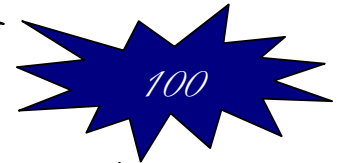




Florence

Civitan Club

2016 Alabama North Most Outstanding Newsletter



March/April 2018

Volume 6 Number 3

Regular Meetings
From noon to 1:00 p.m. every
Tuesday at the First Baptist
Church (use entrance across from
Florence Public Library).

Upcoming Event Schedule:

- March 2&3 – District Meeting
- March 4 - UCP Telethon
- April 3 – SEEK Meeting
- April/May – Vidalia Onion Sales
- May 25 – BBQ Plate Sales

Officers

- President.....James Gray
- Pres Elect.....Jim Harris
- Secretary.....Lelia Wissert
- Treasurer.....Danny Hendrix

WHAT IS CIVITAN?

Civitan is a worldwide, all volunteer service organization where men and women have an organized way of approaching local com-munity problems through service and fund raising.

We emphasize serving people with developmental disabilities. Local clubs are supported by Civitan International, which was organized in 1917 and spans over 24 countries. The word CIVITAN is a coined word that comes from the Latin word "CIVITAS", which means

CITIZENSHIP

Civitan - The First 100 Years

The third in our four part series on Civitan History.

Civitan History 1951 – 1975

In 1951 Civitan chartered a club in Puerto Rico and in 1953 the first Canadian President was elected but the relationships were not harmonious. The Canadians did not send their dues to headquarters; all monies stayed in Canada which became a bone of contention as the U.S. did not feel they were not carrying their share of support for the organizations overhead and magazine. Although these issues were tabled in the interest of maintaining good relations; it was decided to postpone global expansion until 1970.

Due to the events in Korea in 1950's it was pointed out in the 1956 Civitan International convention that Communism appeared to be winning the hearts and minds of people around the world. If so it was not for lack of Civitan effort. In addition to its programs encouraging voter participation and supporting Radio Free Europe and good citizenship, in 1959 Civitan International created a Civitan Foundation for the Promotion of Good Citizenship which awarded college scholarships to the winners of the Club's citizenship essay contest.

In the midst of McCarthyism and Korean War; Civitan continued to grow at the slow pace. The need to assist and educate club members in twenty-nine states, Canada and Puerto Rico was almost overwhelming. Orders of Civitan supplies jumped almost seven hundred percent, and the broad issue of translating club materials into other languages became a new problem.



Training conferences began to train district and club officers on ways to gain and retain members.

(Continued on page 10)

Upcoming Speaker Assignments

03/06/2018	Eva Scull
03/13/2018	John Ingwersen
03/20/2018	TBD
03/27/2018	John Ingwersen
04/03/2017	Adam Kolmetz
04/10/2018	Chris Dixon
04/17/2018	Diana Sledge
04/24/2018	Beatriz Pettus

Upcoming Board Meetings

03/12	Noon, FPL
04/10	Noon, FPL

Happy Birthday!

3/05	Jonathan McKee
3/14	Briana Butler
3/15	Bill Cochran
3/20	Blake Edwards
3/29	Alison Isbell
3/29	Pat McKinney
4/06	Van Stack
4/12	Louise Tanner
4/21	Ron Helgemo

Civitan Anniversary

3/01	James Gray (2)
3/01	Alison Isbell (19)
3/01	Jay Martin (31)
3/01	Patrick Sneed (20)
3/03	Pat McKinney (3)
4/04	Deanna Sledge (1)

