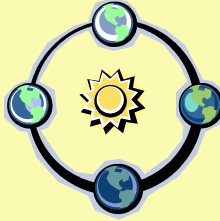


FLORIDA



SUNBEAM

Volume 18, Issue 2

April.. 2022

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



APRIL IS CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH! Civitan was formed in 1917 to help the needy. A NEED IS SOMETHING INDESPENSIBLE TO LIFE!_We take action to get our own needs met! How do people not capable of taking action get needs met? Needs are met through acts of service as kindness. A definition of kindness is to “lend our strength”. SERVICE and KINDNESS ARE THE STRENGTH OF CIVITAN!



Florida Civitan members and our clubs lend our strength daily ---Civitans touch lives – we meet needs by serving. Individual Civitan Clubs are the bedrock of the organization. Members of Civitan share a servant’s heart and a desire to create positive change for people with Intellectual and Developmental DIFFERENCES.

The purpose of the corporate entity of Civitan International is to support Civitan Clubs as they strive to serve. To effectively deliver service, operations of Civitan International are being restructured to function in geographic Regions. Each Region will have a Leadership Council of six (6) Chairs to serve as “consultants” to Clubs:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Member Development Chair | Member Engagement Chair |
| Junior Civitan Chair | Philanthropy Ambassador |
| Communications and Marketing Chair | Planning and Procedures Chair |

Where necessary, these Chairs will have local representatives to serve area groupings of Clubs. Clubs will have access to these “consultants” -for help with member recruitment, project development, Jr Civitan Club coordination, fundraising & giving, marketing & public relations, area & regional events coordination. NEXT STEPS in planning for restructuring, Penny Bonawitz, FL G-E and I will represent FL as members of the Regional Transition Team. We will work to insure the Region understands what our FL Clubs want in respect to recruiting & promoting member involvement, developing projects, fundraising, and raising awareness of Civitan locally and regionally. Our effort will be to help form an organization that can effectively meet your needs!

April, Civitan Awareness month, LET’S COMMIT TO ENGAGE MEMBERS IN CIVITAN’S MISSION OF SERVICE, GAINING KNOWLEDGE & FELLOWSHIP. MAKE IT A POINT TO RE-INTRODUCE CIVITAN TO COMMUNITY LEADERS by ASKING “WHAT DO YOU NEED?”

Recruit through Serving – This is how Civitan was built! This is how Civitan grows.

Bonnie

What's Inside

District Officers / Calendar	2	Philanthropy	9
Governor-Elect/ Editorial Column	3	USA Special Olympics / Chaplain’s Corner	10
Past Governor Director / Civitan Mission	4	Break Thru Golf / Don DeVane Scholarships	11
Historian / Awards	5	Club Beams	13–19
Candy Box / Junior Civitan	6	Civitan Creed	20
Growth & Retention / Nominations	7		

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: *Penny Bonawitz (acting)*Area 2: *Phyleshia J. O'Neal*Area 3: *Phyliss LaVigna*Area 4: *Jeanne Davison*Area 5: *Lisa Giuttari***Secretary:***Dr. Judy Harrison***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***Bob Kircher***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, ZOOM

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

Change is coming and coming fast. Here it is mid April already and by September 30, a mere four and a half months away, we will have a new structure at Civitan and hopefully many Florida Civitans in leadership positions. If you have been thinking of applying for one of the many opportunities in leadership that have been presented to us, GO FOR IT! There are so many people trying new things, jumping in where they have never dared before, breaking out of their boxes and expanding into the horizon at late ages or any age for that matter. Think Julia Child and her starting her cooking career later in life. Dream big.

When I was young, in 6th grade, I lived in Baltimore, MD. My best friend Caren and I dreamed big every day. There was nothing that we could not do. We wanted to be famous singers and began writing songs which soon turned into full three act musicals which we persuaded our gullible teachers to let us perform in front of our entire class. We even thought we could sing jingles for commercials and somehow managed to get ourselves into a recording studio for a demo. Believe me when I say, we were going nowhere with our voices but we didn't care. We were dreaming big and tried everything. We started a baking company and sold cakes to our teachers (can you imagine how they hated to see us coming)? We were better at baking than singing until we made one from scratch that was as hard as a rock. We still made our teacher buy it and she told us later that even the birds couldn't eat it. At that point, we moved on to something else but we never stopped coming up with new things to try.

The moral is, dream big, try something new even if you might fail. Step out of your comfort zone and go for one of those leadership positions. Reach out and ask someone to join in a service project and become a member of your club. Civitan International is dreaming big and so should we!



Editorial Column ... Mattie Fraser

We vote every day. We make decisions on what we wear, what we eat, what we want to do, what we want to be involved in to spend our free time ... and much more. Each decision we make has consequences. That is why it is important to learn all we can about what effects our choices make.

