
Business session 1

1. Welcome by the Governor, Call to Order

Governor Christine Dersch calls the District Conference under the motto “Together we will build a better world for women and girls” and declares the Conference open. She cordially welcomes our International Liaison Anne Marie French-Cudjoe, the Delegates, the Guests and the Board and wishes all a successful conference. She also thanks ZC Chur/Engadina for the perfect organisation and the sponsors who supported the organization of the conference. All relevant documents for the DC had been accessed in good time on the website of District 28.

2. Welcome

By Patrick Degiacomi, Deputy Mayor of Chur
By Gret Kohler, Representative ZC Chur/Engadina
By International President Ute Scholz via Video

Presentation by Aita Zanetti (grand councillor of the cantonal parliament and President of the canton Graubünden)

In her speech, thoughts revolve around the motto “Building a better world for women and girls” and the importance of gender equality which is relatively young in Switzerland. She also reports on her political work, her private life and the fact that building a better world for women and girls is thus a never-ending task, here and elsewhere - today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

3. Introduction Head Table

Governor Christine Dersch introduces the Board and the International Director Anne Marie French-Cudjoe, our international Liaison.

At the head table:

Kathrin Laubacher, Lt. Governor
Katja Kamphans AD02
Francesca Fucaloro AD03
Barbara Bühlmann Vice-AD04
Doris Rutishauser Treasurer
Ute Jausel Parliamentarian
Evelyn Goubeaud Secretary
Annemarie Loosli-Locher Nominating Committee (also supporting the technique).

4. Presentation and approval of the agenda

Christine Dersch presents the agenda as documented on the website and in the appendix of these minutes. The agenda is approved.

5. Report International Liaison

The Liaison of District28 Anne Marie French-Cudjoe, director ZI 2022-2024, ZC Accra II, Ghana District 18, welcomes the audience and expresses her honour and pleasure to be with us.

Anne Marie gives a presentation about ZONTA and informs about the “Strategic Plan” of ZONTA (copied translations in German and Italian are provided).

Christine thanks Anne Marie for this informative report.
 (“Strategic Plan” see appendix)

6. Registration report

District Board – 6
District Officers – 16
International Representatives – 2
Delegates – 37
Registered Zontians – 24
Guests and Awardees – 22
TOTAL - 107

7. Roll Call of Clubs and 1st Report of Credentials

Kathrin proceeds with the roll call of clubs, by area.

- The board has 6 votes
- Clubs in Area 02 are present or represented by Proxies with 32 votes
- Clubs in Area 03 are present or represented by Proxies with 12 votes
- Clubs in Area 04 are present or represented by Proxies with 15 votes

In total **65 votes**

8. Instructions for voting

Parliamentarian Ute Jausel explains the instructions for the vote. The delegates must raise their hands and show the number of votes with their fingers.

9. Conference Standing Rules

Parliamentarian, Ute Jausel, introduces the Rules of Procedure. As there are no comments, they are adopted unanimously.

10. Nomination and election of tellers

The following Zontians were chosen as tellers:

Monica Ghiardini, ZC Venezia
Maiké Post, Wiesbaden
Ursula Kostal, Vaduz

11. Report of Governor

Christine starts with focussing on the District Goals corresponding to the international goals. She then lists her activities in 2022/23 and remembers the work that is still to be done, as for example New Club Formations, New member recruitment and developing new ideas and concepts for the future. She thanks all Zontians, the Area Directors, the District Board and the organizing team of the EIDC in Frankfurt.

For a detailed report, the governor refers to the publication on the homepage.

COFFEE Break

12. Roll Call

Kathrin proceeds with the roll call of clubs, by area.

13. 2nd report of Credentials

- The board has 6 votes
- Clubs in Area 02 are present or represented by Proxies with 32 votes
- Clubs in Area 03 are present or represented by Proxies with 12 votes
- Clubs in Area 04 are present or represented by Proxies with 15 votes

In total 65 votes

14. Financial report, Auditor report, Relief of District Board 2020-2022

Doris Rutishauser, Treasurer 2022-2024 reads and comments the Financial Report which is also enclosed on the D28 website under MyZonta/District Conference 2023. Based on the results of the examination by the auditors Katja Kamphans, ZC Hanau and Laura Santagada, ZC Bologna everything is in good order. The audited financial statement is unanimously approved.

