



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XIV- Issue 5
January 2025



Nancy Stovall

From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Happy New Year!!!! May the year be filled with peace, prosperity, love, and a good memory. A mind that remembers that the January general and luncheon meeting will be held on **Friday, January 3rd**, and not the normal Thursday.

"Ring in the new year" refers to the old tradition of celebrating beginnings and endings with bells. Although the Women's Civic Club members didn't "ring" 2025 in with bells, they happily handed out hats at the Beach Ball Drop events held in Pier Park and Aaron Bessant.

2025 proudly marks 60 years of caring, sharing, and giving back to our community. Over the years the members, past and current, along with family and friends have dedicated their time and talents to ensure the Women's Civic Club continues to exist and fulfill their mission to give aid to worthy projects in the Panama City Beach community.

Your continued support for our upcoming fundraising events - the Dance and Silent Auction on February 1st, Mardi Gras on February 15th, the Spring Fling Arts and Craft Show on March 8th, and UNwineD on March 29th is needed. The money raised from these and other events give us the opportunity to give more back to the community.

"Approach the New Year with resolve to the opportunities hidden in each new day".
Michael Josephson

Nancy

"A Festive Celebration of Giving at our December Luncheon"

The holiday spirit was alive and vibrant at our December luncheon, an event that brought together community, music, and generosity in a truly memorable celebration.

As members and guests gathered, the room was soon filled with the delightful voices of the Patronis Elementary School Choir, led by the talented Mr. Kenneth Kirkland. Their heartwarming performance of Christmas songs added a magical touch, reminding everyone of the joy and innocence of the season. The choir's festive melodies provided the perfect backdrop for the day's celebration and luncheon, bringing smiles to every face in the room. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Kirkland, the dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and all those who worked together to make this enchanting performance possible.

In addition to the uplifting music, our Panama City Beach officials, organization recipients, members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal, prepared, and served with care to reflect the spirit of togetherness that defines our club. Sharing food and fellowship with friends and community members made the luncheon feel even more special, creating cherished memories for all who attended.

The highlight of the event was the opportunity to give back to our community. Representatives from various local charities and organizations were present to receive donations from our club, made possible through the hard work and dedication of our members throughout the year. Each representative shared how these contributions will impact their organizations, expressing heartfelt gratitude that deeply resonated with everyone in attendance. It was a powerful reminder of our club's mission and the true spirit of the season—giving back to our community. These donations exemplify our ongoing commitment to supporting vital causes and making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

This luncheon was more than just an event; it was a beautiful reminder of the power of unity, generosity, and compassion. As we reflect on the success of this gathering, we are inspired to carry this momentum forward into the new year. Together, we can continue to make a difference and uphold our club's mission of creating a better community for all.

December Luncheon Program



The Patronis Elementary Choir
under the direction of Mr. Kenneth Kirkland



Monica Thomas, Andrea Banks
Arnold High School



Rebecca Dent, Dena Roewe,
Lynn Sears, Backpack Blessings



Sue Jiles, Tommy Ford
Bay County Sheriff



Christine Keisker, Cheri Leistner,
Latina Reed, Boys & Girls Club



Roberta Bernhardt, Taylor Meadors
Salvation Army Domestic Violence
Program



Sharon McDonald, Catherine
Glover, Girls, Inc.



Bob Lavery, Karen Demeester,
Chief Ray Morgan
Thomas Drive and West End
Volunteer Fire Depts.



Beth Reedy, Gloria Turner,
Rev. Mike Askew, Pastor
Gulf Beach Presbyterian
Food Pantry



Bobbi Griggs & Lt. Tommy Anderson, PCB Police Department



**Gail Claffey, Cheryl Joyner
PCB Parks & Recreation**



**Our Fashion Show Girls
Monica Thomas, Bobbi Griggs,
Jayn Collins**



Photo Credits Tammy Ruehrwein & Jane Fillingim

THANK YOU: A special thank you to the liaisons who worked with each organization and made each representative feel truly welcome. Your efforts in fostering connection and hospitality are deeply appreciated!

