
St. Petersburg Civitan Club Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

January 13th, 2021

Call to order

A meeting of the St. Petersburg Civitan Club Board of Directors was held at the Beach House at 18604 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores FL 33785 on January 13th, 2021. Board members that were present were Norm Bungard, Lauren Heckert, Bonnie Ruth and Jan Ward. Also present was Karen Galinowski. Terasa Heckert and Magda Rodriguez were absent. Jan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Civitan Motto. Norm Bungard gave the invocation.

Reports

President – No new report.

Secretary – Last month's minutes were reviewed for omissions and updates. There was one change to include the Roberts Rules of Order that was led by Norm Bungard. The minutes were then approved. We currently have 40 members. We have five new members going on the books in January. Dues paid by check for 2021 will remain at \$48/quarter. The discount period is over so the yearly fee is now \$192. If paying via credit card, the dues are \$49.34 & \$197.38. Statements went out to all delinquent members last week. Please pay or let us know if you no longer want to remain a member. There are currently 6 unpaid members. Those members will be removed from the roster before the end of February if their dues are not paid. Multiple attempts have been made to contact them and there has been no response.

Treasurer – Lauren Heckert reported our yearend balance in the Club account was \$9923.53. There are still unpaid dues for the first quarter in the amount of \$288. Funding in the amount of \$2970 will be needed in April of 2021 for the 100 year anniversary of the club. This is a significant outlay of funds for the club so fundraising activities in 2021 will be very important. All members are encouraged to give their time for any scheduled activities.

New Business

100 Year Anniversary Celebration – Planning for the event continues. Bonnie met with Rui Farrias, the Executive Director of the Museum of History last week. They have not revised their contract in consideration of the effect Covid-19 may have for cancellations. We are locked in at a price of \$1500 to use the facility. We plan to charge \$25 for each member attending. St. Petersburg Civitan Club members may be given a discount. The committee will discuss it and come up with a recommendation. Attendance is open to the public. Catering will be done by Kelli's Catering of Seminole. Frank Kelley the current Civitan International President and past St. Petersburg Civitan Club member is expected to attend. Lana Suggs the Florida District Governor and other local dignitaries will also be invited. The Centennial Celebration will consist of the Saturday evening, Centennial Celebration, and Sunday afternoon will be a Next Century Kick Off event. The budget for the weekend's events is \$2,970 for all anticipated expenses. Bonnie and Rui agreed that there is not a need to sign a contract, and we will wait and see how the next month goes.

Bonnie will work with the committee to develop a plan B in case the Covid-19 concerns cause the cancellation of the event at the museum. She will also send out a 'Save the Date' notification to other Civitan Clubs and invited guests.

Lauren will contact Kelli's Catering to discuss alternate plans and come up with a written agreement.

National Historical Society – There will be a public review meeting via webinar on Thursday, February 4th 2021 at 1:30pm ET. In this meeting, if the review board finds that the Civitan Beach House meets the

criteria for listing, a formal nomination will be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D.C. who will make the final decision.

Civitan Challenge Scholarship – Many years ago we awarded two types of scholarships, the Jr. Civitan and the Civitan Challenge Scholarship. We ceased awarding the Challenge scholarship due to a lack of qualified applicants. In consideration of the discontinuance of the Jr. Civitan program, Bonnie proposed we review and update the Challenge scholarship requirements for the next school year. This has several positive outcomes: first it promotes our mission; second it expands the eligible high schools and students, and offers the opportunity for St Pete Civitan to have broader name recognition.

Bonnie is working on rewriting the qualification requirements. This will help the Pinellas Education Foundation to better determine consideration of candidates.

Clergy Appreciation & 4 Chaplains Award Week – Clergy Appreciation Week is an international project of Civitan International, which honors local leaders of all faiths for their dedicated service to their local communities. Since 1963, Civitan clubs around the world have set aside a week in February of each year to honor local faith leaders for their acts of service.

The project was inspired by the story of the Four Chaplains. On February 3, 1943, four military chaplains—a Methodist minister, a Catholic priest, a Reformed minister and a Jewish rabbi—sacrificed their lives in service to others on board the USS Dorchester. The troop transport ship, in route to Greenland, was hit by a torpedo. The four chaplains, George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, John P. Washington, and Clark V. Poling, removed their own life jackets to give to other passengers and locked arms in prayer for the safety of others as the ship submerged into the icy waters.

Norm Bungard put forth two nominees for this year's award. Frank Kelley the President of Civitan International and a past St. Petersburg Club member was nominated. Paul Russo the Director/CEO of the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System is the second nominee. Both nominees were voted on and unanimously accepted. Norm will reach out to them to notify them. February is the tentative celebration. The date is yet to be determined.

New Member Applications – Board members reviewed applications from Emery Johannes, Brooke Fairman and Rebecca Starkweather. All were approved and will be added to the International roster this week. Welcome to Civitan! Norm suggested we considered offering local mayors membership in our club. This will be discussed further at our February meeting.

Member Volunteer Opportunities – With our recently passed Bylaws there is now a requirement that members participate in 4 Club sponsored activities to remain members. We are in the process of identifying events to be held throughout 2021. The Covid-19 concerns continue to hamper solidifying dates. We will do our best to plan so members can plan which events they will attend to fulfill their member obligation. Most everything we do will count towards participation.

Year End Report – It was suggested that a yearend report be mailed to each member along with a calendar of the events planned for the year. That report is being developed and will be distributed soon.

Dyngus Day – Karen Galinowski brought up the idea of having a celebration at the Beach House for Dyngus Day. Dyngus Day, also spelled Dingus Day, is a fun Polish Holiday. It is very popular in Poland, as well as in Polish communities across America. Much like Saint Patrick's Day for the Irish, for those of Polish decent, Dyngus Day is a similar day of fun, parades, drinking and festivities. You do not have to be Polish to enjoy Dyngus Day. Rather, consider yourself Polish for the day, and join in on the fun. It is always celebrated on the Monday after Easter. Traditional Polish foods including pierogies, kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, ham, eggs, breads and lamb-shaped butter. This will be added to the calendar.

Motions

There was a motion to accept Frank Kelley and Paul Russo as this year's Four Chaplains Award winners. It was voted unanimously, with 4 YES votes and 0 NO votes, to accept them for the award.

There was a motion to approve Emery Johannes, Brooke Fairman and Rebecca Starkweather as new members. It was unanimously accepted, with 4 YES votes and 0 NO votes.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 10th, 2021 at 5:30pm at the Civitan Beach House. Members are welcome to attend.