



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XI - Issue 2
October 2021



From the President's Desk

Diane Vitale

Dear Members,

What a delightful kickoff luncheon for the new year at Carrabba's Italian Grill. Nothing like old-fashioned comfort food to soothe any stressors we may have.

My message last month of opportunity must have worked as many members brought guests. We had a total of 11 guests with us. Our very worthwhile program with Dr. Derek Fleitz from 30A Smiles was very informative and prompted many questions. A big thanks to Bobbi Griggs for securing our September speaker.

Our executive board is now complete with the installation of Arlene Klaas as recording secretary. A big thank you to Arlene for agreeing to continue in this position. Much attention to detail is involved and Arlene is becoming a master at it.

Welcome to our three new members Patti Maloy, Jan Schott and Rhonda Senkbeil who were inducted.

We had a tremendous response with donations for school projects and food pantry this month. Deliveries to the schools and the food pantry were well-organized and efficiently distributed. Applause to Monica Thomas and Gail Claffey for the coordination of school projects and Gloria Turner for the heavy lifting at the food pantry.

We move onward to Margaritaville for the October 7th luncheon meeting. Hope to see everyone there.

One of my favorite things to do, is to close with some words of wisdom. I failed to do that last month but I hope this resonates with some of you this month. "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives." Annie Dillard, American Writer

Diane, President

"Foundations of the Club"

In this edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Gwen Odenheimer and focusing on Committees and Duties.



Gwen Odenheimer became a member of the Women's Civic Club in January 1983. She was invited by Betty Boyd, who was the President in 1982-1984, to join the club. Being a take charge type of person, Gwen was selected as the President in 1985-1987.

Originally from East Brunswick, New Jersey she married her husband, a World War II serviceman, in Troy, Alabama in 1948 at the age of 18. Under the GI bill, her husband was attending Troy State Teacher College and she was helping him with his studies. With her determination and persistence, she was able to obtain a scholarship to attend college also and they both received degrees in Health and Physical Education. After graduation, they returned to New Jersey to teach school until they retired in 1982.

Gwen started the Arts and Craft Committee and taught many members quilting, knitting, leaded glass and other crafts in her home located in the Holiday Golf Club. She shared how the club would sell sweatshirts at a local yearly fair for which the club received \$2 for each sweatshirt sold. The fair was cancelled when a hurricane struck the area. Since the sweatshirts had been purchased, being creative the members sold them in front of stores.

In 2018, when she was displaced because of Hurricane Michael she moved near her son in Tallahassee. Although she will be 92 in October, she still drives, is active in 3 different senior centers, plays cards 5 days a week and watches golf. When asked if she had a word of wisdom to share with club members, she said "Keep going". She was also appreciative of the scholarship she received when she was young, and she knows the importance of scholarships.

Committees and Duties:

Committees plan fund raising opportunities, develop outreach activities, educate members and provide awareness of the club in the community and are an essential part of the Women's Civic Club in achieving our mission and goals. There are three types of committees: Funding-Raising, Community Outreach and Events, and Appointed. Each member will complete a committee sign up form each year and is required to select at least one (1) fund-raising committee and at least two (2) community outreach and event committees; but are not limited to the number of committees they may serve on.

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"Foundations of the Club"

If the member is willing to serve as a liaison for an appointed committee or being a chair or co-chair of a committee, they should indicate the interest on the committee sign up form.

The club would not be able to perform its many activities without members who step up to chair or co-chair a committee. The chair will provide leadership and structure, but as a working club all members need to do their part in the support of the committee to make the club a success. The chair of the committee is responsible for attending all Board meetings which are held on the last Thursday of each month (excluding June and July). Information provided during these meeting can help the committee to successfully complete their committee goals.

"Installation of the 2021-2022 Board Members"



**Cheri Leistner, Sue Jiles, Gloria Turner
Nancy Stovall, Diane Vitale, Judy Hardegree**



Arlene Klaas, Judy Hardegree



**Cheri Leistner, Sue Jiles, Diane Vitale,
Nancy Stovall, Gloria Turner, Arlene Klaas**

Aware of it or not, each of us writes a page for others to see. Some people write pages of love, understanding, and cheerfulness while others write pages that are filled with negativity, intolerance, and bitterness. Our actions, words, and deeds become our compositions.