65 YES-Votes

15. Nominating Committee Report, Candidates from the floor, presentation of candidates

Additional Nominations for Offices may also be made from the floor. There are no nominations from the floor.

Presentation of the candidates:

Presentations – Time slot • Governor: 3 minutes • Lt. Governor: 3 minutes each • Treasurer: 2 minutes each • Auditor: 1 minute each • Nominating Committee: 2 minutes each

Nomination to the Office	Candidate Name	Area
Governor	Kathrin Laubacher	4
Lt. Governor	Gabriella Fumarola	3
	Zelinda Legge	3
Treasurer	Laura Santagada	3
	Uorschla Rupp	4
Auditor	Claudia Wiotte-Franz	2
	Christine Wirtz	2
	Isabella Boselli	3
	Fabiola Dueri Sonderegger	4
Nominating Com.	Susan Georgijewitsch	2
	Sonia Albanese	3
	Emanuela Tanzi	3
	Doris Rutishauser	4

ELECTION and LUNCH BREAK

Business session 2

16. Memorial Service

Governor Christine Dersch asks for a time of remembrance. Photos and memories of deceased Zontians of District28 are shown.

17. Roll Call and 3rd report of credentials

Kathrin proceeds with the roll call of clubs, by area.

- The board has 6 votes
- Clubs in Area 02 are present or represented by Proxies with 31 votes
- Clubs in Area 03 are present or represented by Proxies with 12 votes
- Clubs in Area 04 are present or represented by Proxies with 15 votes

In total 64 votes

18. Proposals

18.1. Changes of Reimbursement (see [DC 2023 | Zonta District 28](#))

Since the current reimbursement guidelines date from 2017 the District Board saw a need to change these guidelines in order to take into account the developments of the last years. The reclining numbers of rules have led to a decrease in membership fees and the pandemic has proved that meetings can also be held efficiently online.

The following changes are proposed

- *Printing and communication costs shall not be reimbursed anymore.*

The proposed change: "Delete without replacement" is unanimously approved
(64 YES – Votes)

- *District payment for hotel accommodation*

DBoard members are encouraged to share hotel rooms or use offers from sharing platforms that often are more economical. With the proposed change it is clarified how the costs for accommodation are being reimbursed.

The proposed change is unanimously approved / (64 YES – Votes)

- Travelling costs

The maximum amount reimbursed will be the train ticket, when purchased at the earliest time possible. Only for a train travel of more than 3 hours the first class fare shall be reimbursed.

Votes: 62 YES / 2 Abstentions

- Formal change regarding titles/subtitles in order to ease the reading of the guidelines.

The proposed change is unanimously approved / 64 YES – Votes)

18.2. Rules of Procedure (see [DC 2023 | Zonta District 28](#))

18.2.1

The following change is proposed and discussed: For continuity and efficiency the bank account of District 28 shall be kept in Switzerland with Postfinance AG. 2 Board members shall be in charge as the main contacts and as Admin users in the bank relation. One of the two shall be a board member domiciled in Switzerland.

Proposal 1.

“The District Board has therefore analysed the possibilities to decouple the opening and closing of bank accounts from the change in District Treasurers. The current account for District 28 is held with Postfinance AG in Switzerland. Postfinance is not a regular bank but offers all the bank services that the District needs. It is state-owned and therefore safe and, as a consequence, it is lessregulated than regular banks. With the possibilities of e-Banking, which are offered by Postfinance AG, the country of residence of the Treasurer is irrelevant. This means that it is possible to keep the account in Switzerland and a Zontian from Italy or Germany can manage the accounts. The main contact for the account, the Postfinance liaison, will have to be a Swiss Board member. That Postfinance liaison s only obligation will be to grant rights of access to the elected Treasurer in charge and to pass on administration rights to her Swiss successor. “

Discussion/ questions / answers

- There are many Clubs in Area 02. Do they have to pay fees for payment transactions?

Treasurer D. Rutishauser: At the moment there are no fees between Switzerland, Germany, Italy.

- Is it true that the treasurer must be Swiss?

No, the treasurer doesn't have to be Swiss since it is possible to organize the bank account online. Yet, one of the two signing persons should be Swiss.