In July, Civitans will make decisions at the International Convention in San Antonio that will affect the future of our organization. **We will vote in person and virtually on proposed changes to our Bylaws and the future leaders of Civitan International! Leadership who listens!**

The Bylaws are an important instrument of any non-profit organization. It determines who will control decisions ... will membership have in-put and a voice or will the organization be controlled by a few people? That is critical! Either choice will impact the future of Civitan International. Do we want to allow the Board to have the ability to impose a 2% automatic dues increase without a membership vote? Do we want the Board to control the opportunities for clubs or districts to place proposed Bylaw changes before membership without prior Board approval. Will Civitan truly be "International" or become a "National" organization. In the past, business meetings at our International Convention were the place where membership was able to express their opinion and have it followed. We need to review closely the amendments being offered by CI Board and by other clubs or districts who have ideas of the best way to enable Civitan to survive in the future. **Your "choice," your "vote," will make a big difference.**

Voting has consequences. Invest the time necessary to make sure that you have all the facts for the Bylaws and our leaders! It will affect the future of Civitan International. Be informed!!

PAST GOVERNOR DIRECTOR ... Nery Kircher

Maybe I sound controversial at times, but I have always learned that to be a good leader, you must lead by example. Look at yourselves and ask, have I tried hard enough?

I am also a believer that districts should continue, but past leaders need to be the shining stars to guide others to become the future leaders. Membership retention and club formation are the key for a strong district. We need to make our Florida District a strong one again!

We must find ways to keep members active and motivated with different projects and activities. It is pertinent to Civitan existence as an organization to retain our membership by enhancing and supporting the members and clubs that already exist.

Growth is the Key! We are aware that this pandemic not only has hurt our organization, but many others too. Many were out of job; others did not have the mean to pay membership, plus some moved away. You are also competing with many other organizations. Don't be shy and ask others to join! Share the club's newsletter! Give them a brochure or flyer! Invite them to a meeting.

We have to find creative and imaginative fundraising opportunities for our clubs as well as in the district and international. Moreover, at Civitan International level, we have to leverage truly significant amounts of revenue for our organization, with the goal of meeting our Research Center needs and commitments, as well as those of the individual clubs.

Civitan should be seen like a business where marketing is very important. We have to develop a world class marketing image for Civitan and make it a household name through an aggressive public relations campaign. Why do we still keep Civitan a secret?!!



WELCOME TO NEW DISTRICT SECRETARY ...

Dr. Judy Harrison, Uptown Civitan Club, has been asked to fill the open position of District Secretary.

Welcome Judy!!!



CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL MISSION ...

The worldwide mission of Civitan International is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

Historian ... Bob Kircher

My name is Bob Kircher, a member of the Marco Island and Naples Civitan Clubs. I am a Past Governor of the Florida Tropical District 2002-2003; 2003-2004, and the Florida District 2013-2014. I have been a Civitan since 1998 and my wife Nery, who is presently Elected Past Governor Director, first became a Civitan in 1988. There has been a lot of reorganization regarding Civitan in Florida over the years. It seems that we are looking for more to come. Governor Bonnie Ruth asked me to take the District Historian position.



It is important to understand that the description of the duties of the Historian has not changed from 2004 to the present, and the history shall include recipients of awards, recognitions, and significant events to be provided by the Governor, District Secretary, Awards Chair and other leaders and added it to the FL District website. Consequently, I am mentioning below the first important event that should be there.

Prior to 1986, all Civitan Clubs in the state were in the Florida District. In 1986 the Florida District was divided into three separate Districts: **Summit** in the northern part, **Sunshine** in the center the state and **Tropical** in the south. However, that ended when Civitan International enacted consolidation measures and the three districts merged into the present Florida District for the Civitan year of 2004-2005. Past Governors and other leaders of the three districts met (at least twice) at what is now the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Melbourne Beach Florida in 2004 to finalize the merger. Past Governor of Summit, Mattie Fraser became first Governor of the new Florida District 2004-2005.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that there is a lot of our history listed in the annual Florida District Directory (Past Governors, Honor Keys, Fellows, and more). I suppose it should be added to the website too. I welcome all of you in the district to help out and share information.

Awards Committee ... Lana Suggs Champion



Award Applications were submitted by clubs in good standing. It was a bit disappointing that only 3 of our 19 clubs submitted Applications. No clubs submitted an application for Outstanding Area Director of the Year.

And the Winners are:

Outstanding Club President of the Year

- UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB – 1st PLACE (30 members and up)
- FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB – 1st PLACE (up to 29 members)
- NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB – 2nd PLACE (up to 29 members)

Outstanding Club of the Year

- UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB – 1st PLACE (30 members and up)
- FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB – 1st PLACE (up to 29 members)

Governor’s Choice Award

- UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB – 1st PLACE (30 members and up)
- FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB – 1st PLACE (up to 29 members)

Candy/Coin Boxes ... Polly Forestier

We are back in business and our hope is to place boxes that have been “at rest” over the past year and get the enthusiasm going again for placing new boxes in new locations. The purpose is to support our research center, of course, but these boxes do so much more. With an attractive card of a young child asking for change to “change” things with their lives surely touches the heart of the viewer. The more boxes we have in view, the more people will see and promote, contribute and feel good about their donation!



Remember to keep your boxes clean and in plain view of the customer if you can by permission of the owner. Remember to tell them why the box is so important and the role it plays in the lives of the children at our research center. Remember to thank the owner for his counter space and how much it is appreciated. Remember to service your boxes regularly and make sure it is in plain view. Take a replacement coin box with you and a supply of mints for the candy box. Keep a wipe in the car for cleaning the box.

This program is truly an assignment of love ... so THANK YOU for your service and dedication!

