

CIVITAN

MAY 2021

**CHAMPION
OF ADVOCACY –
Meet This Year's
World Citizenship
Award Winner**



CIVITAN
INTERNATIONAL



MAY

Recruit a friend, any friend, to join you in the good work of Civitan! Submit an add form for your friend, and your name will be entered in our drawing for one 2021 Jacksonville Convention registration event package, valued at \$250!

RECRUIT A FRIEND

JUNE

Bring Them Back: invite past members, former Junior Civitans, former Campus Civitans, to participate in a project or event! Recruit a former member, submit an add form, and your name will be entered to win a \$250 gift certificate to the Civitan Supply House.

HOMECOMING MONTH

JULY

Invite an essential worker to attend your July meeting or project, present on the work they do in your community, and then invite them to join your club! Recruit an essential worker, submit an add form, and have your name entered to win a Kindle Fire plus a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

RECRUIT AN ESSENTIAL WORKER

**PLUS - INITIATION FEES FOR ALL NEW MEMBERS AND
REINSTATE FEES WAIVED THROUGH 9/30/21!**

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Junior Civitan News



Award for Autism Advocate

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Civitan Magazine, like the organization it represents, is dedicated to service. The magazine will, at all times, emphasize the high ideals and purposes of the organization, disseminate ideas for greater service, and carry authorized announcements and notices regarding the activities of the organization. The magazine is an official Civitan International publication. Civitan International does not endorse or imply endorsement of any product and/or company by selling advertising space in this publication. Editorial opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Civitan International, its officers, or staff.



Good Day Civitans!

I hope things are going well for you and your families. I would like you ALL to know you are very important members of our CIVITAN Family. I lift up each CLUB PRESIDENT and their LEADERSHIP Teams, and finally, all CIVITAN CLUB MEMBERS in my prayers. I sincerely hope you know that each of you AND your local CLUB matter to me! Civitan International was founded in 1917 as an individual club in Birmingham and it was from this one CLUB that an international organization grew. Our mission statement clarifies who

we are and what we do very succinctly:

The worldwide mission of Civitan International is to build good citizenship by providing a volunteer organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and community needs, with an emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities.

So, let me be clear, we are members of an organization of clubs dedicated to serving individual and club needs. I believe our founders saw the value and purpose of clubs in serving the needs of their respective community and as that is truly where our strengths truly lie. The proposed bylaws will open doors to the future, the future of sustaining our beloved Civitan, and to focus our resources where they serve the best, to our local clubs and to you as Civitan members. The proposed governance proposals are in the best interest of the organization as the bylaws serve as the "guard rails" or "boundaries" of the organization and that there are specific items or areas of operational concern not specifically that are to be handled as policy making opportunities by your International Board of Directors after the proposals are approved by you, the membership. Again, please let me be clear, as a certified delegate from a club in good standing, to the annual convention, you are voting on the proposed governance documents as presented by the Civitan International Board of Directors. Please go to our website at www.civitan.org/elections21 for more information.

Finally, have you registered for our convention in Jacksonville? You haven't! Why not? Your International Headquarters staff has spent a lot of time and effort setting up an opportunity for you to learn, grow, and act on important issues that will determine the future of your Civitan organization! This is too important to miss! Get with your club president to find out if you will be a certified delegate from your club and be able to cast a vote, and then register! If you are not a certified delegate, you should still register and come. It will be worth your time.

Please do not forget about our fantastic new member recruiting incentives and be mindful that there are no initiation fees! Recruiting new members benefits your club as it brings new ideas and energy. Are you thinking about building a new Civitan Club? Let me know, I would love to help you grow Civitan.

Thank you for your belief and support in our Civitan!

Champions of Service-LEADERS

Frank Kelley
Civitan International President 2020-2021



INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS 2020-2021

PRESIDENT

Frank Kelley, Fort Worth, TX

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Vacant

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Patsy Perkal, Aurora, CO

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Julia Floyd, Cullman, AL
Dianne Hansard, Cumming, GA
Tony Workman, Greensboro, NC
Carol Wolters, Columbus, OH
Pat McKinney, Orillia, ON, Canada
Michael Morgan, Maryville, TN
Marcia E. Dechand, Topeka, KS
Ann McCarty, Pocatello, ID
Mogens Brun, Albaek, Denmark

JUNIOR CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Ethan Fabian, Tampa, FL

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Scarlet Thompson, Birmingham, AL

WORLD HEADQUARTERS UPDATES

FROM THE DESK OF SCARLET THOMPSON,
CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

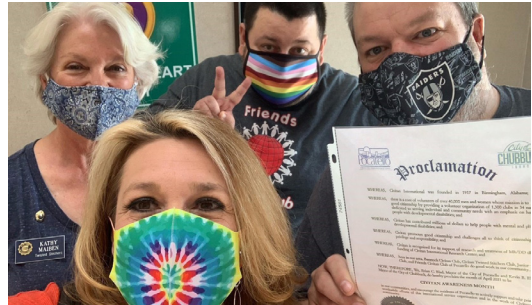
Members around the world celebrated Civitan Awareness Month in April in many unique ways. For instance, the North Bay Civitan Club of D'Iberville and St. Martin in Mississippi received a proclamation from the mayor of D'Iberville. The club took advantage of the city meeting, informing guests about various projects and fundraisers. Bannock and Twisted Stitchers Civitans in Idaho did the same thing at a Chubbuck City Council meeting. The Cottage Hill Civitan Club in Mobile, Alabama, secured a billboard to raise awareness and to help with recruiting. The Tulsa Community College Campus Civitan Club in Oklahoma provided snacks and fact sheets at their various campus, in an effort to recruit members.

As Civitans, we shouldn't let the awareness efforts stop there! There's a great toolkit on Civitan International's website at www.civitan.org in the Member Resource Center specifically for awareness. Or, perhaps your club could take up the example of the Cardinal District. Westerville Civitan Tom Daugherty is spearheading an effort to highlight various clubs, projects and members on their district's Facebook page. His consistent posts and stories have continued past April. They have been a good way to share the impact of the work Civitan does in Ohio and West Virginia.

The Civitan International Board of Directors has met three times since March. There have been a few updates to governance documents proposals that will be up for decisions at the Civitan International Convention in Jacksonville. More information about those is in the elections article in the following pages. Here are other items decided by the board recently:

- The Civitan International Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Finance and Audit Committee regarding a recommitment to the Civitan International Research Center. This comes after the fulfillment of the original \$20 million pledge made in 1989. The pledge that will be made to the CIRC will be at LEAST \$1 million over the next four years.
- The Board of Directors approved San Antonio, Texas, as the site for the 2022 Civitan International Convention. World HQ staff will now work to solidify a contract with a hotel and move forth with plans to hold the event there.
- The Civitan International Board approved the creation of a policy regarding declaring a member "deceased." If there is no "delete" form from a club but CI is properly notified (via an obituary or a district or club leader contacting world headquarters), staff can mark a member "deceased." However, clubs are still responsible for submitting member deletion forms for any of their members who pass away. Deceased members may not be included on club rosters, or be used for official membership counts.

Any Civitan can request a copy of the CI Board minutes. Contact scarlet@civitan.org for those items.





CHAMPION OF ADVOCACY

MEET LORRI UNUMB, WINNER OF THE 2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL WORLD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

BY SCARLET THOMPSON

Nothing quite turns your world upside down like an autism diagnosis for your toddler son. But imagine you are also told the treatment to help him would not be covered by insurance. In fact, it would cost you around \$70,000 a year. You sell your house, take other drastic measures and scrape whatever you can together to afford it. South Carolina lawyer and mother Lorri Unumb did just that but more. She started a revolution of sorts.

"I was heartbroken again thinking about the children who would never have the benefit of a therapy that can be absolutely life-changing," says Unumb.

Unumb wrote legislation to require health insurance to cover evidence-based treatment as prescribed by a doctor for children with autism. She personally contacted virtually every legislator in South Carolina and explained autism and the need for the legislation. After two years, it passed in 2007 and became known as Ryan's Law.

"Once Ryan's Law passed, people around the country began hearing that insurance would pay for Applied Behavior Analysis in South Carolina," says Unumb. "They could hardly believe it was true, and hundreds of families reached out to me – to verify that it was true, to ask how we had managed to get coverage, and to ask for help passing similar legislation elsewhere."

Unumb started a national gathering called the Autism

Law Summit, where parents and professionals discuss how to improve the laws to help people with autism. She also shifted her career, going from working at the United States Department of Justice to working for Autism Speaks. Spending more than a decade traveling the country working with families and state legislatures to pass similar legislation to Ryan's Law, she was an agent of change.

