



The Civic Courier

The Women's Civic Club
of Panama City Beach,
Inc.

Volume XIII- Issue 7
March 2024



From the President's Desk

Nancy Stovall

Dear Members:

Flexibility - willingness to change or compromise. Recently one of our members reminded me how we learned to be flexible during the pandemic in order to accomplish our mission. She also added how this year's Panama City Beach weather has been, and how we have been willing to "stand in the rain and the cold" to raise money for our community (New Years Eve, PCB Marathon, Mardi Gras, Food Truck Festival). What a testament to the determination and commitment of the members of our club.

During our new member installation, it is shared that each person is unique but when we become part of a group, we are unequalled in strength and commitment. Being aware of differences allows each of us to appreciate and respect those differences for better communications and teamwork. February was a very busy month and my sincere "thank you" for your leadership, your commitment and your support to each other which resulted in a successful Dance and Silent Auction, a new opportunity for the club to support the Food Truck Festival, and community outreach activities of bagging food with Backpack Blessings, sharing in "Red Hat Tea Parties" and making jewelry at Girls, Inc.

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." Margaret Mead

Nancy

"February Luncheon with Corporal Amy Burnette"



We were honored to host a thought-provoking luncheon February 1, where we gathered at The Wharf to raise awareness about two pressing issues: human trafficking and domestic violence. Corporal Amy Burnette with criminal division of the Bay County Sheriff's office shared valuable insights and firsthand experiences, shedding light on these critical topics.

Throughout Cpl. Burnette's presentation, she provided a detailed depiction of the challenges victims encounter, citing local and nearby instances that truly opened our eyes to the issues. One of the most impactful moments of the luncheon was when Cpl. Burnette shared personal stories of resilience and hope from survivors. These stories not only underscored the strength of the human spirit but also emphasized the urgent need for support and resources to empower survivors on their journey to healing and recovery. Cpl. Burnette says that it is important for the community to learn the signs of domestic and dating violence. "Domestic violence awareness is very key, because it happens behind closed doors," Characteristics you can look for include abuser isolating the victim from their friends and family, cutting off communication and other controlling behaviors. "It is important to look for signs of domestic violence, so you can potentially help somebody get out of that situation, and you yourself could actually help stop a homicide." We also learned that human traffickers often target people who are going through a challenging time or who lack a strong support system.

Cpl. Burnette has a lot of great mentors in her life including her great grandmother, Monica Henderson. Mrs. Henderson was a number one welder in WWII at the local shipyard when it was in downtown Panama City. She did this job and took care of a household, so that gives us an idea of where Cpl. Burnette might get some of her grit.

On Cpl. Burnette's Facebook page, there is a message to women considering going into law enforcement. She says "they need to be the boss of themselves. Love themselves, love God, and love family. "Know they are a force to be reckoned with, and know they are nothing but the best." Great advice from a great and brave woman who has "been there and done that."

As we consider the knowledge acquired, I encourage us to learn the signs of domestic violence and human trafficking and rekindle our commitment to fostering a safer community and actively work towards ending these violent crimes.

THANK YOU: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members who joined us and participated in our February luncheon at The Wharf. A special thank you to all who contributed to making our luncheon a great experience.

MARCH LUNCHEON: Can't wait to see y'all at the March 7th luncheon at Captain Jack's Family Buffet, located at 8208 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, FL. Our March luncheon will feature Catherine Glover, the Executive Director of Girls, Inc., as our guest speaker. Joining her will be Brittany Pace, the Donor Relations Manager and Program Specialist for Girls, Inc. We eagerly await their presentation and look forward to welcoming them.

Lunches and Programs
Jane Fillingim, Chair

"New Member Installation"



Cheri Leistner (sponsor)

Michelle Coombs

Rhonda (Pace) Blankenship

Sharon Williams (sponsor)

Sharon Mayberry

Pam Sanders

Monica Thomas (sponsor)

"Welcome New Members"

I was raised in South Carolina and went to nursing school at the University of Southern Mississippi. I lived in Mississippi and Florida for the last 30 years. I worked as a registered nurse for over 30 years. I was a staff nurse and did travel nursing the last six years. I worked staff in Sacramento, California before I retired in 2016. I enjoy traveling and volunteering. Also, I just remarried on February 24, 2024.



