

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2022

Opening: A regular meeting at Evans Prairie CC Restaurant was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by President Laura McLaughlin who welcomed everyone, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, introduced guests, then led us in the Civitan Creed.

Installation of Club Officers for 2022-2023: Immediate Past Florida District Governor Bonnie Ruth was introduced and conducted the installation ceremony. First was Judi Higbee as Secretary and Treasurer. Then Directors: Arlene Kaplan, Sharlene Floam, Kay Dando, Doris Field; Committee Chairs: Fundraising – Karen Schwering, Publicity & Public Relations – Betty Rohan, Social – Lana Rosenberg. Next was Immediate Past President Mary Anderson who was thanked for her two years of service to the club and presented with a Civitan watch and a yellow mums potted plant. Finally, the gavel was passed to President Laura McLaughlin. (Karen Goodman was absent as Vice President in charge of Programs.)

Pinning of New Member: Because of the donation of nearly all of her earnings from working the August 2022 Early Primary Election polls in our Adopt-A-Precinct (AAP) program, and her commitment to working all twelve days of the upcoming General Election early voting polls and donating all of those earnings, the Board of Directors bestowed full Hometown Civitan Club membership on Tammy France who was completely surprised and overwhelmed. Membership Chair Sharlene Floam presented Tammy with a welcome packet and lavalier with Civitan member pin attached. Secretary Judi Higbee fastened her name tag to her blouse and welcomed Tammy to our club.

Florida District Final Convention Recap: The theme was Philanthropy – How Civitans raise money and give to their charities. Judi Higbee made a presentation on Adopt-A-Precinct as our unique and very successful fundraising project to the 10 clubs in attendance from around the state. We were completely surprised and honored as the Florida District Governor's choice of HCC for Outstanding District Club of the Year award! There to accept were Mary Anderson, Sharlene Floam, Judi Higbee, Arlene Kaplan, Deb McCoy and Lana Rosenberg.

AAP Fundraiser: Total earnings from our club and friends working the eight days of August 2022 early voting polls, that goes 100% to support our 501(c)(3) charities, was \$11,974.50. The amount will be even more when we work the twelve days of early voting polls for the General Election from October 25 through November 5.

Grants to Charities Recap: A Grant Awards Summary chart was provided to everyone, and is made a part of these minutes, showing our cumulative giving to our chosen charities by year, totaling \$70,870. Each meeting, new President Laura will give Special Mention to a member for her work in the club. Arlene Kaplan was her first choice for all the work she puts in for the Philanthropy Committee in the selection of charities to make grant awards to each year. Arlene spoke about collecting ideas and data, sending out applications and all the other tasks involved in the process.

Club Meetings: From this date, our monthly general membership meetings will be held on the first Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m., at Evans Prairie Country Club restaurant. Normally the program/speaker will be first, then everyone will order their lunch from the menu, we'll have a business meeting and then lunch will be served.

Next month will be the exception: As we are working the polls on November 1st, our club meeting will be on November 8th. The speaker will be Anita Stevenson from the Sumter County Library System.

Special Guest U.S. Congressman Daniel Webster: Mr. Webster has taken a special interest in the civic mission and works of our club. He spoke of what it has meant to him over the past six years representing the people of this 11th District. He noted that unlike most of the other congressmen, only one-third of his office staff is in Washington, DC, the other two-thirds are in his local office so that he has first-hand contact with his constituents and can respond to their needs. He cited several stories where he was able to provide long-term help to getting a child's expired passport renewed so he could get on the plane with his parents to leave the country. He extended special appreciation to his assistant Cindy Brown for making all the arrangements.

Special Presentation: Including Mr. Webster in the ceremony, Betty and Mary presented the club's Business Leader of the Year award to Diane Hintzen, manager of Evelyn & Arthur, for her fundraising efforts that benefit PACE for Girls Marion and Hand In Hand/Ruth House.

Opportunities to Serve: Current openings to serve in our club's organization are: Club Photographer, Treasurer and President-Elect. Do you have your own camera or late model cell phone camera and would like to take pictures for publication in our website and newsletter of all the speakers and special events? Do you like numbers and love to balance your checkbook? Do you have an interest in stretching your leadership skills and learning more about our club and the Civitan International organization? Ask any of our board members for further information and please consider stepping into a new role if asked.

Socials: Lana reported that eight members went to Ruth House and had a wonderful time. The women in that recovery program were delighted to show their appreciation of our club's support by giving us a tour of their house and then serving lunch that they cooked themselves. (Of course our members brought packages of toilet paper, an always needed supply.) Everyone agreed that this should be an annual social event.

Bunco in January 2023: Karen Schwering announced that plans are being made to have another fundraiser to support our club at the Eisenhower Regional Center on MLK Day – January 16.

Charity Work: Kris Tygrett and Kay Dando have been going down to Center Hill Children's Mission every Tuesday afternoon to read to the children and socialize with them. Let one of them know if you are interested in joining this most rewarding project.

Adjournment: Judi collected dues, John Higbee took pictures. The meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Kay Dando, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Beth Halstead, Judi Higbee, Arlene Kaplan, Laura McLaughlin, Betty Rohan, Lana Rosenberg, Karen Schwering, Kris Tygrett, Angela Vickers. **New Member:** Tammy France. **Photographer:** John Higbee. **Guests:** Bonnie Ruth, Diane Hintzen, Fran Dombroski.

Our Website www.HometownCivitanClub.com is an excellent source for our Calendar of Events, Latest News, Photos & Videos, Club Minutes and publications, Who We Are and How We Serve.

Newly Released Videos:

The 2021-2022 Year In Review

2022 Grants Presentation

Updated Who We Are: 2022-2023 Club Officers and Their Bios

Photo Gallery New Event: 2022 Florida District Civitan Convention at Laurel Manor

Updated Club History