



Florence

Civitan Club

2016 Alabama North Most Outstanding Newsletter



May/June 2018
Volume 6 Number 3

Civitan - The First 100 Years

The third in our four part series on Civitan History.

Civitan History 1976 – 2017

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:

May25 – 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.

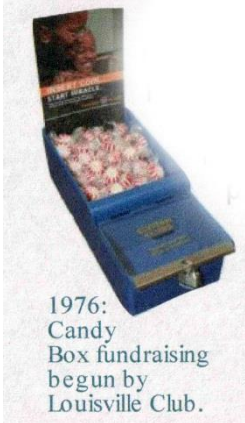
We emphasize serving people with developmental disabilities. Local clubs are supported by Civitan International, which was organized in 1917 and spans over 24 countries. The word CIVITAN is a coined word that comes from the Latin word "CIVITAS", which means

Despite its best efforts of its leaders, staff and members, Civitan in the late 1970's continued to see its numbers erode from 35,500 to 31,000 members. The money invested in big-named athletes saw little members hip growth, so publicity efforts ended and hiring freezes were implemented.

The first Sno-Do event sponsored by the Canadian Junior Civitans was in 1972; a one-hundred-kilometer snowmobile race held in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. Participants in Sno-Do events obtained pledges from sponsors who pay according to the distance the participant races. This event annually raises tens of thousands of dollars for special Civitan projects both local and international.



1972: First Junior Civitan Sno-Do in Ontario



1976: Candy Box fundraising begun by Louisville Club.

In 1976 the Louisville Kentucky Club provided Civitan a money-making project by having volunteers place peppermint In blue box displays at motels and restaurant cashiers and in 1980 Louisville negotiated with Civitan International for the candy box concept. Twenty five percent remains with local club; the remainder sent to Civitan International out of which the candy supplier is paid, some to the staff, the remainder Dollars annually to aid in projects for the mentally retarded.

CITIZENSHIP

(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Speaker Assignments

- 05/01/2018 *Blake Edwards*
- 05/08/2018 *Roger Tanner*
- 05/15/2018 *Robert Steen*
- 05/22/2018 *Briana Butler*
- 05/29/2018 *Holiday*
- 06/05/2018 *Julie Hamm*
- 06/12/2018 *Ron Helgemo*
- 05/19/2018 *Danny Hendrix*
- 05/26/2018 *Glyn Hollis*

Upcoming Board Meetings

- 5/10 *Noon, FPL*
- 6/14 *Noon, FPL*

Happy Birthday!

- 5/10 *Eva Scull*
- 5/18 *Judy Jackson*
- 6/07 *Robert Carter*
- 6/11 *Beatriz Pettus*
- 6/17 *Chris Dixon*
- 6/20 *Robert Steen*

Civitan Anniversary

- 5/01 *Ron Helgemo (14)*
- 5/01 *John Ingwesen (11)*
- 5/02 *Laura Fuchs (1)*
- 6/01 *Bill Cochran (11)*
- 6/14 *Jim Harris (2)*
- 6/25 *Roger Tanner (1)*

Funds Raised Last Year / This YTD

<i>Ornaments</i>	<i>\$2,511</i>	<i>\$1,953</i>
<i>Boston Butt</i>	<i>\$2,019</i>	<i>\$ 790</i>
<i>Civitan Cups</i>	<i>\$1,651</i>	<i>\$ 393</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>\$ 220</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>7 Onions</i>	<i>\$ 995</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>BBQ Dinner</i>	<i>\$1,346</i>	<i>\$</i>
<i>Join Boxes</i>	<i>\$ --</i>	<i>\$ 213</i>

Provide YOUR input!

President's Message

Don't Forget the Fallen



On the last Monday in May we celebrate Memorial Day. This day is not just for barbeque, sports, parades or just another day off from work. While all of this is good, don't forget the true meaning of this day. Enjoy your day. Enjoy the extra time spent with family and friends. Enjoy your backyard barbeque. But please don't forget the true meaning and purpose of this day. Don't come down with a bad case of patriotic amnesia. Don't forget our veterans—the few who were so willing to give of themselves to defend their brothers and sisters, and their country.

But there is a difference about today. Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans; it's honoring those who lost their lives. Most veterans were blessed to come home alive. But there were millions who weren't so blessed. They never came home alive. They came home in a long box draped with the American flag. There were others who didn't even come home in a box, they are still missing in action.

Memorial Day is a day we as a country come together to honor and remember our servicemen and women who answered America's call to service and paid the ultimate price. Memorial Day is the time for Americans as one body to stand up and say, "Thank you. We remember you. We are grateful to you." We honor their loved ones. Mothers. Fathers. Sisters. Brothers. Sons. Daughters. Friends. Every year, families of the fallen are joined together and bound by loss in a way most of us can't even imagine. Military families are something special.

