

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023

OPENING: A regular meeting at Evans Prairie CC Restaurant was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Laura McLaughlin who welcomed everyone, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then the Civitan Creed. There were ten guests who were recognized and told us about themselves. March birthdays were acknowledged – Carol Dawson on the 4th, Tammy France on the 9th and Kris Tygrett on the 10th. The Happy Box was passed with \$24 collected.

PROGRAM: **What Is Civitan?** – Played the video History of Civitan, then the 2022 video of the CI Research Center at the U. of Alabama at Birmingham, then a new video “Girls Having Fun” that highlighted club happenings for the past year. (Thanks to John Higbee for providing the flat-screen TV on a stand.) All videos can be found on our website www.HometownCivitanClub.org.

Laura introduced Jack London to tell his Civitan story. He was a member of his local Civitan club for 40 years before recently moving to The Villages.

Our club’s focus and accomplishments - \$71,000 given to charities over eight years. Our sources of funds were Bunco parties, golf tournaments, garage sales, auctions, Evelyn & Arthur fundraisers, and Adopt-A-Precinct.

Ruth House recent social visits & ‘Purses of Purpose Tea’ - 9/16/23 - Rebecca Randall, founder of Ruth House and Allison Long, Events Coordinator spoke about Hand In Hand and gave us a list of items that are always in short supply and so appreciated by the house residents.

Pace Center for Girls - Ocala - Lana reported that on February 14, nine members visited the school, one of the first charities that we supported, for a tour and then a Valentine’s party with the girls. They took three big baskets of gifts and a decorated cake that was shared with the students. They had a great time - lots of fun!

Center Hill Children’s Mission has been the recipient of our helping with many projects and Santa parties with gifts. Sharlene brought us up-to-date with news from Director Bettyann who has had some serious health issues and has not been able to open the Mission doors for a few months. She has been progressing well and hopes to be back working with the children in April.

Charlotte Rahm and Scott Heard from Special Olympics were at last month’s meeting and everyone invited them back for Scott to tell us about his special fundraiser of dried chicken dog treats. At only \$6/bag, he was sold out by the end of the meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING:

President's Remarks: We made the cover of the February 2023 issue of Civitan Magazine and included a great writeup about our recent club activities. Our club brochure has been updated with new pictures, time and place of our monthly meetings, and our new website "ending" of .org. Everyone was provided with one and encouraged to always have a copy handy to use like a calling card when someone expresses an interest and wants to know more. Extra brochures will always be available at club meetings.

Member Recognition: Laura presented Lana Rosenberg with a gold Civitan pin in appreciation for her social committee work of arranging outings. Judi presented New Member Maureen Anderson with her HCC nametag.

Honorary Membership in Hometown Civitan was awarded to John Higbee, Webmaster in grateful appreciation for his service and dedication in creating and maintaining Hometown's digital footprint. 'Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change our community one person at a time.' The award was signed by President Laura McLaughlin, made and framed by Diane Seymour.

Pop-Tops Collections: Karen Chlebek encouraged everyone to continue saving the pop-top tabs from soda and beer cans and soup cans and whatever other source that can be 'harvested'. She collects the tabs from her friends near her summer home in Michigan and when she comes down here for the winter, combines those with what we contribute. She takes the 8-10 pounds of tabs to the Lady Lake Elementary School which is the area's donations collection point. From there they are given to the Ronald McDonald House as a donation to their fundraising program.

Garage Sale: Postponed until further notice. Chickie was not aware that her villa community had the restrictive covenant of only allowing community-wide garage sales. As soon as we find an 'acceptable' location, the garage sale will be rescheduled.

Next Social Event: Tour of Beacon College at 10:00 a.m. on April 18. Details will be provided by Lana via email in a couple of weeks.

Next Charity Event: Karen Goodman has arranged with Sherry Robinson, a teacher of an ESE class (Exceptional Students Education) at Wildwood Elementary, to have us visit with her eight nonverbal autistic students on April 11. Volunteers need to be registered with the Sumter County School Board; it can be done online, the deadline is March 22. Please contact Karen as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Next Club Meeting: April 4, 2023.

HAPPY 8TH ANNIVERSARY HOMETOWN! The club provided decorated cupcakes for dessert.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. followed by socializing over lunch.

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Penny Badolato, Karen Chlebek, Kay Dando, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Karen Goodman, Judi Higbee, Chickie Holtzman, Laura McLaughlin, Rebecca Randall, Lana Rosenberg, Diane Seymour, Kris Tygrett and Angela Vickers, (16) Allison Long of HIH/Ruth House, Marilla Gardner and Margie Brower who submitted their dues and membership applications to join the club, Toba Noble and Meryl Simon - friends of Doris Field, Charlotte Rahm and Scott Heard, Jack London, John Higbee, Liz Salliotte - friend of Karen Chlebek, and Margie's friend Maureen.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary