



# The Civic Courier

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

Volume XII- Issue 1  
September 2022



**Diane Vitale**

## From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

After a few weeks free of official Civic Club meetings and luncheons we are again preparing for the new year. I know some of us were not without connection, taking advantage of the fun, laughter and camaraderie of Bunco. We girls know how to have fun!!!

Lunches and programs met under the capable direction of Julie Sanders to put in place a delightful selection of restaurants for us, some we love and others we soon will. Likewise, programs will be of high interest and value to all of you. I particularly want to mention our kickoff program titled "WCC 101."

This is a collaborative effort with a few of our members, myself included. A great way to start the year.

I'd like to be the catalyst of encouragement for each of you to review your talents and strengths and channeling them for the success of our Women's Civic Club. A very attainable goal.

This leads me into my continuation of quotes. "Success is a process, a quality of mind and way of being" by Alex Noble.

*Respectfully,  
Diane, President*

## "Foundations of the Club"

The September edition of The Civic Courier, "Foundations of the Club" is highlighting Kay Vider and focusing on "The Constitution and the Bylaws".

Kay was born in Illinois and after marrying her husband, Jim, they moved several times all around the midwest, finally settling in Panama City Beach in 1991. She has 2 children, one in Ohio and one in Colorado. She has 6 grandchildren who she loves to spend time with. She loves to travel, and her next trip will be to Hawaii.



**Kay Vider**

Kay's husband was on the Panama City Beach Library's Foundation Board and Kay met a fellow Women's Civic Club member who introduced

her to the club. After being a guest for 2 years Kay joined the Club and was installed in November 1993.

Kay has participated in almost all of the committees. She has been President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. She has been Treasurer for many years. I think the better question is what committee hasn't she been involved in?

Kay's word of wisdom would be to get involved with what interests you. Hear what people have to say and share ideas and see if you can work together to improve the club. Being part of the Women's Civic Club has allowed her to meet different people from all over.

### The Constitution and the Bylaws

During installation to the Women's Civic Club, each member is asked the question "Do you affirm that you will uphold the constitution and bylaws of this club?" "I do" is always the response.

The constitution is a necessary part of any club because it clarifies the club's purpose, explains any structure and processes for successfully accomplishing our organization's mission. In short, our mission is "to give aid to worthy projects of the Panama City Beach community." The purpose of the bylaws is to guide the club's actions and decisions. They are helpful in preventing or resolving conflicts and disagreements. They can protect the organization from potential problems by clearly outlining rules and expectations.

Bylaws should not be constantly changing but in order to ensure the bylaws remain current and relevant, they should be reviewed periodically or when additional clarification is needed. At such time, the President will appoint a bylaw committee who will gather any suggested changes, discuss the positive and negative points of each change, ensure the rights of all members are protected and document any proposed change. The proposed change(s) will include the current amendment, the proposed amendment, the reason for the change and then presented at a board meeting for approval. Once the board approves the amendments, two (2) Executive board members will sign the proposed amendment and the changes will be submitted to the members in writing. Members will vote at a general membership meeting on each proposed amendment and if 3/4 of the members present approve the change, it will be updated in the documents.

***"Members Recognized for Their Years of Service"***

Not only is it important to recognize those in the community, it is important to recognize our members. Active members with increments of 5 years of service were recognized during the May luncheon.



**Edith Ellis**



**Nan Vandenberg, Arlene Geneva, Judy Hardegree, Gayle Oberst, Flo Watson, Elaine Lichtenberger, Rowan Quave**



**Kay Vider**

**40 Years of Service**

Edith Ellis

**20 Years of Service**

Arlene Geneva  
Judy Hardegree  
Jane Nendick  
Flo Watson

**5 Years of Service**

Brenda Bryson  
Gail Claffey  
Felicia England

**30 Years of Service**

Gayle Oberst

**15 Years of Service**

Ginny Schmetmann  
Nan Vandenberg

**5 Years of Service**

Joyce Goetz  
Sue Jiles  
Cheri Leistner

**25 Years of Service**

Kay Vider

**10 Years of Service**

Elaine Lichtenberger  
Rowan Quave

**5 Years of Service**

Nancy Stovall  
Jean Sturman  
Diane Vitale

## *"Members and Guests Enjoy the May Luncheon"*



Members and guests enjoyed the installation of the 2022-2023 officers, recognition of 2021-2022 outgoing officers, installation of new members and recognition of members' years of service at the May luncheon held at Dee's Hideaway.

