



JULY / AUGUST
2011

TOPEKA CIVITAN CLUB

Message from Civitan International Presidents Desk



2011 CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS

The 2011 Civitan International Convention took place July 3-6 in New Orleans. I was installed as 2011-12 Civitan International President at the closing banquet. I appreciate the support I have received from the Civitan Club of Topeka, and I especially appreciate those from the club who were able to travel to New Orleans to share this special event with me and my family.

My big day was Saturday, the last day of the convention. In the morning during the Membership Extravaganza, I introduced the 2011-12 District Governors and our 2011-12 theme, "Enriching Lives Through Service". At the closing banquet on Saturday evening I was installed as 2011-12 Civitan International President and addressed the convention.

Some of the Topeka club members had a little fundraiser by trying to guess how long my speech would be. I am told that they are not going to reveal the time, and will continue the fundraiser by giving members who were not at the convention an opportunity to guess the time of my speech.

We also talked about having a post New Orleans party, possibly on Labor Day weekend since that is one weekend I will be in town. Tim and Carolyn brought back some soft drinks that I had left over from the convention. I will have a video of my installation ceremony and my speech.

The theme this year has been "Pay it Forward". It says exactly what we do as Civitans. I wanted our theme next year to continue along that same idea. "Enriching Lives Through Service" is again exactly what we do as Civitans. If you think about it, we not only enrich the lives of the people we serve and help, our own lives are enriched by our Civitan involvement. I am enriched when I work Special Olympics. I am enriched by the special friendships I have with Civitans in our club and Civitans all over the world. We will encourage Civitan members, clubs and districts to concentrate on all the positives to reach new heights next year. As Civitans, we will continue "Enriching Lives Through Service".



**2011 International
Convention
New Orleans
July 2011**





William D “Bill” Buscher is Installed as Civitan International President For 2011-2012

On July 9, 2011 Bill Buscher was installed as President of Civitan International in New Orleans Louisiana. In addition to Bill ten Civitan Club of Topeka members attended the convention. Those attending were: Jim Beck, Patty Bottorff, Marcia Dechand, Sharon Dodd, Steve Dodd, Carolyn Edwards, Tim Edwards, Dave Fisher, Jan Howard, and Don Schultz. Spouses who also attended were Carol Beck, Sharon Buscher, and Pat Schultz.



The convention was held at the Sheraton on Canal Street and was well planned. All Topekans enjoyed New Orleans and its many historic attractions. Highlights of the convention were the Opening Ceremonies at 6:30 PM on July 6, a Mississippi River Boat Cruise at 6:00 PM on July 7, the election of next year’s International President starting at 8:30 AM on July 8, and the Installation Banquet at 6:00 PM later that same day. The highlight of the evening was the address given by Bill Buscher. Bill’s 2011-2012, theme is **“ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH SERVICE.”**



Civitans were entertained throughout the convention with a Tribute to Jazz, a sand artist, comedian Murray Conque, the Waylon Thibodeaux Band, and Dueling Pianos. In addition many of the Topeka Civitans participated in a Second Line Parade through the streets of New Orleans. The Storyville Stoppers band led the parade with Civitan International President Gay Aaron and Bill and Sharon Buscher leading the Civitans.

The convention was full of excellent workshops and special activities along with information on next year’s convention in Estonia.



As would be expected many of the Topeka Civitans enjoyed people watching on Bourbon Street. It was an exciting and fun filled convention full of the interesting attractions of New Orleans.

David H. Fisher, Jr.
Civitan Club of Topeka Publicity Chairman



Ten Pirates of Bourbon Street

Ten Topeka Civitans went to New Orleans to support the new International President. As a memento of their trip and its historic value. The group that has become known as the Ten Pirates of Bourbon Street went in search of fun and adventure. And oh the sights they saw would make any adventurer at heart long to make the trip to the port city of New Orleans and her many sights.

From the interviews conducted and information collected all had a fantastic time and found they were able to bond and grow already strong friendships. They learned things about one another which cannot be learned in a meeting environment or even an event like social. They learned about each other's personal beliefs and desires and how each wishes to do well for the betterment of our local community. How they want nothing but the best for our local club and put together ideas to grow our club. That to grow one may need to change, and seek out new locations. Basically to grow one needs to go where the people are. To seek those in search of an opportunity to serve.

Amongst the beads and feather boas you will notice several of our pirate's sports a new and glittery tattoo. A sign of that special bond made and solidified on a trip to the Big Easy.

Where they picked up those tattoos is another story, which is best left to each of them to tell in their own special way. Please ask them, it's a good story.

