

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

Asheville Civitan Foundation, Inc.
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Mountain Musings



Asheville Civitan Club
Officers and Directors, 2003-2004
Officers:
President - Mason Wilson
Pres. Elect. - Dennis Michele
Secretary - Larry Liggett
Treasurer - Frank Holby

Directors:
Roger Hill, Ralph Scarritt, Richard
Guthrie, Jr., Ahmad Amara, John
Dankel, and William Pomeroy
Ex officio: Ahmad Amara,
Richard Richards

Chaplains: Charles Johnson,
Mason Wilson, Bancroft Smith

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

Mountain Musings Editor: Roger Hill
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Publisher: T. Keith Thomson



Asheville Civitan Club,
Inc.
Builders of Good Citizenship
84th 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 Board Members,
2003-2004

Officers:
President - Mark Mathews
Vice President - Wayne Rumble
Secretary - Britt Hudson
Treasurer - Robert Welch

Directors:
Larry Knees, Britt Hudson, Dennis
Michele, and Wayne Rumble
Ex officio: Frank Holby, Mason Wilson

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, OCTOBER 28, 2003

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 12:00 NOON

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

JOHN AGER is the **Executive Director** of the **James McClure Educational and Development Fund**. He is also the author of *We Plow God's Fields* and co-author of *Cabins and Castles*. His talk will focus on farmland preservation.

JOHN CARROLL will give the invocation.

JACK SHERMAN will be the greeter.

MENU FOR TUESDAY: Lasagna * Bread * Salad * Fruit Bowl
Assorted Desserts * Coffee * Tea * Milk

FOUNDATION OFFICERS

At its meeting on October 21, 2003, the **Foundation Board** elected officers for 2003-2004. They are as follows: **President, MARK MATHEWS; Vice-president, WAYNE RUMBLE; Secretary, BRITT HUDSON; and Treasurer, ROBERT WELCH.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Club Board** has voted to begin the weekly meetings at 12:15 p.m. rather than 12:30 p.m. as has been the custom. This will be put into effect starting with the first meeting in November.

TUCK GUDGER has firmed up the date for the annual Christmas party to be held at the Country Club of Asheville on December 12, 2003. So mark your calendars. Sign ups soon.

The fall District West meeting will be held in Hickory, NC on November 22. If you are interested in attending, contact **President MASON WILSON** who will be going.

The **Club** has received word of the chartering of two new **Junior Civitan Clubs**, one in West Iredell High School sponsored by the **Statesville Civitan Club**, and one in Davie High School sponsored by the **Mocksville Civitan Club**. There have been ten new clubs started in 2003.

BOARD MEETING NEWS

The **Club Board of Directors** met on September 21st following the regular meeting, presided over by newly-installed **President MASON WILSON**. A number of issues were discussed including recruitment, **Club** involvement with the District and International and, most extensively, the 2003-2004 proposed budget. **Treasurer FRANK HOLBY** projected a shortfall of about \$4500.00, mostly due to a \$12.00 yearly per member raise in dues to **Civitan International** and a \$4.00 yearly per member raise in dues to **NC District West**. Suggestions as to how to erase the deficit were put forward, all of which will be aired to the entire membership for discussion and comments. The ones voted upon to be brought to the floor were: 1. Eliminate the \$450.00 subsidy for the band at the Christmas party; 2. Send the *Mountain Musings* by e-mail to those who have e-mail addresses, using first-class postage for the hard copies that need to be sent; 3. Raise the dues by \$3.00 per quarter to \$100.00; and 4. Set up a sign-in system that will more accurately predict attendance, not only for members but also for guests.

GENERAL DONALD BENNETT DAY

RICHARD JEWETT, Brig. Gen, US Army, Ret., introduced former member **General DONALD v. BENNETT**, who returned for a visit from his new home in Denton, NC. **Gen. JEWETT** recounted his own experiences on D-Day in June, 1944 as he and about 100 officers planned transportation schedules for the invasion in a fort/castle near Salisbury, England. **General BENNETT** and his men were no doubt on one of those schedules as they waded ashore on to the horrific killing ground known as Omaha Beach. Miraculously, none of the fifteen men in his immediate party were killed or wounded, but the casualties in his entire battalion were about 48%. All told, 4000 lives were lost on D-Day there.

The D-day invasion was a new assignment for **General BENNETT** because he had been with another battalion in the North African and Sicily campaigns. He landed in Casablanca with his troops in December of 1942. Out of 800 men in his battalion, 600 had been in the army less than six months, and yet they performed like battle-hardened veterans in their first engagement. And this against the famed Afrika Korps of General Rommel. This prompted the general to comment, "There isn't anything that the American soldier cannot do with the proper leadership."

Of the many close calls of which he could have spoken, **General BENNETT** told of an attack by two German fighter planes on his quarter-ton truck as he and his driver were passing through a small Dutch village. They got out of the vehicle just in time as machine gun bullets sprayed the truck, flattening all four tires and even the spare. The rest of the body looked like Swiss cheese there were so many holes. But, next morning, with new tires and motor running, the general reviewed his troops in the self-same truck!

After his remarks, **General BENNETT** graciously spent a considerable amount of time autographing his book, *Honor Untarnished*, for those members who had brought it to the meeting. The many guests who attended and the regular members were all grateful for his and his daughter's visit so that they could pay their respects to a great American.



Gen. Bennett Speaking

General Bennett Signing

