

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2022

Opening: A regular meeting at The Oaks Restaurant & Lounge, Continental Country Club was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Mary Anderson who welcomed everyone then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Three guests introduced themselves and several members were welcomed back after long absences. June and July birthdays were announced. Mary passed the Happy Box with \$19 being collected.

Program/Speaker: Member Doris Field is an active Advocate with **Guardian ad Litem**. She introduced Recruiter Amarilys Ortega who serves in Sumter County and spoke to us about the organization and its purpose of advocating for neglected and abused children. As part of the Justice System, advocates are appointed by judges to speak up for the child's needs in the courtroom and in the community. The program is funded by each county and the state. Both Amarilys and Doris spoke anonymously of cases they have been involved in, their time commitment and personal rewards for making a huge difference in the lives of those otherwise voiceless children.

Voices For Children is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) created to help meet the unique and often critical financial needs of the children assigned to the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program. Additionally, they support the recruitment, training, and retention of Guardian ad Litem volunteers. Voices For Children provides money to spur-of-the-moment caregivers for clothes and food for the child that had to be removed from their harmful living situation; funding for critical medical and dental treatments, for developing their personal interests such as sports equipment, scouting and cheerleading uniforms, music and art supplies, etc. Definitely an organization worthy of our consideration to support.

Business Meeting:

- **Community Service** - Adopt-A-Precinct program. All volunteers have been contacted by the Supervisor of Elections office and have begun training for their assigned positions. Laura noted that the depth of the training program may be a bit overwhelming, but that during the actual polling hours there is always someone to help you – just raise your hand.
- **2022 Civitan International Convention** - July 4-7 in San Antonio, TX - Betty, Laura, Mary and Judi (with Bob and John) will be attending, Lana is a virtual voting delegate. It is less than a month before we find out who won the awards for Outstanding Community Service Project and Outstanding Club Website!
- **Social** –There are no socials planned for the next three months.

New Business: As a result of the May club meeting about Civitan and other issues addressed at the May Board of Directors meeting, decisions were made as follows:

The Oaks on 44 is the permanent location of Hometown Civitan Club monthly meetings.

To help defray the club's cost of the breakfast at the monthly club meetings, **annual dues** will be increased \$25 **effective October 1st, 2022 to \$175.00**, due and payable in the month of October. (If

that presents a financial difficulty, speak with the Treasurer who will arrange for two equal payments of \$87.50.)

At club meetings, everyone is encouraged to sit at a table with someone they don't know.

Programs: (1) One meeting per year specifically about Hometown and Civitan. (2) One meeting per year provided by the Social Committee. (3) One meeting per year devoted to Bring A Friend. The member who brings a friend also gets her breakfast free.

- Every first-time guest gets her breakfast free (sponsors are encouraged to treat/pay).
- The member who brings a friend who joins the club, gets her next breakfast free (honor system).
- The member who brings in three (3) new members within the same fiscal year will receive \$50 off her next annual dues.

Next Club Meetings & Programs: Because of the convention, **there is no club meeting in July.**

August 2 – Beacon College in Leesburg - The first accredited college offering four-year degrees designed around the needs of students with diagnosed learning disabilities.

September 6 – Presentation of our annual charitable grants and Business Leader of the Year award to Diane Hintzen, manager of Evelyn & Arthur, for her fundraising efforts that benefit PACE and Ruth House.

October 4 – Florida District Governor Bonnie Ruth will install our club officers for 2022-2023.

Website: www.HometownCivitanClub.com Source for Calendar of Events, Latest News, Photos & Videos, Who We Are and How We Serve, New Member information.

Adjournment: Mary led us in reciting the Civitan Creed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary.

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Sue Ann Baker, Doris Field, Vicki Findley, Sharlene Floam, Paula Goldstein, Claire Gore, Judi Higbee, Arlene Kaplan, Laura McLaughlin, Linda Meng, Lana Rosenberg, Karen Schwering, Angela Vickers (14). **Guests:** Leslie Ginsburg (Lana), Cheryl Collins and Laura Wall (Sue Ann).