"In some states, the effort to pass the bill took 5, 6, even 7 years. In 2019, we finally hit state #50. Thus, in just over a decade, the landscape changed dramatically, from a situation where only wealthy families could afford ABA for their autistic children, to one where insurance coverage for autism is available in every state in the nation," says Unumb.





Now three years later, Unumb is the CEO for The Council of Autism Service Providers, which is an association for autism providers organizations. Her Autism Law Summit is in its 15th year, and she and her husband Dan are the proud founders of a non-profit center for families affected by autism in Columbia, South Carolina, which provides a variety of diagnostic services, social skills classes and job training. And, in July, she will be Civitan International's next recipient of its World Citizenship Award, which has been given to champions of service like Eunice Kennedy Shriver and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Unumb says she is incredibly humbled but like all of life experiences, will use it to impact others.

"I just hope it brings attention to the still-unmet needs in the autism world. So much has been accomplished in the last couple decades, but so much is yet to be done. People in the autism community can identify exactly what needs to be done – housing, respite, employment – but they need help accomplishing it," says Unumb.

Unumb may be a lawyer, advocate, business owner, CEO and award winner but the job of mother is the one she cherishes the most.

"At my age, I see friends going through their mid-life crises and wonder if they've done anything worthwhile with their lives. I don't ever wonder about such things. Having a child with autism has given me meaning, focus, and direction, and I can appreciate that that's a gift."

It is certainly a gift that keeps on giving.

DID YOU KNOW LORRI IS A CIVITAN?

“ I am particularly drawn to Civitan because of the focus on developmental disabilities, which is a world I never knew I would be a part of, but a place where support from the community is incredibly impactful. I love that my local Civitan club gives me the outlet to engage even further, beyond my own family and my professional work, with the developmental disability community.”





2021 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE UNVEILED

MORE INFORMATION IS OUT ABOUT THE SCHEDULE OF THE UPCOMING CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA. THE EVENT, SET FOR JULY 28-31, WILL BE THE FIRST-TIME MEMBERSHIP WILL MEET IN A HYBRID STYLE. CIVITANS CAN ATTEND IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL'S WEBSITE AT WWW.CIVITAN.ORG/CONVENTION.

TUESDAY, JULY 27TH

5 pm

Civitan International Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH

8:30 am

Convention registration opens

9 am

Civitan International Breakthru Golf Benefit at Deerwood Country Club Golf Course

10 am

Supply House opens

2 pm

Civitan International Board of Directors Meeting continues

7 pm

Opening Ceremonies

For the first time in two years, Civitans will join together in-person to begin the annual convention. This ceremony will include the presentation of the World Citizenship Award to an autism advocate, and the presentation of International Honor Keys.

8 pm

"Old Florida" Welcome Party

Think souvenir postcards from the 1950s, palm leaves, oranges, and flamingoes. We'll be partaking in Florida food like key lime pie tarts and Arnold Palmers. Dress up if you'd like or just come to enjoy the music and fare with friends.

THURSDAY, JULY 29TH

8:30 am

Mission Initiative Kickoff

Awareness is key to bringing in new members and keeping the whole club involved in serving their community. A new messaging initiative will be unveiled and new tools available on-site for members during this time.

10 am

First Business Session

Candidates for International Director and President-Elect positions will be nominated, and the issues to be voted on in the 2021 election will be presented.

12:30 pm

Past International Presidents' Luncheon

12:30 pm

Governors and Governors-Elect Team Building and Training

1:00 pm

Voting Opens On-Site in Jacksonville*

2:30 pm

Workshops

Membership Track, Philanthropy/Service Track,
Mission Track

5:00 pm

Civitan Walk and Roll at the River Walk

Form a team and join us to stroll along the beautiful St. John's River, in support of the Civitan International Research Center. The Jacksonville area band "The Rip Tides" will be our entertainment!

FRIDAY, JULY 30TH

8:30 am

Membership Extravaganza

We'll celebrate membership successes of the 2019-2020 year, recognize those who have "searched for others to join them," and look forward to the next year.

10:30 am

Workshops

Membership Track, Philanthropy/Service Track,
Mission Track

12:30 pm

Philanthropy Luncheon

The traditional Philanthropy session will transform into a luncheon, where the focus will be on the recommitment to the Civitan International Research Center. A presentation from Dr. Powell will be included as well as the presentations of Fellows, HOPE Award, and other honors.

2:30 pm

Workshops

Membership Track, Philanthropy/Service Track,
Mission Track

4:00 pm

District Photos

8:00 pm

President's Council Donor Dessert and Drink Reception

This after-dinner donor reception is Civitan International's way of thanking those who support this essential program, which funds our philanthropic efforts. Stay tuned for a surprise entertainment group!

SATURDAY, JULY 31ST

8:30 am

Workshops

Membership Track, Philanthropy/Service Track, Mission
Track

10:30 am

Second Business Session

Winners of the Civitan International elections will be announced and addresses from the International President, Executive Vice President and Finance Committee will take place.

12:30 pm

President's Team Luncheon and Governor-Elect Graduation
Luncheon

2:00 pm

Service Project

2:30 pm

World HQ Town Hall

This is an opportunity for members to hear a deep dive into the International level of operations. Questions will be welcomed about the organization's finances, the headquarters building sale, and other hot topics.

6:00 pm

Closing Ceremonies Featuring the Pine Castle Flashbacks

The incoming President, International Board and 2021-2022 Governors will be installed. We'll wrap up the night with a performance by the band from a Jacksonville area facility that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Pine Castle is also host to a Civitan club!

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS



ISSUE PROPOSED: NEW ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Approved By: Civitan International Board of Directors

At the 2021 Civitan International Convention, voting delegates will be asked to ratify a new version of the Articles of Incorporation for Civitan International. These amended and restated Articles have a few changes from the ones last ratified by Civitans in 2004.

Here is the major revision to the document, which now adheres to Alabama non-profit law now that it includes a provision to remove a director:

The number of directors constituting the board of directors of the Corporation shall be that number set forth in the bylaws of the Corporation. The manner of electing directors, filling vacancies created by the resignation or removal of directors, and increasing or decreasing the number of directors constituting the board of directors is set forth in the bylaws of the Corporation. A director may be removed from office at any time, with or without cause, by the vote of a [majority] of the directors serving on the board of directors at the time such vote is taken.

Other minor changes to the document includes strengthening the indemnification information within and defining the charitable status of the organization in a more detailed way.

The proposed Articles of Incorporation are on the Civitan website at www.civitan.org/elections21.

SO HOW WILL THIS VOTING WORK?

If your club is in good standing, it will receive a certain amount of votes based on your club's membership size. Those votes are placed by voting delegates for your club. Your club president will designate their club's voting delegates by filling out the form accessible by clicking one of the blue boxes at the bottom of the www.civitan.org/elections21 page. Club presidents have until May 31st to fill the form out. Every voting delegate must have an email address and be registered by June 15th. Virtual voting delegates will get their credentials by email, while in-person delegates will get their credentials on site. All voting will take place on Thursday, July 29th, whether you are at home or in Jacksonville. Virtual voters will of course use their own devices, using the instructions sent to them by email. In-person voters will be coming to the voting area at the hotel, checking in to get their credentials, and then placing their vote on assigned I-Pads.

ISSUE PROPOSED: NEW BYLAWS

Approved By: Civitan International Board of Directors

The Civitan International Board of Directors has also approved new bylaws for the organization. The new governance document is a result of nearly two years of work by an adhoc committee made up of Past International Presidents and Directors. The group made changes to the bylaws that are expected to make the organization compliant with non-profit laws as well as more relevant in a changing world.

One of the most important changes makes membership classes more flexible, to where the organization can look at new ways to recruit members. Here's an excerpt:

Section 1.1 Membership Classes: Civitan International shall have two (2) classes of members to be known as "individual members" and "associated members." The class of individual members shall consist of those individuals who are members in good standing of a duly chartered Civitan club and meet the requirements for individual membership under the policies, procedures and guidelines prescribed by the board of directors of Civitan International (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Civitan Policies"). A class of associated members shall consist of those individuals who are members of Civitan in an at-large capacity, not belonging to a Civitan club.

Another change opens up voting rights to each Civitan member. And, a further section of the proposal allows International elections to be virtual. Here's an excerpt about voting:

Section 1.2 Voting Rights of Members: Individual members shall be the only voting members. Associated members are non-voting members. Individual members shall have the right to vote on all matters submitted to or requiring a vote of the members of Civitan International, including without limitation, the following actions:

- (a) election of members of the Board of Directors in accordance with Sections 5.2 and 5.4;

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

- (b) election of the President-elect;
- (c) approval of any amendments to the Articles of Incorporation; and
- (d) approval of any amendments to these Bylaws.