## *"2022-2023 Club Officers Installation"*



### **2022-2023 Officers for the Women's Civic Club**

President	Diane Vitale
First Vice President	Nancy Stovall
Second Vice President	Julie Sanders
Recording Secretary	Sharon Williams
Corresponding Secretary	Gloria Turner
Treasurer	Sue Jiles

Sue Jiles, Diane Vitale, Nancy Stovall, Sharon Williams, Gloria Turner, Julie Sanders, Cheri Leistner (Installation Officer)

## *"New Member Installation"*

- \* Diane Vitale (President)
- \* Nancy Stovall (1st Vice President)
- \* Gloria Turner (Sponsor)
- \* Patti Maloy (Co-Sponsor)
- \* Denice Dare (new member)
- \* Carolyn Clark (new member)
- \* Joyce Kippes (new member)
- \* Dena Roewe (Co-Sponsor)
- \* Tammy Haight (Co-Sponsor)



## *"Welcome New Members"*



**Carolyn Clark**

Carolyn grew up in Alabama. She graduated from Auburn University. She took the PACE exam, which was required to enter the Federal Government, and after 40 years of a federal career she retired from the Pentagon in September 2018. During these 40 years she was blessed to attend numerous training programs and obtain her PhD (A.B.D). She also graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Carolyn is married to her Auburn sweetheart of 38 years. He is retired from the Air Force, but currently the IG at the 96<sup>th</sup> Test Group. They have one grown son.

Carolyn has volunteered throughout her life, in various capacities. She was a volunteer financial counselor to the young airmen, trying to get them out of debt and save money. She was a volunteer coach in all her sons' sports activities and served as the first woman Scout Master in Alaska for the Cub Scouts.

Being in the military they were lucky to explore and live in great places. She loved Alaska, but her favorite place was Alexandria, VA. as it was so close to the Capitol and New York.

She grew up on the shores of Panama City Beach some 50 plus years ago. Her and her husband moved back to Florida 3 years ago. She loves her rose garden, reading and trying to walk 5 miles per day.

Thanks for the opportunity!!

I am originally from Louisiana and have been married 30 years to Michael Dare who is from New Zealand.

We resided in Texas and Georgia with our blended family of 6 children. We now have 8 grandchildren, living in Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Georgia. Once all the children were living independently we had the opportunity to live in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Midrand, South Africa; Auckland, New Zealand and on the Gold Coast of Australia. We returned to the United States after 12 years and have resided in Florida for the past 7 years.

In New Zealand I volunteered as an aromatherapy massage therapist in a hospice care facility, which I found very rewarding. I am happy to have found the Women's Civic Club and an opportunity to give back to the Panama City Beach community.



**Denice Bourgeois Dare**



**Joyce Kippes**

I was born in Louisville, KY and will be married 40 years in July. I have a son that lives in Louisville and a daughter who lives in Orlando. We have been vacationing in Panama City Beach for over 30 years and always dreamed of moving to the beach. After retiring in April 2021, we made the dream a reality and moved here this past January. I am looking forward to becoming a member of this organization to give back and support the community in which we live.

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

## **Raising Funds**

### **Fall Fling Arts and Craft Show**

We are gearing up for our first ever Fall Fling! It will take place at the same location as the Spring Fling. We are currently gathering vendors, so be on the lookout for unusual handmade items! If you find a potential vendor, please send them to our website to download an application or they can e-mail Julie Sanders at [jqsander@aol.com](mailto:jqsander@aol.com). Applications and flyers will be available at the September meeting for members to distribute. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and get ready to do some holiday shopping at our First Fall Fling!

