



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XIV- Issue 9
May 2025



From the President's Desk

Nancy Stovall

Dear Members:

It has been an honor for me to serve as the President of the Women's Civic Club for the last two years. I want to personally thank each one of you for your contributions to the club and for your desire to help those in the community.

2024-2025 fundraising events included the Fall and Spring Arts and Crafts Fairs, the elegant Diamond Jubilee Dance and Silent Auction, two Ironman events, the Panama City Beach Marathon, the Pirates of the High Seas Fair, Home for the Holidays, New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop, Food Truck Festival, Mardi Gras and UNwineD. As a result of these fundraising events, the club was able to give back an additional \$30,000 to the community in addition to the annual budgeted donations of \$28,600. What a testament to the sharing and caring hearts of the club members.

In 2024-2025, Breakfast Point Academy, Hutchinson Beach Elementary, Patronis Elementary, Walsingham Academy, West Bay Elementary, Domestic Violence, the Food Pantry, Boys and Girls Club, Backpack Blessings, and the Library were supported with the luncheon collections. Members helped bag food at Backpack Blessings twice a month and assisted with several events at Charter and Superior Senior Living facilities. Members were also able to share fun times at the Kirby Holt Christmas Showcase, WCC Member Recognition Picnic and at Buncos.

As we break for the summer, remember "Rest and self-care are so important. When you take time to replenish your spirit, it allows you to serve others from the overflow."

Nancy

April Luncheon - "Spring Fashion Takes Center Stage with Style, Sound, and Sizzle!"

Our annual Spring Fashion Show was an unforgettable afternoon of flair and fun, held at the lively Harpoon Harry's. Led by Bobbi Griggs, with Dillard's showcasing the latest fashion trends, the event became a true celebration of style. This year, Bobbi turned up the energy with Dillard's dynamic MC, Debbie Jacobs, and DJ Dave Blasi, who created personalized playlists for each model!

As our fabulous ladies strutted down the runway, they did so to the beat of the DJ's music selections, bringing personality, rhythm, and confidence to every step. Members cheered them on as they showcased chic spring ensembles, ranging from breezy resort wear to elegant daytime and evening looks, all expertly styled by Debbie Jacobs and the Dillard's team.

The tropical ambiance of Harpoon Harry's provided the perfect backdrop, complete with a delicious menu and that unmistakable coastal charm. Guests enjoyed great food, vibrant music, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere that turned the afternoon into a true celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to Bobbi for her leadership and to Dillard's for their partnership, and to all who attended for making this spring event one to remember. The girls absolutely rocked it!

With Gratitude: We extend our deepest thanks to Roberta Bernhardt for securing our luncheon venue and attending to all the important behind-the-scenes details. Your time, effort, and thoughtful coordination are truly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support and commitment—we are so grateful for all you do!



A Special Thank You also goes to Donna Schlosser and the Gulf Beach Garden Club for the stunning table arrangements that added such elegance to our luncheon. We are especially grateful for your generosity in offering these beautiful arrangements as door prizes to our lucky guests.

May Luncheon – You're Invited! Our final luncheon of the season will be held on Thursday, May 1st at Captain Jack's Family Buffet, located at 8208 Thomas Drive.

We would love to see all of you there as we come together one last time before summer break. Let's celebrate a wonderful year of friendship, service, and community. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, reflect, and enjoy a memorable lunch with your fellow members.

Kindly RSVP: Please check your email for your May luncheon invitation and be sure to RSVP by the specified deadline. Your timely response is essential to help us provide the venue with an accurate guest count and ensure a smooth, enjoyable event for all.

Thank you for your prompt reply - we look forward to seeing you soon!

Jane Fillingim, Lunches and Programs Chair

Spring Fashion Show 2025



Bobbi Griggs



Debbie Jacobs
Dillard's



DJ Dave Blasi

Monica Thomas

Donna McElroy



Sharon Mayberry



Alisa Walley

Rhonda Zartman

Jayn Collins



Carol Adams



Deborah Lowry

Diane Vitale

Denise Rentz



"Welcome New Members"



El Moreland, Toni McLane, Brenda Farmer, Sylvia Payne, Sharon Cook, Karolina Schleicher



Sharon Cook

My husband, Mitchell, and I moved to Panama City Beach a year ago from Tennessee. We are retired from careers in healthcare. I am a Florida kid and was born at the Navy base in Pensacola so I feel right at home with warm weather and being a part of the beach community. I enjoy taking care of my house plants and tending to outside flowerbeds. Having fun with arts and crafts. Also, a bit of interior decorating. It is great to be a part of the PCB community and spent our time volunteering with nonprofit organizations.

