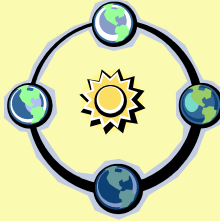


# FLORIDA



# SUNBEAM

Volume 17, Issue 4



October 2021



## Florida District Civitans... This is What I Believe ...



*What I believe ...* This year Civitans focus on being **Champions of Service – as BELIEVERS.**

We know that BELIEF results in ACTION, and Actions have an IMPACT. As Civitans we will impact our communities through our acts of service.

The worldwide mission of Civitan is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Our mission is to have an impact in the communities we serve.

My goal is to help our FL District Civitan Clubs and members be successful as they pursue our mission. This year, I encourage us all to actively work to improve - - -

1. Our Knowledge: Assess the NEEDS in your communities with fresh eyes. Identify one Need that your club can work to meet.
2. Our Service: Develop a new PROJECT to meet one Need; to IMPACT those you serve with your action!
3. Our Fellowship: Promote REGULAR Club meetings. It's time to reboot face-to-face meetings and in-person projects. Civitans supporting & encouraging one another offer us the opportunity to invite others to become part of Civitan.

The Civitan Creed is our action plan. "Our pledge is to practice the golden rule and to build upon it a better and nobler citizenship." As we focus on acting upon our creed, our Clubs will become magnets attracting others.

***I'm excited about growing with you!***

***Bonnie Ruth***

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**DISTRICT OFFICERS****2021-2022****Governor:***Bonnie Ruth***Governor-elect:***Penny Bonawitz***Immediate Past Governor:***Lana Suggs Champion***Past Governor Director:***Nery Kircher***Area Directors:**Area 1: *Kathy Hall*Area 2: *Phyleshia J. O'Neal*Area 3: *Phyliss LaVigna*Area 4: *Jeanne Davison*Area 5: *Lisa Giuttari***Secretary:***Ramona Federico***Treasurer:***Gayle Kanak***Chaplain:***Norm Bungard***Judge Advocate:***Gay Aaron***Sergeant-at-Arms:***Eddie Pringle***Committee Chairs****Awards, Nominations,***Lana Suggs Champion***Bulletin/Newsletter***Mattie Fraser, LST***Candy/Coin Box:***Polly Forestier***Don DeVane Scholarship***Pat Kirk***Finance:***Elaine Hall***Growth & Retention***Wynester Sherrer***Training Coordinator:***Lori Clapp***Junior / Campus Civitan:***Niki Lockett***New Club Building***Wynester Sherrer***Philanthropic Liaison***Lori Clapp***Public Relations:***Jeanne Davison***Registrar:***David Portero***Time & Place***Gay Aaron***Website:***Penny Bonawitz***FLORIDA DISTRICT CALENDAR - 2021-2022****2021**

September 17

September 30

**October**

October 1

October 1

October 23

October 30

**November**

November 21

November 29

November 30

November 30

**December**

December 1

December

Club Officer on-line training open

Area Director Year End Report Due

**LEARNING DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH***Florida Sunbeam* Newsletter Deadline

Club Quarterly Dues Billing Out

District Board Meeting; Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

World Junior Civitan Day

**GIVE THANKS**

Junior Civitan District Meeting on Zoom

Giving Tuesday

Club Officer on-line training closed; last day to certify

Area Director Quarterly Visit w/Club Presidents due

**PHILANTHROPY FOCUS; CIVITANS AT THE HELM**

Honor Club and Award Application due to International

District Awards Applications Due to Awards Chair

**2022****January**

January 1

January 22

January 28

January 28

**February**

February 3

February 15

February 28

**March**

March 11-13

March 17

March 26

**PHILANTHROPY FOCUS; LIGHT THE WAY***Florida Sunbeam* Newsletter Deadline

District Board Meeting; Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Deadline Shropshire Application to International

Achievement Award Applications due to International

**CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH**

Four Chaplains' Day

Deadline to file club 990's with IRS; IMPORTANT

Area Director Quarterly Visit w/Club Presidents due

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS**

Junior Civitan ALL IN SUMMIT

Civitan Founder's Day

Junior Civitan District Convention,

Emil Buehler Planetarium, Sanford, FL

**CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH**

Impact Area Club Grants Awarded

*Florida Sunbeam* Newsletter Deadline

Club Quarterly Dues Billing Out

World Health Day

Florida District Spring Meeting, TBA

Area Director Quarterly Visit w/Club Presidents due

**PHILANTHROPY FOCUS; LEAVING A LEGACY**

Civitan International Honor Key Nominations Due

**CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Florida District Board Meeting, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Junior Civitan International Convention

Junior Civitan International DANCE-A-THON

Junior Civitan Year End

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TIME**

Civitan International Convention, San Antonio, TX

Junior Civitan Year 2022-23 Begins

*Florida Sunbeam* Newsletter Deadline

Club Quarterly Dues Billing out

Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary

**PHILANTHROPY FOCUS; PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL**

District Awards Applications due to Awards Chair

Area Director Quarterly Visit w/Club Presidents Due

**FINISH STRONG!**

Florida District Board Meeting, TBA

Florida District Convention &amp; Officer Installation

Annual Reports Due from District Chairs

**BEGINNING OF CIVITAN FISCAL YEAR***Florida Sunbeam* Newsletter Deadline

Club Quarterly Dues Billing Out

**See Website for Update on meeting Schedule; [www.FloridaCivitan.org](http://www.FloridaCivitan.org)****Note: Awards Chair—Lana Suggs Champion**