Bereaved parents often become isolated after a tragic loss. Friends don't know what to say. There is a grief no words can touch. We don't have words for a parent who has lost a child; Webster's or Oxford can't define it. So, these mothers and fathers of our military fallen call themselves "Gold Star" parents, based in the tradition of the service flag that hung in homes during the World Wars. Each blue star on the banner stood for a loved one overseas. Gold honored those never coming home.

Therefore, take the time, not just for Memorial Day but every day, to say thank you to our fallen. For those who never left the battlefields, we must hold them up in our hometowns and honor their memories. Don't forget the fallen!

James Gray

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 March we had Master Gardeners talking about flowers and helped the clients put out seeds for their new butterfly garden. Later on the clients, under direction of Master Gardener John Norton and others, put together the first of two planned raised bed gardens. These will be planted as weather permits. One of the clients became so excited he reserved one of the raised beds near the coliseum and is planting it with the help of one of the Scope 310 staff. The Master Gardeners will continue to support this program for the next year

and, hopefully, beyond. The Tuscumbia, Central Heights, and Florence Civitan Clubs contributed \$150 each to make this project possible. Thanks to all for your help!

On April 25 Scope 310 Civitan met with Sheffield Robotics presenting the program. They brought three robots and the clients operated them much to their delight. Thanks Sheffield HS Robotics!



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

The cup challenge raised \$237 which resulted in a \$37 match (\$500 would have resulted in a \$300 match).

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.

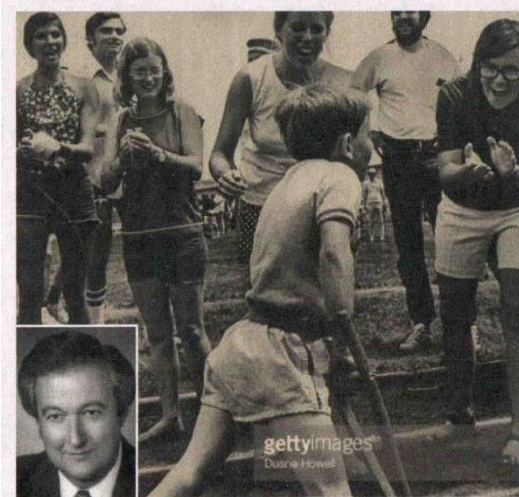


Tuscumbia Civitan Ninon Parker, Larry Anders, and Cameron Kay donated and installed a computer at Belle Mont Mansion. This is the second computer donated and installed by members of Tuscumbia Civitan Club. Pictured to the left: are Cameron Kay, Larry Anders, and Cai Monroe, Belle Mont Site Manager. Ninon 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.

Civitan History 1976 – 2017 (continued from page 1)

Although senior membership declined, Junior Civitans grew to 17,411 by 1978, held its first convention in 1981, and became self-supporting in 1982.



1979: International President, Brian Connelly, initiates Civitan's commitment to the Special Olympics. (PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES)

Money for special projects was raised with great success through Candy Box, SnoDo, Fruit Cake, Chocolate Easter Bunnies and safe for the environment trash bags; however, most of the monies from dues supported Civitan International. In 1973 the Civitan International Foundation made an \$85,000 commitment to fund an office at the National Association for Retarded Citizens. By the late 1970's, over 600,000 inquiries had been handled by the Civitan Public Inquiry Program at NARC, but to Civitan's dismay the public remained largely unaware of its efforts. To gain greater public recognition that was necessary to attract new members, Civitans closed its office at the NARC and began its association with Special Olympics. By 1973 Michigan Civitan Brian Connelly earned a seat on that state's Special

Olympics Board of Directors involved in planning and promoting the first International Special Olympics at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

In 1978-1979 Connelly served as Civitan International resident and got an endorsement from the Executive Board to make Special Olympics a major Civitan project. Civitans across America and Europe raised over \$50,000 and provided 50 volunteers to help with the 1979 Games held in Brockport, New York.

The success of the Special Olympics led to correspondence with Civitan International. Eunice Kennedy Shriver detailed a much more significant involvement with Civitan and Special Olympics during the next international games in 1983. Specifically, Civitan International became the prime sponsor for the games, second only to the Kennedy Foundation, by raising \$250,000. This led to a special relationship in which Eunice was awarded Civitan's Fourth World Citizenship Award. Civitan International provided half the total budget for the Summer Games of 1987 and in 1991. But the sentiment of many Civitans felt there again was no notable public recognition for the money and effort spent.



1983: In correspondence with Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Civitan International became the prime sponsor for the Special Olympics, raising \$250,000 for the games.

