2027
ZONTA WOMEN IN BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

APPLICATION FORM

SEND APPLICATION AND DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO:

DEADLINE: September 30, 2026 (set by club applicant is applying to)
Zonta Club/e-Club of: Fredericksburg
District/Area: District 10 To find a club click: **Club Locator**
Attention: JoAnna Vernetti
Address:
City/State: only digitized PDF applications
Province/Country: will be accepted via email.
Email address: zontafredericksburg1954@gmail.co

Name: _____ _____
Last (Family) First

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Birth date: _____ Birthplace: _____ Country of Citizenship: _____
(Date / Month / Year) (City and Country)

Current mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Permanent mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Current Study Details (if studying):

Name of college/university/institute: _____

Degree Sought: _____ Expected graduation date: _____
(Month / Year)

Current Employer Details (if employed):

Name and address of employer: _____

Position held: _____ Nature of work: _____
(Full time / Part time / Casual / etc.)

Education / Academic Background

Applicants are required to send transcripts of grades or equivalent records from all universities, colleges or institutes attended.

University/college/institute/online	**Degree Received / Sought with Major Field(s)**	**Dates Attended** (Month/Year - Month/Year)	**Date Degree Received / Anticipated** (Month/Year)
ex. University of Oxford	ex. Executive MBA	August 2024-August 2024	ex. September 2020
ex. Imperial College London	ex. Bachelor of Science majoring in Biology Sciences	August 2024-August 2026	ex. August 2020

Employment History (if applicable)

If you started your own company, please include that information here.

Employer	**Location** (City/Country)	**Type of work or position held**	**Dates From - To** (Month/Year - Month/Year)
ex. Major University Name Leadership Institute	ex. Long Major City, USA	ex. Director of Operations	ex. August 2019 - Present
ex. My Start Up Name	ex. Tamaki Makarau, NZ	ex. Co-founder	ex. Match 2023 - Present

Volunteer and/or other activities

Please describe your key volunteer, community, non-scholastic activities, memberships, and cultural interests

Organization / Initiative	**Location** (Country)	**Role and primary responsibilities**	**Dates From - To** (Month/Year - Month/Year)
ex. Engineers without Boarders	ex. NZ	ex. Volunteer, visited schools to teach children about engineering	ex. March 2015-2017

Awards, scholarships, honors received

Awarding Body	**Award / Scholarship / Honor**	**Basis for Award** (e.g. academic merit, leadership, service, entrepreneurship)	**Year(s)**
ex. Major University Name	ex. Deans List	ex. Academic Merit	ex. 2016, 2017

Recommendations

Please use the following fields to name and send a recommendation letter to a faculty member in the major field of study (if applicable) and/or to a supervisor, employer, volunteer supervisor or academic advisor. These recommendations are confidential, and you will not be able to view the completed responses. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure these recommendations are returned by the Zonta club's deadline.

Please list below those who will submit recommendations:

	Name	Position	Organization	Relationship to Applicant
1				
2				

Please type your answers to the following questions in English, noting the word limit for each.

Business Leadership and Entrepreneurial Spirit

Please describe how you have demonstrated exceptional leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and ethical conduct in a business-related field of study or industry. In your response, address each of the following:

- Leadership: How you influenced others or took responsibility to achieve outcomes
- Entrepreneurial spirit: How you showed initiative in identifying and acting on opportunities or challenges
- Ethical conduct: How your values guided your decisions or actions

(Maximum 350 words) Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

Placeholder example:

Throughout my academic and extracurricular pursuits, I have demonstrated leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and ethical conduct. As president of my school's business club, I motivated team members to develop projects that resulted in a successful community event, which increased engagement and interest. I took responsibility for organizing the event and making sure everyone contributed, showing my ability to lead and work with others. When I saw a need for more financial literacy among my peers, I started a peer-tutoring program. I took the initiative to plan the program, recruit volunteers, and find resources. I also reached out to local businesses for support, which helped the program grow. This experience showed my willingness to identify opportunities and act on them to create something beneficial for others.

My values of honesty and fairness guided my decisions throughout these activities. I made sure that all fundraising and outreach efforts were transparent and ethical, earning the trust of those involved. I believe that leadership means inspiring others while taking responsibility for the group's success. I always aimed to communicate clearly and ensure everyone felt included and valued. My entrepreneurial spirit is reflected in how I look for ways to improve and create new opportunities. I am not afraid to take risks or try new approaches if I believe they will make a positive difference. I also stay true to my values, which help me make decisions that are fair and respectful to everyone involved. These experiences have taught me the importance of acting ethically and taking initiative, qualities I plan to carry forward in my future career in business.

(Word count: 264)

Contributions to Women, Girls, and/or Climate Justice

Please describe your most significant contributions to addressing global or local issues affecting women and girls and/or climate justice. Your response should include:

- The issue addressed and how it affects women and girls and/or climate justice
- Your role and individual contributions. Highlight the specific impacts of your involvement, even if you were part of a team
- Any partnerships or wider team you collaborated with
- Outcomes achieved towards addressing the issue

(Maximum 200 words) Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

Placeholder example:

My most significant contribution was starting a workplace campaign to address gender-based discrimination and harassment, which can hold women back in their careers and affect their well-being.

I was motivated by my own experiences and a desire to create a safer, fairer environment for women and girls at work. I organized unconscious bias training and helped set up a peer support group to encourage respectful behavior. I worked closely with HR and partnered with local women's groups to make sure our efforts matched broader equality goals.

