



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XV- Issue 1
September 2025

"From the President's Desk"



I hope everyone is ready to put this hot weather behind us and get back into the WCC routine of making PCB a better community for ALL!

When I look at the exciting things happening for this year, I'm reminded of the song – The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades! Our future is definitely bright, thanks to all of our ambitious, hardworking and caring members. Many committees have worked through the summer to prepare for the year. The Luncheon Committee has arranged for some new and exciting venues for our luncheon meetings, The Dance and Auction Committee is preparing for the Big Event with some wonderful additions, The Arts and Crafts Committee have vendor applications rolling in for the Fall Fling, The Member to Member

Committee has hosted summer buncos, has a wonderful bracelet making class planned and will be selling tickets to the Kirby Holt Holiday Decorating Showcase. The Special Beach Events Committee is planning some expanded events, The School Projects Committee has planned for their September luncheon collection, and The Community Outreach Committee has been busy volunteering at several Assisted Living facilities. Whew – and people think we take the summer off!

I know all of you will lend your support to all of our fundraisers, so that once again, we will be able to blow our budget out of the water and provide additional support to our many charities and support organizations on the beach.

I am truly looking forward to the coming year and working with all of you. Because, "WE ARE UNITED FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY"!

Cheri Leistner

"May Luncheon - Installation of New Officers and Membership Recognition"



2024-2025 Officers Nancy Stovall, Arlene Klaas, Jane Fillingim, Dena Roewe, Jeanette Poland, Sony Edwards

2025-2026 Officers Jeanette Poland, Dena Roewe, Cheri Leistner, Kelly Bertin, Sony Edwards, Gloria Turner

A Heartfelt Farewell with a Bear-y Special Touch

At our final luncheon of the year, our outgoing President, Nancy Stovall found a heartfelt and creative way to honor both the dedicated service of our current Board and welcome the incoming Board—with the help of some very special friends: the Care Bears.

Each current officer received a Care Bear that symbolized the unique qualities they brought to their role throughout the year. The First Vice President, Arlene Klaas was gifted *Cheer Bear*, representing her uplifting spirit and unwavering positivity. *Harmony Bear* went to our Second Vice President, Jane Fillingim, a tribute to her ability to bring people together and create unity. *Laugh Bear* was presented to our Recording Secretary, Dena Roewe, whose sense of humor and joy brought light to every meeting. Our Corresponding Secretary, Sony Edwards, received *Grumpy Bear*, lovingly acknowledging her candid honesty and resilience. The Treasurer, Jeanette Poland was recognized with *Good Luck Bear*, honoring her careful stewardship and ability to keep us financially lucky and sound.

In keeping with tradition, our new incoming officers were also introduced, with their very own symbolic Care Bears. The new Second Vice President, Gloria Turner was welcomed with *Funshine Bear*, radiating optimism and bright ideas. Our incoming First Vice President, Kelly Bertin, received *Wish Bear*, a nod to dreaming big and believing in possibilities. And our incoming President, Cheri Leistner, was presented with *Brave Heart Bear*, a symbol of courage, strength, and leadership—traits she will want to carry into the coming year.

In keeping with the theme, each luncheon guest found a small bag of gummy bears at their place setting, adding a delicious touch to the celebration. Nancy wanted to remind everyone of the joy, unity, and care that define our organization—and that leadership, like Care Bears, comes in all colors and flavors, but always from the heart.

Thank you, Nancy, for your steady leadership, warm spirit, and for ending your term on such a thoughtful and cheerful note. Your creativity and heart have left a lasting impression on us all.

Today, we pause to express our deepest gratitude to someone who has led us with strength, grace, and unwavering commitment these past two years — our outgoing president, Nancy Stovall.

From the very beginning of her term, Nancy poured her heart into this club. Through every challenge, event, meeting, and decision, she led with compassion, clarity, and unwavering dedication to our mission. Under her leadership, we grew not only in numbers but in unity and purpose — strengthening our commitment to the causes we hold dear and deepening our impact on the community we so proudly serve.