Funds Raised Last Year / This YTD

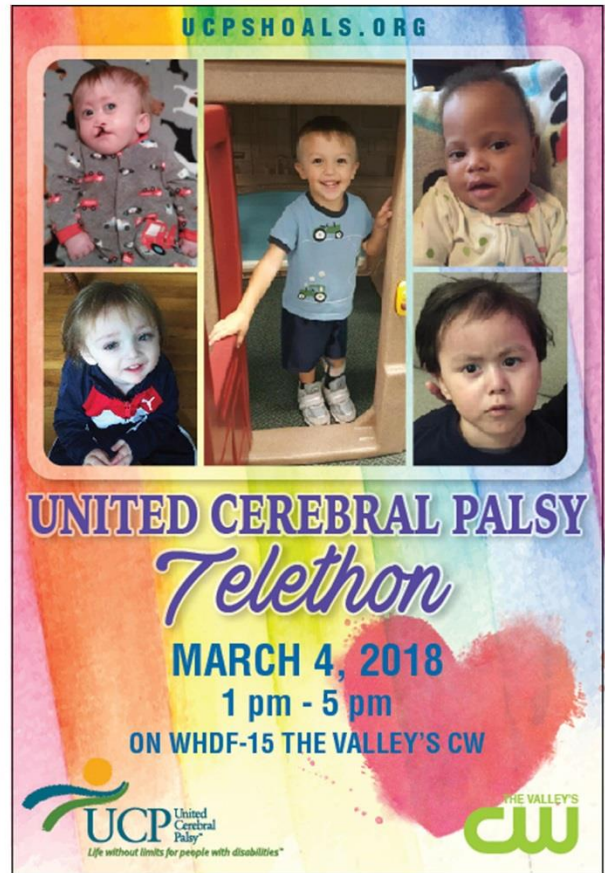
Ornaments	\$2,511.44	\$1,525
Boston Butt	\$2,019.87	\$1,005
Civitan Cups	\$1,651.00	\$ 189
Donations	\$ 220.00	\$
V Onions	\$ 995.00	\$
BBQ Dinner	\$1,346.63	\$
Coin Boxes	\$ \$\$	\$ \$\$

Provide YOUR input!

54th Year of UCP Telethon

By Allison Isbell

We are gearing up for our 54th annual telethon for the Cerebral Palsy Center to be held March 4, 2018 from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm on the Valley's CW (channel 15). The Florence Civitan Club sponsors the telethon each year. UCP provides free therapy and services to children who are developmentally disabled/delayed in northwest Alabama. They currently serve approximately 60 children who have various delays or disabilities including children who have cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, cleft palate, spina bifida, etc.



Basically, if a child has a delay in their development, UCP can help. Through a grant with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect, UCP provides money to families with children who are developmentally delayed helping them pay for sitters. All the money raised on March 4th will stay right here in northwest Alabama to help local children and their families. We sure hope you'll promote the telethon and encourage all your family and friends to donate this year. For more information or to make a pledge or donation you can visit www.ucpshoals.org or call Alison Isbell at (256) 381-4310.

President's Message

The Benefits of Being a Civitan

When I first became a Civitan member, many of my friends and relatives were asking "why did you join the Civitan Club?", "what do Civitan do?" or "what are the benefits of being



a Civitan member"? With any endeavor in life we are always asking what's the benefit? What's in it for me? This question most often is a subconscious question and very seldom verbalized. We very seldom become involved in anything without seeing and understanding the benefits. Our employment, recreation, exercise, school, politics, organizations and even religion are all scrutinized by the question "what's the benefits"? There are several benefits of being a Civitan member.

First, the fellowship among Civitan members is great. The weekly luncheons provide an atmosphere of friendship, sharing and communication. The fellowship among Civitan members is unbeatable. Not only is there fellowship at the weekly luncheons but the fellowship at the district, regional and international meetings are exceedingly wonderful. There is an opportunity to meet people from all walks of life, different races and nationalities, and a multiplicity of backgrounds and cultures.

Second, the Civitan is all about knowledge. Learning about the community around you. Speakers at our weekly luncheons provide knowledge about areas of the community and the world around us. Knowledge is powerful. Knowledge affords us the benefit of making wise decisions. Without the proper information and knowledge our decisions are flawed.

Thirdly, Civitan is all about service. Service to the community and service to others. Monetary donations to charities are at the heart of Civitan. From the Boy & Girls Club to Big Brothers Big Sisters to St Jude to UCP, Civitan is there and will always be there. That's what we are about. Fellow, knowledge and service. These are the benefits of Civitan.

James Gray

Boston Butts BBQ Sale

By Jim Harris

The Boston Butt sale was a great success. We sold 67 butts. The club generated a total of \$2,345. We paid 360 BBQ \$1,340, so we made a profit to the club of \$1,005. All the feedback from both 360 BBQ and those who have picked-up their BBQ has been very positive. The BBQ comes in a package, wrapped and ready to eat. You can ask for sauce. I told 360 that we plan on at least one more fundraiser this year and they were all for it. Thanks to everyone for your great support.