At least two of the changes in the new bylaws help the organization adhere to Alabama non-profit law, when the current document does not. This includes the quorum section, in Section Two. But it also includes provisions in the board of directors section, like this one below which specifically states the number of directors:

Section 5.2 Composition, Regional Directors, and Term:

- (a) The number of directors constituting the board of directors shall be ten (10). The board of directors shall consist of one (1) director from each region of Civitan International (collectively, the "Regional Directors"), one (1) director from the international division of Civitan International (the "International Division Director"), the President, the President-elect and the Immediate Past president who shall be ex officio voting directors during their term as such officers, and the Chief Executive Officer who shall be an ex officio non-voting director during his or her term as such officer.

The proposed bylaws also features a move of the organization's internal structure from districts to regions, which would eliminate district dues, boards and activities. What the change opens up is an opportunity to refocus on club support, enrichment and strengthening/building. In addition, regional fees are expected to be less than district dues, and go specifically to member engagement and learning.

You can find the proposed bylaws on the Civitan website at www.civitan.org/elections21. This page also includes a proposed map of regions, a thorough FAQ, a video recording of Past International President Mark Eisinger, President Frank Kelley and Immediate Past President Patsy Perkal explaining the document.

ISSUE PROPOSED: NEW BYLAWS

Presented By: Cardinal District Board

A provision in the current Civitan International Bylaws allows a club or district board to present bylaw changes if approved appropriately and submitted by a certain deadline. The Cardinal District Board did just that, and submitted this for the magazine article to represent their proposal, which was not approved by the Civitan International Board of Directors:

Intention: Amend the existing Bylaws to replace "member club" and "delegates" designations with "individual members" and to assure the vote by all registered individual members whether attending a convention in person or by electronic means.

If the proposed Governance Documents are approved, they will replace the existing Bylaws and these proposed amendments.

If the Proposed Governance Documents are NOT approved, this would amend the EXISTING Bylaws to allow individual voting at future conventions for those registered in person or by electronic means. The approval of the Proposed Governance Documents is not guaranteed.

It is acknowledged that these proposed amendments will not result in a document in full compliance with Alabama law. However, the existing document has been out of compliance for several years without effect. Further, the Cardinal District lacks access to Alabama legal counsel or the intent to address issues beyond those cited. Language included in the Board Proposal has been used in places when it directly relates to our purpose.

The primary changes are summarized below.

Section 1.01 Minimum Qualifications: Identifies individuals rather than clubs as members.

Section 1.02 Membership Classes: Changing to match Section 1.1 in the Civitan International Board proposal and establish member and associate member as the only membership classes.

Section 1.10; Section 2.02; Section 2.03; Section 4.15; Article VIII; Article IX; Article XIII; Article XIV – Elimination of the designation of "member clubs" or "delegates".

This proposal can be found at www.civitan.org/cardinaldistrictbylawproposal2021convention.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: 2021-2022 International President

Candidate: Dan Brown

Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Profession: Semi-retired/Part-time CFO for a jewelry company

Family Life: Married with children and grandchildren

Education: MBA/BBA from New Mexico State University

Civitan Experience: Member of City of Vision Civitan Club, Past Senior International Director (2017), Region Seven International Director (2015-2017), Distinguished Governor of Great Southwest District, Honor Club President of 3 clubs, Great Southwest District Treasurer, Master Club Builder (8 clubs)



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Greetings Civitans:

This July, we will have our first hybrid Civitan International Convention with in-person attendees in Jacksonville, FL as well as virtual attendees. This may be our most important convention since 1974, when women were welcomed as members. We will be electing a President, President-Elect, numerous board members and will vote on revisions to our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. I am Dan Brown and I want to be your next President of Civitan International.

I began my Civitan journey in 1988 when I was recruited by my brother, Past International President Mike Brown, to be a member of his club in Albuquerque, NM. I quickly became involved in all the club offered and soon became club President. My passion increased once I built my first club and found it was the best service project ever; bringing Civitan to more communities. I became a Master Club Builder of eight clubs and sponsored over 70 people into Civitan. I am a past distinguished governor of the Great Southwest District and served as Senior Director on the Civitan International Board during our Centennial year of 2016-17. I received club, district and international honor keys and numerous club and district awards. Professionally, I have over 43 years of financial management experience, a CPA and hold an MBA degree. Personally, I am married to fellow Civitan Kim, father/stepfather of four, and proud Grampy to 5 grandkids!

Dealing with the pandemic has been hard on all of us and especially hard on Civitan. In the past 18 months, we have lost almost 20% of our members and built only 2 new clubs. With decreased dues and the drastic income reduction, Civitan International is in a financial crunch along with the membership issues. We must reinvent ourselves! We had to do it after the Great Depression and WWII; we can do it again! We must find ways to strengthen our existing clubs and current members while forming new club models that will attract the younger members we all desire. I propose that we develop a huge presence with online clubs that offer shorter meetings, lots of service projects, lots of social time and the ability to network to further their careers. To address some of our financial issues, we will work with our capable staff to further reduce expenses while maintaining appropriate club and member support. We also need to find new sources of revenue from grants, sponsorships, and donations. We must identify ways to meet our commitment to the critical work of the Civitan International Research Center.

This will not be an easy task and the next President of Civitan must have a proven track record of club building, recruitment and handling financial issues. By reviewing my background, you will see that I have the necessary qualifications, the vision, the commitment, and the passion to lead the reinvention of Civitan. Please register soon for the in-person or virtual convention options. I ask for your vote to be the next Civitan President.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: 2021-2022 International President

Candidate: Fred Matthies

Hometown: Franktown, Colorado

Profession: Retired insurance broker

Family Life: Married with children and grandchildren

Education: Graduate of Medical Institute of Colorado and Aims Community College

Civitan Experience: Civitan International Seniors Director (2019), Region Seven Civitan International Director (2017-2019), Mountain Plains District Governor, Club President (6 times), Distinguished Club President (2 time), Great Southwest District Growth Chair, Great Southwest District Fruitcake Chair, Certified Club Builder, Civitan International Foundation Fellow, District Honor Key



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Fellow Civitans:

I am a presidential candidate for the upcoming international convention in Jacksonville. I am from the Great Southwest district and live outside of Denver, Colorado.

I am a member of 3 Civitan clubs and I have been a Civitan member for nearly 40 years. I am active in all of my clubs working in my local community, alongside my wife Sue, who is also a dedicated Civitan member. We became inaugural members of the Light the Way program, we are both members of the President's Council & both fundraise annually for the international golf tournament. I share these details because I believe it's important to lead by example in all things Civitan. I am a certified club builder and honored to be a CIRC fellow. I'm a Civitan because I solely want to serve the audience of I/DD individuals and to give back in our local community.

The balance of my career I was a tax accountant and independent insurance broker which has given me the knowledge to understand finances and our insurance requirements for this great organization.

I served on the board 2017-2019 and had the honor of being elected the senior director for 2018-2019. As a board we were forced to handle many tough financial decisions facing our organization. We reduced expenses for the golf tournament, Civitan Fest, convention, President's Council, International staff salaries and overall expenses in general. We made the tough decision to recommend selling the headquarters building to downsize to a space that meets our current needs in turn decreasing annual expenses.

Our current issue is membership and decrease over the past 20 years. While growth is important, we must concentrate on retention at this time. While I was on the board a survey was done which shows that those who leave during the first 5 years, leave because of lack of involvement. We need to get the new member involved from day one of becoming a Civitan member.

As your president I would work closely with our International staff and others to see what we can do to recruit younger baby boomers and younger generations with Civitan. I will be hands on with our finances to ensure we are doing all we can to remain financially stable. I will communicate on a regular basis to all members and listen to ideas and do all that I can to grow and maintain our organization.

There are proposed bylaw changes coming to the convention floor in Jacksonville for a vote. Some of these would change the organization in a big way. Change is never easy because we are all comfortable with what we know versus the unknown. ALL of us want what is best for the organization to see it survive.

