



HOMETOWN Civitan Newsletter

April 2023



President's Corner

Dearest Hometowners:

The fiscal is now half over, and I could not be more proud of the direction of our focus. We are making great strides in connecting with the intellectually disabled community on several levels. And this brings Hometown closer to compliance with Civitan International's overall mission.

Our February general meeting featured Scott Heard, a Special Olympian and entrepreneur who lives among us. Scott literally stole our hearts and was able to raise money for the local Special Olympics organization. He returned to our meeting in March and sold out of the dog treats he makes as a small business owner.

On April 11 several members will take a spring celebration party to Wildwood Elementary for the IDD students there.

All members are invited to tour Beacon College on April 18, 10 am. Beacon is one of two colleges in the nation that offers a degree to those challenged with intellectual disabilities. Lana Rosenberg is currently planning the affair with details to follow.

In other great news, our membership now totals 35. My goal at the beginning of the year in October was to end at 40 members. So we have 5 more to go to meet that number. The life blood of any community service organization is committed members.

And so, I sign off with my new signature statement:

“Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world.”

Happy Spring to each of you, and thank you for your commitment to making this world a better place.

Laura

PS: Hometown has committed once again to participation in the 2024 election through the Adopt-A-Precinct program. We will be volunteering on Election Days only which reduces our time commitment to 3 days per worker. In due time you are sure to hear more about this opportunity, a fabulous fund raiser.



Member Spotlight

Karen Schwering

This month we're going to spotlight Karen Schwering who was one of our original members. She joined Hometown Civitan in 2015 when Betty Rohan started our club.



Karen has lived in The Villages for ten years. She and her husband Joe, have moved around the country for their careers. They've lived in Cleveland OH, St Louis MO, Wichita KS, Phoenix AZ, Kansas City MO, Apopka FL, and The Villages FL. Karen ran sales and customer service centers for large companies including MCI Telecommunications, TMobile, and H&R Block.

Karen was the third president of Hometown Civitan. She followed Betty Rohan and Penny Badolato. "Serving as Hometown Civitan's president was a very fulfilling experience. I met many interesting people and traveled all around Florida. We were always looking for new and fun ways to raise money for the charities we supported."

In her free time Karen enjoys playing golf. She organizes a "Nine, Wine, and Dine" event once a month where 40 – 50 neighbors play nine holes of golf and then go to a local country club for drinks and dinner. "Getting to know your neighbors on the golf course is lots of fun! You see their serious side and their fun-loving side too."

In January, Karen organized a community BUNCO party for friends, neighbors, and Civitan members. Karen and Penny Badolato hosted the party along with assistance from their husbands. The party raised \$1000 for Hometown Civitan to use for future charitable events.

The Schwering's enjoy cruising and have traveled to many foreign ports. This spring they're traveling to England, France, Amsterdam and Ireland. "It's going to be a spectacular vacation!" they both said. "These are places we have never seen!"

Karen looks forward to more adventures with Hometown Civitan in the coming year. "There's always something new and interesting to do. Places to go and people to meet. Who knows where Hometown Civitan will take me in 2023?"

Social Committee Suggests....

April 18th 10 am Beacon College in Leesburg.

More details to follow.



**BEACON
COLLEGE**

Monthly Guest Speakers

January

State of the Health System in the Villages presented by Debbie Smith and Cheryl Chestnut

February

Charlotte Rahm and Scott Heard our Guest Speakers were from the Special Olympics.

Scott talked about loving participating in the various sports and making friends.



Chickee Holtzman and others gave the Special Olympics a donation check.

March

Representatives from Pace and Ruth House spoke about what we can do to help their causes. We also saw 3 videos about Civitans. Thanks to John Higbee for providing video assistance for the films.

In March, John Higbee was awarded an honorary membership in Hometown Civitan for all his work in developing and maintaining our website.



When people ask Diane Hintzen why she puts together so many fundraisers at Evelyn & Arthur she says "Why not?" (Quote from Daily Sun)

Hometown Civitans is very fortunate to have a relationship with her as in January the staff at Evelyn and Arthur collected toiletries for Pace Center. In February they collected handbags for Hand in Hand.



Bunco Night Nets \$1000!



Mary Anderson, Sharlene Floam, Laura McLaughlin and Betty Rohan attended the Service Expo here in the Villages. We've made new friends from this endeavor.



Bunco Night Stars



Mary McGuire (on left) generously donated her winnings back to the club.



Elin Jones, Captain of the Prime Time Twirlers won the title of Ms. Super Senior U.S.A. (age 79) at the Ms. Senior U.S.A. & Ms. Senior Universe annual pageants in Orlando. The Prime Time Twirlers performed 3 routines at the pageant where they were "rock stars". Shown in the team photo is Randy Jones who was a judge and an original member of the Village People musical group who recorded the song YMCA. A few of Mary's family traveled here to come see her perform at event.

4 Tabs from Home



Sending all Hometown members a blast from the distant past!

The first person to email me the name of this member WINS!

Lauramclaughlin3387@gmail.com



For several years, Karen Chlebek has encouraged everyone to save the pop-top tabs from soda and beer cans and soup cans and whatever other source they can be 'harvested'. She collects the tabs from her friends near her summer home in Michigan and when she comes down to her home in The Villages for the winter, combines those with what we have collected. Each year when Karen takes that 8-10 pounds of tabs to the Lady Lake Elementary School, (the area's donations collection point) she says they are so appreciative that it warms her heart. From there the tabs are given to the Ronald McDonald House as a donation to their fundraising program. Thanks, Karen, for all you do!



Sharlene Floam welcomes new members Maureen Anderson and Marilyn Ettman.



My personal thanks to Sharlene Floam and Penny Badolato for graciously sending me great photos for this newsletter.



APRIL

- 10th- Shirley Stauffer
- 22nd Carole Savage

MAY

- 10th-Karen Chlebeck
- 18th- Anne Clark
- 21st- Chickee Holtzman
- 24th-- Pat Rusk

JUNE

- 6th- Judi Higbee
- 12th- Diane Seymour
- 19th- Rebecca Randall