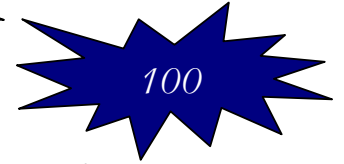




Florence



Civitan Club



2016 Alabama North Most Outstanding

July/August 2017
Volume 5 Number 5

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:

July 4 No Meeting
Sept - Officer Induction/Picnic

Officers

President.....Betty Hamblen
Pres Elect.....James Gray
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 community 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

100 Years of Civitan!

The following article is from Bham Now at bhamnow.com

Fresh water wells in Western Africa, a sensory park in Germany, proms for disabled students across the United States and a research center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham have more in common than merely being good deeds. All of the examples listed, and thousands of others, have one thing in common—they all started over a cup of coffee and a sandwich 100 years ago in Birmingham.



In 1917, Dr. Courtney Shropshire dropped by to visit Claude Hagan, a local pharmacist in Ensley, and a few hours later a new service organization—Civitan International—was born. Their first project was to raise money for the first street lights in downtown Birmingham but the ultimate goal was always to take a little bit of Birmingham hospitality to the world. They believed good citizenship and the “golden rule” were universal truths and set a goal to expand. By June of 1921, more than 30 Civitan clubs gathered in Birmingham for the first International Convention.

“A good citizen finds ways to serve his or her community,” says Kearney Hutsler, “Civitan provides me with a way to do that.”

Hutsler, a local attorney, is one of a long line of Birmingham residents—and one of 40,000 people globally—known as a Civitan. Today, the organization has grown to reach 49 countries and all age groups with clubs geared toward high schools, colleges and young professionals.

On March 17, 2017, the original Civitan Club of Birmingham turns 100 years old. Club members and friends will gathered for a birthday reception at the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC)—the flagship program of the organization— in Birmingham’s Southside to mark the occasion on March 9th with food, drinks and a proclamation

**Upcoming Speaker
Assignments**

- 7/04 July 4th Holiday
- 7/11 Pat Moon
- 7/18 James Gray
- 7/25 Patrick Sneed
- 8/01 Robert Steen
- 8/08 Julie Hamm
- 8/15 Deanna Sledge
- 8/22 Arlene Wisdom
- 8/29 Lelia Wissert

Upcoming Board Meetings

- 7/13 Noon, FPL
- 8/14 Noon, FPL

Happy Birthday!

- 7/07 Danny Hendrix
- 7/26 Julie Hamm
- 7/31 Jack Martin
- 8/14 Travis Harmon
- 8/21 Arlene Wisdom
- 8/24 Lelia Wissert
- 8/28 Marsha Carter

Civitan Anniversary

- 7/1 Chris Dixon (16)
- 7/1 Black Edwards (33)
- 7/1 Judy Jackson (14)
- 7/1 Mike Johnson (33)
- 7/1 Pat Moon (2)
- 7/7 Travis Harmon (2)
- 8/1 Tyler Martin (10)
- 8/1 Arlene Wisdom (28)

Funds Raised To Date

- Ornaments \$2,181.44
- Boston Butt \$2,019.87
- Civitan Cups \$1,375.00
- Donations \$ 220.00
- Vidalia Onions \$ 950.00
- BBQ Dinners \$1,086.63
- Coin Boxes \$ 509.47

Provide YOUR input!

from the state designating March 17, 2017 as Civitan Centennial Day in Alabama.

Meet Our Newest Members

Laura Fuschs

Laura grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia. She has a degree in Fashion Design from Drexel University and an MBA from Temple University, both in Philadelphia. Her degrees have allowed her to study and intern across the globe in London, Los Angeles, Mumbai, and Tokyo.



She has worked for various companies in the fashion industry for the past 11 years. Most recently, she moved down to Florence to work for Billy Reid as Production Manager.

Since moving to Florence, Laura has learned to play bridge, started gardening and hasn't missed the colder weather once.

Roger Tanner

Roger Tanner retired from TVA in 2010 after a 38-year career as an atmospheric chemist and measurement scientist, specializing in atmospheric airborne particles, how they contribute to haze, and how they are formed from gases emitted into the atmosphere. Prior to coming to TVA in 1995, he also worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Desert Research Institute. He has been married to the love of his life, Louise, for 42 years, and has four adult children living in four different time zones. He enjoys choral singing, gardening, and travelling to far-away places.



Our Prodigal Son Returns

by Ron Helgemo

There's that iconic scene in the movie 'The Terminator' where Arnold Schwarzenegger is seen scouting out a police station. After



Ron and Queenie

reconnoitering the room he says, ominously, to the officer on duty, “I’ll be back.”

When I left Civitan a few years ago, I promised “I’ll be back” also. For me it was about family obligations and priorities and simply not having the time to meet my own standards for the activities I felt I had needed to accomplish. Rather than do something half way I chose to limit them to those I could do well. Family, of course, won out and Civitan and other activities had to go on the back burner.

