

# CIVITAN

MAY 2022

Your 2022  
Civitan  
International  
Election Guide  
is Inside!

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: One Man's Journey For Opportunity in the Workplace



CIVITAN  
INTERNATIONAL



# CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL WALK & ROLL FOR RESEARCH

Get your tennis shoes ready, Walk & Roll is back! We're so excited to host the 3rd Annual Walk & Roll for Research as a hybrid event again this year. Grab your club members, friends, and family together to have an event in your own community or join us in bustling San Antonio to walk or roll along the River Walk! Register today at [www.CivitanWalkandRoll.com](http://www.CivitanWalkandRoll.com).



Did you know the Civitan International Breakthru Golf Benefit has raised over \$5 million for the Civitan International Research Center! Join us for the 29th annual event in San Antonio during the convention or as a virtual golfer from your home course and help us keep that number growing! Register today at [www.CivitanBreakthru.com](http://www.CivitanBreakthru.com).



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**CIVITAN MAGAZINE**  
**VOL. 102, NO. 3**

ISSN 0914-5785

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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.





Greetings Civitans!

As our Civitan Awareness Month of April ends, I am reflecting on our mission and our creed. This is why I am Civitan, and it is probably why you too say, "I am Civitan." Our creed does not start out with "I am a Civitan" but a much more profound statement "I am Civitan." We believe we can make a better world through Civitan. We believe all people have the right to live a full and meaningful life. We believe all people should be treated like we want others to treat us. I am Civitan. We are Civitan.

With the constraints of the pandemic lessening, it is truly springtime for Civitan. Most clubs are back meeting in person! Hooray! Most of our familiar activities are re-emerging like Special Olympics! Hooray! We are seeing our old friends and can give them a hug! Hooray! But most importantly, those very meaningful, hands-on service projects are back! Hooray!

For me personally, I finally get to do what I most wanted to do as President and that is to travel and see first-hand the marvelous things Civitans are accomplishing in their communities. In March, I got to spend a wonderful weekend with our Junior Civitans at the All-In Summit. They learned so much with great speakers and programs. They enjoyed great fellowship. They had the opportunity to do a hands-on project for a local non-profit that serves the intellectually and developmentally disabled community. They even got a "taste" of running their own business by creating a modern-day lemonade stand. And of course, the highlight of the event was a trip to the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC). I can assure all of you that we are good hands with these amazing students to lead us in the future. Hooray!

While I am on the topic of Junior Civitans, I have a suggestion for the best gift you can give a graduating senior. Give them a membership in your Civitan club. We do a terrible job of helping Junior Civitans become Civitans. Let's fix that right now! A full-time college student dues is 50% of the regular dues amount.

I had the opportunity to travel to Ocean City, Maryland, and attend the Chesapeake District meeting and the meeting of the Foundation for Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (FCIDD). I was thrilled beyond words to see what meaningful projects these Civitans are performing and funding. We are eternally grateful for the FCIDD donations and matching grants they provide us to support our CIRC. We would not have been able to donate more than \$20.4 Million without their tremendous support. Thank you for all you do! Hooray!

As I write this article, I am in North Carolina visiting the North Carolina District West meeting. I had the privilege of speaking at the Salisbury Civitan Club that is celebrating 100 years of service, knowledge, and fellowship this August. I got a personal tour of Victory Junction from Governor Mark Curran. What a truly amazing place where any kid, of any ability, can just be a kid at summer camp. I was so proud to see the Civitan name and logo wherever I went. This is what our mission is all about. Hooray!

Your Civitan International Board had the privilege to award grants to the winners of the Impact Area project competition. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to all our clubs who applied. Please read through the applications and bring them up at your club meetings to see if these projects can be accomplished in your area. Here again, our mission and our creed are at the forefront. Hooray!

One more thing I want to mention is the re-awakening of our clubs to grow and add members. The pandemic showed how much Civitan is needed in communities and how we need more members to provide that support. Our creed says that we "search for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan" and you are responding. We are seeing members being added in droves. We are seeing new clubs being chartered to increase our service opportunities. This is something we all need to do. I am asking each Civitan to sponsor one new member this year. Just think how much more service, knowledge and fellowship we can provide if everyone sponsors just one new member! Hooray!

Best Regards,

*Dan Brown*

Dan Brown

Civitan International President 2021-22



INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS  
2021-2022

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**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
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Scarlet Thompson, Birmingham, AL

WORLD HEADQUARTERS  
UPDATES

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SCARLET THOMPSON

Clubs Outside North America

As we approach convention season, it's time to bring Civitans up to speed on some items related to clubs outside the United States. Currently, Civitan International estimates 2,900 members located outside North America.

Europe is the area of the world in which Civitan has seen the most change. All but one of Norway and Denmark clubs surrendered their charters in the last two months. Civitan International now has less than forty members in that area. It appears many in that district had some misunderstandings about what was passed last year at convention and started making decisions to leave the organization as early as spring of last year. Civitan International is currently in the middle of a trademark fight with this group. Clubs in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Hungary are allegiant to Civitan International. Operating agreements are being pursued with clubs in those countries. These agreements will allow the clubs to use the Civitan brand if they follow a few operational guidelines and apply for licensing each year. But there is no board representation. This is a great route for us to take with these clubs, as Civitan International has been trying to resolve "exceptions" that the European clubs received back in the 1990s that have led to several problems.

