



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XII- Issue 9
May 2023



Diane Vitale

From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Our Member to Member Committee recently hosted the new member orientation gathering on April 13th. It was another opportunity for getting to know each other, learning more about our club, testing our memory skills and eating yummy food prepared by our members.

For those unable to attend, I wanted to share what I found to be some important points under the first quiz question, "How can you be a productive Club member"?

1. Attend Meetings
2. Read and respond to emails
3. Support your committees
4. Attend fundraisers and events
5. Support each other

I was struggling on how to end the President's Message with the perfect quote as not only is this the final one but the end of my Presidency which is emotional for me.

Michael Lister is a local author and I highly recommend his book, "Meaning Every Moment". Part of his Manifesto: life is short, every moment precious. Savor every second. Make every moment meaningful. Don't waste time on things that don't matter. Be mindful in the moment, fully present, wide awake, seeking, open.

Respectfully, Diane

"Foundations of the Club"

Since 1965, the Women's Civic Club has been successful because it is built on a strong foundation. The May edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is focusing on you, the members and what you have accomplished by working together to make a positive impact on the Panama City Beach community.

A Message from the Treasurers

As we are nearing the end of another fiscal year, we find ourselves in the most fortunate position of having additional funds to distribute. We are most appreciative of our fundraising partners, The St. Joe Community Foundation, Visit Panama City Beach, Todd and Angel Herendeen, Friends of Camp Helen, Ironman and Goldring Gulf Distributing, all of which generously provide opportunities for our fundraising.

While we enjoy tremendous support from our great Panama City Beach community, these fundraising efforts are made possible by our amazing members! You are the ones who repeatedly (yes, repeatedly!) answer the calls for help from your Committee Chairs. Our fundraising committees have had a successful year and should be proud of their accomplishments: Arts & Crafts, Dance, Ironman, Silent Auction and Special Beach Events.

At the April luncheon our members voted to provide an additional \$21,000 in funding to a variety of recipients: Girls, Inc., Anchorage Children's Home McElvey House, Salvation Army Domestic Violence, Boys & Girls Club, three local food pantries (Gulf Beach Baptist Church, Woodlawn Church, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church), the five beach elementary schools (Breakfast Point Academy, Hutchison Beach Elementary, Patronis Elementary, Walsingham Academy and West Bay Elementary) and an additional two scholarships to Arnold High School seniors.

These funds added to the previously distributed funds (including the donation to the new Splash Pool at Frank Brown Park) just give proof that we are committed: United for a Better Community.

Ladies, you rock!!!

Your Treasurers,

Sue Jiles and Jeanette Poland

"Members and Guests Enjoy the April Fashion Show and Luncheon"

The "Fashion Runway" show on April 6 at Harpoon Harry's featured top models from the Women's Civic Club who proudly presented the latest Chico collections. The fashion flair event was proudly presented by Master of Ceremonies, Debra Glass from Chico's Boutique. The stunning event showcased a variety of clothing, accessories and jewelry worn by Brenda Bryson, Jayn Collins, Bobbi Griggs, Deb Kesinger, Peggy Lowery, Deborah Lowry, Sharon McDonald, Jane Nendick, Rhonda Senkbeil and Monica Thomas. All members of the committee joined together and contributed to the success of the show by assisting models and mingling throughout the member luncheon. Many thanks to everyone who participated and attended!

Bobbi Griggs, Fashion Show Chair



Members and Guests



Brenda Bryson



Jayn Collins



Bobbi Griggs



Deb Kesinger



Deborah Lowry



Sharon McDonald



Jane Nendick



Rhonda Senkbeil



Monica Thomas

Library Donations



Laura Laspee, Panama City Beach Public Library Branch Manager, and Librarian Lindsay Frost accept the Women's Civic Club donations which were collected at the luncheon. The items will be used for the kid's craft programs, for make and take craft kits, and for the summer reading programs. In addition to the items collected at their April Luncheon meeting, the club also collected \$192 in cash donations which will help purchase additional supplies.

