

Zonta International District 28 Conference

Roma, October 14 -16, 2011

**Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Sala Polifunzionale,
Via Santa Maria in Via 37**

MINUTES

Saturday, 15 October, 2011 – Business Session 1

TOP 1 - Call to Order and Welcome by the Governor

The Governor, Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, opens the District Conference under the motto “Spirit and Opportunity”, heartily welcomes the President of the Chamber of Deputies, Gianfranco Fini, the International Director, Sonja Hönig-Schough, the Delegates, the Guests and the Board and wishes all a successful conference.

Gianfranco Fini expresses his thanks to Carla Allegra Dadò, treasurer of ZC Rome I, to Sonia Albanese Carotti and to our Governor for inviting him to the District 28 Conference. He thanks all Zontians for their vast engagement to help advancing the status of women worldwide. He is well aware of the political, economical and social problems women still face throughout the world. The President of the Chamber of Deputies also says that it is an urgent need to improve the status of women in Italy since there is still a huge gap between men and women with regard to salaries and employment in general.

Gianfranco Fini wishes us all a successful conference and thanks us for visiting Rome.

TOP 2 - Welcome of the Roman Clubs

Lt. Governor Sonia Albanese-Carotti welcomes the audience and thanks all participants for having come to Rome to attend this conference.

TOP 3 - Registration Report

District Board	6
Other District Officers	14
International Representative	1
Past Governors	4
Delegates and Alternates	51
Other registered Zontians	65
Guests	40
Total registered	181

TOP 4 – Introduction of the Head Table and Conference Appointments

The Governor introduces the “Head Table”:

International Director and Liaison, Sonja Hönig-Schough
Governor, Anita Schnetzer-Spranger
Lt. Governor, Sonia Albanese Carotti
Treasurer, Daniela Monaco
Area 02 Director, Wiltrud Walther
Area 03 Director, Elisabetta di Cosmo
Area 04 Director, Annemarie Loosli-Locher
Secretary, Silvia Meuli
Parliamentarian Bylaws & Resolutions, Angelika Lange
Chair Awards J.M.K. - JWPA, Jutta Kaestner
Chair Awards Amelia Earhart. – Domenica Cutrupi Ausiello
Chair Nominations and Credentials, Anne Gerhards
Nomination and Credentials, Ingeborg Mack
United Nations, Regula Dannecker
Foundation Ambassador Germany, Dietlind Stürz
Foundation Ambassador Italy, Patrizia Vola De Pasquale
Foundation Ambassador Switzerland, Kathrin Laubacher
Chair Legislation, Awareness & Advocacy, Magdalena Weidenfeller
IT/Webmasters, Meike Rieken and Monika Mang
Centurion, Monika zu Erbach-Schönberg

Tellers: Area 02 Magdalena Weidenfeller, Monika zu Erbach-Schönberg
 Area 03 Emma Urgesi, Benedetta Castelli
 Area 04 Therese Schmidt, Pia Walder

Timekeeper: Parliamentarian Angelika Lange

TOP 5 – International Representative’s Welcome

International Director Sonja Hönig-Schough greets the audience and wishes all a successful conference also on behalf of our International President Diane Curtis.

TOP 6 – Roll Call of Clubs

All Clubs in Area 02 are present or represented, ZC Speyer-Germersheim joins later.
All Clubs in Area 03 are present or represented except ZC Potenza.
All Clubs in Area 04 are present.

TOP 7 – 1st Report of Credentials Chair

Area 02	20 Delegates, 2 double votes, 7 proxies	29 votes
Area 03	17 Delegates, 2 proxies	19 votes
Area 04	12 Delegates, 2 double votes	14 votes
Board Members		6 votes
Total		68 votes

TOP 8 – Presentation of the Conference Standing Rules and Adoption

The Parliamentarian, Angelika Lange, presents the Standing Rules (see DC documents). They are unanimously adopted.

TOP 9 – Approval of Agenda

The Agenda is unanimously accepted.

TOP 10 – Proposed Motions and Amendments

a) **Proposed amendment of No. 29 Rules of Procedure of District 28**

The Governor explains the proposed motion.

The purpose of the amendment is to assure that clubs are aware of the Process for Club Amendment Proposals and to make sure that a proposed change in District Rules of Procedure follow a certain timeline (see DC documents page 18).

The proposed amendment is adopted with a 2/3 majority of votes.

(Area 02 = 29 pro votes, Area 03 = 17 pro votes, Area 04 = 12 pro votes, District Board=6 votes. Total= 64 votes).

b) **Proposed amendment of No. 30 Rules of Procedure of District 28**

The Governor explains that the present wording does not say which is the parliamentary authority. It has to become clear that District 28 is governed in accordance with our practice by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as the parliamentary authority (see DC documents page 19).

The amendment is unanimously adopted.

