



# GREENVILLE CIVITAN FLASHES

VOLUME 2 SUPER ISSUE 8 MAY/JUNE 2026

## UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

CHERYL BAILEY

I am highlighting information from May & June from the Civitan International ....as summer approaches, I want to take the time to thank each of you and what you contribute to our club. I can't wait to see all the exciting things happening as we glow and grow forward. Kudos to the Membership committee for an outstanding membership presentation.

Civitan International events for May and June primarily feature regional spring meetings, district leadership conventions, and member-driven community initiatives

Civitan International Annual Convention takes place in August. The Junior Civitan program also hosts its virtual conventions during this period. Specific details and deadlines for the May and June calendar include:

### May Events & Deadlines

Club Awards & Recognitions: May 1 typically marks several international award deadlines, including the Civitan International Honor Key and Regional Honor Key nominations. [ Spring District Meetings: Many regional districts, such as Region 3, host their annual spring meetings and conventions during early to mid-May

Junior Civitans: Junior Civitan clubs frequently host and participate in "Exceptional Proms" or community spring carnivals honoring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### June Events & Deadlines

Junior Civitan Conventions: Junior Civitan divisions host their annual virtual or in-person international conventions, including student leadership summits and Dance-a-thon events.

Magazine Release: The Civitan Magazine publishes its May/June edition on May 28, featuring club news and the latest organization updates.

Convention Deadlines: June serves as a major preparation month for the International Annual Convention. Members submit their early registration fees, voter credentials, and purchase memorial Flowers of Fellowship.



THE FLASHES  
NEWSLETTER

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# Servant's Heart

Ruth Richburg, Chair

The month of April is designated as Civitan Awareness Month. This special emphasis month is to observe Civitan's anniversary and its history while stimulating knowledge of Civitan and membership growth.

## **Servant's Heart Awards**

The Servant's Heart Award is a global awareness project that honor people who support individuals with intellectual, physical and neutral disabilities. This worldwide project recognizes and honors special needs professionals and therapists. Servant's Heart recipients are those who meet the criteria of Civitan International Impact Areas.

### **Amari Fortson, M. Ed**

Multi-Cat Teacher, 3rd Grade-5th Grade

Grove Elementary School, School District of Greenville County

Education and Employment: Civitan's advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their fullest potential through the classroom, job experiences, and other continued learning.

### **Alexis W. Hanna, M.A. CCC, SLP**

Speech Language Pathologist

Meyer Center

Family and Community Support: Civitan's stand behind those who love people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the agencies that support them, so opportunities can be realized.

### **Lopez Bryant**

Paraprofessional

Washington Center

Accessible and Inclusive Communities: Civitan's are committed to making our world open and welcoming to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, both seen and unseen.



# Servant's Heart

Ruth Richburg, Chair

*Civitan Awareness  
&  
Servant's Heart Luncheon  
April 3, 2026*



*April is  
Civitan Awareness Month*



Poinsett Club  
Greenville, SC  
1:00 P.M.



# March of Dimes

Dicie Thompson Co-Chair

Co-Chair Dicie Thompson, and Civitan members Ethel Bennett, LaBarbara Sampson and President-Elect, Byron Battle participated in the annual March of Dimes, one of our signature projects for our chapter. March of Dimes focuses on improving the health of mothers and babies worldwide. They work to prevent prematurity, birth defects, and infant mortality through research, community programs, education and advocacy. We are a proud sponsor of our local chapter and honored to work with such an outstanding organization.



# ARC of Oconee

Cheryl Bailey

The ARC of Oconee, Director Kelly McClure and Board member Laura Price had lunch with the Greenville Civitan Club on March 20th. Civitan International has partnered with The ARC to support people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. This partnership together helps to better serve those here in the United States and globally.

## **The Arc of Oconee County**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the mission of the Arc of Oconee County to improve public understanding of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities IDD. We strive to provide individuals with IDD opportunities that enhance and strengthen independence. The Arc Of Oconee County is in compliance with the mission of the Arc Of the United States and is a member of both the Arc of the United States and the Arc of South Carolina

The Arc conducts its business with integrity, accountability, and open, honest and timely communication. The Arc is committed to excellence and quality in all that it does.

Join our local ARC local Oconee chapter

We invite you to become a member of the Arc of Oconee County. By joining our chapter you become a member of a network of 730 affiliated chapters across the country working together to insure that sufficient resources are available to meet the needs of people with IDD.

