



FLASHES

February
2023
Edition

* www.greenvillecivitan.org * Facebook: "Greenville Civitan Club of SC" * Twitter: @GSCCivitan *

2022– 2023 Officers CLUB

- President:**
Lavon Moore
- President-Elect:**
Jessie Bowens
- Secretary:**
Cheryl A. Bailey
- Treasurer:**
Linda F. Neely
- Assistant Treasurer:**
Jenny Johnson
- Board of Directors:**
Sean Dogan
Anne Lavelly
Anna Smith
Heyward Johnston
- Service Project Director:**
Sean Dogan
- Chaplain:**
Deborah Pearson
- Sergeant-At-Arms:**
Steve Johnson

CHARITIES

- President:**
Charlotte Walker
- President Elect:**
Lavon Moore
- Secretary:**
Leda Young
- Treasurer:**
Linda Neely
- Board of Directors:**
Rhonda Bowling
Belita Broadus
Debbie Johnston
Annie Mumbauer
Dot Ray



Flashes Editor: Anne B. Lavelly

Clergy Appreciation Day leaves no doubt



Dr. Byron Battle, Club member & Guest Speaker

The committee for Clergy Appreciation Day planned and provided a lovely banquet for our local clergy on Monday, February 6. From the City of Greenville Proclamation to the poignant words from our own club member, Dr. Byron Battle, to the beautiful table decorations and scrumptious meal prepared by the Poinsett Club staff, every detail was curated to create a special time to celebrate and appreciate the men and women who dedicate their lives to the service of others in our community through their respective ministries. Rev. Sean Dogan, another clergy club member reminded us that the Four Chaplains on the USS Dorchester when handing out life jackets, never asked what the benefactor's religion was. Instead the Four Chaplains freely gave their life preservers and followed the Scripture of Romans 12:10-*"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."* It was that tragic and heroic event that inspired Civitan International to adopt the first week of February to honor all clergy in our communities. Dr. Byron, of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, eloquently spoke of the Scars We Wear- as proof of enduring and coming through hard times. And while there are those that doubt until they can see and feel the wounds (referencing the disciple Thomas in the Book of John), blessed are those who do not see and still believe. Our event ended with a photo op and gift bags for each of our ministers. Thanks to our Clergy Day Committee: LaBaraba Sampson (Chair), Steve Johnson, Sean Dogan, Nancy McGreer, Linda Neely, Dot Ray, Anna Smith, Frankie Sloan, for a lovely time with our ministers. You are truly Champions of Service!

Advocacy for Families dealing with Disabilities



At the February 24th meeting, the club was introduced to Ms. Tameka Diaz, a mother of three, homeschool teacher, and family advocate. In 2015, she became the full time caregiver to her daughter, Everly who was born with multiple disabilities and diagnosed with bilateral anophthalmia (a birth defect where a baby is born without one or both eyes). Since Everly's birth, she has received several diagnoses, Everly's genetic condition is extremely rare and the diagnosis is still unknown.

Tameka started "Through Everly's Eyes" to advocate and assist other families dealing with the medical issues and social barriers associated with blindness and other disabilities. Through the journey of finding accessible venues for her daughter, there is either no support or lack of resources for the whole family: an example, there is only one school for the deaf & blind in the entire state of South Carolina, located in Spartanburg. She has pushed for her local government for accessibility of braille and sensory books in libraries, she learned to make adaptable toys, and she also consults and advises other caregivers, and organizes donations of medical supplies and equipment. Tameka thanked us for supporting the Ronald McDonald House, which she has used many times.

Due to Ms. Diaz persistence and dedication, all citizens have access to braille and sensory books at the Greenville County Libraries. Ms. Diaz is now promoting and hosting an event called Medical Moms Out for family caregivers. Through her advocacy, she has blazed a path in order for others to support and serve those in our community with disabilities.

Cheryl Bailey, Article Contributor

Meetings are held on the First and Third Mondays of each month at 1:00 PM, unless otherwise stated and announced.

