



THE CIVIC

New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 62st Year

January 1, 2018

2017 RAMPS

Hats off to our members who have worked so diligently during 2017 to make available the ability of infirmed area citizens to be able to leave and enter their homes. A number of Civitans have contributed, but mostly the same 14 people are almost always present at these projects. There has been about 2000 hours of time contributed to make these ramps possible.

During 2017, 32 ramps have been build, including railings, inclines, and dismantles of existing ramps. Here are a few photos of our latest ramp projects.



JANUARY CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Susan	Husson	January 02
Dominic	Alicandro	January 04
Sandy	McClinton	January 17
Karen	Crump	January 19
Judy	Marco	January 19
Karen	Betz	January 23
Bob	Husson	January 24
Hobey	White	January 24
Jerry	Frank	January 28
Norma	Judd	January 29

JANUARY CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

Arthur	Behrer	January 1988
Dan	Roberts	January 2008
Richard	Petri	January 2016
Woody	Besser	January 2017



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.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jan Snyder

PRESIDENT ELECT

VICE PRESIDENT

Tommaso Serra

SECRETARY

Jan Manning

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Judy Marco

TREASURER

Van Allen Rice

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Karen Betz

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dev Lippitt

DIRECTORS

One Year

Jody Hudson

Irv Geary

Norma Judd

Bill Snyder

Two Year

Eileen Buscemi

Judy Lopez

Gattis Williams

Susan Husson

New Bern Civitan Club Web Page
www.newberncivitanclub.org
 North Carolina District East Web Page
<http://www.ncdecivitan.org/>
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New Bern Civitan Club

January 2018 Calendar

- 1 **Monday** **New Years Day — HAPPY NEW YEAR**
- 5 **Friday** **Lunch Meeting at Hibachi— Business Meeting**
11:30 Lunch. 12:00 Meeting
- 8 **Monday** **Board Of Director's Meeting at Broad Street Christian Church –2-4pm**
RCS Shelter Dinner—Contact Maureen Comer
- 9 **Tuesday** **RCS Soup Kitchen—Contact Cindy Scalion**
- 11 **Thursday** **Dinner Meeting at Famous Restaurant**
5:30 Eat and Socialize—6:30 Meeting
Speaker: Bill Hand
- 19 **Friday** **Lunch Meeting at Hibachi—**
11:30 Lunch. 12:00 Meeting
- 20 **Saturday** **POLAR PLUNGE** A fundraising activity for the benefit of Craven County Special Olympics Athletes. If you don't choose to plunge in the cold water, consider making a donation (any amount) to Special Olympics. Please let Karen Betz know if you do. She has a report to complete about all our participations and donations to Special Olympics. Thank You.

BELLS FOR SALVATION ARMY



Frank and Ann Court



Reeshema Walter & Maggie Schneider



Betty Todd



Sharyn and Doug Foster



Norma and Joe Judd

A CHAIR FOR CHRISTMAS

Civitan Richard Robusto made 3 small rocking chairs. He made a gift of 2 of those chairs to his grandchildren and with the 3rd was looking for someone about New Bern who would appreciate the chair as a gift. Richard works out at gold's gym and got the word out in the gym about what he had to offer. Clarissa's mom, Stacey works out there and expressed interest because of the right size of Clarissa.

The jest of this story might vary some in the details but the spirit of Christmas was good and strong in Richard Robusto as he gave the chair to little Clarissa



CRAVEN COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Santa Jim from our club passed out candy canes and mingled with the athletes of Special Olympics at their annual Christmas party on December 1 at Brinson Elementary School. Participants enjoyed appetizers and snacks and were entertained by the music of “DJ Eddie”. Santa listened to the wish lists for Christmas of many of the athletes. He posed for pictures taken by the athlete’s care givers or guardians.



The party was organized by Steve Aster, Special Olympics coordinator with New Bern Parks and Recreation. Steve thanked all from the New Bern Civitan Club for their continued support of this very important program.

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED

Two new members were inducted into our club at the December 15 lunch meeting. Bill Snyder inducted the new members. Clark Saylor sponsored Mary Saylor. Gary Todd sponsored Buck Irvin.



