



JANUARY/  
FEBRUARY 2011

# TOPEKA CIVITAN CLUB

## New Members of the Topeka Civitan Club

Topeka Civitan welcomes our newest members of 2010 and 2011.

Each year we hope that more people will come to know who Civitan's are and what Civitan is and all about.

In 2005 Topeka Civitan started a campaign to promote the club through ads and local media. Civitans have worked hard letting the media know when we were doing special events.

Topeka civitan has taken clients of TARC and Sheltered Living to the races. Renovated Civitan Day Camp and provided scholarships so children can attend. Civitans have worked telethons and radiothons and provided funds for immediate needs to TARC with the Ethel Mae Miller Memorial Immediate Needs Fund. Topeka Civitan stands strong for others and lifts them up in a way that no other organization does.

The strength of the club comes from our members and their strength and devotion in serving those in our community. The knowledge of long time members. Who can teach those newer members about Civitan and pass down ideas and programs of the past and offer guidance on the new projects and programs of our clubs future. In Civitan you will find opportunities to give back and in return receive the greatest of rewards. The smiles of the men women and children we serve. The Topeka Civitan club gives us all an opportunity to touch lives by working hands on and seeing up close all the good we can do. We welcome all of our new members and look forward to continuing the works of the Topeka Civitan club together long into our future.



# It's time to step out of the shadows and help the club.

With all the snow on the ground and the freezing cold temperatures, it seems way too early to be thinking about our annual golf tournament. But the truth is that May 7<sup>th</sup> will be here before we know it and we need to start talking about our tournament now if it's going to be a success. You can take the approach that the tournament has done just fine without your involvement or you can instead take this opportunity to finally be a part of the process.

Do you know a person in business that could use some good advertising and sponsor a hole? How about the person that cuts your hair? Maybe they could offer some hair products for a prize. How about your insurance agent. I'll bet if we asked them, they would come up with

something to help get their name out. Do you frequent a restaurant or coffee shop that could offer a free meal or two? Have you purchased a car recently? Maybe your salesperson could persuade their employer to sponsor a hole. Why not just use last year's list of potential donors and sponsors and try to think of a couple of new prospects?

Let's all work hard this year to try to make our largest fund raising effort even better than ever! The tournament has helped us provide monetary help to all of our favorite groups in need, while at the same time defraying some of our administrative expenses. This has helped us keep our dues at a more affordable amount. Can I count on your help?

Russ Cole & the Civitan Golf Tournament Committee



# Clergy Appreciation Week

Clergy Appreciation Week is a significant event throughout North America. The efforts of Civitan clubs to show appreciation to the clergy of all faiths is appreciated by both the local community and the clergy who are honored on this special occasion. Clergy Appreciation Week aims to promote world brotherhood and religious understanding among all people, regardless of religious persuasion. It is a time to reflect on our individual religious beliefs and to promote an understanding and acceptance of the rights of others to participate in a religion different from our own. Clergy Appreciation Week was inspired by an event which occurred during World War II.



## The Four Chaplains

On February 3, 1943, the *USS Dorchester* was pushing through the treacherous waters of the North Atlantic. With 905 American servicemen aboard, the Dorchester left its convoy a few hours short of its destination. A German submarine, stalking the ship undetected, took this opportunity to fire a torpedo straight toward the ship's stern. The torpedo struck amidships and exploded in the boiler room. Many on board died instantly, and some were trapped below deck. Others jolted from their bunks half asleep, clambered to reach the decks of the stricken vessel. Taking on water rapidly, the ship began listing to starboard. Because security reasons prevented use of distress flares, escort vessels, still close enough to assist, pushed on into the darkness, unaware that the Dorchester was sinking. Overcrowded lifeboats capsized; rafts drifted away before anyone could reach them.

On deck, amid confusion and terror, Army chaplains George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington moved about calming frightened men, directing bewildered soldiers to lifeboats, and distributing life jackets with calm precision. Soon, the supply of jackets was exhausted, yet four young soldiers, afraid and without life vests, stood waiting. Quickly the chaplains stripped off their own and forced them upon the young soldiers.

The four men of God (one Catholic, one Jewish and two Protestant) had given away their only means of saving themselves in order to save others. Men rowing away from the sinking ship in lifeboats saw the chaplains clinging to each other on the slanting deck, arms linked together and heads bowed as they prayed to the one God whom each of them loved and served. The Dorchester sank beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic, pulling with it the four chaplains and 675 servicemen.

It is this moment which Civitans annually pause to remember, and in so doing, pause to say thank you to the clergy of their communities.

# FEBRUARY 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 CLERGY DAY	3	4	5 9am TO 2pm Special Olympics Basketball
6	7	8	9 BUSSINESS MEETING	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 NO MEETING	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Membership Meeting	24	25	26
27	28 6pm to 7pm board meeting					

## MOVIE TRIVIA

### Who said this speech and in what movie?

Republic. I like the sound of the word. It means people can live free, talk free, go or come, buy or sell, be drunk or sober, however they choose.

Some words give you a feeling. Republic is one of those words that makes me tight in the throat.

The same tightness a man gets when his baby takes his first step, or his first baby shaves, and makes his first sound like a man. Some words can give you a feeling that make your heart warm. Republic is one of those words.





## Message from Civitan Internationals President Elect

Bill Buscher

### 2011 Governors-Elect Academy



The 2011 Governors-Elect Academy was held January 14-18, 2011 at the Civitan International Headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama. As International President-Elect, I traveled to Birmingham to be a part of this wonderful experience. The Governors-Elect Academy is designed to give our Governors the training and tools necessary to prepare for their job as District Governors beginning October 1, 2011.



We brought together 22 Governors-Elect from all the Civitan districts in North America. The International staff designed a comprehensive and effective educational program. They did an excellent job in blending the existing curriculum together with the concepts from my suggested book, “Pushing Forward” by Randy Snow. Topics included planning, goal setting, geographical training, new club building, recruiting your team, membership meetings and Civitan’s philanthropy programs.

The 2011-12 District Governors are a dynamic group of leaders. They all worked hard, and we enjoyed a great experience together, and shared wonderful Civitan fellowship. I have 22 new Civitan friends, and 22 new KU Jayhawks fans.

Bill Buscher

