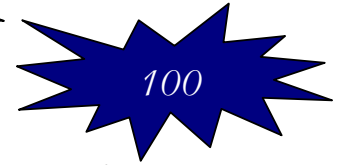




# Florence

# Civitan Club



2016 Alabama North Most Outstanding Newsletter

November/December 2017

Volume 6 Number 1

### 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:

- 12/19 Christmas Luncheon
- 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 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

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.

See Page 7

## President's Message

### Making A Difference

Look around you and you'll see three kinds of people — those who hate their work, and complain bitterly, those who just tolerate their work and see it as a paycheck and aren't looking for more (or feel they can't have more), and finally, those who love their work, and relish it. This group stands out because these are, most often, the people who make a difference.

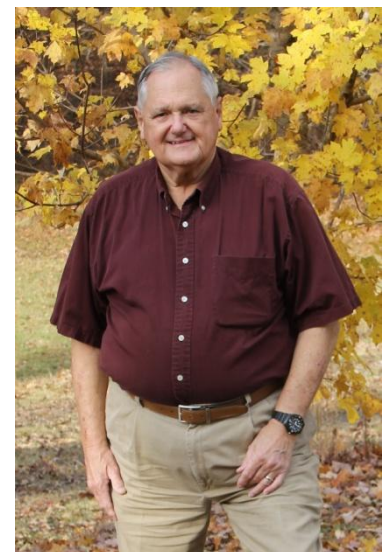


It's critical to note that people who've made a real difference aren't all privileged, advantaged or "special" by any stretch. Many come from disadvantaged families, crushing circumstances and initially limited capabilities, but have found ways to pick themselves up and rise above their circumstances (and their genes) to transform their own lives and those around them. (Continued on page 4)

## Meet Our Newest Members

### Ralph Wallace

Ralph was born and raised in Florence. He graduated from Coffee High School and from the University of North Alabama (FSC) with majors in chemistry and math. He completed the ROTC program at UNA and served 2 years in the Army Air Defense Artillery at Madison, Wisconsin.



- 11/07 Julie Hamm
- 11/14 Jim Harris
- 11/21 Holiday
- 11/28 Ron Helgemo
- 12/05 Danny Hendrix
- 12/12 Glyn Hollis
- 12/19 Christmas Luncheon
- 12/26 No Meeting

Upcoming Board Meetings

- 11/09 Noon, FPL
- 12/14 Noon, FPL

Happy Birthday!

- 11/09 Pat Moon
- 12/05 Patrick Sneed
- 12/09 Glyn Hollis
- 12/16 Deanna Sledge
- 12/19 Mike Johnson

Civitan Anniversary

- 11/01 Betty Hamblen (4)
- 11/01 Glyn Hollis (60)
- 11/01 Van Stack (35)
- 12/01 Louise Tanner (6)

Funds Raised Last Year / This YTD

Ornaments	\$2,511.44	\$0,000
Boston Butt	\$2,019.87	\$0,000
Civitan Cups	\$1,651.00	\$0,000
Donations	\$ 220.00	\$0,000
V Onions	\$ 995.00	\$0,000
BBQ Dinner	\$1,346.63	\$0,000
Coin Boxes	\$ 604.59	\$ 200

Provide YOUR input!  
 Call John Ingwersen at 256-757-5325 or email to  
[jlingwersen@gmail.com](mailto:jlingwersen@gmail.com).

After his military service, he worked in Baltimore, Maryland for one year before returning to Florence to work for TVA. He obtained his MSPH degree at the University of North Carolina in Radiological Hygiene and worked for 30 years at TVA in the Environmental Radiation program before retiring in 1996. He is married to the former Peggy Odom of Parrish, Alabama. They have two children, Thomas and Jenni, and four grandsons, Henry, Brendan, Gus and Gabe. He served for two years with the Civitan Club in Parrish, Alabama, before it merged with another club.

**Eva Scull**

**Kyle Friauf**

Eva Scull has been the general manager of Florence Harbor Marina for the past 10 years. She moved to Florence from Northern Virginia where she worked as a budget analyst for a defense contractor. She has two daughters one who works as a travel nurse and lives in Tuscumbia and the other a graduate student at UAB. Eva enjoys crafts and reading and is a member of North Wood United Methodist Church.



Kyle Friauf moved to Florence two years ago after spending 8 years as Captain of the Nina, the Christopher Columbus tall ship replica. He has completed the American Great Loop multiple times as well as sailed the west coast and through the Panama Canal twice on the cruising museum. He enjoys riding his Harley, spending time on the river and traveling. He is the Harbor Master for Florence Harbor Marina.

**60 Years and Counting!**

**Congrats Glen Hollis and thanks for your dedication!**



# Make a Difference

By Deanna Sledge

I joined Civitan back in March 2017 after I was moved from Bank Independent in Lexington to the branch on Pine Street. After I got moved in and settled, I was asked to join and represent the bank. I can see why Bank Independent is in favor and supports the Florence Civitan Club. I was unaware of the local organizations that are supported, the community events held, and what a great, positive force Civitan is for the community. I am now a board member and have been nominated to be the membership recruitment chairperson. Sadly, before I joined, I was unfamiliar and had not heard of the Florence Civitan Club.

