

Mountain

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

Asheville Civitan Club
Officers and Directors, 2002-2003

Officers:

President - Richard Richards
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Treasurer - Frank Holby

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

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and
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www.ashevillecivitan.org

Musings

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

Asheville Civitan Foundation
Officers and Board Members for 2002-2003

Officers:

President - Ahmad Amara (00)
Vice President - Mark Matthews (01)
Secretary - Gary Hannah (02)
Treasurer - Robert Welch (02)

Directors:

Richard Smith (00), John Gile (00), Robert Etter (01), Rena Farnsworth (01), Larry Knees (02), Ex officio: Frank Holby, Richard Richards

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

TUESDAY, February 25, 2003

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 12:00 NOON

WORLD WAR II AND RUSSIA

Dr. TED ULDRICKS, Professor of History at UNCA, will speak on **World War II and Russia**, how she met the physical hardships of the war while also pursuing her political agenda.

ROBERT WEILER will give the invocation.

DENNIS MICHELE will be the greeter.

MENU FOR TUESDAY: Spinach and Mushroom Quiche * Green Salad * Croissants
Fruit Bowl * Assorted Desserts * Coffee * Tea * Milk

IMPORTANT NOTICE

BECAUSE OF PRESIDENTS DAY ON MONDAY, THE CLUB WILL NOT MEET ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2003. N.B. THE OTHER CHANGES IN MEETING TIMES.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

WAYNE RUMBLE, Chair of the *Adopt-a-Highway* team, is calling for the quarterly clean-up of our Riceville Road site for 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 22. The meeting place is the parking lot of the Grassy Branch Baptist Church. New hands are always welcome. As there will be no *Mountain Musings* next week, this is the only announcement, so mark your calendars.

BOARD MEETINGS

The **Club** and **Foundation Boards** will meet a week later than usual this month, the former on the 24th and the latter on the 25th of February. The **Club Board** will convene at McGuffey's Restaurant at noon and the **Foundation Board** at 11:30 a.m. in the Conference Room at Trinity.

FOUNDATION CHECK

FRANK HOLBY, Club Treasurer, presented the quarterly payment of fund-raising revenues to **Foundation Board Chair AHMAD AMARA**. The total of \$2233.00, a record payout, breaks down as follows: Ingles Coupons, \$680.00; 50/50, \$267.00; *Med-a-Vend*, \$1099.00;

Groveswood Café 2 for 1 tickets, \$180.00; and Good News, \$7.00.

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

NORMA MESSER MC'd the kick-off for the 2003 membership campaign in spirited fashion. **ED TOWSON** and his trumpet were called upon for fanfares (his first effort, Taps, was called to a halt as inappropriate for an up-beat beginning). A goal of fifteen new members for the year has been set, arrived at by holding up signs that said (fanfare) one, then (fanfare) five and then (big fanfare) fifteen, a joining of the two signs. The theme **Think Civitan** was announced as the theme and inducements for bringing a prospective member to a meeting include a free lunch or dinner at the Groveswood Café. A core group will try to identify possible contacts, but every member should be involved as one-on-one approaches are most effective. **NORMA** introduced her team of core members, starting with key advisors **BILL POMEROY** and **JOHN TRAW**. Others are **TED BUSSEY, JOHN CARROLL, MARYALICE CHUTTER, JOHN DANKEL, JOHN GILE, BOB GRAY, ROGER HILL, BRITT HUDSON, GEORGE IVEY, STEWART LEWIS, STEVE PAGE, KEITH THOMSON, AND ED TOWSON**. This group will next meet on February 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Goosmann Room at Trinity.

THE STATUS OF EDUCATION IN THE CITY, STATE AND NATION

ROBERT LOGAN, Superintendent of Asheville City Schools, led the Club through a fact-filled presentation of the goals, issues and problems of public school systems today. Keeping in mind that the mission of schooling anywhere is the delivery of opportunities and the development of skills that will enable students to achieve their fullest potential, **Mr. LOGAN** made clear that this laudable goal is becoming more and more difficult in the face of budget restraints, teacher shortages and lack of parental support. Even so, North Carolina has made some remarkable strides in proficiency test results and leads the nation in gains achieved. Reading proficiency, for example, has improved from 31% to 57% just in the past couple of years. And the dropout rate is at a low 3.22%..

The big Federal push in education is a program called No Child Left Behind, and mandates 100% proficiency in math and reading in 12 years. Penalties for non-performance by schools are severe, even including school closings. Perhaps the biggest flaw in the program is the matter of low achieving and handicapped students and how they should be measured. The other problem is the achievement gap between majority and minority students. Although the gap is slowly decreasing, the latest figures show that the majority has a 95.6% reading proficiency, the minority has only a 54.5% proficiency. Unfortunately, growth is not taken into account, so if the starting standard is low, even great strides forward might not be enough to meet proficiency standards. Another complication is that the school population is broken down into various sub-groups along ethnic and economic lines, so that even very good schools overall might be labeled as needing help because of one or two sub-group failures.

According to **Mr. LOGAN**, there are about 86,000 teachers in North Carolina with 42 schools with teacher training programs. They turn out about 3,000 education majors a year, but estimates are that 10,000 new teachers are needed each year. Consequently, over half of the new teachers in the state are recruited elsewhere. Unfortunately, second-career teachers are put off by the hoops they must jump through in order to become certified, even if they are otherwise highly qualified. But the biggest problem of all is funding. The mandates by government may be well-intentioned, but they are often not accompanied with the financial means for implementation.