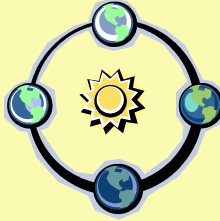


FLORIDA



SUNBEAM

Volume 18, Issue 3

July.. 2022

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



Florida Civitans, I hope you all had a *FIRECRACKER FOURTH OF JULY!* The 20 Florida members who attended the Civitan International Convention in San Antonio sure did. We danced, we sang and we celebrated at the Alamo under the Texas stars at a night!

All in attendance enjoyed, learned and shared at the business meetings, membership and philanthropy celebrations and educational sessions. (Please see the separate article below with the results of the votes from the elections.)

The convention began on a high note with of the presentation of the Outstanding World Citizenship Award to Lloyd Lewis, President, CEO of arc Thrift Stores, was presented the Civitan Outstanding World Citizenship Award in recognition of his nearly two decades of supporting advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His son Kennedy was born with Down syndrome in 2003. Mr. Lewis left a successful financial career in 2005 to take the helm of the Arc Thrift Stores of Colorado to help change the way people think about, connect with, and employ people with disabilities.



Bonnie

Under his leadership, Arc Thrift Stores of Colorado is the state's largest funder of advocacy for persons with IDD, including the arc Academy, to enrich the lives of our Ambassadors, Thrift Store employees; arc University offering an opportunity for growth and personal recognition; and the Colorado Initiative for Inclusive Higher Education (IN!), a nonprofit program to welcome IDD students on college campuses to continue their education. Mr. Lewis was humbled and told us, "The Civitan award is a remarkable honor. What guides me every day is a desire to promote dignity and equality. Each of us has something to contribute to the world we live in." He introduced 19 year-old Kennedy who shared "knock-knock" jokes and his smiling, joyful laugh!

Debbie Julke, Past International President and former Florida Civitan, introduced Gordon Hartman the keynote speaker for the Closing Banquet. Gordon, a San Antonio native, is a philanthropist and owner of the largest locally-owned homebuilding and land development enterprise in the city. In 2005, Gordon established the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation to pursue a dream of helping children and adults with special needs. This cause was inspired by 28 year old daughter, Morgan, who was born with cognitive and physical special needs. Gordon saw a need for fully-accessible outdoor recreational facilities. In April 2010, the dream came true with the grand opening of non-profit Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first Ultra-Accessible, fully inclusive theme park designed for individuals with special needs. **(Continued page 3)**

SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 10 - ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION - at THE VILLAGES.

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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
Philanthropy 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

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

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

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

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

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

July

July 4—7
 July 1
 July 1
 July 1
 July 27
August
 August 15
 August 31
September
 September 10
 September 30
October
 October 1
 October

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 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 (Major Changes, p. 7)

Florida District Civitans... This is What I Believe ... (Continued)

As Civitans enter our year as Champions of Service – DREAMERS, we were inspired to hear of his passions to champion inclusivity, and make the dreams of not only his family come true, but also people with disabilities from around the world.

Two Florida Civitans received special recognition for their philanthropic contributions to Civitan. Robert Dietz's dedication to philanthropy was celebrated through the "Sponsor a Hole" for the Breakthru Golf Tournament. We watched a video of Robert with his golfing adventures from many past conventions AND enjoyed a live streamed visit with his family!

This year Bob Kircher and his Breakthru Golf team were the top fundraisers! Thank you Bob, for another year of golfing for a breakthru.

Fred Novo-Mesky received a special tribute for his dedication to Civitan philanthropy. The Sapphire Level Major Gift Award was presented to Fred's family in recognition of his 52 years of Civitan service and his gift of generosity through philanthropy as a member of the Clearwater Civitan Club. Jeanne Davison, Area 4 Director, accepted the beautiful cut glass trophy for the Novo-Mesky family.

