



# THE Heartland Express

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Heartland Civitan District

## Governor's Message



We are now one-fourth of the way through the Civitan year. Most clubs seem to be doing well, but I know that some are struggling. If your club is struggling, please let your Area Director know and let me know, so that we can help you and your club.

One way that your club leadership can be refreshed, educated, motivated, and energized is for them to attend the Area meetings that are being held throughout the Heartland District in February-April. Please note the date for your Area meeting on your calendar and make every effort to attend. These meetings are vital to maintaining the connection throughout the district and for providing training and insights for improving your club.

Specific locations are not all confirmed at this time, but will be updated on the District website <http://civitan.org/heartland/areameetings.html> as they become available. Information will be sent to club presidents in each Area as the location is confirmed. Cost for most Area meetings is \$20/person, which covers your

lunch and handouts you will receive. Most Area meetings last from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We have chosen not to have a Spring District Meeting, so that more club members will be able to afford to attend their Area Meeting. Area meetings are geographically closer for the vast majority of clubs than a district meeting and registration can be held to 1/5th the cost of a district meeting. Plan now to have a couple of carloads attend! Governor-elect Grace Farmer and I plan to be at every Area meeting, so we hope to see you there.

.....  
**Civitan International has recently undergone some significant reorganization. See pages 11-13 for details and a new organizational chart.**  
 .....  
 In case you have not heard yet, the 2019 International Convention will NOT be held in Rome, Italy, as previously planned due to complications with securing a hotel. Due to the requirements of upfront payments being demanded by the hotels and after seven months of negotiations, the convention plans were changed. The 2019 convention will be held in Greenville, South Carolina July 3-6, 2019.

Governor-Elect Grace Farmer will soon be heading to Birmingham for her Governor-Elect Academy. That meeting was the most important event in my Governor training. Blessings on you, Grace. May your 2018 G-E Academy be a rewarding experience.

*Governor Bob Shell*

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### AREA MEETINGS

<b>Area 1</b> meeting in Kansas City, KS	<b>February 24</b>
<b>Area 2</b> meeting in Broken Arrow, OK	<b>March 3</b>
<b>Area 3</b> meeting, Location TBD	<b>April 7</b>
<b>Area 4</b> meeting in Little Rock, AR	<b>February 17</b>
<b>Area 5</b> meeting in Grand Prairie, TX	<b>March 3</b>
<b>Area 7</b> meeting in Enid, OK	<b>March 24</b>

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

## F E B R U A R Y

Jan 28-Feb 3 Clergy Appreciation Week  
Feb 17 Area 4 meeting in Little Rock, AR  
Feb 24 Area 1 meeting in Kansas City, KS  
Feb 25 District Conference Call – using Zoom  
Feb 31 Deadline for Shropshire Scholarship applications

## M A R C H

March 3 Area 2 meeting in Broken Arrow, OK  
March 3 Area 5 meeting in Grand Prairie, TX  
March 9-12 Junior Civitan Dance-a-Thon, Myrtle Beach, SC  
March 24 Area 7 meeting in Enid, OK

## A P R I L

April 1-30 Civitan Awareness Month  
April 7 Area 3 meeting, TBD  
April 8 District Conference Call – using Zoom

## M A Y

May 1 Deadline for International Honor Key Nominations  
May 20 District Conference Call – using Zoom

## J U N E

June 1 Deadline to submit Club Officers report to Civitan International  
June 21-24 Junior Civitan International Convention, Tupelo, MS

## J U L Y

July 8 District Conference Call – using Zoom  
July 22-25 International Convention in Reno, NV – Grand Sierra Resort

## A U G U S T

Aug 24-26 District Convention in Fort Smith, AR – DoubleTree Hotel



The Heartland Express is a publication of the Heartland District of Civitan International, published quarterly to communicate with the members of all the Civitan clubs in the Heartland District and to officers of Civitan International.

Articles are welcomed. If you want your club to appear in the newsletter, please send an article to Ann Livingston, alivpif01@aol.com. In a separate email, please send photos to accompany the article, preferably in jpg format.

Please send email address changes to: Mary Henthorn, mhenthorn3@sbcglobal.net. The Heartland Express is available only in a downloadable PDF version. If you know a club member who does not have email, please print the district newsletter and mail it to them or give it to them at your next club meeting. Bob Shell, Governor; David Overton, Newsletter Design; Ann Livingston, Newsletter Editor; Mary Henthorn, Distribution.

## Area 7 Report



Area 7 Director Harold Connell plans to make visits to the clubs in Area 7 in January and early February. By receiving clubs' newsletters he is able to keep abreast of various club's activities.

The Hutchinson Club is doing a great job of having a good variety of programs at each of its meetings.

The Enid Club has received great publicity by appearing on a local television program called "Community Talk." You can view Community Talk episodes online: [youtube.com/EnidTVNetwork](https://www.youtube.com/EnidTVNetwork).

The Happy Trails Club hosted the District's Time Capsule Ceremony early in December.