I want to earn your vote and I'm available to discuss any thoughts on the proposed bylaw changes or any other topic. My cell phone number is 303-907-0909 or fj0428@aol.com. I am asking for your vote to become your next Civitan International President.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: 2021-2022 International President-Elect

Candidate: Jo Ann O'Toole

Hometown: Waynesboro, Pennsylvania

Profession: Executive Secretary, Office of Special Education for a school system

Family Life: Married with children and grandchildren

Education: Attended Fairmont State University

Civitan Experience: Member of Frederick Civitan Club, Civitan International Director (Region 4), Distinguished Governor (Chesapeake District), Civitan International Honor Key, Chesapeake District Fellow, Chesapeake District Honor Key, Distinguished Club President, Certified Club Builder, Member of Civitan International Geographic Training Team, Member of Civitan International Governance Documents Committee, Host Coordinator for two Civitan International conventions (Civitan and Junior Civitan)



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

"My HOPE is for a better world through Civitan." Just one simple line out of our Civitan Creed that means so much right now.

Now is the time for HOPE! I see a bright future ahead of us by continuing to remember all the lines of our Creed and working together to achieve a future full of possibilities and HOPE. Many have had a year of heartache; a year of loss; and frankly, a year lost in time.

As 2021 unravels with vaccinations now available, there is HOPE that we can 'return to normal.' Will it be a completely 'new' normal; a return to the comfortable way it was or a world where valued traditions are merged with new and improved ideas? Whichever happens, it will be a welcome change. I, for one, HOPE to see all of you this summer in Jacksonville at our International Convention, either virtually or in-person, as we usher in the next season of our Civitan journey.

My personal Civitan journey began in 2000 when I was invited to "speak to a few people" about a possible fundraiser for the Frederick Civitan Club. Turns out, I was presenting to a room of over 50 members. As I stumbled through my presentation, my HOPE was that it would quickly end. Like most of us doing something new in an unexpected environment, I felt overwhelmed and unprepared. Thankfully, the club supported my idea, and, my passion for Civitan was ignited. I learned that by staying the course through challenges, positive outcomes can happen. Fast forward 20 years later, I married the person who invited me to speak at that meeting, and I now HOPE you will support my candidacy for Civitan International President-Elect. This is just one of the incredible ways Civitan has changed my life.

We all believe in the work of Civitan. In this changing world, we have great opportunities to make changes in the organization to take us through the next century. The world has changed drastically since we first were established. Who would have thought in January 2020, that we would be connecting on a platform called "Zoom" for our International convention? It is amazing how many of us have embraced new technologies to engage in virtual Civitan meetings.

As President, key opportunities I will focus on are:

- Incorporate new knowledge/ideas with past practices.
- Expand our great leadership programs to mentor future leaders.
- Increase funding to support our flagship Civitan International Research Center.
- Grow our service to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Build our Civitan family and friendships through in-person and virtual projects, meetings, and conventions.

To best utilize these opportunities, we need a leader who can understand the values of the past, sees the value in new ideas, and creates an environment of HOPE for possibilities we cannot imagine today.

I believe I am that leader! If elected as your next Civitan International President-Elect, I will work tirelessly to ensure everyone can contribute to the next 100 years of Civitan success!

The preceding article was prepared by the committee to elect Jo Ann O'Toole and is not an endorsement of the candidate by Civitan International.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS



Office: Civitan International Director, Region One

Candidate: Brian Dix

Hometown: Sylacauga, Alabama

Biographical Information: Retail Management, Married, Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Grove City College

Civitan Experience: Member of Sylacauga Civitan Club, Distinguished Club President, Alabama Central District Distinguished Governor, District Area Director, District Judge Advocate, District Growth and Retention Chair, District Honor Key, Certified Club Builder, Civitan International Elections Committee, Civitan International Convention Chaplain

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

When I joined the Sylacauga Civitan Club as a charter member in 2004, little did I know of the journey I began. I became Civitan for two reasons. First, it was an opportunity for me to become involved in community service. Second, because someone asked.

My Civitan journey has provided me more than ample opportunities to serve my community and others. It has also introduced me to new friends locally, statewide, throughout the country, and internationally who share a like mind of service.

2020 was an unprecedented year for all of us. With hard work, determination, innovation, and leadership, we can all move beyond 2020 on our Civitan journey. With your support and vote, I want to be your servant leader on that journey. As a director, I pledge to hear your concerns and bring them before the board. Together we will continue to enrich others through service in Civitan.



Office: Civitan International Director, Region One

Candidate: Joel Hallman

Hometown: Hollywood, Alabama

Biographical Information: Engineering Manager, Married, Bachelor Degree in Finance from Alabama A & M University

Civitan Experience: Member of Arab Civitan Club and Scottsboro Civitan Club, Alabama North District Governor (2 years), District Area Director, Scottsboro Civitan Club President, Committee member of two Civitan International Growth and Retention Committees, District Honor Key

CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Although I have only been a Civitan for five years, I have gained a lot of experience and love for our organization. During my five years as a member, I have served as a Charter President, District Area Director, Governor Elect, and Governor for two years. I have also served on growth and retention committees at the international level. I also became a certified club builder. I've been so deeply interconnected with the mission of the Civitan organization, that I have strived to assist and be a part of any areas of need in this amazing organization.

While serving in these positions, I have gained the necessary skills and knowledge about what does and doesn't make our organization successful. I have gained a personal ambition to see our organization grow. That includes building new clubs, but more importantly, taking care of the individual needs of our existing clubs. Without each one of you, our great organization would be nothing. We must all work together to grow our organization so that generations to come, throughout the world, can have the benefit of being a Civitan. I hope that you will consider voting for me as the next Region One Director.

The preceding article was prepared by the committee to elect Brian Dix and is not an endorsement of the candidate by Civitan International.

The preceding article was prepared by the committee to elect Joel Hallman and is not an endorsement of the candidate by Civitan International.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: Civitan International Director, Region Two

Candidate: Bill Tolleson

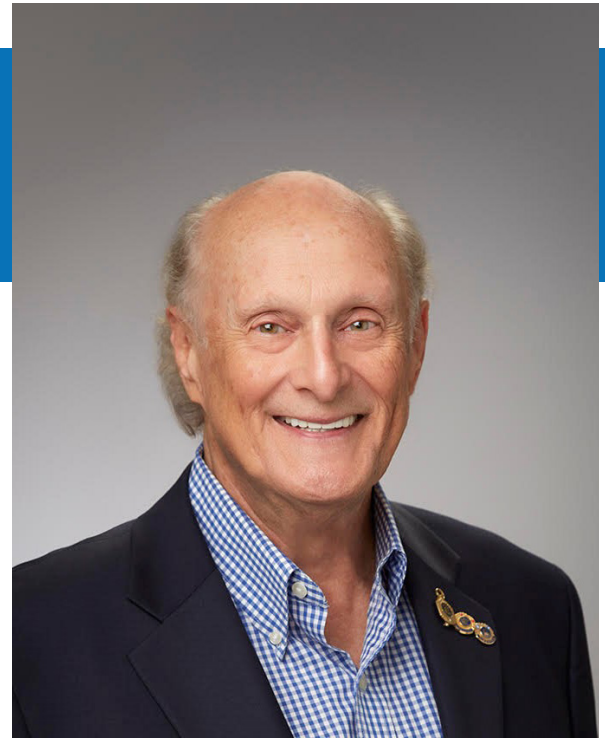
Hometown: West Columbia, South Carolina

Profession: Retired Sales and Marketing

Family Life: Married

Education: Bachelor Degree in Human Resources from Southern Wesleyan University and Associate Degree in Communications from the Community College of the United States Air Force

Civitan Experience: Distinguished Governor (South Carolina), Certified Club Builder, District Area Director, District Growth and Retention Chair, District Philanthropy Liaison, Club President, Club Secretary, District Honor Key



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

WHY I DO WHAT I DO: I believe people are worthy of love and belonging. I'm passionate about being best at what we do; making someone else's life a little happier or a little better; we include people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Increasing Civitan Membership is my primary objective.

When I became South Carolina District Governor-elect in October 2014 ... membership was at all-time low. We got busy. Visited. Phoned. Emailed. Created Excitement, Enthusiasm, Purpose ... Civitans became Growth Thinkers and Club Builders. I spent first evening as Governor in a Charter Meeting. Passion, Purpose, Enthusiasm, Persistence built 5 clubs in 22 months.

WE CAN DO THIS NATIONALLY!

New Clubs mean money, service, ideas ... survival of Civitan, and a "Civitan" International Research Center.

Civitan Place will attract new members. Civitan Place is a nascent, long-term, Columbia, South Carolina Area, multi-million dollar project; Will house 40-50 with I/DD, service 250-300 daily.

POSITIVE ACTION ATTRACTS. Small ... share a Civitan project with an acquaintance;

Large ... share CIRC or a Civitan Place.

Thank YOU! for your service and commitment to Civitan.

