



CIVITAN CLUB *of* SALISBURY

~ Club #80, Founded August 15, 1922 ~

Now more than 104 years strong!



In the first

100+
YEARS

our club...

- Elected 107 Club Presidents (none served more than 1 year)
- Provided approximately 5,000 Weekly Programs
- Edited, printed and distributed 75 years of weekly COMMENT newsletters
- Elected TWO members to Civitan International President
- Elected THREE members to Civitan Region III Director
- Elected NINE members to Civitan NC District West Governor
- Represented our club with local & state leadership roles
- Provided a significant influence for good in our community with projects, charitable fundraising and scholarships
- Recruited club members from every part of the community
- Grew our Salisbury club to one of the largest in the nation.. and the world!



We've provided leadership....

Our club's members have represented us well at the District, Regional and International levels of Civitan! To name just a few...

PAST CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS:

M. M. "Chub" Richards	1974-75
John Sofley (current)	2025-26

PAST CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL REGION III DIRECTORS:

C. Wayne Mullis	2009-11
John Sofley	2021-23
Chuck Bowman (current)	2025-26

PAST CIVITAN NC WEST DISTRICT GOVERNORS:

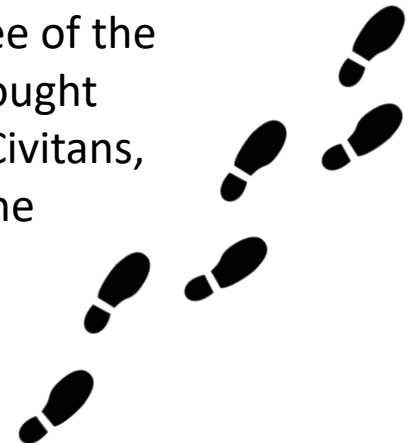
Donald Dearborn	1947-48
M.M. "Chub" Richards	1964-65
Milton Faust	1967-68
Curtis Montgomery	1975-76
C. Wayne Mullis	1999-2000
Frank Goodnight	2010-11
Dr. Mark Beymer	2015-16
John Sofley	2019-20
Mark Curran	2021-22





Milestones Along The Way...

- **Worked to improve the quality of life for Salisbury's citizens...** The first public advocacy issue chosen by the club was "trash pickup and keeping city streets clean." The club's first LARGE fundraising project was the construction of a public "Civitan Park" downtown at the southwest end of the Chestnut Hill Cemetery (unfortunately it no longer exists).
- **Led efforts to improve City Services ...** We were among the first of several civic organizations in the City to advocate for a **City Manager position** to replace the "strong Mayor" form of government. Less than five years later Salisbury became one of the first Council Manager cities in the state of North Carolina
- **Played a significant part in Rowan County public events** ...Three of the five "Rowan County Bicentennial Committee" members who brought newly elected **President Eisenhower** to Salisbury in 1953 were Civitans, and the Celebration's Chairman was John H. McKenzie, one of the Club's founding members.





Our members have come from every corner of our community!

- Salisbury Civitan members have included college presidents and professors, church ministers, nonprofit leaders, city council members, county commissioners, board of education members, local business entrepreneurs and professionals, a Postmaster, contractors, bankers, teachers, professors, veterans, retailers, office staff, sales people, lawyers, doctors, nurses, coaches, railroad engineers, state and local representatives, homemakers, retirees and others from all walks of life. (Even a magician or two!)
- Eight of our members have served terms as Mayor of Salisbury: **Charles F. Raney, Clifford Peeler, D.C. Dungan, John H. Isenhour, S. Holmes Plexico, E. Linwood Foil, Louis J. Harrison and Tamara Sheffield (current).**
- Three of the five currently serving Rowan County Commissioners are members of the Civitan Club of Salisbury: **Greg Edds (Chair), Jim Greene and Judy Klusman.**





What happened in 1922?

