



# ALABAMA CENTRAL EXPRESS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION, ALABAMA CENTRAL DISTRICT NO. 1

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Number 1

Judith A. Pike, Governor

Emily Hodges, Editor

## Selma Club Officers to Lead 71st year of Service to Community

Club officers were installed by Jerry LeVert, 2017-2018 Governor-Elect at recent meeting. Shown are club leaders: Ernie Divelbiss, Treasurer, David White, President, GE Levert, Bill Trippe, Secretary and George Teel, President-Elect.



### UAB Campus Civitans

## Warm Up Birmingham



UAB Campus Civitan Club hosted their Warm Up Birmingham donation drive 11/13 thru 11/16. They collected blankets, clothes, hats, scarves, gloves, and more! Donation bins were placed in all of the

Residences. Snacks were given for donations at HSC on Tuesday through Thursday.

New District Web Site address will be effective soon.

Our NEW address will be: [acdcivitan.org](http://acdcivitan.org)

## Researchers Receive Awards

Congratulations to Mary Phillips, recipient of the W. John Rynearson Award: Rylie Hightower and Omar Maximo, recipients of the Emerging Scholar Award: Nancy Gallus, Whitt Mallory Research Fellow: and Vladimir Parpura, McNulty Civitan Scientist. (Noted left to right in photo)



## Region One Meeting

Region One Director Barbara Holyfield invites you to join her on

March 2-3, 2018      Registration: \$ 85.00

at the DoubleTree Inn - Decatur, Alabama

Decatur Riverfront - 1101 6th Avenue, NE  
Phone: 256-355-3150 or

[http:// www.decaturriverfront.doubletree.com](http://www.decaturriverfront.doubletree.com)

Room Rates: \$95.00 for 2 Standard Queen or  
Standard King, \$114 for a suite

Reserve your room using Civitan or Civitan Region One when you call.

Deadline for these rates is February 9, 2018.



**Judith Pike**  
Governor

### ***Hello Fellow Civitans:***

As we start the new Civitan year, I am excited about all the activity going on in the Alabama Central District. The District is proud to announce two new clubs: the Greater St. Clair County Civitan Club and the Pell City High School Girls Junior Civitan Club. With Fall in the air, that means it is time for pecans and fruitcake. As we start into the holiday season, it is a great time to be reminded of our creed *to reach out in the service to others*.

The 2017-2018 Governors have been tasked with many goals by International and I am working hard to accomplish as many as possible. The 2017-2018 calendar is starting to fill up with events, fundraisers, meetings and conventions. Strive this year to become more active at the District, Regional and International levels. You will be amongst some of the most humble, hard-working and thoughtful people in the country. It gives me hope for this great nation, each time I am privileged to be a part of these Civitan events.

I want to thank all the former Governors who have expressed their support not only for me to have a successful year but who are also willing to pull up their sleeves and help. The Alabama Central District is not simply a small group of members leading a large team, but an amazing organization of dedicated volunteers who are devoted to making their communities a better place.

I am available for each member and club if you need me. Many clubs have sent invitations for special events and I will make every effort to be a part of these activities. Please let the District team know how we can be of assistance in making your fundraisers, meetings and special events a success.

Kindle Your Fire For Civitan,

*Judith*

**Judith Pike**  
205-807-2872  
[japike62@yahoo.com](mailto:japike62@yahoo.com)



### **As a reminder:**

#### **2017 Price Increase from Claxton ...**

Claxton increased price per pound to \$2.59. District Selling **price for 2017 is \$3.70 per pound** wholesale. Retail price remains at \$4.50 per pound. The 48 pound shippers will be \$3.70 per pound (retail price increase of \$0.08. per pound.)

Please confirm your store locations with your District Fruit Cake Chair Wynton Hodges (205-908-6003). (Per District Policy by October 1st.)

If you need help, please do not hesitate to call. We can help you manage your stock for shortages or needs on short notice.



