



2022-2024 Candidates for Board Leadership

Governor-

Debbie Angwood

Lt. Governor-

Alice Rebecchi

Gloria Salas

Area 1 Director-

Tonya Ozone

Area 2 Director-

Olga Siggins

Area 3 Director-

Beth Heiserman

Area 4 Director-

Gwen Black

Area 5 Director-

Deanna Durkee

Treasurer-

Pat Dearing

Nominating Committee (3 are elected)

Sheila Cook-Cohen

Michelle Fogarty

Becky Gimple

Edie Ignacio Neumiller

Mele Spencer



Debbie Angwood

Candidate for: Governor Current Club: Zonta Club of Maricopa

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Lt. Governor, District 9 2020-2022
Area 5 Director, District 9 2018-2020

Club-level:

Board member, Zonta Club of Casa Grande Valley 2016
President, Zonta Club of Casa Grande Valley 2017-2018
President, Zonta Foundation of Casa Grande Valley, 2018-2020
Founding President, Zonta Club of Maricopa 2018
Membership chairwoman, Zonta Club of Maricopa
Board advisor, Zonta Club of Maricopa

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

I am a life member in the Order of Eastern star and member of the Maricopa Auxiliary. I also enjoy gardening, cycling, playing piano and golfing in my leisure time.

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

I bring a friendly, enthusiastic attitude and the passion for supporting and sharing the Zonta Mission. I have knowledge of the ZI Bylaws and the District 9 policies and procedures. My management style is to work as a team, with accountability for your responsibilities and obligations.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

If elected Governor of District 9, I will support mentoring and empowerment within our membership by calling upon our past Governors to take a more active roll in educating members and developing future leaders. Their roll will help with developing a knowledge of Zonta, and building confidence and skills necessary to have quality succession of leaders at both club and District levels.

I will encourage clubs to offer the option of hybrid meetings and invite other clubs to attend. I believe that sharing information amongst our clubs helps to strengthen and develop successful programs that will empower our members and promote advocacy. Hybrid meetings will also engage members that may find it difficult to get to a local meeting.

I plan to seek chairwomen for the District's Service and Advocacy Committees that are enthusiastic leaders and have knowledge and passion for both local and International projects. I would encourage them to meet virtually with the D9 clubs Service and Advocacy leaders on a quarterly basis to develop participation in the International projects/programs and collaboration with local organizations.

My personal goal is to develop more Z and Golden Z clubs within our District. As Zontians, we have an opportunity to mentor and motivate our future generations by developing leaders, promoting community involvement and participating in advocacy activities. We can empower them with skills that give them a greater understanding of the global issues affecting women and children. It may also give our Zonta clubs an opportunity to network with the parents and invite them to become members.

In summary, as Governor I seek: membership involvement in mentoring members and promoting Zonta in our local communities; showing our enthusiasm for Zonta by promoting on social media platforms, setting achievable goals and having interesting meetings; treating each other with the utmost respect and dignity; acknowledging and honoring members that do an outstanding job or for their years of service. Most importantly, I believe we should have fun and participate in fellowship and social networking events! A happy Zontian, is an engaged and productive member that believes in our mission and promotes this amazing organization!



Alice Rebecchi

Candidate for: Lt. Governor Current Club: Zonta Club of Casa Grande

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Area 5 Director, District 9

Club-level

Vice President, Zonta Club of Casa Grande

President, Zonta Club of Casa Grande

President, Zonta Foundation of Casa Grande

Past President, Zonta Foundation of Casa Grande

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

I work with local community theater productions both on stage and behind the scenes.

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Strong analytical and technical skills.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

I would like to work to raise awareness of Zonta both locally and at the district and international level to aid in both growth of the organization and to enable us to bring our programs to where they are most needed.



