

## **HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB MEETING MINUTES**

**February 3, 2026      10:45 a.m.      Evans Prairie CC Restaurant**

[www.HometownCivitanClub.org](http://www.HometownCivitanClub.org)

[www.HometownCharities.org](http://www.HometownCharities.org)

**WELCOME:** President Deb McCoy opened the meeting by welcoming everyone then leading us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Civitan Creed.

Deb introduced two guests of Lana Rosenberg (who couldn't attend): Jackie Wasserman and Jan Weinraub who are both very interested in our club and working with 501(c)(3) organizations supporting the needy. We then passed the Happy Box – many were glad to be warm in this cold weather.

**PROGRAM:** 'Celebrate Differences' speaker Rebecca Christiansen brought her son Ryan – they were featured on the front page of today's Daily Sun with full article and pictures.

Celebrate Differences, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities that foster independence, purpose, and full participation in community life. Their Board of Directors (5) is a focal communication point for the IDD community and their caregivers; they provide a calendar of all of the activities, workshops, meetings in The Villages area (for example Special Olympics and S.T.A.R.). They provide programs and resources to help individuals lead meaningful lives in their communities – adaptive yoga, training to apply for jobs in the community, Family Connections program, Family Care Council, Walking Club, More Opportunities for Rewarding Experiences.

Rebecca provided a signup sheet to volunteer to help with their programs and activities. Several of us gave our contact information and will be notified of ways we can participate.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Seven members and at least four former members attended the Celebration of Life for Penny Badolato last Saturday. The club gave a donation of \$250 in her memory to Hand in Hand/Ruth House that was her favorite charity for ten years.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Attendance: Nine including Lana's guests. Cathy has covid. Doris, Betty and Lana all had conflicting appointments.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: (Judi Higbee is coordinator.)

1. The winter Giving Clubs Showcase is Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 10-2 at the Lake Miona Recreation Center. Judi and Maureen will set up at 9:30, Deb will come at 10:30, Mary will come at noon and Maureen will be back to help pack up at 2:00 p.m.
2. When members volunteer at other charities like the Food Bank or Operation Shoebox, they are asked to complete a Volunteer Activity Form. Maureen will complete one for her work with the Wildwood Soup Kitchen. Deb will complete a Project Evaluation form for the Ronald McDonald House dinner project.

SOCIAL: (Lana and Doris are coordinators.)

1. Several members indicated their interest in going to The Ancient Olive for tasting of olive oils and aged balsamic vinegars with cooking instructions. Another suggestion was The Spice & Tea Exchange in Brownwood.
2. Happy Birthday to Kay Dando on the 13<sup>th</sup> and Ilene Hyams on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Door Prize was given to guests Jan and Jackie – a Civitan coaster for their car's cupholder.

NEXT CLUB MEETING: March 3, 2026.

NEXT CHARITIES & CLUB BOARD MEETINGS: February 18, café at 9am, 9:30 meeting at Fruitland Park Library.

Judi Higbee, Secretary

2/4/26