

FLORIDA



SUNBEAM

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

Good morning FL District Civitan leaders ...Welcome to 2022! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

We are getting off on to a good start; Civitan International is preparing to move into their new offices; Civitan Clubs are meeting and serving in person after nearly 2 years in lockdown; new Civitan Clubs are forming; and members are inviting their friends to help volunteer and to join. This year, I encourage each Club to ADD at least 10% to your membership (in most cases, that can bring our District membership back to 2020 – pre-pandemic levels). This will be a great year for Civitan!

Recently, I read an article ranking the most innovative organizations of 2021. It noted the most successful on the list had four things in common.

1. They create systems for continuous improvement of services;
2. They exploit their successes;
3. They *STOP* doing things that no longer provide value;
4. They create a different tomorrow by changing or replacing even their most successful projects!

I want to encourage each of you to take some time as you kick off 2022 to do an objective assessment of what your community **NEEDS** in light of the services you can offer. Focus on which of the four Impact Areas addresses the **NEEDS** you identify. **ASK** if your programs are directed to meet current **NEEDS**. **ASK** if changes to current programs could improve your ability to address **NEEDS**. **ASK** if a new or different approach would have a greater **IMPACT** in addressing **NEEDS**. There is a wealth of experience among our Florida District Clubs. If you are working to address, or seek direction in addressing a need, it's likely another Club has some wisdom to offer. Also, formal Needs Assessment tools are available.

This quarter the FL District Civitan Clubs will be holding Area-wide meetings. One of my mentors told me, "You cannot teach what others know; teach what you know." The Area-wide meetings are your forum to **SHARE YOUR SUCCESSES** and to gain **WISDOM**. Please make your plans to participate with your fellow FL Civitans to learn from one another and seek ways to improve your impact in each community you serve. Relate how your Club's programs focus on addressing the four Impact Areas: Accessible & Inclusive Communities; Education & Employment; Health & Wellness; Family & Community Support. Exploit the experiential advice offered by your fellow FL Civitans, as well as the resources from Civitan International. The strength of our Civitan Organization is our common mission met with our diversity. We share the mission of addressing the **NEEDS** in our individual communities through programs as diverse as our members.

I take great pride in being a part of Civitan! We are **Champions of Service – Believers.**
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***Historian****Training Coordinator:***Lori Clapp***Junior / Campus Civitan:***Niki Lockett***New Club Building***Wynester Sherrer***Philanthropic Ambassador***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

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

April

April 1

April 1

April 1

April 7

April 8

April 29

May

May 1

June

June 11

June 22-23

June 22

June 30

July

July 4—7

July 1

July 1

July 1

July 27

August

August 15

August 31

September

September 9

September 10-11

September 30

October

October 1

October

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

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 & 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**Note: Awards Chair—Lana Suggs Champion**

Governor-Elect ... Penny Bonawitz

Can you BELIEVE it is January already and a new year? It is time to re-energize and look forward to all the great things we can accomplish together. Let's DREAM (next year we will be DREAMERS) bigger and do more!

Maya Angelou said "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have"

This spring I BELIEVE we can design some amazing and creative projects that we have only DREAMed of before. Ask new members for their ideas for projects that impact their lives. Look at the Impact Areas and take a deep dive into one of them by creating a new event or even going for the grant. Challenge yourselves and your club to do something different this spring. I BELIEVE big things are going to be happening in the Fabulous Florida District this year and I am very glad to be part of it.



Website ... Penny Bonawitz

The Fabulous Florida District website continues to be updated with the help of club members. Each club has a page on our district website which includes links to their personal website and social media accounts. Clubs should send some updates and photos of current projects to civitanpenny@gmail.com to be posted on their page and on our district social media pages. **Because of some domain ownership issues with floridacivitan.org and not being able to add an SSL for security, I have had to change and update the domain to floridacivitan.com. Both the .org and .com addresses will work for the next year and after that only the .com. Please make a note of the new and updated website address floridacivitan.com.**

Social media pages on Facebook and Instagram are being posted twice weekly with updates, inspiration, and club news. Please send any item you would like posted to civitanpenny@gmail.com for posting. Also, please ask all club members to FOLLOW as well as like posts. We are trying to get our name out there and the more followers the better! Both are searchable as Florida Civitan District.

Chaplain's Corner ... Norm Bungard

Remember the Civitan pledge. Pray for members and families for health and well being. Pray for condolences to those who have suffered loss of family and friends.