Junior Civitan ... Niki Lockett, Junior Chair

Recently the Florida district held their annual district convention on Saturday, March 26, 2022. At the convention there were speakers, elections and awards. We would like to congratulate the 2022-2023 Florida District Board: Rodrigo Velasco- Hernandez for Governor, Deuce Curry for Deputy Governor, Aaron Sinclair for Secretary, Christelle Oris for Lt. Governor Jacksonville/ Tallahassee/ Orlando, BrookeLynn Curry for Lt. Governor Tampa/ St. Pete, Paula Moreno for Lt. Governor Miami/ Naples, and Richie Andree for Public Relations Coordinator. We would also like to congratulate Tampa Bay Virtual Junior Civitan Club for being second place as our 2022 Outstanding Single Community Project of the Year and Bishop Moore Catholic Junior Civitan Club for winning first place as our 2022 Outstanding Single Community Project of the Year and Campus Project of the Year.



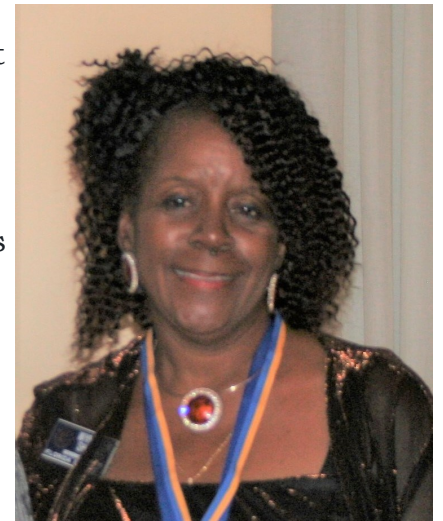
Florida Civitan’s Don DeVane scholarship was also announced at the meeting, congratulations Angelina Fentress for winning the highest award this year. Finally, we would like to thank our speakers Jalynn Smalls, former Junior Civitan Governor, Bonnie Ruth, from Florida Civitan St. Pete, and Patricia Kirk, chair of the Don DeVane Scholarship Committee.

Overall, the meeting was a huge success and we can’t wait to see what projects and accomplishments the 2022-2023 Florida District Board accomplishes.

Marina Werkmeister
Florida District Junior Secretary

Growth & Retention/New Clubs ... Wynester Sherrer

I am happy to report, the Florida District, will add an additional club to our District, The Challenge Civitan Club, an I/DD club, at PARC (Pinellas ARC). The St. Petersburg Club is the sponsoring club and has a long relationship with PARC. Governor Bonnie Ruth, Karen Higgins, and Jeanne Davison, all from St Petersburg Civitan, are the club builders. Let's resolve to follow St. Petersburg Civitan's example and continue to look for others to join this awesome organization. A big thank you to the St. Pete Civitan Club and all Civitans who have added new members to their club. PARC staff is being very supportive.



Lanyards will be used for name tags, possibly charter tee shirts and Civitan vests for future members. Weekly meetings are being planned through the end of April and into May, initially 30 minutes of information sharing and Q&A. We will add discussion of the creed and review of the roles for officers, and decide on a few projects of interest to the members. Once we have a core group attending, we will begin doing projects for the meeting time. The core group will be the charter members for the PARC Civitan Club.

Congratulations to the St. Petersburg Club and Club builders Bonnie, Karen, and Jeanne. Look forward to receiving the official charter date.

Nominations Committee ... Lana Suggs Champion

Normally, it's the responsibility of the Immediate Past Governor to select a committee to canvass the membership to fill vacant Board positions. With the organizational leadership restructure taking place at International, the filling of these upcoming District vacancies became a moot point. I would really to encourage our current District leadership team to consider applying for the proposed Leadership Council positions that will manage our Region. A list of these six (6) positions is as follows:

- Member Development Chair
- Member Engagement Chair
- Junior Civitan Chair
- Philanthropy Ambassador
- Communications and Marketing
- Planning and Procedures



An expanded job description and requirements has been shared with our membership via email. Presently, I am checking with International for online applications and will forward that information to our membership. My plan is to gather these applications by June 15 and submit them to International for consideration.

[See complete job descriptions on page 8](#)

Leadership Council Positions

Member Development Chair

- Implement, supervise and lead their region's development team in the recruitment of new members
- Lead an effort to build new Civitan clubs in the region along with their team, International Director, and world HQ staff
- Help achieve overall growth goals set forth for the region by the CI board
- Communicate monthly to all members the methods and ideas that can be used to achieve growth
- Conduct growth related training at least on a quarterly basis to all members
- Update International Director monthly on all progress
- Recruit a minimum of 4 new members annually

Requirements: Must have recruited a minimum of 10 members (lifetime) and have built two clubs or rebuilt two clubs or a combination of one/one. Plus completed club building training in last twelve months.

