



## ZONTA

### A modern network of women with traditional roots

#### Area History District 27/07

In 2008 the Area 03 was split into two Areas and the new Area 07 has including 13 clubs. The clubs are hosted in the States of Lower Saxony with the ZONTA Clubs Hannover, Hildesheim, Göttingen, Goslar, Goslar St. Barbara, Braunschweig and Salzgitter; in Saxony with the ZONTA Clubs Leipzig, Leipzig Elster and Dresden and as well in the capitol Berlin with the Zonta Clubs Berlin, Berlin 1989 and Berlin Mitte.

The ZONTA Club members in Area 07 are very connected with each other and support all together the realization of ZONTA's objectives. An historic overview of the last 50 years documents the sustainable and effective engagement of Zontians. With several projects as well as great creativity, it was possible to fight for the improvement of the situation of women on a national and international level. The Area 07 had a very successful past, looking at all the little pieces what all the special Clubs have done together.

The **ZONTA Club Berlin** is the oldest club in the Area 07. The club was founded in **1966** and was the 14<sup>th</sup> Club establishment in Germany. The SOM-Club was Munich I and the monthly gatherings were taking place in private settings. They supported financially national and international projects as well as assisted local projects with high engagement, for instants, the difficult transportation of the "hospital mattress washing machine" from Berlin to Danzig. This was only possible to realize through the intensive cooperation of the ZONTA Clubs Berlin and Danzig with the German-Polish association. They also initiated new service projects as well as supported young students with their participations at international Awards. Especially the mentoring program for migrants at the University of Economy and Law and the cooperation with FEMTEC were very successful. They socialized and stayed in contact with several European ZONTA Clubs and were honored by the "One world Club" Award at the Convention in 1976. Among that, the visits of international presidents from the USA, Harriet Yeckel, from Paris France Chaise Mutin, from Zürich Sonja Renfer, from Nigeria Folake Solanke and from the USA Marie Ellen Bittner were special highlights.

In **1973** the **ZONTA Club Hannover**, counting 37 members, was included in the ZONTA family. In the timespan from 1980-1988 the ZONTA Club organized together with the Soroptimist-Club Hannover several social and cultural events for emigrants. In 2006 they established a sponsorship award which includes a prize money of 2000 € and is commissioned every two years to junior scientists with majors in scientist and technical subjects at the Leibniz University Hanover. The awardee has to show above average social engagement as well as excellent grades in their university degree. In August 1988 the ZONTA Club Hanover hosted the European-week, where 22 Zontians from the several European ZONTA Clubs were guests.

In **1975** the **ZONTA Club Goslar** was founded as the second ZONTA Club in Lower Saxony. Up to this day, they count 43 members in an age range of 37 to 92 years. As the club was located close to the intra-German border, they faced problems which were coming along with it. For instants, the ZONTA Club Goslar was sending big packages into the DDR and supported the nursing home "Lutherstift Frankfurth an der Oder". For 30 years the main focus

was the border transit camp Friedland. Overall "Friedland" was four times chosen by all German ZONTA Clubs as a joint service project in Germany. A longtime friend of the ZONTA Club Goslar, who originates from Siebenbürgen, instructed and assists the Club to an international aid projects for over a decade of time. The ZONTA Club Goslar donated over all more than 70.000 DM, also did donations of kindness as well as financed the truck transportations to Romania. Also as a club of an old emperor city they are very committed to their historic heritage. Up to today, the responsibility of the miners influences the club members and assists the social projects of the ZONTA Club Goslar. One of the members was working as a medical specialist in radiology, participated in the board of the German women council and was the president of the world medical association. In some of the African capitals she impacted the foundation of new ZONTA Clubs.

The **ZONTA Club Braunschweig** was chartered by the ZONTA Club Hanover in **1987**. Fall of 1991, the ZONTA Club organized a charity concert with the famous international pianist Ragna Schirmer. The club has also special connection to the artists Georg Renz. Since 2003 he is very well known for his performances every first Sunday in November in Braunschweig. They got especially good feedbacks for the weekend tickets for the expedition of Heinrich den Löwen as well as for the Expo 2000 project. During the Expo 2000 all of the German ZONTA Clubs including Braunschweig organized a joint project in St. Petersburg. Through the close cooperation of the ZONTA Club with the "Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR)" and the TU Braunschweig it is possible to award periodically the "Amelia Earhart-Award" to young qualified scientists. In 2006 and 2013 the awardees Michaela Herr and Bianca Gursky were also internationally successful.

The **ZONTA Club Salzgitter** joins in June **1992** the ZONTA organisation. The young Club faced local as well as international problems with high engagement and earnestness. Since 2008 the Project "Pro Familia" finances a Family nurse who is supporting underage mothers in a long period of time. Plenty of women enrich the social and cultural life of the city with voluntary service but without a lot of people noticing. Therefore the ZONTA Club Salzgitter created an award called "The woman who stands out..." and grants this price every other year in rotation with an award for colleges of higher education. For establishing this creative price the ZONTA Club Salzgitter was an awardee of the "recognition award" by the District in 2001. Since 1997, one of the traditions is on the international women day, where a yearly Sunday breakfast with Jazz in the Foyer of the FH Calbrecht takes place.