# FLORIDA DISTRICT CONVENTION

## SEPTEMBER 10–11, 2021

Thirty-seven Civitans and guests from around the Florida District, including Civitan International President Frank Kelley and his wife Kim, gathered at the St. Pete Beach House in St. Petersburg on September 10-11 for the District Convention. The Board meeting was held on Friday afternoon. This was followed by a barbeque dinner and awards presentation for awards earned during the 2020-2021 year. See report on page 4 re awards. The Business Session on Saturday included district reports, and election for 2021-2022 Board ... Governor Bonnie Ruth, President-Elect Penny Bonawitz; Area Directors ... 1—Kathy Hall, 3—Phyllis LaVigna, 5—Lisa Giutarri; Directors for areas 2 and 4 are completing the second year of their term ... 2—Phyleshia O’Neal, 4—Jeanne Davison; Past Governor Director—Nery Kircher. A speaker, Mariel Olsen, Director for Guardian ad Litem, shared how this important program works to help others. In addition, Frank Kelley, Civitan International President, reported on International activities and installed the Florida District Officers for 2021-2022. Governor Lana was presented with a **Fellow** in appreciation for her great work this year. Governor Lana then handed the gavel to incoming Governor Bonnie Ruth, and Incoming President Uptown, Maureen Baiocco, presented the “Home of the District Governor” banner to St. Petersburg President Jan Ward.

The convention ended about 1 p.m. on Saturday to allow for the room to be cleaned and set up for the later 100th Anniversary Celebration of the St. Petersburg Civitan Club as their guest. (See report on page 5.)





## FLORIDA DISTRICT AWARDS—2020 - 2021

**FROM 2019-2020**— Honor Club Banner patches to: Hometown, Naples, Tampa Metro, and Uptown. Distinguished President Awards to: Lori Clapp—Tampa Metro; Lisa Giuttari—Naples; and Diana Flagg—Uptown. Outstanding Club Scrapbook for 2019-2020 since we did not meet in person last year went to \_\_\_\_\_

The competitive awards for 2020-2021 were judged by Sons of Norway, a fraternal organization that promotes and preserves the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries. "The judges said it was UNBELIEVABLE DIFFICULT and they were impressed with EVERY aspect of EVERY project for the obvious love and care that went in to selecting each project. Excellent writing/composing/pictures went in to every booklet."

### FOR 2020-2021—CHAMPIONS OF SERVICE ... LEADERS

Six clubs submitted applications; five were clubs under 30 and one had more than 30 members. The awards went to:

#### For Clubs 29 and Under

##### Outstanding Club Newsletter

1st First Coast  
2nd Naples

##### Outstanding ...

##### Single Youth Project

1st Naples  
2nd First Coast  
3rd Downtown Web in Action

Honorable Mention First Coast

##### Community Service Project

1st Downtown Web in Action  
2nd Tampa Metro  
3rd Downtown Web in Action

Honorable Mention First Coast

##### Project For People with I/DD

1st Tampa Metro  
2nd First Coast  
3rd Marco Island

Honorable Mention First Coast

##### Joint Junior-Senior Service Project

1st Tampa Metro



#### For Clubs 30 and above

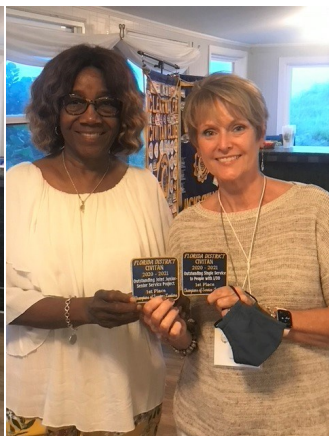
Uptown was the only club submitting applications and received first place for: **Outstanding Club Newsletter, Outstanding - Single Youth Project, Community Service Project, For People with I/DD**. Uptown also received 1st place for **Outstanding Scrapbook**.

##### Travel award

1st Uptown

##### Attendance

1st Downtown Web in Action





## ST. PETERSBURG CLUB CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE IN 2021 ...Bonnie Ruth

Members of the St Petersburg Civitan Club and guests celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a gala Centennial Banquet at the Civitan Beach House on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Bonnie Ruth, Chairman, along with Karen Ashcraft, Jeanne Davison, Mary Ann Fisher, Pete Meydag, and Jan Ward, members of the *St Pete 100 Committee*, invested 12 months in planning a perfect evening. There were toasts to the years of memories and the future of the St Petersburg Civitan Club with fellow Civitans and fond friends.

Civitan International President Frank Kelley and first lady, Kim, were our honored guests. Frank was a Jr Civitan at St Petersburg High School and member of St Petersburg Civitan Club, in addition to others over the years. Civitans representing 14 clubs from around the Florida District were present. Mayor of Indian Shores, Pat Soranno, and Councilman Mike Petrocelli and his wife Betty were among the many friends of Civitan who joined us to celebrate.

One of the highlights of the evening was the unveiling of the bronze historic marker recognizing the Civitan Beach House addition to the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of Interior, in recognition of St Pete Civitan's social significance. The plaque will be erected at the front of the Beach House. The Celebration was a fabulous way to finish our Centennial year and kick off a Second Century of Service in St Petersburg!



Charter  
No. 0019



Congratulations!!



# CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ... Mattie Fraser



## ***Bridge to the Future ... July 28—31, 2021 Hyatt Regency Riverfront ... Jacksonville, Florida***

- REGISTRATION:** IN-PERSON ... 250+; VIRTUAL 560+ (approximate)
- VOTING BY EMAIL:** Machines set up in hotel for in-person attendees; worked well  
Virtual attendees voted by information emailed to them
- WORKSHOPS** Numerous workshop were presented each day.  
Uptowners Elaine Hall and Wynester Sherrer were two of the presenters.  
Rina Park, NFSSE, was part of Elaine Hall's panel discussion.
- BREAK THRU GOLF** Susan Hamilton worked with CI on this event which was held at Deerwood Country Club on Wednesday, July 28. It raised to date about \$117,000
- WALK & ROLL** Florida District Teams raised a total of \$5,630, coming in 2, 3, and 4.
- HOSPITALITY SUITE** Open during day when no business session. Water, candy, popcorn, snacks available plus silent auction items. Raised \$2,810. Committee: Mattie Fraser, chair; Lana Suggs Champion, Diana Flagg, Mary Jo Marjenhoff, and Darrell and Lee Conrey from First Coast Civitan Club. Ellen Rubens also helped especially with the silent auction. Volunteers from many clubs. Six club brought posters of their projects.
- VOTING RESULTS** Voting by email on Thursday, July 29 from 1—8 p.m. in person and virtual.  
Dan Brown elected CI President 2021-2022  
JoAnn O'Toole elected President-Elect 2021-2022  
Bill Tolleson elected International Director Region 2 (from South Carolina)
- GOVERNANCE** Options were presented: Articles of Incorporation and three options For Bylaws...Board Recommended, Cardinal District Amendment, and current. Articles of Incorporation ratified. No bylaws received 50% +1 so current bylaws remain in force.
- OPENING** Our own Governor Lana Suggs Champion was MC for the Wednesday evening event. 2020-2021 Board of Trustees and governors introduced. Outstanding New Club announced ... *The Village Civitan Club*, Heart of the West District. *Lorri Unumb* was received *World Citizen Award 2021* because of her work with autism. She is from South Carolina. Among the four *Civitan International Honor Key* was Uptown's Lana Suggs Champion. This is the highest award you can receive from Civitan and recognizes the many contributions over the years of the recipient. The Welcome Party followed.

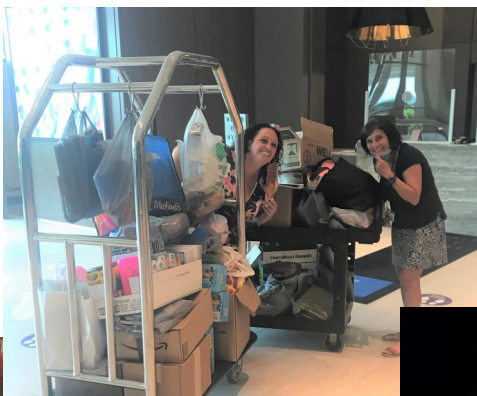




# CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ... Mattie Fraser

**BUSINESS & OTHER** **Thursday** business session included candidates for elected office presenting their credentials as well as the presentation of the governance documents. **Friday** *Membership Extravaganza* introduced the theme for 2021-2022 ... *Champions of Civitan-Believers* and the Governors. Bonnie Ruth, St. Petersburg Club is the incoming Florida District Governor. Competitive awards were presented by Patsy Perkal, President for 2019-2020. Only first place awards were recognized on stage. Second and third place winners were received off-stage after the session was completed where pictures could be taken with Patsy. Florida District was also recognized with 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Outstanding District Newsletter. *Philanthropy Report* was a virtual visit with Dr. Craig Powell, CIRC, and the 2021 video was shared. A box lunch was provided. As always a report from the CIRC made us feel proud of all the work that has been done in 30 years. Civitan also fulfilled their commitment of \$20 million during 2021. A new goal has been set by the CI Board of \$1 million over the next four years so that we can maintain our partnership with the UAB-Birmingham and Civitan International. Our donations to Civitans at the Helm go toward meeting our commitment for the CIRC.

**Saturday** Election results were announced at 10:30 a.m. see results page 6. Frank Kelley, President 2020-2021, Scarlet Thompson, executive vice president; and Kendyl Massey, finance committee chair gave their annual reports. The Junior Civitan president gave her report virtually. A service project to collect school supplies for North Florida School of Special Education took place Saturday afternoon. The installation banquet was held Saturday evening. The 2021-2022 International Board and the Governors were introduced. Past International President Mike Brown installed the Board. Mark Eisenger installed the Governors. While we ate dinner, the *Pine Castle Flashbacks Band* performed to a delighted audience. Pine Castle is an I/DD facility in Jacksonville. The Uptown Club has had a relationship with them for more than 32 years. The last item of the night was the awarding of the **Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club** which went to the **Uptown Civitan Club**. Then it was time for dancing and visiting with friends.



CI Service project ...  
collecting school supplies  
for North Florida School  
of Special Education.  
They were thrilled!!



Governor Bonnie Installed





## CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ... Mattie Fraser

### FLORIDA DISTRICT HOSPITALITY SUITE -SOUTHERN STYLE

Florida District Civitans hosted the Hospitality Suite for the Civitan International 2021 Convention which included a Silent Auction. The Hospitality Suite was in one of the hotel's larger meeting rooms and was a huge hit!! There was plenty of room to display poster boards showcasing the good work of eight different Florida Civitan Clubs, all of the wonderful Silent Auction items, as well as the popular *Florida District Candy Shoppe* and Popcorn Stand provided by First Coast Civitan Club and created by First Coast Civitan Club members Lee and Darrell Conrey. The Silent Auction bidding commenced on Wednesday, July 28 and ended on Friday, July 30 at 3 p.m. The Silent Auction was a huge success, with bids on all forty-five items. The items were donated from the various Civitan Clubs (many from our own members) throughout the Florida District with one unsolicited item donated by the Alabama District - North. There were works of art, all kinds of gift baskets, clothing, gift cards, event tickets, and much more. These generous donations brought in a total of \$2,810. The Florida District Hospitality Suite Committee voted and determined that the proceeds should be distributed equally to four worthy organizations: Pine Castle Civitan Club, Alden Road School for Exceptional Students, North Florida School of Special Education and the Civitan International Research Center. See pictures below showing presentation of the proceeds to these wonderful groups!! **Diana Flagg**

The committee was chaired by Mattie Fraser with members: Governor Lana Suggs Champion, Darrell and Lee Conrey, First Coast Civitan Club; and Diana Flagg and Mary Jo Marjenhoff from Uptown. Ellen Rubens, Uptown, also was a tremendous help with the silent auction helping with the value and pricing of the items. We received gift baskets/items from 12 district clubs and volunteers came from many of those clubs too. Diana had prepared the list of silent auction items which were distributed in the registration package to all those attending. Diana and Ellen handled the checkout with great efficiency and smoothly. **Mattie Fraser**



A check was sent to Civitan International for the CIRC

**More than 104 signed our Guest book from 68 different clubs and visited the Hospitality Suite ... many of them more than once ... to check their bids, get candy, popcorn, snacks and water.**



## Governor-Elect ... Penny Bonawitz

Happy Fall Y'all!