The Civitan Club of Wichita has just concluded another successful fresh fruit sale. Proceeds from these sales help with costs of maintaining their Civitan Community House, helping reduce the cost of members' dues.

The Yes We Can Club must be congratulated in achieving Honor Club status for the 2016-17 Civitan Year.

## Heartland District Awards 2016-2017

### OUTSTANDING BILLBOARD PLACEMENT

- 1st Place – Enid Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Civitan Club of Wichita

### OUTSTANDING WEBSITE

- Civitan Club of Wichita

### OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS/PROGRAMS

- 1st Place – Little Rock Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Hope Civitan Club
- 3rd Place – Hot Springs Civitan Club

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO VETERANS

- 1st Place (tie) – Hot Springs Civitan Club & Yes We Can Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Starlight Civitan Club
- 3rd Place – Hope Civitan Club

### SERVICE TO THE ELDERLY

- 1st Place – Enid Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Civitan Club of Wichita
- 3rd Place – Starlight Civitan Club

### SERVICE TO THE HOMELESS

- 1st Place – Starlight Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Hope Civitan Club

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

- 1st Place – Hope Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Bluebonnet Civitan Club
- 3rd Place – Lawrence ACTION Civitan Club

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO YOUTH

- 1st Place – Little Rock Civitan Club
- 2nd Place – Starlight Civitan Club
- 3rd Place – Enid Civitan Club

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- 1st Place – Civitan Orchids
- 2nd Place – Cabot Civitan Club
- 3rd Place – Hot Springs Civitan Club

### OUTSTANDING PROJECT OF THE YEAR

- 1st Place – Civitan Orchids
- 2nd Place – Paragould Civitan Club
- 3rd Place – Twin Lakes Civitan Club

### OUTSTANDING CLUB OF THE YEAR

- 1st Place – Civitan Orchids
- 2nd Place – Civitan Club of Topeka
- 3rd Place – Hot Springs Civitan Club

### NEW CLUB OF THE YEAR

- Lawrence ACTION Civitan Club



## Help Jordan Hefner Attend Dance-a-thon!

District Junior Civitan Public Relations officer Jordan Hefner needs to raise \$1,400 from all Civitan clubs in the district to attend the 2018 Dance-a-Thon in Myrtle Beach on March 9-10.

Since 1974, Dance-a-thon has been one of Junior Civitan's top annual fundraisers. Any Junior Civitan who raises enough support gets to take part in a 12-hour dance marathon to raise money for the Civitan International Foundation's UAB Civitan International Research Center! This event has raised over \$1.1 million since its inception.

Deadline for donations is February 7th. Donate Today!  
<https://tinyurl.com/jordan-danceathon>



## Time capsule Buried

On December 3, representatives of the Heartland District met at the Happy Trails Civitan Club and buried a time capsule at host site Dale Rogers Training Center. The time capsule includes various items throughout the five-state district and will be opened in 2042. For more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/25year-capsule>

## GOVERNOR-ELECT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to 2018 and the start of a new year. As Governor-Elect of the Heartland District I am making my way around visiting with clubs and seeing what makes things happen. Growing up as a child of Civitan and having my father as a District Governor in 1970, I have seen a lot of changes through

the years. My mother was a Civinet before women could be Civitans and life was different. As I strive for a better world through Civitan I want the same for all members. Let us "Kindle the Fire for Civitan" in all we do. I look forward to meeting everyone at some point during my travels. Happy 2018 and may the future be bright!

*Grace Farmer  
Governor-Elect  
Heartland District 2017-2018*

### PR/VIRTUAL COMMUNICATIONS

## QUICK TIPS: Facebook Page or Group?



**Question:** Should our Civitan club setup a Facebook page or a group?

**Short Answer:** I recommend every Civitan club set up a public Facebook page.

A public Facebook page works somewhat like a website to publicize what your Civitan club is doing. It contains static information about your club, such as the mission of Civitan, history of your club, and your regular meeting schedule. It lets you post and share pictures and videos of your activities, and use the Share, Event, Fundraising, Boost, and other Facebook features to reach a wide audience. Built in analytics help you learn which approaches reach the most people.

Your club may also want to have a **closed Facebook group**. A closed group is a good place for engagement with your club members, discussion of issues, and sharing personal matters that are of interest to the group but not the public.

Over the next few months, I will prepare detailed guidance for starting and maintaining your Facebook presence. Contact me with questions or concerns any time. Mary Henthorn, Heartland District PR/Virtual Communications, mhenthorn3@sbcglobal.net, 501 680-2397



### Graphics Tip:

Facebook features large banner photos called "covers." For best results, the size for a regular Facebook banner should be 851 x 315 pixels. For a Group page, the size required is 1640 x 921 pixels.

## 2018 District Convention

August 24-26, 2018 • Fort Smith, Arkansas • DoubleTree Hotel



The 2018 District Convention will be in Fort Smith, Arkansas on August 24-26, 2018 at the DoubleTree Hotel. The hotel has been recently redesigned and can comfortably accommodate a convention of our size.

