



Celebrating 100 Years of Service

THE CIVITAN

CLACKER

GREENSBORO CIVITAN CLUB

2020-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Officers

President: James E. Landon
President-Elect Edward L. Cobbler
Past President: Edward L. Cobbler
Secretary: David L. Johnson
Treasurer: Peter Peiffer

Directors

Joe Higgins
Zelma Higgins
Charles Winfree
Dale J. Metz
Tyra Martin
Enola Mixon
Albert P. Lochra
Stacy Sinkhorn
S. Curtis Youngblood

Sergeant-at-Arms: Ernest Rocker

Chaplain: Zelma Higgins

Vol. 100

Friday, March 19, 2021, Zoom Video Conference 1:00 PM

No. 12

**Program: Kevin Baker, Head Piedmont Triad Airport Authority
“Airport Operation Plans: Update”**

Civitan: Service-Knowledge-Fellowship-Perseverance

President Message

When will this Covid pandemic end? While trying to listen to so-called experts on tv I came across the following quotes that I found online that helped me feel better.

“**This too shall pass,**” is an old Persian saying that may have originated with the poet Rumi. Abraham Lincoln, something of an aphorist himself, was a fan of this line because it is “true and appropriate in all times and situations,” Lincoln said. “How much it expresses! How consoling in the depths of affliction!”

That should give us all hope, maybe even help us see “**dawn comes after the darkness,**” as author Lisa Wingate put it.

Can’t wait till we get to meet again.

Stay safe, Jim

March 5 Meeting

We were pleased to have **Zelma** and **Joe Higgins** back with us. It seems that the major problem was “senior moments”. The cure? Liberal use of Post It notes. **Zelma** resumed her role as chaplain and offered the traditional invocation... **President Jim** reminded us that March is Women’s History Month. This month is an opportunity to reflect on women’s achievements and their struggle for equality and the right to vote. **Jim** shared that his grandmother, who was born in 1884 and lived to be 110, was not able to vote until she was 36 years old. We are proud to have women in our club and we should make a special effort to increase our numbers...

Announcements:

Zelma shared that Civitan voted to allow women members in 1974.

Peter provided update on mysterious withdrawal from our operational account. The bank is investigating. In the interim, he has closed the old account and opened a new one.

A summary of the proposed Civitan International by-laws changes is attached below.

Birthdays:

Neither **Ernie Miller** or **Curtis Youngblood** generally attend our meetings and we do not expect that **Ernie** will be able to because of his physical condition, but we extend to both our best wishes on their birthday. We noted that our club has 6 members who are 90+ years old! This is quite an achievement!

Program: Dale Metz, “Civitan Memories”

Dale began by thanking **Al Lochra**, our secretary for many years, for the meticulous record keeping he did during his time of service. The Greensboro Civitan Club was fortunate to have many of the community and business leaders as members. Virtually every profession including doctors, lawyers, bankers, dentists, professors, teachers, ministers, morticians and even a professional basketball coach was represented. **Dale** promised to make a list of all past members and distribute to members. He is certain that many will see names that they will recognize.

Other:

- There were 12 members at our meeting.
- Members are asked to review the by-laws draft sent earlier so that we can vote to approve them at our next meeting. Send a request to **Secretary David Johnson** if you need another copy.

March Birthdays

Mar 8: **Ernie Miller**

Mar 11: **Curtis Youngblood**

April Programs: Joe Higgins, Zelma Higgins

Apr 2: TBD

Apr 16: TBD

Quarantine Thought:

“If you are going through hell, keep going! - Winston Churchill

Greensboro Civitan Committee Assignments Through September 2021

Program

October Jim Landon, John Red III
November Dave Olson, Brenda Rivenbark
December Ryan Gladden Peter Peiffer
January Jeff Hill, David Lyall
February Peter Peiffer, David Johnson
*March *Dale Metz, David Johnson, Al Lochra
*April Joe Higgins, Zelma Higgins
May Ed Cobbler, David Johnson
June Enola Mixon, Jack Banaszak
July Chuck Winfree, Ryan Gladden
August Curt Youngblood, Peter Peiffer
September Jack Banaszak, Dale Metz
*Assignment depends on when Best Citizens luncheon is scheduled, if held

Attendance/Membership

Jack Banaszak, John Red

Best Citizens

Dale Metz
David Johnson Al Lochra

Boys and Girls Homes

Enola Mixon Zelma Higgins

Constitution/By Laws

Jack Banaszak, Chuck Winfree

Finance/Operation/Foundation

Peter Peiffer,
Chuck Winfree, David Johnson

Fund Raising

Chair: Peter Peiffer
Candy Box: Al Lochra, Joe & Zelma Higgins,
Car Wash: Chuck Winfree
Fruit Cake: Peter Peiffer
Raffle: Ernest Rocker, Zelma Higgins
Belk Coupons: , Tyra Martin, Jim Landon

Herbin-Metz Christmas Event

Dale Metz Charles Ward

Nomination

Jack Banaszak Stacy Sinkhorn
David Johnson Peter Peiffer
Chuck Winfree

Orientation/Education

Zelma Higgins Joe Higgins

Picnic

Tyra Martin John Red

Publications

Chair: Jim Landon
Clacker: David Johnson, Chuck Winfree
Directory: David Johnson, Al Lochra

