

HEARTLAND

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OF THE CIVITAN HEARTLAND DISTRICT

EXPRESS

THIRD QUARTER 2015

CIVITANS TO GATHER IN THE HEARTLAND DISTRICT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The Civitan International Convention comes to St. Louis, Missouri in just over two weeks now and the excitement is building!. St. Louis, the Gateway to the West offers many unique attractions, historic sites, charming neighborhoods and entertainment options. Home to the Fox Theatre, the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis and beautiful Lafayette Park, this destination has something for everyone to enjoy. From museums that celebrate art and culture to those that concentrate on the unusual, St. Louis moves to the beat of many different drummers.

Foodies will find plenty to keep them occupied – and satisfied. From downtown to West St. Louis County, there's an abundance of tasty options. Enjoy local culinary delights like gooey butter cake, toasted ravioli, thin crust pizza, and "concretes," real custard milkshakes so thick you can turn them upside-down. Head to Crown Candy Kitchen to satisfy your sweet tooth or stop by Sweetie Pies for a plate of "food with soul."

This convention will feature workshops for Civitans of all experience levels, business and elections sessions, awards, Fun, Fellowship, and plenty of fun things to do in and around the convention site. We will see our own Debbie Bruce Juhle installed as our next Civitan International President. Full details are on the Civitan.org website.

Registration deadline is JULY 1 so do not dally, register now and make those travel arrangements. Don't forget to ask your fellow club members to go and help them to get there if necessary. We want every Heartland Civitan to be a part of this awesome event and to make a good impression as the Host District so please make plans now to be with us in St Louis!



HEARTLAND HAPPY FAMILY REUNION 2015 DISTRICT CONVENTION

Join your Heartland Civitan HAPPY family in Grapevine, Texas for a reunion to remember. This is sure to be a memorable event. The Embassy Suites, next door to a Bass Pro Shop, is a cool and comfortable place to gather. A complimentary breakfast with made to order omelets and two hour cocktail reception are a daily feature at the hotel. Grapevine is a historic Texas city which is known for the wineries, the history and the shopping. There is so much to do and see that deciding which attractions to see first could start a "family feud." Not to worry, the hospitality suite will be "all in the family" with fun and festivities. Of course, we will take care of the family business with workshops and general session speakers. Civitan International Vice President Membership—Leadership, Louis Stephens, will inspire us to expand our "family ties." Dr. Sims from the Civitan International Research Center will enlighten us with the latest developments. Our International Director, Frank Kelley, will bring us up to date with progress that will make us "Civitan HAPPY". The awards and installation banquet will be a grand "family affair". **See page 3 for an abbreviated schedule for you to plan this "family vacation."**



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2014-2015 CALENDAR

JULY

July 1	Deadline for articles/ club news /submissions to Newsletter
July 12-15	Civitan International Convention Renaissance Grand Hotel, St. Louis, MO
July 13	Golf Benefit

AUGUST

Aug 27-30	Heartland District Convention-Embassy Suites, Grapevine, TX
Aug 28	District Board Meeting (at convention prior to lunch)

SEPTEMBER

Sept 20	Deadline for articles/ club news /submissions to Newsletter
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Civitan
BREAKING NEWS!

Civitan International Board of Directors **approved** a motion to **waive initiation fees** for all new members that join North American Civitan clubs **in the fourth quarter!**

Wow, this means any new or reinstated member you add this quarter (July, August & September, 2015) **are free of charge!**

This should make all of our clubs... Civitan Happy to

RECRUIT, RECRUIT, RECRUIT
new members and grow their clubs in the fourth quarter!

Email or mail addition forms like always just with no check or credit card information. Any funds we receive with the forms will be returned to the club's treasurer.