Member Engagement Chair

- Implement, supervise and lead their region's engagement team in engagement/retention programs and projects
- Be the first contact with clubs in the region, leading their team to support all members
- Help develop and deliver engagement/retention training sessions for all members in their region on at least a quarterly basis
- Support the club training officer effort in the region
- With the help of CI staff, contribute to CI's member newsletters and social media platforms when it comes to engagement/retention suggestions
- Promote club attendance at all region and international functions
- Coordinate and manage both the region and international awards programs

Requirements: Must have recruited a minimum of 5 members (lifetime) and have held a club officer position during the immediate past three years, demonstrated ability of training/support

Junior Civitan Chair

- Liaison between the International Director, CI staff and the region's Junior Civitan clubs
- Dependent on size and needs of region, leads team of Junior Civitan volunteers to build and strengthen program
- Communicate monthly with club advisors, presidents and sponsoring club liaisons
- Ensure all club rosters have been received and all club dues paid annually
- Monitor clubs to ensure all admin reports are submitted and promptly address any issues and concerns
- Develop service project and fundraising ideas for the region
- Assist any delegates running for International Board from the region
- Organize any regional trainings for the program

Requirements for this position currently will remain

Philanthropy Ambassador

- Assist in fostering awareness and revenue development of programs like President's Council, planned giving, Light the Way, and major gifts in their region
- Speak at regional events about the above areas
- Promote the international fundraising events that support the CIRC
- Be able to visit, call and meet with Civitan to help make donor asks
- Communicate in different formats the value of philanthropy and how certain programs work, including contributing to CI's member newsletters, magazine and social media posts (with the help of CI staff)

Requirements for this position currently will remain

Communications and Marketing

- With the help of CI staff, organize and distribute communications to members in the regions
- Lead publicity efforts in a region
- Work with CI staff to establish media relations in the region, leveraging them for coverage and media buys when applicable/planned
- Ensure success stories from the region are shared with CI staff and the International Director, providing content for the CI member newsletters, social media platforms and magazine
- Help develop and deliver various trainings for regional meetings related to marketing
- Be able to act as a spokesperson on behalf of the region to CI, its members and beyond

Requirements: good communications skills, knowledge of Civitan, and experience in communication tools and technology

Planning and Procedures

- Help the International Director plan and organize any regional meetings, trainings, and projects
- Send out notice of any regional meetings, trainings and projects to members in the region
- Support the creation and adherence to the regional budget annually
- Act as liaison in getting any invoices/expense reports submitted to CI
- Act as the "point person" for the region when it comes to supporting International elections, supporting CI staff when issues arise
- Support the International Director in finalizing goals for growth, engagement, Junior Civitan, philanthropy, and marketing to the CI Board

Requirements: previous experience as a club and/or district secretary and/or treasurer

Philanthropy Report ... Lori Clapp, Ambassador

"My theme for philanthropy is the same approach I used with technology: to find a need and fill it." ~ Dr. An Wang

Thank you Civitans for helping to fill the need at our flagship Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) through Civitans at the Helm (CATH) in 2020-2021. Through your generous donations and the match from the Chesapeake Civitans' foundation, the Florida District achieved Captain level and twelve clubs receiving CATH awards reached at least Navigator level, with Clearwater Civitans at the highest Admiral of the Fleet (\$200 per member) and First Coast and Tampa Metro at the next highest level, Admiral.



We're halfway through the 2021-2022 year and so far, nine of the 17 non-inclusive clubs have reached Helmsman level or above, with special kudos to the St. Petersburg Club for attaining Captain level. Several clubs are VERY close to reaching Helmsman or the next award level (as in less than \$100). As I always say, the sooner donations are made, the more likely they are able to be matched by the Chesapeake Foundation. The match is usually satisfied sometime in May, so consider making donations now to maximize your impact. Requests for contributions to this summer's Breakthru Golf Benefit and Walk & Roll for Research are forthcoming. Those are perfect opportunities to increase CATH giving levels.

There are many other needs at Civitan International that you can help fill through your philanthropy. Scholarships for CIRC and to deserving Junior Civitans may be boosted via the Fellows program. President's Council helps provide long-term development for CIRC and Civitan International. And if you're going to the San Antonio International Convention, you will definitely want to be a member of President's Council, not only to benefit our organization, but also so you can attend the special party at convention. Include Civitan International in your estate plans or as a charitable recipient from your IRA Required Minimum Distribution and you can also reduce taxes for you or your heirs. Give through the "Light the Way" and other programs to help provide long term support for our beloved organization.

For more information on these and other philanthropic programs, go to the Giving section within the Member Center on Civitan's website: <https://civitan.org/support-programs/>. If I can answer any questions, feel free to contact me at lori.clapp@verizon.net.

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 event, be sure to register, using the links on the USA Games website or <https://volunteer.2022usagames.org/> . Register as soon as you can; shifts are now open. And do let Lori or Jeanne know if you're signing up for Equestrian Staging Awards so we can be sure you're properly assigned to work with us.

**Special
Olympics**



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ... Norm Bungard



All believers in Christian Love Celebrate Easter and it's message of hope and eternal life. Remember that Civitan was founded in Alabama and Christianity was and is at its foundation. The Civitan Creed embodies elements of the Holy Scriptures. The message of Easter and Hope is available to all people and Christianity is the centerpiece of the mission. Tyrants and followers always come to a bad end mortally.

Remember to use our God given talents wisely for the developmentally challenged. The lesson of the talents is explained in several books in the Bible. Talents include time, intellect, energy and a measure of our financial resources. Use them to promote Love in our daily thoughts, prayers and duties.

BREAK THRU GOLF ... Gay Aaron

I am on this year's Breakthru Golf committee.

The 2022 Breakthru Golf benefit will honor Robert Dietz. Robert was one of the Civitans who was instrumental in starting this great event 29 years ago. This is a fundraiser for the Civitan International Research Center.