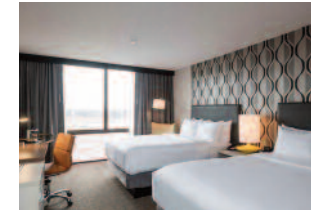
We tried to find a location that was a 5-1/2-hour drive or less from every club in the district. That's not possible! However, Fort Smith is less than 5-1/2 hours from every club, except the four in Area 6: Coastal Bend, Corpus Christi, Houston Clear Lake, and Heart of the Rock. We apologize to Area 6.

We are already working on the schedule for the weekend and have had several suggestions. Please let us know what you and your club members would prefer to do on Saturday afternoon? Please email convention coordinator Petrice Reese at [mckeyp@yahoo.com](mailto:mckeyp@yahoo.com) with your preference(s).

- Shop
- Attend workshops
- Tour facilities where groups serve the developmentally disabled
- Participate in a service project in the Fort Smith community
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### You can already register for your hotel room

although the deadline to book the hotel room at the convention rate is not until July 27, 2018. [Click here](#), then click on the box that says "Book a Room." If you wish to stay



an extra night on either side of the convention, the conference rate will apply. (August 23-26). The conference rate is \$89/night (\$102.13 after tax) for a single room with either a king bed or two queen beds. If you would prefer to book your room over the phone, call 479-783-1000 and tell them the event rate is "Heartland Civitan International."

Registration fee is still being developed, but early registration will not exceed \$100. Early registration will end July 29 and the registration will be higher after that date. Registration forms will be emailed before June.

## District Foundation Liaison

By Frank Kelley, Immediate Past Governor/District Foundation Liaison

I begin my first article as your Immediate Past Governor, District Foundation Liaison, and Nominations Chair by wishing you all a prosperous and successful 2018! I am very excited to be working with Governor Bob Shell and the rest of the 2017-18 Heartland District Leadership Team. We have a great year before us and I trust that you all will make every day count!

Now that the major holidays are behind us, we need to look forward to the remaining nine months of our Civitan year. Yes, you heard me right, nine months are left in our current year so we need to get busy!

I would like to begin my article by sharing information about several Civitan Foundation programs: Civitans at the Helm (CATH), Presidents Council, and the Candy and Coin Box program.

**Civitans at the Helm** is a program that helps raise funds for our Civitan Foundation and its commitment to research. Make your 2018 contributions now so that the funds stand a greater chance of being matched by our friends at the Chesapeake Foundation for Intellectually Challenged Children. This matching is usually dollar for dollar which means essentially that your contributions are doubled! Banner patches are presented at various contribution levels to all clubs that qualify so don't be left out! Send your contribution to International today! The address is Civitan International, PO Box 130744, Birmingham, AL 35213-0744

Next, are you aware that the **President's Council** provides Civitans and family members an opportunity to help secure Civitan's future. President's Council contributions are controlled by Civitan International Board policy and are first used to underwrite planned giving initiatives.

Various Membership Levels are available at differing cost: Council, Senior Council, Advisor, and Cabinet. Also, Family Memberships are available at 75% of the first member's membership cost. Each member receives a distinctive lapel pin identifying them as a Member as well as receiving an invitation to one of Civitan's most notable social events, the President's Council Reception, held each year at our International convention. Will you be able to join us at the PC Reception in Reno in July? If not, join now! An application is available at [http://www.civitan.org/Presidents\\_Council\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.civitan.org/Presidents_Council_Brochure.pdf) for your convenience. Completed applications should be sent to Civitan International.

Finally, I would like to talk about **Candy & Coin Boxes**. If you and/or your club already participate in this worthwhile project; THANK YOU! If not,



please consider becoming involved today. Please remember that these boxes are about more than fundraising. It is a great way for new clubs to get connected to businesses in their communities. Let me know if you need more information.

Now for some candy/coin box reminders:

Please remit your collected funds to International ASAP. Keep in mind that monies must be remitted in a timely manner. I would recommend at least remitting on a quarterly basis for slower boxes, monthly for more active locations.

All clubs participating in the candy and/or coin box program must sign agreements every year. Submit your 2017-2018 Candy Box Project Agreement and/or your Coin Box Agreement as soon as possible. Let me know if you need a copy of either and I will email it to you.

Please keep in mind that if you purchase candy, Civitan is expecting to receive funds from your collections. On average, you should collect at least \$20 per bag of candy.

Civitan International has recognition

items for both businesses and members. If you need these, contact Bonita Bigbee, [bonita@civitan.org](mailto:bonita@civitan.org); 205-591-8910, x. 116.

If you have unused boxes, please let me know so that we can make arrangements to place them with other clubs or return them to International.

Thank you for your consideration and participation in these worthy efforts.

In closing, I would like to mention that we are now looking for great Civitans to serve in **various elected leadership positions for the upcoming 2018-2019 year**. Positions available for candidates are: Governor-Elect, Past Governor Director, and several Area Directors. If you are interested, please reach out to me, Governor Bob Shell, or Governor-Elect Grace Farmer.