There Are Clues Here, Sherlock

By Ron Helgemo

Not long ago I belonged to a local organization of folks made up of federal retirees. There were only about a dozen or so of us; without a major federal installation nearby, we had no large organization to provide us with a flow of new members. Much like Civitan they met monthly at a local restaurant and occasionally had speakers. Also, each meeting began with the pledge to our flag and a short business meeting.

Business meetings were predictable – read the minutes, go over the treasurer’s report, talk about how to increase membership. You could count on it: how do we increase membership. Since it was a retiree’s organization we suffered the same fate as many other senior groups – our members kept kicking the bucket. And we weren’t replacing them. We needed new members.

Regretfully, the national organization reflected our own. It too was always about recruiting new members. Ok, said I, what is it we do to attract new members? A monthly lunch at Ryan’s won’t cut it. What do we offer? What is our core mission? Why should anyone join us?

The responses were disheartening. There was always the part about protecting our earned retirement benefits but beyond that the silence was deafening. Supporting an organization for its lobbying power has its merits, I suppose, but it seemed to me then as it seems to me now that organizations need a purpose that is both clear and compelling. This organization had neither.

There are clues here, Sherlock. Membership drives are essential to a service organization’s survival. But membership drives are useless if the organization cannot sell what it has to offer – and what it has to offer must be the driving force.

Civitan is all about what its name says it is: citizenship. We offer opportunities for community service, we offer fellowship, and we offer education through our weekly speakers. In short, we have a purpose that is both clear and compelling.

In the movie ‘Field of Dreams’ they have that wonderful line, “build it and they will come.” It may even be true. But I’m convinced that what we build makes a difference. A few years ago my federal retiree organization folded; we gave up our charter. There is a lesson here. We can have membership drives until we are blue in the proverbial face, but it won’t help unless we stay true to our values and we are willing to live those values. Citizenship is what we are building. Build that and then they will come.

Our Charities

Florence Civitan has budgeted expected profits from our fund raising as follows:

UCP	\$2,000
UAB/Civitan International Research Center	
Donation	1,000
Civitan Fellow Contribution	1,200
Safe Place	350
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	350
Youth Leadership Forum	250
Shoals Habitat for Humanity	350
Junior Civitan (Sno-Do Dance-a-thon)	100
Meals on Wheels	350
The Healing Place	350
St. Jude	350
Veterans (Independence Fund)	350
Scope 310	500
Room at the Inn	350
One Place of the Shoals	350
Sydney Safe Foundation	350

Our expected fund-raising profits are \$9,000 with \$74.51 allocated to our Activities Fund for expenses of charitable fund raisers. Distribution of most of the funds do not take place until the end of fund raising and may result in changes due to shortfalls or overage in fund raising. Beginning of year (October 2017) balance in this fund was \$8,747.38.

Scope 310 Civitan

By John Ingwersen

Our club is the principal sponsor of the Scope 310 Civitan Club. We provide a program once per month at their meeting (fourth Thursday of each month) which lasts about 30 minutes. Our treasurer acts as Scope 310 treasurer and other clubs assist by providing funding for the Scope 310 Civitan Club dues and other support as requested.

In January Florence Police Officers Gargis and Woods and their K9 partner provided the program demonstrating the K9 abilities to search and find drugs. Upon completion of the demonstration, the officers were bombarded with questions which continued for nearly 30 minutes.

I could use some help with program planning and with someone to take photos at the meetings. If anyone has an idea for a program, please let me know.

Cup Challenge Back!

We have been challenged AGAIN! One of our members (anonymous) has issued the following challenge: Over an eight-week period beginning January 9, 2017, the contributions to our Civitan Cups (which is split among our charities) will be matched for every dollar above \$200 given up to a maximum of \$300. Thus, if \$500 is put into the cups over the eight weeks, we will have a \$300 match and a total for the Civitan Cups of \$800 in those eight weeks. LET'S MEET THAT CHALLENGE AND MORE!

As we go to press we have contributed \$188 to the challenge. We need \$312 in in the next three weeks if we are to meet the challenge!

First Friday Fund Raising



Members of Florence Civitan and friends sold Coffee High School Christmas ornaments at the December First Friday and a good time was had by all while helping with our charities.



