

The Civic



Birthdays

Marie Leonard - Aug 6
Tim McLearn - Aug 9
Renee Salvatore - Aug 12
Terry Lubsen - Aug 12
Mary Williams - Aug 13
William McClinton - Aug 19
Bill Baldree - Aug 20
Dev Lippitt - Aug 20
Jeff Williams - Aug 29

Civitan Anniversaries

Amy Willis - 13 yrs



OLD FRIENDS GATHER ON JULY 11 MEETING

It was not only an informative meeting on July 11th as Jared Brinkley filled us in about fundraising efforts of the CarolinaEast Foundation staff, but we also got to visit with some old friends who visited.

Mary Dougherty, who recently moved to Massachusetts, came back for a stay to say an official “good-bye” to her friends.



Henry Martin also came to the meeting. He joined Civitan in 1982, was a three-time President, and has recruited and sponsored 75 members of the Club over the years. Always good to see Henry.

Two former members, Doug and Sharyn Foster, also paid a visit. They are currently members of the Elks Club of New Bern and active in the Elks’ support of Kinston Veterans Home.



69th Installation Banquet

Sixty-Nine years of service to our population. Sixty-nine years of fellowship. Sixty-nine years and we're still the New Bern Civitan Club known and respected in our community. It is now time for our **69th Installation Banquet**.

When: Thursday, September 25, 2025

Where: The Chelsea Restaurant

Time: 5:30 pm – Cash Bar | 6:00 pm – Dinner

Menu: Salad, Dinner rolls, Honeymoon Chicken, Vegetable, Starch, Dessert (*For anyone with special dietary needs – gluten free, vegetarian, vegan – the Chelsea will accommodate. When paying, indicate your needs.*)

Price: \$35 (includes tax & gratuity). Please contact Maureen Comer if you will be attending and send your check (made out to NBCC) to Treasurer Van Rice or you may pay at the door. If you sign up, you must attend unless you cancel by the deadline date of Friday, September 19. ALL reservations must be made by then. We will PAY for the number that we call into the restaurant on the 19th. [Click here to pay online](#).

Guests, spouses, significant others, family, and friends are welcome to attend.

This year our keynote speaker will be newsman **Brian North** of WCTI Channel 12. Brian has been with the station since 1998 and is a respected member of our community.

In addition to our Citizen of the Year and our Civitan of the Year awards, we will have other presentations to members about their special achievements.

Reasons to attend:

To support our Officers and Board Members.

To share fellowship with our other Civitan members.

To support our NBHS Junior Civitan Club.

To hear what our guest speaker, Brian North, has to say.

To enjoy the delicious food of the Chelsea restaurant.

To see who the 2024-25 Citizen and Civitan of the Year will be.

You don't have to cook or clean up that night!

The best reason might be to acknowledge the achievements of the NEW BERN CIVITAN CLUB as it continues to support, assist, aid, fund, encourage, keeps, and sustains so many organizations, charities, and individual people in New Bern and all Craven County. Please consider attending this important function honoring our Club and ourselves!

FINAL REPORT RIB FUNDRAISER



For the first time, we held this fundraiser on the 4th of July. The goal was to tie this sale in with a Produce Sale that Danny Creel was running at the Piggly Wiggly. This worked out well as we sold all 166 racks to 96 different customers, 23 of which were first-time buyers. We had pre-orders for 154 racks and sold the rest to “walk-ups.” We ended up selling 16 racks more than last May and cleared **\$2,477**, which was \$700+ more than last year.

We had good fortune in that the pork price stabilized over the last month and ended up being 40 cents per pound LESS than last year. That alone resulted in \$300 more profit; additionally, we had \$235 in donations.

Thanks very much to our team of volunteers:

RUB TEAM: Alan Craig, Bob Husson, Buck Irvin, Tim McLear, Mary Williams, and Wendy Yager.

SALES TEAM: Roy Leonard, Dev Lippitt, Terry Lubsen, Tim McLear (served on both teams, thank you), Cyndi Papia (took pictures also), Clark Saylor, Ben St. John, Ann Super, Dave Super, Joanne Tello, and Mary Traina.



