



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XII- Issue 7
March 2023



From the President's Desk

Diane Vitale

Dear Members:

My quote this month comes from Dr Joyce Brothers "Listening, not imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery". I know many of you practice this (listening) while working at various club events and within committee activities. I attend a lot of committee meetings with the intention of observing and sometimes contributing when warranted. Many chairs and co-chairs invite input from their members and then utilize those ideas accordingly. When members are being listened to, they feel valued and contribute to the success of their various committees and club events. Listening is an invaluable approach to just about any situation. As we know, being heard is part of the communication process. It can determine many situational outcomes. If the input we provide is not attended to, one may get discouraged and refrain from future involvement which can then lead to disinterest, discouragement and ultimately membership termination.

Starting on page 19 in our yearbook under Description of Committees, it is very clear that committee members work together to accomplish the goals of each committee. Chairs and co-chairs delegate and suggest various tasks as appropriate after recognizing the talents of each individual member.

My intention here is to encourage. I have a deep conviction that all of us have many talents that are ours alone to offer the world. It would be truly sad for any of us to fail in uncovering those hidden gems.

Respectfully, Diane

"Foundations of the Club"

The March edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Cheri Leistner and focusing on one of our charities, Panama City Beach Public Library.

Splash Park Donation Presentation



**Diane Vitale, Cheri Leistner,
Councilman Paul Casto**



Cheri Leistner

Cheri Leistner knows the meaning of hard work. Her extensive work history for 25 years with YUM! Brands in the Tax Department with responsibility for filing their Federal and State Income Tax Returns, transfers her professional skills to the Women's Civic Club as not only the President, Secretary, but twice as Treasurer. She is passionate about the club and its history and accomplishments. She enjoys working with committees and says that it is "fun learning about all people."

She is having fun Co-Chairing the Special Events Committee. She is "having a blast" and "enjoys meeting visitors while representing the club. She loves telling people that this club is "a working club." I remember her telling me (Laura Laspee) when she talked to me about joining a few years ago, "We work hard but have fun doing it."

Cheri comes to Panama City Beach by way of Louisville, Kentucky. She and her family moved here in 2009. She and her husband have been married for 36 ½ years and have two sons. They were looking for places to retire and vacationed in Destin. While traveling around the area, they made their way to Panama City Beach and knew at that moment that this was the place where they wanted to be. Cheri says, "PCB is a tourist town with that hometown community feeling."

Cheri is the very definition of hard work but having fun while doing it.

Panama City Beach Public Library

A public library for Panama City Beach was the goal of many civic minded volunteers and hardworking city officials. The first official meeting of the Advisory Board of the Panama City Beach Public Library took place on October 3, 1978.

On October 20, 1978, Peggy McCabe announced the City of Panama City Beach had designated a parcel of city land at the corner of Firenzo and Highway 79 as the library site. As the library continued to add to its collections and services, by 2008 it was recognized that a new, larger building was needed. Panama City Beach Mayor Gayle Oberst submitted a grant to the state for construction money which was approved. A library committee was formed to help raise money for furnishings and construction.

The new facility was completed in April 2010 and the old library was closed in May and relocated to Panama City Beach's New Library at 12500 Hutchison Blvd. The move was made by library staff, volunteers, and city Road and Street Department personnel. The new library opened for business on June 1, 2010.

The library's mission is to provide a safe and comfortable space where all visitors can find the books they want to read, access current technology, and locate the resources and assistance needed to support lifelong learning and recreational goals.

The library has so many things you can check out. Along with books there are DVD's, audiobooks, ukuleles, dulcimers, telescopes, cake pans, puzzles and more!

The Women's Civic Club supports the Panama City Beach Public Library with an annual donation which is used for growing our collection of items in the Children's, Young Adult, and Adult sections of the library.

In April the club will be collecting items which will be used for the Children's programs to include Book Babies, Sail into School, and our always popular Summer Reading. This year's Summer's Reading theme is Kindness/Friendship/Unity. The library team hope you'll stop by to see how your generous donations are put to good use at the library.