Visit International Civitan HQ & UAB/IC Research Center

Every two to three years we take those interested to Birmingham for a day to visit the UAB/International Civitan Research Center and the Civitan International Headquarters. We are unable to visit the Research Center except on a weekday, so we would go down probably on a Thursday or Friday. If you would like to make a visit in June or July, please talk or email John Ingwersen. If enough folks are interested, we will make arrangements. Don't wait too long as we must book the visit well in advance.



Civitan in the Community

Reprinted from Tuscumbia Civitan January Newsletter.



Tuscumbia Civitan Ninon Parker, Larry Anders, and Cameron Kay donated and installed a computer at Belle Mont Mansion. This is the second computer donated and installed by members of Tuscumbia Civitan Club. Pictured to the left: are Cameron Kay, Larry Anders, and Cai Monroe, Belle Mont Site Manager. Ninon Parker is behind the camera. Belle Mont is operated by the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation. Cameron Kay has also provided a scholarship through Tuscumbia Civitan Club for one student to attend a 4 Week Master Workshop entitled “ART OF

TRANSFORMATION” at The Historic Zodiac Theatre in Florence, which is being taught by Tuscumbia Civitan Ronald Rand in January and February. It is wonderful to see Civitan contributing to local culture and the performing arts.

The Healing Place

By Tiffany Reynolds

Editor’s Note: This is one of the charities we support.

The Healing Place, A Center for Grieving Children and Families, is a nonprofit that provides grief support services to children and families who have experienced the death of a loved one due to an accident, illness, homicide, or suicide. The nonprofit is the only stand-alone grief center for children in the state of Alabama. The Healing Place has been in existence for 16 years and has provided their services to over 4500 children in Colbert, Lauderdale and Franklin counties.



The organization has been able to make this type of impact due to an incredible team of counselors and volunteers, who carry out the Healing Hearts Program. There are two parts to the program. One part is the in-facility weekly grief support groups for children and caregivers, as well as family and individual counseling. The other part is the monthly grief support groups at 45 local schools. Last year alone, The Healing Place

provided services to over 500 children in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Franklin counties.

The goal of The Healing Place is to ensure that children do not feel alone in their grief, that their feelings (however they feel) are validated, and that they are provided with the coping skills so that they can work through their grief in a healthy way. Often unresolved grief in children can cause a host of emotional problems, such as depression and anxiety, as well as behavioral problems, such as missing school, poor school performance, criminal behavior and even drug or alcohol abuse.

Here is one testimony that demonstrates the impact that The Healing Place is making in your community.

On July 19, 2016, my life was turned completely upside down. I lost my eleven-month old son, Axton Carter Reynolds aka Little Ax, due to a sudden illness. My oldest son Davian, who was seven at the time, held him in his arms while I was driving. I was trying to get him to the nearest hospital and my husband Antoine was at work. Once we arrived at the hospital they called a code blue. The doctor and nurses worked with him for several hours while me and my oldest son stood out in the lobby, constantly praying until other family members arrived. My family and I was called in by the hospital staff. Once we got back to the ER the doctor said, "We did everything we could do, but he did not make it". I had never imagined my life without my baby boy and now he had passed away a week before his first birthday.

My son was buried on a Saturday, four days after he passed away. The following Monday after his burial, several people started telling us about The Healing Place and that we should consider going. So, I asked my husband and son what they thought about trying out The Healing Place for counseling. They both agreed to go to counseling there. So, I called and got everything setup. The Healing Place asked that we wait at least two weeks before we start because it had only been a few days since Axton's death. We started out with individual sessions. Davian started with Sarah and Antoine and me with Marsha. We begin going every week. My son, Davian, started to absolutely love it. Every day he would ask if we had counseling. Me and my husband realized that each time we went, we felt relieved when we left. Then, after a few individual sessions, we were offered group sessions. My husband is a very quiet and shy person. He really doubted the group sessions. So, me and Davian went to the first group without Antoine. Once again, we loved it. I shed so many tears with people that were going through similar experiences. I left The Healing Place telling myself that I was not alone and there are people out in the world with worse circumstances than me. Me and my son went home with a bitter sweet feeling about our experience in the first group session. We were both sad with grief but filled with excitement from the experience we had at The Healing Place. After we talked so highly about it to my husband, he was willing to give it a try. So, we all started going every other week for group and we are still attending.