As your Governor-Elect for 2021-2022, I do not have much to report as we are only a few weeks into the Civitan year and I have attended only one GE Academy session. However, in my capacity as Website Guru, and I use that term loosely, we are having difficulty getting information from the former administrator so are unable to update anything on the Floridacivitan.org website. I will be working on getting a new site up and running. I would love for everyone to go and check out the existing website and email me at [civitanpenny@gmail.com](mailto:civitanpenny@gmail.com) with any comments, changes, additions, etc. The website address is <http://www.floridacivitan.org/>. You might get a message saying it is not a safe site but it is and you are not purchasing anything from the site.



If you go to the website, you will see the Facebook and Instagram buttons. Please follow the district on both Facebook and Instagram. I am helping the PR Chair with some much-needed PR for our district and plan to post at least twice a week. One post will be a club spotlight, and I ask club Presidents to forward me photos and project descriptions, and the other post will be inspirational or something going on in the district or international. If you would like to find us on Facebook put Florida Civitan District in the search box. There are two other old Florida District FB accounts that are not current, please ignore those. The Instagram name for us is [floridacivitan](https://www.instagram.com/floridacivitan/).org

Please feel free to send me anything you would like promoted for the good of the district. I BELIEVE we can make a difference this year and grow the district!

## Chaplain's Moment ... Bonnie Hardman, 2020-2021

Today, a short look at some **WORDS TO LIVE BY.**

A **physician** lives by the words, "FIRST, DO NO HARM."

A **teacher** lives by the words, "NINE-TENTHS OF EDUCATION IS ENCOURAGEMENT."

A **carpenter** lives by the words, "MEASURE TWICE. CUT ONCE."

An **actor** lives by the words, "IF I GET REJECTED FOR A PART, I PICK MYSELF UP AND SAY, 'OKAY, NOT TODAY. MAYBE TOMORROW.'"

The **British people** in 1939 lived by the words, "KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON."

A **lawyer** lives by the words, "SOMETIMES YOU WIN. SOMETIMES YOU LEARN."

A **CIVITAN** lives by the words, "DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU – AND BUILD UPON **THAT** A BETTER AND NOBLER CITIZENSHIP."



## Time and Place ... Gay Aaron

It's been 2 years since we have had a face to face convention.

Thirty-seven Florida Civitans and guests gathered at the St. Pete Beach House for a combination district convention and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the St. Petersburg Club. We were honored to have President Frank Kelly and Kim join us for our celebrations.

Our Board Meeting began at 3:00 p.m. Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. After the Board Meeting, at 6:00 p.m. we had a barbeque dinner and our annual awards presentation.

Registration/Continental Breakfast began at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The business meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and will include the installation of the Florida District 2021-2022 Officers. A box lunch from Panera was served at noon. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The incoming board met for a short time immediately following the meeting.

The St. Petersburg Civitan Club graciously hosted all convention attendees and their guests for dinner and the celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which began at 5:00 p.m. See details of gala on page 5.



## Candy/Coin Boxes ... Polly Forestier

The Candy/ Coin Box report from Civitan International for actual and projected figures has been received and the results are pretty grim. This is not a new picture and reflects the inactivity of business in the restaurants that are open. I encourage those who are servicing boxes to continue to touch base with the owners/managers to make sure boxes are clean and either full of candy or are clean and if a new box, put some starter money in the coin boxes. I usually put in a dollar bill and some quarters and nickels to encourage like amounts. Don't forget to tell the waiters and owners what the money goes for. Leave a brochure about CIRC and make sure your name and phone number is on the card with picture of small child. Make a note of possible placement locations and follow up.



Positive revenue is down from last year for all clubs. No one is surprised because of the damage done by Covid 19. Keep checking your locations and if you can't, ask someone else to take over for you if you are out of town for an extended period of time.

My continued appreciation to each Chair for being devoted to this program. Your service is important to the income which goes to CIRC and the wonderful work done.



## Philanthropy Report ... Lori Clapp, Liaison

***“Philanthropy is a fancy way to say that you care.” – Priscilla Chan***

Thank you to the clubs donating to the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) through the Civitans at the Helm Program (CATH). 14 of 19 clubs have participated with 12 reaching Helmsman level or above in 2020-2021. Special congratulations and gratitude to Clearwater for attaining Admiral Level, and First Coast for attaining Commodore level. Additional thanks to the clubs and District for supporting CIRC through donations to the Break-thru Golf Benefit and Walk & Roll for Research, which also count toward CATH. Some clubs are VERY close to attaining the next awards level, so hope you submitted your additional donations by September 30! Be sure to send your donations to Civitan International, NOT to CIRC, and provide your club's name to be credited for your CATH donation. Feel free to contact me if you want your club's most current giving level.



The following were **Florida District Teams** for *Walk & Roll for Research*. *Mattie's Uptown Team, Tampa Metro Civitan, Leesburg Civitan and St. Pete 100*. Florida teams placed 2nd, 3rd, and 4th raising a total of \$5,630.

Please keep in mind that you may be able to recognize a special Civitan or friend of Civitan with a **Fellow** or **Junior Fellow** at your Installation Banquet or at future meetings and conventions. There are several types of Fellows with different funding levels. The funds from the Fellows program supports scholarships to CIRC and other related areas, and it's a perfect way to honor a dear Civitan or friend of Civitan, while at the same time provide much needed scholarships.

Remember, there are many other ways for you to benefit Civitan and yourselves at the same time, and you can find them on the Civitan website. Plus for those evaluating your estate plans do consider options that will help you be philanthropic while at the same time potentially reducing your tax consequences to you or your heirs. Another win-win for you, your family and Civitan.