Thank YOU! for your vote of confidence as Region II Director.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: Civitan International
Director, Region Three

Candidate: A.J. Reynolds

Hometown: Greensboro,
North Carolina

Profession: Pastor

Family Life: Not yet married

Education: Master of
Divinity in Pastoral Ministry
from Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary, Bachelor Degree in Public Policy Analysis
from University of North Carolina

Civitan Experience: Member of Southeast Guilford Civitan Club,
Club President, 2004-2005 Junior Civitan International Vice
President, District Chaplain (5 years), District Area Director (3
years), Member of Civitan International Growth and Retention
Committee, Member of Civitan International Strategic Planning
Committee (2 years), Junior Civitan International Fellow, North
Carolina East District Scholarship Fellow



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Salutations Civitan family members, I am excited by the prospect of representing you! I work in North Carolina District West and live [well, sleep] in North Carolina District East where I'm proud to carry on the rich heritage of my late grandfather's club. I'm a product of your Junior Civitan investment, and would be the first Young Professional on your Board of Directors. I have served a small-town church for twelve years, and have been part of a team that has spent the past eight in the long, hard work of revitalization. This work is difficult, requiring patience, wisdom, faithfulness, and creativity. This work is also vital, because the mission is too critical to neglect the work establishing organizational health. I believe that the precepts, strategies, and methods of church revitalization can be applied in Civitan clubs, districts, and even International. There is no prescription for success in these efforts, but I believe clubs need a tool kit to assist in these processes. Clubs also need folks that have experienced club revitalization to come alongside them as a coach. I'd love to discuss these things with you or answer any questions; please contact me at jcncdgov@yahoo.com!

Office: Civitan International
Director, Region Three

Candidate: John Sofley

Hometown: Salisbury, North
Carolina

Profession: Accountant/
Financial Manager

Family Life: Married with
children and grandchildren

Education: Bachelor Degree
in Business Administration – Accounting from Western Carolina
University

Civitan Experience: Member of Salisbury Civitan Club,
Distinguished Club President, North Carolina West District
Governor, District Area Director, District Growth and Sales
Representative, District Philanthropy Liaison, District Major
Awards Chair, Certified Club Builder, Civitan International
Research Fellow



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

I became a Civitan over 30 years ago. Since then I have seen the work of Civitan at all levels - local, District, and International. I have also seen the loss in communities where local clubs have folded. When I ran for District Governor, sustainability at both the District and Club level was my primary goal. Civitan was already experiencing challenges in both recruiting and maintaining members. Just look at the last ten years the number of lost clubs and members! These losses have also impacted the financial health of Civitan. The events of this past year have only created additional challenges.

I want to help find ways for Civitan to address the challenges with our existing clubs for them to be sustainable into the future and continue to explore what new clubs could look like. Civitan must continue to evolve to be sustainable. I have extensive prior board experience in local, state, and international organizations as a team. This knowledge will provide the basis of working with the International Board to seek new opportunities for sustainability - both with membership and financially.

I humbly ask for your support and vote as International
Director Region 3!

The preceding article was prepared by the committee to elect A.J. Reynolds
and is not an endorsement of the candidate by Civitan International.

The preceding article was prepared by the committee to elect John Sofley
and is not an endorsement of the candidate by Civitan International.

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: Civitan International Director, Region Four

Candidate: Denise Phelps

Hometown: Martinsburg, West Virginia

Profession: Banker

Family Life: Married

Education: MBA/MA from American University in International Development

Civitan Experience: Member of Martinsburg Civitan Club, Frederick Civitan Club President, Chesapeake District Governor, Chesapeake District Budget Chair



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

At the Civitan International Convention in Jacksonville, FL this summer, I will be asking members of Region Four to support my candidacy for Region Four International Director. My goal will be to bring the legacy and traditions of the past into the future to ensure the future of Civitan. These traditions have allowed us to provide over a century of service to our communities. We will do this while embracing the realities of our changing world to make certain Civitan's bright future for the next century of service. I am excited to be all our members' voice during this time of transition for our cherished organization.

While serving as Chesapeake District Governor during our Centennial year, I saw first-hand the commitment and passion of our members serving people with developmental disabilities and the way that it transformed their lives. It is from this experience that I realized how critical it is for the future of Civitan to be secured. I ask for your support by voting for me in person or virtually to ensure generations to come will be able to say, "I am Civitan."

2021 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

Office: Civitan International Director, Region Eight

Candidate: Lynda Wheeler

Hometown: Scottsdale, Arizona

Profession: Retired Firefighter Paramedic/Personal Assistant and Nanny

Family Life: Married with children

Education: Business Degree at State University of New York

Civitan Experience: Member of Metro Phoenix and Village Civitan Clubs, Club President (2 clubs), Heart of the West District Governor, District Honor Key



CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Hello Civitans of the West,

I'm Lynda Wheeler and I'd like to be your International Director for Region Eight. For the past twenty years I have held several officer positions for two Civitan clubs. I first joined the Phoenix Breakfast Civitan Club where I was on the BOD, President-Elect, President, and Secretary. When they turned in their Charter in 2008, I transferred to the Metro Phoenix Civitan Club. Almost instantly I was serving a two year term as President. I am also an advisor of the Village Civitan Club.

In 2018 I became Governor-Elect of HOTW District. The last group of GE's to go through training classes at CI headquarters. That was an experience I will always remember and friendships made there I will forever treasure. In 2019-2020 I had the honor to serve as Governor of HOTW. I visited almost all of the clubs before Covid hit.

Since then, I have been involved with the merger of California and HOTW Districts. That has given me the opportunity to become familiar with all the clubs within this great Region.

I personally think you can't go wrong by electing me to be your International Region Eight Director. Thank you.

2019-2020 Civitan International Honor Clubs

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CLUBS THAT EARNED VARIOUS LEVELS OF HONOR CLUB RECOGNITION.

HONOR CLUBS OF DISTINCTION (highest level)

Heart of the West

Bannock
Metro Phoenix
Village

HONOR CLUBS OF EXCELLENCE

Alabama West Florida

Cottage Hill

Appalachian

Rogersville

Georgia

Magnolia
Marietta
Southern Crescent

Great Southwest

Castle Rock

North Carolina East

Winterville

North Carolina West

Farmer
Monroe
Welcome

North Central

Plymouth-Canton

South Carolina

Columbia
Foothills Easley

HONOR CLUBS

Alabama Central

ACTION Inc.
Greater Titusville

Alabama North

Athens Ladies
Decatur
Priceville

Alabama West Florida

Camellia City
Enterprise
Pensacola

Appalachian

Clinton

Canadian West

Midland Inc.

Chesapeake

Frederick
Smith Mountain Lake

Florida

Hometown
Naples
Tampa Metro
Uptown

Georgia

Atlanta Skyline
Cumming
Dublin
East Cobb
North Cobb
Sun City

Great Southwest

City of Vision

Heart of the West

Idaho Falls
Roadrunner
Sun Cities
Twisted Stitchers

Heartland

Civitan Orchids
Coastal Bend
KC Civitan Ex-Men
Lancaster-Melton Peace Keepers
Little Rock
Siloam Springs
West Little Rock
Wichita

Magnolia

North Bay Inc.

Mississippi North

Tupelo Evening

North Carolina East

Caring Hearts
Kinston
The Cape Lookout
Triangle Luncheon
Tryon
We Can

North Carolina West

Rhododendron
Salisbury
Zooland

North Central

Kensington Valley
Midland
Vincennes

South Carolina

Rock Hill
Spartanburg

Valley

St. Bethlehem

Norway

Bærum
Tønsburg
Larvik

Germany

Sehnde
Zürichsee, Rapperswill-Jona

DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENTS

Susan Anderson of Athens Ladies – Alabama North
Nick Burrows of Idaho Falls – Heart of the West
Lori Clapp of Tampa Metro - Florida
Randall Eckhoff of Cottage Hill – Alabama West Florida
Patsy Finley of Foothills Easley – South Carolina
Diana Flagg of Uptown – Florida
Bernie Funk of Castle Rock – Great Southwest
Lisa Giutarri of Naples – Florida
Lindsey Hall of North Cobb - Georgia
George Harris of Greater Titusville – Alabama Central
Mekia Hickman of Rogersville – Appalachian
Tammy Heffler of Cumming – Georgia
Doris Henderson of Siloam Springs - Heartland
Ed Higdon of Decatur – Alabama North
Diana Jones of Lancaster Melton Peace Keepers - Heartland
Jason Levy of Village – Heart of the West
Lisa Lindsey of Atlanta Skyline – Georgia
Fred Lockman of Spartanburg – South Carolina
Rainbow Maldonado of Bannock – Heart of the West
Jody Miller of Marietta – Georgia
Terra Morehead of Civitan Orchids – Heartland
Clifton Murphy of Welcome – North Carolina West
Mary Parker of Enterprise – Alabama West Florida
Carolyn Polakowski of East Cobb - Georgia
Stephanie Rebman of ACTION Inc – Alabama Central
Audrey Richards of Sun City – Georgia
Michelle Sniezek of Sun Cities – Heart of the West
Teresa Wakeman of Twisted Stitchers – Heart of the West
Ellen Welch of Farmer – North Carolina West
Ron White of City of Vision – Great Southwest
Keith Wilson of North Bay - Magnolia
Maria Young of Priceville – Alabama North

NORTH AMERICAN

Award Finalists



Tryon Civitan Club is one of just a handful of clubs that have received the Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club award for exemplary service to their community. The club is shown here at the 2017 Civitan International Convention in Birmingham.