Gloria Salas

Candidate for: Lt. Governor Current Club: Zonta Club of Burbank Area

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

District 9 Area 3 Director 2020-2022

District 9 Advocacy Chair 2018-2020

Club-level:

President, Zonta Club of Burbank Area 2018-2020

Vice President, Zonta Club of Burbank Area 2016-2018

Secretary, Zonta Club of Burbank Area 2014-2016

Service and Advocacy Committee Chair, Zonta Club of Burbank Area

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Board member or officer: Burbank Human Relations Council; Burbank Business and Professional Women; Burbank for Armenia; Moderator, Peace. & Justice Ministry; involvement in anti-human trafficking seminars and trainings; hiking

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Adaptability, Collaboration, Empathy. This past year of lock-down has caused us to redefine normal and routine. I quickly adapted to the change in work, personal and Zonta life and found ways to continue interacting and communicating with the clubs in the Area. I firmly believe in collaboration. By clubs working together whether in a service or advocacy project, it creates a sense of community and the results are impactful. Empathy is important in leadership. It allows one to understand and appreciate the needs of others. At the end of the day, Leadership is about others. The knowledge I bring to the position of Lieutenant Governor is that which I have gleaned from the many wise Zontians who have been my mentors and friends who themselves have served in various District positions. You cannot merely read about the responsibilities of a position, one needs to listen and learn from the experiences of others.

If elected how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

"To empower is to give someone the means to achieve something." Zonta International has created the blue print to empower women through service and advocacy by partnering with the UN and NGOs. Most clubs have a partnership with like minded nonprofits. This position would allow me to support the many clubs' various service and advocacy projects; provide resources available through the ZI website and outside organizations; offer presentations by Service & Advocacy Committees from other Districts thereby learning from each other and, since access to education and healthcare results in empowerment, finding creative ways to intertwine these with already existing club projects.



Tonya Ozone

Candidate for: Area 1 Director Current Club: Zonta Club of Hilo

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Club-level:

President, Zonta Club of Hilo 2012-2016

Nominating committee 2020

Advocacy Chair 2011

Chair of Pay It Forward, Advocacy Committee, Fundraising Committee

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Boys and Girls Club, Virtual Arts

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Besides understanding how Zonta works logistically, I bring new ideas and ways to think about Zonta. I have done a lot of outreach and fundraising that has have raised our profile on Hawaii Island and look forward to doing that in our Area and District.

One of the ideas I brought forward was that of an Elevator Pitch, which Zonta International is now launching through its PR&C Committee. Zonta is over 100 years old and we still get asked "What is Zonta?" A great way to raise awareness is to have a global campaign among members who have rehearsed their elevator pitch. If more Zontians can concisely and consistently use their pitch, I believe it will raise awareness and help us move our mission forward.

I am well organized and have a can-do attitude.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

I believe it is important to meet women where they are. Empowerment comes from understanding what is important to the woman you are interacting with and helping find a solution for them. As an example, of that, if we want to attract younger women we need to understand where they are. They may be new moms or starting a new career and while they love the Zonta mission, their involvement may look different than that of a seasoned Zontian. They may find it difficult to attend meetings or to serve on a committee. We need to find ways to include them 'where they are at'. Perhaps recording meetings and sharing the link so they can view at a time that works with their schedule or asking them to help with a smaller project so they feel connected.

As for a specific project of empowerment, I would look to share with our area the Hilo Pay It Forward project. We can provide the outline and documents of how to get this started and share with our area clubs and then at the district level.

The idea would be similar to our Higher Education and Hands Are Not For Hitting projects that were shared as a 'kit in a box.'

Finally, I strongly believe that 'a rising tide lifts all boats.' My fellow Zontians success is my success and we need to do more to support women instead of trying to compete with them, both inside and outside of our clubs.

As most of us have become familiar using Zoom, we should continue that by staying connected to other island clubs to keep consistent connections with them.



Olga Siggins

Candidate for: Area 2 Director Current Club: Zonta Club of Salt Lake City

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Club-level

President, Zonta Club of Salt Lake City

Board member and Member of the following club committees: By-Laws, Advocacy, Scholarship, Communications, Fundraising, and Nominating.

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Current: Advisory Board Member of Clark Planetarium; Past: Board member, Utah State University Center for Women and Gender Studies; Mentor for Latinos In Action/Big Brothers & Big Sisters; and Community Council member for local schools.

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

As a lawyer, I bring advocacy and legal interpretation skills. I've also held leadership roles in both for profit and non-profit organizations. Additionally, I have experience with lean principles and driving change and process improvements.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

If elected, I am committed to advocating for and supporting Zonta International's causes as well those of each club in District 2 through insuring diversity and inclusion in our District membership. This will help with more broadly raising awareness of Zonta's important work and empowering women to develop leadership skills and experience while serving other women. Collectively, we can expand Zonta's influence to benefit women in our local communities and throughout the world.



