

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS SCRIPT

Presiding Officer:

Will the following new members please step forward

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Presiding Officer :

The members of the Zonta Club of _____ are honored that you want to join with us in service and fellowship. We welcome you to a worldwide organization of dedicated individuals who have come together in pursuit of common goals.

The name Zonta is derived from a Sioux Indian word meaning honest and trustworthy.

Zonta International, a classified service organization of executives and professionals, is pledged to promote the Objects of Zonta which are:

To provide service at the global and local level;

To improve the legal, political, economic, educational and professional status of women;

To work for the advancement of understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions;

To promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

To be united internationally to foster high ethical standards, to implement service programs, and to provide mutual support and fellowship for members who serve their communities, their nations and the universe.

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Membership in Zonta is an honor and a privilege. It is also a responsibility.

Regular attendance and participation in Club service projects is expected of all members. If called upon for leadership responsibilities, you are expected to serve enthusiastically.

Zonta is strongly committed to the ideal of equality for all as expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights. We are confident you will contribute your caring, enthusiasm and talents to our club.

Membership Chair:

Introduce the new members reading biographical sketch.

Presiding Officer has the “club candle” and hands unlit candles to each of the new members. Presiding officer lights the club candle.

Presiding Officer:

I light this candle with a flame that has been passed, in the spirit of Zonta, from our International President through our District and then to our club.

Would you please light your candles from this flame.

New Members light their candles from the club candle.

The red center of the flame represents the flash of radiance, which forms the essence of our emblem. It represents the passion and vision of those Zontians and great women who went before us, in whose footsteps we follow as they made a better world for those who came after.

The orange flicker stands for the symbol of inspiration—the heart of our Zonta emblem. It signifies the creativity and innovation of the women who founded the Confederation of Zonta Clubs in 1919.

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The golden periphery of the flame embodies the richness of knowledge, experience and wisdom of the Zontians in this room and our sisters around the world who share our common goals—improving the world for women through community service and global understanding.

And finally—the candle itself, which is made of wax; a soft, pliable substance capable of assuming any shape—it hardens into a useful and beautiful tool designed to change our world. The candle itself characterizes the strength of our organization, flexible and pliable as we develop and grow and once formed, powerful enough to shed light into the dark corners of ignorance, inequality and injustice.

I ask you to light your candle every March 8th to honor International Women’s Day; to remember those women who have helped us change our world. Light this candle in thanks and celebration of those brave women of the past, present and future who have dared and continue to dare to go forward despite the shadows of those around them.

The light of Zonta has now been passed from our International President to you, our newest members.

Blow out candles and set aside.

Will you repeat the Zonta pledge with me?

“I pledge myself to uphold and practice the ideals of Zonta International.”

New Members:

“I pledge myself to uphold and practice the ideals of Zonta International.”

Presiding Officer: (speaking to the membership):

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Members of the Zonta Club of _____, do you receive these women as members of this club and promise to work with them to further the ideals of Zonta International?

Membership:

“We do.”

Presiding Officer (speaking to new members):

The fellowship of Zonta welcomes you. We ask for your support in joining with Zontians worldwide to carry out the service work of Zonta.

Please accept the Zonta pin and the Zonta rose of friendship.

Membership chair: Give pin, name tag, rose and roster to each new member

Congratulations and welcome!

Presiding Officer (speaking to membership):

Members of the Zonta Club of _____, will you please stand and welcome our new Zontians?