We heard from Dr. Craig Powell, head of the Civitan International Research Center, our flagship project. Lana Suggs Champion, Immediate Past Governor of the Florida District, had a special one-on-one Q&A with Dr. Powell. He went into detail about the ground breaking work being carried out by the dedicated doctors at our CIRC. I encourage you to view the CIRC videos on the civitan.org website and *SHOW* one at your membership meetings

Florida Clubs were honored to receive several competitive awards. Uptown Civitan Club was commended with Honorable Mention for the coveted Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club Award for excellence. Uptown Civitan Club was recognized for the second year in a row with First Place for Outstanding Youth Project! Honorable Mention awards went to Hometown Civitan Club for Outstanding Club Website, and to the Florida District for our Outstanding District Newsletter. Congratulations to our Florida Civitans! I want to encourage you to apply for the competitive awards to recognize the valuable service of your Clubs. All of the applications are on line at the civitan.org website. *AND* by the way – our District uses the same applications for competitive awards which are due August 15th for this year's recognition.

Penny Bonawitz represented Junior Civitan at the convention. She and Carmen Gormley introduced a new recognition program especially for Junior Civitans, the Junior Creed Club. We want to support and energize our Florida Junior Civitan Clubs with active sponsors from each "senior" Club. These fabulous young people are tomorrow's leaders!



The 2022-2023 Civitan International Board of Directors, including Region 2 Director, Bill Tolleson, was introduced and installed. Unfortunately, Dee Hutsler, the 2022-2023 President-Elect, was not able to be present due to a positive Covid test earlier that day! Please pray for rapid recovery for Dee and the others who also contracted cases of the virus at the convention or from travel.

The brightest star of our week in Texas was the installation of Jo Ann O'Toole as the 2022-2023 Civitan International President. She introduced her "Dream Team" including Penny Bonawitz, our Florida Governor-Elect. Jo Ann shared her *dream* of a better world through Civitan – impacting each community with hands for service, giving to each community from hearts for service, and encouraging each member of Civitan united by the bond of fellowship and the values of our Creed.

It was a joy to be part of our Celebration of Civitan – Champions of Service – *DREAMERS of a better world through Civitan!*

Governor Bonnie and Husband

Bonnie

2022 Civitan International Election Results ... Bonnie Ruth

2022 Civitan International Election Results

2022-2023 Civitan International President-Elect is Kearney Dee Hutsler! Congratulations to Dee. We look forward to your insight and direction at the helm of the Civitan organization.

Civitan International Bylaws on the ballot:

Amendment to the current CI Bylaws – Article I. Section 1.09 Submitted by the Arab Civitan Club

In Favor	239	47.8%
Opposed	261	
Abstain	42	

AMENDMENT FAILS

Amendment to the current CI Bylaws – Article IV. Section 4.02 Submitted by the Arab Civitan Club, restates the Composition and Term of CI Board of Directors submitted in the Board approved Bylaws Proposal which deletes the Junior Civitan International President as ex officio non-voting member;

The amendment specifies “the number of directors shall be thirteen (13)... one (1) from each region of Civitan International.”

In Favor	251	50.2%
Opposed	246	
Abstain	47	

AMENDMENT PASSES

Amendment to the current CI Bylaws – Article IV. Section 4.12 Submitted by the Arab Civitan Club

In Favor	246	49.5%
Opposed	251	
Abstain	46	

AMENDMENT FAILS

Addition of new Article XVI. Exculpation of Directors and Officers Submitted by the Arab Civitan Club, indemnifying volunteer Directors

In Favor	259	53.0%
Opposed	230	
Abstain	52	

AMENDMENT PASSES

Ratification of the Civitan International Bylaws approved by the Civitan International Board of Directors

In Favor	261	48.2%
Opposed	280	
Abstain	10	

RATIFICATION FAILS

It appears we Civitans are pretty much split down the middle when it comes to specific corporate legalities. The corporate counsel is reviewing the two amendments that passed, as there are issues with each and were not vetted.

The Civitan International Board of Directors will meet later this month for strategic planning to address issues resulting from the outcome of the bylaws proposal vote.

As for our Civitan Clubs – our Creed is our driver, not corporate organization. *All of us share the hope for a better world through Civitan!*

CIVITAN CONVENTION IN PICTURES



Florida District Civitans enjoy San Antonio



Lana interviewed Dr. Powell during Philanthropy Session

Two wonderful Florida Civitans recognized in Philanthropy Session **Robert Dietz** and **Fred Novo-Mesky**. Proud of them and miss them. Jeanne accepted on behalf of Fred's family.



