



THE CIVIC

New Bern Civitan Club's Award Winning Newsletter



Chartered October 4, 1956

Celebrating our 68th Year

March 2024

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

The New Bern Civitan Club's newest member, Terry Lubsen, was inducted into the Club at its meeting on February 9, 2024. Clark Saylor sponsored him. Born in New Jersey, he has lived and worked in many parts of the world before settling here in 2023.

Terry was in the US Air Force from 1963 to 1967. He was married in 1969 and has two sons and five grandchildren. Until 1995, he lived in California. For work reasons, he moved to the Philippines from 1995 to 2001. He worked in Semiconductor Manufacturing in the US and Southeast Asia from 1967 to 2008. He retired in 2009 and lived in Arizona until 2018 when he moved to Vietnam and stayed there until 2021 returning to Arizona.

We don't know how he found New Bern, but we are grateful that he found our Club! Since signing on at the end of 2023, he has worked on the ramp crew and has helped at the Christmas Tree Lot. He is also a member of the Rotary Club of NB. This busy man lives in River Bend with his wife, Lien, and his dog, Ariel. Welcome aboard, Terry!



New member Terry Lubsen is welcomed by his sponsor, Clark Saylor



Bill Snyder inducts new member Terry Lubsen as sponsor Clark Saylor presents him with his Civitan membership Certificate.

MARCH CIVITAN BIRTHDAYS

Dave	McCracken	March 1
Laura	Miller-McLemore	March 7
Annelle	Silvers	March 11
Reeshema	Walker	March 12
George	Sawyer	March 13
Cathy	Welles	March 14
Jim	Comer	March 15
Betty	Sweeney	March 22

MARCH CIVITAN ANNIVERSARIES

Joe	Alcoke	March 1970
Helen	Shine	March 1993
Frank	Court	March 1999
Mary	Williams	March 1999
Tim	McLear	March 2010
Dev	Lippitt	March 2013
Jennifer	Potter	March 2015
Alan	Craig	March 2022

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.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dennis Pymm

PRESIDENT ELECT

Roy Leonard

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY

Maureen Comer

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Eileen Buscemi

TREASURER

Van Allen Rice

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Amy Willis

CHAPLAIN

Bill Baldree

ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

Jim Comer

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt

EDUCATION OFFICERS

Helen Shine, Maureen Comer

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Gary Todd

DIRECTORS

One Year

Term Expires

Sept. 30, 2024

Dev Lippitt

Renee Salvatore

Judith Lopez

Betty Todd

Two Year

Term Expires

Sept. 30, 2025

Alan Craig

Dave Super

Ann Super

Joanne Tello

New Bern Civitan Club Web Page
www.newberncivitanclub.org
Web Master Cyndi Papia

The Civic Editor Robert Brock
Email: robertgbrock@yahoo.com

New Bern Civitan Club
P.O. Box 13673
New Bern, NC 28561

THE CIVIC

Upcoming Dates and Events

Fri. March 8 - NBCC Afternoon Meeting at Paula's Restaurant at 11:30 am. Speaker - Chris Worsinger, Craven County Parks and Recreation speaking about Craven County Special Olympics and the upcoming Field Day in May. *If you plan to attend, please let Maureen Comer know by Wed. Mar. 6 so she may call in the number to Paula's. BTW - thanks for taking your seats when you come in and order your food. The wait staff has made some very positive comments on how you have made their jobs easier.*

Mon. March 11 - Board of Directors meeting

Mon. March 11 - RCS Shelter Dinner - 6 pm - Our Junior Club will be preparing dinner for the Shelter that night.

Sat. March 23 - Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser - see above

Thurs. March 28 - NBCC Evening Meeting at Paula's 5:30 pm - Speaker TBA

Sun. Mar. 31 - ***HAPPY EASTER***



Saturday, March 23rd from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

At the Rhems Firehouse, 5860 US 17 - New Bern - about a mile past the River Bend entrance on Rte. 17.

