



**BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**Zonta International District 13 Conference,
Akureyri, Iceland August 31 - September 2, 2023**

The Zonta International District 13 Conference and District Meeting will take place in Akureyri, Iceland, on August 31 - September 2, 2023. The venue of the Conference is Hof, Culture House. Social events will take place at various locations in Akureyri. Information on registration and accommodation can be found on the District website <https://zonta-district13.org/>

The standard registration fee ISK 62.000. Included in the registration fee is all conference material, lunches during conference days and coffee during breaks. More detailed information regarding registration and payment is on the Conference Registration Website <https://zonta-district13.org/>

This Call to Conference is posted on the District 13 Website www.zonta-district13.org and sent by e-mail in accordance with District 13 Bylaws, Article 16, and Zonta International Regulations. District Conference Rules, District Meeting Rules and Voting and Election Rules are found in Article 20 of the District 13 Bylaws.

Deadline for registration is August 1, 2023.

District Secretary Sigríður Björnsdóttir
e-mail: siggabodda@gmail.com
tel. +354 898 5039

Area Director: Sesselja Sigurðardóttir
e-mail: sesseljasig62@gmail.com
tel. +354 693 0087

Participation in a District conference is important. The purpose of the Conference is to promote the objectives and programs of Zonta International and to conduct the business of the District. At a District Conference every member has a voice and every club has a vote. Let your voice and the voice of your club be heard! A District Conference is also the perfect place to learn more about Zonta and the business of the District. Last but not least the District Conference is the perfect opportunity to meet other Zontians in District 13 and have an enjoyable, interesting and rewarding time together.

The theme of this District Conference is **“Women Leadership for Sustainable Future”**.

On behalf of the District 13 Board 2022-2024 I welcome you all to the District Conference in Akureyri, Iceland August 31 - September 2, 2023.

On behalf of Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir, District 13 Governor
Sigríður Björnsdóttir
District 13, Secretary

Preliminary program

Thursday, August 31. 2023

17:00 - 18.30 Welcoming party in Deiglan and Listasafn Akureyrar (Akureyri Art Museum). Spouses are welcome to attend <http://www.listak.is/is/>.

Friday, September 1, 2023.

Venue: HOF, Culture House Strandgata 12, Akureyri.

08:00 - 09:00 Registration.

09:00 - 10:30 Opening session:

Governors Welcome.

Welcome to Akureyri: Ásthildur Sturludóttir, Mayor of Akureyri.

International Honorary Member Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir.

International President Ute Sholtz: Online

International Representative: Vice President Fernanda Gallo Freschi.

Entertainment: Performance by the Duet Ylur

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break.

11:00 - 12:30 Keynote speakers

- Gender and Climate Change – What are the Links?
Audur H. Ingolfsdóttir, owner of Transformia, Self-Empowerment and Social Responsibility, Iceland (PhD international relations)
- Climate Change – What is it and why is it important?
Reidun Elise Vold, Manager of climate and external environment at AkerBP, Norway (MSc Chemical Engineering)
- What is the Role of Oppressed Groups in Battling Climate Change?
Ester Alda Hrafnhildar Bragadóttir, Advisor at the Icelandic Environment Agency (Msc Environment and Resource Management)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch: Hof Culture House / Market Square

13:30 - 14:00 Panel Discussion with Keynote Speakers

14.00 - 16.00 Business session 1 (See draft District Meeting Agenda)

16:00 - 16:30 Hand in hand - Circle around Hof

We perform a circle around Hof to illustrate to the world the meaning of unity.

19:00 - 20:30 Dinners in Zonta Homes.

Saturday, September 2, 2023

Venue: HOF, Culture House, Strandgata 12, Akureyri:

08:30 – 10:30 Business Session 2 (See Draft District Meeting Agenda)

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30 Keynote Speaker and Panel Discussion:

- Muslim Immigrant Women's Labor Market Participation in Iceland.
Fayrouz Nouh PhD candidate at the University of Iceland, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics.

- New generation of Zontians. How can we grow?
Signý Óskarsdóttir, Owner of Creatrix ehf a Consulting Company
Specialized in Project and Support in the field of Education, Culture
and Innovation.

- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch: Hof Culture House / Market Square
- 13:30 – 15:00 Multicultural Club in Copenhagen. Maria Jose Landeira Østergård,
Past International President
UN and Council of Europe Committee. Dorte Olesen,
Past International Director
Advocacy Committee. Maria Jose Landeira Østergård, PIP.
Business session 3 (See Draft District Meeting Agenda)
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30 – 17:00 Business session 4 and Closing remarks (See Draft District Meeting
Agenda)
Proposals from Clubs:
Proposal from Area 01 on continuing STEM to be discussed and decided is
District 13 will support this proposal.
Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend the Zonta International
Bylaws Article XI Convention, SECTION 1. Purpose by adding the word
“hybrid” before the word “biennial”, and the words “, except in case of
unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophes” after the word “convention”.
Proposal from Area 01. District 13 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
- 19:00 – 23:00 Closing Banquet at Hof, Culture House, Strandgata 12, Akureyri
Fine Dining, Entertainment, Lottery and Good Company

Draft District Meeting Agenda (Article 18 of District 13 Bylaws):

1. Election of the moderator.
2. Adoption of the legitimacy of the meeting.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Election of secretaries, time keepers and tellers.
5. Governor’s report on the state of the district.
6. Treasurer's report on the audited accounts/balance sheets.
7. Election of governor, lieutenant governor, treasurer, treasurer alternate, auditor,
auditor alternate, nominating committee.
8. Adoption of the budget.
9. Adoption of the dues amount.
10. Proposal from the District Board.
11. Proposals from the Clubs.
12. Any other business.