The Healing Place Staff

The Healing Place has tremendously impacted all our lives. My family's lives have not been the same since we lost our Little Axton and since we began counseling. We have learned so much about grieving the loss of our loved one. One main thing I have learned, that I remind myself every day, is

that I have got to take care of myself. There are some days I

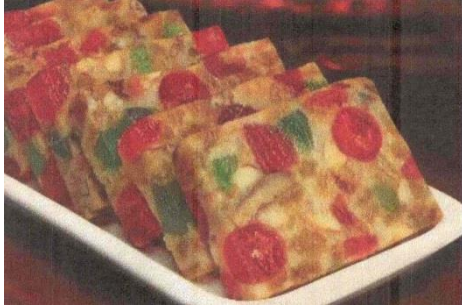
do not want to face life and some nights I can't even close my eyes and go to sleep. I have learned through The Healing Place that I must find time for myself and remind myself its ok to be sad some days. Words can't even describe exactly how The Healing Place has helped me and my family. Everyone has been wonderful to us during this difficult time in our lives.

The development of The Healing Place began in March 2001, when the founding members of The Healing Place, watched a 20/20 documentary of The Dougy Center, The National Center for Grieving Children and Families located in Portland, Oregon. After viewing the video, the founding members (all local counselors) organized a meeting of those in Colbert, Lauderdale and Franklin counties who were providing grief support services. The purpose of the meeting was to learn how the needs of grieving children and families were being met in this area. It was determined that grieving children were "falling through the cracks," and there was a need for a facility to be established to meet the unmet needs of grieving children. During the fall of 2001, a Board of Directors was established and began meeting and planning to develop the grief center. The Hospice of the Shoals graciously donated \$60,000 to fund the start-up of The Healing Place. The Healing Place was incorporated on September 27, 2001. The Healing Place received non-profit 501 (c)(3) status in May 2002. They opened on January 8, 2002, and the first group was held on January 22, 2002

The Healing Place has grown dramatically since their inception. During their first year, The Healing Place had one counselor on staff, who also served as the Director, and served 18 students at two local elementary schools. In the last 16 years, they have grown to serve over 500 children in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Franklin counties. They provide monthly grief support groups in 45 schools. The Healing Place also provides weekly grief support groups for both children and adults at their facility in Muscle Shoals. Because of their growth, they have added 4 counselors and a team of interns and volunteers from the University of North Alabama graduate school counseling and social work programs.

The goal of The Healing Place is to ensure that every child in the Shoals grieves well and lives well. No child should ever feel alone in their grief.

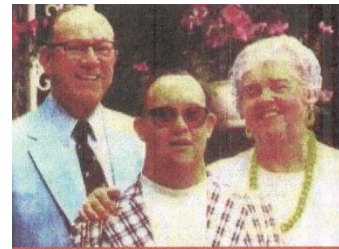
Civitan History 1951 – 1975 (continued from page 1)



In 1952 during the Christmas season Earl Carver introduced selling Claxton Fruit Cake which became a holiday tradition. By 1955 club members were selling over a million pounds of fruitcake annually. Proceeds from the sales are divided among local, district and international units of the organization. In 1959 Claxton recognized the strength of the relationship with Civitan by donating \$10,000.00 to Civitan International for reduction of building repairs and debts. The almost four-decade

negotiations between Claxton Bakery and Civitan international continued to benefit one another at that time.

The most important trend of Civitan during the 1950's was the growing commitment to intellectually disabled children. A single human story brought this issue to the forefront of Civitan life. In 1942 Tommy McNulty (pictured at left) was born in Baltimore, Maryland, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McNulty. Tommy had Downs Syndrome and the "experts" advised that he be institutionalized. The McNultys rejected that counsel and chose to look for assistance in improving Tommy's quality of life. There was none – no facilities, no services, no research. Convinced that early intervention could allow children like Tommy to The McNultys contacted Dr. Harry Latshaw, head of Special Education for the Baltimore Public Schools. Latshaw informed them that services for intellectually disabled children in the public schools were limited. The McNultys were shocked when Latshaw told them that teachers in special education did not have any special training for that work and received those assignments as "punishments."