Thank you to our members who graciously assisted in seating our special guests. Your warm hospitality ensured that everyone felt welcomed. Our “fashion girls” were exquisite in their festive Christmas attire. Your energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to help were truly appreciated. Thank you for embodying the spirit of our club with such grace and charm.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, and helped make this luncheon an extraordinary celebration of music, fellowship, and giving. Let’s look forward to many more opportunities to spread kindness and make a lasting impact in 2025!

JANUARY LUNCHEON: We can’t wait to see everyone on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 3RD**. Due to the holiday, our usual “Thursday” luncheon has been rescheduled to **Friday**. Please be sure to mark your calendar! The luncheon will take place at Dee’s Hang Out, located at Shoppes at Edgewater, 529 N. Richard Jackson Blvd. Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal and hear from an incredible speaker. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please check your email for your luncheon invitation and be sure to RSVP by the deadline. Your timely response will help us secure your spot and provide the venue with an accurate count. We don’t want you to miss out, so we truly appreciate your prompt reply!

Looking forward to seeing y’all in January, 2025!

Jane Fillingim, Lunches and Programs Chair

“Mini” Fashion Show: Creating Fashion On A Budget

Models Rhonda Zartman and Janet Tettemer will be showcasing their suggestions to WCC members at the January “Mini” fashion show on how to Create Fashion On A Budget. They will demonstrate how to purchase a look for the upcoming Diamond Jubilee Gala Dance/Auction without blowing your budget. You will see pieces that look great, are affordable and can be worn for many occasions.

Rhonda’s fashion interest is based on being stylish but comfortable with a bit of fun bling. Janet’s fashion interest and style is based upon a simple classic look with something to jazz it up.

Ring in January 2025 represents new beginnings, transitions and looking ahead towards new goals. The Fashion Show Committee looks forward to celebrating the 60th year of the PCB Women’s Civic Club by caring & sharing to the community and highlighting fresh new fashion ideas to explore.

Bobbi Griggs, Fashion Show Chair

"Member Information"

Conflict of Interest Policy

IRS and Department of Agriculture reporting contains a question whether our club has a Conflict of Interest Policy. In order to protect both the interests of the Club and the membership, the board agreed at the December 19th board meeting that it would be beneficial to have a Conflict of Interest Policy. The policy can be viewed on our website wccpcb.org/membership. Each member will be asked to sign an [annual conflict of interest form](#) as an acknowledgement of receipt and agreement upon renewal of their membership each year.

Nominating Committee Process

President Nancy Stovall, First Vice President Arlene Klaas and Second Vice President Jane Fillingim terms will expire in May. The nomination process for the open position will begin at the January general and luncheon meeting with calls for (7) members to serve on the nominating committee to identify a candidate for each of the open positions.

Nomination forms will be given to each member in attendance at the meeting to state their candidate and sign their name. Nominees must have two years as an active member. The nominations will be placed in a container and the President will draw a nominee and give the nominee an opportunity to accept or decline until seven members agree to serve. The President will then appoint the selected members to the nominating committee and the committee will meet and develop recommendations to fill the open positions.

At the February general and luncheon meeting, the nomination committee chair will present the slate of officers to the membership. In March, the President will reread the slate of officers selected by the committee and call for nominations from the floor. Voting for the officers will take place at the April meeting and the new officers were be installed at the May meeting.

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

Raising Funds

Arts and Craft Show

Mark your calendars - **Spring Fling** - March 8, 2025!

Dance and Silent Auction



Please Join Us as we celebrate a truly special milestone! In 2025, the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, Florida, Inc. proudly marks 60 years of caring, sharing, and giving back to our beloved community. We warmly invite you to celebrate this extraordinary evening with us.

This event, featuring a dance, dinner, and robust silent and live auction along with great entertainment, will play a pivotal role in raising funds for the causes we support, and your involvement can truly help us make a difference. By teaming up with us for this occasion, you become an essential part of our mission to give back to our community.