Toni raised her son and two daughters in Alpharetta, GA, checking the successful parenting box after her son graduated from GA Tech and her daughters both graduated from GA State. All 3 children are happily married and gainfully employed. Toni is the proud Mimi of 5 grandchildren. Toni had a career at PeakMade Real Estate as an Office Manager, Event Planner, and Executive Assistant to the C-Suite for 17 years. Toni retired in November 2023, and she and her husband Paul relocated from Atlanta, GA to Panama City Beach, FL in December 2023. Toni enjoys playing Pickleball and Mahjong, and keeps active attending exercise classes, biking, and going to the beach. She serves on the board of the Ladies of Latitude, a social club that provides monthly events for the women in the Latitude Margaritaville community. She also enjoys volunteering at the various Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach activities. She looks forward to continuing to be an active member of the WCC of PCB to support opportunities to give back to the needs of the community.



Toni McLane

Brenda and her husband David moved to Panama City Beach from Knoxville, Tennessee two years ago. She grew up in Iowa, married out of high school, and followed her military husband around the world until he retired in 2004. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Brenda has been employed at various banks and also secured several Civil Service jobs on military bases where they lived. One of the most rewarding jobs was at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in California where she worked for the Athletic Department and provided activities for the 42,000+ service members stationed there. Besides managing the 13 Fitness Centers and 3 gymnasiums on the base, that department planned the annual Mud Run, many marathons and triathlons, as well as baseball and basketball tournaments. She was awarded the “Employee of the Month” certificate by Col. Reath, Marine Corps Department Head, MWR.



Brenda Farmer

Brenda enjoys Pickleball, bible study groups, volunteering at Alaqua Animal Refuge, bicycling, and all activities that beautiful Florida provides. She has been looking for opportunities to be involved in helping the community and feel that the Women’s Civic Club would be a wonderful fit. She and David attend Woodlawn Church, and while it provides many ways to serve, Brenda feels WCC offers a wider range of activities in more areas and for more people. She has already volunteered at Backpack blessings, the Pirates Festival, Marathon, and Mardi Gras.

Brenda would be very honored and humbled to be a part of WCC and looks forward to many more rewarding experiences to come!!



El Moreland

El Moreland is a native Floridian, born in Tallahassee where she attended Florida State University. After graduation she became a flight attendant for United Airlines for 20 years, living in many different cities all over the US and Australia. Finally settling in Atlanta for 25 years. Atlanta felt like home and is where I got my real estate license and led a team of realtors and mentored a few as well. Married to my husband Jeff for 20 years and stepmother to 4 children, all grown now. We both retired in 2018 to Navarre beach and last year to Margaritaville.

I moved to Latitude Margaritaville in April, 2023, from Chattanooga, TN, with my husband Rusty and our two rescue cats. Rusty and I have a son, Zach, a dentist who lives in Charleston, SC, and a daughter, an architect/interior designer who was recently married and lives in Nashville, TN. I retired from almost 47 years with the FBI in August of 2022. My career with the FBI began in Jacksonville, FL, as a Clerk-Stenographer and ended up in Dalton, GA, as an Asset Forfeiture Investigator. In between I worked in the Tallahassee and Atlanta offices of the FBI. Since moving to LMWS, I have enjoyed improving my pickleball game, meeting many new friends, and volunteering with Alaqua Animal Refuge, Backpack Blessings, and LMWS Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Group. I also appreciate being given the opportunity to volunteer at various community events with the Women’s Civic Club of PCB and look forward to participating in upcoming events as an official member!



Sylvia Payne



Karolina Schleicher

I was born in a small town in South Germany where I met my husband for the first time around 50 years ago. He was living across the street from my aunt, and we dated for the first time when I was 19 years old. We've been happily married for 38 years!

