 26-28 Biennium ZI and District Goals Finance Update <u>Breakout Sessions</u> <u>Mentorship and Membership</u> <u>Scholarship Programs</u>	
NOON		Lunch Guest and Co-Sponsors Keynote Speaker	
1:00 PM	District 5 – Board Meeting	<u>Empower</u> Celebration of Life Membership Update/Goals <u>Breakout Sessions</u> <u>Using AI 101</u> <u>Fundraising</u> Group Photo – Wear Orange ZFW Final Report Conference Wrap-up Conference Adjourned	
3:00 pm	Presidents Forum		
4:30 PM			
6:00 PM	<u>Renew</u> Welcome – Introductions and Dinner ZI Convention Updates ZFW Update and Challenge Conference Updates Indoor Campfire Conversations Evening Adjourned	Dinner and Fellowship Music Bingo And Raffle Prize Drawings	
9:00 PM			

Conference Attire:

Friday evening is relaxed, please wear your most comfortable campfire attire.
 Saturday sessions are business casual, please do not wear jeans.

Saturday October 17 - Keynote Speaker

Dr. Angela Brake



“If Not You, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?”

Angela M. Brake is a purpose-driven leader with experience across the corporate, education, nonprofit, and civic sectors. She is known for connecting vision with action and helping people and organizations create meaningful community impact.

Angela serves as Director of Operations for Limitless Ambition and Program Facilitator with Leadership Akron, where she supports leadership development, mentoring, and community engagement. Her professional background includes leadership roles with Goodyear, Akron Public Schools, and Emmanuel Christian Academy, with expertise in operations, workforce development, training, and organizational effectiveness.

She currently serves as Zonta District 5 Area 3 Director and is past president of the Zonta Club of Akron, Barberton, and Cuyahoga Falls. Angela is passionate about strengthening communities and encouraging others to recognize the influence they already have.

Her keynote, “If Not You, Then Who? If Not Now, Then When?” is a call to action for participants to move beyond self-doubt, embrace their voice, and lead with purpose in their workplaces, communities, and lives.

Angela resides in Tallmadge with her husband, Michael. She is the proud mother of two adult daughters and treasures her role as “Guh Guh” to her grandson.

Lets Have Some “FUNraising” at the Fall Summit!

This year, we’re switching things up so you can focus on connecting, learning, laughing — and yes, having even more fun while supporting Zonta’s mission.

NEW for 2026: Four Fabulous Raffle Prizes!

All raffle items are generously provided by your District 5 Conference Committee, so no one needs to bring items from home. Just show up ready to enjoy yourself!

How Tickets Work:

- Tickets are \$10 each
- **Purchase online as part of the registration process:**
<https://www.zontadistrict05.org/event/d5-raffle-ticket-purchases/>
- Purchase in person at the Fall Summit
- Not attending but still want to join the fun? Purchase tickets on the District 5 website or **through your Club President** — perfect for members who want to participate from afar.

Why We’re Changing Things?

We know how much effort goes into gathering items for fundraising each year. So this time, we’re taking that pressure off your shoulders. Our goal is simple:

- Make fundraising easier
- Make participation more inclusive
- Make the experience more fun for everyone — whether you’re attending in person or cheering us on from home

Live drawings will be done on the District 5 Facebook page, so everyone can join the excitement!

This new approach let’s all District 5 members support Zonta’s mission and enjoy a little FUNraising magic together.

Raffle Items Preview and Heads and Tails Game

Please Note – these are all sample pictures – the actual items will look different.



A little sparkle, a lot of fun. Grab a ticket and take your shot at winning our **one and only Mystery Designer Purse** — beautifully wrapped, secretly tucked away, and ready to surprise one lucky winner.

Is it classic? Is it colorful? Is it the perfect everyday bag? The joy is in the reveal.

Value \$449.00



Sip, savor, and smile — win a curated bourbon basket packed with smooth surprises. It takes just one lucky ticket to take home a bourbon lover's dream basket.

Value: \$300.00



Your new favorite tote — snag the Bogg Bag & accessories bundle built for fun, sun, and everything in between. One lucky ticket takes home the most cheerful, go-anywhere bag around.

Value: \$300.00



Grow your chances — our Lottery Tree is loaded with scratch-offs just waiting for a lucky winner!

Value: Priceless



Get ready to play **Heads or Tails**, the quickest—and quirkiest—game of the night. When the round begins, choose **heads** or **tails** by placing your hands on your head or your tail. The coin flips, the crowd reacts, and if you guessed right, you stay in. If not, you join the cheering section. Fast, fun, and full of luck—your chance to outguess the room and win prize money.

1 Necklace - \$10 3 Necklaces - \$25

Lodging Accommodations



**Deer Creek State Park Conference Center
22300 State Park Road 20
Mt. Sterling, Ohio 43143**

Attendees wishing to come early or stay late can receive the same room rate Thursday night through Sunday night. Just need to request or call ahead. Due to the popularity of the Lodge in October, please make your room reservations as soon as possible to guarantee your room.

The last day for reservations for room block rate is Friday, September 30, 2026.

WHAT'S INCLUDED WITH YOUR STAY:

- Free On-Site Parking
- Complimentary WiFi
- Indoor-Outdoor Pools, Fitness Center, Hiking Trails
- Group Fire Pits
- 18 Hole Golf course, Horseshoe Pits Boat, Kayak, Paddleboat rentals,
- DVD Rentals, Board Games, Billiards
- Gift Shop

**Call the reservation line at 740-869-2020 to reserve a room
under the Zonta International District 5
Room Block Use CODE --- ZID5579**

Program Ads

Our Program booklet will be on the District 5 Website in advance of the Summit as well as a printed program at the Summit.