Florida was Robert's home district and he was very active on the club and district 1 levels until he was appointed a Workman's Compensation judge. Even though he was not active in Civitan, he continued to quietly work in the community.

I am asking each club to make donation to the Breakthru in Robert's name. One way to do that is to sponsor a hole for \$250. Clubs, individuals and the Florida District can donate any amount.

I ask the District Board to discuss making a donation also. We will be looking at worthwhile ways to distribute funds from our district treasury before Oct 1st. Honoring Robert certainly falls in line with this.

The Florida District donates to golfers and participants in Walk & Roll (formerly Putt N Chip). I hope this year we can increase our donation to include money in Robert's name.

The committee is working to have his wife, Laura, present via Zoom at the golf event.

Can I count on the clubs and District to contribute? Please contact me with any questions.

Tel: 407 222-7636 or email: Gay Aaron <ctagal@ocnjcc.org> or <aaronjk@att.net>

DON DeVANE SCHOLARSHIPS ... Pat Kirk

The Don DeVane Committee is very proud of these outstanding students who have not only had leadership roles in their Junior clubs but are outstanding academic students, as well as terrific volunteers in their schools and communities. We are pleased that the Florida District is able to help them in furthering their education and establishing their careers. Congratulations to all of them.

Name	School	Scholarship
Angelina Fentress	Robinson	\$3,000
NaJa Haynes-Williams	Sandalwood	\$2,500
Jordayn Curry	Robinson	\$2,500
Arly Hernandez	Golden Gate	\$2,500
Cameron Boyne	Sandalwood	\$2,500
Chuong (Troy) Doan	Golden Gate	\$2,000
Emily Salvatierra	Golden Gate	\$2,000
Mary Vu	Sandalwood	\$1,500
Janna Rabanal	Sandalwood	\$1,500
Aryana Correa	Sandalwood	\$1,500
		Total \$21,500

Sponsoring Clubs: Golden Gate-Naples; Robinson-Tampa Metro; Sandalwood-Uptown

Committee members: Pat Kirk, chair; Jeanne Davison, Mattie Fraser

CLUB BEAMS

Area 1 Club Happenings & Projects ... from Gainesville, Hometown, Leesburg, Sunrise and Tallahassee Civitan Clubs. Penny Bonawitz Acting Area 1 Director

GAINESVILLE CIVITAN CLUB

We are doing the same as usual. Four members meet four times a month. Two of the members are on the Board (VP and Secretary) of LifeSouth Community Blood Centers, founded by members of the Civitan Club in 1074. The other two members who meet are Emeriti Board members having served for over thirty years. This is our chief activity.

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Mary Anderson

Hometown is very proud to be honored to receive this year's award for **Honor Club of Excellence** from Civitan International! We thank our dedicated membership for their hard work in making it possible to achieve this award. Our Hometown club is always working to make it a thriving Civitan club and for its recognition within our tri-county charities we serve. Fundraising has been our recent focus for both our charities and for our club. Pictured are some of our fundraiser activities we enjoyed both for our charities we are involved and for our own club function. We will continue to fuel Hometown's agendas in the coming months with what we do best.



Ruth House Fundraiser & Tea House Fundraiser, Purses with a Purpose

Bunco

The Baker House, Historic Home



CLUB BEAMS

LEESBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Penny Bonawitz

The Leesburg club is planning to go to Kissimmee on April 30, 2022 for the *Buddy Walk for Best Buddies* which is one of the groups that we support. We have met with one of the leaders of Best Buddy and we hope to expand the program further in Lake and Sumter counties.

The Leesburg club members often join Hometown club in their social activities and fund-raising activities. In January 2022, Kathy Hall and Deb McCoy attended a Bunco fund raiser party for Hometown. In February, Kathy Hall and Deb McCoy attended a Tea along with 10 other Hometown club members for Ruth House, a transitional facility for women in Eustis, Florida.

The Leesburg club is sponsoring a new Junior Civitan club at Eustis High school and President Kathy Hall, and members Daniella Nevells and Deb McCoy have met this month with the student leader for the club and a very enthusiastic teacher who coordinates all of the clubs for the school. Our club meetings have been virtual but we plan to come back together in May!



SUNRISE CIVITAN CLUB ... Penny Bonawitz

The Sunrise club has not met in two years because the adult day training program has been closed due to the pandemic. While most schools and offices have gone back to work, this program has been unable to open. Sadly they just had another client die from Covid last week. March 2020 would have been their 5 year anniversary so we had purchased 75 T-shirts with Sunrise Civitan logos in anticipation of throwing a party. The club dues have been paid from donations of Civitan club members in hopes of resurrecting the club. In May 2022 we hope to have a party, hand out the T shirts and restart the club. By mid summer we will know how many members we have left and will submit the paperwork to International but I would estimate the we will restart with half of the 68 people we had originally.

TALLAHASSEE CIVITAN CLUB ... Penny Bonawitz

State Representative Allison Tant spoke to our Club in January as they break ground on "Independence Landing" a community designed to provide independent living for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We also had Catherine Zenko who is the Director of the FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) speak which under the Florida State University College of Medicine. We hope we were successful in connecting them with the Civitan International Research Center. We are also a Silver Partner Sponsor in their upcoming 5th Annual Kickin' It for Autism on April 3rd. On Saturday March 19th we fed approximately 150 athletes, trainers, volunteers and family at the Tallahassee portion of the Special Olympics.