Special Assignments: Roy transported ribs to my house, with my wife Ginny handling deliveries to Taberna and Carolina Colours. Maureen, in addition to helping with our community advertising, made potatoes and other goodies for RCS which Dennis took care of delivering. Van paid the bills and prepared the final Profit and Loss Statement.

We were also assisted by 5 residents at Oxford House, and are always grateful for Danny and Chris Creel, who cooked and cleaned for over 8 hours. Altogether then, we had a team of 28 people (20 members) who contributed their time – truly a team effort.

The following members donated ribs to RCS and Oxford House:

Peggy Marcus, Eileen Buscemi, Jim and Maureen Comer, Buck Irvin, Dave McCracken, Dennis Pymm, Ann and Dave Super, Betty and Gary Todd, and myself. We were able to donate 10 racks to RCS and 4 racks to Oxford House.

Finally, I thank those of you who purchased ribs for yourselves but also helped get the word out to friends and neighbors. Tentatively, we are planning to repeat the 4th of July sale next year as it will fall on a Saturday. Again, many thanks. ~ Randy

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

FOR OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

We still need volunteers for President-elect and Assistant Secretary.

Please contact President Roy Leonard if you are interested.

President – Eileen Buxcemi

President-elect – *OPEN*

Secretary – Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary – *OPEN*

Treasurer – Van Rice

Assistant Treasurer – Amy Willis

Board Members (term ending 9/30/26)

Buck Irvin - Randy King - Clark Saylor - Betty Todd

Board Members (term ending 9/30/27)

Wendy Fleming - Marie Leonard - Judy Lopez - Tommaso Serra

This list was shared at the July 24th meeting. A formal vote of acceptance will be done at our meeting on Friday, August 8, 2025.

JARED BRINKLEY'S RETURN VISIT TO NBCC



Executive Director of the CarolinaEast Foundation, Jared Brinkley, is no stranger to our Club. He has spoken to us before and we welcomed him back to our July 11th meeting. Jared joined the Foundation in May 2021. Jared came to CarolinaEast following a 10-year tenure in athletic development, most recently as the Director of Major Gifts at the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide Foundation.

He is pleased to be back in his hometown with his wife and son. Upon taking the job, Jared commented, "I am looking forward to coming home and joining an organization that contributes so much to this community. I take pride in connecting community passions with philanthropic efforts and hope to be a great steward for the CarolinaEast Foundation." In the last several years, he has fulfilled this promise and more...he's even helped build ramps with our own Ramp Committee.

The focus of his talk at the meeting was to share the results of the recent employee campaign that raised \$433,927. This is \$20,000 more than what was raised last year. This funding will be used for patient assistance programs, scholarships, grants, and more. Jared attributes this to all the caring Carolina East employees. He said, "When we ask them to go above and beyond, and contribute financially to resources that they don't have to give, they choose to reach in their pockets and give."

Programs that this money helps to support include nursing scholarships, Incentives and recognition of senior employees, patients' pharmaceutical assistance, substance abuse rehabilitation support and financial assistance for ramp building – of course!

The Club is always happy to get updates from Jared and the Foundation as they do so much good in our community. We are especially proud that our member, Amy Willis, is a vital associate of the CarolinaEast Foundation team. Thanks to all of you!

TALKING WITH A “DEATH DOULA”



We welcomed our guest speaker, Mary Lou Infinito, on July 24, who has been a nurse for over 40 years and is also a certified “death doula.” Sound ominous...it’s not! A death doula, or an “end of life doula,” offers non-medical, holistic support to individuals and their families during the dying process. They help individuals plan for their end-of-life experience, navigate the dying route, and find meaning and purpose in their final days. In anyone else’s hands but Mary Lou’s, this could have been a very somber and depressing subject. What we got instead was laughter – and a fresh perspective on life’s concluding chapter.

Mary Lou has guided countless individuals and their families to say their final good-byes. But having a background in stand-up comedy, she’s not afraid to use it. “I’m not here to make death funny, she says, “but if we can laugh, we can talk, and if we can talk, we can plan.” She shared many stories of her experience with dying people and their families and put perspective on focusing on what’s important to all. “Death does not have to be cold, clinical, or whispered about. It can be peaceful and personal,” she emphasized.