*Julie*

### **Ironman**

The Visit Panama City Beach Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast Ironman was held on May 7, 2022. Women's Club Members, family and friends prepared for the event by stuffing athlete packages and checking in athletes.



**Karen Demeester and Tommy Thomas**



**Nancy Stovall, Gloria Turner, Lynn Padgett**



**Brenda Bryson, Karen Gunsaulus,  
Bobbi Griggs, Susan Curry**



**Arlene Klaas, Monica Thomas, Patti Maloy**



**Kay Vider, Donna McElroy,  
Sharon McDonald**



Mary Herst, Ron and Jeanette Poland



Carol Metaxas, Sharon Williams



Maddie Niederberger



Patty Rocco, Nancy Stovall, Pam Kremm, Tina Dufresne

Thank you so much to everyone that volunteered for Ironman! The work wasn't always easy and it got hectic at times, but I appreciate your willingness to work where you were assigned. I know that the athletes appreciated us being there! It was so fun to get to meet them and their families.

Thank you, *Monica*

**The Ironman is Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and we need volunteers!**

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am-done

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30am-1:00pm or 12:30-5:00pm - greeting and registering athletes

Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30am-1:00pm or 12:30-5:00pm - greeting and registering athletes

You can register at <https://ironman.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=59904>

It's a great event and we need volunteers! If you have questions contact me, [monicathomas@comcast.net](mailto:monicathomas@comcast.net) (770)712-8464. Thank you, *Monica*

**Special Beach Events**

Special Beach Events: The Special Beach Events Committee is jumping right into work. During October we will be selling pumpkins for the Friends of St. Helen State Park. The event takes place at the park, just across the Lake Powell bridge. This is an event where we will be paid for our hours worked. There will be no lifting, just selling the pumpkins that are chosen by the customers that will be visiting the park. There will be a staff member present to provide opening cash and provide instructions on how to price the pumpkins. At closing there will be a staff member present to receive the cash from us. We will be working on October 1 and 2, October 8 and 9, October 16, and October 22 and 23. There are 2 shifts each day, 9 to 1 and 1 to 5. We will have 2 members present at each shift. As always spouses, friends, etc. are encouraged to join us!

If you would like to assist in this fundraiser, please, contact Nancy Stovall, [nlstovall@gmail.com](mailto:nlstovall@gmail.com), or Cheri Leistner, [cheri@advantagesoutheast.com](mailto:cheri@advantagesoutheast.com), with the date and shift that you are interested in. Also let us know if you will be bringing someone to help!

As always, thanks for your help!!!  
*Nancy Stovall and Cheri Leistner*

## Supporting the Community

### Community Outreach

The Community Outreach committee identified specific community needs and developed two projects to meet the needs. One of the projects involved collection of word books, sweets, lotions and other items from the membership. The items were packaged in colorful bags and given to all the residents at The Blake. Committee members have also committed to taking a meal once a month to at risk teens residing at McKelvey House.



**Kierstin, Memory Care Coordinator**

"The Blake"



**Residents**

### Food Pantry

As we all know the cost for food has significantly increased this last year. Thank Goodness for Food Pantries! Like all food pantries the one we support at Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church has seen an increase in first time users, families and the elderly. For the months of April 2022 through July 2022 the pantry served 713 individuals which equates to 6,417 meals. With donations from corporations, churches, nonprofit (like ours) and individuals the pantry has been able to continue to be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am- 12pm. Clients can come in once a week and receive three meals a day for three days. Of course, this is subject to change depending on the "stock" of food supplies. Besides food, when donated, the pantry also hands out personnel hygiene products and dog/cat food.

*Proverbs 22:9 He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.*

A big "Thank You" for your donations and a bigger "Thank You" to our members who assist in staffing the pantry.