We immigrated to this great country in 1987 following my husband's work transition to Miami, FL and moved to Lawrenceville, GA in 1990. Our daughter Kristina Alice was born in 1997 and is married in GA. We became US citizens in 2013 and now all 3 of us have dual citizenship – German and US.

I have been working within the Publix family for over 20 years and retired 2 years ago when we moved down here to Panama City Beach.

Juergen and I try to stay healthy and physically fit, I love healthy food, swimming and we enjoy motorcycle riding, and we extensively are touring the US and Europe – specially the alps – every year.

My great passion is to help animals ...specifically cats. Volunteering in animal shelters and Cat rescues in GA was my passion for many years. I am now enjoying volunteering at Alaqua Animal Rescue and have found a group of amazing ladies within the Panama City Women's Civic Club.

I look forward to attending many events and helping where possible for this great organization.

"Membership"

2025-2026 Membership Dues and Forms

Dues and committee sign-up sheets are due by May 1st. Please complete the committee or inactive form, sign the conflict of interest form and attach your \$30 dues and give to the Membership Chair Arlene Klaas.

You may also mail your form and check to Women's Civic Club, PO Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL. 32417.

Arlene Klaas, Membership Chair

"2024-2025 Outstanding Funding "

The Women's Civic Club was able to donate an additional \$30,000 to the community in April as a result of the exceptional fundraising efforts of the members. Donations went to Backpack Blessings, Breakfast Point Academy, Hutchinson Beach Elementary, Patronis, Walsingham Academy, West Bay Elementary, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, The Church on the Beach Food Pantry, Woodlawn Church Food Pantry, Arnold High School Scholarships, the Boys and Girls Club, Panama City Beach Police Department designated for Parents Against Predators Program, Panama City Beach Fire Department Beach Safety for junior lifeguard program equipment and Gulfview United Methodist Church for their domestic violence program.

The Church at the Beach



Sue Jiles, Sharon Williams, Pastor Jay Powell

Backpack Blessings



**Gloria Turner, Sarah Risalvato, Rebecca Dent,
Faye Culpepper, Dena Roewe**

Gulf Beach Food Pantry



Gloria Turner, Sandy Young

Panama City Beach Police Department



**Lt. Tommy Anderson, Bobbi Griggs,
Police Chief J.R. Talamantez**

Woodlawn Food Pantry



Joanne Embry, Sue Jiles

West Bay Elementary



**Donna McElroy, Karen Demeester, Principal
Deniece Moss, Monica Thomas, Jeanette Poland**

Panama City Beach Fire Department



Dena Roewe, Daryl Paul, Karen Demeester

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

Raising Funds

Ironman

Registration is now open to volunteer for Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast. The jobs we will work are Athlete Packet and Bag Stuffing on May 7th and Athlete Check-in on May 8th and 9th. We will do this work at the **Edgewater Conference Center**.

Use this link to register

<https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=87384>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kelly Bertin, Ironman Chair

kwbertin@yahoo.com

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach

Superior Residences of Panama City Beach

Serving Easter Luncheon



- Gloria Turner
- Sharon Williams
- Doris Bayliss
- Cheri Leistner
- Dena Roewe
- Sue Jiles
- Nancy Stovall

Food Pantry

The club will be collecting for the Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Food Pantry at the May Luncheon.

The following items have been requested:

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Cereal
- Grits
- Peanut Butter

Cash donations are also welcomed.

Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison

Library



Sharron Hill, Tami Andersson and Debi Davison are thankful for your generous donations of

- Sidewalk Chalk
- Card Stock
- Craft Gems
- Google Eyes
- Pom Poms
- Ziplock Bags
- Fabric Squares and Buttons
- Cotton Balls
- Balloon Pumps and Latex Balloon for Creating Animals

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

New Member Orientation



- Carol Davis
- Tammy Ruehrwein
- Diane Pickering
- Janet Tettermer
- Brenda Farmer
- Sylvia Payne
- Arlene Klaas
- Jeanette Poland
- Sharon Cook
- Sharon Burnett
- El Moreland
- Karolina Schleicher
- Toni McLane