The full history of the library can be found on the website nwrls.com at location, PCB, history.

"Members and Guests Enjoy the February Luncheon"

In a "sea of red " and in honor of Health Heart Month, our club members and guests listened to Dr. Ajay Mhatre of the Cardiovascular Institute of NW Florida share the importance of cardiovascular health. Although there are risks such as age, gender and family history which are out of our control we can focus on blood pressure and cholesterol control, a healthy diet and weight control, regular exercise, alcohol limits, no smoking, and stress management.

WJHG TV filmed Dr. Mhatre as he spoke to the members and guests regarding Heart Health for women along with a separate interview with Dr. Mhatre. WJHG aired the feature on February 11th kicking off Heart Health Awareness Month. To view the feature, go to wjhg.com and search Women's Civic Club.



Members and Guest in Rapt Attention



Dr. Ajay Mhatre

Five of our yearly donation recipients who were unable to attend the Christmas luncheon to accept their checks were able to join us at the February luncheon; Co-Director Liz Bennett for the Ark, Anchorage Children Home Program Administrator Rebecca Most for McElvey House, Arnold High School Principle Britt Smith for the Arnold High School Culinary Program, and the Arnold High School Hospitality Program, Boys and Girls Club Bay County CEO Hank Hill and Frank Brown Park Unit Director Latina Reed for the Boys and Girls Club.



Liz Bennett



Rebecca Most



Britt Smith



Hank Hill, Latina Reed

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

Raising Funds

Spring Fling Juried Arts and Crafts Show and Sale

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, March 4, 2023!** We will need volunteers and shoppers for our annual Spring Fling held at Frank Brown Park from 9-3. We currently have 37 vendors and have space for just a few more! Lots of new items and a big variety! Please refer any vendors to our website wccpcb.org to the events tab, where they can download an application or contact Julie Sanders for information on becoming a vendor!



Beach Boogie Dance and Silent Auction

Oh What A Night! Our dance and auction fundraiser theme this year proved itself to be true. It was indeed an "Oh, What A Night!" We don't have adequate words to tell you how very grateful and humbled we are by the unrelenting support you gave to ensure this event was a huge success.

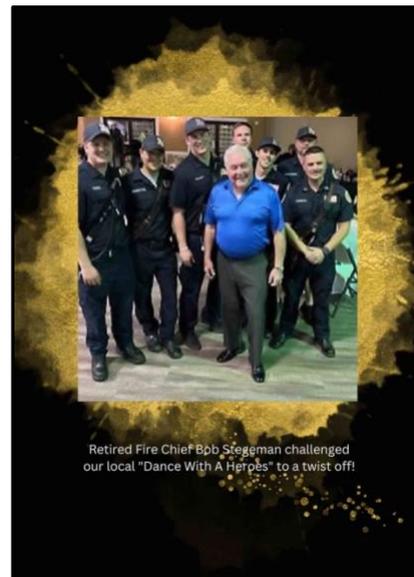
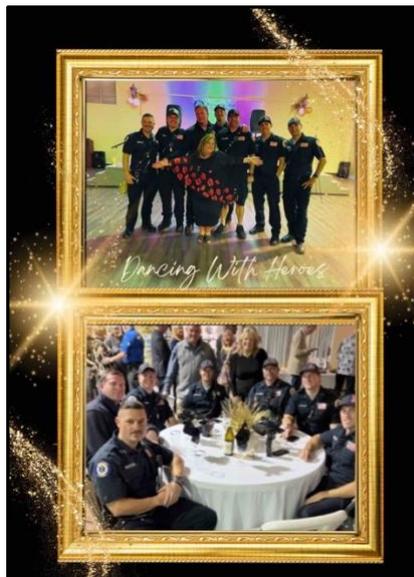
To our members who graciously sponsored tables, those who made monetary and material donations, to those who gave of your time and energy, we have been impacted by your insightful contributions, your generosity, time and commitment.

