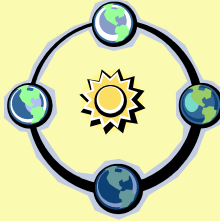


FLORIDA



SUNBEAM

Volume 17, Issue 2



April 2021



Champions Corner ... Lana Suggs Champion

Hello Fabulous Florida District! Much has happened since we welcomed in the New Year! I'm excited that many of us have taken advantage of the Covid vaccine. Although it's still advised that we wear a mask, exercise social distancing and continue to use hand sanitizer, the vaccine provides a means of protection and comfort for many of us. On that note, since then I've attended two Covid-safe events! One was with an outdoors Bake Sale and Raffle in a park under a pavilion. This fundraiser included lunch and some much needed fellowship with members from my home club, Uptown. The other was a delightful hands-on activity with the First Coast Civitans making Bunny Candy Cups for the student body at Alden Road Exceptional Student Center. This event was held on the in-side patio of Daryl and Lee Conrey and I was awe-struck by the plexiglass partitions constructed by Daryl that safely separated all the participants as we assembled and packaged the Bunny Cups. After lunch, this club then offered their leftover candies and crafts to the Sandalwood Junior Civitan Club who then prepared Easter Candy Bags with a Bunny Face on each bag for the Harbor Chase Assisted Living Facility. Thanks again to First Coast for your generosity! Hopefully, as things continue to open up, I'll get to visit more clubs in-person before my year is up.

The Florida District Spring Meeting was held via ZOOM on Saturday, April 17, 2021, 10am-1pm with the Board Meeting taking place on Friday, April 16, 2021, 6-7pm also via ZOOM. The Board approved a waiver to elect Bonnie Ruth to fill the vacant position of Governor-Elect for 2020-2021 and ultimately the Governor's position in 2021-2022. This was ratified by the 46 attendees at the Spring Meeting the next day. The Board also approved to allot \$2,000 to the Junior Civitans and their advisors to financially assist with attending the Junior Civitan International Convention in Tampa, FL, June 24-27, 2021. Attendees to Saturday's meeting were allowed to sign-in at 9:30am to participate in an icebreaker (where's your happy place) and just socialize a bit before the 10am meeting began. I read a warm greeting from Dianne Hansard, International Director Region 2, who was regrettably not able to attend our meeting. Several elections will take place at the International Convention in Jacksonville, July 28-31, 2021, so we had four candidates who presented their platforms asking for our support and vote – Dan Brown and Fred Matthies, candidates for International President; JoAnn O'Toole, candidate for International Vice President; and Bill Tolleson, candidate for International Director Region 2. We were encouraged to go online and register for this Hybrid Convention that can be attended either virtually or in-person. Lastly, Mattie Fraser is the Chair of the Host Committee for this Convention and will be reaching out for volunteers to assist in manning the Hospitality Room.

For those who missed the Town Hall Meetings offered by Civitan International to inform members and answer questions about the proposals that will be presented at the International Convention for ratification by membership, I urge you to go to the link, www.civitan.org/renewby22, with tabs that go into great detail and a FAQ section.

Please continue to send me your Club Newsletters and invitations to your virtual and in-person meetings. It's amazing the many innovative and fun ways we've discovered to safely stay connected and serve our communities.

I'm committed to be "intentional" in everything I do for others!



Lana

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DISTRICT OFFICERS**2020-2021****Governor:***Lana Suggs Champion***Governor-elect:***Bonnie Ruth***Immediate Past Governor:***Mattie Fraser, LST***Past Governor Director:***Nery Kircher***Area Directors:***Area 1: Kathy Hall**Area 2: Phyleshia J. O'Neal**Area 3: Patti Hebert**Area 4: Richard Fuller**Area 5: Lisa Giuttari***Secretary:***Bonnie Ruth***Treasurer:***Gayle Kanak***Chaplain:***Bonnie Hardman***Judge Advocate:***Gay Aaron***Sergeant-at-Arms:****Committee Chairs****Awards, Nominations,***Mattie Fraser, LST***Bulletin/Newsletter***Mattie Fraser, LST***Candy/Coin Box:***Polly Forestier***Don DeVane Scholarship***Mattie Fraser, LST***Finance:***Elaine Hall***Growth & Retention****Historian and Training Coordinator:***Helen Galloway***Junior / Campus Civitan:***Penny Bonawitz***New Club Building***Wynester Sherrer***Philanthropic Liaison***Lori Clapp***Public Relations:***Jeanne Davison***Registrar:***Ramona Federico***Time & Place***Gay Aaron***Website:***Sandy Jones***FLORIDA DISTRICT CALENDAR - 2020-2021****2020**

September 30

Area Director Year End Report Due

October 1

Deadline to submit material for *Florida Sunbeam* Newsletter

October 1

New Civitan year begins

October 24**World Junior Civitan Day****October 25****Junior Civitan District Meeting via Zoom. 1 to 3 p.m.**

November 7

Florida District Virtual Board Meeting (Zoom call 10 a.m.)