Sure enough, though, life has settled down and, like Douglas MacArthur, I have returned. Why? Well, it’s those things that make being a Civitan such a rewarding experience. First, there’s camaraderie we experience as we associate on a weekly basis with a great group of people. Next, time we have a luncheon just look around at the variety of people that make up Florence Civitan. What a great group.

Second, the education that comes with the programs at our regular lunches is invaluable. I never cease to be amazed at what is going on in our community – most of the time while I didn’t have a clue. Finally, and, the thing most important for me, the opportunity to give something back to this great community is priceless. This is a great place to live. Our Civitan Club’s community efforts make even better. Who could ask for more?

As my wife Janet often tells me ‘life happens.’ It may happen again and there’s no way I can promise that I will be able to stay in Civitan. But even if it does happen, Civitan offers too much to let go. So, not to worry; I’ll be back.

The Benefit of Giving

Tucked away in that old book we called the bible is this eternal truth “it is more blessed to give than to receive”. In this world of takers, soaking up everything they can, is this marvelous principle. Don’t misunderstand the principle. It is blessed to receive. We all love to receive and we are blessed by the gifts we receive: the anniversary gifts, the Christmas gifts, the Father’s Day and Mother’s Day gifts, the birthday gifts. But the principle states that it is MORE blessed to give than to receive. How is that? How can it be more beneficial to give than to receive? The key to unraveling this riddle is to understand that it more of a blessing to be able to give than to be in a position where others have to give to you. Giving is what Civitan is all about. Civitan is about giving of our time, giving of our money, giving of our resources and giving of our lives. I dare you to give!

James Gray – Vice President Florence Civitan

Editorials

Whither we go ... or Wither away

The Craft Beer Revolution, Your Way to Wellness, Using WOW Events to Raise Major Dollars, Who Doesn't Want to Have Fun - these were a few of the workshops presented during the International Civitan Convention in Birmingham this past weekend. But maybe the most important - and least attended - was a workshop called, "Service Club Study" presented by Dr. Daniel Hall, Assistant Professor of Economics and Advisor to the High Point University Campus Civitan Club.

The title does not reflect the potential importance of this study to not just those of us with Civitan, but every Civic organization. He talks in two workshops about Civic Clubs, their importance to their communities, and reflects upon their (all civic clubs) decline since about 1985. I have requested his PowerPoint slides and will talk about this very important issue over the next several issues of our newsletter.

For now I will leave it with this point. Civitan has been in a membership decline for more than 25 years. This is a reflection of government taking over what we and other civic groups and organizations such as churches have handled in the past (more efficiently he points out - and that does NOT refer to government), the improved financial condition of the US worker in general, the greater focus of those who might otherwise be civic club members on their young families, and the proliferation of ways to help in the community (through the internet and contributions) while not personally giving time. As a result we are losing members - so how to change this?

Dr. Hall feels that Civitan International has done the right thing by creating and sustaining the UAB International Civitan Research Center (see following editorial). This accomplishes extremely visible and important research in critical health issues while giving Civitan great publicity and encourage folks to join us. But, as he points out, that was then, this is now. At an International level Civitan (and other civic organizations) need to come up with more ways to encourage membership. At the local level he points out that we (as individual clubs) need to work to encourage our target population (generally younger folks) to join us through better publicizing the things we are doing to benefit the member (education about our communities through speakers), think of innovative approaches to our meetings that might encourage membership (meetings other than lunch meetings, and innovative and high profile services in the community (sponsor a little league team?).

UAB/CIRC and International Civitan HQ Tours

There were multiple tours offered every day to the highly visible Civitan landmarks in our founding city of Birmingham. I have visited the UAB International Civitan Research Center three times in the past and have come away every time impressed with new areas of ground breaking research in critical health issues associated with the brain. More than 100 researchers of international and national repute are employed in research funded in part by Civitan. Four years ago I saw the new 7 Million dollar MRI machine that had recently been installed (seed money provided by Civitan). It was, at the time, the fastest and best

money could buy and it was being used for research while most MRIs had to be employed almost continuously for basic medical purposes. It was noted that only a few such machines were used for this purpose in the US (and even fewer internationally). On the tour this year I was surprised to find that a new International Civitan Imaging Center had been opened at a UAB hospital much larger in size than previously and with a brand new MRI machine installed (again with Civitan seed money). This MRI is faster and provides even more detailed results than the previous "state of the art" MRI machine and, as before, is one of only a few dozen in the US where true research can be performed.

On a more personal level (one of our granddaughters has epilepsy), I talked extensively with a researcher who is applying research from other areas to those with epilepsy to see if he can develop an alternative to the extensive dosing of patients with seizure controlling drugs. This would serve to prevent side effects of the drugs, potentially provide less expensive control (epilepsy drugs can cost thousands of dollars per month) and allow more normal lives for those afflicted.