Due to these dramatic changes, the European Office which supported the European Division, will shut down in August. The clubs in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Hungary will be supported by Civitan International's world headquarters, as well as a soon to be put together entity that will be led by local leaders. The closing of the European Office and dissolution of the European Division lead to some issues with board representation. However, the current board approved proposal of a bylaws rewrite would solve this issue.

Our strongest contingency of Civitans outside the United States is in South Korea. Currently there are over 600 members in that district. There have been a few clubs there put on rebuilding status because of the pandemic. Here too we will be pursuing this operational agreement because there is a Korean law that requires the district entity to stay in place.

The world headquarters has had recent communications with club representatives in Africa - specifically Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the Gambia. Several of them are trying to attend the convention in San Antonio.

While Canadian Civitans are normally not a part of these updates, the clubs there are in discussions with world HQ about the operational agreement proposed to other clubs outside the United States. Again here, if these agreements are secured, there isn't board representation, but Civitan is looking at an international advisory council that would feed into the board with recommendations – almost like an ad hoc committee. Once again, just like Europe, there is a bylaws issue regarding board representation. However, the board approved bylaws proposal solves this issue.

Operating agreements are being offered to these clubs outside the United States to allow for them to be a part of the organization while being adaptable to adhere to their country's laws and cultural norms/traditions. They are not being offered to entities within the United States (although licensing agreements are being pursued with club and district foundations since they are not chartered through CI).



New Seoul Club in Korea meeting in April



# Good Works: WORLD CITIZENSHIP AWARD WINNER ADDRESSES CRITICAL NEED FOR PEOPLE WITH I/DD

BY TYLER HILL-WHATLEY



Lloyd Lewis has always had a servant's heart, supporting his community in a multitude of ways. He served as treasurer for a non-profit helping teenaged runaways in the 1980s and in the 1990s served on the board of a non-profit promoting literacy. But his world completely shifted when his son Kennedy was born in 2003 with Down Syndrome.

**“From the moment we were told, I made a commitment that I was going to do everything in my power to make sure he had the same quality of life that everyone has,”** says Lewis.

The Colorado man immediately made a commitment to advocate and raise funds for research. At first, he had no connections or funds to achieve this, but he soon met and began partnering with the late Dr. Linda Crnic to advocate across the campuses of the University of Colorado. Along with that work, he also partnered with Michelle Sie Whitten, who is the current CEO of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation. In May 2005, Lewis was recruited to serve as CFO of the ARC Thrift Stores of Colorado and would eventually be appointed CEO and President. During his tenure, Lewis has accomplished much - including raising more than 120 million for advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities and becoming one of Colorado's largest employers of individuals in that same community.

**“What I have learned is, how much they want to contribute to our company, how wonderful they are working in teams, how inspiring they are to fellow employees, and how positive they are in the workplace. They have the lowest turnover rate of any employee group in America. They just love to contribute,”** says Lewis.

Lewis also created many programs and resources to help support these employees. One of which was a Civitan club he helped charter.

“I had met Patsy and Glenn Perkal and Fred Matthies through their local Civitan group. I had spoken with the group a couple of times and just really was impressed with the great work they do and the more I learned the more I became impressed with the organization.”

Lewis has received many awards and honors including being nominated for CEO of the Year by Colorado Biz Magazine and being nominated for an honorary doctorate in Public Service from the Denver Institute of Urban Studies. This year, he will receive Civitan International's most prestigious honor, the World Citizenship Award. It's been given to such notable disability advocates like Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Bitty and Beau's Coffee Founder Amy Wright. Lewis will receive the award at the 2022 Civitan International Convention in San Antonio. He's using the honor as an encourager to do more.

“I would like to expand employment of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the country and the world,” says Lewis. “I would love to meet other Civitan groups and talk about how we have been able to hire so many people with disabilities, what their value is to the work force and how vital it is to their lives as individuals.”

In all that he has done his biggest inspiration continues to be his son Kennedy. Kennedy, who is about to graduate high school, loves to help his family in any way he can. He is a hard worker, and even at the age of 18 he loves to give his father hugs when he picks him up from school.

**“He really shows us what it takes to be a great human being – love, generosity, and contribution. He inspires me to be like him,”** says Lewis.





# UPDATED 2022 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE



# What WILL BE ON THE BALLOT FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS?



## MONDAY, JULY 4

**Morning:** Breakthru Golf Benefit, Hyatt Hill Country Golf Club

**Afternoon:** International Board Meeting Part 2

On Monday evening, we'll kick off the 102nd Civitan International Convention with a "Deep in the Heart of Texas" Welcome Party! Make sure to pack all your best boots, hats, denim and fringe, and get ready to dance the night away to country classics.

## TUESDAY, JULY 5

**Morning:** First Business Session

**Afternoon:** International Elections & Voting, Education Workshops

If you're not a member of President's Council yet, you'll want to join before coming to San Antonio, so you can attend a once-in-a-lifetime President's Council on the grounds of the historic Alamo!