Jane Fillingim

The Difference Monthly Luncheons Make – Thank You

Our monthly luncheons are more than just a time to gather—they are a powerful platform for connection, learning, and giving back. Each luncheon brings members together in fellowship, introduces meaningful causes through guest speakers, and provides opportunities to support local organizations through charitable collections. These events help build lasting friendships, strengthen our sense of community, and reinforce our club’s mission to uplift and serve others. With every meal shared and dollar donated, our luncheons continue to make a lasting difference—both within our club and throughout the Panama City Beach community.

A heartfelt thank you to all our members who contributed so generously at our monthly luncheons. Whether through monetary donations or much-needed material items, your support has made a meaningful impact on the organizations we serve. Your kindness and commitment to giving truly embody the spirit of our club and help strengthen our community in so many ways. We are grateful for each and every one of you!

Through your generous monetary donations during the 2024–2025 year, we were able to collect \$426 for our schools, \$104 for Domestic Violence support, \$400 for local Food Pantries, \$232 for Backpack Blessings, \$89 for the Boys & Girls Club, and \$73 for the Library. Additionally, our Sweet Pea (Happy Dollars) collection raised \$107, and 50/50 ticket sales brought

in \$1,046. Altogether, your contributions totaled an incredible \$2,477.00. Each of these gifts reflects the heart of our club—*United for a Better Community*. Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support and generosity.

As outgoing 2nd Vice President and Chair of Lunches and Programs, I want to personally thank each of you for allowing me to serve you for the past 2 years. It has been an honor to serve in this role, and I am truly grateful for the support, collaboration, and friendships formed along the way.

As I pass the torch, I want to extend my best wishes to your new 2nd Vice President, Gloria Turner. She will bring fresh energy, creativity, leadership, and many smiles to the position. Here's to a great year ahead filled with lasting friendships, great luncheons, and much success!

Jane Fillingim | Outgoing 2nd Vice President



Gail Claffey, Jane Fillingim, Arlene Klaas, Julie Sanders

Membership Recognition

Members with active membership are recognized for their dedication and service to the club for every 5 years based on installation date. Gail Claffey was recognized for 10 years of service and Jane Fillingim, Julie Sanders, Patty Rocco and Corinne Hardee were recognized for 5 years of service.

2025-2026 Lunches and Programs

The Committee started off with many suggestions and a lot of energy. Our primary goal was to provide nice venues for our lunches and business meeting at an affordable price and to obtain speakers who provide information about community or topics to enrich our lives. I feel we accomplished both goals.

We will start out in September with an old time favorite and a great supporter of the WCC, Captain Jack's on September 4th. Captain Jack's has continued to keep his fee low and consistently provides a great buffet. In addition to some of our favorites, we were able to add three new venues this year, McGuire's, Big Easy and Bella Roma. We are looking forward to "trying" out the new ones. Both managers have been very kind and have worked with us to also keep their cost as low as they could.

In addition to obtaining the lunch venues, we have firmed up our speakers for the year. We thought of new topics, and looked for speakers with the most knowledge to speak on those topics.

I want to thank every member of the committee for their ideas and suggestions. They have been great communicators both to me and to other members of the committee. When they go out and speak to managers or owners of venues and potential speakers, I can assure you they are the putting their best foot forward and are great representatives of our Club.

We look forward to seeing you at Captain Jack's and kicking off our 2025-26 session.

Gloria Turner, Chair Lunches and Programs Committee

Meet The 2025-2026 Board

Officers

Cheri Leistner - President

Kelly Bertin - 1st Vice President, Silent Auction Co-Chair

Gloria Turner - 2nd Vice President, Lunches and Program Chair, Kitchen Chair, Community Outreach Co-Chair

Dena Roewe - Recording Secretary, Special Beach Events Co-Chair

Sony Edwards - Corresponding Secretary, Sunshine Chair, Member to Member Chair

Jeanette Poland - Treasurer, School Projects Chair

Committee Chairs

Carol Adams - Fashion Show

Jayn Collins - Arts and Crafts

Michelle Coombs - Marketing, Website

Karen Demeester - Special Beach Events Co-Chair, School Projects Co-Chair

Annetta Henderson - Kitchen Co-Chair

Sue Jiles - Special Beach Events Chair, Telephone and Reservations Chair, Yearbook Chair

