



## **GOVERNOR REPORT 2023**

Christine Dersch, Governor D 28, 2022-2024

Dear fellow Zontians,

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL is needed now more than ever.

Our vision for gender equality is not yet a reality. Around the world, women and girls are facing increased challenges as a result of COVID-19, climate change and threats to their human rights. To respond to these challenges, we need a strong, committed community of individuals working together at the local and global levels to fight for gender equity.

**Together, we will build a better world for women and girls.**

**Our district goals corresponding to the international goals:**

- 1. Stand Out for Gender Equity**
- 2. Represent Global Citizenship**
- 3. Develop Future Leaders**
- 4. Celebrate Ourselves**
- 5. Position ZONTA for the Future**

After more than one year it is time for an overview, to recognize what has been done and what has to be done in the future.

It is worth highlighting that almost all clubs in District 28 organized or actively participated in actions around November 25 or March 8. Impressive signs were set for the rights of women and girls.

To emphasize: This biennium we can again honor outstandingly committed young women with our awards. JMK, YWPA, AE, and for the first time a STEM Award will be presented.

### **Governor's activities in 2022/2023**

- Participation on five governor calls and various exchange calls with other governors worldwide.
- Several reports and participation on surveys to ZI
- Participation in the 9th European Interdistrict Seminar in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Regular meetings with the Inner Board of the district, exchange with the chairs, regular exchange with the responsible persons of the three areas.
- Participation in Area Conferences in Wiesbaden, Giessen, Cremona and Liestal.
- Participation in the ceremony for the 25.11.2022 in Venice, organized by Area 03.
- Discussions on the integration of the EClubs into the Areas and other topics in Parma, Bologna and Venice.
- Participation in various anniversaries:

ZC Parma: 40 years  
ZC Bern: 75 years  
ZC Bad Soden-Kronberg: 35 years  
ZC Gießen-Staufenberg: 30 years  
ZC Frankfurt: 60 years (unfortunately cancelled due to illness)

### **But there is still some work to be done**

- New Club Formations:

In order to realize our vision of a better world for girls and women, it is immensely important that our organization grows. Of course we have to keep our existing members, but it is just as important to found new clubs.

In Area 02, a Club Creator team has been formed, where ideas and concepts are being developed.

In Area 03 this has been taken over by the Areaboard.

Furthermore, we have no club in the Czech Republic and only one in Turkey.

- New Member Recruitment/Membership Retention

Membership in our district continues to decline. We lost members and unfortunately 3 clubs during the reporting period. This is something we need to work on. What is the reason for members leaving us who have only been with us for a short time?

How can we retain Awardees?

- And last but not least:

Our worldwide goals can only be achieved if the projects receive adequate financial support.

Due to the decreasing number of members, this is becoming more and more difficult. Here we need new concepts, new ideas and the support of sponsors or similar.

### **Announcements**

The auditor elected at DC 2021 for the 2022-2024 biennium Luisa Balboni has unfortunately resigned. The District Board has appointed Therese Rychner as Auditor.

The ZIF Ambassador for Area 04 Beate Norman has also resigned. Until a new Ambassador is appointed, the duties will be carried out by the Vice-AD Barbara Bühlmann.

### **Many thanks**

Many thanks to all who volunteer so much for ZONTA. The club presidents and the individual club members do an extraordinary job, and they do it all in their free time. That is impressive.

Many thanks also to the area directors, who make a lot of things easier for me with their commitment. Without their help, the work as governor would not be possible at all.

Many thanks also to the entire District Board for their commitment and their support at all times. You have all been available to me at all times, great!

A very special thank you to the organizing team of the EIDC in Frankfurt around Dietlind Stürz. You have put together a very special conference, an insane effort over many years was crowned by a fantastic, professional, informative conference. And that through your efforts and finding sponsors a surplus of 5000 EUR could be transferred to ZIF is really great!

And finally thanks to all who are prepared to support ZONTA in the immediate future with their commitment and skills.

I wish you all an informative and inspiring conference in Chur.



Christine Dersch