### **Sponsor a New Member and WIN!!**

Every Civitan that sponsors a new member into our organization from 10/1 until 3/16 will have their name entered for each sponsorship into a drawing for a chance to win one of FIVE free roundtrip airfares to the Reno Convention!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Join the Junior Civitans!**

If you shop on Amazon, please consider supporting the research work funded by Civitan International. It's easy! Click on the link below and make us your Amazon Smile charity.

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at [smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6052990](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/63-6052990) and Amazon donates to Civitan International.

**Greetings Civitans Friends,**

Another fiscal year and another chapter in Civitan history. My Dad used to say, "Sonny Boy, don't forget where you came from." As Civitans, let's not forget where we came from when Dr. Shropshire founded Civitan over 100 years ago as a service organization being ever mindful of the needs of others. One of the reasons Jesus came to this earth was to serve, not to be served. At the conclusion of the 2017-2018 year, our records will be an open book for all to see. Let us all, as a team, plan now to insure it will be a book of success.

For Civitans to be a thriving organization 100 years from now, we are constantly reminded we need new members, especially of the younger generation. For the most part, the majority of people today do not care to be a member of merely a "meet-and-eat organization." Therefore, let's truly serve our communities and make our presence known through newspapers, social media (such as Facebook) and community involvement. A good public relations person in every club is a great way to start.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your confidence in me by electing me your 2017-2018 Governor-Elect. I'm looking forward to meeting each of you and serving, not only the Alabama Central District but also ALL the clubs within. As Governor-Elect I will strive to do you proud.

Respectfully,

**Jerry LeVert**  
205-310-4356  
jlevert@adssecurity.com



**Jerry LeVert**  
Governor-Elect



Above: Past Governor received honor plaque from 2015-16 Governor Emily Hodges and Past Governor Dee Hutsler.

## Outstanding Civitan of the Year for 2015-2016

District announced recognition of John L. Lanier, Jr. as Alabama Central District Outstanding Civitan of the Year for 2015-2016. Lanier was presented the plaque of recognition when the award was announced at the September meeting of the Greater Titusville Civitan Club. Mr. Lanier had been unable to attend the annual convention so announcement was made at his club meeting. Congratulations to Past Governor John Lanier of his recognition and appreciation for his service to the district for the past few years. Governor Wendell Harless (2016-17), Governor-Elect Judith Pike, Past Governors Dee Hutsler, Wynton Hodges and Dick Berliner were present for the presentation by 2015-2016 Governor Emily Hodges.



Leola Smith was presented the 2015-16 Distinguished President award with President Debbie Juhlke's theme logo "We are the Key." Mrs. Smith was unable to attend annual convention and received her award at the September Greater Titusville meeting.







## Junior Civitans ~ Lisa Abercrombie, Junior Chair

**Congratulations! Pell City High School Girls Junior Civitan Club**

**Members proudly display their membership Certificates.**

**Official Charter Date: September 20, 2017**

Junior Governor Gracie Kelley is counting on you to help her reach her goal to attend the annual Governors Update and Sno Do event in Barrie, Ontario, Canada this coming January. She **MUST** raise a minimum of \$1900 **BEFORE December 20th** to be able to attend. She has a Facebook page so you can make direct donations with a credit card, or you can mail your check to Civitan International (Attn: Bobby Farley), P.O. Box 130744, Birmingham, AL 35213.

Let's help Gracie get this done for the Civitan Research Center.



Join the worldwide [#GivingTuesday](#) movement and help redefine the giving spirit this holiday season! Please consider Civitan International on November 28, 2017.