The McNulty family, whose efforts on behalf of the intellectually disabled led to establishing the cause as a primary focus of Civitan. The McNulty Civitan Scientist Award is given annually at the University of Alabama Birmingham's Civitan International Research Center.

McNulty offered to raise funds to send teachers to workshops to learn new methods for working with intellectually disabled children. Latshaw gladly received his offer, and McNulty began asking friends for contributions. One of those friends, Harold Leonhart, agreed to give, but decided to make his friend “earn” his donation. Leonhart gave his gift to the Baltimore Civitan Club and told McNulty to get it from them. Leonhart’s strategy worked. McNulty told Tommy’s story to the Baltimore Club and many members met the sweet, appealing child who, because of his parents’ active intervention, was performing at a level far beyond doctors’ expectations. The Baltimore club enthusiastically threw itself into raising monies for scholarships that went to teachers for training in special education. McNulty expanded his speaking engagements, and soon the Chesapeake District of Civitan adopted intellectual disabilities as a project. Monies were increasing, and the District began to make broader appropriations including a \$5,000.00 grant to a geneticist doing research in intellectual disabilities at The John Hopkins University.

c i v i t a n ’ s t H i r d 2 5 Y e a r s	
1951	Wichita Falls Civitan Club formed
1953	Foundation for Mentally retarded and Handicapped Children provided scholarships for teachers
1953	Corpus Christi Civitan Club Formed
1953	First Canadian Club President elected
1956	El Dorado Civitan Club formed
1956	Convention resolution to make mentally retarded children the major project of Civitan International
1956	Muskogee Civitan Club formed
1957	Enid Civitan Club formed
1957	Topeka Civitan Club formed
1958	Civitan International moved to bigger new offices on North 21st Street in Birmingham
1959	Civitan Foundation created Promotion of Good Citizenship
1961	Broken Arrow Civitan Club formed
1961	Searcy Civitan Club formed
1963	Jonesboro Civitan Club formed
1963	Paragould Civitan Club formed
1964	Thomas McNulty dedicated Civitan Rehabilitation Center at Partlow State School at Tuscaloosa, Alabama
1965	Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire passed away
1970	Civitan International celebrated 50 years
1975	Bartlesvile Civitan Club formed

The effort broadened even more in 1952 when founder Dr. Courtney Shropshire, at his friend Harold Leonhart’s encouragement emerged from retirement to become medical consultant of the American Red Cross Baltimore Blood Donor Center. He joined the Baltimore Civitan Club and came to appreciate its efforts on behalf of the intellectually disabled. In a speech before the 1952 convention, Dr. Shropshire brought the work of the Baltimore Club to the attention of Civitan members when he praised its day camp program for Children with cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities.



In a speech at the 1952 convention, Civitan founder, Dr. Courtney Shropshire, recommended that Civitan adopt a project to aid the intellectually disabled

During that speech, Dr. Shropshire recommended that Civitan adopt a project to aid the intellectually disabled as its “one citizenship building project in common.” He was excited at the prospect of thousands of Civitan concentrating on a single project. Civitan International followed Shrop’s recommendation, and in 1953 established the Foundation for Mentally Retarded and Handicapped Children to work toward “a new era....in the field of diagnosing, treating, and yes, preventing intellectual disabilities....” Tommy McNulty’s handicap, when joined with Civitan determination, became an opportunity for blessing many.

Also, in 1953 Dr. Shropshire began to act as an unpaid representative for Civitan across the western United States. With the founder again in the field and a new cohesiveness built around the cause of intellectual disability, Civitan appeared to be on a roll.

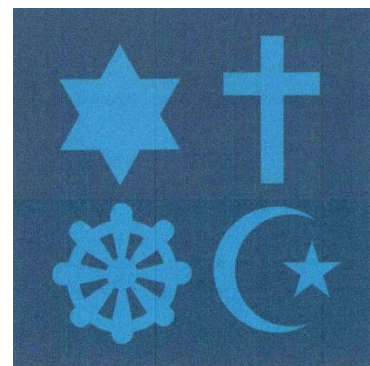
The foundation's earliest efforts, following the Baltimore example, took the form of scholarships and workshops for teachers of intellectually disabled children. In 1956 Civitan International's membership unanimously adopted a resolution to make intellectually disabled children the major project of Civitan International, and the creedal phrase "My ears hear the cry of children," took on new and significant meaning. Building on the positive experiences of local clubs which earlier had worked with mental retardation projects, Civitan International threw itself into this unified project with characteristic enthusiasm. Member efforts were soon recognized when in 1958 and 1959 the National Association for Retarded Children commended the organization for its work among intellectually disabled children.