GET ON BOARD
THE HEARTLAND
EXPRESS

The *Heartland Express* is the quarterly newsletter of the Civitan Heartland District. To submit club news or other articles for publishing in the *Heartland Express*, contact:

Frank Kelley,
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8628 Running River Lane,
Fort Worth, Texas 76131,
727 631.9354
awacs85@gmail.com

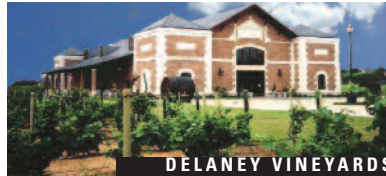
HEARTLAND CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH

Welcome and Hospitality (travel day)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH

Board Meeting (AM)
District Service Project
Citizenship Luncheon
Delaney Winery and historic Grapevine Tour
Fellowship / Door Prize contest / Project Fair
"Meet and Greet" the candidates for district office



SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH

Past Governors' Breakfast
General Session with Dr Sims, feature speaker from Civitan Int'l Research Ctr.
Election of District Governor-Elect and eligible Board Positions
Heartland District "Lunch with your Civitan Family"
Awards Presentations
Workshops
Training
Awards and Installation Banquet



SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH

Closing activities including the non-denominational service
Orientation session 2015-16 Heartland District Team (travel day)

THE PARADE OF CLUB BANNERS

is always a highlight of each year's District Convention. A new twist is added this year to our door prize process as each club is asked to bring a small item or gift basket that represents their community. The project fair is an opportunity to highlight your club's favorite project with a small table top display. Remember to bring your scrapbooks to be judged on Friday evening. More information will be sent to club and district officers, so ask them to keep you informed about the Heartland HAPPY Family Reunion.



REGISTER TODAY – SEE FORM ON PAGE 4

S P E A K E R S I N G R A P E V I N E :

DR. BRIAN SIMS

Civitan International Research Center

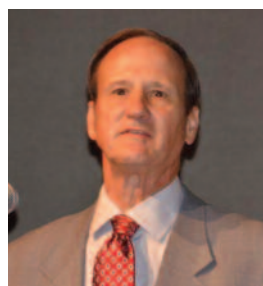


Brian Sims, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor in the UAB Department of Pediatrics was named the 2014 McNulty Civitan Scientist in ceremonies on November 6, 2014 at the UAB Civitan International Research Center. Dr. Sims will receive a \$50,000 grant to support his research efforts at UAB. Dr. Sims completed his Ph.D. and M.D. degrees in 1999 and 2000

respectively at the University of Alabama Birmingham followed by a clinical research fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine. He received the American Academy of Pediatrics Neonatal Resuscitation Program Young Investigators Award in 2003 and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Scholarship for 2005-2009. Dr. Sims is a board certified neonatologist affiliated with the University of Alabama Birmingham and Children's Hospital of Alabama. In addition to his ongoing clinical schedule, Dr. Sims has served as an active mentor to a number of undergraduate and graduate students whose projects coincide with his major research interest in understanding the cellular mechanisms involved in premature brain injury. The McNulty Scientist Award is named in honor of the McNulty family of Baltimore, who's efforts played a key role in focusing fund raising and research serving the developmental disabilities community through Civitan International and the Civitan Chesapeake District Foundation.

LOUIS STEPHENS

Vice President membership and Leadership, Civitan International



Louis is native of southern Illinois. He attended the University of Alabama Birmingham as a business major until in 1985 when he was hired by Civitan International to work at its World Headquarters as the Director of Youth Development. This job included administering a 20,000-member Junior Civitan program (high school clubs) and Campus Civitan program (college clubs). In 1993, Louis became the Director of Growth for Civitan. In this position he was responsible for managing new club charters and for promoting membership growth in existing clubs, including clubs in over 20 countries. For over 13 years, he has been responsible for overseeing all membership and leadership programs of the organization. His experience with working, training and motivating volunteers spans over thirty-five years. Louis has been keynote speaker throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. He is known for his enthusiastic training and speaking skills at workshops, seminars, and meetings.

REGISTRATION FORM

“Heartland HAPPY Family Reunion” Heartland District Civitan Convention

August 27, 28, 29, 30, 2015
Embassy Suites Dallas -DFW Airport North at Outdoor World
2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, Texas 76051

Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling: 1-972- 724-2600.

Group Rate is \$119 per night for Single or Double. (13% tax rate applies)

Please make hotel reservations before August 6, 2015 to receive group rate.

