

The Civic



Birthdays

Barbara McCue - Oct. 6
Jan Snyder - Oct. 9
Irvin Buck - Oct. 13
Peg Marcus - Oct. 15
Dennis Pymm - Oct. 15
Joe Alcoke - Oct. 30

Civitan Anniversaries

Jim Comer - 19 yrs
Maureen Comer - 19 yrs
Randy King - 14 yrs
Marie Leonard - 3 yrs
Al Mack - 40 yrs
David McCracken - 24 yrs
Frank Salvatore - 20 yrs
Betty Todd - 13 yrs



WELCOME MADAM PRESIDENT

Eileen Buscemi is our new 2025-26 President of the New Bern Civitan Club after serving as President-elect for a year. She joined the Club in January 2015 after moving to New Bern from New York. She has been an active Club member since the start. She worked in the monthly RCS Soup Kitchen, and has been a frequent donor to the RCS Shelter Dinners.

She has worked the Tree Lot, been a Santa Land elf, oversees Operation Keep Warm collecting hats, scarves, gloves/mittens for the kids of Santa Land, run the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser many times, and co-chaired the Membership Drive Committee Initiative.

Eileen was the 2022-23 recipient of the Civitan of the Year Award.

She brings to this office great organizational skills and she, too, has a vision of the future of this Club. In her brief "acceptance" speech at our dinner, she said she hopes to work toward increasing Club membership and continuing to reach out to others in need of help in our community. She will continue to search for charities and organizations that could be lifted by our Club's help. Most of all, she wants to listen to the ideas of our membership so that she will stay in touch with their thoughts and ideas.

We wish Eileen the best with her new position and pledge our support to her as she leads us into the new Civitan year.

Thank you for stepping into this important leadership role.

2025 INSTALLATION BANQUET OUR 69TH ANNIVERSARY



September 25, 2025, was our 69th anniversary installation dinner. Sixty members, family and friends attended it held at the Chelsea Restaurant. Brian North was our guest speaker. Our officers, board, and Junior Civitan officers and support were installed by past President Jim Comer.

Our Civitan of the Year was Betty Todd. Our Citizen of the Year was Roberto Quinonez, owner of Paula's Restaurant. We thanked our outgoing board members with certificates.

President Roy Leonard passed the gavel along to new President Eileen Buscemi. Eileen presented Roy with a past president plaque. Our "famous" honeymoon chicken dinner was still a hit.

That, briefly, is a summary of our festivities. Thanks to all who attended, those who helped put the program together, the attentive waitstaff of the Chelsea, and the wonderfully caring and generous members of our New Bern Civitan Club and the New Bern High School Junior Civitan Club.

Looking forward to year seventy!



BRIAN NORTH – KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT INSTALLATION



Local newscaster and sports reporter Brian North of Channel 12 News was our keynote speaker at our Installation Banquet. Brian has been a resident of New Bern since 1998 and has held many positions at the TV station.

A native of upstate New York, he grew up on a farm in a small town. Brian attended James Madison University in Virginia. He is married and the father of two daughters.

Brian's talk covered why he has stayed so long in New Bern. He has become a community figure and icon. He has hosted many outside-of-the-studio events and tries to keep his finger on the pulse of the community. He particularly loves high school sports and has a special show on Friday nights highlighting local teams.

He praised our Club and all local service clubs for their contributions to the community – especially to those in need. The morning after our banquet, Brian posted pictures and comments on his Facebook page supporting our efforts.

As a “thank you” gift from our Club for being our speaker, President Roy Leonard went online and got Brian a James Madison University hat and mug. Brian was pleased, and we were grateful to him for being our excellent speaker.



2024-2025 CIVITAN OF THE YEAR BETTY TODD



There is NOT **ONE** GOOD REASON this year's Civitan of the Year was chosen...there are **MANY, MANY** GOOD reasons. Congratulations to Betty Todd for this year's Club's honor! Betty has been a member since 2012.

From the very beginning, Betty has been a member whose motto is, "How can I help?" Early on, she was a regular volunteer for our RCS monthly soup kitchen staff – helping to cook and serve lunch at the Shelter. She and Gary continue to be regular donators to the monthly RCS Shelter dinners.

Betty is a yearly wreath maker and decorator as well as volunteering for tree lot sales. She has been a Santa Land elf and Santa Land decorator. She has volunteered at the RHA Health Center Prom and Game days. Betty has organized the Fishing Derby from contacting participating groups to arranging and preparing the food. From that, she moved on to the recent Game Day and Picnic for our disability community.

