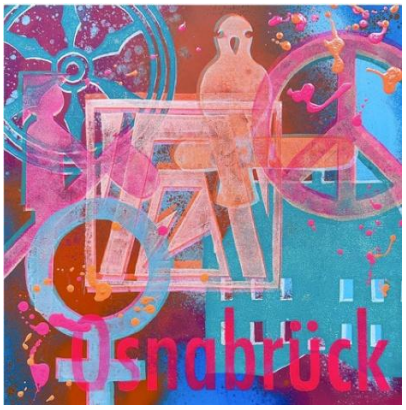


Together we go!!!

Minutes – 16th District 27 Conference in Osnabrück

3 – 5 October 2025

Venue: OsnabrückHalle

Schlosswall 1-9, Osnabrück, Niedersachsen – Germany

Prequel


PROGRAM 3 October
12.00 -14.00
Credentials and Registration
14.30
Welcome Zonta on Tour
15.00
Opening Ceremony
with Governor Ria Matthijssens and Conference Chair Maaike Luttik
15.30
Keynotes
from Mrs. Matviichuk and Dr. Schwanholz
16.40
Awardee Ceremony
with Sofie Jonkers, Sofie Verbeke, Emiliy Restrepo, Hadise Jafari, Ikram Makloufi, Lilou Deischter, Freya Maria Rosenthal, Johanna Spansel
17.15
Champagne Reception

Friday, 3 October 2025

14:30 Arrival of the Bikers of Zonta on Tour in front of OsnabrückHalle

Opening Ceremony

Opening ceremony 1

Opening ceremony 2

15:00 to 17:30

Master of ceremony: Lidia Wübbelmann

***Born This Way* – Lady Gaga**

Welcome conversation Conference Chair Maaike Luttik & Governor Ria Matthijssens

Movie of Zonta on Tour and donation to Zonta International Foundation

Roar - Kate Perry (verse + Chorus)

Welcome video by International President Salla Tuominen

Welcome by Osnabrück Mayor Katharina Pötter

Hall of Fame – The Script (verse + chorus)

Introduction of Dr. Schwanholz by Christiane Lemberg

Keynote by Dr. Julia Schwanholz

Authoritarianism on the rise, peace at risk. Fighting for democracy and a better world for girls and women

Authoritarianism

Introduction of Mrs. Matviichuk by Governor Ria Matthijssens

Keynote by Mrs. Oleksandra Matviichuk

Nobel Peace Prize winner 2022 for the work of her organization
The Center for Civil Liberties.

Center for Civil Liberties

Wrecking Ball – Miley Cyrus

District Awards Ceremony

Introduction by Birgit Gutmann-Oks
and Award Committee Chairs : Zonta Women in STEM Petra Helf,
JMK Women in Business Sandra Renaud,
ZYWIBL Hilde Famaey

Special recognition for

Sophie Jonkers JMK International Scholar 2024

Johanna Spansel STEM International Scholar 2023

Hadise Jafari ZYWL International Awardee 2025

Ikram Makloufi ZYWL International Awardee 2025

Emily Restrepo JMK District Awardee 2024

Lilou Deischter ZYWL District Awardee 2025

Freya Rosenthal ZYWL District Awardee 2025

District Awards

On Top of the World – Imagine Dragons

Closing words & invitation to reception: Governor Ria Matthijssens
& Conference Chair Maaike Luttik

Bonfire Heart – James Blunt

Conference song

Champagne reception offered by the Mayor

Sing Along Evening Party at Lagerhalle

Lagerhalle 1

Lagerhalle 2

Saturday, 4 October 2025 [Workshops impression]



BUSINESS SESSIONS 4 October 2025

8.00 - 9.00	**Credentials and Registration**	
9.00	Business Session 1	• Welcome • Official communications • Registrations • Credentials 1 • Standing Rules of Procedure • Agenda • Minutes DC Luxemburg • Governor's Report
10.15	***Coffee Break***	
10.45	**Business Session 2**	• Credentials 2 • Bylaws & Resolutions • Financial Report & Audit • Report of the Foundation Ambassador • Report of the Nominating Committee • Presentation of the Candidates • Announcements • Voting Instructions • Voting by the Delegates
12.30	***Lunch Great Girls meet Great Women***	
13.45	**Business Session 3**	• Election Results • Reports of the 7 Area Directors
14.45	***Coffee Break***	