Do check out all the information on the Civitan Giving web page à [Annual Giving Programs | Civitan International](https://civitan.org/support-programs/) (<https://civitan.org/support-programs/>)

Feel free to contact me if you'd like more information, President's Council pins, or help with any questions

Lori Clapp  
[Lori.clapp@verizon.net](mailto:Lori.clapp@verizon.net)



## *Junior Civitan ... Niki Lockett, Junior Chair*

The Junior Civitan 2021-22 board held its first meeting in June at the close of the Junior Civitan International Convention and laid out its plans for the year. The District Project will be Manna Bags for the homeless.

The district meeting will be held on November 21, 2021, at the St Pete each house pending Covid restrictions from school districts in regards to attendance and travel. It may be a virtual meeting. The district convention will be held on March 26, 2022 at the Emil Buehler Planetarium, Sanford, Florida.

In addition to these, the board will meet monthly on the first Sunday of each month. They will put out weekly social media posts, publish our newsletter, *Marvin Marvin*, three times during the year beginning in August,

Two clubs lost their charter last year, St. Petersburg and Miami Jackson. The St Petersburg club is in the process of re-chartering this fall. One new club will most likely be built this year in Jacksonville as the advisor from Lake Howell has relocated to that city and wants to start a club.

Planning a district-wide fundraiser virtually to assist with international and district conventions, projects, meetings, and other district expenses.

Niki Lockett, Chair  
Penny Bonawitz, Co-Chair

#####

Hello Fellow Civitans,

I'm Marina Werkmeister, the 2021-2022 Secretary for the Florida District Junior Board.

While we still face challenges due to COVID-19, the Florida District is working especially hard as we kick off this new year. Local high school clubs are beginning to draw in new Junior Civitans and establish their agendas for the year. The **Florida Board held a popcorn fundraiser**, to raise money for our district meeting, club outreach, and many projects. **We raised almost \$700.** Thank you to everyone who participated.

With the ongoing pandemic, the Florida Board has decided to hold our district meeting via Zoom again this year. The meeting will be held on November 21, 2021, from 1 pm -3 pm. All Florida high school clubs have been invited to participate in the meeting. At the district meeting board, introductions will be held as well as a small community project. Since the meeting will be held around thanksgiving everyone attending will be creating placemats and cards for homeless members in their community. This year our district project is centered around supporting the homeless in their community who have suffered the most throughout this pandemic.

For our district project, this year clubs will be creating manna bags to give to local shelters to distribute. Manna bags are small "survival kits" that can include hygienic goods, socks, snacks, etc. Manna bags are low-cost and easy to distribute among the homeless community and an easy way for clubs to meet our goal of giving back to the homeless community. As the year progresses, the Florida Board plans to introduce more projects that aid our community.

The Florida Board is excited to work hard this year and become more involved than ever!

Marina Werkmeister  
Secretary  
Florida District Junior Civitan



# CLUB BEAMS

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

## GAINESVILLE CIVITAN CLUB

**Gainesville Civitan Club ...:** President Ron Spitznagel reports that they are currently meeting every Monday in person for lunch. There are still only four active members that attend. Gainesville Civitan Club continues to support LifeSouth Community Blood Centers. Two members are active on the Executive Board.

## HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Mary Anderson

Hometown does not have member meetings in July or August. At our September meeting, Hometown presented grants to: Center Hill Children's Mission, Inc. - \$3,000; Hand in Hand Lake County, Inc.- \$2,000; Love Extension, Inc.-\$2,000; Marion Therapeutic Riding Assoc.-\$2,000 (*Private donation from member*) \$,1000; PACE for Girls, Marion-\$2,000; Young Performing Artists, Inc. - \$1,000; Total \$12,000. This money is funded from our club's early election project from October 2020.and will be doing election work again next year. For our November meeting, author Nery Kircher will be our guest speaker, telling her story of escaping communism and moving to the U.S. She is a former District Governor, and President of the Marco Island club. Hometown's agenda has a lot of upcoming projects and activities we have planned.



President Mary Anderson and Judi Higbee were 1st timers at the International Convention in Jacksonville in July and attended the Old Florida Celebration in costume!!



## 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 ... Phyleshia O'Neal

#### **Fundraisers/Service Projects/Club Meetings:**

Downtown Web in Action Civitan led by Wynester Sherrer, is continuing to have a fantastic year. The **2020-21 Goals remain, Building Membership** (each one gets one) **and Champions of Service-Leaders**. Monthly meetings host a variety of guest speakers and fun activities for members via Zoom.

**The June Zoom meeting focused on additional clothing items and shoes to be shipped to Haiti via Jean Nestor with the Haiti Mission Project.** During the month of June, members held clothing drives in their various communities, cleaned their closets and picked up donations from contributors. Items will be delivered to the Haiti Mission for shipping the end of July.

**The July meeting featured The Breakfast Learning Series sponsored by Family Support Services of North Florida. The Guest Speakers were LaQuaria Barton and Aletha Ruffin. The topic was What is the Center for Children's Right Organization?** The Who, What and Why were explained during this session. Members also prepared for the International Convention. Members collected and prepared items for the silent auction baskets to be donated on behalf of the club. Members also attended the convention and volunteered in the Hospitality Suite during the convention. Courtney Lopez and Erica Jones along with a few other members packed all Haiti Mission items (20 boxes) and delivered to Jean Nestor of the Haiti Mission for shipping.

**The August meeting focused on reviewing committees reports on Outstanding Single Community Service Projects to be submitted to the district for recognition at the Florida District Meeting in St. Pete.** Several members also worked on collecting items for the silent auction to be held at the district meeting September 10-12. Members also worked on a projected calendar of service projects and fundraisers for the 2021-2022 year. Club members are continuing to focus on providing aid to First Responders during this pandemic each month. Goodies Baskets were made and filled with lots of love, snacks, and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) items. Baskets for July and August were delivered to St. Vincent's Hospital COVID Floors for all the front line medical professional working day and night to save lives. Additional baskets are being created to show appreciation to our first responders and front-line workers for their service and servant heart during these perilous times. Cash donations and PPE items are continually being donated by club members.