December 1

Honor Club/Competitive Awards applications due to International with copy to Immediate Past Governor.
District Awards applications for Outstanding Club,**2021**

January 1

Deadline to submit material for *Winter Sunbeam*

January 31

Postmark Deadline Shropshire Application due to International

January 31

Quality Achievement Award applications due to International

February

Clergy Appreciation Month

February

Junior Civitan International Appreciation Month

February 15

Deadline to file club 990's with **IRS, VERY IMPORTANT****Feb. 26- Mar. 1****Junior Civitan International *All In Summit, Birmingham*****March 17**

Civitan Founder's Day

March 27**Junior Civitan District Convention, LifeSouth Blood Community Center, Gainesville, Florida, 11 a.m.—4 p.m.**

April

Civitan Awareness Month

April

Junior Civitan Advisor Appreciation Month

April 1

Grants and Scholarships Committee Judging

April 16

Deadline to submit material for *Spring Sunbeam*

April 17

Florida District Board Meeting, Virtual

April 30

Florida District Spring Meeting, Virtual

Area Directors' Semi-Annual Visit with Club Presidents Due

May 1

Civitan International Honor Key Nominations Deadline

June 12

Florida District Virtual Board Meeting (Zoom call at 9 a.m.)

June 24-27**Junior Civitan International & Dance-A-Thon, Tampa, FL**

July 1

Club officer elections for 2021-22 complete

July 1

Report of Club Officers to Civitan International & Governor
Elect TBD**Junior Civitan Club Officers Assume Duties (report due)****Deadline to submit material to *Summer Sunbeam*****July 28-31**Civitan International Convention, **Jacksonville, FL**

August 15

District Awards Applications to be received by Awards Chair,
Mattie Fraser, Immediate Past Governor

September 10-11

Florida District Board Meeting, TBD
Florida Annual Convention and Installation Banquet

September 30

Area Director's Year-End Report with Club Presidents due

October 1

Deadline to submit material to *Fall Sunbeam***Note change in Civitan International convention dates.****See Website for up date on meeting schedule ...**

Immediate Past Governor ... Mattie Fraser

Awards Committee. As Chair, coordinate and manage district and international awards programs, and promote participation by individuals, clubs and the district in these programs by soliciting entries or assisting with the application process.

PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), an outside organization, judged the following awards for the Florida District which were presented at the April Spring District Meeting: Governor's Choice Award, Outstanding District Club of the Year Award, and Outstanding Club President. The winners were: *Outstanding Club President ... Diana Flagg, Uptown; Outstanding Club of the Year ... Uptown; Governor's Choice ... Uptown.* Congratulations!!!

Banner patches were awarded based on information from Civitan International, for candy box and Civitans at the Helm. The recipients were: **Candy Box...Silver, Tallahassee. Civitans at the Helm:**

Admiral (\$100) ... Clearwater; Commodore (\$75) Marco Island, Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa-Metro; Captain (\$50) Naples, Sunset,

Treasure Coast, Uptown; Helmsman (\$10) First Coast. The **Florida District** was awarded a *Navigator patch (\$25).*



I have not received any information from International regarding Honor Clubs, etc., or Distinguished Presidents.

If you do not have the current ***District Awards Manual and forms for 2020-2021***, please let Governor Lana Suggs Champion know. Awards will be due to be received by me by **August 15** with awards to be presented at our September Convention. **Remember ... you can't win if you don't do the paperwork.** An outside agency will judge these awards.

Nominations Committee. As chair, I am very happy to say, we have a candidate for Governor-Elect for 2020-2021. **Bonnie Ruth** joined the St. Petersburg Civitan Club in 2007 and has served as club president twice. She is currently serves as District Secretary. Since Bonnie had not served at the District level for two years, our Executive Policies required that we ask for a waiver for her candidacy. The District Board approved at their April 16 meeting and the International Director Region Two also approved. Bonnie was elected at the District Spring Meeting on April 17. Congratulations to Bonnie!!!

The offices of Area Directors for 1, 3, and 5 are up for replacements. More information will come on that after the vote at the Civitan International Convention in Jacksonville and the vote regarding the changes in governance. The vote at the International Convention will dictate the timeframe.

Don DeVane Memorial Scholarship. See report on page 6.

**JOIN US FOR THE
FLORIDA DISTRICT CONVENTION ... SEPTEMBER 10-11
MORE INFORMATION TO COME FROM GOVERNOR LANA**

Chaplain's Moment ... Bonnie Hardman

My reflections and truths after one year of this global pandemic:

- ✓ The importance of the person with whom I live
- ✓ The importance of physical contact with family and friends
- ✓ The importance of face-to-face social interactions
- ✓ The importance of virtual connections when we can't connect face-to-face
- ✓ The importance of getting out of our homes
- ✓ The importance of having a home
- ✓ The importance of having food
- ✓ The importance of having an income
- ✓ The importance of exercise and taking care of ourselves
- ✓ The importance of giving of ourselves, our time, and our money whenever we can
- ✓ The importance of the personal connections we make through CIVITAN
- ✓ The importance of what we are able to do for our community through CIVITAN
- ✓ The importance of being thankful for what we have, what we are, and what we can give - each day of our lives



Civitan's Women of Service ...

In the March **Civitan Magazine**, twenty "**Woman of Service**" were recognized. Congratulations to the **FIVE** of them who are part of the Florida District:

Polly Forestier, First Female Civitan International President
 Gay Aaron, Past International President
 Lori Clapp, Past Florida District Governor
 Helen Galloway, Past Sunshine District Governor,
 Past International Region Two Director
 Mattie Fraser, Past Summit and Florida District Governor,
 Past Senior International Director

Florida District Hospitality Suite ... Mattie Fraser

FLORIDA DISTRICT HOSPITALITY SUITE FOR CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ... JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA JULY 28 - JULY 31 (WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY)

THE FLORIDA DISTRICT HAS BEEN ASKED TO HOST A HOSPITALITY SUITE AT THE CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL IN JACKSONVILLE. PLEASE HELP US WITH ...