When calling, ask for the Civitan International Heartland District Group Rate

Name _____ Nickname _____ (Circle) Member or Guest

Club Name _____ Club Position _____

Street Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Contact Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Please check if you are a voting delegate for your club This is my first District Convention

	Price	#	Total
Full Registration (Includes meeting, Friday Citizenship lunch, Saturday lunch and banquet)	\$140.00		
Saturday Only (Includes meeting, Saturday lunch and banquet only)	\$105.00		
Extra or Ala Carte Activities			
Friday Citizenship Luncheon (Guest)	\$ 40.00		
Friday Afternoon Wine Tour	\$ 15.00		
Saturday Lunch only (Guest)	\$ 35.00		
Saturday Banquet only (Guest)	\$ 40.00		
		TOTAL	\$

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 17, 2015. Make checks payable to: “Heartland District Civitan”

Questions and Registrations should be directed to :

John C. “Jack” Fournier

28 Desoto Circle

North Little Rock, AR 72116

Phone # - 501-772-5298 E-mail: fournierhome@sbcglobal.net

Date Received _____ Check # _____ Amount Received _____ Recorded _____

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Recently, Arkansas Lt. Governor Tim Griffin spoke to the Cabot Civitan Club at our meeting. Here are some things he said that jumped out at me:

“If you do what you’ve always done, you get what you always get.” How simple & profound. The old methods are simply not working for Civitan nor are they working for our District. We must be open to

change. If we want better results, we must use better methods. Civitan needs everyone to use the old noggin & approach the future with intelligence & savvy.

“Know the difference between absolute progress & real progress.” Absolute progress means we are getting better. Real progress is how we are faring against the outside world. We can improve, but if we are not overtaking the outside world, we are staying the same or losing ground. Real progress is keeping up with changing demographics & at least maintaining pace with the population growth.

“Dream big & act boldly.” Wow. We have covered the first part many times. Big things start with big dreams & then require bold action. A club will never grow to 50 members & beyond unless they first dream about it & then take bold action to make it happen. What is your club’s dream? Dream big & then take bold action. Ignore the critics who don’t do anything. I do.

If you want numbers 1-3, a good way to start is to attend the CI Convention in St. Louis & the Heartland Convention in Grapevine. Both conventions will offer a change from the same ol’ thing. You will leave each convention recharged, refreshed & more knowledgeable. How about it? Register today!

Steve Cabot

2014-2015 Heartland District Civitan Governor



GOVERNOR-ELECT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, Civitans!! It’s hard to believe we will soon begin the final quarter of this Civitan year! What they say is certainly true - “Time flies when you’re having FUN!” There have been so many FUN Civitan events this Spring and Summer promises to deliver even more.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Spring Leadership Forum in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and the opportunity to meet personally with Civitans from across the Heartland District. Plus, I was very fortunate to be able to travel home part-way with the Civitan Orchids from Kansas City and enjoy/share the beautiful scenery of Arkansas with someone new to the state. And that’s part of what Civitan represents - sharing new opportunities and adventures.

New Club Officers & Directors have now been elected - to assume the leadership of your club on October 1, 2015. The first of the local Officer Training Workshops in the Heartland District was held June 20th in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I’m sure those Officers in attendance came away already planning ahead for all they want to pursue during their upcoming year. Two Officer Training Workshops remain in our District - one July 13th in St. Louis at the International Convention and one July 25th in Little Rock. Please sign up as soon as possible.

We are now less than one month away from the Civitan International Convention in St. Louis, Missouri where Heartland District Civitans will share with the rest of the world just what is so “Special about the Heartland”!!! Our own Debbie Bruce-Juhlke will be installed as the Civitan International President for 2015-2016 in St. Louis. I hope to see lots of Heartland Civitans in St. Louis, to bring home the Big Fish Award this year.

