

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2021

Opening: A regular meeting at Perkins/Lady Lake was called to order by the sounding of the bell at 9:15 a.m., by President Mary Anderson who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 25 members and guests in attendance including the speakers. Mary passed the Happy Box with \$22 being collected. Tory Palivoda shared an inspirational reading.

New Members: Two guests decided to join during the meeting. We welcomed Diane Kupchak and Debbie Abbott. Laura McLaughlin introduced her friend, Linda Meng, who is very interested in HCC.

Center Hill Children's Mission was today's program. Director BettyAnn Klein brought her two Student Helpers, Maisie Veiga and Noemi Arallano, who have been part of this after-school program since they were toddlers. After each spoke of their involvement and a very enthusiastic Q&A period, we all gained an in-depth and heartfelt understanding of this safe, fun, loving and God-soaked environment for kids ages 5 to 12 to learn and grow.

Laura then told us of a **Christmas Party** that is being planned at Center Hill complete with Santa Joe and presents for each child. Karen Goodman had a list of names (boy/girl/age) that were then picked by members to provide individual gifts at the party. More details to follow.

Old Business: It's time to pay your annual Membership Dues. Email notices were sent with details on how to get your check to Treasurer Karen Goodman. \$150 for the year or \$40 quarterly.

New Business: Secretary Judi Higbee will be traveling during the next couple of months and Treasurer Karen Goodman has graciously offered to take minutes during her absence. The officer position of President-Elect is still open.

We have **new magnetic nametags!** Thanks to Judi and John Higbee for designing and obtaining them through Custom Apparel at Southern Trace. They can be ordered online, one at a time or multiples with in-store pickup. The initial nametag is a benefit of membership and provided by HCC. Replacements are the individual's responsibility at \$6 each.

An **Awards Committee** has been formed to review the criteria for CI club achievement awards. They will verify compliance for Honor Club, suggest awards to apply for, and oversee award application submissions - Outstanding Community Project, Outstanding Club Website, Outstanding Club Newsletter, Outstanding Civitan Awareness Project, and the Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Award for Outstanding Club. Committee members are Judi Higbee, Laura McLaughlin and Betty Rohan, Chair.

Collaboration of Hometown and Leesburg Clubs – Co-Member Deb McCoy is the new President of Leesburg Civitan Club, and they are very active in Best Buddies International. The program's main purpose is to allow volunteers to be paired up with a buddy with an intellectual and/or developmental disability and provide them with a friend or a mentor. Deb will arrange for a joint meeting to see how we can cooperate on the special service project.

Projects and Committee Reports:

Community Service – Laura McLaughlin – **Adopt-A-Precinct 2022 early voting dates are August 13 through 20 (8 days) and October 25 through November 5 (12 days)**. Mark your calendars to keep those dates open. Thirty-five (35) volunteers are needed, so recruit your friends and neighbors so they can keep their schedules open as well.

Fundraising – Karen Schwering has reserved a room at Eisenhower Regional Center for a Bunco fundraiser on January 17, 2022. The goal will be to sell 100 tickets. Further details to follow.

Membership – Shirlee Thaler has resigned as committee chair. Sharlene Floam has accepted that responsibility with the help of Ellen Grivas. They will be provided with the list of duties, procedures and supplies of that position.

New Member Sponsors Sharlene Floam and Ellen Grivas will receive the special Starfish pin award for meeting the challenge put forth by CI President Frank Kelly to bring in a new club member by the end of September 2021. We look forward to their 'showing off' when received from Pres. Kelly.

Publicity – Laura McLaughlin – On September 23, a beautiful article by Andrea Davis appeared in the Daily Sun highlighting last month's meeting when we presented six of our charities with checks for money we earned through the Adopt-A-Precinct community project fundraiser.

Social – Lana Rosenberg – The Pool Party is finally going to take place at the home of Chickie Holtzman on November 4th. A reminder invitation will be sent.

The next social will be in January with lunch in Ocala followed by a visit at 2:30 to our charity Marion Therapeutic Riding Assn. Details to follow. This will be a Must Attend Event!

Newsletter – Diane Seymour published the latest issue on 9/28 – five full pages of outstanding coverage of our club's 'Happenings'.

Website – Judi Higbee – The Webmaster updates the website nearly daily with 'In The News' items including Hometown Happenings newsletter, 'Photo Gallery' submissions, additions to the 'Event Calendar' that lists all meetings and speakers. www.hometowncivitanclub.com

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. by Mary who led us in the Civitan Creed. The next club meeting will be November 2, speaker Nery Kircher. The next BOD meeting will be October 19.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary.

Attendees: Debbie Abbott, Mary Anderson, Sue Ann Baker, Sharlene Floam, Paula Goldstein, Karen Goodman, Claire Gore, Ellen Grivas, Beth Halstead, Judi Higbee, Chickie Holtzman, Arlene Kaplan, Diane Kupchak, Marilyn Laurent, Laura McLaughlin, Tory Palivoda, Betty Rohan, Lana Rosenberg, Karen Schwering, Diane Seymour, Kris Tygrett, Laura's guest Linda Meng; speakers BettyAnn Klein, Maisie Veiga, Noemi Arallano.