



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XI - Issue 1
September 2021



Diane Vitale

From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

Here we are at the beginning of our New Year together. I trust many of you did some traveling to reconnect with families, had pool time in the backyard, caught up on summer reading and maybe started a new hobby. Our Bunco gatherings at Taylors not only were filled with laughter but gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better. I thank member-to-member chair, Cheri Leistner and Bunco co-ordinator Patty Rocco for alleviating the threat of boredom this summer.

I'm very excited about the coming year and am humbled to be chosen as your president to work with each and everyone of you to meet our goals.

Chairs and co-chairs have been notified of their committee members and will be reaching out to orchestrate plans for accomplishing various tasks. I know Lunches and Programs had a lengthy meeting at Olive Garden already. Amazing possibilities have been introduced for where our lunches will be held and also the unique programs and speakers proposed.

Please put Thursday September 2nd on your calendar for our first "opportunity" luncheon of the year. I have titled it opportunity as I believe that's what it provides us; an opportunity to reconnect with members, an opportunity to introduce our friends as guests to our Club, and an opportunity for personal growth as a member of the Women's Civic Club.

Diane, President

"Foundations of the Club"

Since 1965, the Women's Civic Club has been successful because it is built on a strong foundation. Elements of the foundation include the Constitution and By-Laws and the Members. The Constitution and Bylaws provide direction; the members make it happen. "Foundations of the Club" will feature a long-standing member of the club and provide information from the Constitution and By-Laws. This edition will highlight Nan VandenBerg and focus on membership.



Nan VandenBerg

The club's newsletter "The Civic Courier" has been an important form of communication for the club. For over ten years, Nan VandenBerg has been the editor of the newsletter, but after the May 2021 edition and failing eyesight, she has decided to pass the baton at age 93.

Born and raised in Lansing, Michigan, she graduated from Michigan State University and married Harry Phillips the next week. He died at the young age of 44 and Nan continued to teach school and raise their three children. A few years later, she married Merle VandenBerg. Nan taught English for a total of 50 years.

Moving to Panama City Beach from Charlevoix, Michigan in 2003 to be near her son and his family, she became a member of the WCC in March 2005, soon serving as secretary.

Installed as president in 2007/09, she instigated having an elegant WCC live and silent auction. This was a huge event and money maker for three years but discontinued due to the economy at the time. The silent auction is now combined with the Beach Boogie Dance.

Although she has served on several committees, she is definitely recognized for her dedication to the Food Pantry, where she worked each Friday for several years. After the Board voted to solicit monthly collections from the members, Nan faithfully collected the items after each general meeting and delivered them to the Food Pantry.

When asked what was one of the highlights of being part of the club, Nan stated "Working with the wonderful women. Together we get things done!" Not only does Nan cheer for the future activities of the club, she is also an avid fan of Michigan State Spartan football or any Spartan sports.

Nan, although the club doesn't have an Edward R. Murrow Award for journalism you have our sincere "thank you" for your dedication as the editor and reporter for "The Civic Courier".

(continued on page 2)

"Foundations of the Club"

Membership:

Membership is important. Active members recommend candidates for membership by ensuring that the candidate meets the residence requirements as defined in the Constitution, attends two meetings before completing an application and attesting that they are interested in working to better the Panama City Beach community. Candidates are required to serve on at least one (1) fund raising committee and at least two (2) community outreach/event committees. Once the application is complete, the forms are submitted to the First Vice- President, the Chair of the Membership and Installation Committee, who will ask one of the officers of the club to make them feel welcome and to answer any questions. At the next Board meeting, the applicant is presented to the Board, the officers and the committee chairs, for approval. Once the application is approved, the First Vice-President will notify the applicant and the sponsor. The new member is inducted at the next general meeting. Extremely important is the willingness of the sponsor to mentor the applicant for the first year and that the existing membership makes them feel welcome to the club.



Remembering ...

Betty Dunn

(January 21, 1937- June 15, 2021)

Betty Campbell Dunn, age 84, formerly of Troy, Alabama and a lifetime resident of Panama City Beach Florida passed away, Tuesday, June 15, 2021. A celebration of her life was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

Betty's family and friends recognized her as a true Southern Belle. As a young woman, she started her career in a local ice cream shop making sodas and banana splits. Later, Betty became a telephone operator. Finally, she worked for the Landers Company, a Christian based family owned business, as a secretary. Betty's interests and hobbies ranged from playing tennis and golf. She especially loved to watch her daughter, Gail, in ballet and her son, Vincent, fly. She also enjoyed writing; however, her biggest joy was loving and taking care of her family. Betty was a devout member of Woodlawn Methodist Church where she served in several capacities. As a dear friend, Miss Charlotte Ball, said. "she just loved people."

