

Get ready to be **inspired**, and have **fun** doing it!



# Fall Conference

October 27-29, 2023  
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Soar in  
Zonta Spirit

Enjoy  
Friends Old  
& New

Build Renewed Energy

Learn  
Amazing  
Things

Get  
Inspired

Explore this Beautiful  
Canadian Peninsula



Grow Your Knowledge, Connections, and Impact to Build a Better World for Women & Girls

## 72nd Zonta District 1 Fall Conference October 27—29, 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia Official Conference Program

District 1 is proud to be part of Zonta International  
~ a leading global organization of individuals  
working together to build a  
better world for women and girls.

[2023fc.ZontaDistrict1.org](https://2023fc.ZontaDistrict1.org)

# Zonta International President Ute Scholz



Dear fellow Zontians,  
Warm Zonta greetings from Verden, Germany!

How wonderful that you are taking this time to attend your district conference. Whether this is your first conference or you have attended many, district conferences are a wonderful opportunity to meet other Zontians outside your club and to discuss important topics and share ideas about the future of Zonta. I personally also always enjoy the possibility of meeting old friends and making new ones, and I hope that you too find joy.

As you come together with your fellow Zontians, women and girls around the world are facing unprecedented challenges. Conflict and war, climate change, economic hardships and legal and political battles threaten the hard-won gains for gender equity Zontians and others have worked so hard to achieve over the last 100+ years.

However, despite the enormity of the problems we face, I am not discouraged. I still believe our vision for a world where women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential is possible. Why am I so hopeful? Because each and every day I hear stories of Zonta clubs and individual Zontians working together to make our Zonta vision a reality in their local communities and around the world. Thank you for inspiring me with every action you take and every story you share!

At the beginning of this biennium, I presented my biennial goals – Stand Out for Gender Equity, Represent Global Citizenship, Develop Future Leaders, Celebrate Ourselves and Position Zonta for the Future. We have already made good progress on many of these goals. I am encouraged by the number of new clubs in formation and by the active participation in our Zonta Says NO to Violence against Women campaign and new Zonta Says NOW activities across the Zonta world, as well as all the work that went into our new strategic plan. I am excited about the future of Zonta, but there is still more work to do. To ensure our vision for gender equity is a reality, we must work together, and we must strengthen our position by inviting others to join us.

I am looking forward seeing you, at the 66th Zonta International Convention in Brisbane, Australia, 27- 30 June 2024. It promises to be a fun and exciting experience. Until then, best wishes and thank you for all you give to Zonta, your dedication and determination and your generous donations to our Zonta Foundation for Women - to BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Warm regards, Ute



## **Welcome ZI 2022-2024 Vice President and International Representative District 01 Fernanda Gallo Freschi**

Dear District 01 Zontians,

As your Board Liaison and International Representative, I am honored to attend, virtually, your hybrid District Conference around the theme «Grow your Knowledge, Connections and Impact to Build a Better World for Women & Girls».

I am looking forward to sharing updates and reflections on our global organization and its Strategic Plan «Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond» and get feedback from you, as well as learn more about your district, area and club projects, and share some Zonta spirit online.



District conferences provide opportunities to network, share information and plan the future of districts. Holding your conference in hybrid mood is farsighted, as it allows all- those who can travel and those who can't, like me - to profit of this opportunity.

Your Governor, board and host committee have worked creatively to present a hybrid District Conference that will be meaningful and helpful to you. You will interact with powerful speakers, touching topics that are crucial for Zonta international, such as the impact of climate change on women and girls, gender-based violence and human trafficking. You will feel proud meeting your awardees. But above all I hope that getting together again in Zonta Spirit, in person or virtually, will bring you joy and energize you even more for your future endeavours.

Zonta inspires me as a global organization that defends the human rights of women at every stage of their life, and under every sky. The Zonta experience can be lived in different ways around the world, and at different ages, and I feel proud and thankful that, all together, we are an inclusive, engaged, strong community that builds a better world for women and girls, under every sky!

I am grateful for your generous and resilient contribution to our Zonta mission, as well as your collective efforts to expand the Zonta family, and I look forward to meeting you virtually, learning more about your successes and the decisions you will take for your future.