Some of our trained medical members have continued to assist and volunteered with the distribution of the Covid 19 vaccination and screenings.

#### **Ongoing Fundraisers:**

Decorative/Custom Door wreaths for all occasions are still available for sale as an ongoing fundraiser. See Wynester Sherrer to place your orders. PPE/Snacks items and Coin Box collections are ongoing as well.

### FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB ... Sharon Dundon

#### **First Coast Civitan Staying Active and Interacting with Our Community**

A perfect example of how individual Civitan members can make a difference in someone's life was exhibited recently by our involvement with One More Child sponsored by the Florida Baptist Children's Home (FBCH). Sundy Goodnight, the director of church engagement for FBCH, was our speaker in July. As a result, the club decided to collect underwear and socks for the children in the foster care system to help with their back-to-school expenses. Members donated items of clothing for infants to teens. Marsha Gerrard, Sandy Murray and Jessica Rogers delivered the items to One More Child August 27<sup>th</sup>. These items are guaranteed to make a difference in the lives of a few children in the Florida's foster care system.





## CLUB BEAMS

### LEESBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

**Leesburg Civitan Club** ... This club continues to meet every month by Zoom. President Kathy Hall and two other members attended the Civitan International Convention in July and volunteered in the Hospitality Suite, donating two silent auction items that sold above minimum bid. Leesburg sponsored a Walk & Roll Team, raising more than their original goal, and displaying the club's t-shirt and personalized masks. Fundraising efforts are planned for early fall as increased COVID concerns changed plans for activities for this summer. We had a guest speak for August. We'll collaborate with Best Buddies Lake County in their new adult friendship program. We also plan to volunteer at the Champion of the Year Gala scheduled for October 29. Volunteer hours will be roughly 5—11 p.m. The cocktail attire and tasks will include in/out, auction assistants, parking, etc. Efforts to join several events within Lake County for community service this summer were cancelled due to the increased COVID concerns.

Honor Club banner patch for 2019-2020



### SUNRISE CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

**Sunrise Civitan Club** ... The Sunrise Club has not met in nearly 2 years because the program was closed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Although Sunrise had partially reopened mainly to Sunrise Group Home clients, they are now closed again due to increased Covid cases. Our reboot meeting planned & rescheduled several times from April and July is rescheduled to October & we'll reassess at that time. Since 1/3 of Sunrise Club Members live in family homes, we're unable to visit the facility currently. Our goal is to hand out *brand-spanking new* colorful T-shirts donated in-kind by an anonymous benefactor. We would like to '*rekindle the joy of giving to others*' by having a Meet & Greet Party for all Sunrise Club Members! We have one goal and that is to get the resident clients and community clients that have returned ***excited*** during our themed Welcome Back & Recruitment Party! Some Leesburg Club members continue to donate to the Sunrise Club to keep them current with their dues. Staff have returned to Telehealth visits due to increased Covid cases at Sunrise.

### TALLAHASSEE CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

**Tallahassee Civitan Club** ... President David Portero attended the CI Convention in Jacksonville representing the Tallahassee Club. The Tallahassee Club resumed face x face lunch meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month. They have changed venues due to service and now meet at Carabba's. They will be electing new leadership for the coming year at their next meeting. This is great news as this is a major turnaround from this time last year!!! Tallahassee is trying to link with the local Down's Syndrome Association to offer sponsored swim lessons to young adults with a local instructor. They have no other projects scheduled for the summer.

## CLUB BEAMS

### FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB (continued)... Sharon Dundon

The assistance for One More Child doesn't stop with one project. On September 11<sup>th</sup> a virtual charity event was held to benefit the organization. Lee Conrey our chairperson along with our members who are "Stampin' Up! Demonstrators" demonstrated five Christmas cards and supplied the materials to their guests who participated in the event. Other members and guest donated diapers and wipes for the children in foster care which helped too. Some members donated raffle items to boost the interest and it helped raise the participation and amount raised. Lisa Tyndall, Barbara Slaughter, Lisa Swett and Susan Best participated as demonstrators along with Lee on Zoom. The event was huge a success and raised \$736. Did you know (or do you remember) that a child can go through approximately eight to twelve diapers in a single day. Total number of diapers donated & purchased were 3,236. In addition, 159 pull ups and 4,496 wipes. We are hopeful this will help the foster parents and children.

Showing appreciation to teachers and staff and having fun with the Alden Road Exceptional Students on July 9 was an exciting project for us. We enjoyed being able to interact once again with the students in person at Alden. The members prepared an appreciation luncheon for the teachers and staff. Hot dogs, buns, baked beans, coleslaw, fresh fruit, and yummy brownies were made by the members. The students were treated to the "Critter Caravan" along with three beautiful "Princesses."

Some of students enjoyed the animals and the others enjoyed seeing the Princesses. First Coast Civitan also helped to make possible the appearance of Ariel, the Little Mermaid, Princess Ana and Princess Elsa from Frozen. The princesses also read to some of the students. The students were excited to talk, interact and have their photos made with the princesses. The princesses traveled from Kennesaw, Georgia and are part of the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. It was a great day for the students and the members of First Coast Civitan as we enjoyed watching the smiles, giggles, and interaction of the students with both the animals and the princesses.

**International Awards:** The First Coast Club was awarded "3<sup>rd</sup> Place for Outstanding Youth Project" at the International Convention. Congratulations on a job well done.



### PINE CASTLE CIVITAN CLUB ...

Pine Castle Civitan Club led by Elaine Hall celebrated Memorial Day May 27 with a hybrid meeting showcasing a slide presentation on the history of our country's freedom. The members colored flags in memory of our freedoms.

On June 24, the club celebrated their 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, members birthdays and the birth of our country July 4.





## CLUB BEAMS

### UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Ellen Rubens

Uptowners resumed in-person lunch meetings in June in their new venue, the beautiful Garden Club of Jacksonville in Riverside. Lunches are being catered, but served by member-volunteers. Everyone was so thrilled to be together again!