Greetings to Civitan neighbors throughout Florida. The new year brings hope and renewal. I recall so well, Past President Frank Kelley's inspired words of Hope in his inaugural speech.

The challenge we all faced were daunting and they continue. We as believers held fast to Hope. Our mission is God given and we will prevail. My daily prayers include a petition for order and clarity in my life. I know as you do, pray has meaning and all prayer of the Faithful is answered.

Once we hear the call, it is ours to follow or procrastinate and forget. We are all challenged in many ways and sometimes ask God the eternal question of WHY? It is mine and yours to serve. Now.

I am requesting each member review the attached photos. They are of the ceiling in a favorite haunt, the Madeira Beach Library. After reading daily periodicals I was moved to simply ponder. As I raised my eyes, I witnessed the metaphors of the ceiling lights: Order and Light. Do you agree?

Please send me one of your finest examples of individual or club examples of Hope expressed and reality and order prevailing. I will share them with you. My email address is habhous@aol.com

Respectfully Norm Bungard, District Chaplain

Awards Committee ... Lana Suggs Champion

An outside organization (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority) has been selected to judge the Competitive Awards submitted on December 1, 2021. These awards will be presented at our April, 2022 Spring Meeting. I was a bit disappointed that only three (3) of our 19 clubs submitted applications to be considered. When only one club in the 30-above category and two clubs in the 29-below category submit applications, the process is no longer considered competitive awards by definition. Club Newsletters indicate that clubs are doing outstanding projects and receiving all sorts of recognition within their communities but applying for District Awards/District recognition does not appear to interest the majority of them. As a Board, is this something we need to revisit?



Of course, Civitan International will furnish information and Banner Patches for Candy Box and Civitans at the Helm. Hopefully by April, I will have received information from International regarding Honor Clubs and Distinguished Presidents for those clubs who applied.

We say this all the time, you can't compete if you don't have any skin in the game... you have to apply to be considered.

Candy/Coin Boxes ... Polly Forestier

I have not received a report with figures from International but they have their hands full with moving world headquarters. It's my hope that the chairs that have been appointed and places for boxes have been searched out and placed. This is the best time of the year to increase revenue because most people feel good about giving to those less fortunate.

If your box is clean and neat, filled with mints or a sign showing what the money is going for it will probably produce. Take advantage of the opportunity and check your boxes more often! Revenue has been down because many restaurants were not open or open limited hours but I think people are anxious to get "back to normal" which means eating out again.

Thank you for what you do to help lead your clubs in word and deed. An occasional lift of spirits is rewarding and everyone loves a pat on the back for their efforts. I wish each of your clubs a growth in membership, new enthusiasm among the members and a service-giving year of fellowship and new meaning to helping others. May God bless you all.



Junior Civitan ... Niki Lockett, Junior Chair

The Florida Junior Civitan District has been working through the holidays to provide for our community and make the world a better place. The Florida Board held their annual District Meeting on November 21, 2021 where the district project, MANA Bags, were discussed as well as other important new year business. MANA Bags are small gallon sized bags filled with hygiene products and non-perishables that can be easily distributed to shelters. Some clubs that attended the District Meeting include Robinson "Noble" Junior Civitan and Sandalwood High Junior Civitan. Both clubs have been extremely active with Sandalwood hosting book drives and participating at Hope's Closet and Robinson "Noble" hosting their annual Break the Silence Basketball Game to raise awareness for domestic violence.

On the horizon, the District Convention is going to be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Currently the allotted time for the meeting is from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the location is tentative but will be announced soon. At the District Convention, Civitans will run for the 2022-2023 District Board, receive scholarships, listen to special guest speakers, do fun team building activities, community service, and many more leadership activities. At the end of the meeting, Club awards, such as Most Club Growth, will be presented.



Marina Werkmeister
Florida District Junior Secretary

Growth & Retention/New Clubs ... Wynester Sherrer

Building new clubs, maintaining growth and retention of membership, is very important to the survival of Civitan International. New clubs equals more members, which equals revenues for Civitan International and the research center. It is very difficult to imagine what this world would be like without Civitans, the service we give, and the impact we have in the lives of others around the world.

The global pandemics as well as challenges and changes at our headquarters, city, and state appears to have produced a sense of caution and apprehensiveness. However, we are Civitans, as old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time. As we step into 2022, let's resolve to look for others to join this awesome organization.

Here's a challenge to you and clubs in the surrounding areas. Within the next eight months, step outside of your comfort zone and believe that you can add a new member and build a new club. How? Have an awesome recruitment party, with testimonials from members, display your scrapbooks, awards, and examples of your community service projects.