Best regards,

Fernanda Gallo Freschi  
Vice President 2022–2024  
Zonta International & Zonta Foundation for Women

# District 1 Governor—Donna Sroka



Dear members,

This has been an incredible first year of our biennium. We have emerged from the pandemic to find ourselves facing the reality of the climate crisis: widespread fires, air-quality issues, torrential downpours, flooding, devastating hurricanes and tornados, extended heat waves, draught conditions – lives, land and economies have been impacted, putting many of us in survival mode. We are also witnessing a senseless war in Ukraine that challenges our world security—and now in the Middle East, a humanitarian crisis aggravated by the pandemic of forcibly displaced women and children at high risk of violence

and abuse, and a roll-back of hard-fought women’s rights to freely make decisions that affect their lives under conditions of equality.

Yet, despite the energy these crises demand, Zontians continue to gather together in support, knowing we are stronger together than alone. Exciting and fun events - from fundraisers to recognizing women making a difference - have brought people together to celebrate and advocate in these times of need. Both our US and Canadian Advocacy Caucuses have been highly active in educating and providing tools to coordinate advocacy efforts in gender equity, justice and climate impact. We have given many scholarships to women for their futures and ours. Our service projects have given relief and healing to many in need.

As the smallest district in Zonta International, District 1’s focus continues to be on growing membership. We are making headway on this challenge with a new club in South County RI and three new “clubs in formation” and existing clubs stepping up to support them as they attract enough members (15) to become a chartered club. The Berkshire Area club is sponsoring the new e-club of Atlantic Northeast; Quaboag Valley is sponsoring the Greater Hartford, CT club, and the Concord NH club is sponsoring the North-east Kingdom VT. District 1 has recruited 24 new members this year! We know that keeping existing members engaged is also critical in our growth strategy. We will be devoting time to work on retention ideas during this conference and beyond.

This fall conference – the first in-person district event since 2019 – is built around the theme of GROWTH. All are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity to grow knowledge, grow connections, and grow their impact to build a better world for women and girls! It is always energizing to meet in person and have fun exploring a new place with new people and old friends. For those who cannot come in person we will make available recordings of all the key portions of the event - including an overview of Zonta’s new strategic plan that offers some fresh thinking on how we move forward.

It has never been so important to empower women as now. We need more individuals to work on the ground and online to address these issues. Women, and those who support them, have always risen to the occasion in time of need, both as warriors and healers. Let’s make this fall conference and the year ahead an opportunity for growth on all levels.

## Past District Governors

1956-1958	Helen Gilbert, Norwich, CT
1958-1960	Elizabeth Kages, Springfield, MA
1960-1962	Frances Fitzgerald, Manchester, NH
1962-1964	Dorothy Etz Trudell, Medford, MA
1964-1966	Dorothy Banks, Framingham, MA
1966-1968	Doris Dossin, Meriden, CT
1968-1970	Mary Simons, Arlington, MA
1970-1972	Barbara Walton, Augusta, ME
1972-1974	Ruby Reed, Springfield, MA
1974-1976	Ruth Byron, Hartford, CT
1976-1978	Ellen Gavigan, Malden, MA
1978-1980	Phyllis Phipps, Salem, MA
1980-1982	Evelyn Cudmore, Charlottetown, PEI
1982-1984	Dorothy Elizabeth Tucker, Medford, MA
1984-1986	Marion Baxter, MD, Hartford, CT
1986-1988	Mildred Ladd, Portland, ME
1988-1990	Myrt Willey, Augusta, ME
1990-1992	Marilyn Flaherty, Arlington, MA
1992-1994	Bonnie Haghkerdar, Bangor, ME
1994-1996	Florence "Edie" Parker, Concord, NH
1996-1998	Linda Knox Gibbon, Northampton Area, MA
1998-2000	Cynthia Thompson, Lakes Region, NH
2000-2002	Helen Lawrence-Stewart, W. Suburban, MA
2002-2004	Cheryl Dorfman, Berkshire County, MA
2004-2006	Alison Draper, Halifax, NS
2006-2008	Lynn Goodhue, Northampton Area, MA
2008-2010	Nadine Salley, Lakes Region, NH
2010-2012	Dr. Mary Ann Rubis, Quaboag Valley, MA
2012-2014	Denise Deshane, Bangor, ME
2014-2016	Sharon Leavitt, Bangor, ME
2016-2018	Joanne Puopolo, Malden, MA
2018-2020	Elizabeth Hart, Malden, MA
2020-2022	Beatrice Schori, Halifax, NS