Rhonda (Pace) Blankenship



Michelle Coombs

My name is Michelle Coombs. Originally from northern Ohio, we have lived across the state, as well as Indiana, New Jersey, Massachusetts and California.

I started my career in Human Resources - back when it was still called personnel. In fact that is how I met my husband Kris, to whom I've been married 28 years. I was lucky enough to step away from my career while my sons (James and Jonathon) were young. When they got older, I went back to school (MBA from Notre Dame), starting a second career in Marketing. Since graduating 15 years ago, I have specialized in pharmaceutical and biotech marketing. In this industry, I have helped bring to market drugs for weight loss, Cancer, Hemophilia B to diagnostics technology for COVID and liquid biopsy.

Being from Ohio, we always joked that Ohio people retire to Florida and when COVID hit, we took the opportunity to purchase our forever home here in Panama City Beach. I run my own Marketing Consulting firm from here and love the ability to go walk on the beach and listen to the waves. I also enjoy doing water aerobics, crocheting, cooking and reading. I found WCC-PCB when I was looking for opportunities to give back to the community and I am excited to help make our community even better.

Sharon is a Native of Massachusetts and has been a resident of Florida for 30 years. She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University with a degree in Human Resource Management. Her working career includes 20 years at Florida Power & Light where she developed software applications and trained FPL staff statewide in information technology. She has also held management positions at AutoNation and WCI Luxury Condominium Developers and other smaller companies.



Sharon Mayberry

Sharon devotes a portion of her spare time to her church's charity programs including, 'Feeding the Flock', 'Sheltering Abused Women & Children', and pregnancy advocacy center. She also served on the 'Friends of the Library' group helping to raise money and develop programs for library users. She has also served as the volunteer treasurer for several churches and HOAs.

She enjoys playing pickleball, tennis, woodturning, swimming at the beach, playing with her nieces and nephews, and traveling with her husband.



Pam Sander

Lived in Louisville, KY until the age of 22. Moved to TX spending 13 years in Allen, TX, a suburb of Dallas, TX and 26 years in Cypress, TX a suburb of Houston.

I have two adult children and one grandson still living in the Houston area.

Worked in IT starting as a programmer and evolved into an IT Project Manager working mostly for Halliburton for 30 years.

Moved to Panama City Beach, June 2023. I love this small town atmosphere.

My entire adult life, I've participated with so many volunteer organizations. We were meant to be on this planet to do our part to help those in need. Currently I volunteer with the West Bay elementary school mentoring first grade scholars and encouraging teachers and staff.

I look forward to working with everyone in the WCC.

"Congratulations Women's Civic Club!"

On February 29, The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach was presented a \$5,000 check from the Latitude at Watersound Foundation, in recognition of the positive impact our club is having on our community! Thank you to Monica Thomas (a resident of Margaritaville) for bringing the opportunity to the board and to Cheri Leistner, and those who supported her, for completing the grant application along with the digital package highlighting our club, its mission, activities and community involvement. A special thanks to the residents of Latitude Margaritaville who believe in our mission and voted for us. And thank you to the many club members who were able to attend the event.



Amanda Schaekel-Latitudes General Manager, Monica Thomas, Cheri Leistner, Jessica Schreckengost-Ambassador of Fun

"Fulfilling Our Mission of Improving Life in Panama City Beach Community"

Raising Funds

Spring Fling Juried Arts and Crafts Show and Sale!



Jewelry, Tasty Treats, Home Decor and More awaits you at our annual Spring Fling on March 2, 2024 from 9-3 at Frank Brown Park. Our 37 vendors are all artisans with handcrafted items for sale! Looking for a unique gift for you or someone else, come on out and shop! Gather your friends and family and enjoy perusing the show and having lunch in our cafe! Please help spread the word! Just a sampling of some items that will be available.

Julie Sanders, Chairman

Fashion Show

Looking for the latest styles and accessories to update your Spring wardrobe? That is exactly what you will see at our Women's Civic Club Fashion Show, April 4, at Harpoon Harry's. This is one of our most looked forward to member events which will take place during our monthly luncheon meeting scheduled at 11:00 a.m.