15.15 - 17.00	**Business Session 4**	• Reports of the Committee Chairs
		  ◦ Women in Business Leadership
		  ◦ Young Women in Leadership
		  ◦ Amelia Earheart
		  ◦ STEM
		  ◦ Zonta Awardee Connected
		  ◦ Advocacy
		  ◦ Communication
		  ◦ UN & Council of Europe
		  ◦ Membership & Club Creator
		• Q&A
		• Closing Remarks

16

Business session 1 9:00 – 10:10

Hope is a Women, from Alice Walker, brought by Sanja Pelletier Hope is a woman

1. Call to order by Governor Ria Matthijssens

   Welcome by Ria Matthijssens
   Ria Matthijssens welcomed the participants and was very pleased that so many Zontians followed the call to the 16th district 27 conference.

2. Headtable

   Governor Ria Matthijssens introduced the head table:
   - Lt. Governor Marie-Anne Radek - E-Club France 1 – Lumières
   - Parliamentarian Christine Gerberding - ZC Hamburg Hafen
   - Governor Ria Matthijssens - ZC Antwerpen
   - International representative Sandy Venn-Brown, International Vice President and District 27 Liaison - D 22 ZC Stanthorpe Inc
   - District Secretary Chantal Platteau - ZC Waasland
   - District Treasurer Géraldine Welvaert - ZC Gent I

3. Appointments

   For this conference the following persons had been appointed:
   a. Parliamentarian - Christine Gerberding
   b. Secretary – Chantal Platteau
   c. Credentials Committee – Karolien Dewitte,
   d. Tellers Committee – Claudine Tytgat
   e. Timekeeper – Melanie Wolff on Saturday, Sanja Pelletier on Sunday
   f. Registration Committee – Maaike Luttik

4. Instructions on voting
   Claudine Tytgat gave the voting instructions.

   Voting on appointments :
   84 yes
   0 No
   0 abstentions.
   The appointments are adopted.

5. Registration 1 by Maaike Luttik

Number of Delegates	66
Number of non-delegates	138
Number of Award-or Scholarship winners	8
Number of Zontians with individual membership	0
Number of Z or Golden Z Club members	5
Guests	4
Total number of registrations	221

6. Credentials 1 by Karolien Dewitte

Based on Credentials registration	1st Report
Date	Oct 4, 2025
Elected District Officers	10
Accredited Delegate votes	79
Accredited Proxy votes	11
Total votes authorized	100

Adopted by unanimous consent.

7. Standing rules by Christine Gerberding

   Christine explained the voting rules.
   Handbook pages 11-13.
   The rules were adopted by unanimous consent.

8. Agenda

   The agenda and the change were adopted unanimously).

9. Minutes DC Luxembourg

   The minutes of the 15th District Conference in Luxembourg were adopted unanimously.

10. Report Governor

    Report of the Governor

    Governor Ria Matthijssens explained the 3 targets for the biennium: Membership by new clubs & attracting young people by honoring awards, Advocacy and Visibility.

11. CC Advocacy Christiane Lemberg Report

    Advocacy Report

BREAK

Business session 2 10:45 - 12:00

12. Credentials 2

Based on Credentials registration	2nd Report
Date	Oct 4, 2025
Elected District Officers	10
Accredited Delegate votes	81
Accredited Proxy votes	11
Total votes authorized	102

Adopted by unanimous consent.

13. Bylaws & Resolutions Wiebke Baars

    Bylaws
    Handbook pages 32-33
    1. District 27 – Rules of Procedure Proposal pertaining to District Dues
       - Dues schedule: adopted by 91 yes votes
       - Young Professionals age: adopted by 94 yes votes

2. Zonta International Bylaws Proposal pertaining to the District Nominating Committee
   Adopted by 96 yes votes

Resolutions
Handbook page 34
Zonta International Resolution regarding the "Zonta Says NO to violence against women" Campaign.
Adopted by 90 yes votes.

14. Motion from Parliamentarian Christine Gerberding

Due to technical issues, the Conference agrees to amend the Credentials Report to accept the total numbers of voting delegates is 103.
Seconded by Dominique Lesseliers.
Adopted by unanimous consent.