Tammy Ruehrwein, Arlene Klaas, Toni McLane



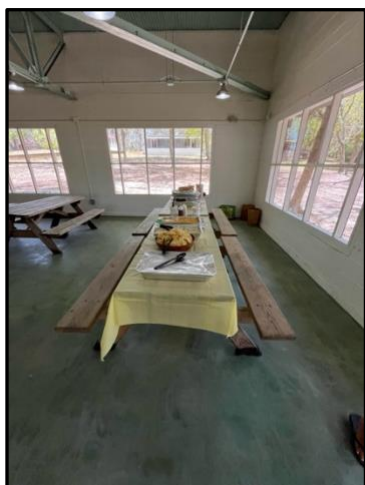
**Diane Pickering, Janet Tettermer, Arlene Klaas,
Karolina Schleicher**

It was a fun and informative night at our annual New Member Orientation! Thanks to all the committee chairs that presented information on their committee responsibilities and to the Member to Member committee members who organized the event and provided the dinner.

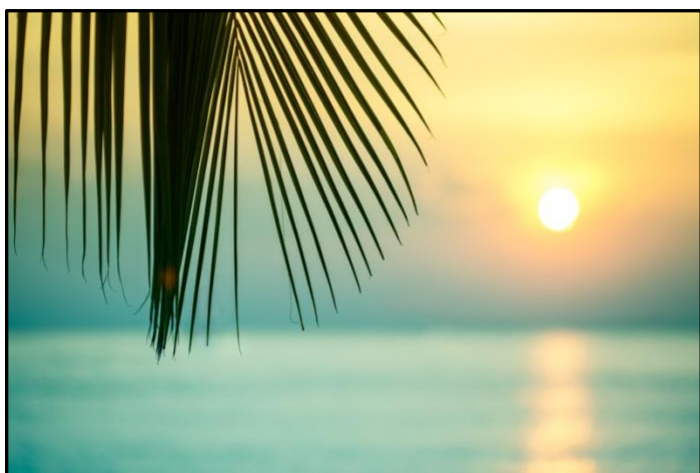
Member Appreciation Picnic

It was an honor for the club to recognize our members for their service to the Women's Civic Club and to the Panama City Beach community with the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Saturday, April 26th at Camp Helen State Park. The day featured a catered lunch, games, access to all the park facilities and a great time. The good work we do in our community could not be accomplished without wonderful, hardworking members, their spouses, and friends.

Cheri Leistner, Member to Member Chair



"Recognizing our Members"



Thank you for informing the Sunshine Committee of members who are ill, had a loss, needs surgery or just needs a hug. Each member is important to us! Please feel free to call if you know someone who needs a card. We don't want to miss cheering up our fellow members.

Sony Edwards, Sunshine Committee Chair
(678) 478-1955

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

May

- 08 Kay Vider
- 21 Pat Diamond
- 22 Karolina Schleicher
- 23 Glenda Densmore
- 23 Sherrill Kelley
- 28 Tammy Ruehrwein



"If things improve with age, then you are approaching magnificent."

June

05 Brenda Bryson
 05 Jeanette Poland
 08 Becky Farmer
 13 Patty Rocco
 15 Sharon Cook
 18 Pam Davis
 19 Carol Lynn
 23 Diane Vitale
 27 Alisa Walley
 28 Denise Rentz
 29 Sharon Mayberry

July

01 Pamela Kremm
 02 Karen Demeester
 02 Janet Tettemer
 05 Natalie May
 16 Gail Claffey
 17 Deborah Lowry
 21 Jenna Hall
 21 Sharon Williams
 21 Shirley Williams
 26 Judy Hardegree
 29 Sony Edwards

August

01 Cherie Lagace
 06 Peggy Lowery
 09 Doris Bayliss
 11 Deb Kesinger
 12 Diane Pickering
 13 Eloise Cox
 14 Sylvia Payne
 17 Lisa Nicholson
 19 Cheri Leistner
 22 Sharon Burnett
 29 Jan Schott

"In Appreciation"

From: Pastor Jay Powell, The Church at the Beach

Thank ya'll so much for helping us help people. Your generosity amazes me. As I see you guys serving the community, trust that others do, too. Your club is a great example to follow. God Bless.

From: Lt. Thomas Anderson, Panama City Beach Police Department, Community Outreach Division

To the Members of the Woman's Civic Club,

On behalf of the Panama City Beach Police Department and our **Parents Against Predators** program, we extend our sincere gratitude for your generous donation and continued support.