Numerous times, she has served on the Club's Board of Directors. She has been instrumental in arranging some speakers for our meetings. She does our 50/50 fundraiser at our meetings. Most of all, Betty has a big heart and is willing to go the extra mile for all in need – inside and outside of the Club.

Betty is a retired nurse, so you can clearly see where her empathy and compassion has come from. Betty and Gary have two children and two grandchildren and participate in many other community organizations including UUFNB and the Alumni group.

Congratulations, Betty, on this award recognition, but most of all for your stellar image as to what it is to be a CIVITAN. You exemplify all the tenets of our Creed. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024-25 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



For several years, our twice monthly NBCC meetings have been held at Paula's Restaurant, where there is a warm atmosphere, great food, reasonable prices, and an outstanding waitstaff. Its owner, **Roberto Quinonez**, has accommodated us in many ways, including donating almost all our food and supplies for our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. He has hosted our Christmas Party at his establishment and is always the first one to say, "How can I help you?" It is for these reasons and more that the Club has awarded Roberto the Citizen of the Year Award presented at our Installation Banquet on September 25th. Incoming president, Eileen Buscemi, spoke on his behalf.

Roberto Quinonez was born in Paraguay, South America, where, even as a young boy, he dreamed of one day coming to America to create a better life for himself. In May of 1990, he made that dream a reality. With hard work, dedication, and a passion for food, Roberto spent many years as a chef in the restaurant industry. It was during this time that he met his wife, Sandy. Together they build a beautiful marriage of 33 years, raising four children and celebrating the joy of seven grandchildren.

The journey eventually brought them here to New Bern, Sandy's hometown, where they chose to raise their family and where they continue to reside today. And it was here, in 1999, that Roberto's lifelong dream came true with the opening of Paula's Italian Restaurant. From humble beginnings on Red Robin Lane to the thriving restaurant now located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Paula's has been serving the New Bern community for 27 years. But what makes Roberto's story remarkable is not just the success of the restaurant – it is his heart. His greatest passion has always been to serve people. Whether through his food, his generosity, or his willingness to support those in need, Roberto has always given from his heart.

For nearly three decades, his love for cooking has been more than a business, it has been a ministry of kindness, compassion, and connection. His story is the story of the American dream; a young man with a vision a deep love of family, and the courage to make it happen."

For these and many more reasons, the New Bern Civitan Club is PROUD to present the Citizen of the Year Award – 2024-25 to ROBERTO QUINONEZ. Thank you for all you do for us and for our community. CONGRATULATIONS!

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT

As his last duty as President of the New Bern Civitan Club for 2024-25, President Roy Leonard hosted and was MC for the Installation Banquet.

He has been an active and involved president having attended almost all Civitan sponsored activities, running club meetings and board meetings, and doing most of the recruiting of guest speakers for our meetings, including landing Brian North for our Installation.

Prior to being president of the club, Roy was president-elect and has signed on again to be our current president-elect.



To note and honor his contribution to the Club, incoming President Eileen Buscemi presented him with the Past President Award honoring his service during his tenure.

We thank and are grateful to Roy for his dedication and vision for this Club. Kudos on a job **EXTREMELY WELL DONE!**

OFFICERS AND BOARD INSTALLED

New Bern High School Junior Civitans and New Bern Civitan Club officers and board members were installed at our banquet this year, again, by NBCC former two-time president, Jim Comer. He administered the oaths of office and briefly addressed the attendees about the challenges to both Clubs to keep an eye on the needs of the community in a changing world.

2025-26 Junior Civitan Officers

President: Amy Resendiz

Vice President: Zampar Mon

Secretary: Nadiya Bryant

Treasurer: Lilly Austin

Sgt. at Arms: Vanessa Hernandez

Public Relations: Adrianna Parks

Chaplain: Daniel Gonzales

Club Advisor: Ms. Laura Miller-Mclemore

NBHS Principal: Dr. Darryl Thomas Jr

NBCC Club Liaison to Juniors: Ann Super

2025-26 NBCC Officers and Board

President: Eileen Buscemi

President-elect: Roy Leonard

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary: Susan Husson

Treasurer: Van Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Willis

Chaplain: Bill Baldree

Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Sgt. at Arms: Dev Lippitt

Board Members: Wendy Fleming, Buck Irvin, Randy King, Marie Leonard, Judy Lopez, Clark Saylor, Tommaso Serra, Betty Todd







VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER — **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

As usual, November and December will be TERRIBLY busy with tons of opportunities to help our Club and the community. Here is a list of upcoming events. Please put these dates on your calendar and TRY to volunteer to help with as many activities as possible.

“Every member has a talent...every member can do something.”

We don't succeed as a Club without member support.

