



THE CIVIC

New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 62st Year

February 1, 2018

SECOND ANNUAL POLAR PLUNGE

The second annual Polar Plunge to raise funds for Craven County Special Olympics was held at Courts Plus in New Bern on January 20th. Participants pay an entry fee to “plunge” or “dip” in the 39-degree water of the outdoor pool of the facility. All proceeds go to Special Olympics. This “happening” was co-sponsored by all three New Bern clubs – Tryon, We Can and ours.

About 40 participants took the challenge and braved the nearly freezing water – for a few seconds anyway. They received a “Freezin’ for a Reason” tee shirt and a drink cozy for their efforts. Our club



provided pictures to the “jumpers” of this event. Portraits and action photos were taken by Tommaso Serra with his assistants Jim and Maureen Comer. Coordinators for this event from our

Club were Karen Betz and Dev Lippitt – our liaisons to Special Olympics. They did a great job and we thank them for their efforts.

Notable plungers for this fundraiser included WCTI Newsman, Brian North, Tryon’s Leigh Wilkinson and our own Jim Comer. Steven Aster from the Craven County Recreation Department served as host and over-all event organizer. We salute the brave (perhaps a bit insane) plungers for their enthusiasm and participation in this successful event.



FEBRUARY CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Ken	Lewis	February 02
John	Klecker	February 08
Judy	Lopez	February 10
Amy	Willis	February 12
David	Martin	February 18
Kate	Yost	February 20

FEBRUARY CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

Brenda	Fraser	February 2009
Eileen	Buscemi	February 2015
Carmine	Buscemi	February 2015
James	Schneider, J	February 2015
Margaret	Schneider	February 2015
Hobey	White	February 2015
Bill	McHale	February 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/>
 Robert Brock, THE CIVIC Editor
 Email: robertgbrock@yahoo.com

New Bern Civitan Club

February 2018 Calendar

- 2 **Friday** **CLERGY APPRECIATION LUNCH — 11:30 am**
St. Andrew Lutheran Church 1605 Neuse Blvd- Bob Whitley
- 3 **Saturday** **Craven County Clean Sweep Jody Hudson**
- 6 **Tuesday** **Special Olympics Basketball—Dev Lippitt & Karen Betz**
- 8 **Thursday** **Dinner Meeting at Famous Restaurant**
5:30 Eat and Socialize—6:30 Meeting
Speaker: Kevin Page, Edward Jones
- 12 **Monday** **Board Of Director's Meeting at Broad Street Christian Church —2-4pm**
RCS Shelter Dinner 6 pm—Contact Maureen Comer
- 13 **Tuesday** **Special Olympics Basketball—Dev Lippitt & Karen Betz**
RCS Soup Kitchen—Contact Cindy Scalion
- 16 **Friday** **Lunch Meeting at Hibachi— Membership/Education Meeting**
11:30 Lunch. 12:00 Meeting
Bring a Guest
- 20 **Tuesday** **Special Olympics Basketball—Dev Lippitt & Karen Betz**
- 24 **Saturday** **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Tommaso Serra**
Rhems Fire Hall, River Bend

NEW BERN CIVITAN CLUB HONORED

Our NBCC was recognized at the NB City Aldermen Meeting in January by the New Bern Police Department and the Mayor and Aldermen for our support and participation in the NPBD Badge, Faith, Community Fun Day this past September.



Civitan President Jan Snyder shakes hands with Sabrina Bengal after a hand shake from mayor Dana Outlaw and receiving a certificate of appreciation for the badge, faith, and community day. This was the second time the New Bern Civitan Club helped out with this event. Our club crew worked with the police to give out well over 600 hamburgers, 1000 hotdogs, excess chips and drinks to great folks of Bern town who patiently waited to eat for free. Many activities for kids were out there and many other local churches and clubs pitched in to make the day a big success.



NEW BERN CIVITAN CLUB

January 19 Business Meeting



Gary Todd receives recognition from Civitan International for bringing in 5 members . Thanks Gary.



Jerry Frank and Guest John Norris. They will work together on the Fishing Derby



Karen Betz tells about upcoming Craven County Special Olympics Events



Van Rice Presents our Budget



John Norris shows his Fish Award he will make to be presented to our fishing guests



John Norris filling out his blue card for our Member-



President Jan Snyder keeps the meeting on track.



Gary Todd gives report on the Christmas Tree Lot past and future.

