

## HOMETOWN Civitan Newsletter

July 2022

### President's Corner Mary Anderson



Our hot summer months in Florida have arrived. Many of our club members have returned to their home states. Many thanks for your valued time investments in club involvement while you were here with us. We look forward to your return! Needless to say, we value all our Hometown's club ladies and their hard work involvement in the communities we serve. For many of us, summer travel, vacations, or staycations will offer fond summer memories of 2022 (in spite of the current gas crisis).

Aside from our normal responsibilities and activities we've done and enjoyed so well during our third quarter, Hometown has a lot planned for our club's agenda before the ending the 2022 quarter in October: (1) July 4th - 7th, several of us are to attend the annual Civitan International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, at their fabulous river walk. Congratulations to us in Hometown who are among club finalists for awards for Outstanding Community Service (Adopt-A-Precinct again) and Outstanding Club Website (thanks so much to Judi and husband John Higbee). Surely, we are so deserving of these awards & recognition...stay tuned! (2) August 13th - 20th, we will undergo our Adopt-A-Precinct (Primary Elections) massive & major fundraiser project once again. This massive project undertaking is headed once again thanks to Laura McLaughlin with Ilene Hyam's assistance. These ladies are doing an unbelievable job coordinating volunteers comprised of both our club members and outside volunteers for poll work. This project is our most important and largest monetary beneficiary for our small club. We feel truly humbled by everyone donating their time and service to our voting community and for its benefit of Hometown's main purpose of being able to continue serving our tri-county area's charities. (3) At our Tuesday, September 6th monthly meeting, our annual grants will be awarded to many of our lucky chosen charities we serve. Lucky and deserving grant recipients are chosen by our Philanthropy Committee every year. We will also be giving out an award for a deserving "Business Person of the Year" who did a great fundraiser for us. Please come to attend this annual meeting to honor these recipients. (4) Saturday, Sept 10th, Hometown will host the farewell to Florida Districts Party at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center. The Florida District clubs will be in Regional areas. Florida District club members and officers will be attending this event. Information will be forthcoming. (5) Finally, on Tuesday, October 4th, as for this month every year, our meeting will have an installation ceremony for our new Board members for the 2022 - 2023 year. Florida Civitan Governor Bonnie Ruth is scheduled to come to install our new Board.

As you can see, we have a very full roster for the remainder of the year. Have a great summer!

Mary

**Congratulations these ladies for their recruitments of new members and who have been recognized in June on Civitan International's New Member Recruitment Honor Roll 2021-2022:  
Sharlene Floam, Judi Higbee, Paula Goldstein, Laura McLaughlin (Hometown & Leesburg),  
Chickie Holtzman, and Marilyn Laurent.**



## Member Spotlight

**Arlene Kaplan**



Arlene was born in Baltimore, MD. Her First job after High School - Legal Secretary , she continued that path for most of her life. In 1971, she moved to S. Florida and, continued in the legal field. Married in 1984, had 1 son, divorced around 1999. Her job slightly changed to a attorney who did real estate closings, title insurance, and she actually did the closings, etc.

She retired in 2006. Moved from South Florida in 2009 to The Villages and here she is!. She is active in Civitans, President of The Borscht Belt Club-A social club of over 600 members. Gets together with a monthly men’s breakfast, a monthly Couples Dining Out in groups of 3 or 4 couples, a monthly Gals Nite Out and a monthly Night of Entertainment, ie: BBQ, Bingo, Trivia, Comedian, Concerts, Dance Bands, etc. and President of Sumter Singles and, oh yes, very active in her neighborhood with organizing lunches for the women, plays/dinners for all neighbors, and a once a month Social Nite with Bingo.

Arlene is also in charge of the funding we do to local charities, in gathering their applications and deciding with her committee which charities to fund.

She also has done much volunteering at Center Hill Children’s Mission. She’s one busy and generous lady!

## Monthly Guest Speaker

### June Meeting- Guardian Ad Litem

At our meeting on June 7th , Doris Field, who is a Guardian Ad Litem, introduced our speaker, Amarilys Ortega. Ms. Ortega is the Director of Recruitment and Training for the 5th Circuit of Florida Guardian Ad Litem as well as being a volunteer GAL (Guardian Ad Litem) herself.

The 5 th Circuit encompasses Sumter, Lake and Marion counties, which make up The Villages.