In 1958 Civitan International began to officially charter Collegiate Clubs when four clubs joined the Civitan family and in 1959 seven more clubs shared purposes and projects with Civitan International, but they differed in one fundamental way. There were female members in the collegiate and junior clubs, while women were barred from

the senior clubs.

Civitan praised Clergymen for their part in creating better citizens and communities and, by extension a healthier nation. As a natural evolution of its historic "Preacher Day" meetings, Civitan International adopted a program in 1964 to sponsor an annual Clergy Appreciation Week that celebrates the selfless service of World War II Chaplains; Alexander Goode, John Washington, George Fox and Clark Polling. With no thought of their own well-being, the rabbi, priest and two ministers gave their life jackets to soldiers who needed them and then stood hand in hand praying for them as the ship went down.



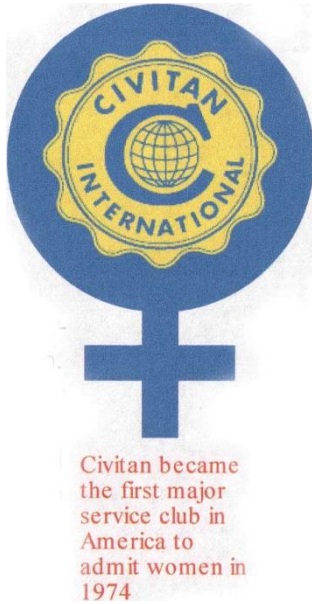
In 1964, Civitan International instituted annual Clergy Appreciation Week



Former President Dwight David Eisenhower receives the Civitan International World Citizenship Award in 1966.

In 1965 Dr. Courtney Shropshire died at the age of eighty-eight. At his death a memorial scholarship fund was established which continues today as a self-contained part of the Civitan International Foundation (CIF). The CIF was established in 1960 as a way for Civitan to make tax deductible donations to the organization for support of its projects. Through the Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Memorial Scholarship Fund and the generosity of Civitan, hundreds of students have had their education advanced.

With clubs in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada and Europe, Civitan celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1970 as a truly “international” organization. Einar Rustad in Oslo, Norway, quickly and almost single handedly established ten additional clubs in Europe, and within six months. Civitan chartered clubs in Germany and Sweden. Clubs in Asia soon followed.



In 1974 the vote failed to accept women into Civitan. Lawyer Orville Kenelly suggested it was the Civitan Bylaws that needed amending not the constitution. A call went out for a meeting about the Bylaws and a vote was taken; 276 to 205, delegates from six nations voted to amend the Bylaws and Constitution to open Civitan membership to women. Thus, Civitan became the first major service club in America to admit women.

In 1976 Civitan signed a contract with the International Management Group for \$60,000 retainer, in which IMG agreed to plan charity events with big name athletes to benefit Civitan and its projects. Club association with well known, positive role models were to generate interest in Civitan and draw new members into local clubs.

Excerpted from Armbruster, Margaret E, The Civitan Story 19

2018 International Civitan Convention Coming Soon!

The Biggest Little City in the World isn't little any more. Reno is the regional capital of an enormous area of western Nevada and the eastern Sierra near the California border. The city boasts first-rate hotels, golf courses, attractions and casinos. The changing face of Reno-Tahoe is on display as the area has become a popular destination for families.

Reno is a vibrant, progressive community, the region's center for



culture, with something for everyone: 24-hour fun, top name entertainment, elaborate shows, museums, performing arts, beautiful parks, shopping, the Truckee River in the heart of the city, incomparable beauty of the surrounding high desert, and the grandeur of the nearby Sierra Nevada mountains. And with an average of 300 days of sunshine per year, the weather may be warm but without humidity.

Civitan are gathering in the “Biggest Little City in the World” in July 2018. Sign up now!

For more information and to sign up, go to the International Civitan/Convention website at:

<https://civitan.org/convention/convention-2/>