

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB MEETING Minutes updated 8/14/2024

August 6, 2024

Evans Prairie Restaurant

OPENING: Call to order at 10:40. Laura McLaughlin welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance and Civitan Creed.

PROGRAM: Deb McCoy presented the History of the Leesburg Civitan Club which recently turned in their charter and several of their remaining members joined Hometown Civitan. The Leesburg club was active from 1965 until 2023, 58 years!

The Leesburg Club started as an all-men's club in 1965, Deb was the first women to join in 1997 and four years later was their President. She also served as Governor for the State of Florida, and in that role developed 4 new clubs. In the early days of the club, it was a civic club as well as opportunity for business connections, before the days of the internet. Recruiting new members was difficult and moved from business connections to people in fields related to developmental disabilities. The club held many fund raisers and had four main charities. They were – Sunrise ARC, they helped raise money to build the adult day training building, Boys and Girls Club of Lake/Sumter, Ronald McDonald House and Best Buddies. They encouraged these charities to send one of their members to be a member of the Civitan Club.

Finally in 2023 when the club was down to 7 aging members living in 4 different counties. It was time to turn in their charter.

Deb mentioned the things she felt were important for success:

- Members need to feel welcome
- Let the newspaper know what you are doing
- Enjoy what you are doing. Have a passion for what you are doing.
- Business Cards with Civitan Creed on the back
- Go to conventions, meet others

SOCIAL: August Birthdays: 1st – Sandra Pugrant, 8th – Mary Anderson

Lana reported that she is working on setting up a luncheon this month, she will email everyone with the information. The Happy Box collected \$22.55.

MEETING: Last month (July) Civitan International celebrated the 50th anniversary of Women in Civitan. They were the first American civic service organization to admit women to their membership (ahead of Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.). Judi is attending the CI Annual Convention this week in Albuquerque, NM.

1. New Member Laura Wall was initiated, Laura McLaughlin presented her pin.
2. Election of Officers: As all four officers (president, secretary, treasurer and president-elect) have agreed to serve another year, there is no need to have an election. Thank you, ladies, for continuing with your responsibilities.

3. Laura McLaughlin announced the establishment of Hometown Charities, Inc., a 501c3, this new entity will work hand in hand with Hometown Civitan. A 501c3 enables us to manage our own money that we earned doing the Adopt a Precinct project and accept tax free donations from others. We have received the money that was held at Civitan International for us and is now in our Hometown Charities bank account. This is the result of over a year's work researching and documenting and applying for this new entity.

The club thanks Laura McLaughlin for her leadership on this important project.

Our website has been totally updated with the new logo, a new video and addition to Club History – 2024.

4. August 20 is our big fundraising event when 17 volunteers work the polls on Primary Election Day for Adopt-A-Precinct. Their earnings will be about \$4,000 that are donated to Hometown Charities, Inc.
5. Volunteering for our charities: Arlene Kaplan handed out a list of the charities that we are supporting and the contact person for each charity. She also handed out volunteer forms that members will fill out when they volunteer for any of these projects. Gathering this information is important to track our "gift in time" hours not just our financial contributions to charities. There are 2 charities that still need someone as a contact person/ leader for that charity. Contact Arlene if you want more information about this. Both handouts are attached to the email with these minutes.
6. The next club meeting will be September 3rd with the presentation of our grants.
7. Next Board meeting: August 21 at Trillium Rec. Center.

Betty Rohan introduced her guest Jenifer Thompson who is president of the American Association of University Women club in the Villages. She explained how helpful having a 501c3 designation has helped them with soliciting and receiving donations. One example is when you are taking your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA you can direct it to a 501c3 organization and it is considered your RMD withdrawal and is not taxable to you.

ADJOURNMENT: at 11:38 Lunch followed.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Dando

14 members and 2 guests attended. Guests Jenifer Thompson and Cathy Gooding.