Slate of Candidates:

Candidates for District Board 2024-2026:

Governor: Rūta Jasionienė, ZC Alytus, Lithuania.

Lt. Governor: Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg, Denmark.

Treasurer: Mette Kloster Blom, ZC Sønderborg, Denmark.

Treasurer – alternate: Elsebeth Lauridsen, ZC Copenhagen I, Denmark.

Auditor: Ragnhildur Traustadóttir, ZC Sunna, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland.

Auditor – alternate: Eli Wikse, ZC Egersund og omegn, Norway.

Nominating Committee Candidates for 2024-2026

Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo Norway.

Rasa Birutiene, ZC Vilnius, Lithuania.

Elsemette Cassøe, ZC Aalborg, Denmark.

Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir, ZC Reykjavík, Iceland.

Siri Meling, ZC Egersund and omegn, Norway.

Proposal for Bylaws Changes for District 13 Bylaws

District 13 Bylaws:

“The District Board has examined the Zonta International Bylaws of 2022, the Article concerning the Districts (Article 14) and the present Bylaws of District 13. The Board considers the present Bylaws compliant with the present wordings of the Bylaws of Zonta International as adopted at the 2022 Convention in Hamburg. Therefore the District Board refrains from making proposals for amendments to District 13 Bylaws at this District Meeting”.

District 13 moves to amend the Zonta International Bylaws Article XI Convention, SECTION 1. Purpose by adding the word “hybrid” before the word “biennial”, and the words, “except in case of unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophes” after the word “convention” as shown in the table below:

<p>Present wording</p> <p>SECTION 1. Purpose. Zonta International shall hold a biennial convention to present an informative, motivational and educational program and receive reports. The Zonta International Board shall determine business of the convention, which may include elections, voting on proposed amendments to the bylaws; on dues and fees; on resolutions and goals that establish the international service projects and programs; and for any other business that may properly come before the convention assembly.</p>	<p>Proposed wording:</p> <p>SECTION 1. Purpose. Zonta International shall hold a hybrid biennial convention, except in case of unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophes, to present an informative, motivational and educational program and receive reports. The Zonta International Board shall determine business of the convention, which may include elections, voting on proposed amendments to the bylaws; on dues and fees; on resolutions and goals that establish the international service projects and programs; and for any other business that may properly come before the convention assembly.</p>
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Rationale

Zonta International Conventions have a huge influence on our membership. Participants get energized during the Conventions, get a better understanding of our democratic organization, and the impact of our projects and programs. This knowledge and energy are taken back home to the clubs and is used in our membership and fundraising campaigns. As earlier participants have expressed “it was only after participating in the International Convention, that I understood that I am part of something much bigger than me, part of a great organization that truly improves the lives of many women and girls”.

However, Conventions can also be a financial risk for Zonta.

We, the Zonta members of District 13 believe that a hybrid biennial Convention is the optimal way of conducting a Convention. It takes advantage of the large benefit of a physical convention for the ones that can travel and minimizes the financial risk. Therefore, we encourage all Zonta members to endorse this proposal.

District 13 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:

NEW 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.

Rationale

The STEM scholarship has run successfully since 2018 and has contributed to the increase of visibility of Zonta at local, national, and international levels. It has already demonstrated a positive effect at the local level, empowering women to step into male dominated technology and engineering fields. Recipients report that they are taken more seriously because of our Scholarship. It has also been used to attract new and younger members and to demonstrate Zonta’s commitment to women’s development in a world dominated by men.

Women are still underrepresented in STEM. A 2019 Lancet report explored the systematic and institutional barriers to women in science. Women have less success in winning grant funding, hold fewer positions in academic publishing, and author papers less often. They also face outright discrimination.

Climate changes have a significant impact on gender inequality, and we need women in STEM to use strong voices to push for strategies for urgent climate actions. The IPCC [International Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change] found in 2020, that gender inequalities are further exaggerated by climate-related hazards, and they result in higher workloads for women, occupational hazards indoors and outdoors, psychological, and emotional stress, and higher mortality compared to men.

Furthermore, as the UN Secretary General pointed out at CSW67, the “gender digital divide is fast becoming the new face of gender inequality.” The CSW67 reaffirmed the importance of women and girls’ full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership in science, technology and innovation, and expressed concern on the limited progress in closing the gender gap in access to and use of technologies, connectivity, digital literacy and education. It also expressed grave concern about the continuity and interrelation between offline and

online violence, harassment and discrimination against women and girls and condemned the increase of such acts.