CIVITAN CONVENTION IN PICTURES



Smiling Faces in Many Places. Fellowship with friends ... new and old



Florida had players in Break-Thru and Walk & Roll



Bonnie Ruth MC'd closing banquet;

PIP Gay Aaron installed new president JoAnn O'Toole with husband, Joe

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ... Norm Bungard



All religions and religious persuasions encourage respect for all people. Since we live in an increasing climate of hate, let us each examine our values as they relate to Civitan and good citizenship and encourage respect and love over hate.

I encourage each club to think on this and infuse it in meetings and daily activities. Blessings will surely prevail.

Awards Committee ... Lana Suggs Champion

Hello Everyone ... Major Change ...

To expedite this whole process, ALL award applications can be submitted via email. I will then download them to a thumb drive and pass it off to the judges. **The due date is still AUGUST 15.** The Florida District Awards ceremony for the **August 2021 – July 2022 time period** will take place at our annual convention at The Villages on Saturday, September 10, 2022.

2021-2022 District Awards due August 15

Individual District Awards:

- District Honor Key
- Civitan of the Year
- Recruiter of the Year
- Outstanding New Member of the Year

Competitive Club Awards:

- Outstanding Club Bulletin
- Outstanding Club Scrapbook: Paper
- Outstanding Club Scrapbook: Digital
- Outstanding Joint Junior-Senior Service Project
- Outstanding Single Youth Project
- Outstanding Single Service to People with I/DD
- Outstanding Single Community Service Project
- Travel Award
- Attendance Award

Applications for these Awards are due and must be RECEIVED by me no later than **AUGUST 15, 2022** **by email** ... lana_suggs@comcast.net The applications will be given to an outside group for independent judging. Scrapbooks will be judged on site at the convention.

Champions of Service ...BELIEVERS

Lana Suggs Champion
Awards Chair



PAST DISTRICT 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?

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 must find creative and imaginative fundraising opportunities for our clubs as well as in the district and international. Moreover, at Civitan International level, we must 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 must 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?!!



THEME FOR 2022-2023



DREAMERS

SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 10 - ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION - at THE VILLAGES.

Historian ... Bob Kircher

Dear Florida District Civitans: In my last article, I wrote about the transition of the three Civitan Districts in Florida, The 13 clubs of Summit, the 14 of Sunshine and the seven clubs of Tropical were consolidated into the new Florida District beginning in the 2004-2005 Civitan year. The new Florida District began with 34 clubs. As I mentioned last time, Mattie Fraser began as the new District Governor. I am going to go back in time but, before I go further back, each year we have been able to retain some of Civitan's history by producing the annual District Directory. The Directory is a compilation of the names of the Civitan International Staff, the District Officers; the Clubs and their officers, coupled with the club chartering date and District Area. Equally important, the calendar of important dates for the year is included.



Furthermore, the Directory displays past Civitan History: Past District Governors from 1921 to the present; Past International Presidents from our District; Honor Key Recipients, International, Region and District as well as International Presidential Honor Key. Also included, is the list of Foundation Fellows. Besides all of this statistical history in the directory, you will find the International theme for the year, for example "*Showcase Civitan:*" Service-Knowledge-Fellowship which was the theme for the 2004-05 Civitan year that the Florida District was reformed.

Finally, I would like to report what I found in the Tropical District 1990-91 Directory under Tropical District Distinguished Governor Ervin "JR" Robertson. This would give some credence to the change from the old Florida District to the three districts. The Florida District encompassed the territory from Tallahassee to Key West, with the district office located in Orlando. At that point, the Governor traveled from his/her home to more than sixty clubs throughout the state. District Meetings were held either in Orlando or on a rotation basis throughout the District, which greatly affected the traveling distance of the members.

In 1985, a vote of district club representatives began the process of realigning the Florida district. The plan called for a territorial division of three smaller areas, based on imaginary lines that were drawn on a map of the state. The new Districts were named *Summit*, *Sunshine* and *Tropical*. The southernmost territory became the official Tropical District of Civitan International on October 1, 1986, under the leadership of Dr. Harold Reed Lannom of the Miami-Springs Hialeah Civitan Club. During its first year, the Tropical District led all districts in growth; was awarded Honor District; had five Honor Clubs and one Distinguished Lieutenant Governor; and received 2nd Place honors in the International Awards for The Tropical Breeze, the district bulletin. During the succeeding years, the District was recognized at Civitan International's World Headquarters and Convention for its diligent work and dedication to the principles of Civitan. As the growth and development of the Tropical District continues, new and informative documentation, programs and seminars are being implemented for the benefit of its members and clubs, while working closely with Civitan International. Membership development processes are in place to help identify future district and club leaders.