Beth Heiserman

Candidate for: Area 3 Director Current Club: Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Co-Chair, Bylaws/Standing Rules Committee, District 9 2020-2022

Club-level:

Vice President, Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley

Club Chair, Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley

Tribute Fundraiser, 2014 - live auction chair

Socials/in-house fundraising chair, 2018-2019

JMK co-chair 2018 - 2019

Women in technology chair 2019

Advocacy, committee chair 2021-2022

PR/Social media, 2021-2022

Z Club/Golden Z chair, 2020-2022

Bylaws/Standing Rules chair, 2018-2020, committee 2021-2022

Conference/convention chair, 2018-2020, 2021-2022

Club Board, Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley

Director 2016 November to May of 2018.

1st Vice President, programs 2018-2019

President-elect 2019-2020

President 2020-2021

Vice President 2021-2022

Foundation Trustee 2019-2022

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Co-founder and Event Director of the Sierra Pelona Vintners Association

Columnist for a local paper

Executive Chef

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

I have many strengths and skills such as marketing, advertising, organization management, public relations/social media, web/digital design and fundraising which the area can benefit from. I have been an officer on our club board now for five years now. I have been vice president before and now I am currently vice

president again, plus I was president last year. I was able to accomplish many things while bringing our club into the present and preparing them for the future.

This past year, I helped to restart the Z Club Service project and have been planning to have an additional two Z Clubs and a Golden Z, which we will be the only in club in California to have one. I am the current chair of this committee. We were able to create a new scholarship in honor of one of our members. I assisted one of our service projects to go virtual. Their attendance grew three times more than when they met in person. I also helped with various advocacy projects to go virtual throughout the year.

I have been either the chair or on the committee of our club and foundation's bylaws and standing rules for the last three years. Then this past year I was asked to be on the district 9 bylaws/standing rules committee. I love researching and learning about Zonta International's history, manuals and the bylaws. I enjoy reading and learning and sharing my knowledge.

Communication between the clubs has been great since we have been virtual. Understanding the needs and wants of each club is very important to help them strive. Guiding from experience as a leader within my Zonta club and in my professional life will benefit the members of the area.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

When I was the Vice President of programs, I created each month a program to advocate ZI causes or awareness of ZI programs. The mission is so important to me that I shared it at the beginning of every business meeting during my presidency last year, plus I continued these topics for every months' program.

I had an opportunity for a position in the wine company that I used to work for, and I was told it didn't matter who I was related to (my dad was in upper management) that I would never get the position because I was female. Since then, I have strived to advocate the importance of gender equality. In 2018, I started a campaign for gender equality and human rights.

Human trafficking and domestic violence awareness have a special place in my heart too. I also created a new service project that should officially be launched this fall. It will help victims of trafficking and/or domestic violence in hotels, restaurants and bars.

I believe in achieving gender equality and ending violence against women and girls around the world. This year has made me realize how important mentorship is and my mentors have been amazing and helping me realize why I joined Zonta and why I remain in the club. I have learned to look past certain things and look at the whole picture and the importance of our work to advocate and what brings all of us together.

I am now the advocacy chair, and I am looking forward continuing to empower women and girls through service projects and advocacy campaigns throughout this coming year. I am creating a workshop for women dealing with PTSD this fall.

Being the chair of the Z Club has been amazing so that I can help improve the lives of women and girls locally and globally, now and for generations to come. We must invest in youth development and mentor young leaders for gender equality. And by empowering and educating them now, the collaboration from these students will create many profound service and advocacy projects. We had a successful year by fundraising, a human trafficking awareness campaign and a workshop on uncomfortable teen dating.

With all these things I have done in the last few years, I will continue to empower women and girls through service and advocacy if I am elected by making sure that I create relationships between the presidents and myself. I will help each club as they need my assistance. I will ensure that I have a working relationship with the governor and assist her when required.



Gwendolyn Black

Candidate for: Area 4 Director Current Club: Zonta Club of Newport Harbor

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Chair – District 9 Conference 2021
Parliamentarian, District 9, July 2018-June 2020
Secretary, District 9, 2016-2018
Bylaws & Resolutions Chair, District 9 2012-14
Jane M. Klausman Scholarship Committee Member, 2013
Area 4 Director, 2014-2016

Club-level:

Parliamentarian, 2017-Present
Bylaws Chair, 2016-2020
Scholarship Chair/co-Chair, 2014-2016
United Nations/Advocacy Chair, 2012-2015
President, 2010-2012
Vice President, 2009-2010
Director, 2007-2009, 2012-2015