- World War I, first called “the Great War,” ended on “The 11th hour of the 11th day,” November 11, 1918.
- Factories, once busy with wartime production, now began to see reduced demand for goods, which led to unemployment and poverty.
- The economic boom brought about by the war quickly faded after the war in Salisbury and elsewhere.
- A short recession began in 1918-19, followed by a worse one in 1920-21.
- American veterans who came home as heroes found that there weren’t a lot of job opportunities waiting for them when they returned.
- It became clear that many civic and government functions had become neglected during the war and in their absence.





Salisbury's sons return

- In Salisbury and across the nation, communities welcomed their returning sons home from what was then called "the Great War."
- Many of the more prominent families in Salisbury socialized together, and consequently their young sons and daughters did as well.
- Parents in Salisbury often organized social activities for their young adult sons and daughters, such as formal parties and dances, with attendance by invitation only. There were several such groups in Salisbury; another became the Kiwanis at around the same time.
- The exceptionally strong friendships formed by the young people in these social groups was not unlike extended families.
- Many of these young men were veterans, and they came home from war with a new sense of duty to home, country and community.
- Some of these groups chose to channel their efforts into charitable activities as well, as it was considered a responsibility of higher society to provide for the poor, the less fortunate and the community at large.



The veterans found that they were needed....

- The particular group that eventually became the Salisbury Civitans included lawyers, store owners, business owners, sons of local businessmen, bookkeepers, mechanics and tradesmen.
- Article in Salisbury Evening Post: Civitans included “some of the most popular young people in Salisbury”... many were no older than 25 years old!
- While many of the young men were busy dating and courting local young women, they also recognized that Salisbury faced significant community challenges and problems, such as “street cleaning” and trash collection.
- Many of them hoped that the country would be “healed” after they returned from the Great War, but instead things seemed to be worse than when they left home.
- They recognized that more needed to be done about poverty, unemployment, education, recreation, city services and even politics.
- AND they recognized that they could do more by working together than they could individually.



The Salisbury club begins...

- Local lawyer **Charles Lee Coggin**, age 32, invites about 25 of his friends to join him for a formal luncheon at the swank Yadkin Hotel in downtown Salisbury to discuss the problems of their community and what can be done to alleviate them.
- According to an article in the Salisbury Evening Post, he gives an “impassioned speech” inviting those present to consider creating a Civitan Club like one that friends of his had just formed in Charlotte.
- Convinced, those present agree to seek a charter and the Thursday, July 6, 1922 meeting becomes the first official meeting of the new **Civitan Club of Salisbury**.
- The group elects the first Club President, **William Edward Hennessee**, a popular young local lawyer and returning World War I veteran who had married the former Elizabeth Heilig less than a year before. She is described in the paper as “one of Salisbury’s most charming young women.”
- The former mayor of Winston-Salem – also a Civitan – presents the new club with its Charter on August 15, 1922 in a ceremony with 27 new members and around 50 Civitans visiting from around the state, many from the Charlotte sponsor club.



Charles L. Coggin, circa 1916



The 27 Charter Members of the Civitan Club of Salisbury August 15, 1922

William George Alexander, Sr.

Oliver Jay Gould Barnett

Bryce Parker Beard, Sr.

Hayne Stirling Blackmer

Alfred Benjamin Brady, Sr.

Byron Oldham Clark

Charles Lee Coggin

Thomas Alexander Foreman

Paul Arthur Heilig

William Edward Hennessee

Ewart William Gladstone Huffman

Bishop Curtis Leonard, Sr.

Charles Everett Malone

Gilmer Martin

Samuel Hayes "Sam" McCubbins

James Hampton McKenzie, Jr.

Benjamin Talmadge Mitchell

William Swebston Overton, Jr.

George Calvin Peeler

Irvine Manning Richardson

Cecil Rogers (Royer?)

John Alexander Seaber, Jr.