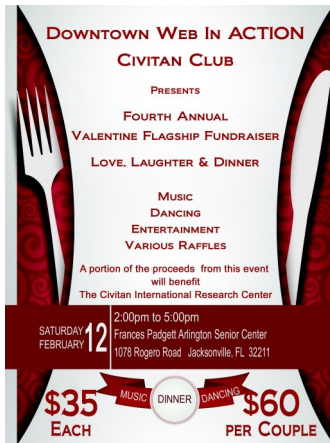
CLUB BEAMS

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 held its annual Valentine's Day Flagship Fundraiser on February. The club shared love, laughter and dinner with friends and family. The event was catered by Boss Hog BBQ, with Brisket and Smoked chicken with all the fixings! Foxy Hamm, comedian, entertained the group with her witty and funny jokes. DJ Bailey entertained us with a variety of oldies, but goodies along with all the latest new hits.

Malcolm Champion was the photographer and captured lots of photos to remember the event. The biggest hit of the afternoon was the silent auction and baskets that were auctioned to the highest bidder. Roses were given to each guest as a token of appreciation as we celebrated this Flagship Fundraiser and raised funds for the Civitan International Research Center. Hat's off to the fundraising committee and members for a successful event!



DWIAC Club will be selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts April 13-30, 2022.

Please see any of the club members to order your doughnuts before the end of this month!

Proceeds will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, sponsoring children attending their annual summer camp.

CLUB BEAMS

FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB ... Sharon Dundon

January started off with exciting visit from Bonnie Ruth our Florida District Governor. Bonnie visited with several Jacksonville club members and joined First Coast Civitan's meeting on January 19th. It was a delight to have Bonnie and several other guests from the Jacksonville clubs join us as she outlined some of her plans and shared why she became involved in Civitan. FCC hosted a dinner and had a special cake for Bonnie to celebrate and welcome her to our city.



We had a scarf project in January for the homeless. A group of our members measured, cut, and made 389 fleece scarves to be distributed.



Some scarves were distributed to the Arlington Community Center. Others were donated to those in need.

We partnered with St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus to help those devastated by an EF4 tornado that hit Dawson Springs, Kentucky. Coats, gloves, paper products, new gas cans



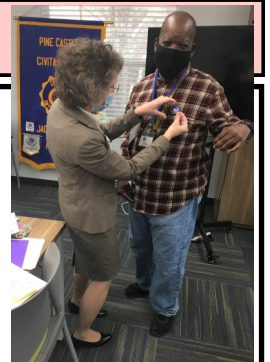
and propane tanks were initially requested. Later non-perishable food items were added to the list. FCC donated \$500 and another \$600 was raised through donations by members and others who wanted to help purchase the additional items. The Knights of Columbus took two truckloads to Dawson Springs. It was a blessing to reach out to those whose lives and homes were devastated by the tornado. Not only did they lose their homes but many families also experienced deaths and injuries of friends and loved ones.

In March we prepared a meal for a class at K9s for Warriors who were in training. K9s for Warriors offer specially trained dogs to the veterans suffering from PTSD and/or physical injuries from all over the country. It was a small thing to provide a meal to the men and women who have fought to keep our country free. Their sacrifices are many and not only affect them as warriors but also their families. Spaghetti and meatballs, salad, Italian bread and two yummy desserts were delivered to the St. Johns County campus. Later we received a warm thank you from the warriors and the meal program director. As Civitans we should remember sometimes small things can a big difference in someone's life.

Stamp Out Autism - A charity card event for autism was conducted via zoom by our Stampin' Up! Jacksonville STARZ (who are Civitan members) on 3-26-2022. The proceeds will be donated along with the Quarter Auction proceeds being held on April 24th. Stay tuned as we focus on Autism Month in April.

PINE CASTLE CIVITAN CLUB ...

Pine Castle Civitan Club is led by Elaine Hall with help from a dedicated group of Uptown Civitan members. Pine Castle member Karen Stephens was presented a 30th Civitan Anniversary pin and Aaron Williams received a 25th Anniversary Pin recognizing their years of Civitan Membership. Uptown member Ellen Rubens shared a book on the history of leprechauns with the Pine Castle Civitan members on February 14 as they colored a Leprechaun's St. Patrick Day's greeting and a leprechaun finding a pot of gold. Members took a leprechaun decoration home to re-



CLUB BEAMS

UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Maureen Baiocco

January began with a wonderful visit from our Governor, Bonnie Ruth. Elaine Hall scheduled a comprehensive tour of Pine Castle, Inc., for our Governor to view firsthand. We lunched later at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and exchanged creative ideas for engaging new members, activities, projects and enjoyed great conversation.

Uptown Civitan continued with our interesting and informative knowledge series at our meetings. In January, we welcomed Dr. Tim Conway from The Morris Center for Dyslexia, and also Victoria Lovelace from TSI Health, LLC, Autism and Disabilities. For Clergy Appreciation in February, Uptown was fortunate to host Rev. Beth Tjoflat, from St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Outreach. Rev. Beth Tjoflat showcased all the important work for the needy and poor in the Jacksonville area. Before she departed, Rev. Beth gave a beautiful blessing to all our members who attended. In March, we acknowledged Women's History Month with guest speaker, Teresa Miles, Executive Director, from the Jacksonville Women's Center. Miles emphasized the importance of Breaking the Bias, stereotyping, and discrimination. Our final March meeting greeted Dave Cогнетта, CFRE, from Daniel Kids. It's the oldest nonprofit dating from 1884 in Florida improving the monumental odds for so many children.