Sharon McDonald - Community Outreach Chair

Kris Sadoris - Ironman Chair, Parliamentarian

Tonia Sampson - School Projects Co-Chair

Julie Sanders - Arts and Crafts Chair, Dance Co-Chair

Nancy Stovall - Silent Auction Chair, Library Liaison, Newsletter Liaison

Janet Tettermer - Member to Member Co-Chair

Rhonda Zartman - Dance Chair

Liaisons

Carol Benson - Chamber of Commerce

Jenna Hall - Domestic Violence

Arlene Klaas - Maggi Still Park

Pam Sanders - Food Pantry

Monica Thomas - Boys and Girls Club, Scholarship

"Welcome New Member"



Sponsor:
Karen Demeester

Membership Chair:
Arlene Klaas

New Member:
Sueli Santoni



Sueli Santoni was born in São Paulo, Brazil, and immigrated to the United States 40 years ago at the age of 21. She has lived in Northern Nevada, the Houston area, and the Nashville area. After exploring the country in an RV for two years, she and her husband, Tom, settled down in Margaritaville. She has a son, Livingstone, who is 33 years old and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Sueli and Tom are parishioners at Saint Bernadette Catholic Church, where Sueli is a member of the Women's Guild. Sueli very much enjoys living in Panama City Beach with her husband and their little dog, Mesha. She looks forward to working with all of the members of the Women's Civic Club in support of our wonderful community.

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

Raising Funds

Arts and Crafts Show



Julie Sanders



Save the Date! Saturday, November 8, 2025 - 9:AM-3PM

Get ready to get your holiday shopping checked off your list while shopping at our annual Fall Fling. Find unique, handmade, one-of-a-kind gifts while you support local artisans and our club! We will be introducing some new vendors with beautiful items, along with some of our perennial favorites!

Please help spread the news and advertise this fun event - post a flyer, share on social media, tell family, friends and neighbors! Also, we will be looking for volunteers to work the evening before and the day of the event. Let us know if you can help!

Sincerely,
Julie Sanders and Jayn Collins
Arts and Crafts Show Committee Chairs

Dance



Hearts & Hands
United for a Better Community
Dinner/Dance/Auction/Entertainment

Gourmet Dinner Served
Silent and Live Auction
Local Entertainer - Todd Herendeen

Rhonda Zartman, Chair and Julie Sanders, Co-Chair have spent part of their summer getting the annual fundraising event organized. A special thank you to the many Club members who have been collaborating and contributing to the committee. The much-anticipated event will be once again held at Boardwalk Beach Hotel and Convention Center, Friday, **February 13, 2026**, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM.

Hearts & Hands Sponsorships

Diamond - \$5,000 includes Event Program Sponsor Logo, Sponsor Logo on Event Materials and Website, Promotional Materials, Table Swag Bags

Gold - \$2,000 includes Sponsor Logo on Event Materials and Website, Promotion Materials

Silver - \$1,000 includes Sponsor Logo on Event Materials and Website

Bronze - \$750

All Sponsorship Packages Include: Event Sponsor Recognition, VIP Entry to Venue, Complimentary Tickets for Table of 10 Seating, Pre-Event Marketing - Website, Social Print Media

Individual Tickets - \$50

The countdown is on! It's time to purchase individual tickets or choose to be a sponsor.