QUARTERLY FOCUS

As a review for our veteran Civitan members and a “teachable moment” for our new members, let me tell you what a “Quarterly Focus” is which is found on your Civitan bill four times a year. The Civitan calendar for yearly billing starts on October 1. This is why our Installation dinner is usually the last Thursday in September, so we have new officers at our first meeting of the **Civitan year** in October. You will note on your current bill that it is labeled “Second Quarter Billing FY (Fiscal Year) 2023-2024”. (January to March, 2024)

Every quarter, the Board of Directors chooses a charity (usually local) that is deemed in need of our monetary support. Any member of the club may suggest to a club officer or board member if there is a particular charity, he/she thinks should be considered for our attention. The Board will discuss suggestions and decide on a charity for the upcoming quarterly billing.

Van Rice, our treasurer, does a superb job of including a summary of what the designated charity is and who is helped by our donations. The Board decided long ago to *suggest* that a \$10.00 donation be included with our dues and meals. You should note that this donation is a suggestion and *voluntary* on our members’ part. You may choose to donate more or less or not at all.

This quarter’s focus is for donations to a new Department of Social Services program designed to buy needed items for children who recently entered the program OR to new foster families who need supplies to service the needs of the children in their care. Our February 9th meeting had two DSS Social Workers explain this new program to our membership. Often, we invite speakers from our Charity List or Quarterly Focus to enlighten our membership as to how their donations are spent within that charity.

It is hoped that this information explains to you more fully how our Quarterly Focus works. These donations are *always* appreciated by the charities that receive them. As always, thank you for your generosity!





Spaghetti Dinner

Benefit

**\$15
PER
person**
Cash or
checks
only



*Live
Music*

TAKEOUT AVAILABLE!

Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Italian Bread, Drink & Dessert

When?

Saturday, March 23rd
From 4:30pm-7:00pm

Where?

Rhems Fire Station
5860 Bus US-17 S New
Bern, NC 28562

All proceeds to benefit the New Bern Civitan Club
sponsored charities: Special Olympics, Merci clinic,
Santa Land for Children, Ramp building program and
more!

For more information call Eileen Buscemi at
(917) 846-9001

ITSA SPICEY MEATA BALL DINNER

Our fifth annual pasta dinner fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 23 at the Rhems Firehouse on Rte. 17 near River Bend. The menu will include pasta, meatballs, sauce, salad, Italian bread, and dessert. There will also be musical entertainment from our extraordinarily talented treasurer, Van Rice, and his friends. Cost - \$15.

Eileen Buscemi will again be organizing and facilitating this fundraiser. She will need volunteers to:

Help prepare the food

Help serve the food

Donate baked goods

Help set up and break down the tables

Please sign up online to help on the following website: <https://signup.com/go/ywAqtOO>

EVERY member can help by:

Volunteering in some way

Donating baked goods for dessert (contact Eileen directly at ejbuscemi@gmail.com)

Coming out and attending the dinner

Telling and inviting your neighbors and friends to the dinner

If you cannot attend, order a dinner for pick-up or delivery

Remember, this is a *Club* fundraiser. Your help and support are **vital** to its success!

BON APPETITE!

WELCOME TO THE NEW BERN SOUTHPAWS

A new collegiate baseball team is on its way to New Bern. Starting on May 25, 2024, the New Bern Southpaws will play its games at Kafer Park which will be going through a gigantic renovations to house the team's home games. The Southpaws will participate in the Northeastern Division of the Old North State League. They will face off with neighboring teams: Jacksonville Ospreys, Kinston Wingmen, River City Skippers, Edenton Steamers, and Tarboro River Bandits. The Old North League is a summer collegiate baseball league located across the state of NC. It has grown to be one of the largest leagues in the country.



The team's General Manager, Dave Caccavaro, shared this information and more about this new squad at our February 22nd meeting. Originally from Massachusetts, he has been part of the New Bern community for nearly thirty years and has over two decades of involvement in local sports, from youth to professional levels. A graduate of ECU, he has been a teacher and broadcaster, as well as a real estate agent.