Officers of an organization are no exception. Together, they write an entire Chapter in the club's history. To ensure that the pages written are positive, the officers must strive to complete their various obligations promptly and effectively. A successful club is comprised of dedicated leaders.

In May, Judy Hardegree installed Cheri Leistner as Treasurer, Gloria Turner as Corresponding Secretary, Sue Jiles as 2nd Vice President, Nancy Stovall as 1st Vice President and Diane Vitale as President. At the September Luncheon Meeting Arlene was installed as the Recording Secretary. Each of the 2021-2022 officers of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach were given a pen as they were installed. These pens can contribute to the writing of the club's next Chapter when the officers use them to fulfill the duties and tasks of their respective positions.

"Induction of New Members"



Diane Vitale, Patti Maloy, Nancy Stovall



**Diane Vitale, Lynn Padgett, Rhonda
Senkbeil, Jan Schott, Ginny Schmertmann
Nancy Stovall**

"Welcome New Members"

Three new members joined the Women's Civic Club. Because of a prior commitment, Patti Maloy, sponsored by Diane Vitale, was inducted at the August Board Meeting. At the September Luncheon, Rhonda Senkbeil, sponsored by Lynn Padgett, and Jan Schott, sponsored by Ginny Schmertmann, were inducted. Each of the new members took time to share something about themselves.



Patti Maloy

Hello,

A little about me: My Dad was in the Air Force and retired at Tyndall AFB. I graduated from Mosley High School in 1977, graduated from Gulf Coast College Nursing Program in 1980. I worked for a year at Bay Medical Hospital and moved to California where my husband and I married. We have 1 daughter together.

Over 39 years of marriage, we've lived in California, South Carolina, Utah and Oregon. 1 year ago we decided to come back home to Panama City to be closer to our families.

I work remotely as a Pain Education Nurse with the VA Portland Oregon Medical Center. I love swimming, kayaking and discovering new places.

I support the mission of WCC and look forward to working to support the needs of the Panama City Beach community and as a believer in Jesus Christ I feel being involved in community projects is a way to show the love of Jesus.

Thank you, Patti



Jan Schott

My adult life was spent in Michigan until our move to Florida thirteen years ago.

Activities that I am interested in include: cooking, traveling, river cruises, golf and teaching cooking classes to both adults and children.

Our daughter and son-in-law live in Casco Township, MI. We have two adult grandchildren.

I want to thank Ginny Schmertmann for introducing me to the Club. I look forward to being an active member. Our connection is through our husbands who are both members of the Panama City Beach Optimist Club.

Jan

I have been married 40 years to Shawn Senkbeil. We have one son, Chip who lives in Texas.

I graduated from Auburn University and am an avid Auburn Tiger fan. I was a flight attendant with Delta Airlines for 28 years.

I really enjoy my retirement. My favorite thing to do is "nothing". I could stay home for days and be happy. (Maybe because I travelled for work).

I enjoy my two rescue pups, walking weekly 5K's, shopping, reading mystery novels, bingeing Netflix, watching sports, visiting my son, and eating out!

Rhonda



Rhonda Senkbeil after rolling the trees in Auburn.

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

Raising Funds

Ironman



Smiles From The Members and Friends at a Previous Envelope Stuffing Event

Standing Left to Right: Barbara Vecrumba, Susan Curry, Ginny Schmertmann, Sandra Wooden, Lynn Padgett, Patty Rocco, Linda Tabaka, Nancy Stovall, Sharon Williams, Linda Tabaka's Friend, Gloria Turner

Sitting: Unknown person who wanted to be part of the wonderful group!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE NOVEMBER 6th IRONMAN!!

The Club will help with envelope stuffing and athlete check in for the fall Ironman race. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, November 2nd starting at 9AM. The task for the day will be stuffing of envelopes and will take place at Aaron Bessant Park.

Check in of athletes will be on Wednesday, November 3rd; Thursday, November 4th; and Friday, November 5th. Scheduled times are 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 12:30PM to 5:00PM. The location will be at Aaron Bessant Park.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the October luncheon meeting. Please check your calendars so you will be prepared to sign up to help our Club earn money. Club members, their family and friends are encouraged to sign up and help on the dates and times which work for them. It is also a fun way to get to know your fellow Club members.

For additional information, contact Barbara Vecrumba at bjvecrumba@hotmail.com .