PEOPLE TO STAFF THE HOSPITALITY SUITE ... INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO ALL FLORIDA DISTRICT CIVITANS. PLEASE GIVE US AN HOUR OR TWO WHILE YOU ARE AT THE CONVENTION. SIGNUP INFORMATION IS FORTHCOMING.

ITEMS FOR SILENT AUCTION ... EACH CLUB IS BEING ASKED TO BRING OR SEND A GIFT/BASKET VALUED AT LEAST \$25 ... MORE IS BETTER. IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO SEND CASH AND WE WILL PREPARE A GIFT BASKET WITH YOUR NAME ON IT THAT IS FINE. OPEN TO CLUBS AND ALL MEMBERS TOO.

ITEMS FOR GOODY BAGS ... PENS, SMALL PADS, PROMOTIONS FROM YOUR AREA, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. WILL ALSO BE SECURING ITEMS LOCALLY.

REFRESHMENT SNACKS ... SMALL BOTTLES OF WATER, NUTS, CANDY, FRUIT, ETC.

EACH CLUB IS ASKED TO BRING A **POSTER BOARD** OF THEIR ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE HOSPITALITY SUITE. LET'S SHOW EVERYONE WHAT THE FLORIDA DISTRICT DOES!!!

PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE AND SHOW OUR "SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY" ESPECIALLY THE "**FLORIDA**" KIND. MORE FOLLOWUP IN FUTURE MAILINGS

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!!

Candy/Coin Boxes ... Polly Forestier

A word from Candy/Coin box chair: To clubs serving candy or coin boxes, spring is the best time to re-introduce the public to our boxes and receive extra income to benefit the club and CIRC. Look for new places, explain to the person in charge what we are offering: "an opportunity to help others with the quarters and dollars dropped in the boxes" and be sure to thank them for allowing our box to be in plain view of the public and tell them you promise to keep the box clean and provide information about your club and the work done to benefit the community, and the research being done by our own CIRC. With new people moving to Florida from other states, this is a good time to introduce Civitan and peek their interest in joining! (Make sure you leave a brochure or information with the box where to call)

Good luck!

Philanthropy Report ... Lori Clapp, Liaison

*"Philanthropy ... **Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.**" ~*

Albert Camus



Congratulations to all the clubs receiving 2019-2020 Civitans at the Helm (CATH) awards! Your generous donations, in part matched by the Chesapeake Foundation, goes directly to the Research Center (CIRC). We just received the 2nd Quarter report and I'm pleased to announce that Downtown Web in ACTION and Hometown clubs have attained Navigator level (\$25 per member) and Clearwater, Marco Island, Sunset and Tampa Metro Clubs are at Helmsman level (\$10 per member). Many clubs are \$100 or less from reaching Helmsman or their next level! Remember that all donations to Junior Civitan CIRC fundraisers like Dance-A-Thon (DAT) to be held during the International Junior Convention in Tampa, are counted toward CATH, so plan to donate to our Juniors to benefit them, CIRC and your club, <https://juniorcivitan.org/donate>. Be sure to include your club name in comments or "on behalf of" your club, in order for your club to receive credit. Remember that donations via CATH, except Coin Box, are matched 1-to-1 by the Chesapeake district on a first donated/first matched basis up to \$200,000. Last year, that amount was reached by mid-May as donations were received for Dance-A-Thon and the Civitan Golf Benefit. SO, get your donations in as soon as possible for DAT, Golf Benefit and Walk and Roll for Research fundraisers, or just send in direct donations to Civitan International, in order to have the best chance of doubling your club's CATH totals! Be sure to make the donations to Civitan International and indicate it's for Civitans At the Helm and provide your club name.

There are so many other ways your generosity now will strengthen the future of Civitan. If you feel comfortable, do plan to attend the International Convention in Jacksonville. If you go, there will be a **President's Council** reception and all members of the Council will be invited – what a fun "Thank You" for those who donate at least \$10 a month! Whether or not you go to Convention, if you aren't already a member, or have let your membership relapse, please consider giving to the President's Council. I'll have a bright new pin for you and it's one of the best ways to secure the future of Civitan. You can also give to the **"Light the Way" campaign** to build much needed reserves for Civitan. Support scholarships for students and scientists through the **Fellows program** - a meaningful way to honor a special Civitan, Junior Civitan or friend of Civitan. If you fund the fellowship soon, you might be able to have that honor presented at Junior or adult International Conventions this summer. If you have an estate plan or creating one, please consider including Civitan International in your philanthropy goals, becoming a member of the **Legacy Society** and possibly gain tax advantages for yourself or your heirs.

By giving now, these programs and others help provide for the long-term success of Civitan and CIRC. For more information go to Civitan's website: <https://civitan.org/support-programs/> I'm also happy to answer any questions you may have

Junior Civitan ... Penny Bonawitz, Junior Chair



The Florida District Junior Civitans held their District Convention on March 27, 2021. We had a great turnout with five clubs in attendance. We elected a new board for next year, handed out awards and scholarships, and heard from a fabulous speaker, Stacy Santiago, advisor at North Florida School of Special Education.