In 1984 Civitan International finally revised its creed to reflect the sensibilities of both its female and foreign membership. Because this historical document and almost “sacred” in the minds of many Civitans, it was a difficult decision to remove the original sexist, American, and Christian language from it. It took the long and patient efforts of “consummate diplomat” and past President Francis Essic of North Carolina, to convince many Civitans of the necessity or legitimacy of changes. The 1984 convention, however, finally amended the historic document.

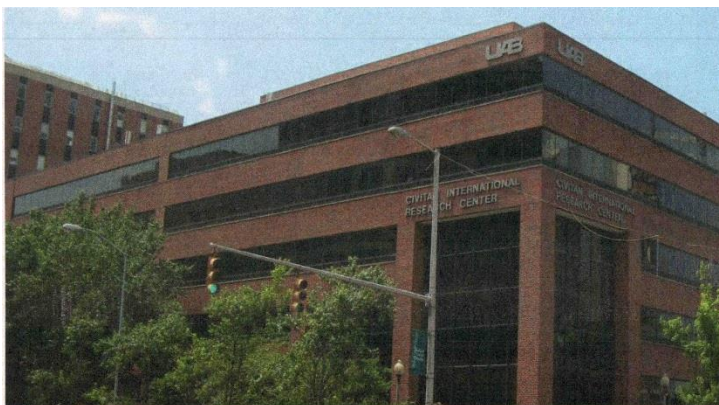
In 1985 Frank Bulgarella resigned and John Rynearson became Executive Vice-President of Civitan International. John spent time in Asia visiting clubs and building memberships. In 1986 Civitan held its first International European Convention in Oslo, Norway.

On October 8, 1988 the leadership of Civitan International reached a consensus that a flagship institution committed to providing clinical services and doing research in the area of developmental disability among children should be the vehicle for the future success of Civitan.

civitan: the last 25 years

- 1972 First Sno-Do Event
- 1977 Rose City Tyler Club, TX
- 1979 First Civitan Support of Special Olympics
- 1986 Siloam Springs Club, AR
- 1987 West Little Rock Club, AR
- 1988 University of Alabama chosen by Civitans for their research center
- 1990 Polly Mooney became first woman Civitan International President
- 1992 Civitan International Research Center Opened
- 1997 Hot Springs Club, AR
- 1997 Houston Clear Lake Club, TX
- 2003 People First Club, AR
- 2004 Starlight Broken Arrow Club, OK
- 2005 Jefferson County Pine Bluff Club, AR
- 2007 Yes We Can Enid Club, OK
- 2008 Cabot Club, AR
- 2009 Argenta North Little Rock Club, AR
- 2009 Heart of the Rock Club, TX
- 2009 Hope Club, AR
- 2009 White River Valley Batesville Club, AR
- 2011 Southwest Little Rock Club, AR
- 2011 Twin Lakes Mountain Home Club, AR
- 2012 Chenal Little Rock Club, AR
- 2012 Ranger Grand Prairie Club, TX
- 2013 Civitan Orchids Club, KS
- 2013 Austin Action Club, TX
- 2013 West County Creve Couer Club, MO
- 2014 Coastal Bend Club, TX
- 2014 Butler County Club, MO
- 2014 Heartland Helpers Club, KS
- 2015 River Park Maumelle Club, AR
- 2015 Tri-County Lake Fordyce Club, AR
- 2016 \$400,000 3T MRI Machine purchased for CIRC research laboratory
- 2017 100th year Civitan celebration and convention in Birmingham, AL

After viewing numerous proposals solicited by consultants the Board chose the University of Alabama at Birmingham due to their international impact, public exposure benefit to Civitan and their personal touch approach. The Flagship Study Committee voted unanimously in 1989 to recommend UAB as the site of Civitan Flagship Institution.



1989: Civitan International endows the University of Alabama Birmingham to create and support the Civitan International Research Center.



A growing urban research university with 17,000 students and 14,000 faculty and staff, UAB was chosen because it displayed a partnership concept not offered by other institutions. Civitan International members committed to provide one million dollars per year for twenty years in return for which UAB donated highly visible property on its campus and one million dollars toward construction of a six-story building to house the center.

When in 1989 the Civitan Convention agreed to these terms Thomas McNulty's dream of committing exclusively to the mentally challenged citizen that dated back to the 1950's – finally came true.

By 1990 Polly Mooney had been Governor-Elect and became the first female Civitan International President.

In 1992 the Civitan International Research Center was completed.

Excerpted from Ambrester, Margaret E, The Civitan Story, 1917-1992, EBSCO Media 1992, p 105 – 142/ Civitan International website 2017A Century of Civitan Magazine, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Excerpted from Ambrester, 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/>