*Yours in Civitan,  
Frank*

### Frank Kelley has moved (again)!

Frank Kelley has accepted a position as HR Specialist position with the Army at Ft Leonard Wood in St. Robert, MO. Frank (and Kim's) new mailing address is:

Frank Kelley  
113 Liberty Parkway Apt A8  
St. Robert, MO 65584

His phone number and email address remain the same. 727-631-9354;  
[awacs85@gmail.com](mailto:awacs85@gmail.com)

## When Was Down Syndrome Discovered?

For centuries, people with Down syndrome have been included to in art, literature and science. It wasn't until 1866, however, that John Langdon Down, an English physician, published an accurate description of a person with Down syndrome. Although other people had previously recognized the characteristics of the syndrome, it was Down who described the condition as a distinct and separate entity, earning him the recognition as the "father" of the syndrome.

In recent history, advances in medicine and science have enabled researchers to investigate the characteristics of people with Down syndrome. In 1959, the French physician Jérôme Lejeune identified Down syndrome as a chromosomal condition. Instead of the usual 46 chromosomes present in each cell, Lejeune observed 47 in the cells of individuals with Down syndrome. It was later determined that an extra partial or whole copy of chromosome 21 re-



*NDSS founder Betsy Goodwin and Dr. Jérôme Lejeune with Goodwin's daughter, Carso*

# The History of Down Syndrome

THE DISCOVERY OF DOWN SYNDROME, ITS CAUSES AND WHAT IS HAPPENING AT CIRC WITH REGARDS TO IT

sults in the characteristics associated with Down syndrome. In the year 2000, an international team of scientists successfully identified and catalogued each of the approximately 329 genes on chromosome 21. This opened the door to great advances in Down syndrome research.

## What Causes Down Syndrome?

There are three types of Down syndrome: trisomy 21 (nondisjunction), translocation and mosaicism.

Regardless of the type of Down syndrome a person may have, all people with Down syndrome have an extra, critical portion of chromosome 21 present in all or some of their cells. This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome.

The cause of the extra full or partial chromosome is still unknown. Maternal age is the only factor that has been linked to an increased chance of having a baby with Down syndrome resulting from nondisjunction or mosaicism. However, due to higher birth rates in younger women, 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age.

*In 1942 Tommy McNulty was born with Down Syndrome and due to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Francis McNulty's efforts with Civitan, in 1989 an agreement was reached with the University of Alabama to support a research center for the mentally challenged known as Civitan International Research Center.*<sup>1</sup>

There is no definitive scientific research that indicates that Down syndrome is caused by environmental factors or the parents' activities before or during pregnancy.

## Civitan International Research Center

Since 2005, the McNulty Civitan Scientist Award has been awarded to outstanding scientists with a long term career commitment to research on developmental disabilities. To date the award has provided support for a number of successful research projects and helped to develop successful clinical programs benefitting individuals with developmental disorders.

Vladimir Parpura, M.D., Ph.D., is the 2017-2018 recipient of the coveted McNulty Civitan Scientist Award. He is a professor in the Department of Neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

His current research includes: i) studying the modulation of calcium-dependent glutamate release from astrocytes in health and disease; ii) visualization of vesicular/receptor trafficking; iii) examination of the nature and energetics of interactions between exocytotic proteins using sin-

gle molecule detection approaches; iv) development of scaffolds and dispersible materials, most notably mod-

ified carbon nanotubes, which can be used in repair after brain injury and v) bio-mimetic micro-robotics. He has been interfacing neuroscience with nanoscience/nanotechnology, synthetic biology and biomedical engineering.

Dr. Parpura holds both a medical degree, received from the University of Zagreb in Croatia in 1989, and a doctorate, received in Neuroscience and Zoology



*Vladimir Parpura, MD, PhD*

from Iowa State University in 1993. He has held faculty appointments at the Department of Zoology and Genetics, Iowa State University and the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, University of California Riverside. He is presently a Professor in the Department of Neurobiology, University of Alabama Birmingham and President for the American Society for Neurochemistry. He was elected as a Member of Academia Europaea (MAE) in 2012.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Civitan Story*, Margaret E Armbruster page 73, 141-142

<sup>2</sup> *National Down Syndrome Society*, [dss.org/Down-Syndrome/What-Is-Down-Syndrome/](http://dss.org/Down-Syndrome/What-Is-Down-Syndrome/)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/news/247-parpura-wins-mcnulty-civitan-scientist-award-2017-2018>



## Little Rock Boxing Day

The Little Rock Civitan Club delivered 1,396 Christmas shoe boxes this year to deserving Veterans in Little Rock and surrounding cities. This is up from 40 boxes first delivered in 2015 and 405 boxes last year in 2016. This project has really taken off with a special thanks to West Little Rock Civitan member Carl Martinous, who obtained a FedEx tractor trailer truck to haul all the shoeboxes. It took many people over 5 hours to load and then unload them at the VA in North Little Rock.