Congratulations to those who are the top scorers in each competitive award category for clubs and districts, reflecting work done during the 2019-2020 year. The winners will be announced in-person at the 2021 Civitan International Convention. Finalists are listed below in no particular order.

Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club

Bannock Civitan Club (Heart of the West)
Hometown Civitan Club (Florida)
Uptown Civitan Club (Florida)

Outstanding New Civitan Club

Village Civitan Club (HOTW)

Outstanding Service to People with Disabilities

Bannock Civitan Club (HOTW)
Cumming Civitan Club (Georgia)
Lenawee Civitan Club (North Central)

Outstanding Community Service Project

Hometown Civitan Club (Florida)
Montgomery County Civitan Club (North Central)
North Cobb Civitan Club (Georgia)

Outstanding Youth Project

Bannock Civitan Club (Heart of the West)
Cook County Civitan Club (Georgia)
First Coast Civitan Club (Florida)

Outstanding Awareness Project

Cumming Civitan Club (Georgia)
Midland Civitan Club (North Central)
Montgomery County Civitan Club (North Central)

Outstanding Social Media Campaign

Bannock Civitan Club (Heart of the West)

Outstanding Club Website

Cook County Civitan Club (Georgia)
Cumming Civitan Club (Georgia)
Wichita Civitan Club (Heartland)

Outstanding Club Newsletter

Naples Civitan Club (Florida)
Triangle Luncheon Civitan Club (North Carolina East)
Uptown Civitan Club (Florida)

Outstanding District Website

Heartland

Outstanding District Newsletter

Alabama West-Florida
Florida
Heartland

In Memoriam

Robert (Bob) Arthur Robinson (1949 – 2021)

After a long and hard-fought health battle, Past International President Bob Robinson passed away on Saturday, March 27th, 2021. Bob enjoyed 30 years as a member of the Perth Civitan Club, joining in April 1991. He served on many club committees and in club officer positions including club president, earning distinguished president in 1997 – 1998. Bob was the club president when the club won the "Founders Award" for the hard work during the 1998 ice storm. On the district level Bob was a Lieutenant Governor, Governor, Past Governor Director and Judge Advocate. Bob was also honored by the District as Civitan of the Year in 1997-1998 & 1999–2000. Bob served on the international level as an International Director and board representative to the Junior Civitans. Bob was extremely proud of serving as the 93rd Civitan International President in 2013-2014 with his team of dedicated Governors, "The Hometown Heroes." Bob looked forward to the Civitan International Conventions where he could renew old friendships and raised money for the Civitan International Research Center through the Breakthru Golf Benefit. During his Civitan career Bob received club, district, governor, and two Civitan International honor keys. He was inducted into the Junior Civitan International Hall of Fame in 2014.

"Bob had a great sense of humor, was a social butterfly, and had the quirky fashion sense of wearing shorts and Birkenstocks year round, even in the snow! He will be missed everyday," says Past International President and fellow Canadian Bill Hiscott.

Bob will be greatly missed by the love of his life, Wendy and his children Ashley and R.J. The Robinsons would have celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary in June. Bob will also be missed by many family members and longtime Civitan friends.

AS OLD AS LIFE, AS YOUNG AS THE RAINBOW, AS ENDLESS AS TIME!



Pearson with his wife Eileen at the 2017 Civitan International Convention in Birmingham.

Bill Pearson (1929-2021)

Civitans are also remembering the life of Bill Pearson, Past International President of Civitan International for the 1973-1974 year, and according to Past International President Brian Connelly was "one of the five greatest presidents in Civitan history." He died May 10, 2021, in Dearborn, Michigan, at the age of 92. Pearson led the organization during two of its biggest milestones. One was when Civitan became the first all-male service club organization to welcome women as full members. The other was building a new world headquarters facility, in which staff still operate today. Bill was a member of Civitan Clubs in Michigan (Wayne) and Florida (Naples) over his lifetime. He created the innovative 10-point plan which was followed by the next seven international presidents to help Civitan grow and thrive. Bill is credited with recruiting at least forty members, and was a member himself for around sixty years.

Bill worked four decades in public education and retired as a school superintendent. He was also a big game hunter, avid outdoorsman and environmentalist, and a state of Michigan ranked handball player. He leaves being his wife of 72 years, Eileen, along with two surviving children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



CATOCTIN CIVITAN CLUB

CHESAPEAKE DISTRICT

The Catoctin Area Civitan Club donated 30 bookbags filled with a folder, pencils and crayons to local schools. The Thurmont Primary School, Emmitsburg Elementary School and Lewistown Elementary School each received 10 bags to distribute to children in need.



BUDAPEST-HELP CIVITAN CLUB

HUNGARY DISTRICT

Hungarian Civitan Club Budapest-Help is maintaining a garden center, where vocational education is offered for young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In April, the Civitan garden center was featured on MTVA (radio station). The journalist who covered the story said, "The Civitan garden center is a very inviting, unique place, also with regards to its atmosphere. This is the feeling customers, the individuals who work here and we are having, when we come here."

FIRST COAST CIVITAN CLUB

FLORIDA DISTRICT

The First Coast Civitan Club launched a project for Mother's Day, assembling baskets of personal items for the women at Hubbard House. That organization is a safe haven for victims of domestic violence. The baskets are full of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, nail polish and hair accessories. The club also recently held a "Stampin' Up" fundraiser by Zoom, where more than forty participants created cards and other items. The money raised will go to support autism projects at the Civitan International Research Center.



PHENIX CITY CIVITAN CLUB

ALABAMA CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Phenix City Civitan Club purchased pre-filled Easter eggs and delivered to the students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Lakewood Primary School.



COBB COUNTY CIVITAN CLUBS

GEORGIA DISTRICT

The Cobb County Commission recognized the Civitan Clubs in their area at a recent meeting for Civitan Awareness Month. Those Civitans in attendance came from the North Cobb, East Cobb, and Marietta Civitan Clubs. The group received a proclamation for their service to the community.

VINCENNES CIVITAN CLUB

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Vincennes Civitan Club honored health care workers as the 2020 and 2021 Citizens of the Year with a bench dedication at a local park. In addition to the inscribed bench, Civitans donated two Eastern Redbud trees to recognize the workers. They will be planted as part of the annual Arbor Day observation in the city. The Vincennes Civitan Club has been presenting the Citizen of the Year award since 1954.



CIVITAN CLUBS HOLMESTRAND AND GYDA

NORWAY DISTRICT

Civitan Clubs Holmestrand and Gyda donated \$10,000 NOK to the charity "Face to Face" recently. The group helps those in need with food and clothing. The clubs note that there has been an increase in unemployment in Norway due to the pandemic.

CIVITAN CLUB OF TOPEKA

HEARTLAND DISTRICT

A dedication ceremony was recently held for a new playground slide donated by the Civitan Club of Topeka. The slide, called Twist and Shout, accommodates two children at a time and is the latest addition to an accessible play area in the city. Topeka Civitans donated most of the equipment at the park, and holds an annual cleanup day there.



WONJU CIVITAN CLUB

KOREA DISTRICT

Wonju Civitans worked together to gather and deliver daily necessities for low-income families in their community. The club took the items to five different homes in Dangye-dong.

ST. PETERSBURG CIVITAN CLUB

FLORIDA DISTRICT

The St. Petersburg Civitan Club held a club gathering to mark its centennial birthday on April 20th. Members celebrated with a Civitan themed cake and will hold a larger event later in the summer. The mayor of St. Petersburg also celebrated the club, by presenting a proclamation to recognize its 100 years of service.