NB CIVITAN CLUB NEWS UPDATE

At our January 19th Business Meeting, the following club updates were shared with the members present:

- *Gary Todd was recognized with a certificate from Civitan International for recruiting 5 new members – congratulations and thanks, Gary!
- *Van Rice presented a Treasurer’s Report that the Club is “sound” financially. He has made some changes in the budget form to show items more clearly.
- *Karen Betz reported on the Polar Plunge which was held on January 20. There will be raffle tickets available to support Special Olympics. Some should be available at our next meeting. See additional article in this month’s CIVIC.
- *Gary Todd reported that 500 Christmas trees were sold in 13 days. Dev Lippitt reported that 153 wreaths were sold. Profit from these sales for our charities reached approximately \$11,000. Thanks to all who participated.
- *Peanut sales reached approximately \$4000 for our scholarship program. Thanks to Gattis Williams, Frank Court and Joe Judd. Fine job, Gentlemen!
- *Fruit Cake sales reached 40 cases with a profit of approximately \$1000 for our charity funds – thank you Bob Whitley.
- *Jim Comer reported that Santa Land saw 190 children from the Craven County Pre-School Program. In addition, Santa visited the participants of the Special Olympics Christmas party, the Autistic Children’s Christmas party, the Cove City Fireman’s Christmas party and two nursing homes in the area.
- *Tommaso Serra reported that 32 ramps were built for disabled people during the year of 2017. Thanks to all the people who helped build and especially Tommaso and Van Rice for organizing, estimating and doing the plans for these projects. This mission is one of the key services that our club provides to the community.
- *Tommaso Serra will chair a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for February 24th. See separate article and flyer in this CIVIC edition. Thank you, Tommaso, for this effort. ALL Civitans should participate by buying a dinner and telling their friends and neighbors to attend. We are aiming for 150 meals sold. Please help.
- *Ken McCain reported that the River Road clean-up will be moved to February.
- *Jim Findley is working on policy reviews and updates for the club.
- *The Yard Sale fundraiser will be in April. We need your donations. If you have something, please contact Sharyn Foster – 635-1426.

ITSA PASTA NIGHT

Who doesn't like Italian food...No on! Then come on out to our first Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, February 24th from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Rhems Fire Station at 5860 US – 17. (a few miles past the River Bend entrance going toward Pollocksville on the right) For a mere \$10 per plate, you will receive spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and a soft drink in addition to good company and fellowship and musical entertainment provided by Van Allen Rice. The best part of this is that the pasta and meatballs will be cooked by an AUTHENTIC Italian chef – our own Tommaso Serra who also organized this fundraiser.

Please put this date on your calendar. We need ALL of you to participate if this is to be a success. Friends and family are welcome also – let EVERYONE know! If you need a ride, we will arrange one for you. Any questions – please contact Tommaso at (252) 204-3068. Let's unite to support this fun *fun*draiser to benefit our club's many charities.



The poster features a central illustration of a chef with a mustache, wearing a white chef's hat and a white jacket with a red and green striped scarf. He is holding a plate of spaghetti with meatballs. To the left of the chef is a treble clef and musical notes. To the right is the text 'Live Music'. The background is a circular frame with green and red sections. Above the chef, the text 'Spaghetti Dinner Benefit Dinner' is written in a cursive font. In the top left corner, there is a yellow circular logo for 'NEW BERN CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL' with a globe in the center. The background of the poster has vertical green and red stripes.

Sat, Feb 24th Rhems Fire Station
4:30 to 7:30 5860 US - 17
\$10.00
Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Italian Bread, Drink & Dessert
Prearranged takeout available
Call Tommaso Serra for more information
252 204-3068
All proceeds to benefit the New Bern Civitan Club
sponsored charities: Special olympics, Merci Clinic,
Santa Land for Children, Ramp building Program
and more

RAMPS FOR 2018

The ramp crew is off to a quick start for building ramps in 2018. The first ramp was built on January 11, 2018.



ANOTHER RAMP

The next ramp was constructed on January 24th. The crew working hard for people who need to be able to get in and out of their homes.



BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR...

From now until next December, we need your help to continue to make Santa Land a big success. Eileen Buscemi will continue to collect donations of scarves, hats, gloves and mittens. This is the time of year that these items go on sale as the Spring merchandise pushes the winter supplies off the shelves. If you are a knitter or a crocheter, Maureen Comer has a ton of yarn for you to use in making these items. Stay warm by the fireplace during this cold winter and make items for next year's children's visits. Let her know if you want some yarn to use.

Our supply of stuffed animals has dwindled over the years. We need new or gently used stuffed animals for the children. Check out yard sales or see if the grand kids want to "thin their herd" of stuffed animals. We were fortunate last year to have the McClintons donate over 70 stuffed animals. Let your friends know that you are collecting stuffed animals for a good cause – children who receive little at Christmas time. Put out the word – all donations gratefully accepted! The Comers collect and store these animals in their attic.