Our very own Club members will be modeling the newest Chico's and Soma line of spring wear, summer wear, sleep wear, casual wear and accessories to include jewelry, scarves, ruana wraps and much more. Debra Glass, Master of Ceremonies from Chico's Boutique, will showcase each outfit the models will be wearing. WCC Fashion Show committee members who are not modeling, will be assisting in the dressing room and mingling throughout the event to answer any questions you may have and make sure you are comfortable with your viewing of the show.

All WCC members are encouraged to wear something Chico's from your closet, accessories or jewelry box. Invite your choice of guests to support Chico's and include them with your RSVP to the monthly meeting luncheon.

Bobbi Griggs, Fashion Show Chair

Dance and Silent Auction

Darlene and I want to express our immense gratitude for the support from everyone who contributed to the success of this year's "Oh What A Night" Dance and Auction, Caring and Sharing fundraising event!

To our members who attended as guests, sponsored tables, offered a helping hand, and contributed through monetary and material donations, we are truly thankful. Your generosity and dedication have been crucial in achieving over and beyond our goals.

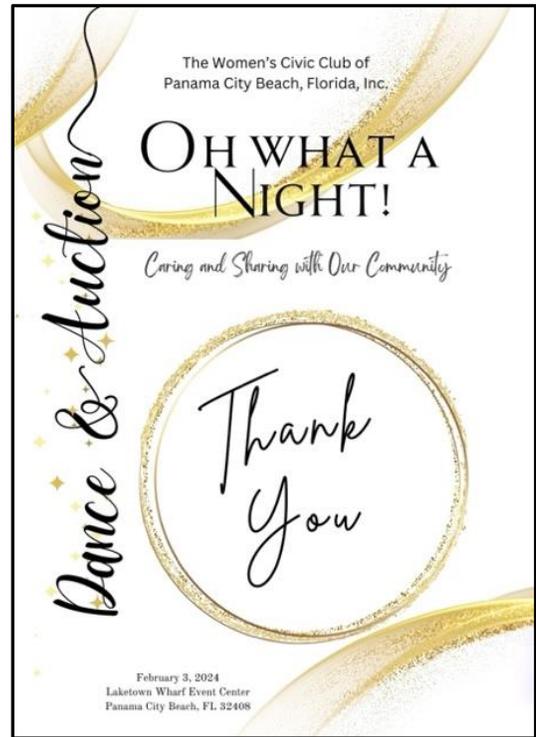
Words aren't adequate enough to thank the Auction Committee, lead by Tammy Haight and Kelly Bertin, for a job of excellence! We have been impacted by your teamwork and dedication.

To each participant, the results that flow from your efforts will make a difference in our community and we want to thank you for your unwavering commitment to our shared objectives.

On behalf of our entire Dance Committee team, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! You are the best!

Jane Fillingim, Dance Chair and Darlene Dial, Dance Co-Chair





Special Beach Events

Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival of PCB



Dena Roewe, Sue Jiles, Michelle Coombs, Nicholson, Barry Roewe,
Deb Kesinger, Kim Escalle, Cheri Leistner, Brenda Bryson



Sue Jiles, Cheri Leistner, Gail Claffey, Denise Rentz, Michelle
Coombs, Patty Rocco, Nancy Stovall, Sharon Williams

The Special Beach Events Committee was offered an unexpected opportunity to work at the Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival of PCB! This was a wonderful opportunity to earn additional funds for our charities and support organizations. We survived the cold, rain and wind of the weekend, and apparently impressed the organizers of this festival.

Per the Operation Manager of the Food Truck Festivals of America, we "were soooo amazing"! They are also 100% sure that they want to work with us next year!

So many many thanks for everyone's hard work, smiles and can do attitudes that made this festival a success and made such a good impression on a new fundraising partner for the WCC of PCB !

Cheri Leistner and Sue Jiles, Special Beach Events Chairs

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach



Patty Rocco



**Sharon McDonald, Denise Rentz, Dawn Wise,
Nancy Stovall**



Lisa Nicholson

The WCC was well represented at Backpack Blessings on February 8th, with at least 14 members participating in packing weekend meals for children in need. The next packing event will be held on March 14th at 8:30a.m. Please join us! It is easy to do, and only takes approximately one hour to complete. Each bag packed contains 7 meals and snacks. As a bonus, following the packing we usually have a group enjoying breakfast together. Please contact Dena Roewe (214-794-8843 or denaroewe@att.net) if you would like more information or to sign-up. Or, just show up to the Hospitality Depot, 158 Griffin Blvd. at 8:30 a.m. (but would appreciate it if you would let Dena know you are coming).