Volunteer:

Work directly with our special needs citizens by assisting with activities like Recreation, Reading, Board games, Dancing, Computer use, Arts, Crafts, and Music.

Work indirectly by assisting with Fundraising, Special Events, Office assistance, Advocating, etc.

The Arc of Oconee County is recognized as a non-profit 501-(c)(3). All donations are tax deductible.

With your gift, the Arc will continue our work to protect the rights of people with disabilities and support their full inclusion and participation in the community.

Become a member or join our volunteer team by calling 864-614-5985, email us at [arcoconeesc@gmail.com](mailto:arcoconeesc@gmail.com), or visit us at Our Place, 295 Market St. Seneca, SC.



# Jr. Civitan

Gale Garner

30 students in 9 local high schools in Greenville County were recognized by our club for being great citizens. Our Civitan volunteers did an impressive job in going to each school during their awards ceremony and our Chair, Gale Garner, went beyond to make sure those students were recognized for their hard work. Jr. Civitan Awards Ceremony on the following dates: April 27th - Wade Hampton April 28th - Eastside May 5th - Fountain Inn May 7th - Riverside May 12th - Woodmont (Judy Graham) May 15th - Carolina. The remaining certificates were delivered to the Guidance Counselors at each school by Paula Gorman, Ethel Bennett, Judy Graham, and Gale Garner. The Charities Board purchased the gift cards; Linda Neely did the certificates and LaBarbara Sampson made phone calls to the schools to plan with each school.

We are grateful for their dedication to maintaining our Jr. Civitan. Hopefully, next year, we may have a school that is interested in hosting the Jr. Civitan.

## **OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP AWARD:**

For demonstrating outstanding character, leadership, responsibility, and service to the school and community, acting as a role model, showing respect, kindness, and dedication to helping others.

## **AMERICAN LEGION AWARD:**

Prestigious award for a high school senior who exemplifies six key qualities: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service.



# Area 4 Special Olympics

Deborah Pearson

## **Celebrating a Memorable Special Olympics**

The Special Olympics event this year truly exceeded expectations, delivering joy and excitement to all involved. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone in Civitan who came together to support and make the day unforgettable for the special Olympians.

A special acknowledgment goes to Sean Dogan, and his dedicated crew for arriving early to assemble our basketball goals. The 'basketball shoot' has consistently been one of the highlights for the athletes, and this year was no exception. In fact, for the first time, we ran out of stuffed animals and most of the toys, reflecting the overwhelming enthusiasm and participation. Witnessing the joy and excitement on the young athletes' faces as they received their gifts was a true blessing. The smiles and gratitude expressed by the athletes were uplifting for everyone present.

Special thanks to my fearless partner, Belita Brodus, who recruited energetic Mauldin High School basketball players to help retrieve balls, which turned out to be a tremendous blessing for all of us. A big thank you to President Cheryl Bailey for meeting me early and bringing all our Civitan gear. A big thank you to William Pearson, our assistant, Linda Neely our photographer and finally Debbie Mitchell who was a big help with distributions.

If you have never attended a Special Olympics event, I encourage you to make an effort to join us next year. It is a truly rewarding experience to serve such humble and appreciative young people. To God be the glory!



# ICARE Community HUB

Gale Garner

## **Gale Garner leads a committee of do'ers who step up and volunteer**

Here is some information from Monique Mattison:

Good Morning ICARE Team!

Congratulations on your successful day at the 6/11 ICARE Hub! I understand that you had 25 clients and that follow-up is underway to ensure that all are receiving needed services. Our initiative is growing and becoming more widespread. Clients are being referred to by other agencies. I continue to be impressed by your dedication to the service of this community. If you have clients who are willing to speak about their successes through ICARE, please let me know. I am working on a 6-month update to our City Manager. This is an important milestone for us. Most importantly, we need to show the financial impact of being proactive.

As we grow and evolve, we will be changing locations beginning July 9th. ICARE will now be located at the Mary Frances Duckett Community Development Center, 813 Hampton Ave., Greenville.

Please take note sign-ups are underway for donations of school supplies for our backpack event on July 23rd.

I look forward to seeing you all next Thursday June 25th at the Sears Recreation Center.

Thank you so much!

Monique



# Civitan Charities Grants

Sean Dogan

In 2026, Greenville Civitan Charities President Sean Dogan awarded more than \$95,000 in grants to the beneficiaries that applied.

