



October 2017

Dear Zontians,

The district conference is an important Zonta event during the biennium. It is where district decisions are made, and where members come together for discussions, workshops and election of the next district leadership. And – there is the possibility to meet new and old friends and feel the true Zonta fellowship and spirit!

All our activities have one common denominator – women's rights are human rights. Together we will achieve equal rights for all, even if it sometimes feels a bit far away when you see steps back for women around the world. Despite these setbacks, we will not rest until we have reached our vision. We will never give up.

Zonta's combination of service and advocacy is a winning concept. By focusing on supporting women's self-sustainability through service projects both on the international level and the local level, we see tangible results. Being a leading advocate for women's rights at the UN, Council of Europe and UNESCO, together with our clubs advocating and cooperating across district borders at the national level, results in sustainable improvements for women and girls in our local communities and around the world.

We will continue to be committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal No. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. By 2030, we want to see a world in which every woman and girl is able to achieve her full potential. Above all, we want to see a world in which no woman or girl lives in fear of violence.

To ensure our vision is a reality, we must speak with one voice – with one voice we are more easily heard, with one voice more people will listen and contribute to our cause. Working together with other organizations is another way to strengthen our message, and we must take advantage of opportunities to do so when suitable.

Enjoy the coming days and use them to reflect on our mission and vision. I wish I could be with you – I will be there in spirit!

Thank you all for being dedicated, devoted and daring in your work for our great organization and for women and girls everywhere.

In closing, I hope you will join me at our next International convention in Yokohama, Japan. It promises to be a memorable and rewarding Zonta experience.

Warm regards,

Sonja Hönig Schough
President