The Poinsett Club
807 E. Washington Street
Greenville, SC 29601

Mailing Address:
Greenville Civitan Club
P. O. Box 16493
Greenville, SC 29606

Service Projects

Ongoing:

- Ronald McDonald House- Pull Tabs (Heyward Johnston)
- Junior Civitans at WHHS (Gale Garner)
- Ridgeview Birthday Parties (Rhonda Bowling)

January:

None

February

- Clergy Appreciation Day (LaBarbra Sampson)

March

- Special Olympics-Area 4 (Anne Lavelly)

More information on service and fundraising projects can be found by contacting the member listed in parenthesis.

Sean Dogan is our Service Project Director.

Fundraising Projects

Ongoing- each meeting:

- 50/50 Raffle (Jenny Johnson)
- Card Sales (Debbie Johnston)
- Magazine Sales (Rachel Drake)
- Candy Boxes (Anne Lavelly)

January-March:

- Silent Auction (Members only)



In each edition of the Flashes, you will be able to find out where you can serve others and fellowship with Civitan friends.

Projects where You are a Champion of Service

Special Olympics, Area 4 Games- Wednesday, March 29 at Furman. (Rain Day is Friday, March 31). Set up begins at 8:30 AM with the Opening Ceremony at 10:15. Limited number of chairs provided with table and tent, so please bring your own chair if possible. We will need people to work the Basketball Toss and give out prizes to the athletes.

Civitan Awareness Month- throughout the month of April take any opportunity to share the story of Civitan and the impact it has in the community and in your life. More information will be shared on how you can get the word out about Civitan and the Champions of Service.

Servant's Heart Awards- Monday, April 17 Three individuals from Greenville County who work with Individuals with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities will be recognized at our second meeting of April.

March of Dimes "March for Babies"- Friday, April 28 at Unity Park from 4:30 (check-in and set up) to 8:30 PM. More details to follow.

High School Citizenship Banquet: Monday, May 1 at 6:30 PM

Miracle League Picnic- Tentatively set for Saturday, May 27th: At the Mauldin Sunset Park



Our honored guests at this year's Clergy Appreciation Day, February 6.

Pictures taken at all our functions can be found here: Greenville Civitans Picture Gallery

Want to see your picture in the Flashes? Send them to annelavelly@gmail.com and look for them here!

Civitan Mission Statement

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

Member Birthdays

No March Birthdays

March Anniversaries

Connie Burgess

3/15/2012

Linda Neely

3/15/ 2012

Sonya Dawson

3/10/2014



BELIEVERS



- Quarterly Dues should be paid by the first of October, January, April, & July.
- At each regular meeting we have a 50/50 Raffle, a Greeting Card Sale, and a Magazine Sale as club fundraisers! Every little bit helps us be Champions of Service.

Meals at the POINSETT CLUB

- Please let **Steve Johnson** know the **Wednesday before** each meeting if you will be changing your normal schedule (if you do not normally attend and plan to attend, or if you normally attend and will be absent).
- Steve Johnson contact information: gunney25@gmail.com or Cell: 864.642.8604
- On any Friday meeting days (Feb. 25) please remember that there are no Take-Out meals due to the Buffet set up.

Mindful of Those in our Club

MY HEART beats for every friend, bleeds for every injury to humanity, and throbs with joy at every triumph of truth.

We have club members needing time for strength and solace from grief, illness, or medical procedures. In your thoughts and prayers, please be mindful of:

Rachel Drake Violeita Irby (Aunt) Mary Lou Lewis Sharon Thompson (Mother)

Rachel asked that we continue selling magazines. Rachel Drake is now at a new location.

Well wishes can be sent to: Rachel Drake, The Gardens at Eastside, Apt B10

275 Commonwealth Drive, Greenville, SC 29615. Calls accepted at 864-430-0917

Upcoming Meetings

March 6- *Silent Auction (Members only)*

March 20- Program Meeting

April 3- Program Meeting

April 17- **Servant's Heart/ Civitan Awareness/ Membership** meeting

May 1- **Civitan High School Citizenship Banquet**

May 19- *Charities (Members only)*

Embolden Items are Service Projects, and Italicized items are closed meetings.



CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL IMPACT AREAS
FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT
for those with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Inspiration from our Civitan Creed

MY MOTTO: Builders of good citizenship

"This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in."

- Theodore Roosevelt