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Even if you're not an early bird, It will be worth it to set the alarm a little earlier to enjoy the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk during the cool of the morning to Walk & Roll for Research benefitting the Civitan International Research Center!

**Morning:** Membership Extravaganza, featuring Keynote Speaker Marilyn Sherman, an expert Success Strategist in Times of Challenge and Change

**Afternoon:** Education Workshops, Philanthropy Session featuring Dr. Craig Powell, Director of the CIRC, live on stage to answer your questions and update you on the latest research

Use this evening to explore the best San Antonio has to offer including the 15-mile River Walk also links Spanish Colonial Missions (a World Heritage Site, along with the Alamo), museums, public art and the Pearl, a former brewery reborn into an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants and entertainment.

## THURSDAY, JULY 7

**Morning:** Education Workshops, Second Business Session

**Afternoon:** Special Group Sessions

**Evening:** "The Stars at Night" Closing Banquet, featuring special guest Gordon Hartman, founder of Morgan's Wonderland, the world's first Ultra-Accessible™, fully-inclusive theme park designed with individuals with special needs in mind and built to be enjoyed by everyone

## OFFICER TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

For the first time ever, all four officer training courses of Civitan University will be presented live onsite as part of Educational Workshops. 2022-2023 Club Presidents, Presidents-Elect, Secretaries and Treasurers will have the opportunity to be certified at convention. As a special perk for convention registration, this training will be presented free of charge!

## 1. ELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND DIRECTORS

- All registered, voting delegates will vote for an International President-Elect candidate.
- All registered, voting delegates in Region Six (Appalachian, Valley, and North Central Districts) will vote for an International Director to represent their region.
- All registered, voting delegates in Region Seven (Heartland and Great SW) will vote for an International Director to represent their region.

Region 5's International Director seat is also up for election, but no candidates are qualified at this time. Therefore, no election for this seat will be held.

## 2. Governance Documents Items

- All registered, voting delegates will vote on the items in this section.
- First, delegates will vote individually on four amendments proposed to the current Civitan International Bylaws. These have been submitted by a Civitan club per the guidelines. None of these amendments have been approved by the Civitan International Board independently, nor have Civitan International lawyers approved them or vetted them to ensure continuity within the whole document. Delegates will have the choice of "In Favor" or "Opposed" for each amendment.
- Next, delegates will vote on the Civitan International Board of Directors approved rewrite of the Civitan International Bylaws. Delegates will have the choice of "In Favor" or "Opposed" for the document.

# 2022 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

**Office:** 2022-2023 Civitan International President-Elect

**Candidate:** Kearney “Dee” Hustler

**Hometown:** Birmingham, Alabama

**Profession:** Attorney

**Family Life:** Married with children

**Civitan Experience:** Member of ACTION Civitan Club, President, ACTION Civitan Club (2002-2003, 2021-2022), President of the Birmingham Civitan Club (2017-2018), Governor of Alabama Central District (2006-2007), International Director (2012-2014)



## CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

It is such a blessing to be a part of Civitan. Noted sociologist Johann Hari once said, “We live in a machine that is designed to make us neglect what is important to us.” He was talking about the internet and social media. Those two things are easy to get used to and lean on. You can limit conversations, avoid formalities, save time or even waste time. But the important thing that is avoided is real social contact. Without in-person interaction, it can lead to depression and loneliness. But Civitan has a cure! Plenty of actual meetings, polite people and friends, and a chance to work together for the benefit of our community.

If you are looking for purpose in life, I have one for you: it is to band together with other people and cooperate to accomplish something bigger than you could do alone. Now that COVID is subsiding, we can get back together, make plans, and do some great things for our community. I’m so excited about the possibilities!

We also need to be looking for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan. Part of this is the task of club building. I hope many of our leaders have just one more “club” in them. Civitan needs your help. The last three years with Covid have been a blow to Civitan’s membership numbers. We need to build those numbewrs and we will. I propose we focus from the top down to build back Civitan. We need the focus of the staff, the International Board, and the other leaders of Civitan. Together, we can band together, cooperate, and save Civitan!

# 2022 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

**Office:** : 2022-2023 Civitan International President-Elect

**Candidate:** Teresa Wakeman

**Hometown:** Pocatello, Idaho

**Profession:** Retired

**Family Life:** Married with children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

**Civitan Experience:** Member of Bannock Civitan Club, President of Bannock Civitan Club (2002-2003, 2013-2014), Board of Director of Bannock Club (2010-2011), Club Treasurer of Twisted Sisters (2015-2018), President of Twisted Sisters (2018-2020), Intermountain Governor (2003-2004), Heart of the West – Secretary (2005-2006, 2011-2012), Governor (2008-2009), International Director Region 8 (2012-2014)



## CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

The first time I heard the Civitan Creed, I was especially moved by the line, “MY HEART beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity, and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.” Soon after, I joined the Bannock Civitan Club in Pocatello, Idaho and began my Civitan journey. In the twenty-two years since then, I have been privileged to serve several terms as Club President, two terms as District Governor, and two years on the International Board as Director for Region Eight. Like many Civitans, I have served my club and district in multiple offices (Secretary, Treasurer, and Director) and I am currently the District Junior Civitan Chair, an advisor to a Special Friends/Inclusive Club, and District Awards Chair. I have also served as a Geographic Trainer for incoming Club Presidents and Presidents-elect.