I feel one factor that's led to declining or no growth is that many people are unaware of what Civitan is or does, how inexpensive it is, and that it requires minimal time commitment. We all know that getting the word "Civitan" out there is of primary importance, through print and electronic media as well as by advertising our meetings, projects, events and fundraisers. Social media has become the universal gateway to advertisements, announcements, and "tooting your own horn". We will utilize these channels to bring attention and increase public awareness. These channels will include free newspaper advertisements, Facebook posts, newsletters, and having an updated website to name a few. The club has discussed prizes for members who bring in the most prospective members each quarter.

One of the best systems for recruiting members is telling heartwarming testimonies of how Civitan affects you. People react to positive influences in their lives. If you are enthusiastic about our mission and our projects, the more you will create a buzz necessary to generate the synergy to attract. I would like to organize more fundraisers and projects that will get the whole community involved that will create that motivational buzz. The more members we recruit and retain, the more support we can provide to our local organizations, which will in turn create more community awareness, self-gratification, and more members too.

Join me and others as we ramp up our membership efforts! Together we can all make a difference!

## 2016 – 2017 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to all our members for the work on our various fund drives by which we support a number of charities. As a result of this work we distributed funds as follows (rounded nearest \$):

United Cerebral Palsy (local agency)	\$2,000
Civitan International Research Center (Fellow)	\$1,850
St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital	\$ 250
Youth Leadership Forum	\$ 250
Safe Place	\$ 250
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	\$ 250
Shoals Habitat for Humanity	\$ 250
Meals on Wheels	\$ 250
The Healing Place	\$ 250
Independent Fund (Disabled Vets)	\$ 250
Sidney’s Safe	\$ 250
Scope 310	\$ 250
Junior Civitan (Sno-Do)	\$ 100
Florence Civitan Activities (5% of Fundraising profits)	\$ 454
Civitan District Donation	\$ 500

And here is where that money came from (rounded nearest \$):

Civitan Cup (all year)	\$1,960
BBQ Dinner (June)	\$1,347
Onions (May)	\$ 995
Ornaments (all year - primarily Christmas)	\$2,616
Boston Butts (January)	\$2,020
Donations	\$ 220

## Activities

The total receipts for our Activities account (includes dues and meals paid in) was \$14,683.50.

The total receipts for our Activities account (includes meal cost, dues paid, etc) was \$14,311.58

## President's Message (Continued from page 1)

**People that make a difference have several important characteristics:**

- 1. They dedicate themselves to what gives their life meaning and purpose.**

Thousands of people today don’t believe in meaning and purpose as something to discover or pursue in life. And others believe in a life purpose but won’t take the risk to identify or honor it. Those with positive influence feel otherwise. They have found that there is a purpose to their life, and that purpose usually involves some aspect of turning their “mess into a message,” or using

what they've learned (often the hard way) as a means of being of service to others. People with a sense of purpose are driven, focused, committed, and lit up from the inside — unable to be deterred or distracted from what they believe is the reason they're on this planet at this time. This sense of meaning and purpose gives them inexhaustible drive and offers guideposts to follow along the path. It informs them of what they wish to attend to in life, and what they need to walk away from because it doesn't support their higher purpose.

## **2. They invest time and energy not in what is, but what can be.**

The people who make a positive impact in the world don't settle for conformity. When they see something that agitates and disturbs them, they strive to know more, get to the root of the issue, research and understand the contributing factors, and arrive at new solutions. They observe gaps and mistakes in common thinking and behavior, and trust themselves in their belief that it's time to push the boundaries of what's accepted. They want to affect change because they believe change will bring a better way to live.

## **3. They uplift others as they ascend.**

You've experienced, as I have, scores of "leaders" and high-achievers who've gotten where they are by stepping on the heads and backs of those in the way. These are not true leaders or influencers because their power is a sham — it was obtained unethically and is shallow and weak, and can't be sustained over the long haul. There are power-mongers who are crushing and cruel to their subordinates but they will finally reap what they've sown. Over the long term, this day always comes.

On the other hand, people who positively impact the world not only obtain amazing results in their work, but their process of obtaining these results — how they operate in life — is also inspiring and uplifting. They are happy to help and support others, and have an overflow of positive energy that enriches the lives of everyone they work with and connect with. These positive influencers want others to grow. They walk away from "success-building" opportunities that will be hurtful and damaging to others. They know that those unethical, demeaning or destructive approaches go against the very meaning and purpose they're committed to.

## **4. They use their power and influence well.**

Sadly, it's a common occurrence in business today to witness power and influence being wielded as a weapon. It hurts and destroys. Positive influencers use their power well and wisely. They understand the widespread influence they have, the power they have to build up and elevate, or tear down. Those who impact the world for the better are careful and judicious with their words, actions and behaviors. They operate with heart, and care deeply about their leadership and communication process and style, and the influence they have. They take it seriously, as a special honor and responsibility not to be flaunted or misused. They understand their special role, and accept it with grace, compassion, and care.