Pictured Left to Right: Clark Saylor, Mary Saylor, Buck Irvin, Gary Todd, Bill Snyder

CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



The Club welcomed in the Holiday Season by having a Christmas Luncheon on December 1st at Garber UMC. The food was catered by the restaurant, La Casetta. Betty Todd and Sharyn Foster arranged and coordinated this lunch of salad, lasagna, Italian bread and cannolis for dessert. The room was festively decorated by our talented hostesses. Over 50 members and guests attended.



The Garber choir entertained the group with a 30-minute concert of religious and secular Christmas tunes. The choir, led by Michelle Roy, has been our featured performers many times in the past at our Holiday celebration.

A good time was had by all as we got to mingle with old friends and meet new acquaintances. This yearly Club Christmas tradition is always a pleasure to attend.



FREEZIN' FOR A REASON



Steven Aster,

Steven Aster, Craven County Recreation Parks and Recreation Program Manager, and local coordinator of Special Olympics games addressed our meeting on December 15th. He informed us that The Craven County Special Olympics will be having their 2nd annual Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 20th at Courts Plus outdoor pool on Brunswick Avenue in New Bern.

More than 300 athletes participate in local and state level competitions in Olympic-type sports such as bowling, basketball, swimming, equestrian and more. This fund raiser will help ensure that Special Olympians in our community will continue to have the opportunity to compete.

The entry fee to Plunge or Dip is \$25, under the age of 18 is \$12 with parental permission required and Special Olympians plunge for free. If you don't want to take *the Plunge*, *Dipping* is an option – even just your big toe! All Plungers and Dippers who pre-register will get a free T-shirt. You can pre-register on line at FirstGiving.com/sonc/cravenplunge2018 On-site registration begins at 9 a.m. Plungers and Dippers will begin at 10 a.m.

If you do not want to plunge yourself, you may sponsor someone to do it for you. Our club will be providing souvenir pictures for the participants of this fundraiser. If you need more information about this event, contact Steve Aster at 252-636-6606.



President Jan Snyder presents Steven Aster with a Certificate of Appreciation and a can of Civitan peanuts for his presentation to the club.

PEANUTS AT THE FARMER'S MARKET



Our club owes a debt of gratitude to all who took their time to go down to the Farmer's Market on Saturdays and sell peanuts. **Frank Court and Joe Judd** especially organized and worked the peanuts that helped raise many dollars for our charitable giving. Some others assisted them at various times. Pictured below are two of the volunteers who sold peanuts.



Ben St. John Sells Peanuts



Mary Williams Sells Peanuts

CHRISTMAS “THANK YOUS”

Santa and the Mrs. just want to share these correspondences with Renee Harrell, Director of the Craven County Pre-K and Family Literacy Program. The Club’s history with this program goes back 9 years now with the first Santa Land. Our first year, we met with 80 children in the program and that has increased over the years to nearly 200. Our gifts to the children started with a stuffed animal and a photo with Santa and has grown to include books, school supplies, hats, gloves, scarves and mittens. Participation has increased to nearly a half of our members being involved in some way or form. We sent Renee an e-mail after the finish of this year’s Santa Land and she replied. Both e-mails are printed below. They are self-explanatory:

“Dear Renee,

We just wanted to let you know how well Santa Land went this year. The Civitans had a great time meeting your children and Santa was delighted to talk to all of them. Your teachers and aides make it very easy to do this. You have a wonderful group of dedicated educators in your program. The parents and the younger children whom we saw were just as charming.

Programs like yours are only as successful as the caring and organizing of the person in charge. You do a wonderful job – keep up the good work. We look forward to our continued partnership.

Merry Christmas from the New Bern Civitan Club – Santa Jim and the Mrs.”

Renee’s reply:

“Thank you for your kind words. We truly appreciate all the acts of kindness from the Civitans that are shared with our programs. I have seen beautiful photos of children with Santa and heard many, many good stories. We can’t thank you enough for starting our holiday season off with this wonderful event! We all look forward to it each year.