Another suggestion would be to consider a special rate for family membership that would possibly bring in a younger group. Then too, it would be awesome for clubs in our district to collaborate with each other on their outstanding community projects that could be replicated or duplicated by struggling clubs looking for new and fresh ideas for the community that may draw members or help build another club.



Nominations Committee ... Lana Suggs Champion

Based on the January 18, 2022 Update from World Headquarters, the administrative function of districts will be eliminated with an effective date of October 1, 2022. Under our current Bylaws, the districts still exist but the International Board is tasked to define their future role. It appears to be a moot issue to solicit applicants to fill the upcoming vacant positions: Governor -Elect, Area 2 Director, Area 4 Director and Elected Past Governor Director.

We've been invited to review those documents at Renew by 22/Civitan International and to pay particular attention to Leadership Councils-Explained, Sample Regional Support, Regional Fee Explainer and the FAQ. The Update further advised that these documents will be reviewed and modified as necessary by the Board but we are invited to reach out to our Regional Director, President Dan Brown, President-Elect JoAnn O'Toole or Past Int'l President Frank Kelley with any questions. You can also email pr@civitan.org.

Regardless to the changes that are taking place in our beloved organization, we will continue to serve our local communities and make a difference in the lives of those we touch.



Philanthropy Report ... Lori Clapp, Ambassador

Happy New Year everyone! May 2022 bring you joy, peace, good health and good fortune. I hope you will spread these to family, friends, your community and Civitan. As Minor Meyers, Jr. said **“Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good.”**

The Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) remains the Flagship Project for our organization. Through our donations via the Civitans at the Helm (CATH) program, we help CIRC attract top talent and fund the programs which have enabled them to emerge as a world leader in the research and treatment of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) which impact the lives of one in six people worldwide. As of this writing, the 2020-2021 CATH year-end report has not been finalized. Civitan is awaiting the final report from Chesapeake's Foundation to apply the matching funds to clubs. The report will be sent to the District Board and club presidents when received. I did receive the 2021-2022 1st Quarter report (Oct – Dec). I'm happy to report that 8 clubs have already achieved one of CATH levels!



Please consider giving generously to CIRC as individuals and clubs. In addition, your contributions to All-In-Summit (**Due February 1!**), Dance-A-Thon, Break Through Golf Benefit and Walk & Roll for Research also count toward Civitans at the Helm. Just remember to send your donations to Civitan International, rather than directly to CIRC, noting the donation is to be applied to CIRC via Civitans at the Helm and provide your club name for CATH credit. Do this as early as possible so your donation might be matched 1 for 1, by the Chesapeake District's foundation, which is applied at a "first donated, first matched" basis.

Now may be a good time for your club to consider honoring a deserving Civitan, Junior Civitan, Junior Advisor, or supporter with a Civitan or Junior Civitan Fellow. It can be especially meaningful to have the Junior Fellow presented at the Junior District Convention, this year scheduled for March 26. The July International Convention in San Antonio would be a great place to have the other Fellows presented. Junior Civitan Fellows should be filed soon if you want to have it presented at the Junior Convention. But you can even start the process now for the other Fellows, while you continue to build the funds for the honor to be presented later.

As always, checkout <https://civitan.org/support-programs/> to get the various Fellows options as well as to learn more about other ways you can help Civitan, the Research Center and maybe even gain some tax advantages too.

USA Special Olympics ... Lori Clapp

Calling everyone who loves Special Olympics! The Special Olympics USA Games will be held June 5-12 throughout the greater Orlando area, with many competitions at ESPN's Wide World of Sports in Disney World. They need MANY volunteers!

Tampa Metro Civitan is in charge of Equestrian Awards Preparation and Staging June 8, 9, and 10 at Osceola Heritage Park's Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee and they would love others to join them!

If you are interested, please contact Jeanne Davison (civexgovjd@aol.com) or Lori Clapp (lori.clapp@verizon.net) as soon as you can. For more information about the USA Games, go to: <https://www.2022specialolympicsusagames.org/>.

If you would like to volunteer at any of the activities, with Equestrian Awards or other events, be sure to register, using the links on the USA Games website or <https://volun->



Special Thoughts ... Mattie Fraser

Being a part of Civitan has many different benefits ... for those organizations and those who are helped by the clubs in their communities as well as for us as individuals. This is the reason that many of us joined Civitan. We wanted to add our hands and work with others to make a difference. A side benefit is the opportunity we have to meet others we would never have met if not for being a member of Civitan. I know those I have met have been a truly inspiring part of my life and added tremendous value to my life.