### Junior Civitan Leaders for 2017-2018

Governor: Gracie Kelley

Deputy Governor: Lexi Garrett

Lt. Governor: Lorilei MacFiggins

Secretary: Susy Naler



### Welcome Pell City High School Girls Junior Civitan!

The Alabama Central Junior Civitan District excitedly announces the charter of the PCHS Girls Junior Civitan Club sponsored by the Pell City Civitan Club. The official chartered date is September 30, 2017 - a *Centennial Club*! This uniquely *all girls* club chartered with 42 members and celebrated with their charter presentation ceremony on Thursday, November 9 at 4:00 pm at the Fine Arts Center on campus. Civitan guests in attendance were Governor Judith Pike, Governor-Elect Jerry LeVert, Immediate Past Governor Wendell Harless, Past Governors Wynton and Emily Hodges and Lisa Abercrombie. The Pell City Civitan Club presented the new club with a symbolic banner with their name and the Civitan emblem. Other guests from Civitan International Staff were Executive Vice President Scarlet Thompson, Membership Specialists Emily Kicker (Junior Civitan) and Bobby Farley (Special Projects). Pell City Civitans Lisa Phillips and Sandy Thomas and others provided refreshments afterwards.

## Club News

**Research:** Continues frequent “SciCafe” gatherings at John’s City Diner - sharing interesting current topics on scientific topics. Will again be assisting as hosts the annual Past Governor’s CIRC Benefit on February 10.

**Wilsonville:** Club members prepared a display for the Shelby County Fair promoting Civitan. They had a successful fundraiser pancake supper, promoting Veterans and the Wilsonville Elementary School; and are preparing for their 11th Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday December 9th , 9-2. Bake sale, glitter stamps, homemade crafts and clothing, toys and special Christmas items will be included! The location will be Wilsonville United Methodist Church.

**Greater Titusville:** November meeting brought important information about the City of Birmingham from a council person’s perspective Birmingham City Councilor Sheila Tyson (District 6). Council member Tyson is also a member of this club. During this month the members also collected many item on the “needs” list for the women at First Light Women’s shelter. The annual Scholarship Hat Lunch has been changed to the Spring. Coin box and Pop tab projects are still a major emphasis projects for this club.

**Montevallo:** After their ice cream party at the Mitchell Center, club members hit the path with haste with their annual pecan sales and selling Claxton fruit cakes. Club said “goodbye” to member Sylviane Price as she moved back to Arkansas, members were hosted for a going away party at Past President Czerw’s home.

**ACTION:** Have completed several successful wheelchair ramps: members along with the help of Patrick, Al and Edward from the **Perimeter Civitan Club** built a wheelchair ramp for a very special lady, Mrs. Bell Ferguson of Hueytown, who is 93 years young! The “construction crew” came together on October 28 amidst rain showers to build another ramp for a family in much need. (“Construction Crew” shown in photo below right as they admire their handiwork.)

**West Jefferson:** Held a Turkey shoot on October 17 assisted by City Hall and the local Fire Department collecting non-perishable foods and new toys with funds raised going to the Christmas for Children Fund. Held their annual auction on November 5th raising funds to support the Christmas for Kids Campaign. Club will sponsor Photos with Santa on December 2nd from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Adamsville Senior Citizens Center on Spring Street.

**Sylacauga:** Held a successful yard sale on October 7. Club recognized member Gary Smith as Club Civitan of the Year at the October 19th celebration dinner. Members are collecting Little Debbie Christmas Tree Snack Cakes for the CARE House Christmas bags. They expect to fill bags for 450 individuals. On November 14th held annual Silent Auction and Music program with Tommy Brown entertaining. Filled “Flood buckets” for victims of the early Fall hurricanes. Will have ARC lunch on December 7th and will assist with the First Presbyterian Church elementary age Christmas party on December 16th. Club is accepting donations for tickets for a drawing to win a beautifully handmade Petite Pinwheel Quilt (41” x 56”). Tickets are \$10 or 3 for \$25. Funds raised will assist club member undergoing cancer treatments. Drawing will be December 19th. If interested you may contact Bev Murphy or any club member.

**Westside - Tuscaloosa:** Sponsored a joint dinner with ARC of Tuscaloosa and Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation Therapeutic, it was attended by 80-90 individuals with special needs both mental and physical disabilities. In November the club has plans to build a wheelchair ramp for member of the community.