The next event for Juniors is the international convention that will be held here in Florida, Tampa to be exact on June 24-27. All attendees will participate in Dance A Thon and you can support them by making a donation to the Florida Team [HERE](https://bit.ly/3w4gcVn) (<https://bit.ly/3w4gcVn>)

Here is the list of our next year's board that will begin work on July 1, 2021:

Governor - Angelina Fentress from Noble JCC
 Dep. Gov - Andrea Ramlakhan from Noble JCC
 Secretary - Merina Werkmeister from Noble JCC
 PRC - Isabella Montalvo from Lake Howell JCC
 Lt. Gov - Jordan Curry from Noble
 Lt. Gov - Richie Andree from Florida Virtual JCC
 Lt. Gov - Deuce Curry from Florida Virtual JCC

Awards:

Outstanding Club of the Year 1st place - Lake Howell JCC
 Outstanding Club of the Year 2nd Place - North Florida School of Special Education JCC
 Outstanding Club Officer of the Year - Nicole Quintero, Lake Howell JCC
 Outstanding Junior Civitan of the Year - Trinity Ransom, Lake Howell JCC
 Outstanding Faculty Advisor of the Year - Heather King, Lake Howell JCC
 1st Place Outstanding Single Community Project of the Year - Sandalwood JCC
 2nd Place Outstanding Single Community Project of the Year - NFSSE JCC
 3rd Place Outstanding Single Community Project of the Year - Florida Virtual JCC
 1st Place Outstanding Single Campus Project of the Year - Lake Howell JCC

Don DeVane Memorial Scholarship ... Mattie Fraser

Over the years, many Junior Civitans from around the district have benefited from this award. This year, the Don DeVane Committee was very proud and happy to award four \$1,000 scholarships to each of four deserving students at the Junior District Convention in March. All four recipients have been members of the Sandalwood Junior Civitan Club in Jacksonville, Florida for three years. All have attended district meetings in Jacksonville and virtual. The recipients are:

Avery Johnson
 Isaiah Sherles
 Jalynn Small
 Jaden Williams

Mattie Fraser, Chair, Pat Kirk and Jeanne Davison
 Don DeVane Memorial Scholarship Committee

CLUB BEAMS

Area 1 Club Happenings & Projects ... from Gainesville, Hometown, Leesburg, Sunrise and Tallahassee Civitan Clubs. Kathy Hall, Area 1 Director

☀ Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. Dale Carnegie

GAINESVILLE CIVITAN CLUB

Gainesville Civitan Club ... Our club is small and with the COVID only four members plus a guest show up for lunch every Monday in-person with some exceptions. Two of the current members who come are members of the Executive Board for LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, our chief project which it has been since 1974. Three of the four members plus guest have been vaccinated. *Ron*

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Mary Anderson

Hometown's President-Elect Beth Halstead accepted the plaque at the prestigious **Villages Homeowners Advocates** annual awards evening presentation on March 10, 2021 for our Hometown Club being the volunteer "Club of the Year" and with a \$500 check. President Mary Anderson was unable to attend due to COVID quarantining.

Many of our members and two special guests (Kathy Hall Area 1 Director (back row) and Cindy Brown of Congressman Webster's office, behind Beth) attended the awards evening. It was a very special and nice evening event indeed! We were so truly honored and proud to acquire the VHA's annual award.

Nina MacMullen was our speaker at our March monthly meeting. She's from the Sumter County Fair Association. Nina explained how the Sumter County Fair's 4-H/FFA (Future Farmers of America) livestock animal auction process works. This was very helpful and informative prior to Hometown's participation in the livestock animal auction on March 13th. Nina was a former teacher who loved kids and agriculture/farming/country living and was enthusiastic to share her knowledge and how to experience the Sumter County Fair's offerings.



2020 VHA Volunteer Award Presented to Hometown Civitan Club

In recognition of the programs that bring knowledge and service to others in the Villages. These programs offer awareness and treatments to any youth with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

In the Tri-County area, Civitans donate their time, skills and leadership to impact the lives of families and individuals with a variety of needs including many women's charities. The Civitan creed is: "My hands do the work and reach out in service to others."

Presented by:
The VHA and VHA Community Foundation
Board of Directors and Membership
Phil Walker VHA President
Duane Johnson VHA-CF President



HOMETOWN 2021 Sumter County Fair 03/13/2021

The Hometown Civitan Club bid in the livestock auction on a lamb raised by Daisy Vargas of Wildwood, a Future Farmers of America (FFA) member. The winning bid was \$1,705.

Civitan Club

CLUB BEAMS

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Continued

Daisy Vargas is holding her lamb after Hometown won her lamb's bid! This was the first time that our club participated in the 4-H/FFA livestock auction that was coordinated by Laura McLaughlin, end left. President Mary Anderson on end right with some

Hometown's ladies who enjoyed the afternoon livestock auction event and also the fair's offerings. It was quite an educational, interesting, and fun experience too!



A few of our Hometown Club's ladies recently had a wonderful social day together at Bountiful Farms, a farm-to-table facility in Okahumpka, FL., that is a lunch outing destination that features homemade moonshine and boiled peanuts....it's a southern thing! Below is an area under the trees where the dining fair is done. They had a great time and recommend it!



