



# Florence

# Civitan Club

2016 Alabama North Most Outstanding Newsletter



January/February 2018

Volume 6 Number 4

### 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:

January - Boston Butts  
February - Clergy Day  
March - UCP Telethon

### 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 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

### Civitan - The First 100 Years

In exploring Civitan newsletters on the internet recently I discovered the Heartland Express - the newsletter for the Heartland District. Last year they ran a three part series on "The First 100 Years of Civitan" excerpted from various sources. It is an exceptional and detailed history which I thought everyone might enjoy. Therefore, Believing that it truly "Better late than never", in this issue and the next two, we will explore the history of Civitan.

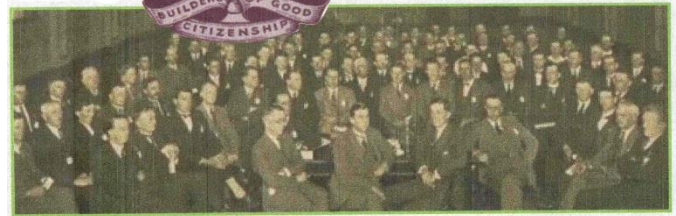
## Civitan History 1926 – 1950

From depression to a second world war and then into the bitter beginnings of the Cold War, the 1930's and 1940s were some of the most difficult and challenging times America and the world ever faced. During the early years of the Great Depression, all service clubs suffered sharp drops in membership, and Civitan was no exception, decreasing in size during the early thirties to only seventy-two clubs. Insufficient

funding during the depression turned what might otherwise have been normal, everyday problems into crisis situations for Civitan. Loss of membership,

inadequate money, tensions between staff and club members and officers, even questions related to the organizations' basic purpose all plagued Civitan during the 1930s. Indeed the existence of Civitan seemed at risk

Yet neither Civitan Optimism nor its most energetic efforts could shield the organization from the drastic loss of members, nor from the nonpayment of dues and the resulting, devastating loss of revenue. Because of these financial problems, in 1931 Civitan International sold bonds to its members to help finance staff salaries and to cover miscellaneous organizational expenses. Members who returned the bonds and forgave the debt that Civitan owed them were lavishly and publicly praised at conventions during the 1930s. The fiscal situation



*Upcoming Speaker Assignments*

01/02/2018	<b>New Year's Holiday</b>
01/09/2018	John Ingwersen
01/16/2018	James Gray
01/23/2018	Chris Dixon
01/30/2017	Arlean Wisdom
02/06/2018	Ron Helgemo
02/13/2018	Kyle Friauf
02/20/2018	Eva Scull

*Upcoming Board Meetings*

01/11	Noon, FPL
02/14	Noon, FPL

*Happy Birthday!*

2/09	Jim Harris
2/13	Betty Hamblen
2/22	John Ingwersen

*Civitan Anniversary*

1/01	Julie Hamm (15)
1/01	Billy Richardson (14)
(1/12	Briana Butler (2)
2/01	Danny Hendrix (34)
2/01	Lelia Wissert (5)

*Funds Raised Last Year / This YTD*

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

Coin Boxes	\$ 604.59	\$ 200
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*Provide YOUR input!*

Call John Ingwersen at 256-757-

5325 or email to

[jlingwersen@gmail.com](mailto:jlingwersen@gmail.com).

would have been far worse had it not been for the actions of two past presidents, Frederick E. Lykes of North Carolina and Harold Tschudi of Maryland, who agreed to forgive half of the expenses they had incurred in service to the Club.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Meet Our Newest Members

### Adam Kolmetz

Adam was born and raised in Baker Florida, a small rural community located in the panhandle of Florida near Fort Walton Beach. He graduated from Baker High School in 1995 and went on to attend Troy State University. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Troy State in December of 1999.

Adam held jobs in the environmental and safety fields just after college. He got hired by the Social Security Administration in July of 2002 in Birmingham Alabama. Adam has been employed with SSA for over 15 years. He transferred to the Florence Alabama SSA office in September of 2007.

Adam married his wife Lara in August of 2001 and they have 2 daughters, Adrienne (12) and Lindsey (7). They live in Lexington Alabama where Lara grew up. Adam enjoys working in his church where he teaches an adult Sunday School class and a Wednesday night kid's 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. He also volunteers in the Northwest District office of the Methodist Church.



## Beatriz Pettus

**Beatriz E. Pettus** attended high school in Orange County California. She graduated from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah with a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Spanish Translation. After college graduation, she landed a job as a Policy Owner Specialist for American General Life Insurance Company in Houston, TX. She then attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas where she obtained a Bilingual K-12 Teaching Certificate. After teaching bilingual children in Conroe, Texas for two years she moved to Alabama. She was hired by the Social Security Administration in 2002 under the Scholar Program as a Bilingual Claims Specialist in Birmingham, Alabama.