DSS Christmas Children – We will need ten volunteers to shop for children in foster care from their Wish Lists. The Club provides \$150 per child. Want to volunteer or need more information? Contact Judy Lopez at jlothejudge@gmail.com.

Christmas Tree Lot – We have ordered 200 trees. The lot is still located on Dr. MLK Blvd. across from Paula's Restaurant. We will be reporting setting up dates for the lot shortly. The SALES of the trees will be on Friday, November 28 through Sunday, November 30. For more information or to volunteer, contact Gary Todd thetoddfamily10@gmail.com or Randy King rkingnewbern@gmail.com.

Wreath Making – Wreathmaking will begin on Monday, November 24. We need members to cut branches and make wreaths. As you know, the sale of wreaths is pure profit. Cutting tools will be provided and you can sit down to cut.

Peanut Sales – There will be sales at the tree lot and at the Farmers Market every Saturday from November 1 to December 20. Other sale venues are being explored. There are three two-hour shifts every Saturday with one volunteer needed for each shift. More information, contact Marie Leonard at marieleonard25@hotmail.com

RCS Shelter Dinner Program – sign up to donate food for November 10 and December 8. <https://signup.com/go/dUenBpr>

RCS Shelter Dinner Christmas Party – Monday, December 8 at the Shelter @ 5:30 pm. We will need “elves” to help set up and serve food. We will need volunteers to buy Christmas gifts for Shelter children if there are any living at the Shelter in December. We will need donations of personal hygiene items for the residents. For more information, contact Judy Lopez or Maureen Comer.

Santa Land – Dates to see the children are TENTATIVELY December 3. 5. 8 and 10. Our location is TBA – the trailer we used last year at JT Barber is now being used. Updates will appear when we know more. Please note...to EFFECTIVELY manage the children, we will need AT LEAST 8 volunteers per session. Times are usually 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

THESE projects depend on your support and volunteering. Check your calendars.

NBCC EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, October 10: NBCC Afternoon Meeting, 11:30 am, at Paula's Restaurant. Speakers: Oxford House — Kurtis Miller and Donal Murrell. *If you will be attending, please contact Maureen Comer by Wed., October 8, so she may call in the reservation number to Paula's.*

Monday, October 13: Board of Directors Meeting, Garber Church, 1 pm, Rm. 222. All officers and board members are encouraged to attend.

Monday, October 13: RCS Shelter Dinner, 5:45 pm.

Monday, October 13: *Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day*

Thursday, October 23: NBCC Evening Meeting, 5:30 pm, at Paula's Restaurant. Speaker: TBA. *If you will be attending, please contact Maureen Comer by Tues., October 21, so she may call in the reservation number to Paula's.*

Friday, October 31: *Halloween*

Reminder:

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

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

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

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



Officers

President: Eileen Buscemi

President-Elect: Roy Leonard

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Maureen Comer

Assistant Secretary: Susan Husson

Treasurer: Van Allen Rice

Assistant Treasurer: Amy Willis

Sergeant-at-Arm: Dev Lippitt

Education Officers: Helen Shine & Maureen Comer

Chaplain: Bill Baldree

Assistant Chaplain: Jim Comer

Current Board

Term Expires

Buck Irvin	2026
Randy King	2026
Clark Saylor	2026
Betty Todd	2026
Wendy Fleming	2027
Marie Leonard	2027
Judy Lopez	2027
Tommaso Serra	2027

Webmaster, Civic Editor &
Social Media: Cyndi Papia

OCTOBER FACTS



- ♦ October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- ♦ The first Jack-o'-lanterns were made from turnips in Ireland.
- ♦ The first World Series baseball game was played on October 1, 1903.
- ♦ The Flintstones animated television series debuted October 1, 1960
- ♦ The first McDonald's restaurant opened in Des Plaines, Illinois, on October 5, 1955.
- ♦ The Draconid meteor shower is unique in that it is associated with a single comet and is only visible from October 6th to 10th in the northern hemisphere.
- ♦ The United States Navy was established on October 13, 1775.
- ♦ The first color photograph was taken on October 17, 1861.
- ♦ The first iPhone was released on October 29, 2007.

The Legend of Jack-O'-Lanterns: According to Irish legend, a man named Jack made a deal with the devil and was doomed to wander the earth with only a carved-out turnip with a candle inside as his source of light. The tradition of carving pumpkins for Halloween comes from this legend.

The Legend of Dracula: This legend is based on the historical figure of Vlad the Impaler, a brutal ruler of Wallachia (now part of Romania) in the 15th century. Bram Stoker's famous novel "Dracula" was inspired by Vlad's legend and helped to popularize the vampire myth.

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.