Here are before and after photos of a very small closet at PACE Center for Girls in Orlando, FL. This is an alternative education center for girls and it has been a Hometown supported charity for many years. Arlene Kaplan is Hometown's Director of PACE. She and member Betty Rohan (also serves on PACE's Board) worked on organizing and improving this very chaotic closet. PACE obtains the variety of the closet's contents through donations which then provides the reward incentives for its students. Shown are Arlene and Betty who chose the difficult mission to organize the closet to make it visually functional and organized as a "store" for the girls. It took many many, days, hours, and helpers including non-Hometown people who donated their time to finally and successfully complete the massive overhauled closet project. It is an ongoing endeavor; but, PACE and its girls are so appreciative of Hometown's labor of love project for the new and improved "store" that Hometown has accomplished for them. These are just a few snapshots of many showing just what needed to be done. Truly a shocking difference!



Hometown Club has been conducting its monthly meetings at an outdoor covered dining service area of a country club that we utilize regularly in The Villages. We have endured various weather conditions with provided heat towers if necessary while still abiding virus protocols. However, we are hoping to move our meetings indoors there again as restrictions loosen and members become vaccinated. Our attendance has been very good (even have acquired new members) and fortunately for us, our speakers have been gladly coming to our meetings.

Hometown is excited to announce that we now have a fantastic new website: **Hometowncivitan.com**. Our Secretary Judi Higbee and her husband John are the web designers and have been providing and maintaining our club's news, postings, and activities. Also, one of our members Diane Seymour has been providing our club with expert quality newsletters that are published quarterly. Our 2nd one will be available at our April 6th member meeting. Our club is so very grateful and thankful to have our own members to provide these critically needed interfaces for us!

Hometown has other projects planned and looking to implement our ideas when it's possible to do so.

CLUB BEAMS

LEESBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

We continue to meet every month via Zoom. Our fundraising efforts are minimal due to the pandemic & we've managed a couple of Pampered Chef online parties. Deb & I have attended 2 special meetings honoring Hometown Club. I've started my 'soft pleas' for members to attend the 2021 Convention to be held in Jacksonville. I plan to reiterate at each meeting, send reminders & the link for review & a note to make plans to attend, hope to see you there! www.civitan.org/convention.

A few of our members have received both Covid Injections & others are planning and on a county call back system. With more & more opportunity for vaccinations, we're hopeful that we'll be able to return to meeting in person & to some form of normalcy so that we can have fundraisers & attend community events.

SUNRISE CIVITAN CLUB

The Sunrise Civitan Club has not met in over a year because the program is closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Some Leesburg club members have donated to the Sunrise club to keep them current with their dues. We have the most beautiful box of colorful t-shirts to give them when we can meet again, but no date in mind for that.

TALLAHASSEE CIVITAN CLUB

The Tallahassee Club met for the first time on March 18. We discussed our past projects of fruitcake and poinsettia sales. One of our projects with the Challenger League Baseball teams has been cancelled. We are waiting to hear from Special Olympics, but I don't feel they will be having events anytime soon. We are looking into resuming monthly lunch meetings and are seeking out a venue. Overall, it was great to catch up with everybody.

**IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING
BE KIND!!**

CLUB BEAMS

Area 2 Club Happenings & Projects ... from Downtown Web in Action, First Coast, Pine Castle, Uptown. Area 2 Director Phyleshia Jones O'Neal

DOWNTOWN WEB IN ACTION CIVITAN CLUB ... Wynester Sherrer

Downtown is continuing to have a fantastic year. Small in numbers, but a mighty force to be reckoned with! Membership has decreased somewhat during this pandemic, but the club is actively engaged in creative and fun recruitment activities to increase membership.

Building Membership (each one gets one) is still the goal.

Monthly meetings have hosted a variety of guest speakers and fun activities for members via Zoom. The club also participated in the Civitan Town Hall Meeting and Connect Learning Lab with the Disney Institute.

Service Projects:

Club members are continuing to focus on providing aid to First Responders during this pandemic, incorporating one coast to coast service project. Goodies Baskets were made and filled with lots of love, snacks, and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) items. Baskets were distributed in February and March to Mario Robinson, Fire Chief, Jax, NAS and his entire staff and the Staff at the Jacksonville VA Hospital Medical Staff.

Some of our trained medical members have also assisted and volunteered with the distribution of the Covid 19 vaccination.

Club members also participated in Civitan International Shop-ability Saturday in March, patronizing businesses that employed the disabled.

Fundraisers:

The club members partnered with Blaze Pizza, Chipotle and Panda Express.



Shopability Saturday at McDonald's!

The club earned 20% of all sales during fundraiser hours. All events were successful thanks to our wonderful members and supportive friends. Proceeds from these fundraisers were used to make donations to Best Buddies for Cancer Research and Development and the Trinity Rescue Mission to assist with the needs of our growing homeless population.

Several members participated in the first annual Auntie Tangie's Tea Party, with proceeds benefitting inner city youth in Northwest Jacksonville.

CLUB BEAMS

FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB

Our Project for Hubbard House for Mother's Day we are donating 30 baskets of toiletries for the Mothers by May 5. Stephanie Brown spoke in our meeting and provided the history of Hubbard House and the services they offer to domestic violence victims.

We also are having a Zoom Charity Event for Autism on April 24 where "five cards" will be demonstrated to the guest and all the proceeds will be going to the Research Center for Autism.