One such person is **Robert Dietz**. Robert joined Civitan in 1984 and served in many capacities at the club and district levels, including Governor of the Sunshine District in 1993-94. His boundless enthusiasm, energy, knowledge, and willingness to serve were notable. When you saw him, you had to smile. He not only devoted himself to building clubs for Civitan, recruiting members etc. but was equally dedicated to his family and others in the community he served in so many ways. *He was also a Master of Trivial Pursuit.*



My heart and prayers go out to his wife, Laura, and children John Edward and Stephanie and their families. Robert was a proud grandfather too. We miss you Robert.

CLUB BEAMS

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

GAINESVILLE CIVITAN CLUB

President Ron Spitznagel reports that they are continuing to meet every Monday in person for lunch at LifeSouth Blood Center. 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 Civitan Club has been actively participating in supporting our charities. Below are photos that depict our member Laura McLaughlin of our Philanthropy Committee handing out our grants awards to 2 of our several deserving charities.



The Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (right). Site visit by several of our members to visit the children and horses. They also were grant recipients.



Betty Ann Klein (left) from Center Hill Children's Mission received her grant from Laura McLaughlin.



Hand n' Hand/Ruth House receiving their grant award. Rebecca Randall is also a member of our Hometown club. (left)

Center Hill Children's Mission December Christmas party with Santa. Their student children received and opened gifts from our members. (right)



CLUB BEAMS

LEESBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

The Leesburg Club participated in Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery in Bushnell. The club plans to make this an annual club event including selling wreaths next year.



The Leesburg club also enjoys attending events sponsored by the Hometown Club. This week Kathy Hall, President/Area Director and Deb McCoy attended a Bunco fundraiser and had a great time!!

We're excited to be in the infancy stages of startup of a Junior Civitan Club at EHS and paperwork is pending. We've had several Zoom calls & we've mailed the startup check to the school advisor along with paperwork to complete and send to CI.

SUNRISE CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

Sadly the Sunrise club has not meet this year due to the adult day program being closed due to Covid-19. New club shirts were donated for their 5 year anniversary in March 2020 and a big party planned but cancelled. The plan for 2022 is to regroup when the program fully reopens and reorganize with the remaining members. Dues are being paid by donations from Leesburg club members, to remain in good standing. We will renew in 22!!

TALLAHASSEE CIVITAN CLUB ... Kathy Hall

President David Portero & his wife both contracted Covid & are dealing with complications which has caused him to be out of the loop on the recent activities in the club. The Tallahassee Club resumed face x face lunch meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month.

They sold Poinsettias which took their sales to another level & fruit cakes were pre-sold & delivered by the first week in December. I will report exact amounts at a later date while David & his family recover. Please keep them in your prayers & thoughts.

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

DWIAC Club will be hosting their 4th Annual Flagship Fundraiser Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 2-5 p.m. There will be lots of fun, food, music, and fellowship at this event. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC). Let us make this a fun and worthy fundraiser benefitting the CIRC. If you would like to help, please consider buying tickets or donating to this cause. In addition to a fabulous meal and entertainment, a silent auction will be held with lots of fabulous gifts, including TV's and a variety of fabulous gift baskets. Mark your calendars and save the date! You do not want to miss this impressive fundraiser!

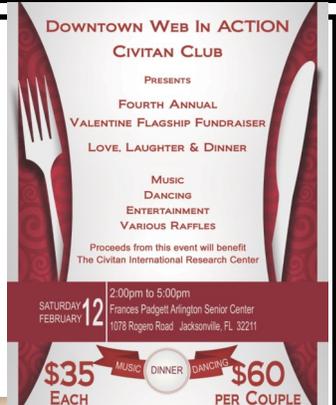
On December 11, 2021, the DWIAC Club hosted a holiday social for club members and guest. Guest included Lana Suggs Champion, Immediate Past Governor, Jean Nestor with the Haiti Mission and Mr. and Mrs. Barry Luxenberg, Director of Operations and Enterprise Trinity Rescue Mission along with many family members and friends. Participants enjoyed a holiday meal, fun, gift exchange and fellowship. In keeping with the season for giving to others, The Trinity Rescue Mission received a check for \$250 and over one hundred toiletry gift bags for those in need. The club also presented their second collection of clothing, shoes, small appliances and other items to Jean Nestor, founder of the Haiti Mission Project which is an ongoing project. Family & Support Services received a check for \$250 to buy Christmas gifts for children in FosterCare.