- Have you thought about opening an online bank account?

After extensive research, Postfinance Ltd is the only bank available for our organisation.

- Who is responsible to sign?

E-banking balances can be transferred and are not tied to Switzerland, whereby one of the responsible persons must be Swiss (e.g. Area Director). She has to sign and give her address, but does not have to hold the bank account.

Only the treasurer is responsible. Only she and the governor have access to the account, and if this is not done online, a collective signature is required.

- What are the rules if there are more Swiss persons in the board?

In that case the board should come to an agreement.

- Can we have more information? Aren't there any other options?

There are no other options at the moment. Christine declares there are no negative changes, only reliefs. The only change is, that the bank needs a person that resides in Switzerland (Doris adds: or Liechtenstein).

Christine reads out the proposal.

Voting results:

The proposed change is unanimously approved
(64 YES– Votes – 2/3 majority adhered to)

18.2.2 Changes Rules of Procedure

Proposal 2

- “Alignments with the International Standard – Fees for Young Professionals should be adjusted in wording with ZI
- The age limit for young professionals has been set at age 30 in the District. Meanwhile, ZI has set an age limit of age 35 at the Convention in Hamburg.”

Voting results: 64 YES-Votes / adopted unanimously

18.3. Bylaws D28, Art. 2 Sent.1 (see [DC 2023 | Zonta District 28](#))

The following amendment is proposed by Districtboard 28: Change of Art. 2, sentence 1 Bylaws D 28: Delete the number 3

Current:

- District 28 of Zonta International is an incorporated association and encompasses 6 countries with its clubs, divided up into 3 geographically delimited territories corresponding to areas.

Proposed Change:

- *D28 of Zonta International is an incorporated association and encompasses 5 countries with its clubs, divided up into geographically delimited territories corresponding to areas.*

Justification:

- The limit of 3 geographic territories narrows down possible new Area formations. Therefore, an opening is proposed.

Voting results: 64 YES-Votes / adopted unanimously

18.4. Continuation YWPA/JMK (see [DC 2023 | Zonta District 28](#))

Proposal Continuation of prize money 2./ 3.place (YWPA/JMK) on District level

Application for extension of the prize money for YWPA and JMK (application for the next biennium)

- Each district/region will nominate a district/region applicant to submit to Zonta International; however, there will no longer be district- or region-level scholarships. If the district/region applicant meets the criteria for the scholarship, the individual will receive an international scholarship of US\$5,000 the same applies to YWPA Award.

Current situation

YWPA	1. place US\$ 5000 (by ZIF)
	2. place 500 Euro by D28)
	3. place 300 Euro by D28
JMK	1. place US\$ 5000 (by ZIF)
	2. place 600 Euro (by D28)
	3. place 400 Euro (by D28)
Total	1800 Euro per year (by D28)

• **Rationale**

Our aim and goal is to make YWPA and JMK more attractive and to apply to the district as not only a 1st prize by ZI but also a 2nd and 3rd prize from district will be awarded.

	Proposal prize money per year D28	Biennium 2024-2026 Budget
YWPA		1600 €
	2. place 500 €	
	3. place 300 G	
JMK		2000 €
	2. place 600 €	
	3. place 400 €	
Total	1800 €	3600 €

Voting results (simple majority):

64 YES-Votes, adopted unanimously

18.5. STEM Award and Resolution to extend Women in STEM Scholarship for another biennium (see [DC 2023 | Zonta District 28](#))

STEM AWARD District 28 moves to amend Zonta International Bylaws Article XIII Committees by changing the number of SECTION 15 to SECTION 16 and adding a new SECTION 15, with the following content: SECTION 15. Women in STEM Scholarship Committee. From submissions put forward by districts, this committee shall select and recommend to the Zonta International Board candidates for annual Zonta International Women in STEM Scholarships

- The Women in STEM Scholarship should be continued as a 4th pilot cycle on club, district, and international level for women in all STEM fields. An evaluation of the Scholarship shall be presented at the 2026 Convention.

Rationale

- The Women in STEM Scholarship, former was set up as a pilot program for three biennia because women are still largely underrepresented in technology and other STEM fields. To give women equal opportunities as men in technological developments, Zonta launched this pilot scholarship program in 2018. In 2020 the Scholarship was limited to international applications only and in 2022 it became a biennial district award and was expanded to STEM fields.