#### Among our projects:

Several people got together for a delightful dinner and Knitting/Crocheting Session to make hats for charity, on behalf of Uptown. Present were: Linda Weinstein, Ina Taffet, Laura Crooks, Susan Connors, Kimberly Reed, Martha Tromberg, and Ellen Rubens. Among other donations of hats, blankets, and other items, Uptown supported the DESC (Downtown Ecumenical Services Council) annual fundraiser with a \$1,000 sponsorship, in lieu of not being able to facilitate a flagship event this year on their behalf.



Informative programming continued throughout the summer months: Mary Pietan from Women's Giving Alliance, whose mission is to improve the lives of women and girls in Northeast Florida, and inspire women to be strategic philanthropists. WGA embraces research, education, strategic giving, and grant making; Rev. G. Kaufman. His topic was A Different Way of Talking: Appreciating Respectful Disagreement and Seeking Common Ground; past Uptown President Susan Hamilton presented the history of Civitan as well as the history of our Uptown Civitan Club and then installed our three newest members; Rethreaded founder, Kristen Keen, whose organization facilitates job training and security, counseling, and support for victims of human trafficking; Darlene Vaughn of Girls Inc. which promotes education, builds self esteem, and fosters self empowerment and resiliency in school-age girls/young women.

In July ... members volunteered in the Florida District's Hospitality Suite (see full report on page 8) and provided a number of items for the silent auction; Susan Hamilton; Susan Hamilton helped organize the successful and profitable 28th Annual Breakthru Golf Tournament at the Deerwood Golf and Country Club; Joyce DeVillez walked for our club in the Walk & Roll for Research event, Mattie's Uptown Team raised \$2,490; Elaine Hall was a panelist in a workshop on how we can create and execute programs in the Intellectual/Developmentally Delayed Community; Wynester Sherrer presented in a workshop on making sure that service projects are meaningful to a club's membership; Diana Flagg, Past President, and Uptowners accepted the Shropshire Award for 2019-2020 (see picture on page 7). Uptown was awarded 2nd place in the outstanding club newsletter category!!! Much appreciation to Mattie Fraser for her role as editor.

We were proud to see Uptowner Lana Suggs Champion and Florida District Governor receive the Civitan International Honor Key at the convention in July. Congratulations, Lana!!



## CLUB BEAMS

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

#### CITRUS CIVITAN CLUB...

I spoke with Scott Fricke, President Elect. They have continued to have their monthly meetings. They have not done any projects this past quarter but they have been planning upcoming projects. They have partnered with Quest which is a non-profit agency that supports adults with Intellectual Disabilities. They own several group homes and Citrus Civitan chooses one group home and buys Christmas for the ten consumers that live there and they also decorate a Christmas Tree. They are planning a beach bash and/or a Halloween party for them. They are also planning a Valentines Day party/dance.

#### FRONTIER CIVITAN CLUB ...

I spoke with Roberta Shoopman, President. There is no activity for this club at this time.

#### ORLANDO CIVITAN CLUB ...

I spoke with Sandy Sanders, President. He reports that they are plugging along with their five members. They have not had any meetings this quarter. He is looking forward to fruit cake sales. They sell about 55 cases; 44 going to one CPA office. They also sponsor an event at Christmas for the Magnolia School where they have Santa Claus come and bring gifts. He reports that they are in a good financial situation.

#### SUNSET CIVITAN CLUB ...

Phyllis LaVigna and I attended the International Convention and got a lot of good training and came home with good ideas to implement this upcoming year. Our treasurer John Schoch attended virtually.

We also gave two scholarships to the Chiles Academy. This is a program so young unwed Mothers can finish high school. We also gave out Citizenship Awards to several local elementary 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

We had a general meeting and a going away party for our dear Mary Kay Pyles who has moved to Ohio. She has been a very valuable asset to our club and will be dearly missed. We also had another meeting at Our Deck Down Under and a wonderful generous gentleman heard me speaking and was so touched by what we do that he paid for our entire dinners (13).

We have had several board meetings to plan our upcoming fund raisers. Our end of the year banquet and installation of officers is September 13 and we are looking forward to that.



## CLUB BEAMS

### Area 4 Club Happenings & Projects ... From Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Tampa Metro Area 4 Director Jeanne Davison

All area 3 clubs have participated in recent Special Olympics competitions as they transition back in to limited play. Only St. Petersburg currently meets in person. Tampa Metro had planned to return in October but with the recent surge will probably hold off longer. St. Pete & Tampa Metro have full slates of officers. .



### CLEARWATER CIVITAN CLUB ... Sue Meier

Jeannie Davison and Sue Meier worked at the annual Homeless Empowerment Program Golf tournament. Clearwater Civitans have manned the putting contest for many years for the Otis Green/Bruce Fyfe memorial golf tournament, a fundraiser for the HEP veterans' program. This year it was at Innisbrook and raised over \$100,000. We were able to "Talk Civitan" to a couple of other volunteers who had never heard of Civitan. Ironically, we represented two of the oldest clubs in the District - St Petersburg 100 years and Clearwater almost 70 years. Sue Meier attended the District meeting, bringing several items for the silent auction, and helping celebrate with St Petersburg on their 100 years.

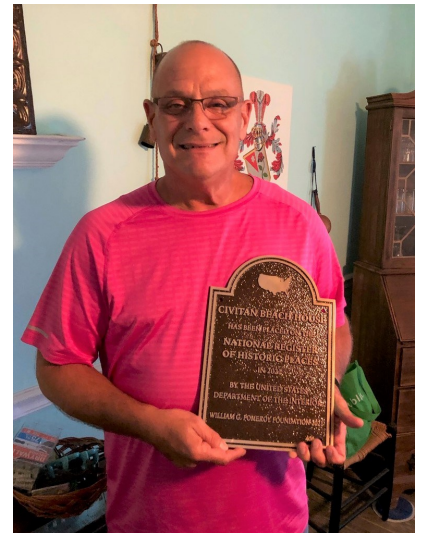
### ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Jan Ward

The Beach House received acceptance to the National Registry of Historic Places and we unveiled our two new plaques. One small one will be placed on the outside of the Beach House building and the larger one will be placed on a stand in front of the building. Thanks to Lauren Heckert for all his diligent work to make this happen.