## Alabama Central District Membership (09/01/17)

Club	# Membership
ACTION*	56
Alpha I (Selma)	18
Auburn	28
Birmingham	22
Brent	24
Center Point	15
Crestwood	6
Irondale	9
Fairfield	16
Gardendale	23
Greater Titusville*	43
Hoover	8
Montevallo	22
Northport	14
Opelika	7
Pell City	17
Perimeter	11
Phenix City	14
Research*	33
Selma	11
Sylacauga	21
Tri-County	10
Trussville	7
Tuscaloosa	28
Tuskegee	20
Vestavia*	42
West Jefferson	14
Westside	11
Wilsonville	17
Associate Members	21
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>586</b>
<b>Total Active Clubs:</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Golden Circle Clubs*</b>	<b>4</b>



## Club News - continued

**Center Point:** Working hard on membership, added three new members in October. Donated school supplies to DHR. Selling pecans as a fund raiser and continue to rent their building.

**Pell City:** Sponsored new Junior Civitan Club—an all girl club at Pell City High School.

**Tri County:** Participated with other group in Leeds downtown Trunk or Treat on Halloween, serving almost 1100 children. Began Fall pecan sale, will participate in the Back Pack Buddies project with donations for Christmas bags.

**Alpha I -** In October the club donated two infant car seats to Safe Harbor House (formerly Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Center). They will be collecting paper goods and supplies for Sabre House, a home for battered women and children. In November the club provided finger foods and played Bingo for a social at Cedar Terrace Assisted Living Center. The annual Christmas dinner and Dirty Santa will be on December 11. The December service project will be to sponsor a family with food, clothing, and toys.

**Brent:** Has Fall raffle in progress for gift certificate to local sporting-goods store. First Prize - \$1000 gift certificate to Simmons Sporting Goods in Bessemer, Second Prize - \$500 gift certificate to Suttles Firearms in Brent, Third - \$250 Visa Gift Card. Drawings will be on December 12 at annual Christmas Dinner at the Sawmeal Restaurant in Brent..

**Northport:** Superior fund raising projects on-going in community with their smoked meat in September and November. In October they fulfilled their annual pledge of \$1500 to Sprayberry House, a facility for mentally challenged individuals. The club building got an addition to house the new smoker and additional storage space.

**Selma:** The Fall Dallas County Fair again found the men making, cooking and selling Kozy Dogs to long lines of hungry folks. They were assisted by members from the Brent Club. In November they will hold a joint stew cook with the Sabre House, a home for battered women and children. Last year they cooked and sold 750+ quarts of stew.

**Tuscaloosa:** Have moved their meeting place to The Levee Bar and Grill in Northport.

**Irondale:** Is preparing for Christmas for Kids Project and selling Claxton Fruit Cake.

**Birmingham:** Meeting once a month, the club continues to grow. They are reaching out in the community with service projects. In October they prepared and provided a meal for the women at First Light Shelter. They are decorating two Christmas trees - one at Sparks Center and the other in the lobby of the Research Center.

**Phenix City:** Members are collecting blankets for the homeless and have several other special needs projects: holding a dance in November, providing supplies for a special needs school class and working the rodeo for the Sheriff's Department. They are trying to increase their participation in the Claxton fruit cake sales.

**Auburn:** Club has taken orders for Christmas Wreaths and smoked turkeys for Thanksgiving as fund raisers.

# NLF

## 2018

### National Leadership Forum

at Harding University  
June 3 - 8, 2018

Plan now for your club to send delegates to the Youth Leadership Forum. Cost per student will be **\$325**, which includes registration cost to Harding, chartered bus transportation, sleeping accommodations in dorm setting, meals and program materials. If your club or you as an individual wish to sponsor a student and has no contacts, we will assist in recruiting a student to represent your club. Registration forms due to District Chairs Wynton and Emily Hodges by **April 20**.