And this is but one of a multitude of areas being researched at OUR Research Center. In the past I have organized small groups to go on tours of the CIRC and International HQ. I prefer our smaller group to the mob of people on the tour I was on this week as we get to see more and have one-on-one discussions with researchers. Since we have a number of folks who have not had the opportunity to see and hear about the CIRC (or visit the International HQ), I am planning to get up a tour next year about this time - mark your calendar to go if you have not previously. More later!

Civitan Sustaining Research Center Fellow

I'm not a Convention person. Conventions are just not my thing. Cameron Kay spent the last six months beating me over the head with the convention application but I was unyielding until he implied that this newsletter was to receive an award and I should be there for the club. At the Business Session on Tuesday I was thus very surprised to be called up to receive this award. The award requires a \$2,500 contribution to the Civitan Research Center. I am humbled to receive this award but more appreciative than I can say to see that money go to the ICRC. Anyone who knows me has heard my opinion that the ICRC is the most important work we as International Civitan can do (see above). It is my fervent prayer that this contribution might be the tipping point to put Epilepsy, Alzheimer's, and many other such afflictions in the scrap heap of history. And so my heartfelt thanks to all who made this award possible - I am overwhelmed!

So I Have to get a Speaker?

Our club has traditionally asked each member to find a guest speaker for one meeting. We are set up this way so no one individual is burdened with having to find all of our speakers - which in turn leads to repetition and a reduced quality of speakers. The President-Elect is generally charged with coordinating meeting speakers - that does NOT mean he or she is supposed to find all the speakers. Sharing the burden with 38 (we currently have 39 members) other members means each member has to find a speaker roughly once every 10 months.

So where to find a speaker? Compared to special interest groups such as a Garden Club, finding a speaker for Civitan is really easy. This is so because we are interested in hearing from almost anyone about almost anything (as long as it is interesting). Have you read about some interesting local project in the newspaper? There is someone out there who can tell us a whole lot more about it. Have you heard an interesting talk somewhere else? Bring it to Civitan. Do you know someone with an interesting job? Let them tell us about it? Is there something of particular interest to you individually? Then the chances are we want to hear about it too.

One final point. When I invite a speaker, I try to make them feel like a guest and tell them about Civitan. I give them our Civitan brochure and our Florence Club brochure, invite them to come back as my guest to hear other speakers, and encourage them to consider joining us as a member. By employing this approach, I find about one of every five or six end up as members.

Book Signing by Civitan Ronald Rand

The following is reprinted from the Tuscumbia Civitan Newsletter

On Wednesday, June 21st, 5-7pm at Cold Water Books 101 West 6th Street in Tuscumbia, Tuscumbia Civitan member Ronald Rand will hold a book signing for his most recent book "Create!" "Create!" is a collection of artworks and soul-searching interviews exploring the creative process of world renowned actors, artists, choreographers, composers & lyricists, dancers, directors, educators, musicians, playwrights, poets, singers, and writers. Please read the announcement for this event, which is being sent along with this newsletter.

Ronald Rand to Perform for Helen Keller Festival

The following is reprinted from the Tuscumbia Civitan Newsletter

On Thursday, July 22nd at Helen Keller Library from 4-5 PM, our own Ronald Rand will star in "The Tuscumbia I Know: A Talk by Captain Keller" a solo presentation created by Mr. Rand for the occasion. Mr. Rand will play the role of Captain A.H. Keller. Please do take a look at the announcement for this event, which was sent with this newsletter and don't miss the presentation.

Unusual Fund Raisers Around Civitan Land

The London Bridge (Colorado) Civitan Club on Thursday announced the winners of the club's 21st Annual 100-degree Day Contest.

The contest requires participants to correctly guess on which date Havasu would first see the mercury rise above 100 degrees. Of more than 160 entries, four contestants this year predicted that day would fall on May 3, when meteorological website AccuWeather recorded temperatures of 101 in Lake Havasu City.

This year's prize would have been \$420 to the winner, but that prize was split four ways. An additional \$420 will help fund the Special Olympics March Area Track & Field Games at Thunderbolt Middle School this year.

This year's winners were Linda Newman, Mark Holmes, Robbie James and John Sauser. Of the winners, Newman was the only permanent Havasu resident. Now 77, Newman was herself a club member until 2015.

"It's a wonderful organization," Newman said. "When I was a member, I sold tickets for the contest. They still sell them in front of local grocery stores, and I still buy them. It's a wonderful way to add to the Special Olympics – if not for (Civitan leaders Chris and Don Bergen), there might not be a Special Olympics in Havasu."

According to Civitan Club President Don Bergen, it's not unusual to see so many participants win the competition simultaneously. If the competition ended only two days earlier, there would have been six winners, Bergen said.

2017 Centennial Celebration Convention



Scope 310 President Larry Cross with Willie and Betty Hamblen at International Convention in Birmingham

