

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB of The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2021

Opening

A regular meeting of the Hometown Civitan Club was called to order at 11:00 a.m. at Evans Prairie Country Club by President Mary Anderson. There were 22 members and guests in attendance. All were welcomed by Mary who then passed the Happy Box with \$12 being collected.

Because of the need to social distance, the meeting was held outside but it was quite cold, even with the heaters on, so the special entertainment was given first priority. Beth Halstead had arranged for Bill Keen's daughter Laurian, who coaches The Villages Charter School Golden Girls, to dance for us. She performed a beautiful, Valentine's themed jazz dance that highlighted her exquisite style and grace. We were wowed and her father was very proud!

Moments of Inspiration

Tory Palivoda presented a bit of prose titled 'Valentine Treasures' that helped us reflect on those people who have been loving treasures in our lives.

Old Business

The New Member Orientation meeting scheduled at Shirlee Thaler's home on Wednesday, February 10 at 11:00 a.m. has been postponed to a later date.

Tory Palivoda volunteered to produce a picture directory that is nearly complete. Every member should receive their copy next month.

Projects and Committee Reports

Because of the COVID-19 visitation restrictions, there has been very little activity in the past couple of months with our projects. Arlene Kaplan reported that she will try to have a PACE luncheon soon. Beth Halstead will place a Patriotic Service Dogs display and collection box at the Winn Dixie in Pinellas Plaza today.

Newsletter - Diane Seymour thanked everyone who contributed articles and pictures for the first issue of the Hometown Civitan Newsletter of January 2021. The next issue will be in April, please send Diane any pictures and/or information from your projects/activities a week prior to the club meeting of April 6, 2021.

Social Committee – Lana Rosenberg offered Bountiful Farms, a farm-to-table facility in Okahumpka, as a future lunch outing destination that is very near the Yalaha Bakery and Blue Bayou Bar that features homemade moonshine and boiled peanuts. If you haven't had 'em, you gotta try 'em! It's a southern thing.

As a combined social activity and fundraiser for the local 4H and FFA (Future Farmers of America) clubs, on Saturday, March 13th, at 1:00 p.m., HCC will be bidding for an animal at the 4H Club's livestock auction at the 2021 Sumter County Fair in Bushnell (784 SR-471). Everyone is encouraged

to participate in this unique and very fun experience within the traditional county fair's offerings. Mark your calendar. More details later.

As the leader of this new project, Laura McLaughlin received a letter from Hayden Hughes, a 4H member/participant from Wildwood, that she shared with us, inviting us to see him and his hog, Nancy, at the fair. Really special!

New Business

HCC has been honored by being chosen to receive the Volunteer Club of the Year Award by the Villages Homeowner Advocates (VHA) organization. That presentation will be at Lake Miona Regional Center on Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. during their regular meeting. All members are invited to attend with our officers to accept this prestigious award.

A video was made by Sunbeam Publication documenting the 2019-2020 Florida District Club Projects, highlighting each club's fundraising efforts and the programs they helped. It was exciting to see how active the Civitan clubs are in our district.

The Civitan Club of St. Petersburg, Florida is having their 100-year anniversary celebration on April 10 and 11, and have invited Florida District members to join them. Judi Higbee will represent HCC and be our contact for that event. If you are interested in participating, let Judi know by Feb. 15 as the St. Pete Club would like to know how many would come if the coronavirus safety restrictions are lifted. They will confirm in-person celebration events by March 5th. As an extra incentive – the must-see Van Gogh Alive exhibition at the Dali Museum is showing through April 11, 2021.

Speaker

President-Elect Beth Halstead introduced Linda Krupski, Founder of LovExtension, a food pantry that delivers to seniors in Lake County and The Villages. HCC member Sharlene Floam first met Ms. Krupski when they were writing a grant and so the connection to our club. Prior to the pandemic, LovExtension served 600 clients, and now over 900 are assisted with their needs for food and personal care items that food stamps don't cover. The organization is assisted by some actual grants but mainly relies on donations to their pantry that is staffed totally by volunteers, who also deliver directly to those recipients who are shut-ins or cannot travel on their own. Because of the increase in their needy clients, LovExtension has recently moved to a new and larger space in Tavares. Linda provided every attendee with a brochure that details the program's story, services provided, how we can help, and contact information. Truly a 501(c)3 program worthy of our support.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m. by Mary who led us in the Civitan Creed. The next club meeting will be March 2nd. The next BOD meeting will be 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 15th.

Minutes submitted by: Judi Higbee, Acting Secretary

Approved by: Mary Anderson, President