

CONSTITUTION OF THE CIVITAN CLUB OF AUBURN, ALABAMA

(May 1, 1977 amended January 1998, December 2002, and May, 2007)

ARTICLE I. Name and Motto

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be *The Civitan Club of Auburn, Alabama* and shall operate under Charter granted by Civitan International.

Section 2. The motto of this organization shall be *Builders of Good Citizenship*.

ARTICLE II. Allegiance and Objective

Section 1 Civitan International was founded during a period of great stress. It came into being primarily for the purpose of establishing Good Citizenship and the perpetuation of those qualities that the exigencies of war brought forth from the hearts and minds of men and women. Civitans are distinctive types of citizens; they desire to develop in themselves, in their associates, and in their community, a strong civic pride and conscience. They are mindful of the value of a broad vision and of a united constructive effort in making their community and their country a better place in which to live.

Section 2. The members of this club shall meet together regularly in an atmosphere of normal fellowship, for the purpose of acquiring a broader knowledge of public affairs and community needs. And through instruction, discussion and study, to become better prepared to provide leadership and cooperative effort in the solving of civic problems.

Section 3. The objectives of this organization are primarily the building of *Good Citizenship and the Promotion of International Good Will*. Additional objectives will be those determined by Civitan International or those worthy local objectives selected by the Club to meet the particular needs of this community, and which are not contrary to the governance documents of Civitan International or policies of the Alabama Central District.

Section 4. The foundation of this club is service, knowledge, and fellowship. Members are encouraged to participate in club projects and activities that support the three-fold foundation.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. Kinds of membership: (1) Active (2) Life (3) Project / Support (4) Honorary

Section 2. Qualifications. Any person eighteen years of age or older, of good character and reputation who wishes to further the goals of Civitan is eligible for membership. Membership will continue until forfeited or resigned.

Section 3. Description of Memberships

Active: Any person possessing the qualifications of membership may be elected to active membership. Active members shall pay membership and meal dues as set by the Club membership. Active members vote, may hold elective office, and hold a financial interest in club funds or property.

Life – Life membership may be conferred upon a member of the Club for distinguished service to Civitan by an affirmative vote of 75% of the members of the Club. A life member shall have all the rights and privileges of an active member but shall not be required to pay dues. Meals will be billed to life members when they attend a meal meeting. The Club shall, thereafter, pay International, District, and Club dues on behalf of such member.

Project/Support: Project / Support membership may be conferred on an individual who wants to participate in local club projects and activities or give support in other ways, but is unable to regularly attend club meetings. These members will be included on the club, district, and International roster with annual membership dues billed at the same rate as those established for active club members. Meals will be billed to these members when they attend a meal meeting. These members do not vote, hold office or have financial interest in club funds or property.

Honorary: Honorary membership may be conferred upon an individual that has distinguished them self in some unusual or praiseworthy manner. Selection shall require the unanimous vote of the Club membership in attendance, provided such person's name has been proposed for honorary membership at a previous regular meeting. Honorary members may attend club meetings, but they do not pay dues. Meals will be billed to honorary members when attending a meal meeting. They do not vote, hold elective office nor hold any financial interest in any Club funds or property.

ARTICLE IV. Duration of Membership

Section 1. Period

- (a) Active membership shall endure for life unless terminated by the member or the board as provided.
- (b) Life membership is for life.
- (c) Honorary membership is a one year appointment..
- (d) Project / Support membership shall endure unless terminated by the member or the board as provided.

Section 2. Termination for Misconduct. The membership of any member who fails to conduct them self or their activities in accordance with the principles and ethics of Civitan, or who ceases to have the stated qualifications for membership in Civitan, may be terminated by the following process. At least ten days notice in writing of such pending termination or other disciplinary action shall be given. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted if requested in writing. Said member may be represented by counsel at the Club hearing. It shall require a vote of two-thirds of the majority at the hearing with at least 60% of the Club's active membership present to expel a member. The vote will be final.

Section 3. Termination for Nonpayment of dues. Any member who refuses or neglects to pay any indebtedness due the Club within a period of 60 days shall be automatically

suspended. If such default is not paid within thirty days thereafter, such member may be automatically removed from membership unless the Board of Directors takes contrary action. Such former members, at the discretion of the Board, may be reinstated to membership upon the payment of all his or her indebtedness to the Club, and upon such conditions and requirements as may be set by the Club. For hardship cases a vote of two-thirds majority of the membership may waive this condition of reinstatement.

Section 4. Termination for Absences. If an active member is absent for four consecutive meetings of the Club without a valid excuse such as absence from the city, work schedule, illness of the member or immediate family his or her membership will automatically be suspended, unless the Board of Directors for good and sufficient reason excuses the absence. After thirty days, suspension may be made permanent by a majority vote of the Club.

Section 5. Resignation. Members who desire to resign should do so in writing and deliver the resignation to the President or Secretary. The resignation shall become effective immediately upon its acceptance by the Board of Directors provided all indebtedness of the member to the Club has been paid.

Section 6. Forfeiture of Interest in Club Property. Any member's connection with the Club shall be severed by resignation, death, or expulsion. Once such connection is severed the individual shall forfeit any interest in property belonging to the Club.

Article V. Territorial Limits

Section 1. The territorial limits of this organization will be confined to Auburn, Alabama, and environs, limited to such areas as defined by this District of Civitan. These limits shall not be changed at any time so as to conflict with the limits assigned to this Club by Civitan International or by the Alabama Central District of Civitan International.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. This Club shall meet normally once each week, and at no time less than twice a month, as provided by the By-Laws.

Section 2. The annual meeting of this Club shall be held in the month of September as provided in the By-Laws and at or before such meeting the election of officers and directors shall have taken place.

Article VII. Initiation Fees

Section 1. Each Active and Project / Support member of this Club shall pay an initiation fee and annual dues as prescribed by the Club By-Laws.

Article VIII. Officers and Directors

Section 1. The governing body of this club shall be a Board of Directors, consisting of not less than eight or more than eleven members. All officers shall be members of the Board of Directors. The immediate past President shall be ex-officio member of the

Board of Directors.

Section 2. The decision of the Board of Directors in all Club matters shall be subject to an appeal by the Club. The Board shall have general control over all officers and committees and may, for good cause, recommend to the Club to vote and declare any office vacant.

Section 3. The officers of this Club shall be a President, a President-elect, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer (or secretary-treasurer combined), a Sergeant-at-arms, three Directors, a Chaplain, an Historian and other officers as may be desired. The Chaplain and the Historian are appointed, non-voting offices. They should be appointed by the President-elect before the annual meeting.

Section 4. Officers are elected at or before the annual meeting of the Club in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. They shall take office at the first regular meeting in October following their election and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and have qualified.

Article IX. Politics, Religion, Race or Gender.

Section 1. This Club shall not be used in any way for political purposes nor shall it, as a club, actively participate in the political candidacy of any person.

Section 2. The merits of any public question may be fairly and intelligently studied and discussed, but the Club shall not take any action endorsing or condemning any measure that is to be submitted to a vote of the people.

Section 3. Civitan International recognizes no religious, political, racial or gender lines and neither does this Club.

Article X. By-Laws

Section 1. The By-Laws of this Club shall be consistent with this Constitution and the governance policies of Civitan International and policies of the Alabama Central District. The By-Laws may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Club by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

Article XI. Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members of this Club present and voting at the time such proposed amendment or amendments are submitted, provided no proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be acted upon at any meeting unless the Secretary of the Club has mailed to each member of the Club a copy of such proposed amendment to be voted upon. Any such amendment to this Constitution shall be consistent with the governance policies of Civitan International.