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Junior League of Orange County, CA
Parent volunteer with school district/team boosters
Church board and youth program
Soccer parent

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Diversity, equity and inclusion, Meeting facilitation, Consensus-building, Volunteer engagement and Brainstorming

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

If elected as the Area 4 Director, I would connect with each club in Area 4 and their members to learn what their passions are for service and advocacy, what their strengths are and what areas they seek to strengthen to better meet the Zonta mission. I would take that knowledge and work with the clubs' presidents and the district's leadership to identify, share, and deliver resources, workshops, and opportunities that would empower and equip Zonta members to make their desired impact in their respective communities. Empowering and engaging our own members is a foundational and fundamental step – it is through empowering our members that we are able to empower other women locally and globally through our service and advocacy. It takes more than one person. With the collaboration of the district advocacy committee, leadership development liaison, other area directors, and club leaders – to name a few – we collectively can reach new heights of advancing the status of women, while also learning to care for our own wellbeing so we can continue to pursue our passion for Zonta.



Deanna (DeDe) Durkee

Candidate for: Area 5 Director Current Club: Zonta Club of Phoenix – East Valley

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

District Treasurer, District 9, 1993-1997

Area 5 Director 1991-1993

Club-level

Club President 1990-1991 & 2016-2019; Zonta Club of Phoenix – East Valley

Club Treasurer 1991-2016; Zonta Club of Phoenix – East Valley

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

I am Treasurer for ReInventing Reentry, a 501c3 organization that advocates for former inmates. I'm also a Director for the Arizona Women's Conference, an annual event that brings women together to share their passions, ideas, struggles and successes.

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

As a CPA with a client list and as a long time Zontian I've learned to listen to people and to use that as a base for helping them and assisting with problems or questions they have. In other words, I'm a good listener.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

I'll use my skills to help our District Officers fulfill their goals which will include our international goals as well.



Patricia Dearing

Candidate for: District 9 Treasurer Current Club: Zonta Club of Phoenix/East Valley

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Treasurer, District 9

Club-level:

Treasurer, Zonta Club of Phoenix/East Valley

Director, Zonta Club of Phoenix/East Valley

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Volunteer at Church Food Bank;

Show products for sale at vendor shows

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

The ability to read and understand contract documents; ability to work and understand Excel and Word; knowledge of budgets from a home budget to a working staff budget; Attention to detail and organizational skills. Experience working Quickbooks.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

As a Treasurer and a Zonta member, I fully support empowering women. I believe all women should know that they are empowered. One way is to provide service to organizations that support women. I fully support our Club in its efforts to provide goods and services to organizations that help women in domestic abuse situations along with supporting women in housing crises. Our Club is fully vested in working on influencing laws and legislation, and I support that effort.



Sheila Cook-Cohen

Candidate for: Nominating Committee Current Club: Zonta Club of Newport Harbor

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

International:

Zonta Caucus

US Women's Caucus at the UN

District-level:

District 9 Advocacy Chair

Club-level:

Advocacy Chair, Zonta Club of Newport Harbor

Board Member 2018-2021, Zonta Club of Newport Harbor

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

UNA-Orange County, UNA-America

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Executive Management, (22 direct reports/200 indirect reports) Asia Pacific, Global Corporate Interface, Project Development, Staff Training & Review

If elected how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

Firstly understand current qualifications/interests of team members. Support and increase knowledge base of Zonta members, maintain monthly/bi-monthly contact with clubs, establish collaborative efforts between clubs and with NGOs.



Michelle Fogarty

Candidate for: District 9 Nominating Committee Current Club: Zonta Club of the Casa Grande Valley

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Club-level:

President, Zonta Club of the Casa Grande Valley, 2020-Present

Vice President, Zonta Club of the Casa Grande Valley 2019-202

Assistant Treasurer, Zonta Club of the Casa Grande Valley 2018-2019

Director, Zonta Club of the Casa Grande Valley 2016-2018

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Competitive powerlifting and Crossfit.

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

I have provided leadership on community projects as a member of Zonta and in my role as educator. As a teacher, I created a girls group for preteens at the middle school. Members were provided with a platform focused on leadership skills and opportunities for positive change. Lastly, I am also skilled at the art of communication. Communication includes not only verbalizing my own thoughts and opinions but also the art of non-verbal communication.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

Empowerment begins with awareness and support. Developing an awareness begins with education bringing forth issues impacting girls globally and here in our own backyards including human trafficking and child marriage. Education is the key to awareness and awareness is the key to service and ultimately change.