There are no proposed amendments to International Bylaws.

TOP 11 – Report of Governor

In her oral report the Governor focuses on the four District goals for 2010-12 and reflects on the achievements which have been made and on the unfinished business which still needs our attention.

She thanks the District Board and Chairs for constructive meetings and discussions and for their friendship and all Zontians for their engagement in Zonta and for promoting Zonta's mission. The complete written report is enclosed in the DC documents (page 20).

TOP 12 – District Website – Improvement

Meike and Monika explain the District project "Improvement of District website". They report on the results of the member survey conducted to find out what information is most important for Zonta members, the new features of the homepage, the navigator and the new content management system which allows the standardization in maintenance and which guarantees the independency of any webmaster (see DC documents page 24).

The following questions arise and are being answered by Meike and Monika:

Meike confirms that a link to the clubs and to the Zonta International website is possible.

The costs for the district website are calculated at EUR 9'500. Under Top 14 we will later on vote on the cost frame for improving the district website.

The Governor points out that there is a necessity to have different websites such as Club-, Area- and District website according to the Zonta structure, and also for the national websites of Intercity and Union.

The question whether there could be a personal password for the member restricted area identical to the International website is negated by Meike. There will be an identical password for all members which will be given to the members by their presidents.

There is a further question as to whether there will be a link to other networks. Anita replies that such a netlink is not being foreseen. We try to keep the costs for this district website as low as possible but with the utmost benefit.

Meike confirms that the template for clubs could be ready within 1 – 2 months after the club's decision to adopt the District template.

A handout has been prepared and will be sent to all club presidents after the District Conference.

TOP 13 – Financial Report of the Treasurer 2008-2010

Daniela Monaco, Treasurer 2008-2010 and 2010-2012, reads the Financial Report which is also enclosed in the DC documents (page 29).

Auditor's Report

The Parliamentarian Angelika Lange reads the report established by the Auditors Monika Hartmaier, ZC Landau and Dr. Anne Witte-Gareis, ZC Bad-Bergzabern (see DC documents page 35).

The Auditor's report is unanimously approved.

TOP 14 – Financial Report of the Treasurer 2010 – 2012

Daniela Monaco reads and explains the Budget 2010-2012 (see DC documents page 36).

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger explains the proposal and the urgency of the project “District Website”.

Proposal and Adoption of Cost Frame to improve District website

With a majority of 66 YES votes the proposal to improve the District Website with a cost frame of Euro 9.500 is approved.

(Area 02 = 29 pro votes, Area 03 = 17 pro votes, Area 04 = 14 pro votes, Board = 6 pro votes)

TOP 15 – District Budget 2012-2014

Daniela Monaco reads and explains the Budget proposal 2012-2014 (see DC documents page 41).

The Governor explains the Board’s proposal for the Special District Project which is part of the Budget 2012-14 and which describes the use of surplus of past biennia (see DC documents page 45). The proposal suggests the split of Euro 20.000 between the three Areas according to their membership figures in 2004-06 when the surplus mainly occurred. The Areas are free to decide on the use of the funds but have the obligation to report the kind of projects they choose to the District Board.

Susanne Schmincke ZC Koblenz Rhein-Mosel proposes to increase the amount from EUR 20’000 to EUR 30’000 EUR and give every Area EUR 10’000. Anita thinks that such an increase is not feasible given the decline in membership of the last two years.

Maura Manghi ZC Reggio Emilia suggests to give the bigger portion to the most needy Area. Anita argues that it is difficult to decide on the neediness objectively.

The amount of EUR 20’000 should be prorated as previewed, and should be split fair according to the membership figures during the period in biennium 2004-2006. That would be for Area 02: € 9’400, Area 03: € 6’400, Area 04: € 4’200.

Anita once more stresses the obligations of the Areas to use the funds in accordance with the fundamental goals of Zonta.

The proposal for the use of the surplus of past biennia is approved by a majority of 67 YES votes.

(Area 02 = 29 pro votes, Area 03 = 18 pro votes, Area 04 = 14 pro votes, Board = 06 pro votes)

Coffee Break 11:45 to 12:15

Roll Call of Clubs after morning coffee break

All Clubs in Area 02 are present or represented
 All Clubs in Area 03 are present or represented except ZC Potenza
 All Clubs in Area 04 are present.

2nd Report of Credentials Chair

Area 02	21 Delegates, 2 double votes, 7 proxies,	30 votes
Area 03	17 Delegates, 2 proxies	19 Votes
Area 04	12 Delegates, 2 double votes	14 votes
Board Members		6 votes
Total		69 votes

After the morning coffee break the Budget proposal 2012 - 2014 is unanimously adopted.

The Governor announces that due to the special conditions of this day (demonstrations which will take place in the vicinity) we have to adapt our agenda and decide to have lunch break from 1 pm to 1:45 pm and that the elections will be carried out prior to the coffee break in the afternoon.