15. Financial Report & Audit

Report Auditors & closing biennium 2022 – 2024

Financial Report 2024 – 2026 & Budget 2026 – 2028

- Auditor's report by Malou Gehlen : Handbook page 24
  Adoption: 93 yes votes.
- Financial Report of the Biennium 2022-2024 - Géraldine Welvaert
  Handbook pages 25-27
- Financial report Ukraine at closure biennium 2022-2024 - Géraldine Welvaert Handbook page 28
- Financial Report dd. 14/09/2025 – Géraldine Welvaert
  Handbook p. 29
- Proposal of the Budget 2026-2028 - Géraldine Welvaert
  Handbook p. 30-31
  Adoption: The reports and the Budget Proposal 26-28 were adopted by 94 yes votes.

16. Motion from Governor Ria Matthijssens

1 Agenda change proposal : report Foundation in Business Session 3
Seconded by Marianna Pryshliak.
Adopted by 94 yes votes.

17. Nominating Committee Brigitta Henss

Nominating committee report

- There were no nominations from the floor.
- Withdrawal of Hilde Famaey, candidate for Nominating Committee.

Governor Ria Matthijssens thanked the Committee (Brigitta Henss, Régine Deguelle and Claire van der Ent Braat) for their efforts and the slate of candidates from nearly all area's.

18. Candidates

Presentation of the candidates: Handbook pages 35-55

19. Motion by Parlementarian Christine Gerberding

Due to technical problems we have to shift to a voting on paper. Therefore I move to conduct the voting by paper. Karolien Dewitte and Claudine Tytgat will be the tellers.
Seconded by Inge Human.
Adopted by unanimous consent.

Since Chantal Platteau was a candidate for the Nominating Committee, she left the room.

20. Instructions by Claudine Tytgat

21. Voting for delegates managed by Claudine Tytgat

12:15 - 12:45 Elections

12:30 – 13:45 Lunch Great Girls Meet Great Women

Business session 3 13:45 – 17:00

22. Short yoga stretching by Caroline Lemm.

23. Result of the elections & pictures

Office	Candidate	Votes received
Governor	Marie-Anne RADEK	100
Lt. Governor	Régine CLAEYS	65
	Susanne TIEDCHEN	36
Treasurer	Chantal HAGEN - DE MULDER	101
Nominating Committee		
	Swantje FISSER - BEILFUSS	44
	Karin HENCKES	74
	Chantal PLATTEAU	74

Elected	
Governor	Marie-Anne RADEK
Lt. Governor	Régine CLAEYS
Treasurer	Chantal HAGEN - DE MULDER
Nominating Committee	
	Karin HENCKES
	Chantal PLATTEAU
	Swantje FISSER - BEILFUSS

Governor Ria congratulated the new board and wished them every success during their term of office. She also thanked all candidates for their commitment and dedication. Together, we will work during the next biennium to create a better world for girls and women.

24. Foundation Ambassador Report Ann Naets

Foundation Report

Results of Menti Meter:

- members strongly associate the Foundation with its core mission of advancing women's rights globally.

- clear preference for advocacy initiatives and long-standing global programs with strong visibility within the District.
- the importance of strengthened communication and transparent reporting on impact.
- simplifying the donation process and improving visibility of individual impact may help overcome these concerns.

A recurring concern relates to the cost of transfers to the Foundation, regardless of whether the account is located in the U.S. or the U.K. Apparently, this issue is primarily linked to banks within the Eurozone.
This matter is currently being further investigated, and the results of this research, along with best practices, will be shared with the members.

25. Area Directors Report
    - Report AD 01 Josiane Entringer **Area 01**
    - Report AD 02 Dominique Hervé **Area 02**
    - Report AD 03 Inge Human **Area 03**
    - Report AD 04 Marianna Pryshliak **Area 04**

      AD Marianna Pryshliak thanks for the continuous support to Ukraine.
    - Report AD 05 Hilde Verstraete **Area 05**
    - Report AD 06 Dominique Lesseliers **Area 06**
    - Report AD 07 Vicky Pulvermacher **Area 07**

26. Questions & Discussion

    No specific questions were raised.