I believe Civitans are blessed with HEART in many ways. Each Civitan possesses a “servant’s HEART”, a love for serving others in our communities and beyond. We face the challenges of a changing world and an evolving organization with courage, which is sometimes called HEART. We look around us for others with the same compassion in their HEARTS to join us in making the world a better place; we commit to our Civitan projects, giving our whole HEARTS to the achievement of the goals we have set for ourselves. Today’s world needs us more than ever before. I believe Civitans are making, and will continue to make, a positive difference in these turbulent and challenging times. That is why our organization must not only survive, but grow and thrive, adapting to change while respecting the values and traditions of our first 100 years.

Everything Civitans do begins at the Club level. Virtually all of us began our Civitan journeys by joining a local club; without Civitan Clubs, there would be no Civitan. Every club project, no matter how small, makes a positive difference as “our hands do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.” This also applies to our Junior Civitan Clubs, a particular interest of mine and a great potential source of future adult members who could bring new energy and new ideas to our organization.

Civitan clubs and their activities are the HEART of Civitan. As International President-Elect, my focus will be on supporting and strengthening existing clubs, building new clubs, and using the resources of Civitan International to bring new approaches and ideas for club projects, membership recruitment, club building and fundraising. I know that, working together, we can continue to build a better world through Civitan. In this world today, more than ever, CIVITAN MATTERS.



# 2022 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

**Office:** 2022-2025 Civitan International Director, Region Six  
**Candidate:** Patti Belote  
**Hometown:** Adrian, Michigan  
**Profession:** Retired  
**Family Life:** Married with children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren  
**Civitan Experience:** Vice President of Service Projects, President-Elect and President of Civitan Club of Lenawee, Governor- Elect of North Central District



## CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

We are at a crossroads. We face many challenges, and I am prepared to address those challenges head on. I am not alone. Along with my Governor I have been leading the charge and organizing meetings of all Governors, GE's and interested parties to see how we can address the many challenges our organization is facing. I feel confident that together we can change our trajectory.

**Life without Civitan is not an option.** The work we do is too important. I have been a member for 35 years and poured all my energy into my club. I co-chaired Special Olympics for 18 years and was advisor to Junior Civitan for 8 years. In the last 6 years I have taken an active leadership role on the board. I was V.P. of Service, became President Elect and President for two years to guide us through Covid. I am currently the Governor Elect of the North Central District.

I owned a marketing firm for 25 years and was co-owner of a technology company. I am recently retired and on fire for Civitan. I am humbled that my club and district support my candidacy and ask for your vote-we are better together!

# 2022 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL ELECTIONS

**Office:** : 2022-2025 Civitan International Director, Region 7  
**Candidate:** Grace Farmer  
**Hometown:** Bartlesville, Oklahoma  
**Profession:** Retired  
**Family Life:** Married with children and grandchildren  
**Civitan Experience:** President- Elect and President of the Bartlesville Civitan Club. Governor-Elect and Governor of the Heartland District. Currently Immediate Past Governor of the Heartland District and Board Member of the Bartlesville Civitan Club



## CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Hello fellow Civitans. My name is Grace Farmer and I am running for International Director of Region 7. I have been associated with Civitans before women were allowed to be a Civitan. My mother was a Civinet and my dad was the Governor of the Oklahoma Kansas District when Civitan turned 50 years old. My association with Civitan began in 1965 when my father joined the organization. During the years I have seen this organization go through many changes and we are currently experiencing changes now. I have been a past president of my local club and a past Governor of the Heartland District. If you give me the opportunity and elect me as International Director, I will be there to see Civitan through the changes ahead. We are facing tough times and we must put Civitan first in all we do if we want to see Civitan continue. Please come by my table at the International Convention in San Antonio and get to know me on a personal level. It will be a pleasure to serve Civitan and see us move forward.

Yours in Civitan,  
Grace Farmer  
Bartlesville Civitan Club  
Heartland District

# Issue Proposed: New Bylaws

APPROVED BY: CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Civitan International Board of Directors approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee in the summer of 2019 to review the organization's governance documents. Changes to Civitan International's Articles of Incorporation were ratified in 2021. Additional committee members from Canada, Europe and South Korea were added to the governance documents committee in 2022. Still, the organization's bylaws are outdated, not in compliance with Alabama non-profit law, and very rigid – which some say doesn't allow for growth and sustainability in today's world.

This year, the committee started with the proposal from 2021 and left in everything that was considered non-controversial. Examples of that would be: allowing each member to vote, adding indemnification language to protect the organization's officers and allowing for hybrid conventions. Through Civitan International Board of Directors discussions, it became clear that some of the more debated items of last year needed to be included, but with more details and some added information about how it would look in everyday Civitan life. The board guided the committee to include those items.