(Everybody has to be back at 1.45 pm since the building will be closed at 2.00 pm and nobody can enter or leave the building for the coming hours out of security reasons).

TOP 16 – Report of Nominating Committee Chair

Anne Gerhards, NC-Chair, thanks the Nominating Committee for its help and addresses special thanks to all the members who are willing to be candidate for the next biennium (see DC documents slate of candidates page 47).

TOP 17 – Candidates from the Floor

There are no candidates from the floor.

TOP 18 – Presentation of the Candidates

All present candidates give a brief speech with the exception of Marlis Sommerlade-Brink, ZC Bad Soden-Kronberg (Auditor), Sonja Greber, ZC Luzern (Nominating Committee) and Alice Weber, ZC Luzern (Nominating Committee) who are not present and who's application is read by the NC-Chair.

- Governor:** Sonia Albanese Carotti, ZC Roma Ostia
- Lt. Governor:** Helena Bühler, ZC Luzern Landschaft
- Treasurer:** Therese Rychener, ZC Basel
- Auditor:** Kathrin Laubacher, ZC Liestal
Karin Tanz, ZC Frankfurt am Main
Marlis Sommerlade-Brink, ZC Bad Soden-Kronberg
- Nominating Committee:** Valeria del Balzo, ZC Roma Parioli III
Ester Milano, ZC Bari
Tereza Plaz, ZC Bad Nauheim Friedberg
Wiltrud Walther, ZC Frankfurt am Main
Alice Weber, ZC Luzern
Sonja Greber, ZC Luzern

TOP 19 – Voting Instructions

The voting instructions will be explained prior to the elections.

Lunch Break from 1.00 pm to 1.45 pm

Saturday, 15 October 2011 – Business Session 2

The Governor opens the afternoon business session after the lunch break.

Roll Call of clubs after lunch break:

- Area 02 all clubs are present or represented
Area 03 all clubs are present or represented except ZC Potenza
Area 04 all clubs are present except ZC Vaduz

3rd Report of Credentials Chair

Area 02	21 Delegates, 2 double votes, 7 proxies	30 votes
Area 03	17 Delegates, 2 proxies	19 Votes
Area 04	11 Delegates, 2 double votes	13 votes
Board Members		6 votes
Total		68 votes

TOP 20 – Zonta International President’s Message

ZI President Dianne Curtis has sent a video with her best wishes for a productive, thought provoking and inspiring conference.

Dianne Curtis gives us information on a variety of improvements which have been achieved i.e. to improve the visibility and credibility of ZI, to improve the communication with members and also to raise awareness of ZI and the mission to advance the status of women worldwide.

In 10 districts 13 new clubs were chartered but there is still a lot to do – we need each and every Zontian to participate in order to reach our goal.

The International United Nations Committee and the ZI Board continue to build and strengthen our relationship with the UN.

The LAA Committee is also working closely with the UN Committee to develop resources and materials on CEDAW for use by districts, clubs and members. These materials have been compiled on the ZI website.

Dianne Curtis is also pleased to announce the new Centennial Anniversary Committee. The Committee has already begun communicating with governors and club presidents to appoint district and club historians to work closely with the Committee. 100 years is a tremendous milestone for Zonta and ZI President hopes to see 100% participation by Zonta clubs and districts as plans develop.

By end of February 2011 the Foundation had received more than 1 million donations towards our goals. Every gift counts no matter the amount. ZIP thanks all for their generous support of the international service projects and educational programs.

Dianne Curtis invites us to the 2012 Zonta International Convention, which will be held July 7 through July 12 in Torino, Italy. Learn more at the 2012 Convention website.

On behalf of ZI Board Dianne Curtis thanks us for our continued commitment to advancing the status of women worldwide. ZI Board is looking forward to seeing us all in Torino in July 2012.

TOP 21 – Report of District Officers

The Lt Governor and OMC-Chair and the Area Directors present highlights of their biennium.

OMC-Chair	Sonia Albanese Carotti (see DC documents page 48)
Area 02	Wiltrud Walther (see DC documents page 49)
Area 03	Elisabetta Di Cosmo (see DC documents page 51)
Area 04	Annemarie Loosli-Locher (see DC documents page 52)

TOP 22 – Report of Ambassadors and Chairs

The Chairs and Ambassadors present their activities of the past year.

ZIF Ambassador Germany	Dietlind Stürz (see DC documents page page 54)
ZIF Ambassador Italy	Patrizia Vola De Pasquale (see DC documents page 55)
ZIF Ambassador Switzerland	Kathrin Laubacher (see DC documents page 58)
United Nations	Regula Dannecker (see DC documents 59)
Chair for Amelia Earhart	Domenica Cutrupi-Ausiello (see DC documents 60)
IT Webmaster	Monika Mang and Meike Rieken (see DC documents page 24)
Chair for LAA	Magdalena Weidenfeller (see DC documents page 61)

TOP 19 – Voting Instructions

Anne Gerhards gives detailed instructions to the delegates as how to fill in the voting ballot.