Local Tattoo Artist Speaks at Civitan Meeting



Local Tattoo artist Teddie Fischer owner operator of Fine Line Tattoo in Topeka spoke to the Topeka club this past July. Ms. Fischer talked about the History of Tattooing and all the regulations and standards that must be met to run a Tattoo shop these days.

Tattooing has been a Eurasian practice at least since around Neolithic times. Ötzi the Iceman, dating from the fourth to fifth millennium BC, was found in the Ötz valley in the Alps and had approximately 57 carbon tattoos consisting of simple dots and lines on his lower spine, behind his left knee, and on his right ankle. These tattoos were thought to be a form of healing because of their placement which resembles acupuncture. Other mummies bearing tattoos and dating from the end of the



second millennium BC have been discovered, such as the Mummy of Amunet from Ancient Egypt and the mummies at Pazyryk on the Ukok Plateau.

Pre-Christian Germanic, Celtic and other central and northern European tribes were often heavily tattooed, according to surviving accounts. The Picts were famously tattooed (or scarified) with elaborate dark blue woad (or possibly copper for the blue tone) designs.

Tattooing in Japan is thought to go back to the Paleolithic era, some ten thousand years ago. Various other cultures have had their own tattoo traditions, ranging from rubbing cuts and other wounds with ashes, to hand-pricking the skin to insert dyes.

Tattooing in the Western world today has its origins in Polynesia, and in the discovery of *tatau* by eighteenth century explorers. The Polynesian practice became popular among European sailors, before spreading to Western societies generally.

Many tattoos serve as rites of passage, marks of status and rank, symbols of religious and spiritual devotion, decorations for bravery, sexual lures and marks of fertility, pledges of love, punishment, amulets and talismans, protection, and as the marks of outcasts, slaves and convicts. The symbolism and impact of tattoos varies in different places and cultures. Tattoos may show how a person feels about a relative (commonly mother/father or daughter/son) or about an unrelated person.

Today, people choose to be tattooed for cosmetic, sentimental/memorial, religious, and magical reasons, and to symbolize their belonging to or identification with particular groups. In the Philippines certain tribal groups believe that tattoos have magical qualities, and help to protect their bearers. Most traditional tattooing in the Philippines is related to the bearer's accomplishments in life or rank in the tribe.

Tattooing in today's world is a very regulated business requiring a surgical environment and special training and licensing. Tattoos have gone through many stages in its long history. The pigments used these days are brighter and artists are able to create great works of art on the human skin. Tattooing is not for everyone and Teddie is not a high pressure saleswoman. Teddie said "I ask several times before tattooing folks that they understand this is forever." When asked how many Civitans had tattoos a couple raised their hands and even showed the work. This reporter himself was tattooed by our special guest some 18 years prior to her visit.

And I made an appointment for next month.

A Soldiers Story

I recently read a special story about an inspirational young man who served our country in Afghanistan. Like many people exhibiting traits of the mild form of autism known as Aspergers syndrome, Jameson Lindskog often saw the world in black and white.

Lindskog tended to be rigid to the point of socially awkward- when it came to expectations of himself and others.

So his father was not surprised that his son responded unflinchingly when he was put to the test as an Army medic in Afghanistan.

The reports say on March 29, the 23 year old specialist's unit came under fire in the eastern part of Kunar province and several soldiers we hit by small arms fire. Jameson rushed to the aid of his fallen comrades he was tending one of his brothers when he himself was mortally wounded.

Jameson's father said when the time came he did not hesitate. He did not falter. He did his job.

Five other soldiers were killed in the fire fight.

Jameson was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 327th Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat team, 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell Ky.

As a child growing up Jameson struggled to fit in. He had problems making friends and got below average grades in school. Teachers and school administrators insisted his problems were behavioral. But testing eventually revealed that he had a learning disability. He was found to have several traits of those with Aspergers a condition characterized by normal intelligence but poor social skills. Someone with Aspergers for example may have trouble reading body language that others would consider obvious, or telling a white lie to protect someone's feelings.

Jameson's parents enrolled him in Orion Academy which specializes in teaching college prep courses to children with Aspergers and other learning disabilities. Jameson's grades improved dramatically. After graduating in 2006 he went to trade school and became a licensed massage therapist. But with a declining job market finding work in his field was tough. Then came the day he arrived home and announced he had joined the Army.

His mother not quite sure this decision was the best for a young man who was as quiet, sensitive as her son. A boy, who loved animals, taught himself to play piano by ear and preferred video games to outdoor sports.

Jameson's aptitude test suggested he was well suited to become a medic, a path he chose to pursue.

Jameson was not one to shy away from telling it like it is or was. And it didn't matter how many stripes you had on your sleeve he would tell you like he saw it. His mother says he loved to correct people and would always start by saying "Well technically" This earned him his nickname technically.