The governance documents committee formally recommended the new proposal at a Civitan International Board of Directors meeting on 3/19/2022. The proposal was approved by the board with one amendment, meaning it will be before membership for ratification at the 2022 Civitan International Convention in San Antonio.

**Overview of Proposal:**

- The “associated” membership class is expanded and can spur new club/membership platforms.
- Each member in good standing at the international convention receives a vote in business matters.
- International conventions may be hybrid; in-person and online.
- Some portions of the election sections are updated to adhere to Alabama non-profit law. There were even more revisions to that law that went into effect in January 2022 that needed to be addressed recently.
- The internal organizational structure will rely on current regions with leadership councils to support and manage local clubs in the United States. This retains the current size and makeup of the board (in the United States).
- The document allows for clubs outside the U.S. to operate under a different system with no board representation. But it allows the freedom for these clubs to structure themselves within certain operating guidelines to abide by their respective countries’ laws and traditions. Due to

this, the proposal puts forth the idea that 11 people will serve on the Civitan International Board – one for each region, the President, the President-Elect, the Immediate Past President, and the Chief Executive Officer (non-voting member).

- The board of directors’ section that now conflicts with the revised Articles of Incorporation (ratified in summer 2021) regarding officer removal is now aligned under the proposal.
- The document allows for a member/volunteer to serve in the role of treasurer of the organization for better checks and balances.
- Regarding dues, there is an opportunity of a “cost of living adjustment” based on the annual change to the CPI-U to international dues for American clubs, with a cap of 2%. This only allows the chance for the CI Board to do this, and it is NOT an automatic increase. Any increases to dues over 2% must be ratified by membership.
- A club remittance for regional operations will replace district dues. This will go towards trainings, new resources and efforts like media campaigns in specific areas of the region.
- Bylaws amendments can still be proposed by clubs and regions but must be submitted to a board member who will submit it to discuss at a board meeting. From there the proposal will be vetted by a Bylaws Committee who will recommend or not recommend its approval to the Civitan International Board of Directors. The Board gets the final vote on whether the item is placed on the ballot.

**Were there any items that were in last year’s proposal that were NOT included in this one?**

Yes. Last year’s proposal included a board seat for an International Division, which would represent every club outside North America. That is not included this year, due to the plan mentioned above for clubs outside the United States. It’s thought that these clubs would have an advisory council that would meet virtually a few times a year to share thoughts with the CI Board as to items that needed to be addressed globally.

Also, last year’s proposal included the idea of a smaller board specifically in the United States. That is not the case this year. The same seven board seats that cover the same geography respectively will go forward under this new proposal. So, for instance, Region One will still be clubs in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and parts of West Florida. Region Two will still be clubs in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia.

For more information, visit [www.civitan.org/elections22](http://www.civitan.org/elections22).

# Issue Proposed: Amendments to Current Civitan International Bylaws

PRESENTED BY: ARAB CIVITAN CLUB

Last year in Jacksonville the membership approved the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation that brought Civitan International in compliance with the non-profit laws of Alabama. Without a majority of the membership agreeing with the bylaws proposal that was put forth at that international convention, the Bylaws are not in compliance.

The Arab Civitan Club proposed amendments will not change the structure of the organization, will not allow a cost-of-living dues increase without a vote of the membership, will not require approval by the CI Board on any bylaw amendment that is properly submitted by a club or district, and the many other items that are included in the rewrite of the bylaws. The Arab Civitan Club Bylaw amendment proposals will bring the bylaws into compliance with the non-profit laws of Alabama and change nothing else in the current bylaws.

If you would like to discuss this proposal or have questions, you can contact Donna Hill Grice at:

4736 Mat Morrow Road  
Arab, AL 35016  
donnaHG@otelco.net  
256-506-5113 cell  
256-586-0389 Home

The amendments can be viewed by visiting <https://civitan.org/arab-bylaws/>.



## ALL IN RETURNS “IN PERSON” WITH MORE SERVICE, KNOWLEDGE AND FELLOWSHIP



The third annual All In Summit took place March 11-14, 2022, in Birmingham, Alabama. All proceeds from this Junior Civitan International fundraiser benefit the organization's flagship project, the Civitan International Research Center. Traditionally, this event is only open to District Governors and International Board members, but this is the second year now it has been opened to those who hold any leadership position at the club or district level.

The event was split into two tracks based on roles. The Advanced Track was reserved for Governors and the International Board members while the Basic Track was open to the other leaders. Thirteen students attended the event on the Advanced Track, and they were each responsible for raising a minimum of \$1,500 to attend the event. Nine students attended on the Basic Track.

The event kicked off on March 11 when the participants arrived and completed a service project at the Exceptional Foundation. The Exceptional Foundation provides adults and children with special needs the social and recreational activities they require to promote healthy living, support social relationships, improve life skills, and foster community involvement. Junior Civitans contributed in a number of ways including washing the organization's vans, cleaning and sanitizing gym equipment, preparing a mail-out, and assisting in the redecorating of their game room.

