

# ZONTA CLUB OF MALDEN ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



The aftermath of COVID has had a lingering effect on the Zonta Club of Malden with a decline in membership in recent years and a decrease in active participation. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Club has focused their efforts on the following goals:

- Increase club membership and membership participation
- More of a presence in the community and strengthening partnerships
- Aligning with some of Zonta International’s biennial goals with a particular focus on the topics of Violence against Women and Climate Justice.

### Increase Membership and Membership Participation

To better accommodate members, the Malden Club readjusted their meeting times by coming together only once per month instead of twice. The aim was to increase membership participation as well as give the Board more opportunities to meet for planning purposes.

Another adjustment was to have fewer Committees, so the membership was organized into 5 different groups: Advocacy and Service, Membership and Outreach/Communication, Finance/Fundraising and Special Events and Scholarship. In early September, a questionnaire was circulated so that areas of interest could be assigned. *See Attached Committees Sheet.*

The Board worked to keep the monthly meetings interesting, utilize local businesses and establishments, include service projects, and connect and collaborate with other civic organizations. The focus of each meeting was twofold; to encourage active participation of the members while also engaging members in service projects.

### 2024-2025 Monthly Meetings:

Meeting and Location	Business Meetings and Theme	Service
September 2024, Anthony’s Restaurant, Malden	Installation of New Officers	
October, Pearl Street Restaurant, Malden	<b>Halloween Membership Bash</b> focused on membership recruitment: “Bring a Friend” and learn about the club. New and experienced members of Zonta spoke about their time in the club and what Zonta meant to them.	Members donated bags of candy for participation in the community’s Trunk or Treat event.

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November, Exchange Street Bistro, Malden	<b>Time of “Thanks and Giving.”</b> The meeting included speakers from two local organizations: Bread of Life (food pantry) and the Malden Warming Center (providing shelter in winter months).	Members donated items to Bread of Life and Warming Center
December, Thaigher Den Restaurant, Malden	<b>Holiday Celebration:</b> a fun craft was included as well as a gift swap.	Members shared personal stories of accomplishments during the past year.
January 2025, Casa Lucia, Revere	<b>Amelia Earhart Celebration,</b> cohosted with the Chelsea Club. \$200.00 was donated to ZI.	This year, 5 of the 30 Amelia Earhart Fellows were from our District and 3 were able to attend the event.
February, Pearl Street Restaurant, Malden	<b>A “Galentine” event.</b> Members brought Valentines and shared messages.	<b>Also installed 4 new members: Marlyn Andrews, Kathleen Manning Hall, Kashawna Harling and Rachel Louis Hamilton.</b>
March, Spinelli’s Restaurant, Annual Fundraiser	<b>“Women Making a Difference”</b> honored women who are dedicated to their communities and represent the true Zonta spirit. Zonta member, <i>Michelle Luong</i> ; Malden Police Department, <i>Det. Renee Kelley</i> ; Community member, <i>Lori Ardai</i> ; Malden Catholic High School teacher, <i>Lauren Connolly (chosen by Z-Club)</i> ; and, the Humanitarian Award was given to the organization, <i>Merry Malden</i> .	Funds were raised for scholarships.
April program held at Forestdale Cemetery, in Malden. Members took part in a tree planting and discussion around climate.	<b>Celebrating Earth Day 2025!</b> This program focused on increasing awareness of climate change and its gender-related consequences.	The club donated a tree and plaque to the local cemetery.
May 2025, Exchange Street Bistro, Malden	<b>Scholarship Night</b> recognized this years’ recipients: Emily Taylor (Malden Catholic High School), Kimberly Tropnas (Malden High School), Thalia Louigene (Malden High School) and Amelia Foti (Malden Catholic High School). Each received \$750.00. Also recognized the incredible work and service of our Z-Club members who received \$200.00. The keynote speaker was Komal Bhasin, Malden Public School Assistant Superintendent.	