## 2022-2024 District 1 Board of Directors

<b>Governor:</b>	Donna Sroka Zonta Club of Northampton Area, MA USA
<b>Lt. Governor:</b>	Donna Raycraft Zonta Club of Concord, NH USA
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Janice Severance Zonta Club of Concord, NH USA
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mary Knight Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, MA USA
<b>District Directors:</b>	<b>Area I—Atlantic Provinces, ME, NH</b> Kathryn Patterson Zonta Club of Halifax, NS Canada <b>Area II—MA</b> Sandra Carroll Zonta Club of Berkshire County, MA USA

## 2022-2024 District 1 Club Presidents

### AREA I

Zonta Club of Amherst Area – Lisa Emory  
Zonta Club of Bangor – Kaneen Eaton  
Zonta Club of Halifax – Carol Dobson  
Zonta Club of Concord – Lynn Stanley

### AREA II

Zonta Club of Berkshire County – Chris Haley  
Zonta Club of Northampton Area – Seren Derin  
Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley – Dana Burton  
Zonta Club of Chelsea / North Shore –Janice Tatarka  
Zonta Club of Malden – Joanne Stroud Lebeau  
Zonta Club of Medford – Regina Caines  
Zonta Club of So. County RI—Nadine Salley

### Clubs in Formation

Zonta e-Club of Atlantic Northeast  
Zonta Club of Greater Hartford CT  
Zonta Club of the Northeast Kingdom VT

# **District 1 Committee Chairs**

## **Advocacy Committee**

Verna Frasca, Northampton Area, MA USA  
Carol Dobson, Halifax NS, Canada

## **Amelia Earhart Committee**

Jane House, Concord, NH USA

## **Bylaws & Resolutions Committee**

Joyce Heck, Concord, NH USA

## **Finance Committee**

Pam Albertson, Quaboag Valley, MA USA

## **Foundation Ambassador**

Donna Clifford, Medford, MA USA  
and Endowment Specialist  
Mary Ann Rubis, Quaboag Valley, MA USA

## **Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Committee**

Lorraine Bartlett, Concord, NH USA

## **Membership Committee**

Donna Raycraft, Concord, NH USA

## **Nominating Committee**

Sandra Carroll, Berkshire County, MA USA

## **Public Relations & Communication Committee**

Mary Knight, Quaboag Valley, MA USA

## **United Nations Committee**

Elizabeth Hart, Malden, MA USA

## **Women in STEM**

Jane House, Concord, NH USA

## **Young Women in Public Affairs Committee**

Lorraine Bartlett, Concord, NH USA

## **Webmaster**

Mary Knight, Quaboag Valley, MA USA

**Zonta District 1 Official 2023 Fall Conference**

**Committee Co-Chairs:**

Governor Donna Sroka, ZC Northampton Area

Area 1 Director Kathryn Patterson, ZC Halifax

**District Liaison** VP Fernanda Gallo-Freschi

**Committee Members**

Lt. Governor Donna Raycraft, ZC Concord, NH

Treasurer Janice Severance, ZC Concord, NH

Area 2 Director Sandy Carroll, ZC Berkshire Area

Secretary Mary Knight, ZC Quaboag Valley

President Carol Dobson, ZC Halifax

PDG Beatrice Schori, ZC Halifax

President Lisa Emery, ZC Amherst

President Lynn Stanley, ZC Concord NH

**The Zonta Club of Halifax and Amherst wish to thank the following for their generous contributions to the success of this conference**

**Hon. Karla MacFarlane, Speaker**

**of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly**

**Hon. Jill Balser, Member of the Legislative Assembly**

**Lewis MacKinnon, Office of Gaelic Affairs**

**Muin Paul, Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre**

**Italian Canadian Cultural Association**

**Destination Halifax**

**Canadian Forces Base Halifax**

**Jeremy Blackburn. Piper**



# **Official Business of the District 1 Fall Conference 2023**

## **Overview of Ballot for Delegate Voting—October 23, 2023**

### **Zoom meeting and at [2023fc.zontadistrict 1.org](https://2023fc.zontadistrict1.org)**

- Report of Nominating Committee—Slate of Officers  
Candidate Remarks
- Proposed District 1 Budget for 2024—2026
- Proposed amendment to District 1 Rules of Procedure
- Proposed amendment to Zonta International Bylaws to add Women in STEM Committee
- Proposed Resolution for 2024 Zonta International Convention to extend Women in STEM for another biennium