As an educator, I am witness to the impact of poverty, violence, drugs and alcohol on adolescent/pre-teen girls and their families. The human right to choice is limited and voices are left unheard and ultimately the cycle continues. Education takes a step back when daily survival is the goal.

Educational events are paramount to bring awareness within our communities as a first step to communicate needs and opportunities to break the cycle. Mentoring and providing opportunities for choice where girls can see school as an opportunity for a different future. Additionally, supporting programs that provide safety and opportunity for women to create a different future will empower a new generation.



Becky Gimple

Candidate for: Nominating Committee Current Club: Zonta Club of Burbank

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Chair of the Public Relations and Communications Chair, District 9

Secretary, District 9:

Membership Committee, District 9, May 2019-May 2020

Club-level

President, Zonta Club of Burbank Area May 2019-May 2020,

President, Zonta Club of Burbank Area Foundation;

Vice President, Zonta Club of Burbank Area June 2018-May 2019

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Previously, member of Junior League of Los Angeles and volunteer at ASPCA. Currently, Board Member of Glendale Library, Arts and Culture Trust.

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Knowledge and skills in communications, public relations, and social media

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

If elected, I hope to help find diverse candidates who are passionate about Zonta's mission to serve in leadership for the district. I hope to get the opportunity to find members who might be newer to Zonta or have not had the chance or courage to look into leadership positions at this level before, and encourage them to do so.



Edie Ignacio Neumiller

Candidate for: District 9 Nominating Committee Current Club: Zonta Club of Kaua`i

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Past Area 1 Director (2018-2020)

Club-level:

Past Club President (2016-2018)

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Kaua`i Commissioner Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Past Director of the Kaua`i Filipino Chamber of Commerce

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

Awareness of needs and challenges faced by women from all walks of life; organizational skills, and awareness of the need for diversity in all actions taken.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

I would encourage potential Zonta women to step up to leadership roles within their local clubs. They would become role models and mentors to Zonta members who desire to be a voice on women's issues as leaders in their clubs.



Mele Spencer

Candidate for: District 9 Nominating Committee Current Club: Zonta Club of Hilo

Positions and offices held in Zonta:

District-level:

Chair- D9 Bylaws Committee;

District: D9 Bylaws Committee, Chair, 2020-2022; Nomination Committee, Chair 2018-2020; D9 Representative to USA Caucus, 2018-2020; Governor, 2016-2018; Lt. Governor , 2014-2016; Area Director, 2010-2012; Nominating Committee, 2008-2010; Nominating Committee 2012-2014; Bylaws Committee, 2013; Amelia Earhart Coordinator, 2006-2008; Conference Committee, 2007 & Chair, Sponsorship Sub-committee 2007; Conference Committee & Chair, Monitor & Timekeeper 2005.

Club-level:

Club Membership Committee

Program Committee 2021-2023; Membership Committee 2019-2021; Treasurer 2013-2014; President, 2005-2007; 1st Vice-President 1999-2002; Director 2003-2004; Chair, Bylaws Committee (date unk); Co-chair, Zonta sponsored Art Show 2000; Co-chair Fundraiser 1999-2001.

What other activities do you participate in outside of Zonta?

Hawaii County Committee on Status of Women, corresponding secretary, treasurer, term expires 2018-12/31/2021; Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, past director, event committee co-chair; • Hawaii Island Women's Leadership Forum, charter member, summit committee, workshop committee liaison; Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, member; Farm Supply Cooperative, past director and secretary; Agricultural Advisory Committee, State of Hawaii, member; Keaukaha Panaewa Farmers Association, member and past president; Japanese Community Association, member; Hale o Na Alii, (benevolent society), member

What special skills and knowledge do you bring to this position?

My experience in Zonta at the club and district level and leadership positions in business, community boards and governmental commissions provide me with the skills to plan, work collaboratively with others, network throughout the district, encourage others to seek leadership positions in Zonta.

If elected, how will you empower women through service and advocacy:

We need to encourage Zontians to not only serve at the club level, but share their vision and leadership skills at the district and international levels. Our future leaders need encouragement and resources to develop their skills and abilities to advance beyond the club level. Along with others on the nominating committee, we will seek to enhance those measures and encourage Zontians serve at the district and international levels. Empowering them will enhance the Zonta mission.