The fall of the German wall led to more encounters between women from West and East Germany. More ZONTA clubs were chartered in the newly formed German states in the 1990's. In 1993 the **ZONTA Clubs Dresden and Leipzig** were added to the ZONTA family. With the charity balls and concerts the ZONTA Club Leipzig added new city events as well as draw more attention to the new network in that area. The club focused with their sponsorship on talented, indigent music students.

Through the initiative of a long term member of the ZONTA Club Berlin, the first ZONTA Club including women from East and West Germany was founded in **1992** called **ZONTA Club 1989**. The name of the new club is up to this day a symbol for high standards. It has been a good choice since it represents the life and work attitude, the political environment as well as the problems which eastern German women had to deal with. This led to high understanding and a friendly cooperation with each other. The 5<sup>th</sup> District 27 Conference in September 2003 was an another great event which was hosted by the representatives of the ZONTA Club Berlin 1989. Since 2004 Femtec-Promoting Talents is one of the funded projects of the Femtec. University career center for women Berlin GmbH combined with the Femtec. Career building-Program which offers young feminine students research and internship travels. Therefore the ZONTA Club Berlin 1989 is part of a network of funding young women in science and technical studies as well as supports the further development of career opportunities and widens the perspective of women in executive positions. Since 2003 the

Zontians of the Club helped homeless women in Berlin with the project called "Eva's Haltestelle". Another Project is called "Frauenraum" which follows ZONTA's objective named "ZONTA says NO" to fight the worldwide discrimination and violence against women.

In 1999 the ZONTA Club Goslar chartered the **ZONTA Club Göttingen** including 29 members who yearly organize a tombola at the Horse tournament in Nörten-Hardenberg, early shopping with Jazz music and since 2009 a golf tournament. In 2007, at the award ceremony of the award for women in science and research, a promising young researcher in physic was honored by the ZONTA Club Göttingen for her work about spiders producing silk. The Göttingen Zontians won the 3<sup>rd</sup> place with the project "Violence against women" by participating in a tender of the federal association of advice centers for women and women shelters in 2008.

The **ZONTA Club Goslar St. Barbara** was added to the ZONTA Clubs in the Harz region in May **2003**. Every year they award young feminine scientists with a special price at the "Jugend Forscht" state competition. The members are especially proud of the JMK awardee in 2012, Suzan Erbil, who was the winner in District 27 and who won one of the twelve international awards. Since the foundation of the Club, there has been a ZONTA price for "Women in technical jobs" and since 2006 a Zonta price for "Women in artistic jobs" which additionally come along with price money of 1000 €.

The word Elster (magpie) is used as a symbol of feminine garrulity but in this case of the 2<sup>nd</sup> **ZONTA Club in Leipzig** the name comes from one of the biggest rivers flowing through Leipzig. The chartered Club "**Leipzig-Elster**" has 18 members who are not only talkative during their monthly meetings but also energetically aiming the realization of ZONTA's objectives. The ZONTA Club Leipzig-Elster focused their projects on social solidarity where successful women give support to women in needs.

Friday **February 13<sup>th</sup> 2004** was a lucky day for the city of Hildesheim, since the **ZONTA Club Hildesheim** was founded and added lots of new events to the city program. The ZONTA Club Hildesheim awards frequently the "young women in public affairs award" and was very proud that the local awardee in 2011 was not only successful in Hildesheim but also won the price on the district level. Another special feature of the ZONTA Club Hildesheim is the created award called "die be-merkens-werte Frau". This price honors women committing themselves to outstanding local work which is not necessarily noticed by the public. The Award is tendered every other year rotating with the YWPA award. A very well-known Project, even beyond Hildesheim, is the Advents calendar which is a magnet for public relations, very profitable for the club and for the holders as well since it includes very appealing prizes. The annual event to the world women day is very special, too. In an old, nostalgic movie theatre the ZONTA Club Hildesheim shows women-relevant movies along with good food and drinks. Also this Event is very well known with a high request for the tickets.

One of the goals of the last Club chartered in Area 07, **ZONTA Club Berlin-Mitte**, was to unite the Club activities of women from East and West Germany. One of the outstanding events was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall and the opening of the East/West German border. In the capitol Berlin, a big event called "Dominostein" was a symbolic fall of the wall after 20 years again. Besides hundreds of artists, groups and volunteers also ZONTA Club Berlin-Mitte was involved in this Project by donating one of the dominoes. The domino was painted by the artist Philipp Ganzer (WIZET), sold after that big event and the benefit was donated to their service projects. Having the bonus of being one of the capitol ZONTA clubs is fairly used by the clubs for their projects. For example, politicians and ministries like Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, Dr. Kristina Schröder and the journalists Basha Mika, Holde-Barbara Ulrich and Beate Tenfelde were guests at special ceremonies as well as they express their appreciation of long-term engagement in realization of equal rights and opportunities for women by the ZONTA network.