With individual, club and district fellowship, support and team work the Tropical District continues to be a leader. In closing, I would like to ask if any one has any old directories from *Summit* and *Sunshine* from the following Civitan Years: 1989-1990 1990-1991 1991-1992 In 1989-90 the Tropical District had 17 Clubs, the Junior Clubs were not included the Directory. In 1990-91 the Tropical District had 19 Clubs and 15 Junior Clubs. In 1991-92 the Tropical District had 16 Clubs; 3 Campus Clubs; 16 Junior Clubs

Philanthropy Report ... Lori Clapp, Ambassador

“A philanthropist is anyone who gives anything – time, money, experience, skills and networks – in any amount – to create a better world” - Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen.

Thank you, Florida Civitans, for being wonderful philanthropists, creating a better world...through Civitan! And thank you to all clubs and individuals who have donated to the Research Center (CIRC) via Civitan International's Civitans at the Helm program (CATH)! As of mid-July, 14 clubs have achieved Helmsman award level or above. Many clubs are VERY close to reaching Helmsman or their next higher award level; some less than \$100 away! Grateful appreciation goes to Clearwater Civitan for far surpassing the highest award level of Admiral of the Fleet! Fred Novo-Mesky from Clearwater sadly passed in May at the age of 96, but his generosity to Civitan and the Research Center through Civitans at the Helm, was recognized at the Civitan International Convention with a memorable tribute and presentation of the Sapphire Level Major Gifts Award. Please contact me if you would like to know your club's CATH most recent level.



Grateful appreciation goes to Clearwater Civitan for far surpassing the highest award level of Admiral of the Fleet! Fred Novo-Mesky from Clearwater sadly passed in May at the age of 96, but his generosity to Civitan and the Research Center was recognized at the Civitan International Convention with a memorable tribute and presentation of the Sapphire Level Major Gifts Award.

Civitans at the Helm donations were also raised through Convention's Break-Thru Golf Benefit, this year **honoring the memory of Florida's Robert Dietz**, one of the founders of this major fundraiser for CIRC. Thank you to the District, clubs and individuals who sponsored holes and donated to golfer Bob Kircher's fundraising efforts. Walk and Roll for Research, which also raises funds for CIRC, was held during convention on a relatively cool morning in the shade. Florida had two teams, Wynester Sherrer and the Tampa Metro Civitan Team, which also had Civitans from St. Pete and Ft. Worth. Thank you to the District and everyone else who supported these teams. Donations to Walk and Roll can still be made through September 30! Just go to <https://civitan.org/convention/>, Click on the Walk and Roll for Research Box, then enter Wynester Sherrer or Tampa Metro Civitan in the "Search Teams" box.

This year's President Council Reception was held on the beautiful grounds behind the iconic Alamo Church with live music, sangria and a few nibbles. A great time was had by all. Civitan truly appreciates ALL President Council members, so even if you were unable to attend, please know we are grateful. You are helping Civitan thrive long term by supporting all development efforts. If you would like to join this much needed council or have any questions about it, please contact me.

As we begin our last quarter of the Civitan year, this is the perfect time to consider recognizing someone very special to your club, by honoring them as a Research Center, Shropshire or Junior Fellow or any of the other Fellow designations. Wouldn't it be great to surprise them at the District Convention, or maybe at your Installation Banquet?

This is also a great time to consider some of Civitan's other Giving Programs. Have you considered Civitan International in your estate plans: in your will, as a beneficiary of your insurance policy or IRA? Just let Civitan know your intent and you'll be in the **Legacy Society** and be a Lifetime member of the President's Council. Perhaps consider contributing to Civitan as part of your Required Minimum Distribution to save income taxes and benefit our beloved organization and the CIRC. Want to help Civitan build some needed reserves to help weather the storm during financial stresses? Consider giving to the **Light the Way** Campaign. Through careful thought, planning and generosity, you can help Civitan and Civitans create a better world, for a long time to come.