As you know, Governor Steve Jackson and this year’s Junior Civitan Chair Tom Nolting worked diligently to re-build the Heartland District Junior Civitan governance program. This week, the Heartland District will be represented at the Junior Civitan International Convention in Orlando June 25-28. Junior Civitans from Arkansas & Kansas will be attending along with incoming Heartland District Junior Civitan Co-Chair Carolyn Edwards and 2 faculty advisors - Dr. Martha Marshall from Arkansas & Dr. Renee Dexter from Kansas. I am so excited to join this group in Orlando as this will be my first ever Junior Civitan International Convention.

Looking ahead, the Heartland District Convention is scheduled for August 28-30 in Grapevine, Texas. Registration forms are available and lots of great activities are being planned. (Don’t forget to bring your Honor Club application completed to date as we will be holding a workshop focusing on this very subject.) What an awesome opportunity to gather with the Heartland District Civitan “family” and explore the great state of Texas! More info will be coming soon!!

2016 Heartland District Meetings/Conventions are currently in the process of being finalized in the states of Kansas and Oklahoma. We will be sharing further information with everyone at the District Convention in Grapevine! Yours in Civitan,

Marcia E. Dechand

2014-2015 Heartland District Civitan Governor-Elect

President's Council Update

President's Council is an annual giving program created to secure the Civitan's planned giving program. Each member is recognized for their important investment in Civitan's future. All members names will appear in that year's Annual Report and a special invitation to the President's Council reception at the International Convention.

If you're not currently a member, don't wait any longer. Join now so you will receive your invitation to the President's Council reception to be held this year in St. Louis. You can join for as little as \$10 per month and a second member of your family for \$7.50 per month. (higher levels are offered).

President's Council contributions are controlled by CI Board Policy and are used to underwrite the organization's planned giving initiative, increase the President's Council Endowment or supplement other charitable programs such as the Civitan International Research Center. The President's Council reception is underwritten by sponsors and not paid for out of Civitan International funds. So rest assured, your contributions are invested in lives not parties!

As of 3/30/15, there were 139 President's Council members in the Heartland District. That's 10.5% of our total active members as of that same date. Please help increase this percentage by spending a few minutes during one of your upcoming club meetings to talk to your fellow members about joining this valuable support program.

Ed Note : International Director Frank Kelley will be conducting a special pinning at the District Convention in Grapevine for all Civitans that would like to join the President's Council and invest in the future of Civitan!

Presidents-President Elects Geographical Training

It's March, which means it is time to register your club for leadership certification workshops this summer. If your club has not elected 2015-2016 officers, please pass this information to the incoming President and President Elect once elections are completed.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

To register please review the following guidelines:

- Pre-registration confirmation will be sent with meeting location information **BY EMAIL** once we receive your registration **SO PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS** on registration form.
- You must submit the enclosed form complete with a \$35.00 payment for **EACH** participant. If payment is not received **WITH THE FORM**, it will be sent back immediately.
- **PRINT** the information on the form **CLEARLY**.
- Circle the appropriate officer position on the registration form that you will be holding starting **OCTOBER 2015**.
- Mail the registration form to Civitan International, Attn: Stacy Sabo, PO Box 130744, Birmingham, AL 35213-0744.
- You may also pre-register by emailing a completed form to stacy@civitan.org or by fax (205592-6307) but **IT MUST BE RECEIVED** with a credit card payment.
- The registration form can be found online at civitan.org.

Available Heartland District Dates

July 13, 2015 St. Louis, MO July 25, 2015 Little Rock, AR
DEADLINE July 6, 2015 DEADLINE July 20, 2015



Annual Golf Benefit

Registration for the 2015 Civitan International Golf Benefit is now open! On July 13, Civitan golfers from around the world will come through for a round of world-class golf at Glen Echo Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri.

Completed in 1901, Glen Echo County Club is the oldest 18-hole private course west of the Mississippi River. The club was designed by James Foulis from Scotland, winner of the 1896 U.S. Open, and built by him and his brother, Robert, who were mentored by old Tom Morris of St. Andrews, Scotland, the pioneer of professional golf. Glen Echo hosted the golf events for the 1904 Summer Olympics. The LPGA Tour visited the course, hosting the St. Louis Women's Invitational in 1954, 1964, and 1970.