If any of you would ever like to see the food pantry and learn how it operates please let me know and I will be glad to arrange a visit for you. Contact me at [gloturner1@gmail.com](mailto:gloturner1@gmail.com) or 828-280-1727. *Gloria Turner*, Food Pantry Liaison

### Scholarships

#### Arnold High School Scholarship



**Chloe Rook, James Reece, Diane Vitale**

In 2022, we had nine applicants from Arnold High School for our two \$1,000 scholarships. From the applicants, we awarded James Reece and Chloe Rook the scholarships. James will be attending the University of Florida to pursue a degree in Computer Science. Chloe chose the University of West Florida to pursue a degree in Biomedical Sciences with a goal to go to Medical School. Besides being outstanding academic students; the two recipients are athletes, leaders, and community volunteers. We sincerely hope our scholarship aids these two in obtaining their goals.

In 2023, I am delighted to say the Board and members voted to raise the Scholarship amount to \$2,000 per recipients. Thank you for your support in assisting our graduating students

## Gulf Coast State College Endowment

In 2007, our Women's Club made a \$ 15,000 donation for an endowment to then Gulf Coast Community College to their General Endowment Fund. In 2013, our Club established a second endowment of \$15,000 to their Culinary Program. The selection of the recipients is made by the Gulf Coast State College Scholarship Committee. The General endowment scholarship for the incoming year (2022-23) went to Kathy Johnson and the Culinary endowment went to Heather Jordon. The recipients will receive \$700 for both the Fall and Spring semesters.

A heartfelt "Thank You" goes out to all our members who worked the fundraiser in the years preceding the donations for these two endowments. The endowments will be active as long as Gulf Cost State College exists!!

*Gloria Turner*, Scholarship Liaison

## Luncheon Collections

Last year the board decided to limit collections to only one project for each luncheon. Each month there will be a list of specific items requested/needed in the newsletter and the luncheon invitation. The September luncheon collections will be at the request of the School Projects Committee.

## School Projects

They are requesting members bring:

- \* Colored Pencils
- \* Crayons
- \* Eraser Tops
- \* Expo Markers
- \* Gallon Size Ziploc Bags
- \* Glue Sticks (not liquid)
- \* Kleenex Tissues
- \* Notebooks
- \* Paper Towels
- \* Pencils
- \* Quart Size Ziploc Bags
- \* Spray Cleaners
- \* Tablets
- \* Washable Markers



Thank you for your assistance, *Carol and Jeanette*

## Volunteers Supporting Our Charities

Not only do our members support the Women's Civic Club funding raising, community outreach and events activities, they individually volunteer at some of the charities we support.



Maddie Niederberger was recognized by **Panama City Beach Police** Chief Talamentez for 20 years of volunteer work with the Police Department. Maddie, along with Joyce Goetz, Bobbi Griggs and Gloria Turner are current members of Citizens Assisting Police (CAP). Their volunteer efforts include (but not limited to) weekly courthouse runs to deliver files for upcoming court cases, weekly pawn ticket run to deliver pawn ticket copies, delivery of holiday food baskets on Thanksgiving and Christmas, delivery of holiday gifts for children at Christmas, staffing the police tent at events to hand out t-shirts and pamphlets at events such as Cops N Kids, Christmas with Santa, Christmas with Cops and any other activity where volunteers are needed.

Food pantries are often the only source of free healthy, nutritious food and personal care items for many people. The Women's Civic Club faithfully bring identified items to our luncheons for the **Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Food Pantry** and Gloria Turner, our liaison, takes the items to the food pantry. Arlene Klaas and Beth Reedy are volunteers at the food bank on Wednesdays, Cheri Leistner and Sue Jiles support on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month and willing to fill in as needed are Susan Curry, Luciann Jacobs, Monica Thomas and Gloria Turner.