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.

PARC Civitan Club ... Bonnie Ruth

The PARC Civitan Club has been meeting since March 29. We transitioned to every other Wednesday with the June 1 meeting. The interest in participating in their Civitan Club is high after the change. In the 8 meetings held since May 1, 27 have attended 5 or more meetings, and 32 have attended at least half four of the meetings.

At the June 1 meeting, officers were nominated and elected. The officers are working to learn their roles as leaders of the club. Each meeting gives more opportunity for meeting the challenge of different responsibilities in running a Civitan meeting. The desire and enthusiasm of all members is growing.

At our July 13 meeting we began planning for our PARC Civitan Club Charter Celebration. Everyone is excited about our upcoming Charter Celebration! We have handed out applications to PARC clients to get the information necessary to apply for chartering, and are hoping to get several returns. Initial plans are to charter in August.

Our St Pete Civitan sponsor team, Jeanne, Magda, Norm and I are always encouraged by the enthusiasm of the PARC clients' commitment to their Civitan Club.



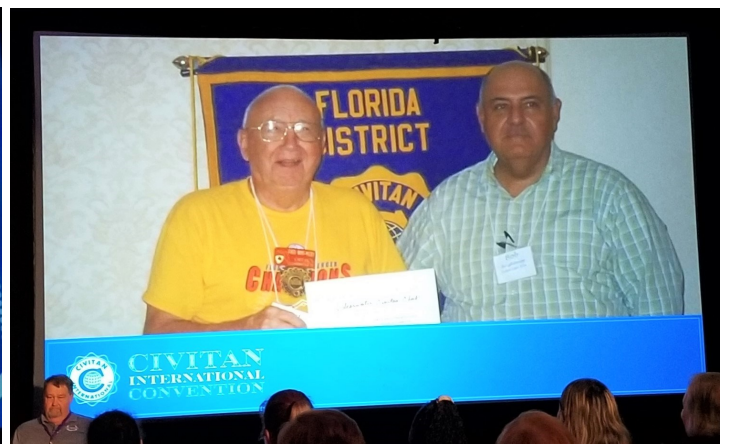
Club Mascot

CLUB BEAMS

CLEARWATER ... Sue Meier

Not much to report from **Clearwater**. Fred Novo-Mesky's son Richard continues to service his candy boxes and I am sending in the money to International. Fred's boxes at Village Inn have been the most profitable for many years.

Frank Kelly told me of the Sapphire award presented at Convention in Fred's honor, with several photos. I had found a Civitan magazine from July 2011 that had a wonderful photo of Fred and Hilda with a text explaining how he had attended the convention when the CIRC project was first approved and how he always felt he needed to follow up his vote with his \$\$\$ commitments. That was not part of the "virtual" convention - probably at the Philanthropy session.



I, like others it seems, was disappointed in the quality of the virtual streaming of the convention.

Our annual police officer award will be presented the first week of August. We are still working out details with Clearwater Police Dept. This year's nominee has been a training officer and is also an active volunteer - spending many hours supporting a local Memorial Day bike ride to benefit first responders.

**SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 10 -
ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION -
at THE VILLAGES.**

First Coast Civitan Club ... Sharon Dundon

BBQ & BUBBLES with Alden Road Exceptional Students—May 6 was a beautiful day in more ways than one when First Coast Civitan members prepared an appreciation luncheon for Alden Road teachers, volunteers, and staff. The luncheon was in recognition of the dedication, compassion and love exhibited by teachers and staff for their students. They put in many hours with these precious students, and Civitan members wanted to provide a small reward to show them how much they are appreciated. While the teachers and staff enjoyed the luncheon, we also provided some fun for the students with bubbles outside in the courtyard.

FCC members arrived at 10 a.m. and unloaded all the goodies for the luncheon which included 70 pounds of pulled pork, gallons of BBQ sauce (donated by Miller's Ale House), homemade pork and beans, homemade coleslaw, homemade macaroni salad, dozens of homemade brownies, cookies, and buns. The school provided the flatware, paper products and water. A real spread for all to enjoy!

