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Dear Megan,

Good friends make for a good life. A dear friend of mine made such an impact on me when she invited me to be her guest at a local club meeting and started my Zonta journey. Since then, I have had countless opportunities to meet women and men from all different backgrounds and countries through Zonta. My fellow Zontians have taught me many things about our world and continue to inspire me. More than that, they have given me something extremely precious: their friendship.

These connections have brightened my life and I know my experience is not unique. We asked members to share who are their best Zonta friends. As you read their stories below, I encourage you all to think about your own Zonta best friend who has enriched your life. [Nominate them for International Best Friend Day on 30 July](#) and we will share your story on our website and social media.

There are so many others who can benefit from a Zonta friendship. When you tell others about Zonta, share with them that by [adding their voices](#) to our mission, they too can stand with good company as we build a better world for women and girls.

Thank you for being not only my friend but a friend to the women and girls who need us most. I always smile when I think of my Zonta friends and the work we do. I cannot wait to see whom you will nominate in July!

Warm regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ute".

Ute Scholz
President 2022-2024
Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women

Spotlight on Zonta members creating an everlasting friendship!

Lydia Summer is my Zonta best friend. I first met her 10 years ago through a mutual friend when we were both "new to motherhood," and this bond is what connected us. **Between laughter and bonding, we were willing to be vulnerable and authentic with each other** about mothering, which was the sustenance and healing we needed in those first few months.

Since then, Lydia has inspired me to live up to my best potential. The time you can truly grow as a human being is when you have the opportunity to listen to people who are different from you. Lydia offers new perspectives, ideas, experiences and advice that helps me learn more about myself and grow as a well-rounded human.



Megan Cattoor (right)
Zonta Club of Cape Girardeau, USA, District 7

While I have made several friends through my Zonta involvement, my greatest joy has been meeting my best friend, Margaret Melvin (right). We bonded during the first District 8 Conference I attended in Oregon. **Our friendship has evolved into being a rock for each other.** We do so many things together: Zonta, hike, travel, cry, laugh, break bread, listen and support. I cannot imagine my life without the sister in my heart, Margaret.



Sherrill Lorenzo (left)
Zonta Club of Coos Bay Area, USA, District 8

In Spring 2016, I was on my club's ballot to be the incoming club president and I was nervous but excited. At the district area workshop, I reconnected with Pat Jarrett (left), who was the incoming club president of Anchorage. We had met at previous district gatherings and had an easy, comfortable relationship growing. Now we had a shared mission — the perfect time to find the synergy that builds long time relationships — and we did. Anchorage and Olympia are far apart, but our friendship isn't. When we meet, it's like we were together the day before. When her name pops up on my phone, my heart is full. And that's what a Zonta best friend should be. Our friendship is filled with integrity, trust, dependability, loyalty, empathy, and listening, and most importantly, spending time with her makes me feel good. **This life friendship confirms that Zonta is where extraordinary happens!**



Paige Porter (right)
Zonta Club of Olympia, USA, District 8

Annette Hennessy (right) is a very special friend to me because she is down-to-earth, nonjudgmental, provides great advice and is an all-around great person. She is an amazing model for women, and I am proud to call her my friend.



Rose Harris (left)
Zonta Club of Brisbane River Inc, Australia, District 22

Noel Rankin has been my dear friend for 42 years. We first met when the Zonta Club of Bendigo was chartered in 1980 and have been very close ever since. We have shared our joys and sad times. She recently traveled from Bendigo, Victoria, to the Gold Coast, which is about 1,689 km (1,000 miles) away, to visit me in the hospital.



Although she is 89-years-old and I am 82-years-old, **we hope to continue our loving friendship for many more years.**

Dianne Leggo (left)
Zonta e-Club of Queensland, Australia, District 22

Kerstin Liebchen (left) and Jacinto Fromm (right) are my two Zonta Best Friends whom I have known for about eight years. I met Kerstin when I joined the Zonta Club of Brisbane East after returning from Canada to Australia. Jacinta joined the club shortly afterward. Both women are passionate about

helping young women and girls build a better world. They reach out and support the less fortunate in the local community as well as around the world. **I feel very fortunate to be their friend.**



Loris Neff (center)

Zonta Club of Wynnum Redland Inc, Australia, District 22

Zontians in Action

Zonta clubs are forging strong friendships with one another across the globe! Read the stories below that highlight how clubs are embracing the Zonta Spirit through their relationships with one another.

Zonta Club of Palermo Triscele forms twin club with Zonta Club of Yverdon-Les-Bains

The Zonta Club of Palermo Triscele, Italy, and the Zonta Club of Yverdon-Les-Bains, Switzerland, formed a twin club relationship that aims to create collaboration, exchange knowledge with one another and promote a multicultural friendship.



Not only does this twinning relationship create friendships across borders, but by working together, the clubs can advance their mission to improve the lives of women and girls.

Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao and the Five Love Languages

The Zonta Club of Central Tuguegarao, the Philippines, fostered their friendships by organizing a self-improvement talk about the Five Love Languages:

1. Words of affirmation.
2. Quality time.
3. Gifts.
4. Acts of service.
5. Physical touch.



This talk reminded club members that along with taking care of women and girls in their community, they should take care of each other. As they opened up about their personal lives and their love languages, they shared laughter and support.

Share Your Story

How did you foster friendship within your club?
Share your story with us by clicking the button above!

Bring a friend to Brisbane with Zonta!



Zonta
IN BRISBANE

#ZontaBrisbane24
www.zonta.org/Convention

Brisbane Trivia



Did you know that Brisbane has an average of 283 days of sun per year? That is a lot of time to soak up the fun and activities in the great weather with your Zonta best friend!

Will you be joining us in Australia for the 2024 Zonta International Convention from 27-30 June 2024? To start your convention planning today, check out the [preliminary schedule-at-a-glance](#).



Watch now on-demand: Meet Sue Middleton, a well-known entrepreneur, skilled advocate and influential leader for rural and regional Australia. For more than three decades, she has worked in regional development as a consultant and board member on 22 boards. A former farmer, Sue has developed new businesses and enterprises in that role.

Hear Sue's story to learn why she is a remarkable woman!

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celebrates this month's club anniversaries!

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Congratulations to the Zonta Club of Newport Harbor, USA, District 9, and the Zonta Club of Montgomery, AL, USA, District 11, on celebrating their 75th anniversaries this month. We applaud your efforts in advocating for the women and girls in your community and beyond!

To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in April, you can visit [Zonta News](#).



www.zonta.org

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