Happy Holidays to all of you – Renee’ and the Family Literacy and NC Pre-K Team”

Be proud, fellow Civitans – you heard the cry of children and responded in a most marvelous way!

THE “ENCORE” THAT ALMOST WASN’T



“The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry...” Translation – No matter how carefully a project is planned, something still may go wrong with it. The saying is adapted from a line in “To a Mouse” by Robert Burns. That old Scotsman KNEW what he was talking about!

Board Member, Eileen Buscemi, planned and organized a special treat for the Club by having a club evening meeting at the Bank of the Arts on the night that “Encore” a special chorus from Craven Community College was performing. “Encore”, an elite choir, was doing a Christmas concert. After the concert, Eileen arranged with the local restaurant,

Prohibition, to be available to club members who wanted to go for food or libations after the performance. She called and found out from the Bank of the Arts that the concert was to begin at 7 p.m. She shared with the club to be there between 6:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. to get good seats. Alas, upon arrival, the nearly 30 Civitans who showed up saw that the concert was just about

ended – the concert had begun at 6:00 p.m. – not 7 p.m. as Eileen was informed it would begin.

What to do...after initial panic, Eileen took charge again and informed the new Bank of the Arts Director, Eileen Bress,, that she had been given misinformation. She also shared this with Encore’s Director, Chauncey Stevenson. No worry – “Encore” gave an encore performance especially for us and was it a great one! The holiday music was superb and the acoustics in the Bank of the Arts is superior. This group sang their hearts out for us and we responded with a standing ovation. Afterwards, many Civitans continued the festivities at Prohibition.



The next day, Chauncy sent the Club an e-mail, “Words cannot convey how thrilled we were to sing for you all Thursday evening! Thank you for supporting our annual Christmas Concert. Our talented students work very hard to put on a Christmas concert every year and your presence was a gift to us. Please accept our heartfelt holiday best wishes, and we look forward to singing for you again next year!”

Thanks to Eileen for her perseverance and persistence. The evening was a total success for those who attended and that little “glitch” is something that Eileen will talk about for a LONG time!



SANTA JIM'S LAST SIGHTING – 2017

Santa Jim's last Santa duty for 2017 took place on December 22 at the Flame restaurant as he greeted children at the Craven County's Autism Society Children's Christmas party. Over 100 - children with their parents and siblings - were treated to dinner, entertainment and presents provided by the Society. This organization provides support and promotes opportunities that enhance the lives of individuals within the autism spectrum and their families.

Recently, the Craven County Chapter Leader and organizer of this event, Kim Hoffman, was honored at the "I Love That Lady" gala in New Bern. She was among seven women who were named finalists after being nominated by member of their community. Kim was one of the runners-up and won \$1000 for the Craven County Chapter. This is the third year that our club has assisted this organization by providing Santa Jim to hand out presents and giving the children and their families commemorative photos of themselves with Santa.

This year, Santa was assisted by his talented elves, Renee and Frank Salvatore, Diane Shultz, Ben St. John and Maureen Comer. After the event, Santa Jim hung up his red suit in the closet and the next day met with C. Foy, Tonsorial Parlor artist, who cut his hair and trimmed his beard to restore his alter identity, Jim Comer, New Bern Civitan Club member. Until next October, when the beard begins to grow again for Santa Land 2018, we wish you a happy and healthy year filled with many joys and opportunities to continue to help others in the name and spirit of Civitan.



TAKE PART IN CIVITAN

Now is the time when we begin our process of nominating our officers for the next year. This means, those whose duties will officially begin October 1, 2018. There is much advance work that needs to be done before October arrives; therefore, we must begin now.

Why is it important for each and everyone of us to take part in what we do?

1. There are tasks for everyone, no matter what challenges each may be experiencing.
2. It is very unfair to expect only a few to put in all the time and effort to keep things going forward.
3. Civitan is not and cannot be like a spectator sport.
4. Most importantly is ownership. Each of us owns a piece of New Bern Civitan Club. And, as such, we must each do our part to keep it the best possible. Many rewards are there for those who participate.

Should someone ask you to fill a position or help out with a task, step forward and say, "I can do that." Because, you can.

It is grand to be a Civitan.

Jan Snyder