While some members set up the lunch in the cafeteria, other members set up a bubble machine (Patti Sanders donated a bubble machine). Another member donated about 50 individual four-ounce bottles while bubble wands were also donated in different sizes. We witnessed lots of smiles, giggles and even a few songs the students made up as they enjoyed playing with the bubbles. The teachers, volunteers and staff began coming in shifts to enjoy the lunch and repeatedly



thanked Civitan members. Darrell Conrey was the chairperson of the event, and did an awesome job. A special thanks to Darrell and all the other members who participated to make this a special day for Alden. The teachers, staff and volunteers are dear to our hearts for the love they show each day to the Alden students.



Quilt Raffle and FCC Scholarship Awards On May 18 the quilt raffle winning ticket was drawn and Mary Weber, one of our members was the lucky winner. The funds raised from the quilt auction and a contribution from FCC allowed for two scholarships. Luca-Bella a student at the Florida Deaf School was awarded a \$750 scholarship. Luca-Bella was president of her Class of 2022 and was active in volleyball, the dance troupe as well as completing several college classes during her time at the school. She is continuing her education at the Rochester Institute of Technology majoring in interior design. Jose Giron Reyes a student at the Florida Blind School in St. Augustine received a \$750 scholarship to further his education at Florida State College in Jacksonville in the fall.

Jose was involved in goalball and won the national championship in goalball. He was active in the debate club, young life, and the drama club. Jose was elected "Mr. Personality" of his class of 2022. Congratulations to both outstanding students and their promising goals for the future.

Hubbard House Mother's Day Baskets FCC prepared 35 shower baskets for residents of Hubbard House. Each basket contained with shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, body lotion, a towel and wash cloth along with a tag saying Happy Mother's Day. We are hopeful these gifts brightened their day while going through a difficult time in their lives.



Hometown Civitan Club ... Mary Anderson/Diane Seymour

Hometown has continued to stay active serving their tri-county charities as well as continuing their monthly meetings which include local charity speakers or projects. In August, their most important and highest earning fundraising Adopt-A-Precinct project will once again service the Sumter County, FL voting community. In September, annual grants will be awarded to a few of their deserving charities. They had received the two awards at this year's convention below. Hometown will host the Florida District farewell celebration on September 10 in The Villages.

President Mary Anderson received two 2020-2021 Civitan International Honorary Awards: Outstanding Community Service Project & Hometown's Website.

Four of our Hometown ladies attended the 2022 San Antonio, TX annual Convention.

Evelyn and Arthur were at it again. This time they did a clothing drive for the men of Hand in Hand through June. Pictured are Diane Hintzen (manager of E&A), Penny Badolato of Hometown Civitan and liaison to Hand in Hand and Rebecca Randall director with Hand in Hand and a member of Hometown Civitan.



Beautiful clothes, many new, filled the van. It was so nice to do something for the men who often get ignored. Thank you again to Evelyn And Arthur for their kindness and taking the time to do this clothing drive. Don't forget to stop by the shop in Brownwood and tell Diane thank you. Also a big thank you to our generous community in The Villages for supporting this endeavor.

Purses were delivered to Rebecca Randall at Ruth House by Penny Badoloto with help from Diane Hintzen.



"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. Come join in next year!



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.

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.



CLUB BEAMS

MARCO ISLAND CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

Thanks to the generosity of our club member, **Ysabel Garland**, the club was able to make the following donations. President Nery and Bob made the deliveries.

- Naples Senior Center – Audiobooks
- Youth Haven – DVDs for their entertainment and Yoga ones for their exercise
- The Shelter for Abused Women & Children - DVDs for their daycare
- Supplies for Soldiers Project – for our deployed soldiers

The club also tried to sell them at some parks, to raise some funds for their Camp Able Project. Naples Civitan President Lisa Giuttari came to give us a helping hand. Thank you

This year again, members of the Marco Island and Naples Civitan Clubs donated items to benefit Friends of Foster Children Forever Program. They will benefit children that have been taken away from difficult and dangerous circumstances, who are in the process to be placed in a foster home. This program, not only provides supplies for their needs, but help them during their education too. Program Speaker Michelle Groenings talked to the group about the latest foster care news. Special thanks to those members who made their donations before they left town.