Below a special Christmas family receives gifts made possible by the Little Rock Civitan Club. In the picture, A'Myla and Sincere show their excitement upon receiving their gifts. Their mother, Zollaarea, said to tell Civitans "thank you so much" for these much-appreciated gifts which are "such a big blessing" to her and her daughters.



## West Little Rock Club Holiday Happenings

December was a busy month for the West Little Rock Civitan Club. In addition to our regular projects, Fruit Cake Sales and the Arkansas School for the Deaf Christmas Party; members wrapped 60 boxes for the Veterans Shoebox Drive.

This project will support the Veterans that are currently in the VA Hospital and most do not receive any Christmas gifts. Special thanks to Fed-Ex Ground for providing the wrapping location and the semi-trailer that transported all 1,396 boxes to the VA Hospital at Fort Roots.



Leading up to Christmas, the West Little Rock Civitan Club sold 34 Claxton fruit cakes and 39 batches of cookies, where we raised over \$300 which will support Special Olympics Arkansas. This is the third year that we have made the cookies and they have been wildly popular! We would encourage other clubs to expand their fruit cake sales to include the cookie trays.

West Little Rock Civitan Club members say their favorite annual event is the Christmas party for the Arkansas School for the Deaf, which we have been holding for over 20 years. This year 22 students enjoyed bowling, pizza, and gifts from Santa Claus. These students are chosen for the party by the school, based on financial status, typically these are the only Christmas gifts these students will receive. Funds for the special day were raised by our annual spaghetti dinner and silent auction held last September.



## Enid's Monster Mash

The Enid Civitan Club hosted a Halloween dance in the fellowship hall of Central Christian Church. The dance had over 200 participants.



## Happy (Trails) Thanksgiving

Happy Trails Civitan Club helped provide a Thanksgiving feast for others this season. Civitans purchased and packaged several items, including turkeys donated by Heather Hancock's family. Some of the families attended our meeting to receive their gift of a Thanksgiving meal.



## Lancaster-Melton Peace Keepers



This club was formed to honor two Kansas City, Kansas police officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2016—Detective Brad Lancaster and Captain Dave Melton—both of whom were military veterans. The club decided to make

one of our ongoing primary service projects the annual Wreaths Across America project, which places wreaths at gravesites of our military veterans. We will be doing regular fundraising to help fund this national project. We purchased two wreaths for Brad and Dave, and had a dozen Civitan volunteers at the Leavenworth National Cemetery ceremony held on December 16, 2017. Club President Zeta Bates, who is a sergeant in the Army, participated in the ceremony, along with Captain Melton's son David. Zeta was Captain Melton's fiancé, and she gave birth to their daughter Eloise five months after he was killed.



## A Playground for Everyone

The Coastal Bend Civitan Club donated funds to the city of Kingsville for installation of accessible playground equipment in a local park. Swings have been installed, and the club has committed additional funds to help with future projects. Some donors to the club's fundraising events are pictured above, along with club members. Other recent projects included providing gift cards for Hurricane Harvey victims and CASA families during the Holiday season. Club volunteers had a wonderful "Very Merry Christmas", partnering with the TAMUK Lions club to provide a Holiday experience for children with special needs.



## Gifts of Hope

The Hope Civitan Club of Hope, Arkansas, delivered gifts to the Hope office of Domestic Violence Prevention for three youngsters, ages 5, 7 and 9, in a family being served by the DVP. As part of their Christmas project, the Hope Civitans also presented "angel



tree" gifts to Rainbow of Challenges for a one-year-old with developmental disabilities served by ROC, and gifts to an 18-year-old who has aged out of foster care and is being cared for by members of the community. Pictured presenting the gifts to Mandy Turner of DVP (second from right) are (from left) Civitans Bertha White, Eva Morehead, President-Elect Darrell Davis, Allen Flowers (front), Treasurer Debbie Hall, and President Twyla Pruden. Club members volunteered to shop for and wrap the gifts for each recipient. General club funds, raised through various fundraisers, were used for purchases. Gifts to Rainbow of Challenges and Domestic Violence Prevention clients has been a December project of the Hope Civitan Club for many years; the needs of the former foster child were brought to the club by a member of Hope Civitans.



Hope Civitans staffed a booth with small pumpkins provided by the club for children to decorate and take home during a Fall Festival held Saturday, October 28, 2017, in downtown Hope. Several members of the club and the teen daughters of one member also provided face-painting for children (and a few adults). Painted images were spiders and spider webs, black cats, witches' hats, bats, and of course pumpkins or jack-o-lanterns. The Hope Civitan Club, as a service project, joined the Hope Chamber of Commerce, other civic and social organizations, and the Hope Downtown Network of merchants and property owners in providing activities from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fall Festival, one of a series of events focused on the revitalization of Hope's downtown.





## Orchids & Ex-Men Team up for Toys for Tots

The Civitan Orchids and the K.C. Civitan Ex-Men teamed up for the December Toys for Tots project. We helped brighten the holidays of 350 children by distributing more than 1,000 toys, to include 12 bicycles, and several food baskets. This was the fourth year for this project, which is always lots of work, but the volunteers always have fun working together.