Action is needed now to redress the balance. The Amelia Earhart Fellowship is limited to women pursuing Ph.D/doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. With the additional STEM scholarships we cover a much broader range of subjects in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as well as including women studying in the second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a master's program. Having a STEM scholarship also enhances the success and prestige that we already have with the well-established, highly regarded, and iconic Amelia Earhart Fellowship.

The Zonta Women in STEM scholarship is the perfect complement, and a crucial addition if we want to meet the challenges of the future, to the other Zonta educational programs: Amelia Earhart Fellowship, JMK Women in Business Scholarship and the Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

We, the Zonta members of District 13 believe that the Zonta Women in STEM Scholarship contributes to the increase of female role models in STEM and will therefore contribute to the needed sustainable change in our societies.

Therefore, we encourage all Zonta members to endorse this proposal.

Resolution to extend Women in STEM Scholarship for another biennium.

Proposed by District 13

The Women in STEM Scholarship should be continued as a fourth 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 Women in Technology Scholarship, was set up as a pilot program for three biennium 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 bi-annual district award and was expanded to STEM fields.

Women are still underrepresented in all engineering and STEM fields. The scholarship has already demonstrated a positive effect at the local level empowering women to step into male dominated technology and engineering fields. Recipients report that they are taken more seriously because of our Scholarship. Young women educated in STEM will work in these areas and will be role models for more women to follow in their footsteps.

The Zonta Women in STEM scholarship is the perfect complement, and a crucial addition if we want to meet the challenges of the future, to the other Zonta educational programs: Amelia Earhart Fellowship, JMK Women in Business Scholarship and the Young Women in Public Affairs Award.

Important information

Delegates

Each club in good standing is entitled to one delegate and one alternate. Clubs with more than 30 members are entitled to two delegates and two alternates, article 17 of D13 bylaws. It is important that all clubs send their delegates to the District Conference. If a club cannot send a delegate to the conference the club should ask another club to carry a proxy for the club. Governor must have received names of delegates and information on proxies before August 1st, 2023.

Theme of the District Conference: “Women Leadership for Sustainable Future”

How can women lead the way for a sustainable future?

Sub-theme 1.: Does the education and background of refugee women affect their position in the labor market?

Sub-theme 2: Young Zontians, what do they want? How can we react to their call?

Presentation of Keynote Speakers

Dr. Auður H. Ingólfssdóttir is the owner and manager of Transformia, a small business focusing on self-empowerment, sustainability, and social responsibility. Audur has an educational background in international relations, with a special focus on international development, gender studies, environmental policy, and natural resources.



She has worked as a journalist, civil servant, gender advisor, researcher, and a consultant. She also has more than twenty years of experience as a university lecturer, teaching courses related to international politics, peace and conflict studies, natural resource management, gender and environment and on sustainability and social responsibility.

Her research focus throughout the years has been on the intersection between politics, environment, natural resource management and social justice. In her role as the manager of Transformia she takes on various teaching engagements in her field and leads the development of educational material. Audur also served as the chair of the board of the Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland's largest national park, in 2020-2022, and sits on the board of Bifröst University.



Reidun Elise Vold has worked with climate and sustainability for the last seven years. She leads the Climate and Environment group at Aker BP, an oil and gas company in Norway. She and her team are responsible for providing input to the climate strategy and influence emission reduction efforts throughout the company. Ms. Vold holds a MSc in Chemical Engineering and lived in Boston, USA for 17 years, where she worked for a biotechnology company developing medicine for rare genetic diseases. Ms. Vold is also the President for Vigrestad & Omegn Zonta Club in Norway.



Ester Alda Hrafnhildar Bragadóttir is working at the environmental agency of Iceland in the team of climate and circular economy. She has a BSc in Global Responsibility and Leadership, a program based on the Sustainable Development Goals, and MSc in Environment and Resource Management. Her main interest lies in the intersection of environmental and social issues, best reflected by her research topics in both studies. In her BSc she researched ecofeminism in relation to climate change, and later in her MSc she wrote on environmental justice in climate and biodiversity initiatives. In addition to her studies, she has worked on several environmental projects, for instance one on a sustainability strategy with a municipality and one on wilderness preservation. She is further an active member in the Icelandic Youth Environmentalist Association.



Fayrouz Nouh is a PhD candidate at the University of Iceland, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics. Fayrouz comes from Syria, and she moved to Iceland in 2016. She has a B.A. degree in Psychology from Damascus University in Syria. She finished her Master of Arts in Social Sciences faculty, School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Akureyri in 2020.



Signý Óskarsdóttir is the owner of Creatrix ehf. a consulting company specialized in project management and support in the field of education, culture, and innovation. Signý has led and initiated various development projects in cooperation with institutions, municipalities and educational centers.

Signý has an MA degree in cultural management and is a yoga teacher. She has worked as an administrator and teacher at primary school, upper secondary school and at university level. She has experience and knowledge in strategy and policy making, quality management and human resource management. Signý has experience with foreign cooperation and workplace training.