Goal: STEM is to be continued internationally at Zonta and shall become permanent.

If the Resolution is not adopted at the Convention, STEM should be continued as a pilot project for another two years.

Questions from the floor:

- STEM as a name is misleading. Could you put MINT behind it with a slash?
- Christine: Since a uniform appearance is desired, we would like to leave STEM as it is (without MINT)
- The German translation of STEM is MINT.
- Criteria for STEM are often not clear – is this still being worked on?
- Annemarie: There is a pilot process at the district level which needs to be further developed. Christine assumes that criteria will also be discussed internationally.

Voting results:

64 YES-Votes - adopted unanimously

18.6. Further Proposals

The agenda item was intended for motions that could have been received after the invitation had been sent. No applications were submitted.

19. Financial outlook and budget

Treasurer Doris Rutishauser explains the financial report. She further explains the budget 2022-2024 and the proposal 2024-2026 (see below). Member fees of 18 € will be retained, Members up to 35 years only 9 €. She explains having set 42.300 € and a surplus of 4.900 €, TOTAL 47,660 € expense and 460 € loss.

Budget 2022-2024

Budget 2020-2022	
Revenues	
Member Fees	50'076.00
Other	300.00
TOTAL REVENUES	50'376.00
Surplus from previous biennium	9'722.00
Donation to Endowment Fund 2021	
TOTAL INCREASE REVENUES	60'098.00
Expenses	
Governor Expenses	8'000.00
Area meetings	
Miscellaneous	
Governor Expenses Forfait	1'440.00
L.Governor	1'000.00
Treasurer	800.00
Treasurer Forfait	480.00
Auditing	100.00
District Chairmen and Ambassadors	1'500.00
District Board Meetings	12'000.00
District Conference	12'000.00
Translation Costs District Conference	2'000.00
International Convention	7'000.00
Web	1'000.00
Bank Fees	400.00
SOM Clubs	1'400.00
Public Relations	250.00
YMPA	1'000.00
JMK	1'000.00
WIT / STEM	
Expenses for Award Winners	1'500.00
Printing and mailings	150.00
Special District project	4'000.00
Miscellaneous	2'500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	59'520.00
(Gain)/loss	578.00

PROPOSED BUDGET 2024-2026

	Budget 2022-2024		Proposed budget 2024-2026	
Revenues				
Member Fees	-€	44.100,00	-€	42.300,00
Other				
TOTAL REVENUES	-€	44.100,00	-€	42.300,00
Surplus from previous biennium	-€	30.000,00	-€	4.900,00
Donation to Endowment fund	€	18.000,00		
TOTAL INCREASE REVENUES	-€	56.100,00	-€	47.200,00
Expenses				
Governor Expenses				
Area meetings	€	2.400,00	€	5.000,00
Miscellaneous	€	1.000,00	€	1.000,00
Governor Expenses Forfait	€	-	€	-
L.Governor	€	1.000,00	€	1.000,00
Treasurer	€	500,00	€	500,00
Auditing	€	100,00	€	100,00
District Chairs and Ambassadors	€	1.500,00	€	1.000,00
District Board Meetings	€	10.000,00	€	7.200,00
District Conference	€	10.000,00	€	9.490,00
Translation Costs District Conference	€	4.000,00	€	4.000,00
International Convention	€	7.000,00	€	8.600,00
Web	€	500,00	€	500,00
Bank Fees	€	120,00	€	120,00
SOM Clubs	€	1.000,00	€	1.000,00
Public Relations	€	-	€	-
YMPA	€	1.600,00	€	1.600,00
JMK	€	2.000,00	€	2.000,00
WIT / STEM	€	3.000,00	€	3.600,00
Expenses for Award Winners	€	2.500,00	€	2.500,00
Printing and mailings	€	150,00	€	150,00
Special District project	€	4.000,00	€	-
Miscellaneous	€	1.500,00	€	1.500,00
TOTAL EXPENSES	€	53.870,00	€	50.860,00
(Gain)/loss	€	2.230,00	€	3.660,00

Motion on the budget 2024-26 by Anita and Dietlind:

Topic: Increase of the line item „Governor expenses“

In the proposed budget, the line item” Governor Expenses” is calculated with 3.400 Euro (Area meetings 2.400 Euro and Miscellaneous 1.000 Euro).