Your Dance Chair and Co-Chairs,
Jane Fillingim, Julie Sanders, and Soula Dortch

Donations of an item, service, experience or gift card to be included in our silent auction is another way to support our fundraising efforts and donations are still needed. If you have not yet reached out to prospective donors, please do so as soon as possible as the date of the Dance & Silent Auction is quickly approaching! Please let Kelly Bertin kwbertin@yahoo.com know of any commitments you have for donations. Also contact Kelly for a convenient pick-up or drop off process for the received donations.

Tammy Galloway and Kelly Bertin
Silent Auction Chairs

Ironman and Panama City Beach Marathon



Jayn Collins, Deb Kesinger, Monica Thomas



Debi Armstrong, Jerry and Faye Culpepper, Joyce Kippes, Kris Kernan



Lisa Nicholson, Natalie May



Juergen Schleicher, Kelly Bertin, Karolina Schleicher, Brenda Farmer, Denice Dare



Nancy Stovall, Kay Vider, Graham and Andrew Turner

December 7th was a beautiful, yet cold, morning for the Panama City Beach Marathon. A big THANK YOU to our members, family and friends who manned the water stations and helped support finish line activities. You are so appreciated!

Kelly Bertin, Ironman Chair

Special Beach Events

New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop



Arlene Klaas, Joyce Kippes



Jayn Collins, Deb Kesinger, Karen Demeester



Diane Vitale, Flo Watson, Denise Rentz



New Year's Eve Beach Balls Drop

Happy New Year!! The Special Beach Events celebrated New Year's Eve with over 40,000 party goers at Pier Park and Aaron Bessant Park. And let's just say, PCB knows how to throw a party! The kids area in Aaron Bessant was a new addition this year with kids activities and games, a bounce house, a light show, food trucks, fireworks, a beach ball drop and of course, PARTY HATS! Pier Park had live music, a beach ball drop at 8pm, fireworks, PARTY HATS, stilt walkers, the Pier Park Beach Ball mascot and the big ball drop at midnight. We were constantly busy and having fun with the hat distribution. But more importantly this was a bigger and better opportunity for the WCC of PCB to earn funds that will be donated to our PCB charities and support organizations!! We cannot express our sincere gratitude and appreciation of the ladies, as well as their family and friends, that joined us for this fundraiser! You were a pleasure to work with and truly represented the club's motto of Uniting for a Better Community!

Cheri Leistner and Sue Jiles, Special Beach Event Co-Chairs

"Supporting the Community"

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach committee continues to assist in the community. We supported Superior Senior Living by assisting residents making gingerbread houses on December 12th, and serving breakfast on December 13th. We held a Red Hat tea party at Charter Senior Living on December 13th, and we continue to volunteer twice a month at Backpack Blessings. On December 10th, 17 members gathered at the Dena Roewe's home for fellowship and to sign 215 cards. These cards were distributed by Gloria Turner to the residents at both Charter and Superior.

As a reminder, WCC members volunteer at Backpack Blessings on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 8:30 a.m. The address is 158 Griffin Blvd. All members are invited to join us in these rewarding activities. The next red hat tea party will be at Charter Senior Living on January 27th at 2:30pm. The address is 6012 Magnolia Beach Road. Red hats are provided.

Dena Roewe, Community Outreach Chair



Natalie May, Gloria Turner, Sue Jiles, Rhonda Jones, Cheri Lagace, Nancy Stovall, Jane Fillingim, Monica Thomas, Susan Major, Diane Pickering, Sylvia Payne, Toni McLane, El Moreland, Brenda Farmer, Karen Demeester, Dena Roewe and Carol Adams enjoyed the holiday card signing party hosted at Dena Roewe's home on December 10th.