Huge Thank You to Todd Herendeen



Local entertainer, Todd Herendeen, is offering both his Heart and Hands, to sponsor and support our 2026 Dance/Silent Auction. Todd is volunteering his time and talent to be our emcee and auctioneer for the live auction. We will be gifted with some live entertainment as Todd sings a few tunes and provides us with a surprise appearance from a special guest! Todd has also been instrumental in providing us with contacts and connections for other sponsors for our event. Todd has always had a huge, giving HEART for our community and with his big HEART and helping HANDS, this will be an event to remember! So don't miss out - save the date – Friday, February 13, 2026, and get your tickets

Rhonda Zartman and Julie Sanders, Dance Chairs

Ironman



Rhonda Zartman, Jayn Collins



Barry & Dena Røewe, Sharon McDonald, Donna Maynard



Pam Davis, Monica Thomas



Gloria Turner, Susan Lydon



Kelly Bertin, Carole Ohlemueller, Deb Kesinger

Volunteering for Ironman 70.3

May 2025

Members of the Women's Civic Club of PCB supported the May 10, 2025 Ironman by stuffing bags, directing athletes to the check in areas, validating their registration documents, checking the athletes in and giving them their backpacks and T-shirts.

Save the Dates

Ironman Florida - Saturday, November 1st race date. Our WCC team will typically stuff bags on the Tuesday morning that week (October 28th), and assist with athlete check-in on Wednesday-Friday (October 29-31st) of that week. More details and volunteer registration link to follow. You may additionally individually choose to work the stations during the race itself if you have an interest.

Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast - Saturday, May 9th race date. Pre-race activities will be similar to the November race.

We also hope to be involved with the **Panama City Beach Marathon on Saturday, December 6th.** This is one we typically just help staff the course the day of the race.

Kris Saddoris
Ironman Chairperson

Special Beach Events

After a summer of rest and relaxation the Special Beach Events committee will start the new year with a new fundraising opportunity. The Food Truck Festivals of America will add another event this year with a festival at the Publix Sports Complex on September 13th. We have partnered with FTFA the last two years for festivals at Aaron Bessant Park and when they decided to add a new event this year, we were asked to participate. We will be selling tickets, scanning tickets, and distributing armbands.

Our next committee commitment will be the ever-popular Pirates of the High Seas and Renaissance Fest on October 10th-12th at Aaron Bessant Park. And Visit Panama City Beach has added a third beverage tent this year so we will have the opportunity to earn even more for the coffers. And these are just the beginning! We are looking forward to a lot of fun events this year.

Karen Demeester, Sue Jiles, Dena Roewe, Special Beach Events Co-Chairs

"Supporting the Community"

Boys and Girls Club



Thanks to the many efforts of our members, Cheri Leistner was able to make another special grant to the Boys and Girls Club Unit Director Christine Keisker at Frank Brown Park. The monies were used to support their members during the summer break.

Community Outreach

Supporting Events at Superior Residences of Panama City Beach

Luau



Sharon Williams, Sharon Cook, Becky Farmer, Lynn Padgett, Gloria Turner, Cheri Leistner
Shelling Peas and Shucking Corn at Charter Senior Living

Fourth of July



Sharon Williams, Sharon Cook, Lynn Padgett, Nancy Stovall, Cheri Leistner, Gloria Turner



Dena Roewe (blue cap)



Sharon Cook (straw hat)

Food Pantry



Items collected at the May luncheon and delivered to Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church Food Pantry.

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

School Projects

With schools back in session, the School Projects committee will be collecting items to support our five elementary schools in Panama City Beach at the September Luncheon. Please support the teachers and the students.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| * Colored Pencils | * Hand Sanitizer | * Lysol Wipes | * Pencils |
| * Crayons | * Highlighters | * Markers | * Pens |
| * Folders | * Kleenex | * Paper Towels | * Wide Rule Paper |

Solid color T-shirts in school colors and without logos on in children size 6 through adult size large are also need.

Breakfast Point	white, blue and yellow
Hutchinson	blue, orange and white
Patronis	green, yellow and white
Walsingham	teal, white and navy blue
West Bay	red, white and blue

Jeanette Poland, Karen Demeester, Tonia Sampson - School Projects Co-Chairs

Scholarships



During high school, **Maryn Christian** participated in local theater productions and served as captain of the Arnold Blue Thunder Band Color Guard. She volunteered locally as well as being dual enrolled at Gulf State College. Her goal in life is "to lead a life that reflects my commitment to both personal growth and helping others." She will attend the University of Central Florida and pursue a Pediatric Occupational Therapy degree.