As a result, more people reported issues, and the organization improved its policies on harassment. The culture gradually became more open and respectful. I learned that ongoing education and strong leadership are key to lasting change. This experience showed me how small, focused efforts can make a real difference and how working with others is essentialto creating a more inclusive environment.

(Word count: 148)

Personal Goals

Please describe your aspirations and why the path you are pursuing is important to you. In your response, please explain:

- How your experiences and ongoing personal growth will help you achieve your goals
- How the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award will support the next stage of your journey

(Maximum 200 words) Please provide the word count at the end of your answer.

Placeholder example:

My goal is to become a transformative business leader by obtaining an MBA that will deepen my strategic, financial, and leadership skills. My experiences managing projects and leading teams have laid a strong foundation, butI recognize the need for advanced education to propel my career forward. I am continuing to develop my expertise in finance, strategic planning, and organizational change to better serve in executive roles.

The Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award will be instrumental in supporting my pursuit of an MBA, providing essential funding and mentorship that will enable me to focus fully on my studies without financial burden. This opportunity is vital for my professional growth, as it will equip me with the skills and networks necessary to lead innovative initiatives and promote diversity in the workplace.

Ultimately, this path is important because I aspire to leverage my education to create impactful change within organizations and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable business environment. The award will be a pivotal step toward achieving these ambitions.

(Word count: 173)

Declaration by Applicant

I certify that all the information contained in my application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I did not receive assistance in completing the essay portions of this application other than for translation into English for advancing to district and international levels. I understand that, at the option of the Zonta club sponsoring my application or the Zonta district or Zonta International, I may be interviewed as a candidate for the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award. I consent to the electronic or hard copy publication of material in my application by Zonta International.

- ☐ I identify as a woman and am between 18-35 years of age at the time of application.
- ☐ I confirm that I have not applied to more than one Zonta district.
- ☐ I confirm that I am not a club member or individual with direct membership with Zonta International or employee of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women (excluding recipients of a Zonta fellowship or award who have received a complimentary one-year supporting membership from Zonta International).
- ☐ I confirm that I have not applied for the 2026 Zonta Women in STEM Award.
- ☐ I confirm I am not a previous international Zonta scholarship or award recipient.

Signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page)

Date

Data Protection Policy

Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women take the security of your data seriously. We will never sell, trade or rent your personal information provided in this application to third parties. By submitting this application, you agree to the use of your data in accordance with the *Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization Form* contained in the application documents.

Checklist to be completed by applicant

Essay responses in English (not exceeding word limits)	☐
Recommendations (2), submitted directly by recommenders to the Zonta club or district	☐
Academic transcripts from all universities / colleges / institutions attended (if applicable)	☐
Translated transcripts in English (if applicable)	☐
Verification of Current Enrollment Form (if studying)	☐
Letter from employer verifying employment (if employed)	☐
Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization Form	☐
Signatures	☐

How did you learn about the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award?

Social Media	☐
News media	☐
Department/Teacher	☐
Directory of grants at university	☐
Directory of grants not at university	☐
Website	☐
Previous recipient	☐
Zonta Club	☐

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Recommendation for Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award

Applicant: _____ _____
Last (Family) Name First Name

Recommendation From: _____ _____
Name Email

_____ _____
Position / Title Organization

The applicant above has applied for a Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award. The Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award Jury greatly values your opinion in assessing the applicant's leadership capability and potential to succeed in a business-related context. In your letter, you may wish to comment on her:

- Leadership: How she influences others or takes responsibility to achieve outcomes
- Entrepreneurial spirit: How she identifies opportunities and takes initiative to create value
- Ethical conduct: How her values inform her decisions and actions
- Wider impact: If applicable, contributions you have observed where she addresses issues affecting women and girls and/or climate justice

You may write your recommendation letter on the letterhead of your choice; however, you must sign and submit this form with your letter of recommendation to the address below.

How well do you know the applicant? _____

Please rate the applicant's potential to succeed with respect to your experience with other students/employees in this field/position:

Exceptional Top 5%	Very Good Next 10%	Good Next 15%	Average Next 30%	Below Average Last 40%	Insufficient opportunity to observe
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

_____ _____
Signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page) Date

Please return this form by:	September 30, 2026
To the Zonta Club/eClub of:	Fredericksburg
Email address:	zontafredericksburg1954@gmail.com

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Please return this form by:	September 30, 2026
To the Zonta Club/eClub of:	Fredericksburg
Email address:	zontafredericksburg1954@gmail.com

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Verification of Current School Enrollment for Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award

I certify that _____ is currently enrolled in
(name of student)

_____ in _____
(year of degree program) (name of course/degree being studied)

at _____
(name of college/university/institute)

_____
(address college/university/institute)

_____ _____ _____
(signature is required of college/university/institute official) (date) (Expected graduation date)

_____
(**official stamp of the college/university/institute**)

Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization

Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award

Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women are committed to honoring the privacy and wishes of all our Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award recipients at all times. In order to do this, please read the following information carefully and indicate your agreement as appropriate.

1. Most data collected by Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women is used only to help Zonta better serve its award recipients. It is our general policy to collect and store only personal information that our recipients knowingly provide. Zonta does not sell, trade, or rent your personally identifying information to third parties. Except as described in paragraph two, we take reasonable measures not to disclose personally identifying information about you.

   ☐ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.

2. From time to time, Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women conducts various marketing activities to promote the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award. In addition, to ensure Zonta's ability to fund the Awards, the Zonta Foundation for Women may from time to time provide information to donors about recipients of their donations. Zonta retains the right to use your name, photograph and biographical information to promote the Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award in various promotional materials, including the website.

   ☐ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.

_____

Please print your name

_____ _____

Signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.) Date