Mary Lou’s talk focused on the Advance Care Planning Toolkit and highlighted key legal and health care measures. Everyone who wanted a packet got one at the meeting and extra packets were left with our President, Roy Leonard. Contact him if you want one. Another new and important part of Mary Lou’s presentation was the new “Home for the Dying” Hospice Care facility which is on the drawing board for New Bern. This home would provide a place for people who have no support to be able “not to die alone” or those who choose not to die at home if there are unusual circumstances.

Need or want more information, you may reach out to Mary Lou at marylouinfinito@ECUhealth.org or 252-382-3945. We are grateful to her for this amusing yet serious discussion – a conversation that we ALL must have with our families at some point.

2025 PRE-K AND LITERACY SUPPLIES



We have been collecting supplies for the Craven County PreK and Literacy Program for at least ten years. There is no need to review what they are for but let's look at it:

BY THE NUMBERS...

2024 Donations

144 lap blankets
186 backpacks
320 pocked folders
55 spiral notebooks

2025 Donations

200 lap blankets
216 backpacks
310 pocketed folders
190 spiral notebooks

All the donations were picked up by Kim Boyd, who is now an Assistant Director of the program. She and her husband, Brian, took the “truckload” of donations to be distributed in late August to the children in the program.

Over the top! Great job, Club members...You are the Best....Thanks so much!

HATS FOR KINSTON VETERANS HOME



At the July 11th meeting, Jan Snyder, Veterans Appreciation Chairperson, delivered the following message:

Our Hats for Vets project is nearing its end. We have received the hats that we ordered. Bill is modeling a sampling of these hats, which have been paid for from our Club's Treasury pending reimbursement by member donations.

The Veterans Home requested a total of 60 hats covering all six branches of service. They will be presented to the Activities Director/Volunteer Coordinator at our August 28 meeting, when she and another staff member will attend our meeting and talk about what's happening there.

We will have one more card and note writing event for this Civitan year. We will be collecting cards and notes with positive thoughts: notes of gratitude, respect, admiration, inspiration, cheerful greetings, best wishes, happy birthday, etc. This will be done at our next two meetings. Let's set a goal of sending at least one hundred cards with the representatives in August. And, if you happen upon a good deal for Word Search and other activity and adult coloring books, obtain a few and we will include those as well.

Half of the hats were paid for by membership donations. The other half was paid for by a charity called Tony's Troops, a fund created in memory of late member Carmine Buscemi and his brother, Tony, who was killed in Viet Nam. Eileen Buscemi and Jim Comer oversee this funding designed especially to help or honor Vets. They also work with RCS to assist Vets who are leaving the Shelter and establishing their own apartments. It is Eileen's intent to soon visit the Kinston Veterans Home and help distribute the hats and explain how the charity started.

Thank you to those who have written cards or notes for Vets or have contributed to buying these hats. Thank you to the Vet Committee: Renee Salvatore and Maureen Comer. Most of all, thank you to our "leader," Jan Snyder whose passion for this project was contagious.

THREE NEW MEMBERS

The Club recently inducted three new members into the Club. Maureen Comer sponsored Nancy Donahue; Wendy Fleming sponsored Wendy Yager; Van Rice sponsored Michael Wofford.

Bill Snyder presided over the ceremony – welcoming the new members and instructing them of the responsibilities and duties of being a New Bern Civitan. We welcome all of them and look forward to getting to know them and collaborating with them on upcoming community projects.



Always a good at time at our meetings!



LONG-TIME CIVITANS HONORED

Bill McClinton has been a member of the New Bern Civitan Club since 1989. He served as Club President in 1994-95. At our meeting on July 24, President Roy Leonard presented Bill with a Civitan International 35-year pin and a framed letter from CI.



At the same meeting, 30-year member, Bill Baldree, received a similar pin and letter from Civitan International. He has been active for many years and now serves as the Club's Chaplain.



Good luck and congratulations to both these members who are a vital part of the Club's history as well as helping to lead on into the future.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Tues., August 5: National Night Out at Union Point Park, 5-8 pm. The Club will have a tent set up to spread the word about our community work.