## Orchids Had a Ball

The Civitan Orchids hosted the Fourth Annual Orchids Masquerade Ball on November 3, 2017. It was huge success with 140 people in attendance. The Orchids each got to select a dress for the event from a local church that has a prom boutique, and the Kansas City, Kansas Cosmetology School students volunteered their time by doing hair and makeup before the Ball. The Orchids and their guests enjoyed a nice dinner, and danced the night away to a D.J.



## Dallas Civitans Get into the Spirit

Dallas Town North Civitans and their spouses gathered together to share their blessings at the annual Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 17th. Club Treasurer, Jim Stinson, and his wife, Gayle, graciously hosted the potluck event in their home. Following the holiday feast, they convened around the fireplace for the infamous White Elephant Gift exchange, to the amusement and delight of all. Following gifts, the club presented a donation to the Dallas Center, a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting the developmentally challenged. And since it was a bye week for the Cowboys, many stayed on into the afternoon, enjoying tasty desserts and seasonal fellowship.



## Fort Smith's First Service Project

The new Fort Smith Civitan Club had their first service project by ringing bells for the Salvation Army on December 16. Eleven of the 25 members of the club joined in the bell-ringing festivities.



## Have Yourself a Kennett Christmas

On December 4th, the Kennett Civitans set up a booth at the Kennett Christmas Carnival, raising awareness of their relatively new club in the community and promoting their upcoming Buddy Ball event for boys and girls with special needs.



## Bartlesville Christmas Festivities

On Sunday, December 10, club members from the Bartlesville Civitan Club caroled at four ARC Group Homes, the Lighthouse homeless shelter, and the Bartlesville Senior Citizen Apartments. They especially enjoyed having some of the group home residents join in the caroling and even took song requests!



The Bartlesville Club provided Christmas dinner for the residents of the Bartlesville Senior Citizen Apartments—a low-income housing complex for senior citizens. Twenty residents were served a delicious meal and were given gifts. Fourteen club members participated in the event. The Bartlesville Club also created and installed Christmas decorations at the Bartlesville Senior Citizen Apartments.



## Bluebonnet Club Answers the Call



baby clothes, underwear, socks, shoes and hygiene items. We answered as fast as we could and delivered items for the displaced citizens of Houston.

The Grand Prairie United Charities asked the Bluebonnet Civitan Club to fulfill several families wishes, which we did. Then we recruited customers from Betcha Bingo 2 to help wrap all the presents.

Bluebonnet Civitan Club received a request from shelters in the DFW area for



## Heartland Membership

For the first quarter (through 12/31/17), the Heartland District has a net loss of one member. Given that 55 members were removed from club rosters in the first quarter, that's really good. Congratulations to the following clubs which had an increase in membership in the first quarter. Keep up the good work.

Cabot	El Dorado	Muskogee
Hope	Hutchinson	Jonesboro
Enid	Orchids	Rose City
Siloam Springs		Twin Lakes

## Kayla Benson Going to Sno-Do



Thanks to the efforts of numerous individuals and clubs throughout the Heartland District, our Junior Civitan Governor, Kayla Benson, has raised enough money to attend Sno-Do in Barrie,

Ontario, January 26-30. We sent out an appeal with just two days remaining before the deadline and the outpouring was so effective that it lifted Kayla from the #22 spot among fundraisers to the #11 spot. Kayla has raised \$2,500. Thank you to all who contributed.

## BEGINNINGS & ENDINGS

### DEATHS

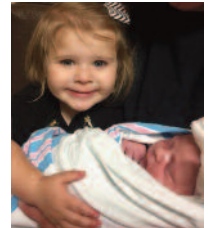
Marcia Dechand's uncle Marvin Immenschuh, passed away 12/14/17  
Curt Thomas, Civitan International President 2002-2003, passed away 12/26/17

### PRAYERS NEEDED

Roy Peak, Hutchinson Club, heart surgery on 12/28/17

### BIRTHS

Peyton Elizabeth Hicks, daughter of District Junior Civitan Coordinator Beth Hicks and granddaughter of District Secretary



Peggy Doyle was born 10/22/17. Peyton was 8 lbs. 7ozs and 21 inches long. Big sister Presley Ann is very excited about baby Peyton.

### MILESTONES

Several Heartland Civitan members have reached or are getting ready to reach significant milestones in length of Civitan membership:

Jimmy Goad - El Dorado Club - 60 years on January 1, 2018

Bob Parks - El Dorado Club - 50 years on December 1, 2017

Hank Janzen - Hutchinson Club - 50 years on January 1, 2018

David Fisher, Jr - Topeka Club - 50 years on March 1, 2018

Robert Sommers - Topeka Club - 50 years on March 1, 2018

William Costley, Jr - El Dorado Club - 40 years on December 1, 2017

# Reorganization at Civitan International

**A Note from the Governor:** *Civitan International has recently undergone some significant reorganization. Below is Executive Vice President Scarlet Thompson's explanation of the changes. Because several Civitans in the Heartland District have asked for an "organizational chart," I have included one of my own design, available on the last two pages of this issue and as a PDF online at <http://civitan.org/heartland/reorganization.pdf>*

–Bob Shell

## Operations Team

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS** – Laura Sappington joined us last year to replace Tom Stoves. She will continue her role, but add more of some operational tasks under wings, specifically programs and efforts that involve purchasing and inventory so we can manage our expenses at HQ in a better way.