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June 2025, The Establishment Restaurant, Medford	<b>Annual Dinner and Reports:</b> Reports given by Committee Chairs and year reviewed with accomplishments and future goals.	Toiletry donations will be collected for a Women's Sober Home.
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To further improve communication with members, a “Z Update” was circulated each month that incorporated Local, District and International News. This helped keep members informed about what was happening in the Club and about upcoming events to be on the lookout for. See *the attached November Z Update as an example.*

### More of a presence in the community and strengthening partnerships

Fostering connections and partnerships within the community provided a way for groups to work together for the common good and transform shared beliefs and hopes into action. This past year the Malden Club participated in several community-oriented events and supported other like-minded civic organizations.

<p><b><u>Community Connections</u></b> A City-sponsored event to learn about community services and resources. Zonta set up a table with information about Zonta and membership.</p>
<p><b><u>YWCA Malden Bowling Fundraising Event</u></b> Zonta sponsored a bowling team to support the local YWCA.</p>
<p><b><u>Trunk or Treat</u></b> Zonta decorated a trunk and donated candy for this Halloween family event. Provided information about Zonta.</p>
<p><b><u>MVES Feed the Need Harvest Party</u></b> Zonta members attended and supported this event. MVES provides home and community-based care to older adults.</p>
<p><b><u>Girl Gang Craft Fair</u></b> Zonta members participated along with Z-Club to support women owned small businesses. Z-Club set up a gift-wrapping table to raise funds for their blessing bags.</p>
<p><b><u>Joint Meeting with the Junior Aid Association of Malden</u></b> Zonta members held a joint meeting with Junior Aid in honor of <i>National Women's History Month</i>. Junior Aid provides financial assistance to programs and organizations focused on women, children and health-related issues. The two organizations came together to celebrate the collective strength and influence of women. As part of the event, donations were collected for <i>Mothers Helping Mothers</i> to fill their closet with baby clothing and other baby items.</p>
<p><b><u>Malden Overcoming Addiction Bowl-a-thon</u></b> Sponsored a bowling team to support MOA, an organization working to end the stigma of addiction and supporting people in recovery and their families.</p>
<p><b><u>Malden Community Coalition Volunteer Fair</u></b> Zonta set up a table with information about Zonta and membership.</p>
<p><b><u>North Shore Hispanic Association</u></b> Supported their annual fundraiser honoring Hispanic Americans who have paved the way for others through their contributions.</p>

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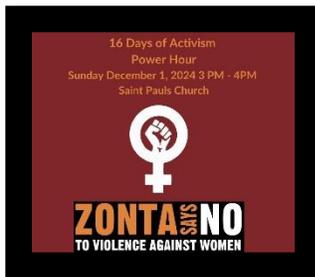
## Aligning with some of Zonta International's biennial goals with a particular focus on the topics of Violence against Women and Climate Justice



In October 2024, Zonta members created a video with personal messages aimed at fostering hope and encouraging and supporting young girls.



In December 2024, the ZONTA Club of Malden recognized **"16 Days of Activism"** with a kickoff Silent Witness event to acknowledge victims of domestic violence in Massachusetts.



Led by Members Ari Taylor and Sharyn Rose-Zeiberg, Zonta engaged in **2 hours of Activism** (post carding campaign) to ensure the ERA was published. The event provided education about protecting equal rights, and encouraged advocacy to ensure our rights are protected. Postcards were sent to local and national leaders!



On March 8th 2025, led by member Michelle Luong, Zonta celebrated **Zonta Yellow Rose Day** in honor of **International Women's Day** and to kick off **National Women's History Month**. We were able to recognize local women with a special rose and message while also raising funds to support Zonta's mission of ending gender violence.



**Celebrating Earth Day 2025!** Zonta recognized Earth Day as a day to **Elevate Equality**. The club used this opportunity to bring awareness to the fact that climate-related disasters have become more frequent, they aggravate existing inequalities, and in turn widen the gender gap and accelerate negative impacts on women and girls' education, employment, legal rights and leadership roles.

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## **Looking Ahead**

In the upcoming year, the goal is to continue the efforts to increase club membership, strengthen existing partnerships in the community, and focus more on fundraising. Another goal is to recruit new Z-Club members since many this year are graduating seniors. The club will also continue to organize service projects throughout the year.