This is a great opportunity to promote an upcoming event for your club.

We're keeping it simple. We will have only two Ad sizes.

_____ Full page – \$100 _____ Half page - \$50

Two methods of payment:

Option 1 - Send a check to Linda Coblitz, District 5 Treasurer,
560 Knollwood Drive, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Option 2 – Pay by Credit Card at the District 5 website at:
<https://www.zontadistrict05.org/event/district-5-fall-summit/>.

Your Ad should be in .jpg or .pdf format and should be camera ready. There will be NO changes made to Ads once they have been received.

We will NOT be able to accept any LATE Ads.

Send your ad to Kathy Natal: knatal@copelandfinancial.com

ALL ADS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

COMPLETE THE D5 FALL SUMMIT REGISTRATION FORM

Electronic registration process and payment is the preferred method of payment for the Fall Summit. Please register on the District Website:

<https://www.zontadistrict05.org/event/district-5-fall-summit/>

If sending a check, please be certain to enclose this 2-page registration form with check payable to ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5 with a notation on the check – FALL 2026 SUMMIT and mail to Linda Cobnitz, District 5 Treasurer, 560 Knollwood Drive, Ashtabula, OH 44004. Questions, please contact Linda at 440-344-1903.

Name	
First Timer	Yes _____ NO _____
Address: City, State, Zip	
Phone	
Club	
Area	
Number of Years a Zontian	
E-mail	
In Case of Emergency	Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Conference Registration includes all business meetings, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner. Vegetarian and Gluten Free options are accommodated in all meals.

Friday Night Dinner will include: Back Woods BBQ Buffet - Hamburgers & Grilled Chicken – includes Coleslaw, Home-style Potato Salad, BBQ Baked Beans, Potato Wedges, Buttered Corn on the Cob, Watermelon Slices, Cookies, and Brownies

Saturday Breakfast will include: Great Beginnings Buffet - Fresh Whole Fruit, Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast Potatoes, Applewood Smoked Bacon, Pork Sausage Links, Yogurt Parfait with Fresh Berries & Granola, Assorted Juices, Fresh Brewed Coffee & Tea

Saturday Lunch will include: Soup & Salad Buffet - Dinner Rolls, Caesar Salad, Pasta Salad, Potato Corn Chowder, Zuppa Toscana, Fresh Baked Cookies, Iced Tea & Lemonade



Saturday Dinner will include: Saturday Evening Buffet - Pot Roast with Pearl Onions & Rustic Carrots, Vegetable Lasagna with White Sauce, Garden Salad, Spinach Salad with Strawberries & Candied Pecans, Herb Roasted Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Chef's Choice Dessert, Rolls & Butter, Iced Tea & Fresh Brewed Coffee

Select Guest Meals:

Friday Night Dinner - \$34.00	Guest Name:_____
Saturday Breakfast - \$25.00	Guest Name:_____
Saturday Lunch - \$25.00	Guest Name:_____
Saturday Dinner - \$45.00	Guest Name:_____

Early Bird Registration **\$150.00 – paid by August 31**

Standard Registration **\$165.00 – paid from September 1 – September 18**

Late Registration **\$180.00 - paid from September 19 – September 30**

NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 1

For mail in registrations ONLY – please sign and submit this with your check.

District 5 ZONTA SUMMIT LIABILITY STATEMENT

I acknowledge that Zonta International District 5 is not liable for any personal losses, damages or illness resulting from my attendance at the fall summit. If I need medical treatment because of my participation in this district conference, travel to and from the summit (including air travel), or any events incidental to this summit, I agree to be financially responsible for any costs incurred because of such treatment. I am aware that the district does not provide health insurance for me and that I should carry my own health insurance. I have read this document, and I am signing it freely. I understand that legal consequences of signing this document, including (a) releasing the district from all liability, (b) waiving my right to sue the district, (c) and assuming all risks of participating in this fall summit, including travel to and from the fall summit (including air travel) or any events incidental to this fall summit.

Signature:_____

Date:_____

PRE SUMMIT CHECKLIST

Items to complete early before Deer Creek lodging and registration deadlines:

- _____ Conference Registration – Early Bird rate before **August 31**
- _____ Please make all room reservation at Deer Creek before **September 30**
- _____ Members purchase Raffle Tickets through the District webpage at:
<https://www.zontadistrict05.org/event/district-5-fall-summit/> by **October 15**.
For those who pay with cash or check, Club Presidents please collect payments and tickets.
Tickets may be forwarded to Natalie Welker nkwelker@gmail.com by **September 30**. **Bring Payments to Fall Summit**. Please make checks out to: Zonta International District 5
- _____ Member or Club ADS for the conference program by **September 30** (See Ad Rates)
Do you have an upcoming event to promote – great time to do this!
- _____ Forward any names and pictures for our Celebration of Life Service by
September 30 to **Joyce Combs (Grove City Club)** at: combs1721@gmail.com

PLEASE BRING TO THE SUMMIT

- _____ Member or Club donation for Zonta Foundation for Women **(President)**
- _____ Cash/Checkbook/Credit Card **(All Members)**
- _____ Club Banner – free standing ONLY **(President)**
- _____ Club Calendar of Events to schedule 2027 Spring Area Meetings **(President)**
- _____ Raffle Item Payments and any Tickets **(President)**
- _____ Bring refillable Water Bottle **(All Members)**
- _____ Wear Orange – “Zonta Says NO” – Saturday afternoon group photo **(All Members)**
- _____ Your Zonta “Spirit” for fun and fellowship **(All Members)**
- _____ Participate in the Parade of Presidents on Saturday morning **(President)**