**FINANCE SPECIALIST** – Yvonne Weldon has long served in this role, but has just gotten a newer title to reflect the significance of the work she does for Civitan overall. She will be handling Accounts Payable and Receivable, our deposits, and any funds we are holding for clubs and districts.

**OPERATIONS SPECIALIST** – Beth Towns is joining this team from the former Membership department. One of Beth's biggest tasks will be taking over Supply House as a means to improve customer service levels for this program.

*Laura will supervise the Operations team.*

## Philanthropy Team

**DIRECTOR OF DONOR RELATIONS AND STRATEGY** – Jenny Tillman Ely has joined the team in this position. She will be charged with starting a Corporate Giving program, flushing out fully our newer Major Gifts program, and managing the members who will be involved in helping guide the planning of our philanthropy programs and events. Jenny is a tried and true fundraiser who can really look at how we can bring in OPM – other people's money.

**SPECIAL EVENTS SPECIALIST** – Bobby Farley will be in this position, which plans and executes Sno-Do, Dance-a-thon, and the annual golf tournament. He will also be seeking and planning a new approach to reaching the Young Professionals age group, because I believe fully the answer in relating to this generation is more fundraising based for now. Bobby will also be implementing official online and general giving campaigns.

**MEMBER GIVING SPECIALIST** – Bonita Bigbee is joining this team from the former Membership department. Bonita will be focused on all the programs and efforts that appeal to our members, like Fellows and President's Council. She'll also be the person on this team who manages the Civitans at the Helm program.

*Scarlet will supervise the Philanthropy team.*

## Engagement Team

**DIRECTOR OF MEETINGS AND AWARDS** – Mary Luck will continue to plan and execute the annual convention, along with the events we carry out for our Governors and Governors Elect. She's also still in charge of the awards process.

**DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING** – Stacy Sabo will continue to facilitate the geographical training program, but will also take over the Elections and Resolutions Committee, support me with some Board of Directors efforts, and plan the convention's workshops.

**COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST** – Terry Schirmscher will continue this role. He'll also be in charge of making sure when new collateral is needed, it is produced and designed appropriately.

**CLUB FUNDRAISING SPECIALIST** – Glenn Thomas will carry out this role, specifically supporting our efforts when it comes to fruit cake sales. I've placed this position on this team because the value this effort brings to International is much different than traditional fundraising/philanthropy. While it is a fundraiser on the club level, it is simply a much needed but additional revenue stream for world HQ.

*Scarlet will supervise the Engagement team.*

## Recruitment And Support Team

This is a major shift in philosophy. We will assign districts and programs to the people on this team. They will be self-contained when it comes to fulfilling the needs of members in their assigned areas, along with creating a "strategic" plan for each area they serve to promote growth and showcase Civitan's work. I have attached a one pager to this email that explains the concept a little more, but it is considered the "Community Representative" approach that many American non-profits take to support their own efforts. Please note the districts assigned to each person that you see on the org chart may change.

**SENIOR MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST AND DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS** – Louis Stephens will help us put some structure and consistency to many of our international clubs, along with serving Regions 5 and 6 in North America.

**MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST** – Meagn Mindel has joined the team as Membership Specialist for Regions 1, 2, 4, along with the Campus Civitan Program.

**MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST** – Meredith Binkley has joined the team as Membership Specialist for Regions 3, 6, & 7 (that's us). Be sure to welcome her, Y'all.

**MEMBERSHIP SPECIALIST, JUNIOR CIVITAN** – Emily Kicker is a new hire for this position. She comes to us from the Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham where she was its volunteer coordinator and its staff liaison to its Student Council.

*Scarlet will supervise the Recruitment and Support team.*



## CIVITAN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – HEARTLAND DISTRICT

On the next page is an organizational chart showing local club positions and their relationship to the district and to Civitan International. Civitan International staff members are shown in a red box. All others are volunteers. Executive Vice President (EVP) Scarlet Thompson oversees all staff positions. The Heartland District is one of two districts in Region 7. Region 7 has only one officer, Director Fred Matthies. Fred (fj0428@aol.com; 303-907-0909) is our representative on the Civitan International board.

- The local club's first contact should be the Area Director. If the Area Director does not know the answer or is unavailable, the question can be directed to the District or International contact.
- The primary contact at International should be the staff person for that function. If you don't know who that is, contact the Heartland District's Membership Specialist, Meredith Binkley.
- Functions not shown on the organizational chart with which a local club might need assistance are listed below, with the corresponding District and International support person.