She has worked in several SSA offices including Birmingham, Huntsville, and Florence since 2008 Beatriz Pettus has ample knowledge in all the programs that the agency administers. She adjudicates payment for Disability, Retirement, Survivors, Auxiliary, Medicare and SSI claims. Because of her passion for diversity, she has carried out various outreach events to disseminate information in the community about the different programs that the agency administers, and she has planned and organized different diversity celebration events throughout her career and earned the Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award in 2015.

She is married to Alabama native, Marion Daniel Pettus, and has four beautiful daughters: Vanessa Nicole (15) (Down syndrome), Emily Brighton (12), Madelyn Kate (7), and Addison Blair (4) that keep her pretty busy. In addition, Beatriz is actively involved in her church. She attends the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Florence where she has served in many different leadership positions on a voluntary basis. But currently her favorite church calling is working as a Primary Teacher for children ages 9-10. She's now delighted and eager to serve the community of Florence via the Florence Civitan Club.

## President's Message

### New Year's Resolutions

I could say nothing more about this subject than what I found and have printed below. I hope you enjoy and profit from it as much as I have. Let us strive to make this the best year ever for our Florence Civitan Club. Happy New Year!





## New Year's Resolutions

*It can be daunting when your list of **New Year's Resolutions** is as long as your holiday shopping list. In addition to the post-holiday slump, not being able to keep your resolutions by February, March or even late January may increase your anxiety. When your holiday decorations are packed up and stored away, the frustration of an unused gym membership or other reminders of failed resolutions can make the later winter months feel hopeless.*

*However, it is important to remember **that the New Year isn't meant to serve** as a catalyst for sweeping character changes. It is a time for people to reflect **on their past year's behavior** and promise to make positive lifestyle changes. **"Setting small, attainable goals** throughout the year, instead of a singular, overwhelming goal on January 1 can help you reach whatever it is you strive for. Remember, it is not the extent of the change that matters, but rather the act of recognizing that lifestyle change is important and working toward it, **one step at a time.**"*

*By making your resolutions realistic, there is a greater chance that you will keep them throughout the year, incorporating healthy behavior into your everyday life. Think about these **tips when making a New Year's resolution.***



### *Start small*

*Make resolutions that you think you can keep. If, for example, your aim is to exercise more frequently, schedule three or four days a week at the gym instead of seven. If you would like to eat healthier, try replacing dessert with something else you enjoy, like fruit or yogurt, instead of seeing your diet as a form of punishment.*

### *Change one behavior at a time*

*Unhealthy behaviors develop over the course of time. Thus, replacing unhealthy behaviors with healthy ones **requires time. Don't get overwhelmed and think that you** have to reassess everything in your life. Instead, work toward changing one thing at a time.*

### *Don't beat yourself up*

*Perfection is unattainable. Remember that minor missteps when reaching your goals are completely **normal and OK. Don't give up completely because you** ate a brownie and broke your diet, or skipped the gym for a week because you were busy. Everyone has ups and downs; resolve to recover from your mistakes and get back on track.*



## Scope 310 Civitan Christmas Party

The true spirit of Christmas was alive and well at the annual Scope 310 Christmas Party held on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The wonderful meal, served by Scope 310 director, Ralph Stanley and his host of Santa's helpers, was a perfect prelude to the main event; a visit from the jolly ole elf himself, Santa and Mrs. Claus (John Blackwell and his wife)! Family members, volunteers, and Scope 310 members filled the activity center in anticipation of his arrival. When Santa did make his appearance, he came with gifts for each Scope 310 member in his sack. There were smiles all around as participants opened their gifts and sang Christmas carols. Alyssa Ashley, TVA Community Credit Union Marketing Director brought her guitar by and led the crowd in some of their Christmas favorites. This was definitely a celebration to remember! The party followed immediately after the Scope 310 Christmas Play which you may have seen featured with a photo in the December 15 issue





of the Times Daily. John Blackwell stated that, “The gifts we presented were small compared to the gifts we received.” Alyssa summed it up by saying, “It went great! Everyone there had a blast!!



Special thanks go to the corporate and Civitan Club support providing gifts valued at more than \$670. The following provided support for gifts: Tuscumbia Civitan Club, Florence Civitan Club, First Southern Bank, Bank Independent, Office Depot, Target, and Walmart. Let them know how much you appreciate their support.

## 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!

## Progress on Membership and Recruiting

I am pleased to provide an exciting update on our member recruiting efforts. We are moving in a positive, upward trend towards growing our members already this year. Since the fiscal year started, we have gained the following 5 members: Adam Kolmetz, Beatriz Pettus, Ralph Wallace, Eva Scull, and Kyle Friauf. We are very delighted to already have a head start on our recruiting goal!

Last month, we welcomed the Civitan International Recruitment Specialist, Megan Mindel to speak at one of our meetings. She gave us great ideas on how to recruit new members and ways to retain our current members. Some of these ideas include: educating prospects on Civitan by using personal testimonies, “selling” the research center and its causes, mixing up meeting locations, hosting a membership drive at a well-known public venue, getting to know members, and sending thank you cards to speakers and visitors. We hope to incorporate her ideas into our recruiting strategy this year and keep the momentum going!!