Superior Senior Living



**Sharon Williams, Susan Hendryx, Doris Bayliss,
Nancy Stovall**



**Gloria Turner, Sharon Williams, Lynn Padgett, Jane
Fillingim, Doris Bayliss, Denise Rentz, Roberta Bernhardt**

Charter Senior Living



Charter Resident, Diane Vitale, Denise Rentz, Gail Claffey



Charter Resident Group

Food Pantry



Christmas Basket Collections



Gloria Turner with Volunteers
Phyllis and Kent Miller

School Projects

The School Projects Committee will be collecting at the January luncheon:

- Jackets: Boys and Girls (sizes 5T to adult medium)
- Stocking Caps
- Pants: Elastic Waist Shorts and Long Pants for Boys and Girls (sizes 5T to adult medium in blue, gray, khaki or black)

We are putting special emphasis on Jackets this year, so if you care to donate by cash or check, we will use those funds to purchase additional jackets.

Thank you,
Jeanette Poland, School Project Chair

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

Save the Date:

In response to our summer bunco players that requested a winter bunco, Member to Member Bunco organizers Sony Edwards and Carol Lynn are planning a bunco on February 13th at Taylors. More information will be coming as the date draws near.

Cheri Leistner, Member to Member Chair

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

January

02 Shirley Crawford
04 Carol Metaxas
08 Susan Major
12 Dena Roewe
12 Cathy Schnader
14 Rhonda Senkbell
15 Joyce Kippes
21 Sheryl Lewis
22 Kelly Bertin



"Your birthday is the one day of the year when you can have your cake and eat it, too".

"In Appreciation"

Sunshine Committee

You are important to us! Sunshine committee members are now wearing sunflower pins to make it easier for members to tell us when a member is ill, had a loss, needs surgery or just a hug. If you are new and have a question, we might be able to steer you in the right direction.

Sunshine Committee Chair, *Sony Edwards*

From: Panama City Beach Library, Laura Laspee

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$1,000 to the library. Your donation will be spent on books for both children and adults to help foster a love of reading. We are so grateful to all of the members of the club and we are happy to be a part of this awesome community.

From: Backpack Blessings

We would like to thank you for your \$2,500 donation to Backpack Blessings! With your generous contribution this will help feed many students over the weekends. As of last week we are feeding 389 students across PCB Schools. God Bless!

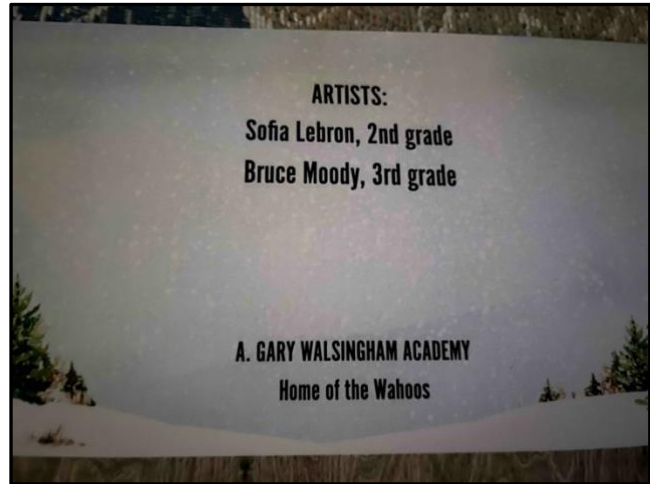
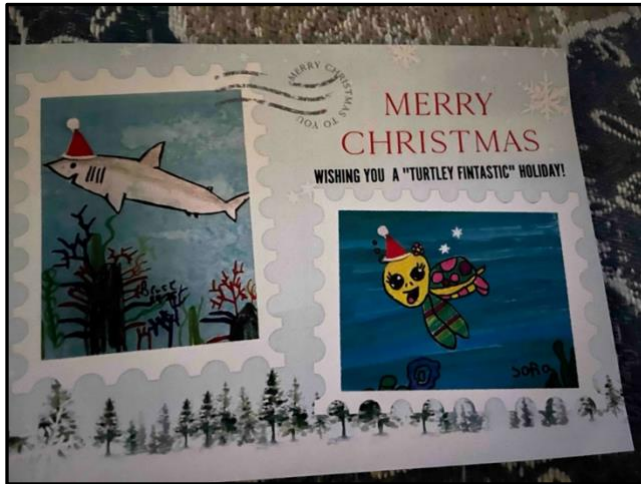
From: Kenny Kirkland, Patronis Elementary School Choir Director

Please thank the club again for me. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and it means so much to me. I wanted to speak some more but got choked up and overcome with emotion.