Each organization gives its time, talent, and resources to support the intellectual disability community. From a new playhouse at a middle school and the Miracle League at Sunset Park in Mauldin to the STEAM program for the NCNW, these efforts reflect the meaningful work we are proud to support. We look forward to expanding our reach in the community and helping those who need it most.

Civitan International operates primarily as a relationship-based, invitation-only grantmaker, focusing its charitable and financial support on neuro-developmental research. Funding opportunities are tightly tied to their major research center, club service milestones, and specific scientific scholarships. Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) Grants Civitan's primary philanthropic focus is: Civitan International Research Center, which is based in Birmingham, Alabama. Through this partnership, they offer several pilot grants and awards for researchers and scholars studying neuro-developmental disorders:

**FCIDD McNulty Scientist Award:** A major grant of \$75,000 per year for up to three years, awarded to University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) faculty.

**Emerging Scholars Award:** A \$30,000 one-time award for graduate students or postdoctoral fellows.

**Whit Mallory Award:** Another \$30,000 one-time award supporting trainees in neuro-developmental research.

**Travel Awards:** \$1,200 travel grants to help trainees attend and present at national or international scientific conferences.

## **Club & Community Grants**

Civitan also supports communities and its members through targeted financial programs:

**Golden Circle Grants:** Newly chartered clubs that hit the "Golden Circle" membership size (30+ members) receive a \$250 International Golden Circle grant for service projects. Additional grant funds are provided upon reaching the one-year and two-year anniversaries at charter strength.

**Club Project Grants:** Financial and material resource guides are provided to help local chapters launch education and employment-focused projects, such as vocational training centers for adults with learning differences.

# Charities Grants

Sean Dogan



# Charities Grants

Sean Dogan



# Jack and Diane's Fundraiser

Paula Gorman



# Jack and Diane's Fundraiser

Paula Gorman



# Jack and Diane's Fundraiser

Paula Gorman



# FOR THE GOOD OF CIVITAN

- Beginning January 6, 2026, our meetings will be held on Fridays.
- Please continue sending in your volunteer hours to the secretary.
- If you have suggestions for The Flashes, please email the secretary.
- If you are not attending a meeting, Please inform Steve the Wednesday before
- Dues are due April 1, July 1, and October 1. Please see Jenny for payment options

# LET'S CELEBRATE!!!



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- Stephanie Knobel 5/11



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- Julia Burdett
- Violeita Irby
- Ruth Richburg
- Frankie Sloan



# LET'S CELEBRATE!!!



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- Rhonda Bowling 6/9
- William Pearson 6/28



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- Lavon Moore



# June

Board / Chair Meets @ 12:15pm  
Club Meeting @ 1:00pm



**Father's** – "A Father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society".....a quote by Billy Graham

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 	2	3	4	5 BOARD MEETING @ 12:15 Membership/General 1:00pm	6	
7 NATIONAL CAMPING MONTH	8	9	10 ICED TEA DAY Call Steve Johnson by noon if you cannot attend the meeting 864-642-8604	11	12	13	
14 	15 BOARD MEETING @ 12:15pm General Meeting 1:00pm	16	17	18	19 	20	
21 	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30 	to all JUNE members!				Updated: 5/30/2026

## GREENVILLE CIVITAN CLUB OFFICERS 2025-2026

PRESIDENT – Cheryl Bailey  
 PRESIDENT-ELECT – Byron Battle  
 SECRETARY – Tiffany Gary  
 ASSISTANT TREASURER – Jenny Johnson  
 TREASURER – Linda Neely  
  
 DIRECTORS: Paula Gorman  
 Judy Graham, Dot Ray  
 Brandon Worley

## GREENVILLE CIVITAN CHARITIES BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2026

PRESIDENT – Sean Dogan  
 PRESIDENT-ELECT – Cheryl Bailey  
 TREASURER – Linda Neely  
 DIRECTORS: Ethel Bennett,  
 Angelica Christie, David Gorman,  
 Nancy McGreer, Deborah Pearson