Gail Claffey enjoys tea with a Charter Resident



Carol Adams enjoying Charter Residents dancing

The next Red Hat Tea party will be held on March 18th at 2:30p.m. at Charter Senior Living. If you are interested in being a part of this fun and rewarding monthly event, please contact Denise Rentz (deniserentz1@gmail.com) or Dawn Wise (dwise1945@yahoo.com). We are grateful for Denise and Dawn coordinating these events. Bring your red hat!



Becky Farmer, Sharon McDonald, Susan Major, Denise Rentz

Members of the Community Outreach Committee held a craft class at Girls, Inc. on January 31st. The young ladies enjoyed learning to make DiamondArt earrings. Special thanks to the Co-Chairs Sharon McDonald and Becky Farmer for organizing and leading this event. Also, thanks to Susan Major, Denise Rentz, and Dena Roewe for assisting. Planning is underway for another worthwhile event at Girls, Inc.

Items to be collected for Girls, Inc at the March Luncheon

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Card Stock | Stackable Clear Bins with Lids | Sidewalk Chalk | Clear Glue |
| White Elmer's Glue | Glue Gun with Sticks | Jumping Ropes | Yarn |
| Stapler | Multicolor Polymer Bead | Felt | Scissors |
| Colored Pencils | Scented Crayola Marker | Glitter Pens | Paint Pens |
| Hole Punch | Scotch or Washi Tape | Construction Paper | |

Food Pantry



Beth Reedy, Gloria Turner



On February 19th, Gloria Turner partnered with Beth Reedy, Gulf Beach Food Pantry Coordinator, to provide information for the Winter Residents regarding locations to donate any unused/unopened items.

Library

At the April business luncheon, we will be collecting for the Panama City Beach Library.

"In Our Thoughts and Prayers"



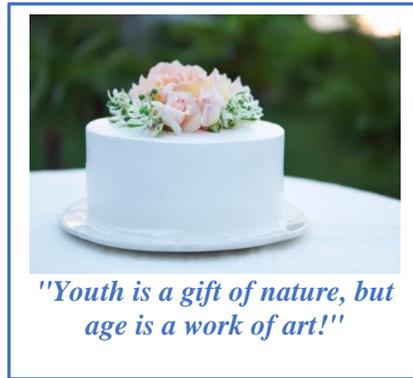
Please remember Arlene Geneva and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Arlene's husband of 49 years, "Lou" passed away on February 5, 2024.

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

March

- 05 Rhonda (Pace) Blankenship
- 06 Eadie Lloyd
- 11 Alice Jacobs
- 18 Kim Escalle
- 30 Carolyn Clark
- 30 Donna McElroy



" In Appreciation "

Roberta Bernhardt presenting the Women's Civic Club donation to Beach Care Services



**Lindsey Pickenpugh with Beach Care Services
Roberta Bernhardt
Earl, Beach Care Services Volunteer**

"Upcoming Events"

- March 2 Spring Fling Arts & Craft Show at Frank Brown Park, 9AM-3PM
- March 7 General Meeting and Luncheon at Captain Jack's Buffet, 8208 Thomas Drive, 11AM
- March 14 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- March 18 Red Hat Party at Charter Senior Living, 6012 Magnolia Beach Rd, 2:30PM
- March 28 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- April 4 Fashion Show and Luncheon at Harpoon Harry's, 12627 Front Beach Road, 11AM
- April 6 UNwineD, Aaron Bessant Park
- April 18 New Member Orientation at Gulfview United Methodist Church, 245 Wisteria Lane

"The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Inc"

Contact Information

Mail: P.O. Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32417
Email: womenscivicclub@aol.com
Web: wccpcb.org
Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL
Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach
Hashtag: #wccpcb

This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort

Coordinator: Nancy Stovall 256-527-0195 nlstovall@gmail.com

Contributors: Roberta Bernhardt
Michelle Coombs
Jane Fillingim
Bobbi Griggs
Tammy Haight
Cheri Leistner
Sharon Mayberry
Rhonda Pace
Dena Roewe
Pam Sanders
Julie Sanders
Gloria Turner

Support Staff: Arlene Klaas Cheri Leistner