DWIAC installation Ceremony was held on October 9, 2021. Immediate Past Governor, Lana Suggs Champion was present to officiate the ceremony. Ramona Federico was

pinned as our new President and Wynester Sherrer was pinned as the Immediate Past

President. Other officers include, Barbara Jones, President Elect, Genevie Sherrer, Secretary, Rita McGruder, Treasurer, Ronald Jones, Sergeant at Arms, Robert L. Jackson Jr, Chaplain.

New members Laverne Comer and Janie Ferrioula were not present and will be pinned later.



CLUB BEAMS

FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB ... Sharon Dundon

First Coast Civitan and their Elves in Action ... On December 3, six FCC members met bright and early at Alden Exceptional Student Center in Jacksonville armed with “hundreds of sugar cookies” for the students to decorate. We had five classes come and join in the fun of decorating cookies and eating cookies (some classes preferred to take their cookies with them for later). We bagged up dozens of cookies for students who could not come and join us, and the teachers distributed them to the classrooms. The students were so excited, and it was truly a blessing to be back with the students again after pandemic restrictions. Some of the students showed off their decorating skills and some needed the elves help. Once the classes decorated their cookies, we left the remaining decorations and cookies for the teachers and staff. It was truly a blessing to see the students smiling faces, hear the giggles, see a little dancing and singing for those who wanted to express their joy and excitement. Thank you to all the members who helped bake, donated decorations and their time to make this a very special treat for the students. As we were leaving the school’s assistant principal asked us to come back for Literacy Week to read to the students. We gladly accepted their invitation and it’s on our calendar to share with these students again.



December 4 Lee Conrey, Lisa Tyndall, Susan Best and Lisa Swett conducted a “Be A Blessing Charity Event” via Zoom. Members donated raffle items, and money (for those not into card making). The demonstrators prepared, mailed, or delivered the card set ups to the participants with instructions. Some of the participants gathered in small groups with friends in their homes & joined on Zoom. The event was a big success and it raised \$1,560 so we can help someone with a special need.

The giving did not stop there. The members sponsored a cookie exchange and chili dinner at our December 15th meeting. Members made a couple dozen cookies extra and brought them to the meeting. Members assembled the cookies in containers and placed Christmas tags on them for the 60 seniors at Palm Garden, a Jacksonville health and rehabilitation center. We delivered the cookies on the 17th and shared some time and Christmas cheer with the residents.



PINE CASTLE CIVITAN CLUB ...

During this quarter, the Pine Castle Civitan Club, led by Elaine Hall and a dedicated committee of Uptown members, created Christmas cards for the Uptown Holiday Luncheon in December and decorated Halloween bags and pictures to share with friends. Then their favorite meeting of the year is with Santa who provides a gift and a picture is taken with each member.

Uptown Club has been a sponsor for 32 years. Pine Castle will celebrate it’s 70th anniversary this year. Click on link to view celebration video <https://youtu.be/oY-K9yfZPmY>



CLUB BEAMS

UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Maureen Baiocco

Uptown Civitan has been very active and engaged in serving our Jacksonville community, learning from our wonderful guest speakers, participating in fundraising and fellowship.

Knowledge: In October, our very own member, Stacy Santiago, gave an illuminating presentation on Mindfulness. She emphasized the value of “being aware of what we are paying attention to in each moment.” Practicing mindfulness has many health benefits and improves our cognitive abilities. Rachael Tutwiler Fortune, President of the Jacksonville Public Education Fund, shared information on public education that has so many challenging issues ensuring all students receive a quality education. In November, to commemorate Veterans’ Day, we were honored to host Dr. Kimberly Bynum, Director of Operations at Operation New Uniform, a non-profit dedicated to assisting military veterans transitioning from their military careers to the business world. Dr. Paul Pitel, a retired pediatric oncologist and longtime chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Nemours Children’s Specialty Care in Jacksonville, addressed *Bridges for Justice*.

Membership: Uptown welcomed our newest member, Barbara Crass, sponsored by Helen Willoughby. We also honored the following members with awards; Pat Johnson - 35 years, Betsy Caplan - 30 years, and Ivy Cream Harris - 25 years. Nancy Reynolds was also recognized for recruiting her 1st member, Lisa Lang-Lopez. Mattie Fraser, District Governor 2019 - 2020, presented Diana Flagg with a *Distinguished President Award for 2019 - 2020*.