Betty, a lifetime member, was inducted in the Women's Civic Club in September 1993. She is survived by her daughter, Gail Campbell Pike.



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

College Scholarships



Diane Vitale, WCC President, Sydney Melvin, Madalyn Graff McBeth, Gloria Turner



Arnold High School 2021

This year we had 8 outstanding applicants from Arnold High School for our two, \$1,000 scholarships. All candidates were impressive. Academically 3 of the applicants were in the top 10% of their class, 3 in the top 20% and 2 in the top 35%. They all had a 3.28 unweighted GPA or better. Six of the applicants graduated with Distinction (4.0 GPA or higher).

On May 19, 2021 Club President, Diane Vitale and Gloria Turner, Scholarship Liaison, attended Arnold High School's Senior Recognition and Academic Awards Program and presented our two recipients, Sydney Melvin and Madalyn Graff McBeth, their checks. Although it was exceedingly difficult to select two recipients from 8 well qualified graduation seniors, ultimately the decision was made based on the strength of their essay.

Gulf Coast State College Endowment

Our club has two endowments at Gulf Coast State College. The first endowment was established in 2007 and it is a general scholarship. The second endowment was established in 2013 and is for a student enrolled in the Culinary Management Program. Selection of both recipients for the scholarships is made by Gulf Coast State College Scholarship Committee. The endowment scholarship for the incoming year (2021) went to Sarah Livingston, and the Culinary endowment went to Sean Batye. They will receive \$700 for both the fall and spring semester for a total of \$1,400.

Every member of the club, especially those who were members in 2007 and 2013 and the years prior, should take great pride in the establishment of these two endowments.

Raising Funds

Ironman



Elaine Clark, Joyce Goetz, Arlene Klaas, Phil Klaas, Jackie Logan, Patti Maloy, Maddie Niederberger, Ginny Schmertmann

Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast

The race was held on May 15, 2021 and over 1800 athletes participated. Thank you to each and every one who volunteered. The volunteers helped in so many ways. We stuffed envelopes, took temperatures, checked in athletes, etc. Again - Thank you for your time and help. Without our members, family and friends this event could not take place.

(continued on page 4)

New request: Ironman (the full race) will be on Nov. 6, 2021. Please check your calendars and make plans to help the WCC earn money. Volunteers will be needed on tentative dates Nov. 3, 4, and 5. It is important for you to sign up and show up. The amount we receive depends on the number of volunteers who help. There will be sign-up sheets at the October meeting.

If you have volunteered before and know how and when you would like to help, please let me know at bjvecrumba@hotmail.com.

Special Beach Events "UNwineD"



Jackie Logan and Patti Maloy



Bernie and Ginny Schmertmann



Kay Vider



Sony Edwards and Carol Lynn

What a better way to spend a warm summer afternoon than pouring beverages at UNwineD. That's what 32 of our members, spouses and friends did in June. The annual event usually held in the spring had been delayed because of Covid and the weather was a little warmer than we were accustomed for this event. This is one of the fundraising opportunities in which the Tourist Development Council invites us to participate and a great time was had by all!



Lynn Padgett and Pamela Kremm



Earl and Jane Fillingim

Supporting the Community

Food Pantry

The Women's Civic Club supports the food pantry (the Pink Church on Hwy 79 between Back Beach and Front Beach Rd) in two ways. First, at each monthly meeting/luncheon we collect supplies from our members for the pantry and secondly, we volunteer to assist with staffing the pantry on specific days of the week or as a substitute volunteer.

The food pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, from 9 am to noon. Currently a participant can come in once a week to receive supplies for 3 meals for three days for the number living in their household. However, the number of days a participant can come to the pantry for food assistance does vary depending on the amount of food in the pantry. Any time there is a change in the times /or frequency of visits allowed it is posted on the food pantry door and church marquee.

The participants run the gamut of the population. We have families who have anywhere from 2- 8 living together, or maybe just one couple, or there are the ones who just share an apartment. Although I, Gloria Turner, am not a "regular" volunteer it seems each time I am there we have one or two homeless (usually men) come in. The homeless walk in, with backpacks and what fits in the pack is what they take, or some have bicycles, and we can give them more bags to hang on the handlebars. The pantry has a section of food for the homeless, items that can be used without needing to be heated. If we get special request for items they are for children/infants, teenagers, diabetic or low salt items for those with high blood pressure.