Despite the ribbing Jameson's single minded methodical approach to his job earned him the respect and admiration from the officers and enlisted men alike.

The night before Jameson was killed he spent hours preparing his gear in case there were heavy casualties during the next day's mission. He pre-sized tourniquets to the different physiques of the soldiers in his unit and made sure he had supplies for any scenario that might unfold.

Even after he had been shot, Jameson calmly instructed another soldier who came to his side on how to administer first aid to the fallen and then himself. When his fellow soldier was done.

Jameson told him "That's it. That's all you can do for me." Then he added, "Just hold my hand."

Article originally appeared in the LA Times July 24th
By Scott Glover

KTPK 106.9's Change Bandit Challenge

It's time for all the change bandits to once again grab up their bags and collect change for this year's Change Bandit Challenge for the benefit of Children's Miracle Network through St. Francis Hospital.

Over the past few years Civitans have been asked to join in on the fun and support this very special event. This year Chris Fisher our incoming Topeka Civitan President will once again go up against Lani Novak in the change Bandit Challenge. Both Chris and Lani have great teams who go above and beyond to gather coin for their respective captain. Each year there is a special duty earned by the Captain who may have collected less than the other. Do you all remember the year Lani did the radiothon in a wedding dress? Such a lovely bride. The following year Chris Fisher had to change oil on the other team's cars. Well this year is the same, oil changes for all the other captains' bandits.

Chris has expressed that this is his absolute favorite fundraiser of the year for so many reasons, mostly because of the feeling he gets when we count all the money at the Change Bandit Bash. If you've never been, please try extra hard to join us...it's an amazing feeling to see how all of the hard work of each and every team member pays off.

Chris and Lani are both very thankful that so many people step up to the plate to ask for change from friends and family, search couch cushions, ashtrays in the family car, and the bottom of a drawer. Hold bake sales, car washes, Clay pigeon shoots, pool tournaments the list goes on. **Every penny counts** and it's going to such a great cause: St. Francis Children's Miracle Network.

Change Bandit Bash will be held August 22 from 6pm to 8pm at the Expo Centers Ag hall.

The Radiothon will be held at West ridge malls food court 6AM to 6PM August 23rd, 24th, 25th.

By supporting Change Bandit Challenge you yourself can be a life changer for the children of North East Kansas



AMERICAS STORY

When America was born with spina bifida, hydrocephalus, scoliosis and club feet, it was clear she'd face tough times in life.

But no one knew then just how tough this little girl could be. She was told she'd never be able to sit up, crawl, talk or feed herself. They were wrong. She sat up on her own at age 1 and crawled on her arms soon after. Before she was 2 years old she was happily chatting away.

But there is one thing she won't do: America will never say "I can't." Instead, she takes her time and continues to try.

America, 5, has her own customized wheelchair, and people in her community are amazed at how smoothly and quickly she zips around. She teaches everyone she comes in contact with that being in a wheelchair doesn't mean you can't be independent and as happy as anyone else. America loves to dance in her chair and does gymnastic moves on her therapy bars at St. Francis Health Center. Her family has been told that America is going to change the wheelchair world. After every barrier she's already broken, it's safe to say that America will make those changes and more.

POSTED BY CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

Monday, March 15, 2010



Topeka Civitans Present Scholarship Check to Civitan Day Camp

On July 27th Topeka Civitan President Dodd presented a check to Adaptive Recreation Manager Amanda Bridges. These funds are used for scholarships to help those with special needs have a very special summer by attending Civitan Day Camp, Topeka Civitans local flagship project. A safe place where the children who attend get to participate in activities they may not be able to any other way. Topeka Civitan provided a pizza lunch for the campers along with many delightful cookies and drinks. Civitan Day

Camp is a labor of love and being able to visit with the campers and enjoy a hardy pizza lunch made the heat of

the day a whole lot more bearable. You couldn't help but leave that day with a smile on your face and a song in your heart.



Topeka Civitans Asked to Open the Show

On September 4th Topeka Civitans will be part of history. This being the last year Jerry Lewis will host The Jerry Lewis Telethon for MDA. Topeka Civitans have been part of the Labor Day tradition for five years now and have always been the early risers taking the first two shifts on Labor Day morning. This year's format

has changed and the telethon will run from 6pm to midnight Sunday evening September 24th. The MDA associations thought what better way than to have those who have started every morning telethon start this show off as well. Topeka Civitans Michael Hays, Sharon Dodd, Jan Howard, Jim Beck and wife Carol will sit and answer the phones taking pledges from 6pm to 7pm. It is an honor to be asked back to be part of Jerry Lewis's last telethon, a Labor Day tradition for over 30 years.