15.45 – 16.15 Elections and afternoon coffee break.

Roll Call of clubs after afternoon coffee break:

Area 02 all clubs are present or represented

Area 03 all clubs are present or represented except ZC Potenza

Area 04 all clubs are present except ZC Vaduz

Total votes: 68

TOP 25 – YWPA - Presentation of District Winner

Chair for the Awards (J.M.Klausman – YWPA) Jutta Kästner (see DC documents page 64)

Jutta Kästner presents YWPA District Winner Petra Pezelj who was nominated by ZC Wiesbaden. Originally Petra comes from Croatia but her family has been living since 20 years in Wiesbaden. Petra gives an interesting speech: As an elected representative of Wiesbaden's 1st Youth Parliament since 2009 she has been in charge of women's affairs, dealing with topics like "integration", "culture", "school and education" and "social issues". She laid out that it was an arduous task to create such a youth parliament from the initial idea to a solidly functioning parliament.

Some months ago Petra Pezelj travelled to Australia and met YWPA winners on the 5th continent. There she was introduced to other Zontians as well. She also lived some months in Paris, Ireland, Scotland and New York. (see DC documents page 66).

TOP 26 – JMK – Presentation of District Scholarship Winner

Jutta Kästner also introduces the JMK Scholarship District Winner Faina Karlitski. Faina was born in Russia but her family moved to Germany when she was still a child. She grew up bilingual and in two cultures and became very fond of languages. She has already won several other scholarships. During the last two years Faina studied in South America (Chile), Japan and Spain. Faina speaks 5 languages (German, Russian, English, French, Spanish and Basic Japanese) (see DC documents page 67).

Faina speaks about her experiences as a woman studying in different countries and working as a management trainee in several international well known companies and how different business is for women compared to men. She also speaks about the different mentalities, about career and family planning and about women's rights in the various countries.

Faina is honored with the JMK District Award by Governor Anita. (It was only after the DC that we learned about Faina being one of the 12 International JMK Scholarship Recipients.)

Both Winners are being congratulated and applauded by the participants.

TOP 27 – Presentation of International Liaison

Sonja Hönig presents a very interesting topic "Zonta in the Council of Europe – how can we benefit" (see DC documents page 69). More information can be found on www.coe.int

TOP 28 – Report on Elections and Presentation of Elected Board 2012-2014

NC-Chair Anne Gerhards presents the election results. 68 votes were given, all were valid.

Results:

Votes received:

District Governor:	Sonia Albanese Carotti	64
Lt. Governor:	Helene Bühler	66
Treasurer:	Therese Rychener	66
Auditors:	1. Kathrin Laubacher	52
	2. Karin Tanz	49

Nominating Committee

1. Valeria del Balzo	45*
2. Wiltrud Walther	44*
3. Ester Milano	36*
4. Tereza Plaz	31
5. Sonja Greber	18
6. Alice Weber	13

* elected and Chairmen of the NC-Committee is Valeria del Balzo.

The Governor congratulates the elected new Board for the biennium 2012-14 with a yellow rose and also presents the Area Directors elect Magdalena Weidenfeller ZC Koblenz Rhein-Mosel for Area 02, Maura Manghi ZC Reggio Emilia for Area 03, Regine Ammann ZC Zürich for Area 04.

TOP 29 – Next District Conference – Presentation and Vote

Regine Ammann, ZC Zürich and Regine Frey-Jaun, ZC Schaffhausen present themselves as the two hosting clubs for the DC in 2013.

ZC Schaffhausen, founded in 1959, 36 members

ZC Zürich, founded in 1953, 24 members

They proudly present a video from Winterthur/Switzerland as the location for the next conference.

Winterthur has more than 100'000 inhabitants and is located in the Greater Zurich Area. It is the sixth largest city in Switzerland and is an independent economic, cultural and political centre.

The wide range of cultural facilities, the new utilization of the former industrial sites, and the University of Applied Sciences Centre are the city's strong points. The many green spaces, the well planned bicycle tracks and numerous nearby recreation areas provide both inhabitants and guests a high quality of life.

Winterthur has excellent transport connections to the Swiss railway network, the Zurich regional railways and Zurich Airport.

Winterthur is unanimously elected as the next DC location.

TOP 30 – Wrap Up

Anita thanks all participants of the DC for coming to Rome, for their discipline, for their trust and for their efficient work. She looks forward to meeting all tonight at the Gala Dinner which will take place at the Hotel Excelsior.

The Conference is closed at 05.50 pm

Governor



Anita Schnetzer-Spranger

Secretary



Silvia Meuli