The number of clients served in June and July was 196, for a total of 1,764 meals.

Please, carefully read the Newsletter each month for those items especially needed for the pantry. Although all items, food and personal items, are welcome there are always some items that are in short supply or completely depleted and we do want to contribute what is needed the most.

At the September luncheon meeting we will be collecting:

- Trial Size Shampoo
- Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce
- Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese

Please if you have any question just call or email me... gloturn1@gmail.com 850 588 8426 Gloria Turner, Food Pantry Liaison.

School Projects

The School Projects Committee will be collecting school supplies at the Luncheon Meeting in September.

They are requesting members bring:

- Clorox Wipes
- Lysol Spray
- Paper Towels
- Boxes of Tissues
- Hand Cleaner
- Children's Paper Masks
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Expo Markers



Thank you for your assistance
Gail and Monica

Spending Time Together

Member to Member



**Arlene Klaas, Felicia England,
Rhonda Senkbeil, Lynn Padgett**



**Rhonda Senkbeil, Lynn Padgett,
Patty Rocco, Diane Vitale, Gail
Claffey, Nancy Stovall, Sue Jiles,
Felicia England, Monica Thomas,
Jeanette Poland, Arlene Klaas,
Charyl Thew, Jackie Logan,
Maddie Niederberger**



**Diane Vitale, Gloria Turner,
Jackie Logan, Gail Claffey**

The Member to Member Committee sponsored 2 Bunco Parties over our summer break. Each party was held at Taylor's Restaurant on Thomas Drive. Members and guests had a blast tossing dice, catching up with each other and sharing a lot of laughs. Oh and some won prizes to boot! At the July bunco Lynn Padgett won most games, Sue Jiles won most Buncos and Tammy Haight "won" most losses. At the August bunco Nancy Stovall won most games, Jackie Logan and Monica Thomas won most buncos and Rhonda Senkbeil came in with most losses. But truly everyone was a winner by having an opportunity to share some time with each other.

The Member to Member Committee hosts several social events each year to give members an opportunity to get to know each other better and to have a little fun outside of our fundraising events. More bunco parties are in the works and will be announced at a later date! A special thanks goes out to Patty Rocco and Lynn Padgett for organizing these bunco parties and ensuring that a good time was had by all!

Lunches and Programs

Your Lunches and Programs Committee has been busy lining up our luncheon venues and programs. All of our venues have been confirmed for the year and we will be presenting some old favorites and new fun locations, starting the year at Carrabba's. It has been a challenge with the current situation, but this committee has gone above and beyond in meeting those challenges. Flexibility!!

Celebrating the Members

Belated Birthday Wishes

June

02 Edith Ellis
05 Brenda Bryson
09 Linda Tabaka
13 Patty Rocco
17 Darlene Dial
19 Carol Lynn
23 Diane Vitale

Happy Birthday
**"Don't just count your years, make
your years count"**

(continued on page 7)



Sharon Williams

July

- 07 Elaine Clark
- 12 Phyllis McLane
- 16 Gail Claffey
- 19 Debra Fazzone
- 21 Sharon Williams
- 21 Shirley Williams
- 26 Judy Hardegree
- 26 Laura Laspee
- 29 Sony Edwards

August

- 06 Peggy Lowery
- 09 Doris Bayliss
- 11 Karen Gunsauillus
- 13 Eloise Cox
- 19 Cheri Leistner
- 20 Lana Lowery
- 25 Lisa Stretch



Cheri Leistner

September

- 10 Barbara Vecrumba
- 14 Lynn Padgett
- 23 Clara Register
- 24 Ann Hawk
- 30 Jean Sturman

Upcoming Events

- September 2 Luncheon Meeting at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 13820 Panama City Beach Parkway at 11 am
- September 23 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson Boulevard at 10 am

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

Contact Information

- Mail: P.O. Box 9759, Panama City Beach, FL 32417
- Email: womenscivicclub@aol.com
- Web: wccpcb.org
- Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL

This newsletter is the product of a collaborative effort

- Coordinator: Nancy Stovall 256-527-0195 nlstovall@gmail.com
- Article Contributors: Gail Claffey
- Sue Jiles
- Cheri Leistner
- Gloria Turner
- Nan VandenBerg
- Barbara Vecrumba
- Diane Vitale