## Annual Past Governor's CIRC Benefit



**Save the Date:**  
Saturday afternoon,  
**February 10, 2018**  
Time to be determined.

Donations accepted to  
Civitan at the Helm.

Our evening will be to  
honor Immediate Past

Governor Wendell Harless and hosting with the Research Civitan and others.

Plan to drop by and hear several of our research scientists speak and enjoy an evening with Civitan friends in support of the Civitan Research Center.

## Camp ASCCA Fun Fish and Civitan Workday

March 24, 2017 - 8:00 a.m.

Lunch by reservation, Event t-shirt by pre-order in February

## Alabama Central Civitan District 2017-2018 Proposed Calendar

### October 2017

- 1 New Civitan Year begins
- 7 First ACD Board Meeting—Hoover - 10am
- 7 Deadline ACD Express for Fall edition
- 28 World Junior Civitan Day—proposed joint meeting Jr/Sr

### November 2017

- 1 Junior Civitan Dues deadline to CI
- 5 Time change BACK
- 15 Deadline for Club Officer Training Certification

### December 2017

- 1 International Honor Club Applications for 2016-2017 due to CI
- 20 **Sno Do donation minimum due to attend event.**
- 31 **ACD District Awards Nominations DUE to Past Governor**

### January 2018

- 6 Second ACD Board Meeting—Hoover—10am
- 10 Winter ACD **Express** deadline
- 20 Junior Civitan --Ronald McDonald House
- 20 Dance-a-thon Donations Due
- 20-23 Governor-Elect Academy
- 26-30 Junior Civitan Sno-Do& Gov'nors Update
- 31 Shropshire Scholarship Applications Due
- 31 District Quality Achievement Application Due

### February - Junior Civitan International - Civitan Appreciation Month

- 4-10 Clergy Appreciation Week
- 4 Past Governor's CIRC Benefit, CIRC
- 7 **Final Junior Civitan Dance-a-thon donations due to CI to attend**
- 10 Past Governor's Benefit at CIRC
- 15 **Form 990/e-file postcard for 2014-2015 year due to IRS**

### March - Vidalia Onion sales begin

- 2-3 Region One Meeting, Decatur
- 8-10 Governor's Update, Birmingham, AL
- 9-12 Junior Civitan International Dance-a-thon,
- 24 Camp ASCCA Fun Fish Day and Clean-Up
- 24 Third Junior Civitan Board Meeting - Camp ASCCA

### April - Civitan Awareness month

- 7 Spring ACD **Express** deadline
- 7 Third ACD Board Meeting—Hoover—10am
- 20 Deadline registration NYL Forum at Harding
- 25 Vidalia Onion Orders and Money DUE
- 27-29 ACD Junior Convention—Ft. Walton

### May

- 5 **Spring District Meeting and Camp ASCCA Basket auction, 4H Center- Columbiana**
- 10 Vidalia Onions delivered (Tentative)

### June

- 3-8 Youth Leadership Forum, Harding Univ.
- 21-24 Junior Civitan International Convention, Tupelo, MS

### July

- 6 FALL ACD **Express** deadline
- 14 Fourth ACD Board Meeting/ Awards Hoover—10am
- 22-25 CI Convention and Golf Benefit - Reno/ Tahoe

### August

- 14 Deadline room reservation District Conv.
- 26 Regional President/President-Elect Training, Birmingham, AL

### September

- 5 Convention Registration
- 14-15 District Convention - Lake Guntersville State Park

All dates are current as proposed on publication date.

## Civitan Staff Reorganization Sees New Enhancements to Member Services

New EPV Scarlet Thompson and the International Board of Directors have announced restructured staff positions to enhance member support on all levels.