GANGNEUNG CIVITAN CLUB

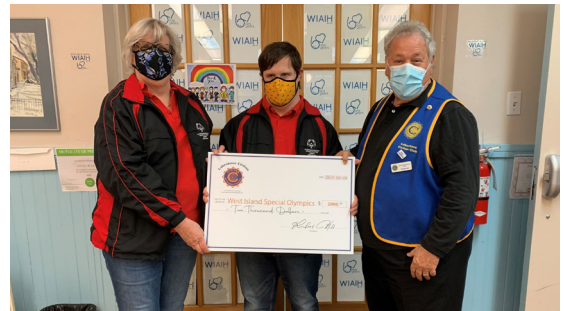
KOREA DISTRICT

The Gangneung Club served free meals for 200 senior citizens at a welfare center in March and April. Of course, club members observed COVID-19 prevention rules while providing the much needed food.

LAKE SHORE CIVITAN CLUB

CANADIAN NORTHERN LIGHTS DISTRICT

Lakeshore Civitans were able to present ten checks of \$2,000 to ten well-deserving West Island organizations from the funds raised during their annual fall sale of Claxton Fruitcakes. The club held a special Zoom evening in April where representatives from these organizations thanked Lakeshore Civitan and explained how these funds would be used.



News from Claxton Fruitcake

This information has been taken directly from a letter from Dale Parker to Civitan International, dated March 2021.

Our company has reached a point where we are experiencing dramatic increases in the costs of our ingredients, packaging, compliance operations and transportation expense. In the current economic climate, large companies, such as national supermarket chains and major retailers, are reluctant to accept even marginal price increases. In essence, we are finding it almost impossible to cover our increased costs in the form of price increases; therefore we must find other means of covering a portion of these expenses to ensure the future viability of our business. Also, we have seen the number of Civitan Clubs participating in Claxton Fruit Cake sales continue to shrink year-over-year for quite some time. As we all know, the concept of group fundraising has changed dramatically through the years.

Beginning with the 2021 fall sales season, we will be making the following changes in the Civitan rebate program:

- Our company will be reducing the amount paid to Civitan Club on "claimed store credits" from .20 per pound to .15 per pound.
- Civitan District rebates will continue to be paid on the same plan that is presently in effect.
- Civitan International rebate will be paid only on the poundage ordered directly by Civitan Clubs and will be based on a .07 per pound basis.
- We will no longer be paying Civitan International for "unclaimed store credits."

In all honesty, product competitiveness in the marketplace and steadily increasing costs have made it necessary for us to make these changes going forward.



Two New Researchers Recruited by the CIRC



Dr. Kristie
Cummings

Civitan International Research Center Director Dr. Craig Powell is always recruiting the best and brightest minds to work alongside the dozens of scientists there. Two additions will join the CIRC next spring. They include Dr. Kirstie Cummings and Dr. Sofia Beas.

Dr. Cummings is an expert in examining the brain circuits that are involved with anxiety disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, among others. She comes to UAB from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

Dr. Beas is equally an expert in the study of brain circuitry involved in decision-making, using advanced technologies to measure and manipulate brain function during behavior. She specifically is poised to make significant advances in understanding feeding behavior and decision-making regarding food choices. Her work will set the stage for new treatments and strategies for eating disorders and for the obesity epidemic around the globe.



Dr. Sofia Beas

New Autism Core Receives IRB Approval

The Civitan International Research Center is proud to announce The Civitan Autism and Neurodevelopment Research Database and Biorepository has received approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Under FDA regulations, the IRB reviews and monitors biomedical research involving human subjects. The IRB has the authority to approve, require modifications, or disapprove research.

The IRB approval allows engagement with clients and their families to enroll them in studies to better understand the relationship between genes and behavioral challenges they are facing. Recruitment has begun with plans to enroll the first patients during the summer.

A family friendly research clinic is being designed using sensory friendly materials which will be inviting and comfortable for families, as they will be spending several hours during visits.

Exciting new details will be available in the coming months!

Civitan International Research Center



ACCIDENTAL INJURIES AND DEATH

One of the world's leading experts in using behavioral strategies to prevent accidental injuries in children works at the Civitan International Research Center. Dr. David Schwebel initiated the use of virtual reality to teach children to cross streets and the use of interactive virtual presence to help parents install car seats properly. Dr. Schwebel has also developed interactive websites and podcasts to improve safety in domains ranging from firearms to dog bite prevention.

AUTISM

The Civitan Translational Autism Research Core at the CIRC is a one-of-a-kind patient research database and bank of biological samples with the goal of connecting researchers, clinicians and families to promote cutting-edge interdisciplinary translational research in neurodevelopmental disabilities. Headed by Dr. Cassandra Newsom, the Core hopes to bridge the gap between rapidly advancing discoveries and the hope for targeted, effected treatments and supports to improve the quality of life of people with developmental disability.

Small zebrafish are the focus of the lab of Dr. Summer Thyme. She's using mutants of the fish to study the function of genes linked to autism and childhood-onset schizophrenia. The hope is that the information learned will be used to screen for drugs that influence brain development and perhaps correcting abnormalities.

ANXIETY

An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) is used to make detailed pictures of a human body. Dr. David Knight at the CIRC is using MRI techniques to develop a better understanding of emotional dysfunction associated with mood, anxiety, and stress disorders. His recent work has centered on determining the impact of childhood poverty, violence exposure and substance use have on the neural circuitry that supports emotional function. Dr. Knight hopes he can identify neural processes that determine susceptibility and resilience to emotion-related disorders.

BRAIN CANCER

Dr. Anita Hjelmeland is testing new drugs and drug combinations to improve the treatment of brain tumors. Her lab studies a subgroup of stem cell-like brain tumor cells that can survive radio- and chemotherapy. Dr. Hjelmeland has identified treatments that decrease cancer stem cell survival.

Dr. Vlad Parpura is testing a drug that reduces glioblastoma growth in animal models. If translatable to humans, it would aid treatment of this devastating disease that killed Senators John McCain and Edward Kennedy.

BLOOD PRESSURE

With evidence suggesting that elevated blood pressure readings in childhood track to adulthood and that elevations in blood pressure are noted in preschool children, the research of Dr. Marti Rice focuses on factors that influence blood pressure in preschool children. It has been noted that weight may not be as big of an influence on blood pressure in preschool children as with adults and that stress and inflammation may be associated with elevations in blood pressure in preschool children.

CHRONIC PAIN

Dr. Robert Sorge's lab has explored the ways that diets affect the immune system and contribute to and alleviate pain. To translate this work, his lab completed a pilot clinical trial of diets for knee pain and is working on examining racial differences in diet benefits for knee pain.

COVID-19

Dr. Frances Lund's laboratory is working on a novel, nasal spray vaccine against SARS-COV2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease. Although the current injected vaccines efficiently prevent the vaccine recipient from getting an infection in their lungs and feeling ill, the vaccine may not prevent the recipient from getting an asymptomatic infection in their nose and then spreading the virus to others. A nasal spray vaccine, however, would protect the nose and the lung from infection and likely help prevent person-to-person spread of the virus. Such intranasal vaccines could be given painlessly to school-age children. While the lab isn't funded through the CIRC, researchers affiliated with the CIRC are working on this project.

DEMENTIA

A novel gene therapy for dementia created at the CIRC is now advancing to clinical trials in human patients. Dr. Erik Roberson's laboratory has demonstrated that gene therapy may provide a novel approach for treating some people with frontotemporal dementia (FTD). His team found that gene therapy using a vector to restore progranulin expression in brain cells could prevent or reverse dysfunction in animal models that had FTD.

DOWN SYNDROME

Is there help on the horizon for people with Down Syndrome through a potential treatment for Alzheimer's Disease? Civitan International Research Center Director Dr. Craig Powell has demonstrated drugs showing promise for Alzheimer's may also help in patients with Down Syndrome. In the future, this drug may be tested to see if the treatment can prevent worsening of brain function in adults with the disorder or whether it could actually improve brain function in children challenged by it.

EPILEPSY

A landmark study conducted by Dr. Scott Cruikshank from the CIRC and colleagues focused on an area of the brain called the thalamic reticular nucleus – an area known for its role in childhood absence epilepsy. The team demonstrated that sensory sectors of this part of the brain are each divided into two sub-circuits that process information in distinct ways that are consistent with the type of information they carry. The study is necessary to understand how this part of the brain may guide attention and potentially how focus is diminished in diseases like epilepsy.