While in high school, **Grace Savage** was involved with weightlifting and volleyball as well as numerous clubs. She volunteered in PCB as well as at her church. She plans to live at home, continue to work, and attend Gulf State College. Grace plans to earn an Associate of Art Degree in Nutrition, Food, and Exercise Science. Her goal is to then attend a four year school to obtain her bachelor's degree in the area of sports medicine.

Andrew Turner graduated 14th out of 395 at AHS. He served as the secretary of the Student Government Association and served as captain of the Cross Country and Track Team. He was one of three seniors that graduated with an associate's degree prior to graduating from Arnold. Due to financial restraints, Andrew will live at home and attend Florida State University - Panama City, while earning a pre-med degree. His ultimate goal is to become an anesthesiologist.

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Bunco

What a great summer of BUNCO! Fun and laughter galore, can't wait for more.

	June Winners	July Winners	August Winners
Most Wins	Rhonda Jones	Joyce Kippes	Monica Thomas
Most Losses	Nancy Stovall	Barbara Lambrow	Alisa Walley
Most Buncos	Jayn Collins	Cathy Schnader	Carole Ohlemueller
Last Bunco	Janet Tettermer	Sharon Burnett	Pam Sanders
Doors Prizes	Arlene Klaas Denise Schmidt Pam Sanders	Barbara Lambrow Cheri Leistner Gloria Turner	Kelly Bertin Sylvia Payne Pam Sanders

JUNE WINNERS



Jayn Collins, Pam Sanders, Denise Schmidt, Rhonda Jones

JULY WINNERS



Sharon Burnett, Joyce Kippes, Cathy Schnader, Barbara Lambrow

AUGUST WINNERS



Alisa Walley, Carol Ohlemueller, Kelly Bertin, Sylvia Payne, Pam Sanders, Monica Thomas



Hope you sign up for the **BRACELET class September 8th** offered by Denise Schmidt in Inlet Heights at 10:00am. Be there or be square. Call Sony Edwards (678) 478-1955 for more information.

Save the date **October 30th** for the awesome and fun **Kirby Holt's Holiday Decorating Showcase event!** Kirby will be at the September meeting to give you an idea what you're in store for. Location: The AG Center in Chipley. Fundraising

Price: \$20.00 per ticket. The tickets will be available at the September meeting. You can also contact Janet Tettermer at (321) 443-3692. Please feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors. This is a great fundraising event for our club!

Kirby and his son will definitely entertain you as they decorate the Christmas trees on stage to show different techniques, new trends, new products, etc. He will also make several wreaths or table decorations. After the shows, he opens up his flower shop and offers a nice discount on everything in the store including many of the items he used on stage. We'll arrange a carpool once we have the final numbers.

"Recognizing our Members"



Sunshine committee welcomes your donation of get well, thinking of you, sympathy, and birthday cards. Please bring your donation to the luncheon or contact Sony Edwards, (678) 478-1955.

Look for members with a Sunflower on their name tag to arrange for a card to be sent out to a member in need of a hug or if you need a ride to a function if unable to drive.

Sony Edwards, Sunshine Committee Chair

"In Remembrance"



Gayle Oberst passed away on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Gayle was an active member of the Women's Civic Club, with exception of the years she went inactive to serve as the Coordinator of the Citizen Leadership Institute at Gulf Coast Community College, since September 1991. Most of her childhood was spent in Elba, Alabama with a brief move to Panama City Beach where her parents owned and ran a fish camp. Gayle married Walter and they lived in Europe and Asia (South Korea). She had the opportunity to explore the different countries in Europe during this time.

Upon return to Alabama and with a B.S. in Marketing and a M.B.A. with emphasis on Management, she held numerous positions at Troy University including Vice President of Finance and Administration and Assistant Professor in the School of Business.

