

# Civitan Chatter



Charleston Civitan Club, P.O. Box 5428, Charleston, WV 25361

CHARTERED NOVEMBER 24, 1924

May 2020

**President** Jeanne Jarrett

**President Elect** Terry Hodge

**Treasurer** Bill Frame

**Secretary** Patty Frame

**Directors** Stella Doughty, Kathy McKinley

Home Club of International Presidents

Belford Roberts 1975-1976 (Deceased)

Bill Rogers 1983-1984 (Deceased)

## CHARLESTON CIVITANS DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

We give thanks that our members are still safe and healthy in their homes. We are all trying our best to follow the stay at home rules. This month, the governor of WV is starting to open the state. But that means we now must be extra careful if, and when, we go out to stores, get haircuts, etc. Please make sure you always wear a mask when in public. Make sure you are washing your hands on a regular basis, carry hand sanitizer when you go out and USE IT! If you can find them, it is good to use gloves when shopping. Another tip is to keep plastic bags in your car (example: Kroger bags). When you need to get gas in your car, you can put one of these on your hand to pump the gas and then toss it in the trash when done. We all must be extra safe as we start to venture from our homes. And lastly, do not forget to sit in the sun (when it does come out!) since Vitamin D helps to improve your immunity. Together if we all practice these safety rules, things will hopefully improve!

## MEETINGS...

Just because we can't physically gather for our meetings, that is not stopping us. We Zoom instead! In April, we held our meetings and we did increase awareness about our Civitan International Research Center by watching a video from Dr. Powell. We had the pleasure of Governor Ken Adkins speak with us during our first meeting in May.

We will continue to hold our club meetings on the normal 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays via Zoom. This is to keep our members safe, and also follows the guidelines of Civitan International. They care about all the Civitans and do not want to expose us to COVID 19.

The next few meetings will be held on Fridays at noon on May 15, June 5, and June 19. An e-mail with the link to join the zoom meeting will be sent prior to each meeting.

## CIVITAN GAME NIGHTS

The district wants to have Civitans stay connected, they know we all may be getting a little crazed sitting around the house, and so have come up with an idea that will solve both issues.

There are games that can be played on Zoom, even with teams. A test group has worked on the games and are now ready to roll out Game Nights. The goal is to hold these every few weeks to bring a little fun into our lives. The first game night will be Wednesday, May 20 at 7pm. An e-mail with the link to join will be sent by e-mail. So if you want to see some of the Civitans from all over our district, laugh and have fun, join the Game Night Zoom session!

## PROJECTS:

Despite our not being able to hold physical projects, we are still working on some "at home" projects. This list has even grown since we first put it together. They include:

## RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

Don't forget to save those can tabs from all the cans we are going through these days. Once we can get together again, bring them and we can donate them to the Ronald McDonald House to help them pay their bills.

## **SEND NOTES TO THOSE IN NURSING HOMES**

The residents of Oakridge Nursing Home are not allowed visitors. So please send a card, note, letter to them to help brighten their loneliness. The activity director will get them and by putting "Civitan" on the back, she will know these are to be given to residents. The address is:

Oakridge Nursing Home  
1000 Association Way  
Charleston, WV 25311  
Attn: Charlene Keisfer

## **PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

While we are in homes, we should all try to recycle cans, plastic paper and food boxes, if possible. We should also save fuel for electricity by turning off lights that are not needed. Look around and see what else you can do in your homes to help our environment!

## **HELP FOR MANNA MEAL**

Despite the virus, Manna Meal is still providing food for the homeless in our community. They are now serving 3 times the number of meals that they normally provide since there are many more people in need of food. They are not getting the donations of food as they normally do from restaurants, etc. To help the homeless, you can help in one of two ways. You can make a monetary donation to Manna Meal or if you can bake cookies or brownies, package them in sandwich bags (2 or 3 cookies or a brownie per bag), you can drop them off at Manna Meal. If you call when you arrive, someone will come to your car to get them. The

telephone number is 304-345-7121.

## **HOPE FOR APPALACHIA**

This great organization is making snack bags for children during this time when children in our own community are going hungry since they depend so much on school meals. They will continue doing this through the next months. Each week approximately 120 bags are given out at Randolph Street Church. Our member, Kyle Flanagan, is part of this effort. He explained to the club that they need food donations to help keep this program running. Some of the items needed include individual drinks, canned pasta, noodle cups, granola bars, fruit cups, and individual snacks. If you want to help, either by purchasing or giving a donation, please contact Kyle Flanagan or go to the website which is [hopeforappalachia.org](http://hopeforappalachia.org)

## **JUNIOR CIVITAN UPDATE**

School is finishing up this month. Our Junior Civitans are studying for finals, AP tests, etc. The last meetings for JA and GW Junior Civitans were held via Zoom.

But they are still working on their "at-home" projects including all the projects you, the Charleston Civitans, have been asked to do.

The Junior Civitan International Convention/Dance-a-Thon in Tampa has been canceled but our Junior Civitans will be participating in a virtual convention the week of June 22 with sessions on-line. The week will finish with a virtual Dance-a-Thon on June 26. We should be proud of the 10+ Junior

Civitans from our clubs who are on the Cardinal Team. They will virtually dance for a few hours to support the Civitan International Research Center.

## **DISTRICT/INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

The Spring Cardinal District meeting was held on April 18 on Zoom. It turned out to be a great meeting that flowed very smoothly and was completed in 2 hours. We had the honor of Civitan International President Patsy Perkal join us all the way from her home out west. It was a great way to spend a Saturday seeing Civitans and sharing information.

The Civitan International convention has been canceled in July. It was to be held in Milwaukee, but the virus put an end to this event. BUT, just like the Junior Civitans, there will be a virtual convention July 23 through 25. Each evening, there will be sessions to join on-line. They include an opening session, business session, Dr. Powell giving an update on the Civitan International Research Center, the celebration of the year, and even an introduction to a new International Signature Service Project. So, this means we can have more people attend sessions of the convention than we normally have attend the convention. No cost to attend...all you need to do is register. To find out more details, go to [Civitan.org](http://Civitan.org), click on "Important Updates from CI on COVID 19, and then select the link showing in the Virtual Convention itinerary to find out all the details on each of the sessions plus a way to register for the convention.

During the convention, the Break Thru Golf Tournament and Civitan Fest are held to raise money for the Civitan International Research Center. Just because these are not going to be held at the convention, does not mean Civitans should not support the Civitan International Research Center. There was a tremendous amount of money raised at these events and we need to not let this happen. While these won't be held this year, International has come up with alternatives to raise money for CIRC. Golfers can sign up for the Break Thru Golf Tournament and they will be able to play at their local golf course anytime during the August 31 through September 5.

We will hopefully have a Cardinal District golfer or two that will participate and will let you know.

In addition, they have come up with an awesome alternative to Civitan Fest which was the replacement for the Putt & Chip fundraiser for those who are not real golfers. They are asking clubs to plan a Walk & Roll in their local community anytime August 31 through September 5. This will help raise awareness about Civitans and raise some money for the Civitan International Research Center. This doesn't have to be one of those fancy walks like some organizations hold but just can be our own club members taking a walk. We can even invite our two

Junior Civitan clubs to join us. And what about asking others to join the walk – we could potentially get others interested in Civitans! This should be a great way to get together, even if we are still social distancing, and support the great work of Civitan and the Research Center. This will be in the future planning for our club and you will hear more about this as we go through the summer.

#### **BIRTHDAY WISHES...**

Thom Stevens' birthday is May 13. We all wish you a year of health, happiness, and great memories.

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