Fri., August 8: NBCC Afternoon Meeting 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant. [Guest Speakers: Jessica Rhue, New Bern Director of Development Services, and Deanna Trebil, New Bern Transportation Related Projects.](#) *If you're planning to attend, please contact Maureen Comer before August 6 so she may let the restaurant know how many will be attending.*

Mon., August 11: Board of Directors Meeting at Garber Church 1 pm, Rm. 222. Current and new Board members and officers are invited. Please try to attend as we will be planning events for the next Civitan year which starts on October 1, 2025.

Mon., August 11: RCS Shelter Dinner 5:45 pm

Thurs., August 28: NBCC Evening Meeting 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant. [Guest Speaker: Tracy Klainer, Activities Director and Volunteer Coordinator, Kinston Veterans Home.](#) *If you are planning to attend, please contact Maureen Comer before August 26 so she may let the restaurant know how many will be attending.*

Reminder:

NBCC Afternoon meetings are the **second Friday** of the month at 11:30 am at Paula's Restaurant

NBCC Evening meetings are the **fourth Thursday** of the month at 5:30 pm at Paula's Restaurant

NBCC Board meetings are the **second Monday** of the month at Garber Church at 1 pm, Rm. 222

The RCS Shelter dinner is on the **second Monday** of the month at 5:45 pm



Officers

President: Roy Leonard

President-Elect: Eileen Buscemi

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Van Allen Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Willis

Sergeant-at-Arm: Ken McCain & Dev Lippitt

Education Officers: Helen Shine & Maureen Comer

Chaplain: Bill Baldree

Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Current Board

Term Expires

Alan Craig	2025
Ann Super	2025
Dave Super	2025
Joanne Tello	2025
Marie Leonard	2026
Buck Irvin	2026
Wendy Fleming	2026
Clark Saylor	2026

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL JOKES

(No groaning, please!)

- ♦ On the first day of school, what did the teacher say her three favorite words were? June, July, and August
- ♦ Why did the echo get detention on the first day of school? It kept answering back
- ♦ What did the Buffalo say at school drop-off? Bison
- ♦ What is a math teacher's favorite season? Sum-mer
- ♦ Where does a surfer go to school? Boarding school
- ♦ Why did the kid cross the playground? To get to the other slide
- ♦ Children in what grade have the greenest thumbs? Kindergarden
- ♦ Why did the teacher jump into the pool? He wanted to test the waters
- ♦ What happened when the teacher tied all the kids' shoelaces together? They had a big class trip
- ♦ What time would it be if Godzilla came to school? Time to run!
- ♦ What do librarians take with them when they go fishing? Bookworms
- ♦ Where do kids in New York City learn multiplication tables? Times Square
- ♦ Why can't you work in an orange juice factory during school hours? Because you can't concentrate
- ♦ Why don't fish go on vacation? Because they're always in school
- ♦ Why should you read in the sun? So, you can become well-red
- ♦ Why do calculators make great friends? You can count on them
- ♦ What did the triangle say to the circle? You're pointless
- ♦ What is a snake's favorite subject? Hiss-tory
- ♦ What is a math teacher's favorite dessert? Pi
- ♦ Why does a music teacher need a ladder? To reach the high notes
- ♦ What did the math book say to the history book? Boy, I'm full of problems
- ♦ What did the pen say to the pencil? What's your point?
- ♦ What kind of meals do math teachers eat? Square meals
- ♦ Why did the teacher marry the janitor? Because he swept her off her feet
- ♦ What does a book do when it gets cold? It puts on a jacket
- ♦ What did a spider make online? A website
- ♦ What flies around the school at night? An alpha-bat
- ♦ Why can't you do a math test in the jungle? Because there are too many cheetahs

You gotta admit, some of these jokes are cute. Good luck to all the kids and teachers as they return to school. HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

AUGUST FACTS



- ♦ The Perseid meteor shower, one of the most spectacular meteor showers of the year, peaks around August 11 to 13th.
- ♦ More babies are born in August than in any other month.
- ♦ In Native American folklore, August was known as the “Sturgeon Moon” or “Green Corn Moon,” a time when the sturgeon fish were plentiful and the corn was ripe for harvest. This was a time of feasting and celebration, as people gave thanks for the abundance of the land.
- ♦ The first successful flight of the Wright Brothers’ airplane took place on August 19, 1909.
- ♦ On August 25, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote. North Carolina was one of the last states to ratify the amendment, doing so in 1971.

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.