### **Members Caring for Each Other**

Unfortunately, this summer the Sunshine Committee provided bereavement memorials for two of our members. Helen Schreiner's husband Paul, who passed away and a donation was made to Project Hope in his name. Ann Hawk, a life member, who recently resided at Superior Residence, passed away and a donation was made to St. Bernadette's in her name. The Sunshine Committee birthday assignments have been made for September 2022 through August 2023. We have three members who volunteered to send "Thinking of You Cards" throughout the year to nine of our older inactive life members. Here is a "Thank You" to the members of this committee for their continued "writing and card support" to all our members, whether active or inactive. *Gloria Turner, Sunshine Committee Coordinator*

### ***"Spending Time Together"***

#### **Member to Member**

The Member to Member committee met and has planned a year full of fun and informative events. First up is a "pitch in picnic" at Maggie Still Park! Are you familiar with Maggie Still Park? Well, you should be! It is one of the organizations that the WCC supports each year. It is named for a former member of the WCC. We are planning on grilling hot dogs and hamburgers and having each member bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be plenty of time for conversations and maybe a game or two! The date will be October 23. More information will be following, but reserve the date on your calendar. And if you know of a business that may be willing to help us with the purchase of the hamburgers, please let us know.

Due to popular demand, we will also be hosting a RADA fundraiser starting in October. Catalogs will be available at the October luncheon. Orders must be placed by Oct. 23. This will give us time to receive and distribute the orders before Christmas. Of course, orders may be placed on line, but you will be paying shipping/handling and online prices are higher than what the club can offer. Other events will be announced as we get details finalized.

*Patty Rocco, Lynn Padgett and Cheri Leistner.*

"Bunco" a dice game generally played with twelve or more players, divided into groups of four, trying to score points while taking turns rolling three dice in a series of six rounds.



**Cheri Leistner**



**Jackie Logan, Maddie Niederberger**



**Mary Herst, Doris Bayliss,  
Susan Curry, Gloria Turner**



Sony Edwards, Diane Vitale



Patty Rocco, Sharon Williams, Susan Curry, Kay Vider, Jackie Logan, Maddie Niederberger, Cheri Leistner, Nancy Stovall, Gloria Turner, Felicia England, Mary Herst, Monica Thomas, Diane Vitale, Dena Roewe, Sue Jiles, Doris Bayliss, Lynn Padgett

Last Bunco	<u>June 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<u>July 7<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>August 4<sup>th</sup></u>
Most Bunco's	Lynn Padgett	Judy Hardegree	Jeanette Poland
Most Games Won	Diane Vitale	Cheri Leistner	Jeanette Poland
Most Games Lost	Sharon Williams	Arlene Klaas	Patty Rocco
	Dena Roewe	Doris Bayliss	Nancy Stovall

### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

Helen Schreiner for the loss of her husband Paul and for the family of Ann Hawk. Our sincere condolences.

### *Recognizing our Members*

#### **Happy Birthday Wishes !!**

##### **September**

- 01 Denice Dare
- 05 Beth Reedy
- 14 Lynn Padgett
- 23 Clara Register
- 29 Tonia Sampson
- 30 Jean Sturman



*"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears"*

## *In Appreciation*

From James Reece - 2022 Arnold Scholarship Recipient

Dear Women's Civic Club,

I am honored and humbled to be the recipient of your generous scholarship. It means so much, and I will be responsible with the money you so kindly entrusted to me.

Best wishes and sincere thanks,  
James Reece



Thank You!

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH IT MEANT TO ME

*To all of you who sent cards, telephoned, and brought food during my recovery from a broken wrist and shattered knee, you are appreciated so very much. Your acts of kindness were incredibly thoughtful and encouraging and I can't begin to thank you enough.*

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*You are the Best Friends Ever.*  
*Jane Fillingim*

## **Upcoming Events**

- September 1 General Meeting at Boardwalk Conference Center, 9600 S Thomas Dr, 11 AM
- September 8 Kitchen Committee Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 309 R Jackson Blvd, 10 AM
- September 22 Splash Park Check Presentation at Panama Beach City Council Meeting, 17007 Panama City Beach Pkwy, 9 AM
- September 29 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce, 309 Richard Jackson Blvd, 10 AM
- October 1 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 2 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 8 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 9 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 15 Fall Fling at Frank Brown Park, 16200 Panama City Beach Pkwy, 9 AM - 3 PM
- October 16 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 22 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 23 Pumpkin Sales at St. Helen State Park, 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm
- October 23 Women's Civic Club Picnic at Maggie Still Park, 604 Lantana St

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

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