

## HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

### Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2022

**Opening:** A regular meeting at The Oaks Restaurant & Lounge, Continental Country Club was called to order by the sounding of the bell at 9:15 a.m., by President-Elect Karen Goodman who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 20 members, the two speakers and an unexpected guest. Laura introduced Cindy Brown, U.S. Congressman Daniel Webster's assistant in his local office, who stopped by for a visit. Karen passed the Happy Box with \$30 being collected. February birthdays were noted: Ilene Hyams and Penny Badolato. Tory Palivoda gave an inspirational reading.

**Speakers:** Sally Moss has made her career in education and more recently in administration. She is a member of the Sumter County School Board; their three main functions are governance, finance and advocacy. All of the public schools in Sumter County are classified as Title I, meaning all students are provided with free breakfast and free lunch. This includes Sumter Prep Academy that is an Alternative Learning Center in Wildwood. Today's presentation focused on the education programs of Exceptional Students with Disabilities (ESD). Kathy Dustin has been involved since 1991 with providing special curricula for all Exceptional students, Gifted students, and those students whose primary language is not English (ESL). The SCSB motto for all students, faculty and administrators is AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination. Students have excelled under this directive to the point that all graduating seniors were accepted at a four-year college. Karen Goodman will be in contact with Kathy Dustin as to how we can help with mentoring, providing electronic equipment, etc.

#### **Old Business:**

- **New T-shirts** - Marilyn Laurent is in charge of sales. \$15 for S to XL, \$20 for XXL and larger (they run small). She also has a few sizes of the men's style. Four were sold at the meeting.
- **New Nametags** with bigger print were available for all members along with the new brochure and a two-sided sheet How About Our Website? (a user's manual) that was available for everyone and will be included in the New Member Packets going forward.
- **Returning Member** Kay Dando was welcomed back after a 2-year hiatus.
- **New Club Meeting Location** – Karen reviewed all of the good changes that are available at The Oaks Lounge - easy availability of the buffet with no staff interruptions, only our own 'noise', spacious layout. Everyone seemed to enjoy the convenience of everything. We have to guarantee 30 meals at a cost of \$325, paid every month. If 30 attend and pay \$10, we are still at a deficit of \$25. Karen offered that we may have to ask members to pay \$15 each, which is about what a breakfast cost (including tax and tip) at Perkins or Bob Evans or Eden Prairie. This issue will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

- **Bunco Fundraiser Recap** – Arlene Kaplan, co-chair of the event, confirmed with Treasurer Paula that they/we made just short of \$1,000. Arlene and Karen Schwering did a super job of organizing, advertising and programming this very fun and profitable fundraiser.
- **Pace Fundraiser at Evelyn & Arthur Recap** – Betty Rohan relayed that Manager Diane Hintzen reported they collected \$450 that the girls at Pace will use, in part, for a special Valentine's party. She also collected many personal care items that were donated by members, filled a big box and will be given to the school's 'Rewards Store' where the girls can redeem their achievement awards points. Diane Hintzen has offered to host other charitable fundraisers we may have. She is dedicated to giving back to her community.
- **Purses of Purpose Tea** – HCC member Rebecca Randall, Director of Development at Ruth House, explained this major fundraiser and reported that there are still a few seats/tickets available to this luncheon and silent auction on Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. She gave a flier to Judi to send the information out to the membership to hopefully get a sold-out event. They are looking to expand their facilities to serve more women. Currently 14 women are in this special program.
- **Community Service** - Adopt-A-Precinct program. Laura will need 35 people to fill two teams of workers. She explained the various jobs and training, what to expect and the commitment needed to make this major fundraiser a success. She handed out sign-up sheets to those attendees who are willing to work and received back many commitments. The sign-up campaign will be continued at the March general meeting when our speakers will be from the Sumter County Board of Elections office. (The 2022 Early Polling dates are August 13 through 20 [8 days] for the primaries, and October 25 through November 5 [14 days] for the mid-term elections.) Currently Laura is concentrating on staffing the August Primary early voting dates.
- **Social** – Ten members met at Marion Therapeutic Riding Assn. on January 11, 2022 for a guided tour by Karen Cunningham and then watched as four I/DD students had a riding lesson. It was a most rewarding afternoon, gaining insight into a favorite charity. Pictures are posted on the website under Photo Gallery – Events.
- The **next social event** will be a tour of the historic Baker House in Wildwood on Feb. 22. Lana sent an email with location, directions, time and cost. Doris Field asked that everyone arrive 15 minutes early with their \$15 in cash so she can collect from everyone and give the entrance fee in one lump sum, per their request. The tour should last about an hour and then we can go to lunch at Belle Glade as a group. Please notify Lana or Doris by email by February 15 if you plan on going.
- **Membership** - Sharlene distributed the Member Survey of Participation Interests and Skills to all club members, which we filled out and returned to her. She will work with Karen Schwering to compile and analyze the information provided to discover member's talents and help get everyone involved in the club and its many activities.

- **Publicity** - The leader of any event should notify Laura McLaughlin to arrange for coverage by the Daily Sun/media. After the event, they should arrange for someone to provide an article and pictures to Diane Seymour for Hometown Happenings, Judi for the HCC website, and Beth Halstead for the club scrapbook and Florida Sunbeam articles.
- **Website** – Your source for the latest news, calendar of meetings and events. The 2-page document "What About Our Website?" is a user's manual found by putting your cursor over the HOME page title and click the drop-down. Hard copies are available at the meetings.  
[www.hometowncivitanclub.com](http://www.hometowncivitanclub.com)

**New Business:** The May meeting will be led by Karen Goodman with an educational and informational program about our Hometown Civitan Club – how it is set up according to the bylaws, what committees we have and how they function, how and where each member can participate.

**Next Club Meeting & Speaker:** March 1, 2022 speakers will be Traci Oliver and Kaley Howard of the Sumter County Board of Elections Office.

**Adjournment:** Karen led us in the Civitan Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next BOD meeting will be February 15 at Laura's house.

Respectfully submitted by

Judi Higbee, Secretary.

Attendees: Debbie Abbott, Sue Ann Baker, Karen Chlebek, Kay Dando, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Paula Goldstein, Karen Goodman, Claire Gore, Ellen Grivas, Jackie Harris, Judi Higbee, Chickie Holtzman, Ilene Hyams, Arlene Kaplan, Marilyn Laurent, Laura McLaughlin, Tory Palivoda, Rebecca Randall, Betty Rohan.