"New Member Installation"



Diane Vitale (Sponsor), Rhonda Zartman, Sharon McDonald (sponsor), Lisa Nicholson, Dena Roewe (sponsor), Sherrill Kelley, Denise Rentz, Monica Thomas (sponsor), Alisa Walley, Jeanette Poland (mentor), Dawn Wise, Lynn Padgett (sponsor)

"Welcome New Members"

Sherrill Kelley



Sherrill Kelley is a native Oklahoman. She and husband, Ed, decided to move to Panama City Beach to enjoy retirement and be closer to their oldest daughter after retirement. They have a blended family of five children and eight grandchildren, most still residing in Oklahoma. Sherrill retired from State Farm as a Catastrophe Team Manager after a successful 33 year career assisting customers recovering from catastrophic loss. Her retirement to an active 55 and over community, Latitudes Margaritaville, has been a positive experience. She feels life allows you opportunities in three phases. When you are growing to adulthood, you have the opportunity to learn. In adulthood and during your career, you have the opportunity to earn. In retirement and later years, you have the opportunity to return. Sherrill looks forward to membership in the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, and feels this offers a gracious opportunity to return by giving back to our community. She is excited to be part of this club.

My name is Lisa Nicholson. I have been in the Panama City Beach area for the last five years and full time for the last three years. I am married and together we have five children and five grandchildren. We moved here from the Knoxville Tennessee area and we make frequent trips back because the grandchildren are there.

I am a retired RN. I worked in the neonatal intensive care unit for 40 years. I love my preemies!

I am past First Lady of Kerbela Shriners, and Queen of Daughters of the Nile. Both of these organizations support the Shriner's hospitals for children. I have also served on the Board of Directors for the March of Dimes.

I love the beach, the seashells and the sun! We love Panama City Beach!!



Lisa Nicholson

It's been a year and a half since we moved here from Colorado. With my past career as a meeting planner and my previous 15 years volunteering, I hope to contribute to the goals and objectives of this wonderful organization!

Best Regards,
Denise



Denise Rentz



Alisa Walley

Hi, I'm Alisa Walley and I'm from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. My husband and I have recently moved to Panama City Beach and we love it! We have 3 grown children that are married and have blessed us with 6 grandchildren. I have been a Realtor for 24 yrs in Louisiana, but currently I am taking Pickleball lessons and exploring new adventures here in PCB.

I am looking forward to meeting new people and serving where needed.



Dawn Wise

Hello, I am Dawn Wise, I was in the hospitality industry for 25 years as I enjoy working and meeting new people. Two years ago, I moved back HOME to Florida from Arizona, to be with family. I am looking forward to working with the Women's Civic Club.

I was raised in a military family who moved multiple times during my childhood. Our final destination was Ft McPherson in Atlanta, GA when I was 9 years old.

My husband, Dan and I are celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary April 20th. As a blended family we have five grown kids and blessed with 11 grandchildren. We attend Woodlawn Worship at the Water. We are American Red Cross volunteers, deploying to areas impacted by disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and wild fires. We relocated to the panhandle November 2020 and recently purchased a home in Latitude Margaritaville.

During my career as a commercial banker I represented my employer by serving on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis and Haven House (women's shelter). Event planning, fundraising and coordinating volunteers were my main focus.

By becoming a working member of the Women's Civic Club, it is my desire to use these and other skill sets in serving my community.



Rhonda Zartman

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

Raising Funds

Ironman

The Ironman 70.3 will be here on Saturday, May 13th. If you haven't had a chance to sign up to volunteer, it isn't too late. Please join by registering on the link:

<https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=69320>

May 10th - Athlete Packet and Bag Stuffing

May 11th and May 12th - Athlete Check-in

I hope to see everyone there!

Monica Thomas

Ironman Chairperson

Special Beach Events

Todd Herendeen Show

The Women's Civic Club of PCB took over the Todd Herendeen Theater on Saturday, April 22! And we were treated to appearances by Neil Diamond, Barbara Streisand, Roy Orbison, Elvis, Todd Herendeen himself and many more! We cannot thank Todd, Angel, the FTD band and the theatre staff enough for hosting this fundraiser for our club. Guests were treated to a delicious dinner catered by Texas Roadhouse, and served by our very own Kitchen committee!! This committee also provided our desserts and drinks. During the night birthdays and anniversaries were celebrated, veterans recognized, and funds were raised to support our club's supported charities and support organizations. Thanks to all that came out to support the WCC and this last fundraiser of the year!



Todd and Angel Herendeen



Todd and Jayn Collins



Todd, Angel and the FTD Band



Todd and Luciann Jacobs

"Supporting the Community"

Food Pantry

At the May Meeting we will be collecting for the Food Pantry

- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Jelly
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Bottled Water

Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison

Member Committee Sign-up for 2023-2024

Completed Committee sign-up sheets and the \$30 dues are due by the May luncheon meeting. The sign-up sheets will be available at the luncheon, on our website wccpcb.org/forms or can be emailed to you. Once you have completed your committee sign-up sheet 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 at 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.