This annual event is one of our most important fundraisers benefiting the UAB Civitan International Research Center and its research of developmental disabilities. Golfers, now is the time to get into the swing of fundraising and make a real impact for Civitan's core mission – to help people with developmental disabilities.

Putt-n-Chip

The annual Putt-n-Chip is also a fundraiser for the Civitan International Research Center, and will also be held at Glen Echo Country Club during the International Convention on July 13. Players who raise at least \$150 over the course of the year come together for fun, fellowship and a few rounds of putt-putt golf.

To register, just download and save the registration form below (as either a Word document or a fillable PDF) and entering your information. You can register via email by sending your form as an attachment to rosemarysmith@civitan.org, or mailing it to International Headquarters.

For more information on the annual Golf Benefit and Putt-n-Chip events, please contact Rosemary Smith, Director of Development and Administrative Services, at 1-800-CIVITAN, ext. 108, or via email at rosemarysmith@civitan.org.

To participate, golfers must raise at least \$1,500 for the Civitan International Research Center in order to participate. Many of our golfers raise much more! You do NOT have to be an experienced golfer to participate in this great event. Awards are presented on the day of the golf benefit to our top fundraisers.

To register, contact Rosemary Smith at Civitan International Headquarters as soon as you decide to play, at rosemarysmith@civitan.org or 1-800-CIVITAN, ext. 108.

CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL

and what it means to you.

You, as a member of your local Civitan club are also a member of Civitan International, formally called the Civitan International Foundation. This is the charitable arm of our international organization. There are several programs which are supported by Civitan International that you should be aware of.

First, there is the Civitan International Research Center, our flagship project in keeping with Civitan's emphasis on helping people with developmental disabilities. Officially named The UAB (University of Alabama-Birmingham) Civitan International Research Center. This state-of-the-art Center brings together top scientific minds and the latest technology to create innovative therapies and treatments for people with developmental disabilities as well as other diseases and conditions. The Center is known throughout the world for its complete, interdisciplinary approach towards the treatment and prevention of developmental disabilities, as well as for its groundbreaking research. For more information, visit www.civitan.org and click on the link to the Civitan International Research Center.

You as an individual or your club may make donations to Civitan International by participating in the *Civitan at the Helm* program. (See more about this below.) When the Center was first adopted as our flagship program during the 1986 International Convention in Chicago, a pledge of \$1,000,000 per year for the next 20 years was made. While we have not been able to meet that pledge of one million dollars every year, we still are giving money each year toward the twenty million dollar pledge. Please consider making a donation to support our Organization. Every donation helps!

There are several programs/projects to fund the Center: **The Civitan at the Helm program** acknowledges club and district support of the Civitan International Research Center.

Clubs are recognized at the following levels of giving:

—Helmsman	\$10 per member average
—Navigator	\$25 per member average
—Captain	\$50 per member average
—Commodore	\$75 per member average
—Admiral	\$100 per member average
—Admiral of the Fleet	\$200 per member average

Generally each year, the Chesapeake Civitan Foundation matches Helm Donations dollar for dollar, so it is totally feasible to double your contribution if your donation is sent in early.

Qualifying Contributions come from the following sources:

- Any donation explicitly directed to support this project
- The Annual Golf Benefit (held during the International Convention)
- Coin Box Project Proceeds
- Personal gifts (may also be provided in the name of a special designee)

As of May 30, 2015, we have 42 out of 48 clubs participating with 22 clubs earning awards. The Heartland District has contributed \$27,850.09 to the program with that amount reflecting a \$20.42 per member giving level. If your club has not contributed to CATH at all or you have planned to give additional funds but have not, now is the time to send those funds in so that they will have the best chance of being matched by the Chesapeake Foundation. It is totally possible to double your money for your Club and Civitan. A true win-win situation and what's not to love about that!



Looking to lead as a District Elected Officer

At our upcoming Convention in August, we will hold nominations and elections for the following elected offices for the 2015-2016 Civitan year:

- Governor Elect
- Certified Club Builder Director
- Past Governor Director
- Area Directors -Areas 2-4-6

Please consider contributing as a District officer and run for one of these leadership positions. If you are interested in running for a position, please email Judge Advocate Frank Kelley to let him know what office you are running for so that he can send you the required documents. Thank you for your interest.