FUNCTION	DISTRICT	INTERNATIONAL – 205-591-8910
Audit	Carol Robertson; <a href="mailto:ckrobertson@sbcglobal.net">ckrobertson@sbcglobal.net</a> ; 785-224-5330	
Awards	Cheryl Ford; <a href="mailto:cheryl@petsinblack.com">cheryl@petsinblack.com</a> ; 918-333-4620	Mary Luck; <a href="mailto:MaryLuck@civitan.org">MaryLuck@civitan.org</a> ; x. 121
By-Laws/Policies	Bill Buscher; <a href="mailto:bsbuscher@sbcglobal.net">bsbuscher@sbcglobal.net</a> ; 785-817-7494	Scarlet Thompson; <a href="mailto:scarlet@civitan.org">scarlet@civitan.org</a> ; x. 132
Campus Civitan	Diane Potts; <a href="mailto:dpotts4dsp@gmail.com">dpotts4dsp@gmail.com</a> ; 918-740-6039	Megan Mindel; <a href="mailto:megan@civitan.org">megan@civitan.org</a> ; x. 114
Civitan at the Helm/Fellows	Frank Kelley; <a href="mailto:awacs85@gmail.com">awacs85@gmail.com</a> ; 727-631-9354	Bonita Bigbee; <a href="mailto:bonita@civitan.org">bonita@civitan.org</a> ; 116
CIRC		Terry Schrimmscher; <a href="mailto:terrys@civitan.org">terrys@civitan.org</a> ; x. 134
Club Liability Insurance		Beth Towns; <a href="mailto:betht@civitan.org">betht@civitan.org</a> ; x. 111
Conventions	Petrice McKey-Reese; <a href="mailto:mcckeyp@yahoo.com">mcckeyp@yahoo.com</a> ; 918-219-4994	Mary Luck; <a href="mailto:MaryLuck@civitan.org">MaryLuck@civitan.org</a> ; x. 121
Junior Civitan	Beth Hicks; <a href="mailto:Beth.Hicks@cps.k12.ar.us">Beth.Hicks@cps.k12.ar.us</a> ; 501-743-8631 or Kayla Benson; <a href="mailto:kaylab322@gmail.com">kaylab322@gmail.com</a> ; 785-380-1734	Emily Kicker; <a href="mailto:emily@civitan.org">emily@civitan.org</a> ; x. 131
New Club Building	Marcia Dechand; <a href="mailto:dechandm@yahoo.com">dechandm@yahoo.com</a> ; 785-845-3537	Meredith Binkley; <a href="mailto:meredith@civitan.org">meredith@civitan.org</a> ; x. 108
Planned Giving	Frank Kelley; <a href="mailto:awacs85@gmail.com">awacs85@gmail.com</a> ; 727-631-9354	Jenny Tillman Ely; <a href="mailto:jenny@civitan.org">jenny@civitan.org</a> ; x. 109
Scholarships/Youth Programs		Emily Kicker; <a href="mailto:emily@civitan.org">emily@civitan.org</a> ; x. 131
Supply House/IRS numbers		Beth Towns; <a href="mailto:betht@civitan.org">betht@civitan.org</a> ; x. 111
Training	Gerald Yotter; <a href="mailto:gwyotter@yahoo.com">gwyotter@yahoo.com</a> ; 913-244-9057	Stacy Sabo; <a href="mailto:stacy@civitan.org">stacy@civitan.org</a> ; x. 120
YP Clubs/Events		Bobby Farley; <a href="mailto:bobby@civitan.org">bobby@civitan.org</a> ; x. 103

### Membership Specialist

Meredith Binkley



[meredith@civitan.org](mailto:meredith@civitan.org)  
205-591-8910, x. 108

Area Directors	Clubs
1 – Don Schultz	Civitan Orchids, KC Ex-Men, Lancaster-Melton Peace Keepers, Lawrence, Topeka, Ichabod (Campus), Shawnee Heights (Junior)
2 – Dale deReign	Bartlesville, Broken Arrow, Fort Smith, Metro Tulsa, Muskogee, Siloam Springs, Starlight, Tulsa Community College (Campus), University of Arkansas (Campus), Future Leaders of Tomorrow (Junior)
3 – Joyce Sullivan	Kennett, Jonesboro, Paragould, Twin Lakes, West County, Green County Tech (Junior), Paragould High (Junior), Butler County (rebuild)
4 – Jack Truesdell	Abilities Unlimited, Cabot, El Dorado, Hope, Hot Springs, Little Rock, River Park, Searcy, West Little Rock, Cabot High (Junior), Central High (Junior), LISA Academy (Junior), St. Edward Junior High (Junior)
5 – Vivian Dail	Blue Bonnet, Dallas Town North, Ranger, Rose City, Wichita Falls
6 – David Ansel	Coastal Bend, Corpus Christi, Heart of the Rock, Houston Clear Lake
7 – Harold Connell	Enid, Happy Trails, Hutchinson, Wichita, Yes We Can, Northern Oklahoma (Campus), Sacred Heart (Junior)

**LOCAL CLUB**