On May 4 we are preparing 170 snack boxes for Alden Road Exceptional Student's Prom. Due to Covid they will have their prom at school during the day and we are invited to join via Zoom which will be exciting to see them all dressed up.

Oh we are having a Quilt raffle for the Leo Farrell Scholarship which will go to the School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. We will be donating two scholarships this year; one for a deaf student and one for a blind student. The raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and donations are being accepted. The club will donate funds for one and the other will come from the raffle money received. If you would like a chance on this beautiful quilt crafted by members of the First Coast Civitan Club, You may contact:

Sharon Dundon - sdianeleonard1@aol.com

Lee Conrey - leeconrey@bellsouth.net

Jean Smith (honorary member) - jeantsmith@bellsouth.net

We can sell through May 14 but need a count by May 4 if possible. We need the name and phone number for the raffle ticket and the drawing will be May 19 for the quilt.

In April, we made and delivered Bunny Cups filled with candy for Alden Road Exceptional Student Center.



PINE CASTLE CIVITAN CLUB

Two hybrid parties for the **Pine Castle Civitan Club** were sponsored by Uptown. (Pine Castle serves adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) Gift bags and hands-on projects were provided for the club members, while stories and songs were enjoyed virtually at the same time via zoom presentations. On February 11 we celebrated Valentine's Day and on March 25, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day and Easter.



CLUB BEAMS

UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Ellen Rubens

Despite Covid, Uptowners have demonstrated determination and resilience in maintaining their commitment to promote Knowledge, Fellowship and Community Service.

Programming for Uptowners remained engaging and entertaining.

January 12- READ USA (promotes reading resources for at-risk youth)

January 26- Jacksonville Police Chief Deloris Patterson O'Neal (discussed her role in community engagement)

February 9- MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation (helping at-risk youth achieve success)

February 23- Sally Dark Rides (a locally based company that produces animated characters and action rides internationally)

March 9- Jay Fund (a philanthropic organization that assists families affected by childhood cancer)

March 23- WeCare Jax (facilitates specialty medical resources and support for low-income and uninsured individuals).



A joint fundraiser took place between Uptown Civitan and the River Garden Auxiliary (serving River Garden Home for the Aged), featuring three online presentations of "Cooking with Lenny." Chef Lenny Maiman is a local culinary personality who brought innovation into our kitchens. The sessions cost \$25 for 3 lessons. The money collected by Uptown was split among RGA for special programming (\$145) Ronald McDonald House (\$290) and the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (\$290).

Thanks to some very dedicated volunteers, Sharon Kantor and Sherri Dotson, Uptown's devotion to feeding breakfast to the needy once a month at the **Clara White Mission** has never faltered throughout the pandemic restrictions.



Uptown's knitting and crocheting projects happen to be ongoing. Hats and scarves made by Linda Weinstein and Lynn Reed were distributed to people at Clara White Mission. Reports are that those who were lucky enough to get the hats were thrilled to receive them.

Since our in-person lunchtime club meetings had been suspended for the time being, newer members did not get the opportunity to acquaint themselves with other members as before. So, the **Friendship Connection** part of the regular club meeting format was created. Each week, someone is selected to speak and reflect on their career, life experiences and connection to Civitan. It is always amazing to hear the stories that unfold and the remarkable backgrounds that our Uptowners bring to light!

CLUB BEAMS

UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Continued

Socials in the Park and Pop-up Tea Parties held outdoors at members' homes (introduced to us by Sandy Myers and Sherri Stratton) have kept our members socially engaged with one another in delightful ways.



Area 3 Club Happenings & Projects ... From Citrus, Frontier, Orlando and Sunset. Area 3 Director Patti Hebert

CITRUS CIVITAN CLUB...

No report at this time.

FRONTIER CIVITAN CLUB ...

This first all female club, chartered in October 1974, the year Civitan International opened its door to women as full members, has been impacted by COVID. Only a few of their members are meeting. It is hoped that participation will improve in the coming months.

ORLANDO CIVITAN CLUB ...

This club is only meeting by phone. They had a very successful fruitcake sales and were able to donate to various agencies in the city. There are no plans for in-person meetings at the present time.

SUNSET CIVITAN CLUB ...

Sunset has been meeting as a board but have not had a full club meeting. We had one scheduled at an outdoor venue but it rained that day and we had to cancel it. We are looking forward to getting the club back together just so we can keep the fire and passion of what we are all about going. I am in the process of partnering with The Daytona International Speedway on a Gala Event this summer that should prove to be a profitable fundraiser. We had a couple of small fundraisers at a local car show and were able to earn some money. We are also in the process of doing the citizenship awards at the local elementary schools for the fifth-grade students that get nominated. This is a very rewarding experience for us as well as the students. I am blessed to have served three successful terms as President of our club and look forward to moving forward as safety allows

CLUB BEAMS

Area 4 Club Happenings & Projects ... From Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Tampa Metro Area 4 Director Richard Fuller

CLEARWATER CIVITAN CLUB ... Sue Meier

Clearwater lost one of their valued members earlier this year ... **Jim Scheuerman** ... Director of Challenger Little League for many years, Jim recruited Civitans to staff the concession stand on Saturdays and two day Jamborees. "Searching for others..." Clearwater Civitans recruited Jim, who was a great addition to our club. He added the Civitan Creed to the back of our Challenger sponsor/volunteer shirts so while working in the concession stand from February to May, we were spreading Civitan awareness. Most members have several of these shirts and wear them often, not just in baseball season. Jim enjoyed going to eat with club members after meetings and those were great social times. We'll miss his smile, his sense of humor, his friendship.