The books purchased for the children last year were a big success. This was a budgeted item that the Club helped to provide. We bought 200 different books and each child got one. After reading them or having the book read to them, they could change and borrow from one another. The Santa Land budget also provides photographic supplies so that each child can receive a picture with Santa in a decorate cover.

Whatever you can contribute to the 2018 Santa Land will be appreciated. Start now to keep an eye out for the items needed. Thanks to all of you who have contributed in the past. We are CERTAIN that you will continue to be generous to this program.

RCS UPDATE FOR 2017

It's hard to believe it but the RCS (Religious Community Service) Dinner program is entering its eighth year. In September 2010, our Civitan Club began providing an evening hot meal once a month to the residents of the RCS Shelter. In the first year, 49 of our over one hundred members contributed prepared food through-out the year – many of them multiple times. In the seven years of this program's operation, over 70% of our members have contributed for a total of 84 evening meals served to approximately 240 Shelter residents.

Maureen Comer coordinates this program and the Comers and the Salvatores are responsible for delivering the food to RCS in the evening of the second Monday of the month. This is in addition to our long-standing commitment to prepare food for the RCS soup kitchen on the second Tuesday of the month.

For those of you who are NEW to Civitan, this is how the program works. Every month, our club provides a pasta and meatball dinner to the residents. Five people contribute per month as follows: one member provides meatballs; one member provides pasta, sauce and grated cheese; one member provides salad and dressing; one member provides bread, butter and soft drinks; and one member provides dessert. All this food is made or bought for 20 people. The food is delivered hot and in disposable containers. That's a total of five people needed per month. In a year, sixty (5 per month for 12 months) of our over one hundred members are needed to contribute something. You need not be a gourmet cook to participate. MANY of our contributions are store bought items. In addition, our Board of Directors has approved funds for any member who participates and wants to be reimbursed. You just need to provide a receipt. Thus far, all volunteers have DONATED food without reimbursement.

Member/volunteers bring their food on the appropriate evening to a central collection center. If a volunteer cannot get to the collection center, the Comers or the Salvatores will pick up the food at their house.

As we enter our eighth year, we continue to receive volunteer support from the club monthly. In addition, our Junior Civitan Club took over the month of March and they prepared the meal for the Shelter. They will do the same in March 2018. This program is well established and is well known throughout Craven County.

Figures from 2017 show that this RCS program provided shelter for 271 men, women and children. It is the only facility in 3 neighboring counties that has family accommodations. Here is a short blurb from the RCS website about one such family... "The 'K family' was able to have the safety net of the RCS Emergency Shelter to provide a place for them to stay for the time it took for them to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient. The family was blessed with an outpouring of donations for their new apartment through the efforts of a teacher who had taught both the boys in the family in prior years... The 'K family' was one of the pearls that RCS was blessed to find and help during the past year of service to the community."

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RCS UPDATE FOR 2017 CONTINUED

Positive footnote...since starting this program in 2010, the New Bern Civitan Club has provided over 1600 individual meals to the Shelter. We are very *proud* of this accomplishment and look forward to continuing to serve our community through this program.

From September 2016 to September 2017, 60 Civitan members have donated a portion of the monthly meal. Approximately 150 volunteer hours have been contributed to this project. This program cannot continue without the support of our membership. Can you find it in your heart to volunteer to provide *one* dinner item for at least one month in 2018? Many of our members contribute multiple times throughout the year. This is a simple and economical way of providing support to the unfortunate of our community. We look forward to the coming year and hope MORE of you will participate in this valuable mission..

Maureen Comer – RCS Dinner Program Coordinator

CLUB “WOWED” BY PRESENTATION

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Bill Hand presented the program at the Thursday evening, January club meeting at Famous Subs at 6:30 pm. He played the role of Mark Twain by interesting and witty stories and anecdotes. His portrayal of Mark Twain wowed the audience and held their complete attention.

Bill Hand wears many hats at the local newspaper, *The Sun Journal*. In addition to being a photographer, he is also a veteran reporter covering police and fire, general assignments and in-depth enterprise stories. He also writes weekly history and humor columns.

He is active in local theatre as an actor, writer, and director. He has his own production company, *Athens of the South Productions*, that is known for its dinner theatre shows. . One of his favored projects is Ghostwalk for New Bern Historical Society where, for more than 20 years, he has directed the ghosts that materialize in Cedar Grove Cemetery.



Frank Salvatore and Jan Snyder present Bill Hand a certificate of appreciation for his presentation to the club.