Publicity

Dale Metz Chuck Winfree

Recognition

Curt Youngblood Enola Mixon
Al Lochra

Souther Scholarship

Jack Banaszak Ryan Gladden
Dave Olson Enola Mixon

Marshall Scholarship

David Johnson Enola Mixon

School Relations

Dale Metz Al Lochra

Special Olympics

Stacy Sinkhorn Dale Metz
Charles Ward

2020-2021 Meeting Dates

-----2020-----

October 2, 16
November 6, 20
December 4, 11
-----2021-----

January 8, 22
February 5, 19
March 5, 19
April 2, 16
May 7, 21
June 4, 18
July 9, 23
August 6, 20
September 3, 17

Other Key Dates

TBD Herbin-Metz Christmas Party
TBD Christmas Program
TBD Best Citizens' Luncheon



Proposed Bylaws - Summary

All non-profits need bylaws, which are regulations that convey how they are governed and operate. Bylaws should be reviewed regularly. They should truly reflect how the organization works and remain relevant. This requires amending the bylaws frequently.

The Civitan International bylaws were last dramatically changed in 2004. Upon a review by corporate counsel, it was determined there were places in the document that did not comply with Alabama non-profit and federal laws. The Civitan International Board appointed a committee in 2019 to start work on revisions. That committee was expanded to include more members earlier this year. The group determined the bylaws needed not just simple amendments but instead, a total revamp to keep Civitan current and sustainable.

Here are some major items included in the new bylaws:

The membership class section now consists of two classes: individuals who are members of clubs and individuals who are not members of clubs.

WHY? *To allow for more possibilities with membership as the typical club model becomes more diverse*

All qualified members who attend International conventions will now vote in the International elections.

WHY? *To allow more members to have a say in leadership and organizational choices, provide a significant benefit to our members*

Districts would be phased out by 2022 and replaced by a regional structure.

WHY? *A district's mission is to grow the organization, but there have been less than twenty clubs built in the last three years by districts in North America. There have been no new club builds in Canada since 2017, and none in Europe in the same time period. Besides a steep membership decline in many districts, these entities are having trouble finding leaders. At least ten currently do not have an official Governor-Elect for 2020-2021. In addition, one of the original purposes of a district was to bridge the communication gap between International and clubs. With technological advancements in the last few decades, that is no longer needed.*

Regions would provide the middle level system of internal support for clubs and members.

WHY? *To better support our members on a local level and refine the focus of any group supporting the international organization so it will have a better chance of initiating growth and retaining members*

The size of the board of directors would be reduced (six directors instead of nine).

WHY? *The board's size has been the same in the last two decades even though membership has decreased by 50%*

The role of the organization's treasurer would be opened up to allow for a volunteer to serve in the position.

WHY? *Allow for more volunteer leadership, transparency, and accountability*

While a cost of living dues increase with limits is allowed if board approved, district dues would be eliminated and replaced with a lesser fee that would support the regional structure.

WHY? *Most similar organizations have this kind of sensible solution about a cost of living addition because small changes can help alleviate larger ones in the future. Plus, the change that allows for a regional fee lowers overall dues for most of Civitan's North American members as well as those who hail from Europe. This regional fee will also be used to benefit the general member, and not district leaders.*

If these bylaws are changed by the board, the changes cannot be implemented until ratification by members at a convention.

WHY? Allowing for ratification first allows for more of the voice of the general member to be heard on an issue before efforts are made to integrate the change into the operations of the organization.

Other Revisions and Rationale

REVISION	NEW SECTION	WHY?
There is no more “holding the charter” by a certain number of members.	One	More realistic approach to when a club surrenders its charter
Individual membership can be revoked by not only the board, but also the EVP.	One	In cases of criminal convictions that need immediate action
Added/revise verbiage to allow electronic voting and opened up virtual convention possibilities	Two	In cases of emergency like what happened in 2020, we can still carry out business and fellowship
Clearing up quorum language	Two	To comply with Alabama non-profit law
All areas outside North America are now in one division	Three	Membership decreases don't justify Europe to stand alone as when that area was larger
Programs section describing Junior Civitan condensed	Four	Unnecessary, doesn't have to be in governance documents
Name of Junior Civitan taken out	Four	Allows flexibility in case of name/programmatic changes
Sets a number of the board of directors	Five	To comply with Alabama non-profit law
Full board appoints any board vacancies	Five	Current bylaws allow only president, could lead to favoritism
Moves Finance Committee description to another part of the Committees section	Six	Differentiates which committees can act in lieu of the board – only the Executive Committee can
Adds a member to the Finance Committee	Six	Reasonable to add the treasurer as those attending if this person is a volunteer
Description of Immediate Past President position taken out of Officers section	Seven	IPP is not an officer in traditional non-profit settings, but stays as a member of the Executive Committee
Title of Executive Vice President position changed to Chief Executive Officer	Seven	EVP is an outdated title, using CEO is a best practice among non-profits
Takes out references to “Civitan Year”	Eight	Term is made up, and is virtually the same as the legal term “fiscal year”
Gift acceptance verbiage taken out	Eight	There is a policy that directly details the organization's gift acceptance policy
Minimum dues per club increased by \$30	Nine	Relates to ten members paying, minimum and amount has not been increased in decades.
Indemnification section added	Ten	This verbiage was needed to protect officers and decision makers of the organization and is typical in bylaws, some verbiage added in this section helps us adhere to federal law/IRS standards
“Name and Emblem” Article deleted	n/a	Unnecessary in a governance document, instead will be outlined in policy