Supporting the Community

Food Pantry



Cheri Leistner, Volunteer and Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison

Many thanks to Gloria and The Women's Civic Club!!

The Women's Civic Club made a huge donation to the Food Pantry after the September Luncheon Meeting. The Food Pantry is so appreciative of the items and the volunteers they continuously receive from the members of the Club.

At the October Meeting we will be collecting: shampoo, deodorant (men and women) and regular size bars of soap.

School Projects

Donations ensure that everyone in the classroom is equipped with the fundamental tools to thrive in school.

Breakfast Point Academy



Jackie Logan, Diane Vitale, Katie Stevens (Teacher), Hunter (Kindergartener)

Hutchinson Beach Elementary



Kayla Shepherd (Asst. Principal), Kathy Young (Office Clerk), Joyce Goetz, Karen Gunsaulus, Lacey Deyer (Parent Liaison), Monica Thomas

Patronis Elementary



Doris Bayliss, Gail Claffey, Lisa Fish (Representative)

West Bay Elementary



Ginny Schmertmann, Mrs. Good (Asst. Principal), Gloria Turner

Walsingham Academy



Eadie Lloyd

School Project Chairs



Monica Thomas, Gail Claffey

Congratulations to the members, over 2000 items collected for our schools!

- 50 Clorox/Lysol Wipes
- 15 Spray Cleaners
- 60 Paper Towel Rolls
- 35 Boxes of Tissues
- 45 Hand Sanitizers
- 780 Children's Paper Masks
- 840 Pencils
- 10 Packages of Colored Pencils
- 75 Boxes of Crayons
- 20 Packs of Markers
- 20 Pencil Pouches
- 10 Hole Punches
- 5 Packs of Eraser Tops



Thank you for your assistance,
Monica and Gail

Domestic Violence

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence can happen to anyone and it is present in every community. Doris Bayliss, Women's Civic Club Liaison for Domestic Violence is asking members to bring the following items to the October Luncheon Meeting.

- Laundry Detergent
- Dishwasher Detergent
- Dawn Soap
- Clorox Wipes
- Kitchen Cleaners
- Bathroom Cleaners
- Umbrellas

Recognizing our Members

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee's goals are to provide appreciation and support to Active and Inactive members. The committee accomplishes this by sending out birthday cards, sympathy cards, and get-well cards. We also provide bereavement memorial for members and member's spouses and visit members in the hospital, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes and their homes.

This year, in addition to these responsibilities we added "keeping in touch" communications with nine long term members who are not able to attend the meetings. We keep in touch by either calling these members, and/or writing them a "thinking of you card". The longest Inactive member is Gwen Odenheimer who was installed in January 1983. The longest Active member is Edith Ellis who was installed in September 1979.

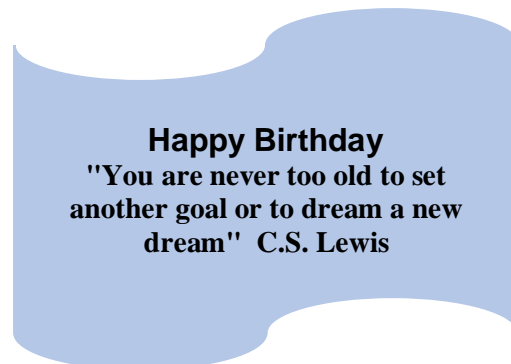
The Women's Civic Club has a proud heritage, and the Sunshine Committee thank all of our members for their continued contributions to the club.

Gloria Turner, Chairman Sunshine Committee

Birthday Wishes !!

October

08	Cindy Mulla
09	Bobbi Griggs
10	Roberta Bernhardt
10	Julie Sanders
15	Joyce Goetz
16	Arlene Geneva
19	Arlene Klaas
21	Gloria Turner
22	Nancy Stovall
29	Jackie Logan
31	Gwen Odenheimer



Save the Date



Beach Boogie Dance and Silent Auction

February 5, 2022

Upcoming Events

- October 5 Silent Auction Committee Meeting, 100 Barefoot Falls Lane
- October 7 Luncheon Meeting at Margaritaville, 16230 Front Beach Road at 11am
- October 12 Community Outreach Committee Meeting, Grand Panama Boardroom, 11800 Front Beach Road
- October 28 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson Boulevard at 10 am

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

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