**Delegate voting is held online between 10/23—25/2023**

**Delegates will receive ballot and instructions on 10/23 Zoom call**

## **October 26—27**

**10/26-10/27 Welcome to Halifax package at hotel**

**Friday, October 27, 2023**

**10:00—12:00** Service Project—Fill a Purse (Sea Room)  
Benefit of Bryony House

**12:00—15:00** District Board Meeting (Sea Room)

**Afternoon on own—lunch, explore, shop, relax**

**18:00—20:00** Welcome by Host Committee  
**Bluenose II Restaurant)**

Lobster dinner - Kathryn and Dick Patterson, Hosts

# OFFICIAL DISTRICT 1 FALL CONFERENCE

**Saturday, October 28, 2023**

*Breakfast at Cambridge Suites or on own*

**Meeting in the Sea Room at the Officers Mess at Stadacona**

**8:15 - 8:45 Registration**

**9:00 Business Session I**

- Board procession, Posting of colors, National Anthems, Acknowledge Land ceremony, Muin Paul (Mi'kmaw Community)
- Welcome to Halifax—Honorable Jill Balser
- Welcome Video from President Ute Scholz
- International Representative Fernanda Gallo-Freschi, V.P.
- Governor Donna Sroka

**Area 2 Director, Sandra Carroll**

**9:45 Keynote: Kristen van Ginhoven**, producing Artistic Director WAM Theatre—where arts and activism meet.

10:15 Break

**10:30 Business Session II**

**Treasurer, Janice Severance**—Report on Online Auction

**Donna Clifford**, Zonta Foundation for Women Ambassador and **Dr. Mary Ann Rubis**, Development Chair & Endowment Rep.

**Governor Donna Sroka**

**11:15 Membership Workshop on Retention facilitated by Donna Raycraft**

12:15 LUNCH BREAK

## **Saturday, October 28, 2023 *continued***

### **13:30 Business Session III**

**Secretary Mary Knight**

#### **Report of Ballot Results:**

- Slate of Officers
- Proposed District 1 Budget for 2024—2026
- Proposed amendment to District 1 Rules of Procedure
- Proposed amendment to Zonta International Bylaws to add Women in STEM Committee
- Proposed Resolution for 2024 Zonta International Convention to extend Women in STEM for another biennium

**Halifax President Carol Dobson**

**13:40 Speaker: Debbie Adams, Business Coach, Around the World Learning**

**Halifax President Carol Dobson**

**14:30 Speaker: Emma Norton, Community Activist**

**Amherst President Lisa Emory - what's to come**

15:15 Break

**15:30 Advocacy Workshop—Preparedness Planning for Climate Related Emergencies, facilitated by Carol Dobson**

16:40 Announcements & Closing Session

**18:00 Governor's Reception**

Piper Jeremy Blackburn

Banquet in Ballroom at Stadacona

**21:00 AST Closing of Online Auction**

# OFFICIAL DISTRICT 1 FALL CONFERENCE—Continued

**Sunday, October 28, 2023**

*Breakfast at Cambridge Suites/or on own*

**Meeting in the Sea Room at the Officers Mess at Stadacona**

**08:45 Memorial Service—ZC of Amherst**

**10:00 Business Session IV**

Presentation from Fernanda— progress of Zonta International activities in the biennium, the New Strategic Plan, and Q & A

**11:00 Speaker Natasha Breward, JMK winner**

**11:40 Celebrating District 1**

- **Online Auction Fundraiser Results**
- **Foundation Update**
- **Award Presentations** - PDG Award and Mary Knight Award
- **Acknowledgements**

**12:00 Looking to the Future**

- Invitation to 2024 ZI Convention—Brisbane Australia
- Concluding Remarks Governor **Donna**
- Club Collect
- Retire Colors

END OF OFFICIAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

**Current Board and incoming Leaders meet briefly with Fernanda  
Fall Conference Report / Followed by Board Luncheon**

# 2023-2030: OUR MISSION & GOALS

**Mission:** Zonta International is a leading global organization of individuals working together to **build a better world for women and girls.**

## Goal 1: Credible and Visible Voice

Zonta acts as a credible and visible voice on gender equity and delivers initiatives addressing education equality, climate justice, ending gender-based violence, and ensuring women are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men.

