

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2022

Opening: A regular meeting at The Oaks Restaurant & Lounge, Continental Country Club was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Mary Anderson who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 20 members in attendance and 2 guest speakers. Mary passed the Happy Box with \$21 being collected. Tory's Moment of Inspiration was several quotes about remaining positive through adversity. Judi thanked her for the beautiful card Tory sent from the club about recovery in response to her breast cancer diagnosis.

Program/Speaker: Past Club President Penny Badolato provided us with background information on **Rebecca Randall, HCC member and Director of Development for Hand In Hand/Ruth House.** Club Founder Betty Rohan told us that it was because of Rebecca that she chose Ruth House to be the first charity Hometown would work to support. In fact, we subsequently provided funds for a new roof on their main building. Rebecca invited all club members to a tour of the home in Eustis and lunch with the residents. Lana will coordinate that social event to be later in May.

It was in 1997 that Rebecca founded Ruth House, a transitional shelter home for women suffering from addiction. In 2016, they merged with a similar program for men to form Hand In Hand, maintaining separate facilities. The first step of that program is establishing a baseline of issues and needs. Level 2 is attending classes and working through the program. Level 3 provides them the opportunity to get a job. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday they go out into the community and do yard/lawn/garden work, clear/clean parks for the County Commission, local church projects. Their earnings go to pay off the \$500 program entrance fee, their only financial burden. Level 4 is graduation, but they do not have to leave the home. The current home capacity is fourteen women. A second house has been purchased that will be available in June to house eight Level 3 and 4 gals. The program is faith-based so there can be no government funding. Fund raising is a social enterprise and there are numerous projects throughout the year like a Glow In The Dark Golf event. Their Purses of Purpose Tea on 2/19/22 was attended by over 300 women and drew in \$51,000. Grants from Hometown Civitan Club and other organizations provide additional funding. Rebecca then introduced Amy and Angela who told us their personal stories and the impact this special organization has had on their lives.

Business Meeting: April is Civitan Awareness Month

- **Hometown has earned the Civitan International Honor Club of Excellence award** that will be announced in the May 2022 issue of Civitan Magazine.
- **Evelyn & Arthur continues its support of Ruth House** by collecting donations and giving a percentage of sales.

- **Community Service** - Adopt-A-Precinct program. Laura and Sue Ann have completed the organization of volunteer poll workers and all have been contacted by the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections Office as to the next step - training for their assigned positions.
- **Stewardship** – A newly-created position which is custodian of the club's property (banners, brass bell, American flag, laminated creed handouts, etc.) Ilene Hyams has volunteered to accept the responsibility of steward. Thank you, Ilene!
- **Florida District Spring Meeting via Zoom** will be April 9 at 9:30 a.m. Judi will attend and report to the Board.
- **2022 Civitan International Convention** - July 4-7 in San Antonio, TX (Civitan.org) Registration and designation of voting delegates needs to be done by May 16.
- **Next Social** –April 26 – Luna Sea Alpaca Farm in Clermont at 10:30 a.m. (Contact Lana)

Next Club Meeting & Program: May 3, 2022 – **All About Hometown, what we do & how we do it.**

Website: www.HometownCivitanClub.com Source for Calendar of Events, Latest News, Photos & Videos, Who We Are and How We Serve, New Member information.

Adjournment: Mary led us in reciting the Civitan Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next BOD meeting will be April 19 at Karen Goodman's house.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary.

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Penny Badolato, Sue Ann Baker, Karen Chlebek, Kay Dando, Carol Dawson, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Paula Goldstein, Karen Goodman, Jackie Harris, Judi Higbee, Ilene Hyams, Arlene Kaplan, Laura McLaughlin, Tory Palivoda, Rebecca Randall, Betty Rohan, Lana Rosenberg, Diane Seymour.