

## **HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB, The Villages, Florida**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**May 2, 2023 10:30 a.m. Evans Prairie Restaurant**

OPENING: A regular meeting was called to order by President Laura McLaughlin who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Civitan Creed. Sharlene Floam introduced her daughter Mindy Barnes visiting from Maryland. The Happy Box was passed with \$11 collected.

Moment of Inspiration: Thank you everyone for your food donations for the LovExtension Food Bank! You are our inspiration.

PROGRAM: Captain Amanda Stevenson of the Leesburg Fire Department. She has been with the department for 18 years, starting as a firefighter - she was the only female at the station, lots of adjustments but never any prejudice. After training, she was the engineer who drove the big fire truck. Next in line is a lieutenant who makes decisions and gives orders. Continuing education and maintaining credentials as an EMT are mandatory for promotions to chief and finally captain. There are 49 employees in Leesburg, 6 are women. They work 24 hours and are off for two days. Every firetruck is equipped with Advanced Life Support equipment and has an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on board, sometimes also a paramedic as they have more medical calls than fire. Ambulances transport the injured to hospitals. Otherwise, the fire department's main focus is educating the public as to fire prevention, AED use, CPR and smoke detectors. They teach fire safety to school kids and hold boot camps that are fun. They even hold classes to teach parents how to install car seats.

BUSINESS MEETING: President Laura showed us the award the club received from the Sumter County School Board for Outstanding Service to Schools in 2023.

Member Award: Laura presented Ilene Hyams with a pin and letter from Civitan International commending her for sponsoring her first new member, Margie Brower.

#### Old Business

1. Recap: On April 11, six members made a visit to Sherri Robinson's Special Needs class at Wildwood Elementary. (Karen Goodman, Karen Chlebek, Sharlene, Diane, Kay and Laura) They took donut holes treats and slinkies which the students enjoyed. We are welcome to come back - Sharlene will visit again to read to them.
2. Recap of visit to Beacon College on April 18. The tour was very impressive. Rich Killion, VP for Advancement & Strategy was their guide and provided golf cart rides between buildings. Faculty to student ratio is 11:1 and one-third of the students receive financial assistance. They saw a film before having lunch catered by Panera Bread.
3. Recap of Best Buddies Friendship Walk in Orlando on April 29: Deb McCoy and Daniella Nevells from Leesburg Civitan, and Penny Badolato and Mary Anderson from Hometown Civitan participated in the walk around Lake Eola. It was such a beautiful day and they

were having so much fun, they walked around twice! They raised \$300 in donations from the two clubs; an individual participant raised \$4,000 and a Titusville school raised \$12,000.

4. Recap of New Member Welcoming Lunch on April 25. Six board members (Lana, Betty, Laura, Mary, Doris and Sharlene) hosted new members Margie Brower, Maureen Anderson, Marilyn Ettman and Marilla Gardner. With all first names starting with 'M', Lana said of course M&Ms had to be some of the treats! Sharlene gave everyone their Civitan pin and a special gift.
5. We got a lovely thank you card from New Horizons Service Dogs.

#### New Business

1. The club needs a project leader for Best Buddies and their local S.T.A.R. program. Laura asked if this was something anyone would be interested in. Please contact Laura if you would like to learn more about what is involved in that project.
2. Best Buddies Fundraiser, Festival of Trees, takes place in October and November that we will participate in as a club. More details will be provided in September.
3. Hand In Hand/Ruth House Fundraiser - Purses of Purpose Tea, September 16, 2023.
4. Adopt-A-Precinct for Election 2024 - Judi and Betty are co-leaders of this fundraising effort. They will be contacting previous volunteer workers to fill out the roster for staffing the Precinct at Everglades Regional Center on election days and the Phone Bank in Bushnell on election days. Election Day Dates: March 19 (Presidential Preference), August 20 (Primary), November 5 (General).

Next Meeting: June 6, 2023, same time, same place.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 followed by socializing over lunch.

**Attendees:** Mary Anderson, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Karen Goodman, Judi Higbee, Ilene Hyams, Arlene Kaplan, Deb McCoy, Laura McLaughlin, Betty Rohan, Lana Rosenberg and Angela Vickers (12), Sharlene's daughter and the speaker.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary

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