On Saturday, the focus was leadership. The Hoover Metropolitan Complex donated their meeting space to the event and several different speakers hosted workshops for the groups. Those workshops included the topics of diversity and inclusion, college and career prep, and building successful relationship. The keynote speaker was a former football player who was paralyzed by car accident named Timothy Alexander. He encouraged the students with his remarkable story based around his personal life and his tagline, "It doesn't have to be easy. It just has to be possible." Later that evening, Advanced Track participants and others who raised funds for the CIRC were honored at the fundraising banquet hosted by CIRC Director, Dr. Craig Powell. He also brought along some of his fellow researchers to mingle with our students and enjoy a meal together.

The next morning, Advanced Track Participants got the special perk of touring the new Civitan International World Headquarters office space and learning about Civitan's history and mission from President-Elect Jo Ann O'Toole over breakfast. They then met up with the other students at the CIRC where Dr. Powell and his team arranged a special morning of activities. Students rotated through four different stations where they got a close up look at some of the research taking place. After lunch and a break, the Advanced Track participants got to showcase their favorite service project at the "Service Show Off." It was a wonderful way for students to learn about how other clubs serve their communities and take ideas back to implement at home. Following the "Show Off," Civitan International President Dan Brown facilitated a workshop titled "Entrepreneur 101" where students were taught business basics while creating their own lemonade stands.

This event would not be possible without the donations students receive towards their personal fundraising efforts, as well as event sponsors. This year's three Fellowship Sponsors were the Durham Civitan Club, Rocky Mountain Civitan Club, and Florida Civitan District. The All In Circle Sponsors were Volunteer ACTION Civitan Club, Civitan International board member Denise Phelps, and the Florida Junior Civitan District. In addition to sponsors, many other partners contributed goods or services to help offset the expenses of the event to ensure that our students had an enjoyable weekend. Thank you!



## NATIONALLY KNOWN TV STAR AND COUNSELOR TO ADDRESS JUNIOR CIVITANS



This year's Junior Civitan International Convention will be held virtually on June 25, 2022, and registration is open on the Junior Civitan website. The event will be hosted by the Junior Civitan International Board and among some of the event's traditional contents, it will also feature a keynote speaker, Brittany Wagner.

Wagner is a nationally respected athletic academic counselor and motivational speaker best known for her role as the breakout star of the hit Netflix documentary series, Last Chance U. Recognized for her compassion, encouragement, and no-nonsense attitude, Brittany guided many young men to academic and professional success despite run-ins with the law, extreme poverty, abandonment, and often a complete lack of academic preparedness. Since her time as an academic counselor, Brittany has traveled the country as a motivational speaker, founded her own company, and published a book to motivate and guide others to personal success. Brittany facilitated a workshop with some of our top Junior Civitan leaders at this year's All In Summit and helped them with some tools on how to grow their leadership skills. Brittany is no stranger to our organization as her father is a long-time Civitan from Mississippi.

In addition to hearing from Brittany, the Junior Civitan International Board of Directors will also announce next year's international officers, announce international award winners, and host some fun and interactive breakout sessions to give the participants a chance to network with other Junior Civitans across North America.

The virtual event is just \$10.00 per Junior Civitan and all Junior Civitans are encouraged to attend. How can your club help? Contribute financially and sponsor some of your local Junior Civitans attendance by covering their registration costs. If you have any questions on how to do this, reach out to your district's Junior Civitan Chair or contact [emily@civitan.org](mailto:emily@civitan.org).

### Honor Club Announcement

In the last edition, Civitan International announced the Honor Clubs for the 2020-2021 year. Unfortunately, a few clubs were left off the list. Congratulations to the following clubs and presidents who reached some extraordinary heights in the last year:

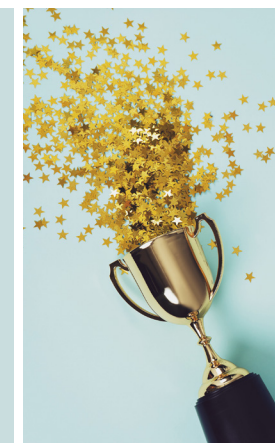
#### Honor Club

Cumming Civitan Club (GA)  
Civitan Club of Idaho Falls (ID)

#### Honor Club of Excellence

Cook County Civitan Club (GA)  
Hometown Civitan Club (FL)  
Distinguished President  
Lori Goldinger, Cook County Civitan Club (GA)  
Kasi Nelson, Civitan Club of Idaho Falls (ID)

Again, great job to these clubs and leaders! Thank you for all you do for Civitan!







# IMPACT AREAS WINNERS SYNOPSIS

RECENTLY THE CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARDED FOUR GRANTS AS PART OF THE CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL IMPACT AREAS. THE WINNERS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.



## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### "Inspired Movement"

**Kensington Valley Civitan Club, South Lyon, MI, North Central District**

**Thad Bogert, Project Chair**

**Elijah Canfield, Club President**

In 2008, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Research Digest reported that physical activity is 4.5 times lower for youth with disabilities than their peers without disabilities. The patterns of inactivity in childhood and adolescence track to higher rates of obesity, and other health problems in adulthood. The purpose of Inspired Movement Project is to promote physical activity by implementing Digital Play Spaces that inspire participants with intellectual/developmental disabilities to physically interact or play with objects projected on a wall or floor using their hands or feet. It is the intention of the Kensington Valley Civitan Club to provide a Digital Play Space to South Lyon Community Schools at no cost to the district. Given the popularity of video games with youth, it is the belief of the club that project participants will be inspired to play in the interactive environment that a Digital Play Space offers without realizing the amount of physical effort involved, which will result in improved health and motor skills.



## EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

### "Inclusive Employment & Career Fair"

**Civitan Club of Idaho Falls, Idaho Falls, ID, Heart of the West District**

**Michelle Ziel-Dingman, Project Chair**

**Michelle Zeil-Dingman, Club President**

In Idaho Falls, Idaho, there are currently have very few job fairs but many unfilled positions throughout the community. When job fairs are hosted, they are not I/DD focused or completely open to all businesses who provide valuable job opportunities to the I/DD community. The Idaho Falls Civitan Club believes that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities can serve as excellent employees with wonderful skills, and this will also us to present that message to the community and perhaps get employers who haven't sought after these potential employees to consider opening their minds and businesses to this segment. The club will create an Inclusive Employment & Career Fair, inviting all members of the I/DD community to attend a fair created just for them! It will feature booths from local employers and service providers who welcome potential employees with I/DD and see the value that they contribute to our community, and will also invite organizations who provide education and training to those with I/DD.



## FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### "Civitan Ball/Gala for Community Living London"

**London-Middlesex Civitan Club, London, Ontario, Canadian West District**

**Pauline Blackwell & Susan Heatherly, Project Chairs**

**Darrell Blackwell, Club President**

Schools typically hold a semiformal, and a prom each year. Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities often don't attend or feel left out. The London-Middlesex Civitan Club held the first prom for people with I/DD supported by Community Living London. This was the first known opportunity for many to attend any kind of formal prom, whether they had just graduated High School or not, something the club felt strongly was amiss. LMCC provided many with donated formal gowns, purses, jewelry and even a rented tux to ensure no one who wanted to attend would feel left out. The club will continue to plan and execute an event, which will now become "Civitan Ball" for those living with I/DD in their community to experience the food, fellowship and fun of a typical prom or dance experience.



## ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

### "Civitan Inclusive Playground"

**Cleveland Civitan Club, Cleveland, TN, Appalachian District**

**David Cummings, Project Chair**

**Diana Jackson, Club President**

In 1988-1989, the Cleveland Civitan Club created the Handi-Park, a playground specifically designed for accessibility to those with disabilities. Located at Stuart Park, just north of George R. Stuart Elementary School, the Handi-Park included accessible playground equipment and a restroom facility with a small, attached picnic pavilion. Since that time, the club has continued to make updates and improvements to the park, including wider sidewalks to better accommodate wheelchairs and more modern equipment specifically designed for enjoyment and exercise by both people with disabilities and the typical population. In 2012, the park was renamed "The Civitan Inclusive Playground". This playground is believed to be the only universally designed playground in the area and has since become a recreational destination in Cleveland/Bradley County for all populations. With this grant, the club will be able to add an Expression Swing to the park. This swing enables two people to swing while facing one another. It is made for a person without a disability to sit across from a person with physical needs. A well-formed fiberglass seat holds the person with a disability in place as they face their caregiver or friend.





# North American Award Finalists

Congratulations to those who are the top scorers in each competitive award category for clubs and districts, reflecting work done during the 2020-2021 year. The winners will be announced in-person at the 2022 Civitan International Convention. Finalists are listed below in no particular order.

## Dr. Courtney W. Shropshire Outstanding Civitan Club

- Uptown Civitan Club in Florida
- Arab Civitan Club in Alabama
- Cumming Civitan Club in Georgia

## Outstanding New Civitan Club

Metro Atlanta Civitan Club in Georgia

## Outstanding Service to People with Disabilities

- Castle Rock Civitan Club in Colorado
- Civitan Club of Lenawee in Michigan
- Sun City Civitan Club in Georgia

## Outstanding Community Service Project

- Metro Atlanta Civitan Club in Georgia
- Cook County Civitan Club in Georgia
- Hometown Civitan Club in Florida

## Outstanding Youth Project

- Cumming Civitan Club in Georgia
- Newburgh Civitan Club in Indiana
- Uptown Civitan Club in Florida

## Outstanding Awareness Project

- Idaho Falls Civitan Club in Idaho
- Metro Atlanta Civitan Club in Georgia
- Cook County Civitan Club in Georgia

## Outstanding Social Media Campaign

- Tryon Civitan Club in North Carolina
- Cook County Civitan Club in Georgia
- Cumming Civitan Club in Georgia

## Outstanding Club Website

- Hometown Civitan Club in Florida
- Cook County Civitan Club in Georgia

## Outstanding Club Newsletter

- Triangle Luncheon Civitan Club in North Carolina
- Metro Atlanta Civitan Club in Georgia
- ACTION Civitan Club in Alabama

## Outstanding District Website

- Georgia
- Heartland
- North Carolina East

## Outstanding District Newsletter

- Florida
- Heartland
- North Carolina East

# NORTH CAROLINA MAN BRIGHTENS CIVITAN'S FUTURE

## WHY HE GIVES TO THE LIGHT THE WAY CAMPAIGN

By Jenny Ely

Light the Way is Civitan International's official reserve for the future but really, it's much more than that. It's a way to ensure the Civitan legacy of service, fellowship and knowledge extend far past our lifetimes.