Service: Uptown members, Penny Powell and Susan Hamilton spearheaded our Seamark Ranch gift card initiative. Penny delivered \$1,400.00 in gift cards for the children this Holiday season. Additionally, Uptown sponsored a Canned Goods Food drive for DESC, (Downtown Ecumenical Services Council). Uptown collected 10 large boxes of canned food and \$364.00 in cash. Linda Weinstein, Volunteer Chair, collected the scarves, laptop blankets and baby hats our knitters and crocheters continue making for our local hospitals and community agencies. Our Junior Civitan members were also very busy. Sandalwood Junior Civitan’s continued to volunteer at Hope’s Closet and are collaborating with the Nation Honor Society collecting books for the underprivileged children from refugee and immigrant families in the Jacksonville area. North Florida School of Special Education assembled 75 Blessing bags for the Homeless. Our Fundraising Co-Chairs, Sandy Myers and Ivy Cream Harris, sponsored our Thanksgiving Baked Goods Sale with many bakers and buyers! Just in time for our Thanksgiving weekend.



Fellowship: On October 20, our Social Committee Co-Chairs, Nan Flood, and Sherri Howard Stratton, organized a luncheon at the Athenian Owl in recognition of *Breast Cancer Awareness Month*. Our members were *all pretty in the pink* and enjoyed a delicious lunch, conversation and many laughs. *Happy Holidays; December 9*, our Social Co-Chairs, Nan Flood, and Sherri Howard Stratton, hosted a Happy Holiday Social and Seamark Ranch gift card collection at Nan Flood’s beautiful home decorated resplendently for the Holidays. It was a festive evening of camaraderie, laughter, delicious hors d’oeuvres and desserts enhanced by the generous Seamark Ranch gift card donations.

At our final meeting of 2021, Uptown held our Holiday Festivities Program and luncheon with very special and talented guests, the *Flashbacks Band of Pine Castle* with music Director, Abigail Gruber. They played an outstanding repertoire of Holiday favorites as members sang along! We all felt the true Holiday spirit with the *Flashbacks Band!!*



CLUB BEAMS

Area 3 Club Happenings & Projects ... From Citrus, Frontier, Orlando and Sunset. Area 3 Director Phyllis LaVigna

CITRUS CIVITAN CLUB...

I spoke with Sophya Johnson, President of Citrus recently. They have about 15 members who previously met for lunch at different restaurants. Because of COVID, members decided to meet at Sophya's employer's law firm who provided access to his conference room. Members recently agreed this month of January to meet for lunch quarterly. The club has no financial concerns and only took on one service project in December. Members purchased and gift wrapped various clothing items in need for the Quest home for I/DD residents, ages 30 to 80. They have not yet focused on the Impact Area project and I agreed to send her some information by e-mail, which she requested. I feel their club would benefit from a visit with Bonnie, 2022!

FRONTIER CIVITAN CLUB ...

I spoke with Roberta Shoopman, President, who said membership is quite small but "hanging in there" with pandemic fears. Five or six of the members (youngest 62 years old) are meeting in their homes once a month—but two active member's spouses had major health issues and they needed to slow down. The club did complete several service projects: One with the Girl Scouts in October—making up bags with toiletries for a group of middle school kids that needed them. They also found out that a homeless resource center was in desperate need of clothing and provided them with new underwear and socks to the homeless center. Their Christmas project purchased a washing machine and gave a gift card to a 90 year old lady, living alone, and had no family or funds to replace her 25 year old machine. Members have not been successful in reaching out to the Lake Howell Jr. Civitan Club to get back running. The administrator said she is unable to keep any interests with their students. The club has about \$3,000 in their budget. Roberta said they have not yet decided on a Civitan International Impact Area project. I briefly discussed the four major areas for the Grant and perhaps a visit from our Governor could help to re-focus their service on our organization's mission.

ORLANDO CIVITAN CLUB ...

Albert J. "Sandy" Sanders, President, updated me on events: October, November, and December. With only a few active members, this club has been very successful with the fundraising of Claxton fruitcakes. Sandy reported that they received 44 cases of fruitcakes in November and distributed to businesses who take part with sales. Sandy said he keeps one case and they bake cookies—the recipe makes 55 cookies-- and members give out samples and people love the cookies and then purchase the fruitcake with no pressure of sales. If a business is not able to sell all of their fruitcake allowance, Sandy said a CPA buys all the left-over items and provides funding to their club. Sandy reports they are in a very good financial position. They provide holiday projects in December—one includes a Santa visit to a special needs home (Russell Home) for children who have been abandoned, and funding for "Citizens Against Poverty." The club is working on ideas of a grant focus project to be determined in January 2022. Sandy announced that his wife received a 25 year pin from International and he is very proud of her accomplishments. Charlene is a retired special needs school teacher in Orange County public schools. Sandy said he got involved with Civitan when his aunt and uncle struggled with "handicap" children in Gainesville. Sandy and Charlene are 88 years old. When asked how long he will continue with Civitan, he said he and his wife will probably go on "forever." God is good!