### READINESS FOR THE FUTURE WILL REQUIRE...

#### Goal 2: Club Success

Clubs serve as a welcoming and inspiring environment to those who wish to work to empower women and girls and create information and resources necessary to focus on the most important issues facing women and girls.

#### Goal 3: International Leadership & Sustainability

Zonta manages its resources, including both time and money, to meet the vision and ensure the organization's long-term viability and success. Zonta modernizes its governance structure to align with its strategic plan, ensure innovative thought and allow for effective decision-making.

#### Goal 4: Engagement of Audiences & Alliances

Zonta creates customized pathways to connect to Zonta, develops collaborations with like-minded organizations, and expands revenue streams to further our mission and extend our voice.



## National Anthems

### THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER



Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,  
through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

### O CANADA

O Canada! Our home and native land.  
True patriot love in all OF US com-  
mand.



With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North, strong and free  
From far and wide, O Canada,  
We stand on guard for thee  
God keep our land glorious and free  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



### ITALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Brothers of Italy, Italy has awakened;  
Bound Scipio's helmet Upon her head.  
Where is Victory? Let her bow down  
For God created her A slave of Rome.

Chorus:

Let us unite! We are ready to die; Italy called.

## **Zonta Blessing**

Together now we voice our thanks,  
for life, for food, for loving care.

We also honor Zonta's code  
through fellowship and all we share.

Zontians work for lasting peace  
for every nation, everywhere.

## **The Zonta Code**

- To pledge myself to uphold and practice the ideals of Zonta
- To honor my work and consider it an opportunity for service
- To increase the measure of that service by consistent self-improvement
- To continue my study and action to the improvement of the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women
- To work for the advancement of understanding, good will and peace, through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions united in the Zonta ideal of service
- To keep ever before me the best of all creeds: whatsoever ye would do that others should do unto you, do even unto them

## **Club Collect**

Keep us from pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretenses and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things: make us grow calm, serene and gentle. Teach us to put into action our best impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are as one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great woman's heart of us all,  
and let us not forget to be kind.

## Natasha Breward

2022 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship award winner for Halifax CA and District 1.

Natasha is pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA in Finance), Dalhousie University, Canada, and holds a master's degree in pharmacy, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, as well as a bachelor's degree in pharmacology, McGill University, Canada. Natasha has always been passionate about innovation and is excited to apply the knowledge gained from her MBA to her current role as business development coordinator with the



Nova Scotia Health Innovation Hub. In this role, she fosters and supports innovation in healthcare and works with many facilitators in the health sector to improve the health system for patients, clinicians, caregivers and staff. Additionally, she works with and helps local health start-ups, and supports health innovation in Nova Scotia.

As Dalhousie University's Health Innovation Sandbox manager, Natasha facilitated innovation and entrepreneurship programming and events for health and life science students. A constant advocate for gender equality, she always ensured her programming had equal representation for women. After completing her MBA, Natasha plans to continue her work at Nova Scotia Health and enter the leadership stream. This will allow her to continue to make positive changes in Canadian health innovation and improve health outcomes for Canadians.



## **Kristen van Ginhoven, Producing Artistic Director**

Her guiding quote is “I may be one person, but I can be one person who makes a difference.”

Kristen van Ginhoven (she/her) is a leader, theatre director, educator, change-maker and social entrepreneur who works at the intersection of arts and activism. A dual Canadian/American citizen, Kristen is based in the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts, where she regularly enjoys the many outdoor and cultural wonders.

Kristen is the co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of WAM Theatre, a professional theatre company that works at the intersection of arts and activism. WAM creates theatre for gender equity and has a vision of theatre as philanthropy. In fulfillment of its philanthropic mission, WAM donates a portion of the proceeds from their Mainstage productions to carefully selected recipients. Since WAM’s founding in 2010, they have donated more than \$90,000 to 25 local and global organizations taking action for gender equity in areas such as girls education, teen pregnancy prevention, sexual trafficking awareness, midwife training, and more.