MACULAR DEGENERATION/LOW VISION

Dr. Timothy Gawne has his eyes on answers for those who deal with myopia, or nearsightedness, which is now considered an epidemic in several parts of the world. Myopia can lead to macular degeneration and other sight-threatening diseases. Dr. Gawne's lab at the Civitan International Research Center is researching visual clues the eye uses to regulate growth during childhood to come up with ways to prevent nearsightedness all together.

MICROCEPHALY

Dr. Elizabeth Sztul is exploring how mutations in a protein called BIG2 cause microcephaly and inhibit normal brain development. Her studies suggest the lack of BIG2 causes the restriction of neuronal migration required for normal brain development. The information can likely lead to new therapies for this condition, which causes some babies to have smaller heads.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Something's fishy in Dr. Matthew Alexander's lab at the Civitan International Research Center. He is using hundreds of small zebrafish to determine better medicines for those who have a certain form of muscular dystrophy. Dr. Alexander wants to use the knowledge he's learned to understand why 25% of those with this form of muscular dystrophy develop autism.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Parkinson's Disease plagues more than one million people in the United States alone. A study going on at the CIRC in the lab of Dr. Matthew Goldberg is looking at a deficiency in the PINK1 gene and how drugs could re-activate it, leading to possible prevention of similar neurodegenerative diseases.

RETT SYNDROME

Rett Syndrome is a neurological disorder similar to autism and is more prevalent in girls. Two scientists at the Civitan

International Research Center have teamed up to test the usage drugs that "skip over" a mutation in the condition. This may lead Dr. Lucas Pozzo-Miller and Dr. David Bedwell to a revolutionary way to treat Rett Syndrome patients with these truncating mutations. This groundbreaking research identifying drugs that "skip over" genetic mutations has the potential to be used in other disorders like muscular dystrophy and autism.

Dr. Alan Percy collaborates with 14 academic centers across the country to enroll participants with Rett Syndrome and related disorders in the NIH Rare Disease Clinical Research Network. The work with the more than 1000 patients in the last five years has reduced the knowledge gap greatly about the condition and developed clinical trial readiness for this group.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

A common mental disorder may be understood more through studying the most abundant neurotransmitter of the brain. That's at least what Dr. Adrienne Lahti believes. In her lab at the Civitan International Research Center, Dr. Lahti is looking at the relationship between glutamate and brain function in patients with schizophrenia. So far, her studies strongly support targeting the glutamatergic system for new drug development for this mental illness.

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

Imagine a world where sickle cell anemia can be cured by taking a child's own bone marrow cells, editing their genes within, and then putting these cells back to make normal red blood cells for the rest of a child's life. That is the novel idea Dr. Tim Townes at the Civitan International Research Center is working on. It's a project that could change the lives of those with a disorder that can lead to childhood strokes and permanent brain deficits.

STRESS

What kind of impact do adverse early life events have on a person? Dr. Minae Niwa is looking at early psychosocial stress and how it alters adult behavioral patterns related to mood, social cognition, information processing, motivation and maternal care. Dr. Niwa's findings so far have shown a novel link between adverse early life events, sustained neuro-endocrine dysregulation and long-lasting behavioral deficits.

STROKE

Drs. Edward Taub and Gitendra Uswatte have in the past developed a rehabilitation therapy for impaired movement in children with cerebral palsy that helps through the entire age range of childhood. It is termed Pediatric CI Therapy and was derived from a version of the therapy used with adults. Drs. Taub and Uswatte have recently modified their movement therapy to apply to cognitive impairment in adults after stroke, COVID-19 and associated with aging. Pilot work suggests that the CI Therapy approach works as well in the cognitive domain as it does in the motor area. The two have plans to modify the technique so that it can be used with cognitive impairment in children with Down's Syndrome and other conditions.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Following the death of Civitan International's founder Courtney Shropshire, Civitan International established the Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Scholarship program in his honor. Junior Civitans, Campus Civitans, and Civitans who plan or are currently enrolled in a degree or certificate program at an accredited community college, vocational school, four-year college or graduate school are invited to apply. Here are this year's winners:



FIRST PLACE:

Taylor Albertia from Clarksville, TN

SECOND PLACE:

Ashton Gupton from Smithfield, NC

THIRD PLACE:

Nilaya Kanuri from Charleston, WV

Rachel Stripp from Burlington, ON

ADDITIONAL WINNERS:

Kailee Byrd from Guntown, MS

Ella Cockburn from Dundas, ON

Kellen Fairburn from Madison, MS

Malik Heikal from Mocksville, NC

McKenzie Jones from Saltillo, MS

Taylor Kerr from Garner, NC

Sophia Robinson from Mobile, AL

Layla Rucker from Lancaster, SC

Fernanda Segovia from Oceanside, CA

Camille Watkins from Raleigh, NC

CHARTER CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW JUNIOR CLUB

Civitans in the Alabama North District welcomed in a new Junior Civitan club in the community of Red Bay, which is near the Alabama-Mississippi line. The April 21st charter ceremony at the school was also attended by members of the sponsoring club, Red Bay Civitan Club. They served lunch for the occasion. Seen in the pictures are Alabama North District Junior Civitan Chairs Julia Floyd and Nancy Horton, Club Advisor Heather Haddock, and Civitan Area Director Bryan Moomaw. Congratulations to the new Red Bay Junior Civitan Club!



50 is Nifty in Europe

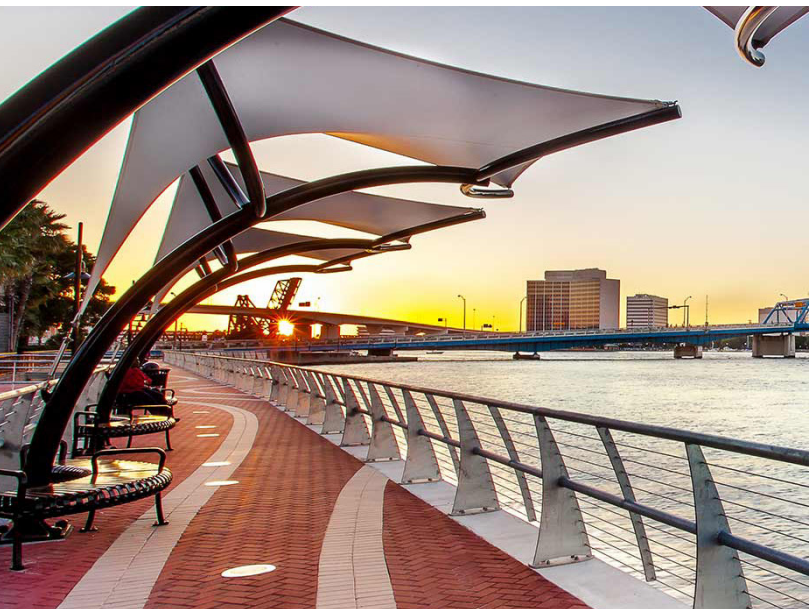
Spotlight on Civitan Club Tønsberg

Civitan Club Tønsberg is 50 years this year, and members in what's considered the oldest city in Norway started working on an anniversary booklet for the club. There is also a committee that's planning a trip for members to celebrate the milestone, and for now it looks like this will be inside the country.

Here are some fast facts about this impactful club:

- Their main projects are athletics for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and activities against substance abuse.
- There are no charter members left in the club, but Sven Svendsen has been a member for well over 40 years.
- The largest challenges for the club are recruiting new members and finding volunteers for leadership positions.
- Civitan Club Tønsberg owns its meeting facilities where they can keep all their equipment.
- The club is also managing and maintaining a camping ground on Torgersøya (a small is-land in the Oslofjord outside Tønsberg). This is both social and an excellent fundraiser.
- The club's focus is on all three pillars of Civitan - FELLOWSHIP at the meetings, SERVICE to the community, where needed, and gather KNOWLEDGE from each other and through lectures at the meetings.
- The club has been lucky enough to be able to recruit some younger members lately, and at least one additional person has shown interest in the club.

Congratulations Civitan Club Tønsberg!



JULY 29TH, JACKSONVILLE, FL
Register Today at www.civitanwalkandroll.com

I AM CIVITAN: as old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time.

MY HANDS do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.

MY EARS hear the cry of children and the call throughout the world for peace, guidance, progress, and unity.

MY EYES search for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan.

MY MOUTH utters the call to daily duty and speaks prayers in every tongue.

MY MIND teaches me respect for law and the flag of my country.

MY HEART beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity, and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.

MY SOUL knows no fear but its own unworthiness.

MY HOPE is for a better world through Civitan.

MY MOTTO: builders of good citizenship.

MY BELIEF: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

MY PLEDGE: to practice the Golden Rule and to build upon it a better and nobler citizenship.

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