### New Membership Specialists Names at CI

As part of a new push to assist our Civitan, Campus Civitan and Junior Civitan clubs, there are now four Civitan Employees “Focusing” on assisting our clubs and districts with growth and retention! Contact your specialist at 1-800 CIVITAN (248-4826). Listed are our Membership Specialists and what regions they are working with:



**Membership Specialist Emily Kicker** will focus solely on the Junior Civitan organization.

Emily can be reached at Ext. 131; or [emily@civitan.org](mailto:emily@civitan.org)



**Membership Specialist Megan Mindel** will be working with **Regions 1, 2, 4** and Campus Civitan.

Megan can be reached at Ext. 114; or email her at [megan@civitan.org](mailto:megan@civitan.org)



**Membership Specialist Meredith Binkley** will be working with Regions 3, 6, and 7.

Meredith can be reached at Ext. 108; or email her at [meredith@civitan.org](mailto:meredith@civitan.org)



**Senior Membership Specialist Louis Stephens** will be working with Regions 5, 8 and all our International Districts and Clubs.

Louis can be reached at Ext. 119; or email him at [louis@civitan.org](mailto:louis@civitan.org)

We are very excited about our new and returning staff as they begin their tasks of guiding us in all opportunities to take Civitan to the top in our Second Century!

**Our Goal: *Focus on the needs of our clubs. Promote the positive and empowered club officers to coordinate their activities around the Honor Club Application.***

### How Can **YOU** Kindle Our Membership Opportunities! (Not just the leadership, but EVERY Member involvement!)

Use the following checklist to set personal goals and plan to communicate with clubs encouraging them to grow.

- What is the membership status of the clubs in my Area, District or Region after 31 days?
- Have **I** sponsored a new member(s) this quarter and earned a LST Pin?
- Have **I** communicated with all of my club presidents since October 1<sup>st</sup>?
- Have all of my clubs turned in a membership plan and goal?
- Where do **I** plan to charter a New Club? Become one of the 101 First Time CCBs!
- Do **I** have clubs that need a revitalization team to assist them with attaining new members?
- What clubs do **I** have that still need officers training and reporting by November 15<sup>th</sup>?



## District Officers 2017-2018

Governor..... Judith Pike  
 Governor-Elect..... Jerry LeVert  
 Immediate Past Governor..... Wendell Harless  
 Secretary..... Mary Putman  
 Treasurer..... Edward Thomas  
 Past Governor Director ..... K. Dee Hutsler

## Area Directors

Area I Director..... Albert D. Wilson  
*(Alpha I, Brent, Northport, Tuscaloosa, Westside, Selma)*  
 Area II Director..... Dimple Davis  
*(Auburn, Opelika, Phenix City, Tuskegee)*  
 Area III Director..... Peggy Czerw  
*(Montevallo, Sylacauga, Wilsonville)*  
 Area IV Director..... Richard Coley  
*(Gardendale, Hoover, Perimeter, Research, Vestavia)*  
 Area V Director..... Mary Ann Pike  
*(Center Point, Crestwood, Irondale, Pell City, Tri-County, Trussville)*  
 Area VI Director..... Wilfred Fitts  
*(ACTION, Birmingham, Fairfield, Greater Titusville, West Jefferson)*



## District Committee and Project Chairs

Growth & Development.....  
 Newsletter Editor..... Emily Hodges  
 Webmaster..... Donna Harper  
 Fruit Cake/Vidalia Onions..... Wynton Hodges  
 Junior Civitan/Campus Civitan..... Lisa Abercrombie  
 Meetings..... Emily Hodges  
 Youth Leadership Forum..... Wynton and Emily Hodges  
 Foundation Liaison..... Wendell Harless  
 Judge Advocate/Policies..... Mary Putman  
 Awards & Finance..... Wendell Harless  
 PR/Social Media ..... Tony Ledbetter  
 Junior Civitan Liaison..... Emily Hodges

The *Alabama Central Express* is published 4 times a year and mailed to over 600 Civitans in the Alabama Central District to keep them informed of Civitan activities in their district and region. To have information about your club or activity included in this newsletter, contact:

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