SUNSET CIVITAN CLUB ...

This club has been blessed with about 32 members, of which a third are I/DD recipients. Our newly elected President/President Elect, Elissa Thomas, was installed in October at our past President's condo, Patti Hebert, with our secretary, Dorothy and Treasurer, John. We had speakers from several organizations and presented checks from our 2021 budget. The event was beautiful with Care Free Catering providing a dinner. The board met quite frequently in my Counseling Agency's conference room but limited monthly meetings at area restaurants because of COVID. We had several service projects: Make-Em-Smile at nursing homes, a bear/sock/slipper drive and donations made to ALFs and 1st Responders, Fund-raising at McKenna's Pub and Texas Roadhouse followed. We took part in the Salvation Army bell ringing and had a Christmas party at Patti's condo which was a pot luck. My husband Vince works at a large local church and offered us one day of revenue from their Thrift Store sales. He presented a check to Elissa in January and a photo will be forthcoming. Our club is so fortunate to have Elissa lead us in our Civitan mission with multiple service project ideas. She is a graduate of Bethune-Cookman University and recruited their media specialist, Darien, to join our organization. Both Elissa and Darien have Special Needs children and I will co-chair the grant Impact Area project. We just agreed our focus will be on Education & Employment. The project is a dual focus one—geared for our community, Volusia County (Daytona Beach area), which can be replicated by other clubs. However, the virtual telethon fundraising segment is very unique that could only be implemented by International. Our club treasurer said that financials are good and a budget approved. This outline will be presented January 31, 2022.



CLUB BEAMS

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

CLEARWATER CIVITAN CLUB ... Sue Meier

Clearwater's goal for the New Year is to find some new candy box locations. One of our most profitable locations is currently closed for remodeling (has been since November). Fred Novo-Mesky recalled the history of Police Award that Clearwater has been presenting for almost fifty years. Fred has attended each one. There have been at least four different Chiefs—lots of memories. This is now an afternoon event, no coffee and donuts, but time to meet and recognize those who “protect and serve” in Clearwater.



Jeannie Davison joined Sue at the HEP annual Otis Green Memorial Golf Tournament. No one had made the hole in one until the very last group. An addition to the putting contest was “putting for prizes” - hit the wine (or liquor) bottle and win it. For clergy week, we will be making a donation to HEP's veterans' program, in honor of the Dorchester and Clearwater's own veterans. (HEP- Homeless Empowerment Program)

May 28 will be our club's 70th anniversary; we have two 50 year members, two 45 year members, a 35 year, 30 year and a 21 year. We may be small in numbers, but we definitely have member retention!

Editor Note: Congratulations to Clearwater on their upcoming milestone anniversary. THANK YOU TO ALL YOUR MEMBERS FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OVER THE YEARS!!

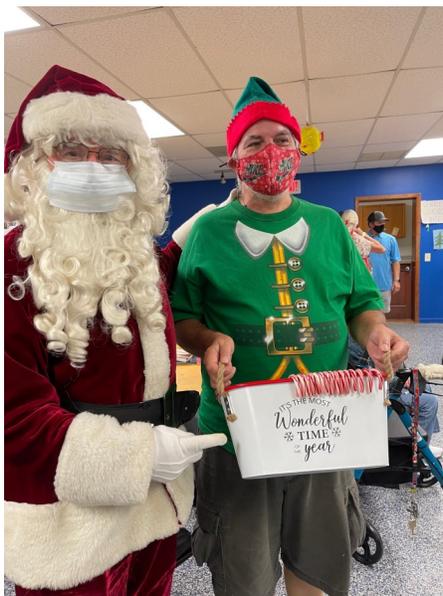
ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Jeanne Davison

St. Petersburg had their PARC Christmas party, have replaced the pine trees on the south end of the Beach club with new Palms and continue with their brick fundraiser.

They plan a Superbowl party where they will raffle a 55” TV.

Tickets are \$20 and you do not have to be present to win.

Contact Lauren at Civitan19@gmail.com for ticket info or to RSVP for the party.



