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For Immediate Release

Centennial Flag Travels Across Two States & One Province Celebrating Zonta 100 Years

[Western Pennsylvania, Western New York, Ontario] The district-wide Travelling Flag Project will link the 35 clubs and our 800+ members across the district. In Olympic torch fashion, the flag will be received by clubs and celebrated within their respected communities in the coming months.

In Buffalo, New York on November 8, 1919, five businesswomen led by Marian de Forest, forged ahead to begin the Confederation of Zonta Clubs. Three of the original nine clubs were from the current Zonta International District 4. The women felt that with the passing of the Equal Suffrage amendment to the United States Constitution and the record for service by women during World War I, they should participate in a world in which women were rapidly growing in status and responsibility. Zonta became an international organization in 1927 with the chartering of the Zonta Club of Toronto. The name was officially changed to Zonta International in 1930. Zonta took its name from the Lakota Sioux Indian word meaning “honest and trustworthy.”

A flag has been commissioned to lead District 4 into Zonta International’s biennial celebration of 100 years of service and advocacy for women. The custom-made flag embodies the Centennial Anniversary icon. A vibrant turquoise color and gold-embossed “100” stands as a testament to 100 years of Zonta’s commitment to improving the lives of women and girls everywhere. It features the Zonta International design that rests as a backdrop in celebration of the 100th anniversary for Zonta members around the world.

Each club president will sign the flag as a memento of the district’s clubs coming together to socialize and celebrate Zonta International’s 100th anniversary,” District 4 Governor, Bonnie Clesse said. “Our Travelling Flag will further our six area directors’ initiative to have a borderless district - bringing us all together in service of our Zonta aims,” she said.

“The travelling flag promotes sisterhood and gives members from various clubs an opportunity to assemble for a common goal,” said Mary Vacanti, president of the Zonta Club of Buffalo. “The signing of the flag by all District 4 presidents will provide our centennial celebration in Buffalo a special flag to display at our conference. I’m looking forward to seeing this celebratory flag when it returns to Buffalo,” Vacanti said.

During the 2018 - 2020 biennium, Zonta International and its members will contribute more than US\$4,000,000 to projects and programs that empower women and girls and US\$1,112,000 to inspire the next generation of women through fellowships, scholarships, and awards.

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[Zonta International](#) is a leading global organization of professionals committed to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Zonta’s first club was established in Buffalo, New York, in November 1919 and membership today stands at approximately 29,000 Zontians in 63 countries. Zonta advocates through its General Consultative Status with the United Nations and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe. The Zonta International Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization which supports an extensive international service program through the contributions of Zonta members.