2021 January through March Update ... Losing Jim was not the best way to begin the year. Challenger League definitely missed his leadership. There are only four Challenger teams this year and sponsors had already been signed up before we even received the sponsor forms. To maintain our continuous support of Clearwater Little League (since 1950's), a donation was made to Challenger League. Challenger games began in February with opening ceremonies scheduled on the 13th. However, rain may have cancelled that and dampened the entire season. There have been many rainy Saturday mornings. Closing ceremonies are currently scheduled for April 24, 10 a.m. on Field 1, Sid Likton complex, following 9 a.m. final games. Since last year's season had to be cancelled in mid-March, all the team and player trophies are still in waiting at Bayshore Trophies!

Jim's Challenger Assistant, Ray, is in charge of the Challenger annual car show. Tentative date is April 10. There are lots of categories for the cars and lots of trophies if you know any motorheads interested in showing off their prized wheels. Car entry fees, donations and prize drawings make this a fund raiser for Challenger League. There is no cost to visit and check out the interesting assortment of vehicles.

A donation was also made to ARC In memory of Jim. Jim's son Brian (a Challenger ballplayer) had moved into an ARC group home just before Covid hit in early 2020.

Jim's brain tumor was diagnosed just after the HEP Memorial Golf tournament in November 2020. After several weeks in the hospital, he was able to be home for Christmas, and passed away February 5, 2021. Many of us will carry on Jim's legacy whenever we wear the Creed shirts. Current International President Frank Kelley (formerly of Clearwater) often worked the Challenger Concession stand and Jamboree when he was here and received his own "creed shirt" at the 2019 International Convention.

If you have been out driving recently, it seems the snowbirds are back, or maybe it is spring break, but this is good for our Candy Box restaurants. Hopefully Candy Box money collected will pick up as well. That and dues are the only funds available to the club right now. Nevertheless, we were able to make our usual annual donation to Junior Civitan *All In Summit*. The International Convention will be July 28-31 at Hyatt Regency Riverfront in Jacksonville.

Stay healthy! Hopefully, Clearwater Civitans will be able to celebrate together in May 2022 for the Club's 70th Anniversary!



CLUB BEAMS

ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Bonnie Ruth

St Petersburg Civitan Club had a good quarter January – March, 2021. The Club began in-person meetings with our St Patrick's Day party.

We decided to push our Centennial Celebration to coincide with the FL District Civitan meeting scheduled for September 10 - 11. It will be held here in St Petersburg at our Civitan Beach House. The St Petersburg Civitan Club will be hosting the closing Dinner as our Centennial Celebration so we may include as many of our fellow Florida Civitan members as possible.



On April 8, Rick Kriesman, the St Petersburg Mayor presented our Club with a proclamation recognizing our 100 years of service to our Community at the regular April City Council meeting. Pictured (L to R) are Mayor Kriesman, Jan Ward, President; Bonnie Ruth, Director & Past President; Norm Bungard, Director & Chaplain; and MaryAnn Fisher, Secretary of the St Petersburg Civitan Foundation. (see attached photo & proclamation).



Moving forward, we are excited about our Centennial year and looking forward to seeing our fellow Civitans in September.

Here are a couple of photos from the celebration on April 20, the actual anniversary of the founding of St Petersburg Civitan Club 100 years ago! Pictured in the group are 1-rt: Guests Fites, Norm Bungard Mac & Linda Moore, Susan Bradshaw, Lauren Heckert, Jan Ward - Pres., Steve Eckelbarger, Terasa Heckert, Karen Galinowski, Bonnie Ruth, Ron Wanek, Mary Ann Fisher, Jeanne Davison, Pete Meydag, Barb Thomas, Jane Meydag. Sadly it was a very stormy day and we didn't have the participation we had planned. Hopefully those who missed will join us in September!

One of the centerpieces showing Curt Thomas, Past International President and member of this club, and his wife Peggy



CLUB BEAMS

TAMPA METRO CIVITAN CLUB ... Lori Clapp

Tampa Metro is back in action! Grateful that activities are safely restarting after a full year of shut-down, plus most of us are vaccinated. Our first Special Olympics since March 7, 2020 was Area Equestrian on March 6. We prepared and presented awards on a very cold and wet day in the riding ring, often with athletes on horseback. This was a great way to get back into action since everything was outside and it's a relatively small, leisurely event for about 30 riders. We were so happy to be visited by former Metro Action charter member Sally Trotter and her daughter Heather, our first "Civi-tot" who is now expecting her first child.



On March 20, we did temperature checks and collected COVID questionnaires from all athletes and spectators celebrating Buddy Baseball's 1000 games. The event was showcased on every local news channel and our team was briefly caught on video doing our "work." Buddy Baseball is a recreational league for athletes with special needs who are paired with buddies who assist them on the field and in the dugout. We will repeat this volunteer effort on April 10. With our logo displayed at the check-in table, this is perfect for Civitan Awareness month.



