

## The House that Zonta Built

*Proverbs: Through Wisdom is a house built, and by understanding it is established.*

It was graphically portrayed to us that you and I, when considering the building of a home, contemplate most seriously the location. So it was with Zonta. They chose as the location for their house "The World."

From an early beginning in Buffalo, New York, more than 80 years ago, it has now become a truly International organization having expanded into 70 countries. For such growth, an organization must have a strong foundation, just as a house must have a strong foundation to remain sound through the years, and what better foundation can there be than the fine principles, aims, and purposes of Zonta International? It is with strict adherence to those principles that we build a strong future for the House of Zonta. Since they are embodied in our Zonta Code, what better way to recall them in our minds than by having the code read at this time.

### The Zonta Code

1. To pledge myself to uphold the ideals of Zonta
2. To honor my work and consider it an opportunity for service
3. To increase the measure of that service by consistent self-improvement
4. To contribute by study and action to the improvement of the legal, political, economic, and professional status of women
5. To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions united in Zonta ideal of service
6. To keep every before me the best of all creeds – whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do unto them.

Now we consider the people who live in the House of Zonta, its family. The family of Zonta is the 36,000 members who belong to 1,000 clubs in 70 countries with all of us dedicated to service. The membership, by virtue of regular attendance at meetings and commitment to club service, gives the House its support. Just as any building needs strong walls to support the structure, just so does a club need to support of all of its members to make a strong organization.

We now turn to those Officers and Directors whom you have chosen to lead you during the coming year.

Will the newly elected directors please come forward.

*(pencil in names)*

Every house must have a KEY. Each of you will be entrusted with a key to the House of Zonta to be used wisely and judiciously through the coming year.

As members of the Board, designated as Directors of the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_, you will find your duties are varied and yet important. You will counsel with the President and her assisting officers at all Board meetings. It is important that you be punctual and regular in attendance. You will weigh carefully all matters that pertain to this club that are presented at Board meetings and you will not recommend or reject any items because of your personal preference but let the merits of the ideas be your solid guide so that the work of the club may be carried on successfully and with credibility.

You have a place in the House of Zonta known as the Directors Room, and the key I present to you unlocks the door to this room. Use it to open that door so that you may give at all times the benefit of your thinking during Board discussions.

Together with the KEY is your badge of office (present each with a small tape measure). Do you pledge yourself to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office of Director to the best of your ability?

Will the Treasurer, \_\_\_\_\_, please come forward. \_\_\_\_\_, as the newly elected Treasurer of the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_, it will be your duty to occupy the Finance Room in Zonta's house. This is a most important room because you will be required to keep an accurate record of all collections and disbursements of club money, have custody of all funds, make monthly reports to the Board of Directors, and a report at the annual meeting, as well as performing such other duties as pertain to the office.

With the acceptance of this KEY and your badge of office (small coin purse or money clip), do you pledge to carry out the duties of your office?

Will the Recording Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_, please come forward. \_\_\_\_\_, as duly elected Recording Secretary of the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_, it shall be your duty to keep a complete record of all club proceedings and minutes of the Board meetings, and to attend to other duties as ordinarily pertain to your office.

As I present you with the KEY to the Hall of Records, your room in the House of Zonta, together with your badge of office, do you pledge to carry through with these duties to the best of your ability?

Will the Corresponding Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_, please come forward. \_\_\_\_\_, as duly elected Corresponding Secretary of the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_, it shall be your duty to follow up on all correspondence pertaining to the business of the club and perform all other duties as pertain to the office or requested by the President.

As I present you with the KEY to the Hall of Letters, your room in the House of Zonta, and your badge of office (a small memo book), do you pledge yourself to carry through with these duties to the best of your ability?

Will the Vice President, \_\_\_\_\_, please come forward. \_\_\_\_\_, as Vice President, you have been elected to one of the most important offices in the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_. The key to the room you will occupy in the House of Zonta will open the door to the room of your President, so that you may be close at hand to preside for her should it be necessary to do so. In case of illness, absence, or resignation of the President, the Vice President will act as President.

You will be expected to attend all meetings of the club and Board of Directors and to undertake any other duties assigned by the President. May the light of your Vice Presidential office be ever burning so that your President knows that she has, at all times, your complete support and cooperation.

In accepting the KEY and your badge of office (a small flashlight), do you pledge this support?

Will the President, \_\_\_\_\_, please come forward. \_\_\_\_\_, the Master Key to Zonta's House belongs to you as the duly elected President of the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_. As head of this Zonta family, your responsibilities are considerable. It shall be your duty as President to preside at all meetings of the club and of the board of Directors, and to perform such other duties as pertain to your office. You shall countersign all checks drawn by the Treasurer and you shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, the chairmen of standing committees.

In carrying this Master Key, much thought must be given to its use. We do not wish to leave our door open and unattended so that persons not qualified to do so may enter, but neither do we wish to keep it so tightly closed that our own Zonta family cannot grow and prosper. We must also be mindful of others who come to us needing our help.

In presenting this KEY to you, I know it goes into capable hands, and may the badge of office that accompanies this key (a small magnifying glass) enable you to see clearly and objectively all club matters brought to you for your attention and consideration so that you may act in the best interest of our organization. Do you so pledge?

Members of the Zonta Club of \_\_\_\_\_, do you  
pledge yourselves to cooperate with these newly installed officers?

I declare those officers duly installed. To them, I extend my best wishes for the year(s)  
ahead.

*From Gerri Gerken, Zonta Club of Newport Harbor  
Contributed by Past Governor Barbara Brown*