Hunter Hackney will coach the Southpaws, currently a baseball Varsity Assistant at West Craven High School. He has a vast baseball background and has previously coached the Carolina Coyotes in the ONSL. The team will be comprised of college baseball students who desire to increase their knowledge and playing skills by participating in a summer league. The team will also accept local high school seniors interested in baseball. Special needs players will be coached at different sessions.

The "Southpaw's" name is derived from New Bern's deep cultural connection with our grizzly friends. Our city proudly flies its flag with bears on it and if you walk around town, you will find a collection of bears decorated to represent various parts of our culture. Aside from the bear mascot, the term "Southpaw" is also a play on words, referencing the baseball term meaning "left-handed pitcher." (Note: "Northpaws" will also be welcome to the team!)

The team welcomes sponsorship opportunities from all. Partnership packages can be designed by contacting Dave at dave@newbernsouthpaws.com. We welcome this new team with open arms and hope for its tremendous success.



SOCIAL WORKERS ADDRESS MEETING



Two Social Service workers from the Craven County Department of Social Services (DSS), **Melissa Lester and Veronica Edwards**, addressed our meeting on February 9th. They came to thank the Club for Christmas donations to ten children in the Foster Children System. The Club contributed \$1200 toward this mission and individual members shopped from the children's Wish Lists to make sure the kids had gifts from Santa. In addition to the Club donation, individuals spent their own money to enlarge the allotted amount for each child. Judy Lopez chairs this "Christmas Angel" mission. Our Club has made a new DSS program designed to help new children coming into the system its contribution recipient from our current Quarterly Focus.

Melissa has worked for Pender County and Craven County DSS since 2014. She has served the community in several positions including Permanency Planning, CPS intake, and now Foster Home Licensing. She has a master's degree in social work from East Carolina University. Veronica has been working in Childcare for seven years. She also served in a few positions including investigations, on-call, Permanency Planning, and now Foster Home Licensing. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in Adult Education.

These two dedicated social workers shared the following: "The mission of the Craven County Department of Social Services is to provide service to enhance the quality of life of the county's most vulnerable citizens. The general services available include child welfare and protection, adult protective services, public assistance, work programs and day care.

The focus of their discussion was the foster care program. Foster care is meant to be a temporary substitute care for children who cannot remain safely in their homes as determined by the Courts. Child placement services are provided to any child in the custody or placement responsibility of a County Social Work Services. This placement requires assessment of the child and family's needs and careful planning. The placement process focuses on the whole family rather than only on the child in placement. It is the job of these social workers to evaluate, arrange, maintain, and supervise child placement in licensed or Court-sanctioned placement, with services to assist in reunification or another permanent plan for the child. The agency provides services in conjunction with the community that are community-based, culturally competent and family focused.

A new program recently started by DSS which will provide needed items for children entering the foster system is our current donation to our Quarterly Focus. The Frank Court Penny Donation will also go to this new project. (see separate article). Our creed recognizes "the cry of children" and the work of these incredibly special DSS employees and our donations will hopefully ease the "cry" of the foster children in DSS care.

FOUR NBHS JUNIOR CIVITANS PAY A VISIT

Four members of the New Bern High School Junior Civitan Club attended our meeting on February 22 to update us on what their Club has been doing throughout the year. They are busy with many community charitable events including preparing the March 11th dinner for the RCS Shelter. Our Club sponsors this Junior Club and once a year they take over the monthly pledge to prepare this meal for the Shelter residents. In addition, these young women updated us on their personal post high school ambitions which include the goal of working in the health care profession.

The Club's advisor is NBHS teacher, Laura Miller-McLemore, who has successfully led this club for many years. Each year, it seems like the group gets increasingly involved in community projects. We are extremely proud of all these fine, young adults who selflessly give up their time and skills for the welfare of others. Keep up the impressive work that you do!



Pictured (l. to r.) Emily Childs, Karen Vasquez, Tania Jacobo, Grace Chin

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS...

For years, Frank Court has been saving pennies collected in a giant glass jar at his house. As the number of pennies grew, Frank started to think about what he wanted to do with them. Then an idea came to him, "Our Civitan Club collects 'Pennies from Heaven' at each meeting and that money goes toward buying Christmas presents for foster children in the Department of Social Services. That's where I want to donate these pennies!" That is when the action plan came into being.