Based on the experience from previous biennia, we propose to increase this amount to 6.000 Euro.

Rationale:

Previous cost reports show that the actual costs were far above the 3.400 Euros proposed in the 2024-2026 budget (e.g. Biennium 2016-2018).

It is the task of the Governor, in addition to the Area Meetings, to visit the clubs on occasions like anniversaries and charter celebrations and specifically to foster communication with club members in the entire District.

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger (DG 2010-2012)

Dietlind Stürz (DG 2014-2016)

Questions and suggestions from the floor

- Personal contact in all areas of the governors is important. Maybe we should eliminate on translation costs in the future and DC should be kept on in English.
- How do we deal with the fact that some clubs are not in good standing?

Solutions to this problem must be found in the affected area in the short term.

- How do you plan to finance this?

(Anita) Assets of 50,000 €. The funds come from it.

- Proposal to support this application once – long-term considerations such as Ute Scholz via video link

Voting results:

57 YES-Votes, 7 abstentions, motion thus adopted

Further Questions about the budget - from the floor:

- SOM Club – normally the cost is 1.000 €. What does it look like when several SOM clubs are founded?

(Christine) Exceedances will then be explained later when the budget is presented.

- Clubcreator Teams – Where are these costs?

(Doris) -under Miscellaneous

20. Adoption of the budget

The budget is voted with 5 abstentions.

Vote on the amendment (minus 3.660 euros) of the budget

59 YES-Votes / abstentions 5 / thus adopted

21. Report FY Chair Zelinda Legge

Zelinda gives her Ambassador report (see attachment).

She provides profound information on the District fundraising and Zonta foundation/Endowment fond. Please refer to the attached presentation. She thanks our best donors: Bern, Frankfurt/Main, Bad Nauheim-Friedberg and Basel. She reminds all Zontians to encourage members to become donors: “Every member every November”.

She talks about a jubilee: 100 years ago the first service was carried out in our district. In 1923 there was a terrible earthquake in Turkey and children had to live in a hall. We supported them.

For 85 years we have also be giving the Amelia Earhart fellowship.

- Result of the drawing “Fee for Brisbane Convention” – The winner is Dr. Ortrun Schneider ZC Marburg

22. Honoring YWPA Winner

Christine welcomes Mita Hollingshaus (19 years, born in Ethiopia, dream of becoming a doctor), our YWPA award winner at District level (supported by ZC Wiesbaden). She explains her pride and is happy being able to present the certificate. Before the DC, Mita had been invited to attend the reception of the Federal President in Berlin.

23. Report of elections

Election results

Nominating Committee Chair Annemarie presents the election results.

Nomination to the Office	Candidate Name	Area	Votes
Governor	Kathrin Laubacher	4	63
Lt. Governor	Gabriella Fumarola	3	19
	Zelinda Legge	3	45
Treasurer	Laura Santagada	3	16
	Uorschla Rupp	4	49
Auditor	Claudia Wiotte-Franz	2	23
	Christine Wirtz	2	47
	Isabella Boselli	3	19
	Fabiola Dueri Sonderegger	4	31
Nominating Com.	Susan Georgijewitsch	2	57
	Sonia Albanese	3	47
	Emanuela Tanzi	3	17
	Doris Rutishauser	4	59

Elected District Board Members 2024-2026

Office	Name	Area	Votes
Governor	Kathrin Laubacher	04	63
Lt. Governor	Zelinda Legge	03	45
Treasurer	Uorschla Rupp	04	49
Auditor	Christine Wirtz	02	47
	Fabiola Dueri Sonderegger	04	31
Nominating Com.	Susan Georgijewitsch	02	57
	Sonia Albanese	03	47
	Doris Rutishauser	04	59

The Governor congratulates the elected new Board for the biennium 2024-2026. Photos are taken.

Governor Christine thanks all participants of the DC for coming to Chur and for their active participation.

She congratulates the new Board 2024-2026.

The Saturday Business Sessions are closed at 4.45 pm.

Governor Christine Dersch
Secretary Evelyn Goubeaud