OPERATION TIRE SMOKE

On August 27 Topeka Civitans will again team with Heartland Park Topeka in a Day at the Races. An event which began five years ago where Civitans and HPT provided several of our friends from Sheltered Living an opportunity to come out and watch the level 5 drag races. Heartland Park donated suites and provided beverages to our guests making it a great outing to be sure. Last year we were unable to team and the Day at the races seemed like it was over. For that year there was no rumble in the chest or the smell of burning rubber it was a sad time to say we couldn't go.

Until this year when Janet Wiens of Sheltered Living and a Topeka Civitan had a meeting with the event director Mike Wilson of HPT. Mentioning how great it was in years past and what it meant to all our friends at Sheltered Living a meeting was set. Janet Wiens, President Dodd and Michael Hays met with Mr. Wilson and by meetings end HPT and Topeka Civitan were again working together to provide our friends this very special day of fun and excitement.

HPT is donating 3 luxury suites, parking passes and tickets to this year's Lucas Oil Drags on August 27th. Civitans are signing up now to help host this event and ensure our friends have another great experience. Topeka Civitan will also provide sack lunches and bottled water for all our guests to enjoy in the comfort of the air-conditioned suites. If you have never taken part in this special event sign up today.

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Board Meeting 6PM to 7PM	2	3 12pm to 1pm Business meeting	4	5 Heartland district conv	6 Heartland district conv
7 Heartland district conv	8	9	10 12pm-1pm program meeting	11 5:45p to 9pm Dance house	12	13
14	15	16	17 12pm to 1pm Membership Meeting	18	19	20 Breakfast Meeting Coyote Canyon 8AM to 9AM
21	22 Change Bandit Bash Ag hall 6pm to 8pm	23 Children's Miracle Radiothon 6am to 6pm	24 Children's Miracle Radiothon 6am to 6pm 12pm-1pm program meeting	25 Children's Miracle Radiothon 6am to 6pm	26 Sandwich making Social Dodd's house for Day at the Races	27 Day at the Races 8:30AM to 2PM
28	29 Joint Board Meeting 6PM to 7PM	30	31 No Meeting 5 th Wed.			

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 MDA Telethon 6PM- 7PM	5	6	7 12pm to 1pm Business meeting	8 5:45p to 9pm Dance house	9	10 8AM-Noon wall building for sensory garden Civitan Day Camp
11	12	13	14 12pm-1pm program meeting	15	16	17 Breakfast Meeting Coyote Canyon 8AM to 9AM
18	19	20	21 12pm-1pm program meeting	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 12pm-1pm program meeting	29	30	

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Installation Banquet
2	3 Board Meeting 6PM to 7PM	4	5 12pm to 1pm Business meeting	6	7	8 Special Olympic Bowling
9	10	11	12 12pm-1pm program meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 12pm to 1pm Membership Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 12pm-1pm program meeting	27	28	29 Event pending
30	31					



Gage Park Accessible Ball Diamond Becomes Reality

Submitted by Michael Hays

On Saturday July 23, 2011 Topeka Civitans were in attendance at the Grand opening and ribbon cutting for Gage Parks Accessible Ball Diamond. A dream that started in 2004 when a local Topekan working at a local radio station wanted to fulfill his child's desire to play baseball, despite his child's limited mobility, Bevins said. Cumulus Broadcasting started a penny drive to support the endeavor, which got the ball rolling.

Schwerdt Design group heard about the project and drew up the initial design, which was later finalized by the city of Topeka. Topeka Parks and Rec held the funds donated or raised by other partners and many individuals and by raising money through an annual golf tournament.

In 2010 the Topeka City Council approved the project and appropriated funds to build the diamond. Scott Sheets of Topeka Civitan put Terry Bertals in touch with Schmidtlein Excavating. Schmidtlein in hearing about this awesome project wanted to be part and do something special.

Schmidtlein Excavating broke ground in the spring of 2011. Prior to ground breaking Topeka Civitan came in and removed the old chain link fencing around the diamond. Topeka Civitan were old hands at removing the chain link and even had time for a prank call to yours truly while on a Scout camping trip. Convincingly President Dodd informed me they had torn down the wrong fence and what should they do. People were mad.

Needless to say my Scouts almost learned how to do CPR and earn their First Aid badge all in the same day.

The team of Civitans working that day got me good. The prank was initiated by a just installed International Civitan President. You may have seen him in New Orleans this past July.

On Saturday the athletes took the field and played ball well into the afternoon. Until the heat caused the game to come to an end.

This field was one father's vision. A vision that through hard work and dedication has come into being by those individuals, groups and partners who believed in that dream. Folks from all around Topeka who through generosity and love created a real Field of Dreams.