Frank asked Judy Lopez to assist him in making this donation BUT he wanted it to be "fun" for the Club. He devised a contest for the members at the meeting on February 9 when two DSS social workers would be present to tell the group about some of the services to foster children. Why not bring the pennies to the meeting and have attendees guess how much was in the jar? Brilliant! Of course, there would be a prize for the winner – the one who came closest to how much money was in the jar. Being Mr. Peanut for many years, Frank said, "What better prize than a box of our delicious HUBS peanuts – perfect!"

So, the plan came together, but there were just a few obstacles to face. First, lifting the jar of pennies was heavy. Judy brought her strong son, Bernie, to help her manage this task. They took the pennies out of the jar and put them in three separate duffel bags so they could be carried from Frank's house to Judy's. Second, who was going to count all these pennies? Or roll them? Judy weighed the pennies, and they came to sixty-eight pounds! This would be a daunting task...to the rescue came Mary Shine Williams. She was a member of the SEC Credit Union, and they had a coin counter! Hooray!

The pennies were brought to the February 9th meeting and all present were asked to venture a guess as to how much was in the jar. Guesses ranged from \$24 to \$1300. After the meeting, Judy and Mary went to SEC to have the coins counted. The amount totaled \$96.61. Who came closest? With a guess of \$100, BILL BALDREE was the winner! Congratulations, Bill...enjoy your prize!

All kidding aside, thank you Frank, for your donation and for helping all of us to have some fun. Judy and Mary – thank you for getting this done. Bet you don't want to look at pennies for a long time to come!

Frank Court and Judy Lopez with the Jar of Pennies.



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MARCH... BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!

March is named for the Roman god of war, Mars. In the early Roman calendar, March was the first month of the calendar year. As March brought the first day of spring with the vernal equinox, it was the start of new beginnings. March became the third month when January and February, which were added to the end of the Roman calendar around 700 BCE, instead became the first and second months around 450 BCE. In addition, March marks the return of Daylight Savings Time and the “Worm” moon. March’s full Moon, the Worm Moon, reaches peak illumination on the morning of Monday, March 24, 2024.

The March Calendar

March 8 is **International Women’s Day**, which is a day that not only celebrates the achievements of women and the progress made toward women’s rights, but also brings attention to ongoing struggles for equality around the world.

March 10 is the start of Daylight Savings time which begins at 2 AM. Don’t forget to “spring forward.” This day also marks the start of Ramadan – a holy month in Muslim religion.

March 15 is the **Ides of March**. Legend surrounds this ill-fated day when Julius Caesar was allegedly assassinated. *Beware the Ides of March!*

March 17 is **St. Patrick’s Day**. According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick’s Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity.

March 19 brings about the March equinox – also called the spring or vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere – marking the beginning of spring.

March 24 is **Palm Sunday**, the Sunday before Easter, and the last Sunday of Lent.

March 31 is **Easter Sunday!**

You have heard the weather proverb, “If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb,” which means that if the month starts stormy, it will end with mild weather. There is another interpretation though: The constellation, Leo, the lion, rises in the east at the beginning of March. Thus, the month “comes in like a lion,” while Aries, the ram, sets in the west at the end of the month, so the month “will go out like a lamb.”

March birth month flower is the daffodil.

The March birthstone is aquamarine.

March Zodiac signs are Pisces (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20) and Aries (Mar. 21 – Apr. 20)

March is **NATIONAL UMBRELLA MONTH!**

Have a wonderful month and don’t forget to celebrate...something!

RAMPS, RAMPS AND MORE RAMPS

Unfortunately, we do not highlight ramps every month in this Newsletter. Fortunately, despite that, our ramp crew, like a well-oiled machine and without fanfare, keeps cranking them out whenever needed. The adage applies here, “It is amazing what can get done, when no one needs the credit.” The need for ramps continues to be the same as ever – broken bones, strokes, amputations or just aging. The recipients are ALWAYS grateful, and many write us to tell us so. The ramp crews’ reward...the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped another human being in need. Isn’t that one of the basic tenets of our Civitan Club?

