

HOMETOWN CIVITAN CLUB

The Villages, Florida

Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2023

OPENING: A regular meeting at Evans Prairie CC Restaurant was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Laura McLaughlin who welcomed everyone, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then the Civitan Creed.

There were 7 guests who were recognized and told us about themselves. February birthdays were acknowledged – New member Judith Galuardi, Kay Dando, Ilene Hyams, and Penny Badolato. The Happy Box was passed with \$22 collected.

Moment of Inspiration: Mary Anderson shared a selection.

PROGRAM: Special Olympics – Laura introduced Savannah Rock who drove from Tampa to speak to us. She is the Manager of Community Engagement for Area 5 of Florida. She gave an overview and then introduced Charlotte Rahm of Sumter County Special Olympics. She told us of some specific events happening locally (there are 10 sports that Sumter County SO sponsors for local IDD athletes to participate in) and urged us to attend to show our support. One of the Spanish Springs bowling alleys donates lanes for local IDD residents to bowl and there are opportunities to help during those recreation events. Their big fundraiser is the annual Festival of Trees. Walmart donates the trees that individuals or groups purchase for \$35, decorate and then give back to be auctioned off in December. Last year they raised \$28,000 for Sumter County SO.

Then Charlotte introduced her brother-in-law, Scott Heard, who is an athlete, has participated in all 10 sports offered, but his favorite is soccer. The first year he competed, the team went all the way to the state finals where they came in third and won a bronze medal. Scott read a speech he had prepared for us and then answered many questions, along with Charlotte and Savannah. Scott told us the athlete's motto is – I'm in it to win, but if I can't win, be brave in the attempt.

Chickie Holtzman was so moved by the story of Sumter County Special Olympics program and especially Scott's words and activities, that she donated \$1,000 right then! For some really great pictures, go to Event Photos on our website www.HometownCivitanClub.org.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Current membership is 33. Thanks to all who responded with their cell phone numbers and village for the updated roster that will be emailed to all soon.

Our charitable organization 990-N tax form has been filed with the IRS. Our Not-For-Profit annual report has been filed with the State of Florida.

President's Remarks: Laura read a **letter of commendation** she had received from Civitan International, that gave special recognition to a club member who had sponsored more than 20 new members. That special person was club founder Betty Rohan! She was surprised and then spoke about her need to start an all-women Civitan club in The Villages.

Member Recognition: Laura presented Karen Schwering with a card of coupon discounts for local businesses in her appreciation of Karen's taking charge of the successful Bunco fundraiser.

Bunco: There were 120 tickets sold, more than 80 played with a profit to the club of \$900. Ilene, Chickie and Mary McGuire were some of the winners. It was the consensus that we make this Bunco Party an annual event.

Pop-Tops Collections: As Karen Chlebek was unable to attend the meeting, Judi gathered all that had been brought to the meeting and took them to her later. Karen takes the pop-tops to the Lady Lake Elementary School which is the area's donations collection point. From there they are given to the Ronald McDonald House as a donation to their fundraising program.

Next Social Event: On February 14 we will visit Pace Center For Girls in Ocala, one of the first charities that we supported. Details to follow about carpooling, possibly gathering there for breakfast before meeting at the school about noon for a tour and then a Valentine's party with the girls. The club will provide gifts and sweets to share with the students.

Next Club Meeting: March 7, Program: What Is Civitan? Bring a friend to see a History of Civitan short video and the 2022 video about the CI Research Center at the University of Alabama in Birmingham which is the principle International Civitan charity. Representatives from Pace and Ruth House will be there to talk about how we can go beyond dollars and actually give hands-on help to the women they serve.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. followed by socializing over lunch.

Next Board Meeting: February 15 at the home of Doris Field.

Attendees: Mary Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Penny Badolato, Kay Dando, Marilyn Ettman, Doris Field, Sharlene Floam, Karen Goodman, Judi Higbee, Chickie Holtzman, Ilene Hyams, Arlene Kaplan, Laura McLaughlin, Betty Rohan, Karen Schwering, Diane Seymour, Angela Vickers, (17) Allison Long of HIH/Ruth House, Cathy Ingram who spoke about her story of starting the Giving Expo, Judy Bartlett and Marilla Gardner who are friends and came as a result of our booth at the Giving Expo, Nancy Brickley – a friend of Kris Tygrett, Margie Brower – a friend of Karen Goodman, and Mary McGuire – a friend of Diane Seymour – who donated her Bunco winnings back to the club. And of course, the 3 speakers: Savannah, Charlotte and Scott.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Higbee, Secretary