



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS...

FOR ZONTA CLUBS

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MENTORING A ZONTIAN

Does your Zonta Club mentor new members? If not, this is an activity to be seriously considered. Mentoring is another way to welcome new Zontians into Zonta International and to help them become a happy and active member. Besides this, it is an enjoyable process, as mentoring means getting to know another person and letting them get to know you.

What is mentoring? Mentoring has been defined as being a coach or a guide for someone else. Did another Zontian help you learn about your Zonta club and its activities when you first joined? That is what a mentor does. The purpose of a mentor is to introduce a new member to your Zonta club on a personal level. It is assumed that each Zonta club will provide some type of orientation to Zonta International and the club. Beyond that, a new Zontian will often have many questions about Zonta and her role in the club and will be eager to get to know its members.

Having a Zonta mentor means being part of a relationship with one other Zontian; this forms another tie to the club. A Zonta mentor will help a newer Zontian make the transition from being “newly installed” to being a vital part of your group. Being mentored makes a Zontian feel connected!

How does mentoring happen? Usually a new member is assigned to an experienced Zontian who has volunteered to mentor. Preferably it is someone the new member does not know; this expands the number of friends she may have in the club. Since mentoring is an activity conducted between two people, mentoring involves learning about each other, as well as about Zonta.

Mentoring activities generally occur outside of the club’s regular meetings, but can be done in a variety of ways. For example the mentor and new Zontian may meet for lunch or dinner to talk. The mentor can call the new Zontian to arrange other events or to share transportation to club meetings. The two Zontians can discover shared interests and attend events they both like. Email may be used for reminders or casual communication, depending on preferences, but the essence of mentoring is face to face communication. When that is not possible, a telephone conversation is also acceptable. A club should establish a time frame for the mentoring relationship, twelve months for example. A list of expected mentoring activities will be very helpful. Each Zontian should know what is expected.

Mentoring is a two-way street. Both Zontians gain from a mentoring experience, as both bring their own personalities, perspectives, and life experiences to the relationship. Each has different things to share with the other and unique, interesting stories to tell. Most likely both Zontians will increase their knowledge about Zonta and their Zonta club. It is said that there is no teacher like the act of teaching. So both members will gain from this rewarding experience. Of course, Zonta will gain too!

The Zonta International Organization, Membership, and Classification (OMC) Committee

For membership issues, contact your District OMC Chair. She works with the ZI OMC Liaisons who are:

Africa	Gloriastene Agboola	gtagboola@yahoo.com
Americas	Bea Weaver	beamiami@aol.com
Asia/Aus/NZ	Jane Wilson O'Brien	janewo@optusnet.com.au
Europe	Francine Dieltiens	fran.dieltiens@skynet.be