Our Uptown Fundraising Chairs organized a delicious St. Valentine's Baked Goods Sale, continued our monthly 50/50, and hosted an enjoyable State Farm Bingo evening. Our Social Committee began new morning coffee socials encouraging members to invite friends and family who may become interested in joining Uptown Civitan. Uptown's Volunteer Committee continued making baby caps and knitting lap blankets. A limited number of members were permitted to participate with meal preparation at our Ronald McDonald House (below left). We look forward to more ladies volunteering in the future. Uptown had their first field trip



in a long time to Seamark Ranch in Clay County, Fl. (right), touring the entire Ranch and learning a lot about their future goals.



After a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Uptown Civitan volunteers hosted the Beaches Fine Arts Concert Reception at Jacksonville Beach on March 27th for the nation's famous *Sphinx Virtuosi* chamber orchestra. Members prepared gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts for the reception following the concert. It was very well-attended. (right)



A new member orientation was held for new members and those who may not have not received in the past. (left)

Editor note: the picture of Rev. Tjoflat and Nancy Reynolds was on the Civitan Magazine cover. What a wonderful surprise.

CLUB BEAMS

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

CITRUS CIVITAN CLUB...

The Citrus Club has started in-person quarterly meetings. They also meet monthly for a social. Two new members (Sophya Johnson and Kevin Rowan) have joined their club and everyone is working together to reinvigorate this club that will celebrate its 35th anniversary in December of this year.

FRONTIER CIVITAN CLUB ...

Club president Roberta Shoopman has reported that this first all-female club in all of Civitan, chartered in 1974, almost 48 years ago, will work one last project. After that project is completed, members will decide how to spend their remaining funds and will turn in their charter.

Editor note: We are sad to see this first all-female club turn in their charter. They led the Sunshine District in so many ways for years. Their community will miss them... and we will miss them too!

ORLANDO CIVITAN CLUB ...

Sandy Sanders their club is unveiling a focus project to get younger members. The plan is to promote prominent speakers in their community to speak at a meeting and advertise to local media. With only 4 or 5 elderly members, the club has been very successful with their Claxton fruitcake sales—selling 4600 pounds of fruitcakes in December. The club has now provided funding to Special Olympics Against Poverty this 2nd quarter and also the Russell Home. Their meetings have mostly been virtual because members have been having health issues but hopefully they will pick up the 3rd quarter of this year.

SUNSET CIVITAN CLUB ...

Our club continues with 32 members—not all are active. We have had very successful this 2nd quarter with fund raising efforts. We have met in person only 2 or 3 times. January and February, our Pastor Appreciation event was live-streamed through the internet. My husband, Vincent LaVigna, provided us with revenue from Our Lady of Hope thrift store which gave us \$280 in sales for the Saturday event.

We had fund-raisers at the McKenna's Pub and the Texas Roadhouse. After 2 years with no large events, our Chili Cook-off in March brought about 80 people to the Piggott Community Center in South Daytona. Participants donated \$10 to enter the event and the Silent Auction by Patti Hebert and I brought in \$1,473.70 for a total receipts of \$6,464.20 in the 2nd quarter. Our President, Elissa Thomas and I worked on the grant Focus project geared toward Education and Employment. Our monies will be given out in September to local IDD organizations identified by our Board of Directors. We are looking forward to meeting on Monday evening, April 4 at Our Lady of Hope youth room in Port Orange, Florida now that there are no COVID hospitalizations here in Volusia County!

CLUB BEAMS

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

CLEARWATER CIVITAN CLUB ... Sue Meier

Clearwater is celebrating 70 years of service this year! Unfortunately the Club been hit with health issues and the passing of President and long time member, Richard Fuller. Sue Meier has assumed duties as Club President. Sue is working with Little League, a project they have done for many year. In May, Clearwater will honor their *Police Officer of the Year*, a project they have done for 50 years. Fred Nova-Mesky, a member for more than 50 years is recovering from a broken leg. **Editor note: Get well soon, Fred!!**

ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Jan Ward

We had a fun and productive Quarter, with six new members, and two great events for members (and guest).

Our first member event this year was a Super Bowl party. We had a great turnout and enjoyed watching the game on a new 55" TV, which we gave away at the end of the game. Maria Christiano was our lucky winner of the TV.

St. Patrick's Day was our second fun party. About 50 members and guest showed up to celebrate.

Two applicants were selected for the St Petersburg Civitan Club Scholarship: Aaron Blair, graduating from Countryside High School, and Jason Volz, graduating from Boca Ciega High School. PEF (Pinellas Education Foundation) will award each \$1000 from St Petersburg Civitan. We are honored to present scholarships to these deserving young students.

Training Officer Michael R. Saia of the St. Petersburg Police Department received the Annual Civitan Police Award.

St Pete Civitan is in the process of starting a new club, PARC Civitan Club. Weekly formation meetings will be held until early May, at which time the Club should be ready to be Chartered by Civitan International.