Deanna Sledge

## Civitan History 1926 – 1950 (continued from page 2)

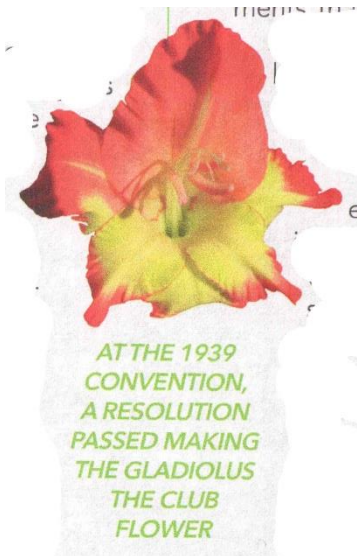
Far better was the example of the excellent, strong Toronto Club that was founded in 1932 through the joint effort of the Detroit Civitan Club and a former president of the Birmingham, Alabama Club, K.Y. Benson, who had taken up residence in Toronto. But Secretary Cumdy reconsidered his stand against paid workers in 1935 when he told the convention audience that volunteer efforts within Civitan were not succeeding in building clubs and reminded them that the larger service clubs were successfully using paid organizers. In late 1937, as better economic times appeared on the horizon, a field representative was hired to work on the west coast expansion where Civitan clubs were often great distances from one another. Depression era clubs continued to give visible assistance to [their] communities. The Toronto club developed a camp for crippled children, Chattanooga's Club raised money for a children's hospital; Birmingham sponsored activities at a county orphanage; and Civitans in Knoxville supported a hospital.

To treat patients with tuberculosis a club in Georgia raised money to build a facility to treat victims of infantile paralysis; the Miami Club, through its radio program "Sunbeams and Shadows," raised more than \$40,000.00 to provide services for indigents; and many clubs throughout America and Canada sponsored Junior Civitan Clubs. A trend was clearly observable – Civitans were drawn to projects that helped children and the physically and mentally challenged of any age.

### CIVITAN'S SECOND 25 YEARS

- 1933** Franklin Delano Roosevelt became an honorary New York Civitan
- 1938** Civitan advocated passage of a bill in Congress that required aliens, after a residence of two years to begin steps toward attaining citizenship or be subject to deportation.
- 1939** First Junior Civitan Club Initiation in East Nashville, Tennessee
- 1940** Civitan International convention in Birmingham, Alabama
- 1946** The Civitan International Honor Key was first announced in the *March Civitan Magazine*
- 1947** Bluebonnet Civitan Club of Dallas Texas established
- 1947** Membership of 10,000 had chartered 34 new clubs
- 1949** Benton Arkansas Civitan Club established

In 1936 Civitan International took an important step when it established a semi-official relationship with the growing number of women's auxiliaries that, following St. Petersburg, Fla pattern, sprang up in City after city. Within a year, President C. Francis Cowdrey of Massachusetts praised the ladies' groups, but expressed concern that the scattered units did not use the same name. He suggested adoption of the name "Civinettes" but no official action was taken by the organization. Civitan leaders praised the ladies' work as a natural one for the wives of members, but a debate arose in 1940. Mrs. Earl Qullian of Atlanta, Georgia, and wife of a past president quickly assured the convention that the wives had no desire to be members; they simply wanted a single name and official recognition under those circumstances, a motion to recognize the officially named Civitan Auxiliary unanimously carried in 1940, but with a reminder that the Auxiliary would receive no financial support from the organization for its projects.



As the depression era eased, at the 1939 convention a resolution passed making the gladiolus the club Flower. The convention heard arguments that the gladiolus was an ideal choice because the flower, like Civitan itself, was widely and easily cultivated and bloomed “upward”.

In 1941-1942 Civitan experienced a divisive internal board dispute between the president and the secretary. The dispute intensified in 1942 due to expenses incurred that were not on the budget [as well as someone owning] the Civitan name and may reap financial benefits from that ownership.

This resulted in the board asking the president not to serve on the Executive Board as past president and not rehiring the secretary.

The 1943 convention amended the constitution to allow local clubs to decide independently on use of the classification system were by only one Lawyer, one Doctor, and one Preacher was allowed in each Club. Just as that decision permitted some local club “discrimination” – that related to race. [That same Year] with “white” removed, the 1943 convention issued an invitation to a “Civitas” club in Mexico to consider an official connection with [Civitan International]. This Latin American prospect engendered great excitement for CI members, although an official relationship with clubs in Mexico did not occur for two decades.



DURING WORLD WAR II, THE SHADYSIDE CIVITAN CLUB IN BIRMINGHAM HELD SO MANY SUCCESSFUL BOND DRIVES THAT THE ARMY AIR FORCES NAMED A B-25 IN THE CLUB'S HONOR.

The successful conclusion of World War II, inaugurated a period of rapid growth for Civitan and other service clubs. In the decade from 1946 to 1956 alone, Civitan tripled in size and became the sixth largest service club In the United States.

1 Armbrester, Margaret E, The Civitan Story 1917-1992, EBSCO Media, 1992, excerpts from pages 43-50