BREAK

27. Committee Chairs (CC) Reports
    - Report CC Zonta Women in Business Leadership - Sandra Renaud **ZWIBL**
    - Report CC Zonta Young Women in Leadership - Hilde Famaey **ZYWL**
    - Report CC Amelia Earhart Fellowship - Petra Helf **Amelia Earhart**
    - Report CC Zonta Women in STEM - Petra Helf **STEM**
    - Report CC ZAC - Birgit Gutmann-Oks **ZAC**
    - Report Communication Team - Régine Claeys, Ute Watermeyer, Liesbet Van Landegem **Communication**
    - Report CC UN & CoE - Régine Deguelle **UN & CoE**
    - Report CC Membership & Club Creator - Marie-Anne Radek & Claire van der Ent Braat **Membership and Club creator**

28. Questions & Discussion

    All presentations being very clear, no questions raised

29. Closing remarks

Lidia Wübbelmann invited to Gala dinner in Alando.

During the Gala Dinner, the Governor extended a warm and heartfelt personal thank you to all those who keep the District running : our board members and committee chairs, and to the enthusiastic team that made the District Conference a success.

Galadinner at Alando 1 - Galadinner at Alando 2

Sunday, 5 October 2025



08:45 - 09:30 Memorial Service in Katharinenkirche, conducted by Ute Conen

Memorial Service

Business session 4 09:30 – 13:00

30. Introduction by Governor Ria Matthijssens,

    Thanking for the touching memorial service.

31. Final Report of the Registration Committee Maaike Luttik

Total number of registrations	253
Number of delegates	73
Number of non-delegates	155
Number of Youngsters	16
Number of Zonians with individual membership	0

Number of guests	5
Number of Cancellations	4

32. Report Highlights of 12 Workshops Maaike Luttik

    The theme being Zonta Spirit, the purpose was to interact and exchange. The Peace tree and the Zonta Bongo were organised in the same spirit.

33. Presentation of the next District Conference Lt. Governor & Gov. Elect Marie-Anne Radek

    Beaune 2027 movie

BREAK

34. Message from ZI by Sandy Venn-Brown **Message of Zonta International**

    Including some personal info
    Zonta International Convention Vancouver
    Strategic Plan and Zonta goals
    Announcing change in Governance 2028-2030, where the process is on track.

35. Video's on Convention in Vancouver by Sandy Venn-Brown

    11-14 July 2026
    Vancouver Convention

36. Introduction speaker by Cornelia Streb-Baumann

37. Keynote Debbie Stoll: Democracy is a Mindset **Democracy is a mindset**

38. Closing words by Governor Ria Matthijssens

The conference successfully demonstrated the relevance of its central theme, **PEACE**, which was thoughtfully expanded to encompass **Democracy and Women** in response to current global challenges. Through insightful keynotes by Dr. Schwanholz and Oleksandra Matviichuk, and the powerful testimony of Debbie Stoll, participants were reminded of the vital role women play in promoting peace, democracy, and freedom of expression. The reference to Elisabeth Rehn, UN Special Rapporteur and Zonta International Honorary Member, underscored Zonta's longstanding commitment to human rights and gender equality.

Aligned with Zonta's strategic plan, the conference gave our organization a visible and credible voice on these fundamental issues. A total of **€8,437** was raised for the Zonta Foundation through the Foundation Desk, raffle proceeds, and a generous gift from the cycling team. In addition, financial support for Ukraine will be directed to clubs in Area 04 under the coordination of Régine Deguelle.

This achievement was made possible through **state-of-the-art teamwork**, characterized by mutual input, flexibility, and shared commitment. The preparation and execution of the event reflected a collaborative spirit that is both inspiring and exemplary. **A special word of thanks goes to ZC Osnabrück Westfälischer Friede, supported by the surrounding clubs, for their outstanding contribution to making this conference a success.**

It is a privilege to work within such a dedicated network, and we extend heartfelt thanks to all participants for their engagement, contributions, and friendship.

May the ideas and motivation generated here continue to inspire efforts toward building a better world for women and girls—and, by extension, for all.

39. Conference Chair Maaike Luttik thanked a completely satisfied team

40. Conference song

Bonfire Heart
(Original from James Blunt).

Ria Matthijssens
Governor 2024-2026

Chantal Platteau
Secretary 2024-2026

Final Report of the Credentials Committee Karolien Dewitte

CREDENTIALS REPORT

District Board - elected Officers	10
Clubs in District - Total	76
Clubs represented by delegates	63
Clubs represented by proxies	11
Clubs not represented	2