We are still taking orders for custom memorial bricks to be placed around our flagpole, in conjunction with our 100th year anniversary. We are offering an engraved brick, that will be prominently displayed at our Beach House where they will honor your families' membership in our historic club. The bricks are \$100 which will include up to 3 lines of personalized engraving of your choice. This is a great way to memorialize your participation in the activities of our club. You can find out more info and place your order here, <https://stpetecivitan.org/thats-my-brick/>

Congratulations to our own Bonnie Ruth, Governor of the Florida District.

We closed out the District Convention, which was held at our Beach House, with our Centennial Anniversary celebration. In attendance was the Indian Shores Mayor, Patrick Soranno, Council Member, Mike Petrocelli and his guest Betty. Four Chaplin's awards were given to Paul Russo, Director/CEO Bay Pines VA Healthcare Administration and Frank Kelly, Civitan International President.



## CLUB BEAMS

### ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB (Continued) ... Jan Ward

**St Petersburg Civitan Club 2021-2022 Officer Installation ...** Sunday, September 26, Governor Bonnie Ruth installed the St Petersburg Civitan Club officers and board members for 2021-22.

Pictured above 1-r: Bonnie Ruth FL District Governor; Norm Bungard, Director; Lauren Heckert, Secretary/Treasurer; Eddie Pringle, President-Elect; Jan Ward, President; (seated) Jim Belcher, Past-President; St Pete Civitan Foundation Board members: (standing) Pete Meydag, Foundation President; Ron Wanek, Foundation Treasurer; (seated) Mary Ann Fisher, Foundation Secretary; also pictured (standing on rt) guest Barbara Clark.



### TAMPA METRO ... Lori Clapp

Summer really heated up with lots of Special Olympics activity! As reported before, Tampa Metro is in charge of all Special Olympics competitions held in the greater Tampa Bay area. Since the last **Sunbeam**, we have managed awards at Stand Up Paddleboard in Wesley Chapel; two separate Bowling competitions held on the same day, one in Brandon and one in Seminole with support from St. Petersburg Civitans; a very hectic 2-county swim meet in Clearwater; and an even bigger and much hotter 5-county swim meet in St. Petersburg. We are deeply grateful to Clearwater and St. Pete Civitans for enduring the heat to volunteer with us.



By the time the **Sunbeam** is published we will have also done the Tampa Bay Fall Classic for Powerlifting, Softball, Flag Football and a new sport, Pickleball. We will have organized up to four separate awards teams on the same day for this event. The 5-county Area Fall Classic October 9 will require 5 separate awards teams, with the addition of Gymnastics. Tampa Bay and Area Golf are also coming up in late September and October.

In addition, we fielded a *Tampa Metro Walk and Roll for Research* team and was one of the top fundraising team for the Civitan International Research Center (raising \$1,645). Some of us walked at this fun and worthwhile event at the International Convention in Jacksonville and virtually, as well. We are grateful to the District and individuals who donated to our team's fundraising.

We had hoped to resume in-person club meetings and socials, but due to the surge in COVID cases once again, we continue to meet virtually. Incoming Governor Bonnie Ruth installed our officers via Zoom on October 4.





## CLUB BEAMS

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

#### MARCO ISLAND CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

Due to the pandemic, Camp Able was offered only to special children and adults in Collier County. They did not stay overnight. Parents and caretakers picked them up from the facility. The Civitan Pizza Party was a luncheon instead. About 100 campers, caretakers and volunteers enjoyed the delicious Napoli pizza and listened to the music played by Bob Kircher. It was a very nice, enjoyable event.



#### NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

##### Editor notes:

Naples President Lisa Giuttari received Honor Club recognition for 2019-2020 from the Governor for that year, Wynester Sherrer at the District Convention on September 10, 2021.

Naples also recognition at the Civitan International Convention in July when Naples received 1st place for Outstanding Club Newsletter for newsletter editor Nery Kircher.



## CLUB BEAMS

### NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Continued

Due to the pandemic, the main project of the Naples Civitan Club, Valentine's Dinner Dance, for special adults was canceled. Instead, club members, together with members of the Naples and Golden Gate Junior Civitan Clubs, participated at the Tim Tebow Night to Shine event.

This year was different because instead of these special graduates walking into their Prom Dance at a hotel, brought in limos, it was a parade in the park.

Many high school cheerleaders were there, together with the Civitans cheering all these special graduates while they were parading around the park in their parents, family members or caretakers cars.



They were also given bags containing their dinner and gifts. We all had a very enjoyable time!



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

The board approved our annual flea market; incoming president Susan Gazella will contact B&A Flea market manager for free tables in early November. This is an "all hands on deck" project so all members should plan on saving the date (when approved) and start saving items now to contribute and to work a few hours the day of the sale. Buyers should be down for the winter months and with three tables, we need "watchers" and "sellers" to help with sales. Last year our profit was \$600 and we have a big start already with bins of items from Polly as she prepares for her move into her daughter's house, hopefully before the end of the year.

The Martin County Fair is hosting a "Christmas Carnival of Lights" at the fairgrounds, an 800' walking tour of lights plus attractions running for four weeks through the month of December. Our club will be providing a decorated tree and advertising about our club. This is a service project.

Officers for 2021-2022 have been elected with Susan Gazella as president and Jeanne Dillon President-Elect; Polly Forestier will be secretary/treasurer.



# PICTURES FROM CONVENTIONS (CI & DISTRICT)



**CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL PICTURES ABOVE/ DISTRICT PICTURES BELOW**



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## The Florida Sunbeam

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FLORIDA DISTRICT WEB SITE ... *under construction*

## 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.