As WAM’s Producing Artistic Director, Kristen’s selected directing credits include *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Ann*, *The Bakelite Masterpiece*, *In Darfur* and *Emilie*. She is a participant of the Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction at the Stratford Festival of Canada, the Lincoln Center Director’s Lab and has directed and performed at regional theatres across the US and Canada, including Neptune Theatre in Halifax, where she got her start as a professional actor. Kristen trained at Dalhousie University (BA), Queen’s University (BEd) and Emerson College (MA). Growing WAM Theatre and being honored by the Berkshire Theatre Critics Association with the prestigious Larry Murray Award, presented to a person or theatre project that advances social, political, or community issues in Berkshire County are two of Kristen’s proudest achievements.

**Debbie Adams, Owner PeopleCan Training and Development**

“Skills and discipline are essential for success but the real superpower is #mindset.”

Debbie Adams remains loyal to her humble roots as she inspires others to dream big dreams. Sit back and grab your tea. Don't expect any sugar in your brew; her no-nonsense approach reflects upon a life that was not easy. She makes no excuses but uses every obstacle as an opportunity for learning. Some call her a dark horse and others refer to her as a renaissance woman but what we know for certain is that she doesn't know her place. As a mechanic who has been to law school, she hopes to inspire you to dust off your dream and get cracking.



Debbie grew up in rural Newfoundland where she yearned to be a soldier, and she did for 11 years before vision loss interrupted a career she loved. It did take her out of the game for a while but she got back up – resilience is part of her DNA. When she graduated from university at age 45, she knew that knowledge was key to a better life. Entrepreneurship came later when finding a job became a challenge with a disability. Having learned so many lessons at the school of hard knocks, She was determined to help others have an easier path to growing a business.

In addition to being an entrepreneur, business coach and inspirational speaker, Debbie is the author of *Law of Attraction for the Skeptic* and *Money Mindset*; and a co-author of *Dreaming Big Being Bold*—an international best seller featuring inspirational stories from visionaries, trailblazers & change makers.

## Emma Norton

Advocating for emergency-level policy responses to the intersecting climate and housing crises.

Motivated by the climate emergency, Emma has been working in Canada's energy sector for nearly a decade, specifically in the areas of energy efficiency and deep energy retrofits. She is currently working as the Operations Director for the ReCover Initiative and the Atlantic Director for the Climate Emergency Unit. In an op-ed last year, Emma noted that it is DIY time — no one is coming to save us from climate catastrophe. New studies demonstrate that the climate crisis is making the housing crisis worse due to people displaced by floods and fires.



Emma has a certificate in Building Science and Net Zero Building Design from Yestermorrow Design/Building School in Vermont. She achieved the University Medal in Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS), and combined honours in ESS and International Development Studies from the University of King's College/ Dalhousie University. She holds her levels 1 and 2 in Co-Resolve, Deep Democracy Facilitation. Previously Emma worked at QUEST, a community energy planning non-profit, and before that she worked on the Energy Team at the Ecology Action Centre, Nova Scotia's environmental watchdog.

## **Fernanda Gallo-Freschi, Zonta International V.P.**

Zonta Club of Milano-Sant Ambrogio, Italy, District 28

Motto: Resourcefulness and generosity.

Fernanda is a second generation Zontian and has been a member since 2010, progressively taking on leadership roles at the club, district and international levels, most recently having served as 2020-2022 International Director.



After working for almost 40 years in technical male-dominated fields as a civil and environmental engineer, Fernanda developed a deep personal experience in how to overcome gender workplace inequalities.

She speaks four languages and has gained multicultural awareness and enhanced leadership skills while being responsible for joint ventures with global partners in IT and research and development. In the last years, she turned to consultancy in the field of environment, workplace safety and sustainability, recently adding workplace gender equality auditing to her professional competences.

In addition to her professional and Zonta experiences, Fernanda has also held other community service leadership positions, particularly in multicultural education. Throughout her experiences, Fernanda has led by example. As the COVID-19 pandemic challenged all members, Fernanda looked for ways to collaborate, continue with events and share tools. For this biennium, Fernanda is fostering long-sighted strategic planning to ensure the sustainability of Zonta in the future. Membership is key. While long-established women's rights are shaken, she wants Zonta to be bold in its advocacy: involving more youth, enhancing alliances with peer organizations, and facilitating national actions in countries across districts.