The Civitan Pizza Luncheon at Camp Able took place on July 14. About 135 intellectually and developmentally challenged individuals and their caretakers enjoyed this luncheon. Some of the members could not attend due to Covid. Thank you President Lisa Giuttari and Micky Dix from the Naples Civitan Club for helping. Club member Mark Kircher and Mick Milner took their day off from work to volunteer. Thank you so much!



Again, this year, the Marco Island and Naples Civitan Clubs gathered at Outback Restaurant on May 11 for the Civitan Baby Shower. This Baby Shower benefits the Friends of Foster Children Forever Program. These are children who were separated from a hurtful environment and are in the process to be placed in a foster home. Academic Mentoring Manager, Michelle Groenings, was the speaker of the evening and informed the group how the foster care program is doing in Collier County. She also talked about the different academic programs they offered up to teenagers. Member Mark Martel donated to this program, a monetary gift which was presented to her by President Lisa Giuttari. Thank you so much for speaking and to all of those who made a generous donation!



CLUB BEAMS

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB ... Nery Kircher

NAPLES CIVITAN CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

AWARDS' PRESENTATION On May 6, Civitan FL District Past Governor Director, Nery Kircher, attended the Golden Gate High School Awards Ceremony. She presented the FL District's Don DeVane scholarships to three officers of the Golden Gate HS Junior Civitan Club who applied and sent their essays for consideration. The recipients were **Chuong (Troy), Doan**, Treasurer, and **Emily Salvatierra**, Vice President, receiving \$2,000 each, and **Arly Hernandez, President**, who was awarded \$2,500. In addition, Troy and Arly also applied for the Civitan International Shropshire Scholarship and were selected as recipients of this \$1,000 scholarship. Great job! Furthermore, the \$1,000 Naples Civitan Club William Pearson Scholarship was awarded to **Chuong (Troy) Doan** as well. This selection was made by Club Advisor Chris Estock, who presented this award. The Naples High School Awards Ceremony took place on May 16. The winner of the \$1,000 Syd Fishman Scholarship of the Naples Civitan Club was **Kyleigh Geraghty**, President of the Naples HS Junior Civitan Club. Club Advisor Monica Rodriguez made the Award presentation. Also pictured with her is her mother, thrilled for her achievements. **Congratulations!**

The Naples Civitan Club was represented at the Civitan International Convention by Bob Kircher and his wife Nery. Bob also played golf at the Civitan Golf Tournament representing the FL District Civitan. He is pictured with Nery, Lana Suggs and Lori Clapp from the FL District and Shelley Luck.



CLUB BEAMS

ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB ... Jan Ward/Norm Bungard

The St Petersburg Civitan 4th of July party was a great success for fellowship AND recruitment - 3 new were members added! Members also held their holiday Beach parking fundraiser on Saturday and Sunday before the 4th, raising over \$400."



Norm Bungard, Civitan Chaplain, said he was privileged to nominate St Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch for 2022 Chaplains Award for his decades of service and recent election as the First African American Mayor of our great city. Pictured are MaryAnn Fisher, myself, Mayor Welch, Bonnie Ruth, Jan Ward and Eddie Pringle, our club's first African American President-elect. We are a diverse club.



The bricks have now been installed. Many Florida District Civitans are a part of this project.



TAMPA METRO ... Lori Clapp

This quarter has been a little quieter than last quarter but with some notable events. We managed all awards at six separate locations for the large Special Olympics Area Games in Wesley Chapel. Unfortunately most of us had to miss the Florida District meeting held the same day. A couple of us handled registration at the "Jack in the Club" Blackjack tournament fundraiser for Special Olympics. We had a VERY EARLY morning registering participants at the Arthritis Walk for the Cure then helped serve lunch. July 9, we did awards for Bowling at separate locations in two different counties and the day after that were awards for Standup Paddleboard.



Four of us attended the Civitan International Convention in San Antonio and among other things, participated in Walk and Roll, a really fun and short event held one cool shady morning, compared with the 102+ temps later that day. The Tampa Metro Civitan Team members also included Bonnie & Dave Ruth and Frank & Kim Kelly. Thanks to many Florida District members and the District itself as well as donations from friends and family, at this writing, our team is currently the third top team in International raising over \$2000! Donations may be made until September 30, so do consider supporting us by going to: <https://civitan.org/convention/>, Click on the Walk and Roll for Research Box, then enter Tampa Metro Civitan in the "Search Teams" box.