Scholarship

At the beginning of the year, we budgeted for two \$2,000 scholarships to be awarded to Arnold High School (AHS) graduating students. Because of additional money through fundraising activities this year, the members voted to award two additional scholarships.

Eleven very qualified candidates applied, 8 girls and 3 boys. Seven of the eleven applicants are in the top 10 % and 4 of those are in the top 5 % of a class of 340 graduating students. The 11th class ranked applicant is in the top 30 %. Several of the applicants are student athletes. Everyone is a leader and many serve as an Officer in academic or community organizations. Two of the boys are Eagle Scouts and two applicants have formed their own nonprofits that relate to helping teenagers. Wow.

Our President, Diane Vitale, and I reviewed the applications separately and then met to select the 4 recipients of our scholarships. Once the applicants are selected they will be presented to the board for approval. The recipients will be given their scholarship checks on Senior Appreciation Day at AHS on May 19th.

Diane commented "I was especially pleased that the Board voted to provide four scholarships instead of two to Arnold High School graduating seniors. As it was, we had 11 superior submissions, so the selection was daunting. It is because of you, our members, who always step up to do extra in our fundraising activities. Many of you go beyond the three required committee participations and take on extra work. For that, I sincerely thank you."

Gloria Turner, Scholarship Liaison

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Bunco - Save the dates!! Wednesdays June 7th, July 12th, August 9th. More information coming.

New Member Orientation



"New and Potential Members Listening Intently"



"Food is Good for the Brain"



"Rewards for Paying Attention"

The Member to Member Committee was delighted to host the club's New Member Orientation on April 13. Ten members inducted during the 2022-23 year, four members from the 2021-22 year and three potential members joined us to learn more about our club and all of the committees available to serve on. Each committee chair was given a few minutes to talk about their committee, its responsibilities and timeframe for service. These presentations were followed by a delicious light dinner prepared by members of the Member to Member Committee. A special THANKS to all that prepared the food and brought the paper goods! Then the new members were quizzed with some trivia questions to see how much they learned about our committees.

Prizes were awarded to the seven highest scores! It was a fun evening for everyone that attended. And it was certainly very nice to have the opportunity to mix and mingle outside of our very busy monthly luncheons! Thanks much to all the committee chairs that attended and helped to make this an informative evening that will help everyone decide where they can best serve the Women's Civic Club of PCB!

Patty Rocco, Lynn Padgett and Cheri Leistner
Member to Member Committee Co-Chairs

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Lisa Stretch for the loss of her husband Clay. Our sincere condolences.

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

May

- 08 Kay Vider
- 17 Barbara Britson
- 21 Pat Diamond
- 23 Glenda Densmore
- 23 Sherrill Kelley

June

- 02 Edith Ellis
- 05 Brenda Bryson
- 05 Jeanette Poland
- 13 Patty Rocco
- 17 Darlene Dial
- 19 Carol Lynn
- 23 Diane Vitale
- 27 Alisa Walley
- 28 Denise Rentz



***"A birthday is not a day to fear.
It is a day to celebrate and look
forward to the coming year!"***

July

01 Pam Kremm
02 Karen DeMeester
07 Elaine Clark
16 Gail Claffey
17 Deborah Lowry
19 Debra Fazzone
21 Jenna Hall
21 Sharon Williams
21 Shirley Williams
26 Judy Hardegree
26 Laura Laspee
29 Sony Edwards
30 Patti Maloy

August

01 Cherie Lagace
06 Peggy Lowery
09 Doris Bayliss
11 Karen Gunsaulus
11 Deb Kesinger
17 Lisa Nicholson
19 Cheri Leistner
20 Mary Herst
20 Lana Lowery
25 Lisa Stretch
26 Debbie Wood
29 Jan Schott

"In Appreciation"

From: Lisa Stretch

Thank you so much for the generous donation to Hope Project in honor of Clay. They do so much for our veterans and first responders!

From: Laura Laspee, PCB Public Library Branch Manager, and the Staff

Dear Diane and all members of the WCC of PCB, Thank you so much for the supplies donated to the library. Your generous donations will help provide materials for our make & take kits, children's programs, and our popular summer reading programs. We truly appreciate your help & support. Thank you also for the financial support, we hope to purchase additional items that our kids can use while attending our kid's programs.

"Upcoming Events"

- May 4 Officer Installation and Luncheon Meeting at Dee's Hangout-529 N R Jackson, 11AM
- May 25 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Aug 31 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM

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

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