We were thrilled that Special Olympics Summer Games took place on March 27 for Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties athletes. We managed the awards for Tennis, Bocce, Soccer Skills, Cycling and Track and Field events in three separate locations. In addition, the husband and daughter of a member managed the Softball and Tennis Ball Throw competitions. The games were much smaller than usual with fewer athletes, no team sports and a schedule adapted to reduce the number of people attending at one time. Many protocols were put in place for the safety of everyone attending, for example, besides temperature checks and modified schedules, we did not present the awards directly; instead, we organized them by delegation to be picked up by coaches who presented them to their athletes. We now look forward to the Area Summer Games on April 24 with the same sports, but with the addition of athletes from Pasco, Hernando and Citrus Counties. So more Special Olympics families will become familiar with our Tampa Metro Civitans.



Tampa Metro continues to meet virtually on Zoom twice a month, but the activities listed above allowed us to see some of our members their families face-to-face for the first time in a year. For Clergy Appreciation, we showed a video about the Four Chaplains, then speaker Rabbi Jason Rosenberg shared his thoughts about the chaplaincy and how we are all connected regardless of religion, race or other differences. We were joined by two Lutheran ministers.

CLUB BEAMS

Area 5 Club Happenings & Projects ... From Marco Island, Naples, Treasure Coast, Area 5 Director Lisa Giuttari

MARCO ISLAND CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

Members donated their change to benefit the CI Coin Box program. The club had a fundraiser by selling Civitan face masks.



They met at President Nery's home where they prepared 150 Valentine's cards for special people from the Night to Shine project of the Tim Tebow Foundation. They also participated by cheering them during this event.

Members volunteered at the Marco Island YMCA Tour de Marco fundraiser by registering the 150 bikers.



In March, the Club had a new project, Donate Your Shoes. About 30 pairs of new and almost new shoes were collected and donated to Goodwill. Someone donated a crib and it was given to the Women's Shelter.



They had a social dinner with entertainment at a local restaurant. Their main goal now is recruitment!

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

During the 2nd Civitan Quarter, the Naples Civitan Club have been meeting at Perkins Restaurant. Members have continued their donations to the Club's year round projects, Civitan Coin Box and Supplies for Soldiers. They volunteered by cheering at the Night to Shine project of the Tim Tebow Foundation for special people, where members of the Naples and Golden Gate High School Junior Civitan Clubs volunteered too. They also had a Food Drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul and donated two Claxton Fruitcake cases for the homeless at St. Mathews House. They also sold Claxton Fruitcake to raise funds. President Lisa Giuttari main goal now is recruitment. (See pictures on following page.)

CLUB BEAMS

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Continued



TREASURE COAST CIVITAN CLUB ... Jeanne Dillon/Polly Forestier

"Flea market sales big business!" This was the headline of the day. The club members set up items on three large tables at the B&A flea market in Stuart at 7 a.m. on Saturday February 6. By 8 a.m. the grounds were full of eager shoppers who were ready to get out, see people and feel free again! Even though it rained three different times on us, the shoppers kept coming back and the final count was \$400 for items we donated to the cause. Four of our dedicated members turned out plus 2 guests came to help mid-morning. It was a rewarding and fun day. Funds will be used for a dedicated purpose of helping others. With the success of the flea market, five members moved to working the Martin County Fair for 3 days and adding hours that will produce more revenue for the club.

Our **GHA project** will be continued by a school principal who helped us with contacts from last March and delivered the 15 framed certificates and gift cards to the schools. The schools presented them at a assembly and highlighted each winner! Our friend was so taken by how much the kids enjoyed being highlighted and receiving the beautiful framed certificate, he was motivated to accept our offer to turn over GHA to him. One of our members will serve on the board and I have been invited to serve also. Good communication for both of us and our members can help if needed. So, **GHA lives on!** The club is investigating other projects to replace GHA.

This picture is from a Stuart magazine about the fund raiser for Salvation Army. Susan Gazella and Polly were representing Civitan. The Salvation Army is a favorite of the club for service and giving. Some of our members are preparing "take out" meals and handing them out. Susan is on duty every Friday to hand out pre-packaged food as the needy pass through the line of cars receiving help. Members help with serving the Friday night meals but the "self help" has replaced the indoor dining for the time being. Four of our members were regular giving volunteers and it was fun! The recipients are so grateful and as regulars, we got to know several very well.

See more event photos at stuartmagazine.com/hotshots



The Event: THE SALVATION ARMY "EAT, DRINK & BE GIVING"

When/Where
October 15, 2020 | The Dolphin Bar & Shrimp House, Jensen Beach

1. Alice Sauter, Allie McGraw 2. Gary Blackmon, Holly Forester, Susan Gazella 3. Carolyn Magdalena, Stacy Nevins 4. Gift bags 5. Eleanor Rockwell, Lily Summers 6. Paul Wolfgang, Mary Boyinger, Michael Lammert 7. Room decor 8. Derrick Harbom, Chelsea Kymont

The Florida Sunbeam

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FLORIDA DISTRICT WEB SITE ... www.floridacivitan.org

Civitan Creed

I AM CIVITAN: as old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time.

MY HANDS do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.

MY EARS hear the cry of children and the call throughout the world for peace, guidance, progress, and unity.

MY EYES search for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan.

MY MOUTH utters the call to daily duty and speaks prayers in every tongue.

MY MIND teaches me respect for law and the flag of my country.

MY HEART beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity, and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.

MY SOUL knows no fear but its own unworthiness.

MY HOPE is for a better world through Civitan.

MY MOTTO: builders of good citizenship.

MY BELIEF: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

MY PLEDGE: to practice the Golden Rule and to build upon it a better and nobler citizenship.