Let us make a difference! But to make a difference we must be different!



## Help Needed

We are going to be at First Friday in downtown Florence in November and December and we need your help selling the Coffee High School ornaments. Come for an hour or whatever you can. Talk to or email Julie Hamm at [jhamm@firstsouthern.com](mailto:jhamm@firstsouthern.com) if you can help.



## Picnic



Once again this yer we had a wonderful picnic at Jack Matin's lake home. There were about 20 members, families, and friends there and our District Governor welcomed our newest club members. Thank you, Jack, for the great setting, the pleasant weather

and the spectacular sunset.



## 2017 - 2018 Officers and Board Installation

Our Area Coordinator, Randy Baker, installed our new officers and Board at our meeting on September 26. We look forward to serving our membership in the coming year.



On a January day just weeks before the nation became embroiled in World War I, druggist Claude Hagan was preparing to leave his pharmacy in downtown Birmingham to attend a meeting of a newly organized (community club), when his friend, Dr. Courtney Shropshire, dropped by. Hagan invited Shrop to join him at the meeting and they attended regularly for about a month-and-a-half.

Hagan later recalled that, "We [the entire club] reached the conclusion, whether properly or not that the main purpose of that organization was to make money for someone and we thereupon surrendered our charter "[in club]".

In mid-March, Shrop, Hagan, and others created a local independent, service-oriented club in the city, a club that was committed to building up the community rather than to increasing the business of its members. Drawing from the "outstanding citizens" of the community and "firmly [eschewing] any narrowly

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submarine activity moved the United States toward the Allied cause in Europe, these Birmingham professionals banded together to promote activities that such and emergency demanded of good citizens.

commercial purpose," the members held their first meeting on March 17, 1917.

As Anglo-American loyalties and German

loyalties and German emergency demanded of good citizens. Linking patriotism to progressive zeal, charter member Jelks Cabaniss, a local attorney, suggested the Latin word for citizen, "Civitas", as an appropriate name for the group. Another member, however, suggested that naysayers might be irresistibly tempted to nickname members of the Club "Civic Asses," and members finally agreed upon a derivative form of "civitas," Unanimously choosing "Civitan" as the name for their new organization.. The Club motto followed naturally as charter member Arthur C Crowder, Sr. suggested "Builders of Good Citizenship." Shropshire was elected president for two successive terms,

### CIVITAN 1<sup>ST</sup> 25 YEARS

- 1877 Courtney W Shropshire born
- 1917 Birmingham Civitan Club Formed
- 1920 Honory membership given to General John J. Pershing
- 1920 Little Rock Civitan Club Formed
- 1921 Civitan International formed
- 1921 First Civitan International Convention, Birmingham, Alabama
- 1921 Wichita, Kansas Civitan Club Formed
- 1921 Metro Tulsa Civitan Club Formed
- 1921 Dallas Civitan Club Formed
- 1922 Champ Andrews of the Chattanooga, Tennessee wrote the "Civitan Creed"
- 1922 Civitan International Convention, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- 1923 Civitan International Convention, Washington, D.C.
- 1923 First Civitan magazine published, International Secretary John & Mary Mix
- 1924 Civitan International Convention, Miami, Florida
- 1925 154 Civitan Clubs
- 1925 Civitan International Convention, Dayton, Ohio



*(Continued from page one)*

and by 1920 the Birmingham Club had grown to almost two hundred members.

The club published a weekly newsletter, *Civitates*, which included biographies of members, inspirational features and Club information. The April 1920 *Civitates* included an article offering \$100 in gold for the best submission of a club song. The article called for a "...snappy, tuneful, zippy song that Builders of Good Citizenship can sing at their luncheons and national conventions". Typifying Progressive Era activism, Birmingham Civitans determined to go beyond their routine business and professional activities by initiating unified and systematic community project.



*Cover of 1950 Civitan Magazine, celebrating the 30th anniversary of becoming an International Club*

They participated in early Club projects that ranged from encouraging greater voter participation through payment of poll taxes to supporting the Allied war effort in Europe with Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives and campaigns for the Fatherless Children of France.

The Club was receiving inquiries from other southern cities where professionals learning of the work of the organization, wanted to establish comparable clubs. Lacking neither vision or confidence, on March 13 1920, members of the Birmingham Club filed incorporation papers at the Jefferson County Courthouse- thus creating the International Association of Civitan Clubs.



*Click above to see the informative and inspiring online video of Civitan's 100 years at <http://civitan.org/heartland/100video.html>*

That evening as Shrop and his wife discussed the day's exciting events, Leta Mary remarked to her husband that she hoped Civitan would be "the greatest achievement" of his life. Her untimely death only four days later led Shropshire to dedicate himself to making his wife's wish become reality.

*“It was an age of pioneering and an age in which citizenship through Civitan flickered at times but was constantly being brought back to life to burn more brightly after each trial... Even though I look back to the brilliance of yesteryears, I still have a vision of Civitan's future. I predict that Civitan is still just in the beginning.”*



**Claude L. Hagan,**  
Charter Member,  
Civitan International,  
*The Civitan Magazine,*  
April 1950