Candy/Coin Box Update

By Harold Connell, Chair, Candy/Coin Box Project

At the end of May, two-thirds, of our Civitan fiscal year, the **Civitan Club of Wichita** continues to lead the way with Candy Box collections of \$2,024.95. **El Dorado** has gathered \$1,553.86 for 2nd place, followed by **Bartlesville** and **Muskogee** who have reported \$1,290.36 and \$1,282.58 respectfully.

Bartlesville really deserves a big cheer, since at the end of 8 months, they are within \$25 of collecting as much as they did all of 2013-14!!!! They most definitely will be invited to apply for H.O.P.E. Award next year. Clubs showing increased collections over the previous year are invited by Civitan International to apply for this award, which leads to the next headline. H.O.P.E stands for Helping Other People Experience. The **Civitan Club of Wichita** will be presented the 2013-14 annual H.O.P.E. Award at the Civitan International Convention held in St. Louis later this July. Congratulations to Wichita!!!

Overall, however, total Candy and Coin Box collections for clubs of the Heartland District that are participating are behind last year's total. We still have 4 months remaining and hopefully they will be great months.

In the Coin Box category, the **Civitan Club of Wichita** and the **Bartlesville Civitan Club** are the leaders in funds collected during the 8 months ending May 31. **Wichita** reports \$942.24 while **Bartlesville** has collected \$811.13. The **Civitan Club of Wichita** will also be presented with a 4th Place patch for being one of the top Coin Box Project fundraisers during the July International Convention.

Bootheel Ladies Club

The club was in place at French Park in Caruthersville, Mo on June 7th for a community softball tournament. Teams from Oxford, Charleston, Cape Girardeau, & surrounding towns in Missouri took part in the tournament and it appears that the ladies had a great time serving up tasty food to the participants.



Ranger Civitan Club, Grand Prairie TX CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Ranger Civitan Club Begins Civitan Awareness Month at the Grand Prairie City Council!

Thank you to our members who came out to take part in the Proclamation ceremony at City Hall during the March 17th Council Meeting. On hand to see President Vivian accept the Proclamation from Mayor Ron Jenson were Stephanie Moreno, Laura Chapa, Tracy Aldridge, Kim Kelley, and Frank Kelley. The Proclamation from the Mayor and City Council City recognized April as CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH in Grand Prairie. Civitan Awareness Month is observed in April each year and the goal of the event is to do projects, publicize the purpose and activities of the club, and to become more known in the community.





JUNIOR CIVITAN

The Topeka Civitans had a great time working with the Shawnee Heights Junior Civitans at the clean-up day at Civitan Day Camp on April 22nd - preparing it for campers to arrive this summer. After all the raking, sweeping and picking up leaves/fallen branches, everyone enjoyed hot dogs from the grill, chips and cookies for lunch.



CAMPUS CIVITAN CLUB

Tulsa Community College Campus Civitan went to Edmond OK last weekend to help with the 2015 Oklahoma Miss Amazing Pageant held at the University of Central Oklahoma. It was a 2 day event. For a few of us, it was our first time going and let me tell you, what an emotional and wonderful experience to be a part of this. I wanted to mention that the director of the Oklahoma Miss Amazing is a past president of TCC Campus Civitan. It took a lot of hard work and big hearts to make this happen and go so smoothly.





Civitan Club of Topeka 2015 Spring Dance

On May 1st, Topeka Civitans assisted with the 2015 Annual Spring Dance for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities in northeast Kansas.

“Putting On The Ritz” was the theme of this year’s dance as the Big Gage Shelter house in Gage Park in Topeka was transformed into an elegant dining and dance hall complete with gold tablecloths, black netting, candles and red & white flowers.

Three Topeka Civitans served throughout the year on the Spring Dance Committee, meeting with a group of parents of individuals with special needs to plan the annual event. This has become a wonderful partnership between our Civitan Club and many local parents of persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities to carry on the tradition of what used to be an annual Spring Prom.