Here is an update of what this “troop” has been doing. During the 2023 calendar year, they built nineteen ramps totaling 662 feet in length. Eighty-three sheets of plywood and approximately eighteen gallons of paint were used. The value of the paint, brushes and rollers donated by the Club is approximately \$938. In addition, the Club donated \$1055 in payments to BDC Lumber to augment funds provided by the CarolinaEast Foundation. The total cost of lumber for all the ramps was \$12,887 at BDC. That is the dollars and cents amount, but there are lots more.

The ramp program only operates with the loyalty and hard work displayed by the ramp volunteers. They work in heat and cold to get the job done. Volunteers travel an average of 10.8 miles to each ramp site. Ramp chair, Van Allen Rice, makes additional trips to visit the recipient and do site measurements. He then draws a schematic for that build. In 2023, the ramp crew worked 588 hours plus approximately one and a half hours per ramp for the visit, the drawing and fulfilling the materials list.



Continued on Next Page

RAMPS, RAMPS AND MORE RAMPS

Continued From Previous Page

The CarolinaEast Foundation referred fourteen of the ramps built last year. Others were referred by individuals or were submitted via our website. An additional five smaller projects were completed, such as ramp repairs. This added forty-one more volunteer hours last year. Already, the ramp team is on track to have seven ramps completed by the end of February. Thanks and congratulations are due to the following ramp troop:

**Randy Beltz Tom Braaten Alan Craig Buck Irvin John Klecker Dev Lippitt
Terry Lubsen Tim McLearn Chris Organ Dennis Pymm Van Allen Rice Clark
Saylor Ben St. John Gary Todd**

Chair Van made this observation, "The joy that many recipients show when they can get out of their homes, in some cases after months of being homebound, is rewarding and makes the effort for all the ramps worthwhile."

If we don't say it enough, and we don't, **THANK YOU TO THIS BEAUTIFUL BAND OF VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE SO MUCH SO THAT OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY ENJOY A BETTER AND MORE MEANINGFUL LIFE!!!**



EARLY EASTER

Easter comes early in the calendar this year – March 31. Here are some amazing Easter facts. Did you know...

Ninety million chocolate bunnies are produced each year.

The most popular Easter parade is held in New York City.

The first Easter eggs were dyed red meant to represent the blood of Jesus.

In the 13th century, the church prohibited eating eggs during Holy Week.

Hot Cross Buns is a tradition in England on Good Friday.

Sixteen million jellybeans are consumed in the US each Easter.

The Easter bunny brings children eggs in the US, a fox delivers goods in Westphalia, Germany.

Easter Island is a part of Chile.

The first White House Easter Egg Roll was in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was President.

The largest Easter Egg Museum is in Poland housing more than 2500 different Easter eggs.

The most popular Easter candy in the US are Marshmallow peeps. Six hundred million are eaten during the Easter season.

The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday.

The 40-day period before Easter is called Lent.

Twelve states consider Good Friday a holiday.

Pretzels are associated with Easter as their design is said to look like praying arms and hands.

Easter Sunday is also called Resurrection Day.

Pysanka is the traditional way of painting Easter eggs in Ukraine.

In the Bible, Judas betrayed Jesus in exchange for thirty pieces of silver.

In the Bible, the prisoner Barrabas was released instead of Jesus.

Buying new clothes at Easter is said to bring good luck for the rest of the year.

Irving Berlin wrote "Easter Parade."

Most Americans bite off the ears off a chocolate bunny first.

Easter's date is determined by the moon. It is recognized on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the spring equinox.

The lily is the flower considered as the Easter symbol.

Peter Karl Faberge was the name of the jeweler who decorated Easter eggs for royalty. Jesus and his apostles ate bread and wine at the Last Supper which is observed on Holy Thursday.

Hope you enjoyed these egg-cellent facts. Blessings to all of you this Easter season!