Dr. Irving Everett Shafer

James Edward Sifford

C.E. Woodall

Robert Overby Yancey

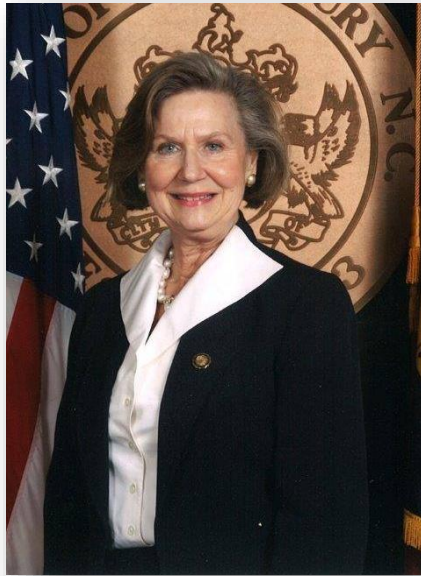
Frederic Houston "Fred" Young

FACT: The Civitan Club of Salisbury was the 80th Club formed in the world.



FIRST CENTENNIAL EVENT: CIVITAN CENTENNIAL MONTH

Presentations of Proclamations at the July Meeting by
The Salisbury City Council and the Rowan County Commissioners



Karen Alexander
Mayor of City of Salisbury



Greg Edds
Chair, Rowan County Commission

The City Mayor and the Chair of the County Commission presented
their respective Proclamations at the Club's Business Meeting
at the Country Club of Salisbury on Thursday, July 28, 2022 and both attended
our citywide celebration event at the Salisbury Civic Center on August 11th.



SECOND CENTENNIAL EVENT (Part I): Citywide Celebration Luncheon



- On Thursday, August 11, 2022 we hosted a plate-served Centennial Luncheon at the Salisbury Civic Center for approximately 200 people
- Invitees included Civitan International leaders, NCDW Civitan Club leaders, City Council, County Commissioners, and other local leaders
- Speeches of greetings from various Civitan leaders included a recorded video greeting from Civitan International President Dan Brown.
- Mayor Alexander and County Commissioners Greg Edds and Jim Greene, both Civitans, addressed the guests.



SECOND CENTENNIAL EVENT (Part II):

Laying of a Wreath at Grave of 1st Club President & Grave Marker Flags at 9 Member graves

- After the luncheon concluded, the Rowan Tourist Trolley took guests to Chestnut Hill Cemetery
- We held a short outdoor ceremony recognizing the contributions of the twenty-seven original members of the Civitan Club of Salisbury and planted memorial flags on each of their graves.
- Club member and NC West Governor Mark Curran gave the memorial address.
- The Tourist Trolleys took guests back to the Civic Center.



CIVITAN CLUB OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARTER MEMBER ~ AUGUST 15, 1922



CLUB CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1922 ~ 2022



Third Centennial Event:

The 2022 Awards and
Installation Banquet
September 29, 2022



The 2022 One Hundredth Anniversary Awards and Installation Banquet in late September was a VERY special event! (Marny even wore a tie!) We had a professional photographer take a picture of all of the Club members present at the Banquet for posterity.



Civitan Club of Salisbury

Centennial Celebration Committee

Chairs: Diane Goodnight and Linda Jones

Chuck Bowman (Fundraiser Event)

Bill Bucher (Cemetery Event & History)

Beth Cook (Luncheon Event & Volunteers)

Mark Curran (Memorial Address at Chestnut Hill)

Patty Lefevers (Luncheon Event & Volunteers)

Mark Lewis (Budget)

Wayne Mullis (Transportation & Volunteers)

Pete Prunkl (Cemetery Event & History)

Rexx Rexrode (Volunteers)

Jane Smith-Steinberg (Luncheon Event & Volunteers)

Lee Wagoner (Luncheon Event & Volunteers)



Your Civitan Club of Salisbury...

One of the largest and most successful Civitan clubs in the nation... and the world!