Our most memorable time was participating in the week-long Special Olympics USA Games held throughout the greater Orlando area. The sight of over 5000 enthusiastic athletes plus families, volunteers and spectators at Opening Ceremonies will not be forgotten! Later we managed Equestrian Awards over three days at the Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee. Although we were away from the main action at ESPN Wide World of Sports in Disney World, we loved the event, the athletes, the teamwork with other volunteers and the facility, especially being inside with Air Conditioning!



More Special Olympics coming up next quarter!

CLUB BEAMS

UPTOWN CIVITAN CLUB ... Maureen Baiocco

Uptown Civitan Club has welcomed inspiring and informative guest speakers and presentations to broaden our knowledge of Jacksonville's community outreach. Dr. Carol Neil, President of the First Coast Black Nurses Association, works tirelessly to promote health, education and community awareness. Dr. Lucy Chen, from Cathedral Arts Project, educated us on improving lives of children and families with art. Uptowners were also invited by Dr. Time Conway, neuropsychologist, of the Morris Center, Ponte Vedra, to a special private tour and luncheon to learn firsthand research-based diagnosis of Dyslexia and other learning disorders. We welcomed historian, author and founder of the Riverside Avondale Preservation and Riverside Arts Market, Dr. Wayne Wood, who shared the untold story of C. Adrian Pillars.



On our Uptown Civitan Club 39th Civitan-niversary in May, we were pleased to have our Florida District Governor, Bonnie Ruth, and former Junior Civitans, Jacqueline and Jalynn Small join us! Everyone received a sweet bendlet cake to celebrate!

On June 23, 2022, we enjoyed a wonderful New Member Recruitment Social, hosted by Joyce DeVillez and Barbara Drake, at their beautiful home on the St. John's River. It was well-attended, filled with sharing our Civitan Creed, endeavors and camaraderie. Earlier in June, we warmly welcomed new member, Carol Campbell, and after our Recruitment Social, Uptown Civitan is delighted to welcome new member, Cheri Parks!!



After a 2 year hiatus, Uptown members were eager to participate in **Arts4all** on May 3, 2022 at the Cummer Museum. This statewide organization provides opportunities in the arts for individuals with developmental disabilities. Our group was



assigned to the Music experience, led by music therapists. We assisted the therapists by distributing music makers, taking speaking parts in the readings with puppets, and dancing with the children!! The children and adults had a really good time!

On May 21, 2022, our **Fonkoze Committee** chaired by Laura Crooks, hosted a reception held in the Historical Society's St. Andrew's Church. Fonkoze is a nondenominational, micro finance organization in Haiti that educates women through literacy education. The women learn how to set up and manage small businesses. Because of Fonkoze involvement and the dedication of their staff and help from groups like Uptown Civitan, thousands of poor women become self-sustaining, are able to feed their families and send their children to school.



On June 12, 2022, seven volunteers from Uptown Civitan went to the Ronald McDonald House to cook a hot dinner and served each family individually-packaged dinners to take back to their rooms! They prepared meals for 81 people!! We are so happy to be back in person to help.

Our Social Committee Co-Chairs, Sherri Stratton, and Nan Flood, invited Uptowners to another Chit Chat Social on June 9, to enjoy a cup of coffee and brunch. They choose various locations all over Jacksonville to make sure all members have an opportunity to catch-up, relax, and plan more opportunities for fellowship.

July 4 - 7, 2022, was the Civitan International Convention held in San Antonio, Texas. Two members participated in person, Lana Suggs Champion, and Wynester Sherrer, and eight members attended virtually. Uptown was the winner of **1st Place Outstanding Youth Project for the Pace graduation project**, and **Honorable Mention for the Shropshire Outstanding Club in all of the Civitan**. Lana Suggs Champion interviewed Dr. Powell, CIRC, during the Philanthropy Session. Wynester's Walk and Roll walkers joined the group of walkers. Mattie Fraser was awarded Honorable Mentions for her wonderful **Florida District Sunbeam! Congratulations to all!**

The Florida Sunbeam

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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.