# The Civitan Creed

**I Am Civitan:** as old as life, as young as the rainbow, as endless as time.

**My Hands** do the work of the world and reach out in service to others.

**My Ears** hear the cry of children and the call throughout the world for peace, guidance, progress and unity.

**My Eyes** search for others to join in the fellowship and service of Civitan.

**My Mouth** utters the call to daily duty and speaks prayers in every tongue.

**My Mind** teaches me respect for law and the flag of my country.

**My Heart** beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.

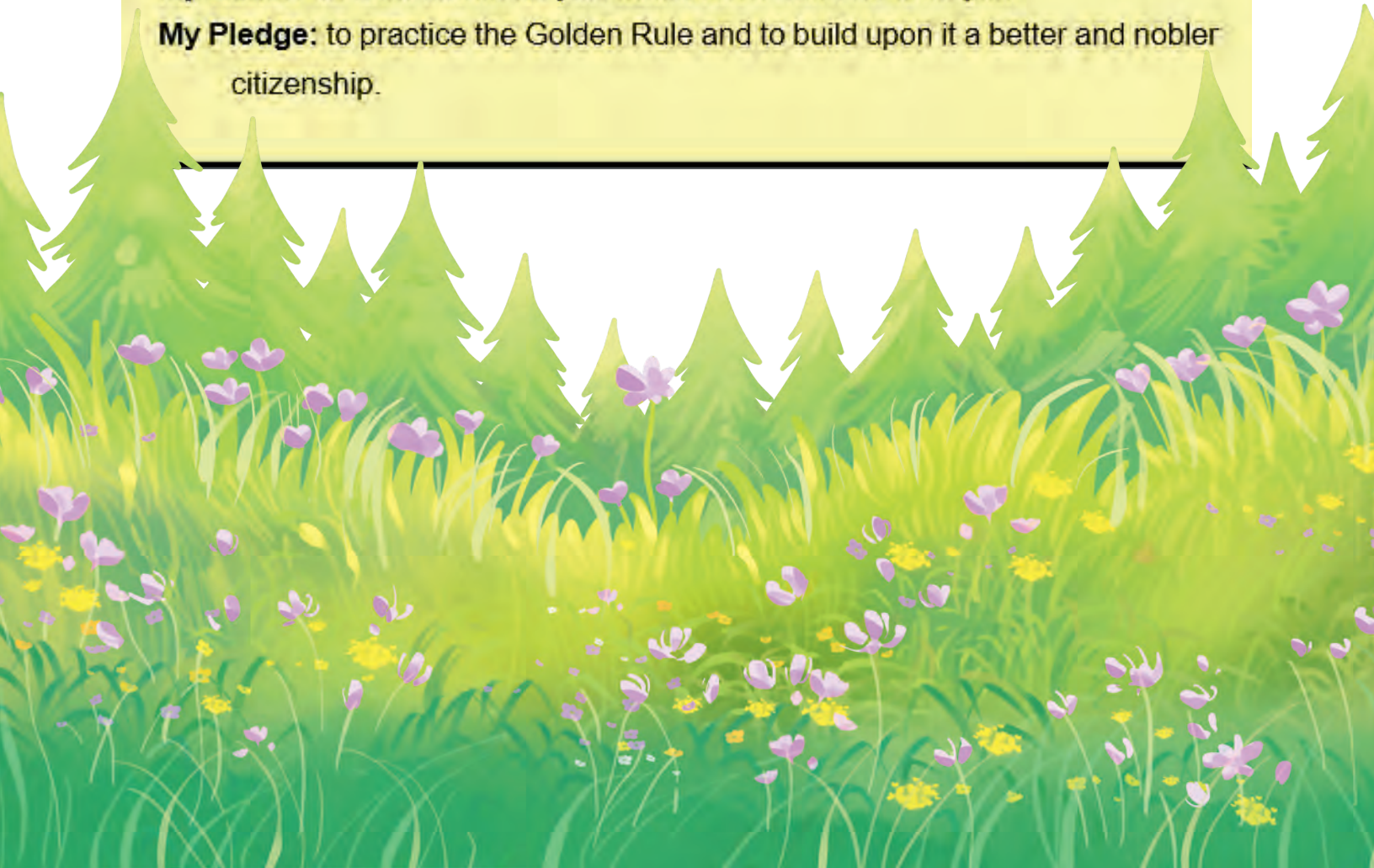
**My Soul** knows no fear but its own unworthiness.

**My Hope** is for a better world through Civitan.

**My Motto:** builders of good citizenship.

**My Belief:** do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**My Pledge:** to practice the Golden Rule and to build upon it a better and nobler citizenship.



*See You in*

**JULY!!**