On the day of the event, numerous Topeka Civitans assisted with the decorating of the Big Gage Shelter house and purchased & donated cookies, punch and small gift cards and/or prizes that were given away throughout the evening. The Civitan Club of Topeka also voted to donate funds to host the Say Cheez Photo Booth available for four hours throughout the evening for guests to “smile for the camera” and obtain a keepsake of the evening. What a huge hit - with everyone anxious to show off their photos!!

Over 150 persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities attended the festivities of the evening, which included a buffet meal, dancing to music spun by a popular, local DJ and hearing their name called for prize awards. At the registration table, guests were greeted by Topeka Civitan Carolyn Edwards, who presented the attendees with a boutonniere/corsage.

Topeka Civitans also helped throughout the evening at the registration table taking money and recording names for drawings, serving on the buffet line and working behind the scenes in the kitchen.

Topeka Civitans had a GREAT time that evening - also dancing and enjoying all the smiles and hugs with some very special friends!!

Civitan Club of Wichita Members Co-Host Naturalization Ceremonies

Friday, May 22, was an exciting day for approximately 45 individuals who became U.S. citizens during three Naturalization Ceremonies held at the Wichita Field Office of the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. It was equally exciting for Civitan members Lora Neal, Colleen White, Kay Brannon, Janet Elliott, Virginia Soyez, John Rodda and Harold Connell who were present acting as co-hosts for the ceremonies. Connell addressed each of the three groups, welcoming them as new fellow citizens and encouraging them to become involved with their community and volunteer whenever possible. The others distributed packets and ushered the soon to be new citizens to their seats. A special thanks to Civitan Lora Neal for giving us the opportunity to serve as co-hosts. Lora is an employee of the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.



Group of soon-to-be U. S. Citizens



Civitan Janet Elliott (R) presenting a soon-to-be new U. S. citizen with her packet and U. S. Flag



Civitans Colleen White, Kay Brannon and Harold Connell.

BARTLESVILLE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Bartlesville Civitan Club was formed on June 10, 1975 and celebrated 40 years of service to the Bartlesville community on June 13, 2015 at Sterling's Grill. Like most service organizations Civitan exists to allow members to serve the community, while providing fun, fellowship and friendships to last a lifetime. Nolan Dealy joined Civitan earlier this year because "it was a great opportunity to do impactful work in the community with a great group of people."

Civitan had a presence in Bartlesville prior to 1975 and the current club was formed as the second club in Bartlesville. The current club was originally called the Bartlesville Uptown Civitan Club. One of the club's current members, Ron Matthews, was a member of the first club and became a charter member of the current club. The first Bartlesville club disbanded in 1986. Also of note, current member Grace Farmer is a second generation member as her father, George Hickman, was also a charter member of what is now the Bartlesville Civitan Club.

Internationally, Civitan is located in 42 countries with an international focus of serving those with developmental disabilities. The Civitan International Research Center in Birmingham, Alabama targets finding cures for diseases and genetic problems that cause many developmental disabilities.

Locally, candy and coin boxes at establishments around town help fund this research. Some of the club's recent service projects included assisting at Special Olympics in Dewey and chaperoning the Winter Fantasy Formal Dance for students with special needs. Mark Keesling joined the club this year to "help foster a community which promotes local assistance to those needing help over assistance from outside, and to meet others who do the same."

The local club's flagship project is the Civitan Park at the corner of Silver Lake Road and Nowata Road in Bartlesville. The park was the first ADA-accessible park in Northeast Oklahoma. Susie Lagal joined Civitan "because they built a handicap accessible park so my granddaughter was able to swing by herself! Such a caring hands on group of people! They do not just talk the talk, they walk the walk!" The most recent addition to the park was a shade covering to allow for use of the park during Oklahoma's scorching summer heat. The club also sponsored the construction of the Bartlesville Senior Citizen Apartments on Leisure Lane. This HUD project with 41 apartments provides affordable housing for senior citizens. Members of the club formed the original Senior Housing Board in 1997 and still comprise its full membership today.

