

Mountain Musings

Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.
PO Box 1755, Asheville, NC 28802

Asheville Civitan Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1755, Asheville, NC 28802



Asheville Civitan Club
Officers and Directors, 2001-2002
Officers:
President - Carla Sutherland
Pres. Elect. - Richard Richards
Secretary - William Pomeroy
Treasurer - Frank Holby

Directors:
Robert Mayer, Ralph Scarritt, Robert
Welch, MaryAlice Chutter, Walter
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Ex officio: Gary Hannah, Jim Sawyer

Chaplains: Charles Johnson, Mason
Wilson, Bancroft Smith

Sgts-at-Arms: Don Fox, Lawrence
Wilson, Robert Potter, Larry Knees

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Asheville Civitan Club, Inc.
Builders of Good Citizenship
82nd Year of Service
Mountain Musings is the
official weekly bulletin of
The Asheville Civitan Club
and
The Asheville Civitan
Foundation

Asheville Civitan Foundation
Officers and Directors, 2001-2002

Officers:
President - Gary Hannah
Vice President - Ahmad Amara
Secretary - Richard Smith
Treasurer - Murray Hollyday

Directors:
Robert Etter, Rehan Farnsworth, John
Gile, Mark Matthews, Bancroft Smith,
Ex officio: Carla Sutherland, James
Sawyer, Frank Holby, Scholarship Chair

Past Governor NC District West:
William M. Pomeroy, Jr.

Past Lt. Governors NC District West:
Robert Gray, 1998-1999
Ralph Scarritt, 1995-1996
Fred Rutledge, 1994-1995

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www.ashevillecivitan.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2002

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 12:00 NOON

AREA 1 WEST MEETING

Lt. Gov. PAUL YOUNT will chair an **Area 1 West** meeting at the **Asheville Civitan Club's** regular Tuesday meeting. There will be area reports and announcements as well as remarks by **Gov. STEVE HAYES**. Up to twenty-five guests are expected. Door prizes will be awarded.

ROBERT FABREY will give the invocation.

JESSE LEDBETTER will be the greeter.

MENU FOR TUESDAY: Ham and Onion Quiche * Green Salad * French Bread
Fruit Bowl * Assorted Desserts * Coffee * Tea * Milk

NEW MEMBER BADGE

President SUTHERLAND presented a new member badge to **WAYNE RUMBLE**, who was

sponsored by **CHARLES MANN**. He and several other new members were led in an indoctrination session by **JOHN TRAW** and **FRANK HOLBY** prior to the weekly meeting.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

At its monthly board meeting January 21, **President SUTHERLAND** announced two new chairs of standing committees: **JOHN TRAW** will head the Education Committee and **JOHN GILE** will handle Publicity. Also, inadvertently omitted in a previous review of committee chairs, **ROBERT HALL** chairs the “Spirit of Civitan” awards.

Another topic discussed at the **Club Board** meeting was the **Foundation’s** need for support from individual members. With the new year, all members are urged to renew their pledges to the **Foundation** so that it can meet its obligations for scholarships, the Birmingham Research Center and local agencies. As has been stressed in the past, an average of \$75.00 from each member, wedded to funds from **Community Foundation** investments and fund-raisers will be adequate to meet the year’s budget projections. Second semester scholarship payments are going out now, so the need is urgent.

REGIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

RALPH SCARRITT announced plans for a regional **Civitan International** meeting encompassing North and South Carolina clubs which is held every two years. This year’s get-together will be in Charlotte at the Holiday Inn on Woodland Road on Saturday, February 9, 2002 with registration at 9:30 a.m. Included in the program are three concurrent seminars of 45-minute duration which begin at 10:30 and are repeated at 11:30 a.m. so that two of the three may be attended. A buffet luncheon will be served at 12:15. Governor’s reports and nominations for President-elect of **Civitan International** will follow at 1:00 p.m. The session will conclude with a keynote address by **Eva Wilhelmsen, Civitan International President**, who is from Norway. Adjournment is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. **RALPH** hopes that a respectable contingent from Asheville will attend and those interested should see him for further details. The registration cost (\$30.00) will be picked up by the **Club**.

COMMON CAUSE OF NORTH CAROLINA

TOM COULSON, Coordinator of the local chapter of *Common Cause*, spoke on the vital need for citizen participation in government decisions. He stressed at the outset that grass roots participation at the state and local level is more effective than trying to seek reform nationally. The biggest deterrent to political participation is the cost of running for office. In 1998 it cost a candidate an average of \$110,000.00 to run; in 2000, it cost \$134,000.00. Between 1992 and 1996 costs doubled; they have doubled again since.

Mr. COULSON cited four concerns about the dangers of big money corrupting our democracy. First of all, because of high costs, the number of those running for office is decreasing alarmingly. For example, 35% of incumbents in the 2000 elections ran without opposition. Secondly, the higher the costs of running, the fewer the number of people who support the candidates financially. 90% of a candidate’s costs come from only 1% of their supporters. And, of course, thirdly, big contributions from big companies or wealthy individuals are regarded as investments which, of course, are expected to have a return. Even though politicians deny such influence, at the last session of the NC legislature, 600 million dollars in special tax breaks went to contributing businesses.

Finally, voters are buying into a “big money talks” mentality which sours them on the voting process and on becoming involved in politics in general. An example cited by **Mr. COULSON** is the June 10 passage, by both houses of the state legislature, of a bill prohibiting an individual stockholder from calling a stockholders’ meeting, almost certainly a result of undue pressure brought to bear over the controversy surrounding the First Union/Wachovia merger.

One of the solutions to this problem, according to the speaker, is the passage of the *Voter-Owned Elections Act*, which would allow a citizen of average means to afford running for office as campaign expenses would be largely state-supported. This legislation, pending since 1997, has garnered increasing support and, in 2001 had 73 sponsors in the legislature, even passing in the Senate, though only for the judiciary. As the speaker put it, “pass something” to prove that the sky will not fall, and perhaps further reforms will follow.

Mr. COULSON urged that every citizen should get interested, involved and active in the cause for better government. It can be no better stated than **Chairman Emeritus** of *Common Cause*, **Archibald Cox**, who wrote: “What can you or I do? Alone, almost nothing. Yet one person—you alone—can make a difference... The failure of just one person to join, to participate, to do whatever he or she can may mean that there is just one too few to win the fight for sanity, and so leave the world on the road to destruction...each of us, all of us, must do what we can.”