Roger Harris from the Shelby Civitan Club in North Carolina is one of many donors to the effort. He has a passion for helping others and joined the organization after retiring as a high school teacher and principal.

"My daddy had been a Civitan, and I saw how important it was to him. My 33-year career in education was one of service, often to students with disabilities. These children only wanted a chance to participate, to belong, and be accepted. That's what everyone hopes for," says Harris. "Civitan was the natural avenue for me to channel my energy to build good citizenship and serve individuals with disabilities."

Harris has supported the Light the Way program since the beginning. He shared how he learned about the program.

"I heard Civitan International Executive Vice President Scarlet Thompson speak at a district meeting. It concerned me that Civitan International did not have a healthy reserve fund. All organizations, businesses, and individuals need a reserve fund for the dark days that always come," says Harris.

As a retired educator, Harris says he did not have deep pockets but could see the plan Thompson mentioned for each Civitan to give \$1,000 each attainable. He decided to give his \$1,000 over 36 months.

"It's like the old joke about the best way to eat an elephant; one bite at a time. I never missed the little bit each month, but I was able to do my part and contribute to help ensure Civitan's future," says Harris.

Every "bite" does help the Light the Way reserve grow. Many, like Harris, opt for payment plans. Gifts can be made by monthly check, EFT, or credit card. He knows his will make a deep impact.

"My hope for the future of Civitan is that the world will come to embrace the values that we have in our creed and our mission. Civitan, like all civic organizations, is struggling now with a society that seems to teach that service to others is old-fashioned. Movies and television shows often don't show the simple concepts of good citizenship and service to the community and to those less fortunate. My hope is for Civitan to continue to be that candle in the darkness."

If you would like to make a gift to Light the Way, please visit <https://civitan.org/light-the-way-donate/> or contact [jenny@civitan.org](mailto:jenny@civitan.org).







**TRI-STATE CIVITAN OF  
HAGERSTOWN**  
MARYLAND

The Washington County, Maryland Middle School Disability Awareness Art Contest is a yearly event sponsored by Tri-State Civitan Club and Washington County Public Schools. The 2022 contest theme was “There is Ability in Every Disability.” Guidelines are original artwork reflecting interpretation of the theme.

The contest was open to all middle school students. The grand prize winner was Malaika Thiombiano from Smithsburg Middle School and her artwork was displayed on a digital billboard in Hagerstown, Maryland. All artwork was also on display for two weeks at a local mall.



**ARAB CIVITAN CLUB**  
ALABAMA

The Arab Civitan Club donated Life Vacs to schools within their area. Life vacs are a suction device used when the Heimlich maneuver doesn’t work in clearing a person’s airways. The schools in the Brindlee Mountain area along with four schools in Arab were given the equipment.



**COLUMBIA CIVITAN CLUB**  
TENNESSEE

The Columbia Civitan Club often donates to the Community Living Center West at the VA Health Center in Murfreesboro. During the holiday season, members donated shoes to the residents and in February they donated clothes, toiletries and snacks for a party for the Veterans.



**FIRST COAST  
CIVITAN**  
FLORIDA

In March, the First Coast Civitan Club provided a meal for volunteers taking part in the K9s for Warriors training. The organization offers training dogs for veterans who are suffering from PTSD and/or physical injuries.

**RAMSEUR CIVITAN  
CLUB**  
NORTH CAROLINA

The Ramseur Civitans donated funds to their local library board to support its needs and services. The donated funds were given in memory of a charter member of the Ramseur Civitan Club, Charles Lednum.



**FULL CIRCLE ACTION CLUB  
CHARTERS IN OKLAHOMA**

A charter celebration for the Full Circle ACTION Civitan Club took place April 23 in Jenks, OK. Sponsoring clubs are the Starlight and Broken Arrow, OK, Civitan clubs. Club builders are Keith Carpenter, Frank Kelley, Diane Potts and Shannon West. Full Circle chartered with an outstanding 45 members.

Area Director Dale deReign, a member of both Starlight and Broken Arrow Civitans, delivered the welcome address at the charter celebration. Sharon Conley, member of the Starlight and Tulsa Metro Civitans, officiated the initiation of charter members. Civitan International Immediate Past President Frank Kelley installed the officers and current CI President Dan Brown welcomed the club to Civitan. Heartland District Governor Richard Shepard presented Full Circle its charter, which was accepted by club President Potts. Club builders were recognized by President Brown and Governor Shepard.

The Jenks Police Department brought their new Autism Awareness vehicle to celebrate both the charter and Autism Awareness Month; and the new club's members brought donations to help replenish the stock for Blue Star Moms - Sapulpa, mothers of children serving in the military or veterans, after their existing stock was destroyed by a possum!

Congratulatory messages may be sent to: [fullcircle.actionclub@gmail.com](mailto:fullcircle.actionclub@gmail.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.

**Civitan International**

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