CLUB BEAMS

TAMPA METRO ... Lori Clapp

Tampa Metro Civitans have been extremely active since the beginning of the year with five Special Olympics Competitions, Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, and other projects. One weekend we had 4 separate volunteer efforts in three days and were so ready for much needed sleep!

In January we helped at a fundraiser for Bakas Equestrian Center/Horses for the Handicapped. February started with honoring Peggy and Jeff Vinik with the Outstanding Citizen of the Year award at the Governor's Luncheon opening day of the Florida State Fair, in front of Governor Ron DeSantis, his cabinet and other civic and business dignitaries. Reputedly the most coveted civic award in Tampa, this award has been presented by our club since 1927! We ended February with a marathon volunteer weekend. We and the Robinson Noble Junior Civitans passed out T-shirts to runners in the Gasparilla Distance Classic. Not only was it a very fun and very active day of volunteering, but we also earned \$750 for each of our clubs! After our shift, we managed awards at Area Equestrian Special Olympics which continued all day Saturday. We were up early the next morning to do awards for the Special Olympics Regional Basketball Competition in Wesley Chapel.



Tampa Metro members volunteered three out of four weekends in March. First we were the "Front of the House" volunteers at the New Tampa Player's Penguin Project production of Mary Poppins Jr., a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious performance which pairs children and young adults with special needs with peer mentors. We gained two new members and possibly a third from that night 😊! March 19, we managed awards at Special Olympics Area 5 Tennis competition, while at the same time other members set up an information table at Buddy Baseball's Season Opener and Vendor Fair. Buddy Baseball is a recreational league for children with disabilities matched with a buddy. We have sponsored a team and volunteered with this organization for many years. We ended the month with the Tampa Bay Summer Games at Jesuit High School managing awards for Track, Field, Soccer, Bocce, Cycling, Volleyball and Cheerleading at several different venues. Our club and two of our members were recognized during special Opening Ceremonies for our long-term volunteering with Special Olympics Florida, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. (No, our members have not been volunteering that long!) So, we were fully engaged with Civitan Awareness – just a month early.



April 9 was the biggest Special Olympics Competition of the year in our area – Summer Games, like at Jesuit, except with 5 counties represented. We managed awards for 7 separate locations, which is why most of us were unable to participate in the District Meeting. And now, we rest a bit, until we lead Equestrian at the USA Games in Orlando June 8-10 and we would love Civitans and their friends throughout Florida and particularly in the greater Orlando Area to join us.



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 met at local restaurants for our Jan, Feb, Mar monthly business meetings and many of the Marco Island Civitans volunteered at the Tour de Marco to benefit the MI YMCA in February registering riders, offering snacks, and making sure everything was in order. About 250 bicyclists participated at the Tour de Marco fundraiser this year to benefit our local YMCA. ...Club members Bob, Nery and Darlene went on Saturday, March 19 in the morning, to the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park at their yard sale bargains plus arts and crafts sales. We were able to raise some funds. We are planning to have another sale at the Vineyards Community Park, 6231 Arbor Blvd. in Naples, on the morning of April 16.



The business meeting took place at the Smith House Restaurant outdoor patio this time, but it was kind of hot out there. Also, some members gathered at the Artesia Social to enjoy the nice dinner-dance their community had.

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

Our Club met Jan, Feb, and Mar for our monthly business meetings at our local Perkins Restaurant. Supplies for Soldiers project has been continually successful thanks to Chair Micky Dix, who has encouraged members to contribute by collecting supplies.

The Golden Gate High School Junior Civitans along with the Naples Civitan Club collected over 100 Teddy Bears and President Lisa met with the Junior Civitans at the Collier County Sheriff's Dept to deliver them for their Bear Patrol. They are given to children to comfort them when they are faced with a crisis (Abuse, Fire, Neglect, Accidents, etc.) and are much appreciated by the Collier County Sheriff's Dept. We continually try to recruit members and hopefully this year we can get some new members.



CLUB BEAMS

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Continued

Our 32nd annual Valentine's Dinner-Dance for the Intellectually/Developmentally disabled took place February 25 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, where about 200 special members of the STARability Foundation, their families and caretakers gathered to enjoy a delicious dinner and the great successful party that the Naples Civitan Club brought them.



TREASURE COAST CIVITAN CLUB ... Polly Forestier

At an upcoming board meeting, we will recommend to change our dues down to \$25 per quarter.

Governor Bonnie Ruth visited our meeting on March 24 to bring us up to date on district happenings and international news.



We supported Compassion House of Salvation Army (home for women and children temporarily as they struggle to reorganize their lives).

We provided school clothes for a new family of four children. Members donate hours of service each Friday preparing and handing out meals to needy.



We hosted the 15th annual Golden Heart Award event April 8 with members decorating all the tables tying balloons on each table and decorating the hall. Fifteen winners were selected to acknowledge and highlight. They walked on the "red carpet" to the podium when their names were called and received their golden heart pin and framed certificate with applause from those attending.

April meeting will highlight Civitan Awareness and say goodbye to two members, father and son, who are moving to Marietta, GA at the end of April. That will take a toll on our membership pool. The governor of GA has been given information for a transfer to one of their three clubs in that area so as to not lose them to Civitan.

The Florida Sunbeam

Mattie Fraser
13110 Ebbtide Court
Jacksonville, FL 32225
E-mail: mandsfraser@yahoo.com



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.