Your contribution will directly fund the purchase of **resource materials and awareness items** that serve as constant reminders to families about the importance of keeping online safety at the forefront of their children's lives. These tools will help us engage, educate, and empower parents across our community to stay vigilant and informed in an increasingly digital world.

We firmly believe that strong partnerships are the foundation of public safety. **It is through the support of organizations like the Woman's Civic Club that we are able to reach further, protect more families, and build a safer future for our children.**

Thank you for standing with us in this important mission. Your commitment to the well-being of our community is not only deeply appreciated—it is essential to the continued success of our outreach and prevention efforts.

A Testimony of How Donations Can a Difference

Hi, my name is Carly, and I am ten years old. I have been coming to Girls Inc. for over a year now. Just before I came to Girls Inc., my sisters and I were in foster care. It was a very tough time, but my mom tried her best to get us back - and she did! When my mom was trying to get us back, they cut back our visits to once a week. It was hard for me in foster care, because I missed our parents, but coming to Girls Inc. and making friends, made me think life isn't that bad. It was always tough not seeing my mom. It was even tougher being the oldest sister during that time, because I had to make sure the younger sisters were okay! Even though it was hard, being a sister is the most extraordinary thing, because it gives me the privilege of being a big sister. Coming here also has helped me move on from what has happened in our past. We found mentors at Girls Inc., which are the staff. With the help of staff, I have felt like I could take a step back, and not have to protect my sisters as much. The staff at Girls Inc., makes me feel safe.

I started Girls Inc., during summer camp. At first, I was shy and a little bit scared, but some of the other girls invited me to play foursquare and that made me feel welcomed. At summer camp, free lunch is always included for everyone who needs or even just wants one. This was important to me, because it showed they cared, and because no one goes home hungry.

After summer camp, we signed up for the afterschool program. The afterschool program helped my family because my mom was able to work so that we could have all the things we needed. The afterschool program helped me and my sisters with homework, which let us come home and spend time with my mom. After school we stayed at Girls Inc. until 5:30, and my mom was working hard to get us a new home. On February 18th, we moved into our first home, as a reunited family. The afterschool program was a great experience for me and my sisters because we were at Girls Inc., having fun, and life felt a lot brighter. Coming to Girls Inc. after school, and things changing at home, made life feel like it was full of color again.

Being at Girls Inc., I have made lots of nice memories, but my favorite memory is the feeling of being welcomed that first day. Girls Inc. is an incredible place, where we get to learn new things every day. At Girls Inc., we are inspired to try new activities and foods, during our fun programs. Some of my favorite programs are perler beads, crochet, weaving looms, and building obstacle courses. We also do a program over the summer, for 6th graders and older, called Step-Staff. Step-Staff gives us an opportunity to learn responsibility and leadership. We learn how to be caring, and helpful. Step-Staff members must go through an interview process and do an application. We have to sign in and out every day and keep track of our hours. At the end of the summer, we get to go to Shipwreck Water Park, if we complete our 50 hours. It's a lot of hard work, but it pays off, and it teaches us responsibility. What I loved most about the Step-Staff Programs was being Teachers Assistant and helping out the younger kids.

Over the last year, making friends and participating in programs, I have grown in many ways. I feel less attached to the things I have been through in the past. I have learned that it is okay that I will never forget, but I can now forgive. I really hope that Girls Inc. can help my younger sisters, like it has helped me. Girls Inc. has changed my life to be better and helped me to be stronger. A year ago, I probably wouldn't have come on stage to tell my story but Girls Inc. has helped me to encourage myself and do things I wouldn't do before. Thank you for listening to my story, I hope sharing this story helps others feel encouraged, too.

"Upcoming Events"

- May 7 Ironman Athlete Packet and Bag Stuffing, Edgewater Conference Center, 9AM
- May 8 Ironman Athlete Check-In, Edgewater Conference Center, 1PM-4PM, 4PM-7PM
- May 9 Ironman Athlete Check-In, Edgewater Conference Center, 8AM-12:30PM, 12:30PM-4:15PM
- June 4 Bunco, Taylor's, 10AM
- June 6 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- July 2 Bunco, Taylor's, 10AM
- August 6 Bunco, Taylor's, 10AM
- August 28 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10AM

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

Contact Information

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This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort

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