From: Emily and Avery Woodall (Avery was one of the authors at the event)

Dear Ladies of the PCB Women's Civic Club, I wanted to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your Fall Fling event. We had a wonderful time and enjoyed meeting so many of you. It was a beautiful event with a great assortment of vendors. We loved being a part! God bless you all! Warmly.

From: A. Gary Walsingham Academy



From: Habitat For Humanity of Bay County, FL

Happy Holidays from Our Families to Yours. May this Christmas be a reminder of the strength in community and in building homes and dreams together.

From: Anchorage Children's Home - Joel Booth, Executive Director

Clarity is a beautiful thing! At our agency's Annual Meeting in September, our audience received a special gift that provided all of us with clarity on the important work we do at Anchorage Children's Home. For the first time in several years, we had some of our clients (past and present) give their personal testimonies and explain how Anchorage helped them in their time of need. All of their stories were inspiring, but one 17-year-old youth in particular had the crowd in tears. This young man's story is one that we see often at Anchorage, but for our visitors it was astonishing for them to realize what so many of our youth (right here in little ole Panama City) struggle with. He shared that his mother struggled with drug addiction all his life, resulting in him and his siblings entering into the foster care system after his mother was incarcerated. His father was in the country illegally and was deported when this young man was very young, so he did not have a relationship at all with him. Upon her release from jail, his mother was eventually reunited with her children, but she continued to struggle to provide for her family and, out of necessity and not by choice, this young man became the adult for his younger siblings. The family continued to move from apartment to apartment until they were accepted into The Ark on Panama City Beach. Through God's providence, our Street Outreach Team worked with The Ark staff to transition him into Anchorage's Transitional Living Program, "The Bridge". He has excelled since entering the program! Due to the support and guidance of our staff, he is now attending school regularly and will graduate this year. He plans on pursuing a career in the field of Computer Systems & Information Technology. I think the moment in his testimony that moved so many was when he said these three basic words when I asked him what was the biggest impact that The Bridge Transitional Living Program has provided him: "I feel safe". How simple, but so profound. He simply needed to exist in a safe and loving environment to realize his God given purpose in life. He went on to explain that he now has adults in his life that he trusts and supports him.

This young man provided clarity to all in attendance, including myself, on why it is so important for Anchorage to continue its mission in our community. There are so many more youth in our community that have a similar story to tell and who desperately need the safety, love and security that Anchorage has to offer. All services offered by Anchorage, including The Bridge Transitional Living Program, are in existence due to your prayers, support and engagement. Over 40 years ago,

the founding board members stepped out on faith to establish Anchorage Children's Home and God continues to honor their commitment of faith by guiding individuals like you who continue to support our mission.

I leave you with this verse from the Apostle Paul: Philippians 1:9 "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." As you gather with family and loved one this Christmas season, let me challenge you to embrace this scripture. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior may we truly reflect on God's perfect plan of love and redemption. Through this reflection, I pray that each of us cultivate a love that reflects God's character, grace and wisdom as we navigate life's complexities. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"Upcoming Events"

2025

- Jan 3 Luncheon Meeting at Dee's Hangout, 529 N R Jackson, 11AM
- Jan 9 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Jan 16 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Jan 30 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 10AM
- Feb 1 Dance and Silent Auction at Boardwalk, 9600 S Thomas Drive, 6-10PM
- Feb 6 Luncheon Meeting at Runaway Island, 14521 Front Beach Road, 11AM
- Feb 13 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Feb 15 Mardi Gras at Aaron Bessant Park
- Feb 20 Backpack Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Feb 27 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Boardroom, 10AM

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

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