The results that flow from your efforts will make a financial impact on our community and go a long way to fulfill our mission. You gave it all, and we are so very grateful.

On behalf of our entire Dance Committee team, we say "thank you" from the bottom of our hearts.

Your Co-Chairs,

Darlene Dial and Jane Fillingim



Dena and I would like to congratulate our team on another successful Dance/Auction Events.

We are so proud to be a part of such a smart, energetic and creative group of ladies. This event takes the entire membership to be a true success. Once again, we have seen what a group of talented women can do when they work together. Even the other committees and our inactive members were kind enough to participate in getting donations for the auction. Hats off to their efforts and willingness to be a part of the success. We would also like to say what a joy it was to work with the other committee chairs on the theme, decorations, logistics and the overall event. A special thank you to those who did the set up and tear down, those who monitored the room and the bidding process and the cashiers. We have heard so many wonderful comments on how beautiful everything was and what a great time had by all. What more could a guest ask for than a beautiful venue, good food, good entertainment and a place to take your husband to shop!

Dena and I feel it is an honor to be a member of this wonderful organization.

Co Chairs *Tammy and Dena*



**Monica Thomas, Nancy Stovall, Soula Dortch, Jane Fillingim,
Carole Ohlemueller, Jackie Logan**



**Dance Instructor Ruth Muchndu, Jane Fillingim,
Master of Ceremony Tim Birgenheier**



From the tasting to the planning of the menu, the shopping and finding the best bargains, the preparation and the serving, we would like to thank each member of the kitchen committee and the other members of the club that helped us make the night a success. Also, we want to thank all the members that made desserts, helped make sausage balls and prepare the food trays.

A special thank you to Winn Dixie on the West end for continuing contributions to the Women's Civic Club events. We would also like to recognize Fresh Market and Publix for their contributions.

We are proud of our team and are looking forward to supporting future events.

Co Chairs *Arlene and Patty*



Gloria Turner, Carol Davis, Joyce Kippes, Arlene Klaas, Jackie Logan



Ironman

Please mark your calendars!

The IRONMAN 70.3 Gulf Coast will be held on Saturday, May 13th, 2023. We will volunteer at Aaron Bessant Park by stuffing bags on Wednesday, May 10th, and signing in athletes on May 11-12th, 2023. I hope you can join us!

Monica Thomas
WCC Ironman Chair

Special Beach Events

Todd Herendeen Show

Todd and Angel Herendeen have again agreed to sponsor a dinner and show as a fundraiser for the WCC! This fun evening will take place on April 22nd at the Herendeen Theatre on Front Beach Rd. Doors will open at 6:30, dinner at 7 and show at 8. Tickets are \$39.95 and are available on our website, or from Special Beach Events Committee members. Grab your family and friends and come out to support the WCC and our charities! A very special thanks goes out to Todd and Angel for making this evening possible!!

UNwineD

Once again the TDC is asking for our assistance at UNwineD. We will be working on Saturday, April 1st from 10-5 at Aaron Bessant Park. Our job will be serving samples of wine and craft beers to the attendees. This is a fun event to work and a great opportunity for the club to raise funds for our charities and support organizations.

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please reach out to either Nancy Stovall nlstovall@gmail.com, (256) 527-0195 or Cheri Leistner cheri@advantagesoutheast.com, (502) 296-3205. Family and friends are also welcome to volunteer.

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach

Collections for the Community Outreach Committee at the March Luncheon will be used to support local assisted living residents:

- Hand Lotions
- Large Print Word Search Books/Magazines
- Large Print Spot the Difference Books
- No-skid Socks
- Small Packages of Cookies
- Small Bags of Chips

Food Pantry Collections at the February Luncheon



Food Pantry Items Collected at February Luncheon

Member Committee Sign-up for 2023-2024

Committees are essential to the success of the Women's Civic Club. Each active member is required to complete a committee sign-up sheet yearly. The member is required to sign up for a minimum of three (3) committees. At least one (1) of the required committees should be a fund-raising committee. As a committee member you are expected to support your committee by responding to correspondence and phone calls from the committee chair(s), attend the committee meetings and support your events. All members are expected to support fund-raising events. Located on pages 19-23 in the club's yearbook are descriptions and time estimates for each of the committees which will help you in the selection of your committees.

Committee sheets sign-up sheets will be available at the March, April and May general luncheon meetings. The sign-up sheets are also available on our website wccpcb.org under the forms tab. Complete and sign the form, attach your \$30 dues and give to the Membership Chairman (Nancy Stovall) or place in the member sign-up sheet box located at the general luncheon check-in table by the May General Meeting. You may also mail your form and check to Women's Civic Club, PO Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL. 32417. Note: The bylaw changes approved in September 2022 changed the dues from \$20 per year to \$30 per year.

Library

I want to thank the WCC for having the library be a recipient of your fundraising efforts. We can definitely use the following items.

Collections for the April Luncheon

1. Card stock – specifically tan, brown, light orange, light yellow, light red and any other flesh tone colors. We are making hands for our summer reading program and want to be inclusive of all races/skin tones.
2. Cotton swabs
3. Clothes pins
4. Popsicle sticks both regular and giant size
5. Google eyes – medium and large size
6. Gallon plastic bags – we use these for our Take and Make craft kits
7. Paper plates both white (large size) and colored small plates
8. Paper lunch bags
9. Craft paint – washable all colors
10. Sponge paint brushes
11. Pipe cleaners
12. Both paper and plastic straws
13. Bulletin board paper – light blue, dark blue, green-blue, yellow and green – we use this on our display board in the children's section of the library

All of the items listed we will use for our kids craft programs, make and take craft kits, and our summer reading programs.

We appreciate you so much and thank you for your generous support of the library.

Laura Laspee

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

CPR Training

Chief Parris is a 31 year veteran of the Panama City Beach Fire & Rescue. He has been quoted as saying and paraphrased, he did not join the fire department for the money but it is a calling to serve in the community. This was evident by the thorough overview that he provided with practical tips and examples.

A few of the takeaways discussed by the attendees included the desire to become certified in CPR, the protection under Florida law in serving as a Good Samaritan in these emergency situations and the need to always protect yourself when you are providing CPR to others. A few other takeaways included understanding that the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) actually stops the heart. It does that when it detects a Ventricular Fibrillation or Ventricular Tachycardia rhythm. Many believe the AED was to actually start the heart. Another fun fact offered was that the protective barrier designed for adults can be turned upside down to provide a better seal to children and sometimes even infants.

This training ended with overwhelming applause and appreciation for Chief Parris and the PCB Fire Rescue who provided this amazing in-service to our group

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

March

06 Eadie Lloyd
11 Alice Jacobs
30 Carolyn Clark
30 Donna McElroy
31 Sallie Clackley



*"Laughter is timeless.
Imagination has no age. And
dreams are forever!"*

"In Appreciation"

From: Anchorage Children's Home - Joel Booth, Executive Director

Hi Friend,

Your gift to Anchorage Children's Home is truly making a difference. As we face these challenging times. I would like to take a moment to thank you for your recent \$500.00 donation. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission and provide safety to abused and homeless youth in our community. Without your support, we would not be able to accomplish our goals and meets the needs of so many.

Again, thank you for your gift to Anchorage Children's Home and for partnering with us.

God Bless You, Ladies!

"Upcoming Events"

- March 2 Luncheon at Capt Jack's Family Buffet, at 8208 Thomas Dr, 11AM
- March 4 Spring Fling Arts and Craft Show at Frank Brown Park, 9AM
- March 30 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 10AM
- April 1 UNwineD at Aaron Bessant Park, 10AM
- April 6 Fashion Show and Luncheon at Harpoon Harry's, 11AM
- April 13 New Member Orientation, Gulfview Methodist Church, 245 Wisteria Lane, 5-7PM
- April 22 Todd Herendeen Dinner Theatre Fundraiser
- April 27 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 10AM

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

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