

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB
The Villages, Florida
Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2021

Opening: A regular meeting at Bob Evans Farm Restaurant, Colony Plaza, was called to order by sounding the bell at 9:15 a.m. by President Mary Anderson who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 23 members and guests in attendance including the speaker. Mary passed the Happy Box with \$20 being collected. Tory Palivoda shared an inspirational reading.

New Members: Betty Rohan introduced Kris Tygrett, a new member today, who introduced her visiting cousin, Kathy Dorsey. New member Chickie Holtzman introduced her friend, Lorna Etchison, who joined the club later in the meeting!

Plaque Presentations: Laura McLaughlin first presented Mary with the plaque the club received from the VHA awards ceremony back in March. Then she introduced Daisy Vargas, and her mom April, who presented Mary with a beautiful picture plaque commemorating the club's purchase of Daisy's lamb at the Sumter County Fair in March. Daisy then spoke about what goes into raising an animal, being a member of Future Farmers of America in Wildwood, and what it meant to her that the women of Hometown were so interested in her and helping her raise money to fund her college education. A surprise for everyone was that our server, Jen, knows Daisy and April as one of her children is also an FFA member. Small world!

Old Business: **Wildwood Junior Civitan Club Sponsorship:** Laura said they will be working over the summer to organize the new club. When Daisy saw Junior Civitan at Wildwood MHS on the agenda, she wanted to know more about it. After talking with Laura, Daisy wants to be the first member!

CI Annual Convention/Jax: Eight members are going (Mary, Judi, Laura, Betty, Beth, Penny, Karen Schwering and Deb McCoy) who will be joined on stage by Area Director Kathy Hall to receive our award for winning Honorable Mention of the prestigious Shropshire award. Tory and Judi presented the large gift basket they made as the Club's contribution to the CI Silent Auction fundraiser.

New Business: Mary announced that the Board has decided to remain the same for the 2021-2022 year with everyone continuing in their current positions as officers and directors.

Projects and Committee Reports: **Projects** – Penny Badolato reported that Ruth House is in a larger building that houses 16 women. They are very appreciative of the cleaning and painting that was done. Penny had put out a call for twin bed linens and pillows: "To all of the wonderful ladies who have contributed to Ruth House, we've managed to fulfill their needs for now. I hope to restart our mentoring program soon. If you're interested, please let me or Beth know." Rebecca Randall responded with: "We at Ruth House are so grateful for your love and commitment to us. The mentoring is priceless."

Fundraising – Betty Rohan reported that her committee will hold a Bunco night next January or February, when a Garage Sale is held it will be in Collier where three members live very close to each other; but 2022 is midterm election year and working the Early Voting Polls will be our big fundraiser.

Publicity –A Public Meeting on the Wildwood Downtown Development Master Plan was attended by seven members who found it very interesting and were glad they went to represent our club's interest in our neighboring town. (Laura, Betty, Arlene, Mary, Lana, Pat Rusk, Beth and her husband)

Social – Chickie Holtzman will host a pool party on Thursday, August 5. Details to follow.

Membership: With our two new members today, club total is now at 36.

Newsletter – Thank you to Diane Seymour for another fabulous job on the July issue!

Website – Judi Higbee informed everyone of the updates to the 'Photo Gallery' of the Wildcats Ring Ceremony, FFA Awards Banquet, and Bountiful Bistro Social. Three members have been featured in the Backstory section of the Daily Sun (Laura, Betty and Judi). Those articles have been posted on the 'In The News' website page as well as icons on each of their Bios that link to the full article.

Speaker: President-Elect Beth Halstead introduced Claudia Labbe of Your Humane Society of Sumter County. Claudia was excited that Hometown was her first speaking engagement since the pandemic shutdown in March 2020. She spoke of all the things they did over the past year to improve their facilities; they held creative adoption events for cats and dogs that included creative fundraisers like Jukebox Bingo and Trivia, and she had many stories of how she and her staff dealt with problems and unusual cases of animals and people needing help. She explained that every humane society facility is independent but they all operate under the umbrella/code of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They work and share cooperatively with Marion County HS and Lake County HS. They not only work with pets but have also relocated a huge nest of bees to a beekeeper's hive, they found a new home for an aquarium of fish, and even a farmer who would take a small herd of water buffalo.

Claudia asked us to be on the lookout for the next YHS-SC adoption event in early August that will also include Kitty Bingo – tickets will be \$12. After the Q&A, Beth presented Claudia with a check for \$500 that was raised at the Winn Dixie collection box display. Claudia asked for and received our permission to put that money into their Hope Fund that helps pay for emergency surgeries and the like that are not covered by general funding.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. by Mary who led us in the Civitan Creed. **There will not be a club meeting in August. Because of Rosh Hashanah, the next club meeting will be September 14.** The next BOD meeting will be July 20.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary.

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Penny Badolato, Karen Chlebek, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Karen Goodman, Claire Gore, Beth Halstead, Judi Higbee, Chickie Holtzman, Ilene Hyams, Arlene Kaplan, Laura McLaughlin, Tory Palivoda, Betty Rohan, Lana Rosenberg, Pat Rusk, Karen Schwering, Diane Seymour, Kris Tygrett, guest Kathy Dorsey, new member Lorna Etchison, speaker Claudia Labbe'