Ms. Ortega spoke about the origin and present structure of Guardian Ad Litem, which trains volunteers to observe, assure the safety and well being of, and advocate for children in the foster care system. She spoke about what is involved in the duties of the volunteer and how one goes about becoming a GAL. Both Amarilys and Doris tried to share some of their experiences with cases they have been involved with.

Our members were impressed with the tremendous need for GAL volunteers and financial assistance that is required to make the program work to benefit the future of dependent children.



## May Meeting Ruth House/ Hand in Hand

Rebecca Randall director of Hand in Hand and of Ruth House spoke to the Civitan Ladies at the June meeting. This faith based organization helps women who are addicted or in trouble, or who have lost custody of their children .She brought Amy and Angela who spoke about how they were helped by the programs. It was enlightening to hear these young women speak about their struggles and successes.

## Hometown partners with Evelyn and Arthur to collect purses for Hand in Hand for their Tea... *“Purses with a Purpose”*



Recently Hometown Civitan partnered with Evelyn and Arthur in Brownwood to collect purses. The purses are being donated to Hand in Hand for next years “Purses of Purpose Tea”. Thanks to manager Diane Hintzen, the drive was a big success yielding 2 large boxes of new and gently used designer purses.

“Hand in Hand is a non-profit, faith based residential addiction-recovery community for men and women.”

Hometown looks forward to partnering up with Evelyn and Arthur on other projects in the future and we encourage all our members to stop by, check out their beautiful clothing and thank them for their support.

Penny Badolato



## Social Committee

Trip to Ruth House Date TBD

## Hometown Civitans Visit Luna Sea Alpaca Farm

Eight gals visited the Luna Sea Alpaca Farm in May. It was a beautiful day. The owner gave us a tour of the farm introducing us to the alpacas and a few llamas. We were allowed to go into their pens and feed them these little pellets that they seemed to enjoy. Some of the gals were even brave enough to put the pellet in their mouth to get an alpaca “kiss”. There was a baby of only a few weeks old and he was darling.

One of the alpacas there was a grand champion and worth quite a bit of money.

This was an enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours. I’d recommend it for the grand kids.

Thanks to Lana for organizing the trip and to Sue Ann Baker for the photos.





## “Best Buddies” Walk Penny Badolato & Daniella Nevells

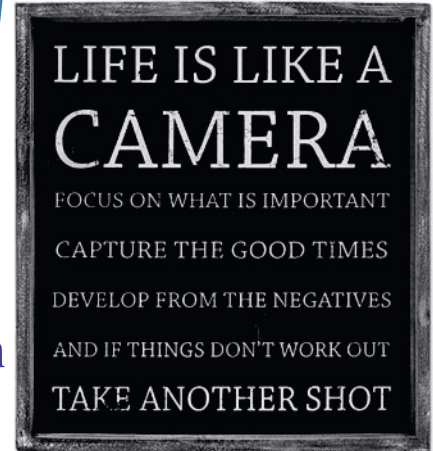
Two of our local Civitan clubs teamed up to do the Best Buddy walk this past Saturday. Penny Badolato of Hometown Civitan and Daniella Nevells of Leesburg Civitan had a great time supporting the inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities while getting a little exercise Win-win. And ...we were treated to a beautiful rendition of The Star Spangled Banner sung by several of our very talented special needs individuals What a great time.



My Thanks to all of **4**  
you who provided  
photos, articles etc. for  
this newsletter.

Diane Seymour

## Tori's Inspiration



To Florida Civitans from Bonnie Ruth

I am forwarding messages from Kendyl Massey regarding this year's Convention service project to build sensory bags that Emergency 1st Responders can give to help calm children.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=161437883118484&set=gm.2618138348316335> Those of you not attending in person, may want to participate by purchasing some contents for the packs.

This is the Amazon link of you want to order something for the sensory packs which is the convention service project .Please send to Civitan International PO Box 382857, Birmingham, AL 35238

[https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/23JVMFR5FJQKE/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/23JVMFR5FJQKE/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl)

Anyone can purchase not only those attending the convention! Thank you for your support.

Bonnie



### JULY

20-Angela Vickers

21-Doris Field

### August

1- Sandra Pugrant

8- Mary Anderson

10- Lorna Etchison

23- Dana Buss

### September

25- Ellen Grivas

## Next Meeting

Thee next meeting for Hometown Civitans will be August 2,2022 at Evans Prairie Golf Club at 11:00 am. It's located at the intersection of Evans Prairie Trail and Buena Vista.

Our speaker will be from Beacon College in Leesburg, FL who will talk about their students with learning disabilities.