CLUB BEAMS

TAMPA METRO ... Lori Clapp

Tampa Metro finished 2021 strong! We brought in **three** wonderful and already active new members by the end of the Civitan year. Fall is an active time for Special Olympics and Tampa Metro managed awards at County and Area Fall Classic in multiple locations, Regional Softball in Orlando and County Basketball. We sponsor a team with Buddy Baseball, a recreational league pairing players with developmental disabilities with regular abled buddies. We also volunteered at their Buddy 5k Run fundraiser.



Because of Covid protocols we were again unable to hold in-person Halloween or Christmas parties with the two *Angels Unaware* group homes for those with profound disabilities. Still Tampa Metro pulled together to purchase Halloween treats and Christmas presents for each Angel and their homes, which were delivered by a few kind members.

Fourteen of us with family members helped make Christmas merry for families in need through the YMCA Neighbor to Neighbor Christmas program by delivering trees, ornaments, and other goodies, then later helping the parents receive gift cards for food and Y activities then select toys for their children. We donated to sponsor families and the volunteer t-shirt, and we purchased and delivered toys for the Toy Drive. This was the 31st year of the program and Tampa Metro is the only volunteer organization to be involved since the inception.



On Dec. 6, we FINALLY held our first in-person Club meeting since March 2020. Governor Bonnie Ruth joined us, presenting the club with the Honor Club banner patch and past president Lori Clapp with the Distinguished President award. Bonnie also presented Glenn Williams with his 50th Anniversary Medallion as we celebrated Glenn's milestone of long-time dedicated service to Civitan, including serving as Governor of the Sunshine District 1987-1988.

See request on page 8 for participation in the *Special Olympics USA Games to be held June 5-12 in Orlando.*

CLUB BEAMS

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

MARCO ISLAND CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

We began this quarter by having Food Drives to benefit Our Daily Bread Food Bank in Thanksgiving and Christmas time. It was nice to have the visit of our FL District Governor Bonnie Ruth.



The club also raised some funds at the Artesia Community Bazaar with items donated by some members. The club had a Toy Drive to benefit local YMCA needy children.

YMCA Youth Development Manager, Stephanie Pepper, came to the club's meeting and spoke to the group about her program, and brought all the collected toys to her center. Some members volunteered by wrapping YMCA donated toys

which were assigned to each needy family.

Every month, four members have been allowed to attend the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce After 5 Social bringing community awareness and trying to recruit members.



NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

During this quarter, the Naples Civitan Club had Food Drives for the St. Vincent de Paul Meals on Wheels program to help them celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Claxton Fruitcake Chair, Bob Kircher, got this fundraiser going with the help of Nery, Lisa, and Bob Hoch from Marco Island.

Naples Jr. Civitan Advisor, Monica Rodriguez, has been involved in collecting formal dresses, suits and other items for the Naples Dance with the Stars, which will take place on

February 5. She is still asking for donations



CLUB BEAMS

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Continued

Governor Bonnie Ruth and her husband Dave paid a visit to the club. Bonnie encouraged them to bring more members to join.

For their year-round project, *Supplies for Soldiers*, members brought items which were sent overseas in December. They also raised some funds at the Artesia Community Bazaar. They closed this quarter with a Toy Drive to benefit the Friends of Foster Children Forever program. Its Director Ann Hughes and organization Manager Daniela Loyola were the speakers of the evening.



Florida District Elected Past Governor Director, Nery Kircher, presented an award to Club President Lisa Giuttari for achieving Distinguished President 2019-2020 and for the club becoming an Honor Club. Congratulations!

Club members, Dorothy DeMichele and Hank Scholz, guided two foster children from the Forever Friends of Foster Children organization while shopping at Walmart with \$125 each donation.



TREASURE COAST CIVITAN CLUB ... Polly Forestier

The members of the Treasure Coast club met for a Christmas lunch hosted by Polly Forestier and followed by a board meeting to discuss the future of the club. Membership is not a new problem but is looking more of a real challenge. After discussion, the members voted to look for more and different options to keep the club alive.

We participated in the "Carnival of Lights" at the Martin County Fairgrounds by providing a decorated tree. At the luncheon we also brought toys of all sorts for children of all ages and gave them to the Salvation Army for needy. We provide help on Friday nights passing out boxes of food as people drive by the giving station.

One piece of good news is that the *Golden Heart Awards* has been taken over by a former school principal who has helped for many years in the past. We have that to look forward to in April. We had a successful flea market in November; will be working the fair again this year.

The Florida Sunbeam

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FLORIDA DISTRICT WEB SITE ... www.FloridaCivitan.com

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.