Walter and Gayle were able to retire in their early 40's and with the love of the beach decided to move to Panama City Beach. After a few years of enjoying golf, Gayle decided to get more involved in the community. She was elected to the Panama City Beach City Council and was appointed to the position of Mayor when the current Mayor resigned in 2006. Gayle was elected as Mayor in 2008 and served until 2016. She was instrumental in Panama City Beach's "green planning" which resulted in Conservation Park and Gayle's Trails. Gayle joking says, "the Women's club and other civic clubs petitioned for the name 'Gayle's Trails' because it rhymes".

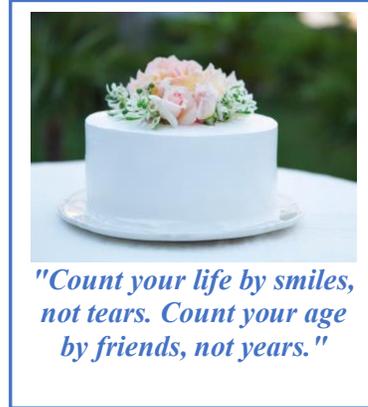
Gayle served as the Women's Civic Club President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Parliamentarian. She says one of the biggest challenges as 2nd Vice President responsible for lunches and programs was finding places to hold the meetings as there were so few restaurants on the beach at the time. Some of her fondest, or funniest, memories in the community were when the TDC decided Mayor Oberst should be taken as hostage and dragged through Pier Park during the 2016 Pirates Fest and participating in the Christmas Parade walking from Hutchinson Beach Elementary through Pier Park.

When asked if she has a word of wisdom for members, Gayle said "If you want to join the club, just be sincere and want to help. If you put your heart in it, you will get back more than you put in."

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

September

01 Denice Dare
06 Michelle Coombs
08 Susan Lydon
14 Lynn Padgett
19 Brenda Farmer
23 Clara Register
29 Tonia Sampson
30 Jean Sturman



"In Appreciation"

From: Panama City Beach Library

Thank you for the wonderful donations of crafts and funds. We are going to have an incredible summer reading program. Our hearts are full.

From: Gwen Oldenheimer

Thank you for sending me copies of the club's monthly activities. I was a past president in the 1980's. I loved working for our many activities. I started our annual craft show. Use my donation where it will do the most good.

I'm going to be 96 years old on Halloween! Doing quite well! I live in a great retirement community with my own apartment, all amenities and plenty of activities to keep me busy. My cat, Tabby, is happy here as well.

Keep up the good work! Love you all.

From: Maryn Christian

Dear Members of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of your generous \$3,000 scholarship. Hearing my name called at Senior Recognition was a moment that I will never forget! I am so honored to have been chosen by an organization with such a meaningful mission and long-standing dedication to civic improvement and community support.

This scholarship will significantly ease the financial burden of my college education and allow me to focus more fully on my academic goals. Your investment in my future is both encouraging and inspiring, and I am truly thankful for your support.

As a graduating senior from Panama City Beach, I appreciate the Club's commitment to helping local students pursue higher education. I am excited to represent our community as I continue my studies at the University of Central Florida, and I hope to contribute positively to our area in the future, just as your organization does so consistently.

Thank you again for your generosity and belief in my potential. Your support will truly make a difference and I am so grateful.

With sincere appreciation.

From: Woodlawn Church "We Care Volunteers"

The Volunteers at Woodlawn Church, We Care Pantry are so appreciative of your continued support. Your generous donation helped so many families during the holidays. It takes a village or a loving community to enable us to provide for the needy families in PCB.

Thank you so very much!

"Upcoming Events"

September 4	Luncheon at Captain Jack's Family Buffet, 8208 Thomas Dr., 11:00AM
September 8	Bracelet Class by Denise Schmidt, 10:00AM
September 13	Food Truck Festival at Publix Sports Complex
September 25	Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 309 R Jackson, 10:00AM
October 2	Luncheon at McGuire's, 17290 Front Beach Rd., 11:00AM
October 10-12	Pirates of the High Seas and Renaissance Fest at Aaron Bessant Park
October 29-31	Ironman Support at Aaron Bessant Park
October 30	Kirby Holt's Christmas Decorating Showcase at AG Center in Chipley

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

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