



The Civic Courier

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

Volume XIII- Issue 6
February 2024



Nancy Stovall

From the President's Desk

Dear Members:

Giving to others encompasses and uses all parts of ourselves including our head, our heart, and hands to make a positive difference. On January 18th I witnessed how generous and giving (heart) the members of the Women's Civic Club are when 28 members bundled up (head) met at a Florida cold warehouse and helped package (hand) 391 weekend meals for students in Panama City Beach. These students, who have been identified by their counselors and teachers as needing additional support, receive 7 meals and snacks for each weekend.

In April 2023, the club was able to give \$21,000 in additional funding to worthy organizations in Panama City Beach. The upcoming dance and silent auction is an opportunity for the club to raise money and hopefully with your support and our other fundraising events we will be able to give the additional funding again this year. Please mark your calendars to attend the event on February 3rd. You will be able to enjoy a meal, dance, visit with friends and shop.

"Life's persistent and most urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Martin Luther King, JR.

Nancy

"January Luncheon with Maestro Sergey Bogza as Guest Speaker"



Maestro Sergey Bogza



**Tammy Haight, Sergey Bogza,
Ellen Andrews**

When you look up Sergey Bogza, musical conductor, on-line, you will find him described as "a charismatic conductor whose passion radiates from the podium". We certainly found this to be true at our January luncheon held at Deckhand Social Restaurant on January 4th. A renowned musical conductor, Sergey Bogza, our esteemed guest speaker captivated the audience with his wealth of humor, knowledge, and passion for the arts.

During his engaging presentation, Conductor Bogza generously shared his insights into the world of music, and from his own personal life. Born into a Russian-Ukrainian family and coming to the United States in 1995, he earned his Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from Central Washington University and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota.

As the music director and conductor for the Panama City Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Bogza described the program of events held during the regular season and the world-class artists selected for each concert. Adding that the Symphony in the City series on Thursdays will continue its mission of featuring chamber ensembles and solo musicians. He also described his commitment to giving back to the community and does so with music education and a unique mentoring program for emerging student musicians in the 9th grade and beyond.

In addition to his deep love for music and belief in its ability to shape our cultural identity and enrich our lives, his energy is also engaged off the podium. He humorously described his life as an avid endurance athlete who frequently participates in ultra-marathons and long-distance bike rides. He trains alongside his two Belgian Malinois dogs, Samson and Stella, whom he loves dearly.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Conductor Bogza for gracing us with his presence and sharing his passion and expertise with our club. His visit was a harmonious blend of inspiration and education, reminding us that not only was his presentation a testament to his talent but also a reminder of the importance of supporting the arts in our community.

I am thrilled that our community is known for its commitment to supporting symphonic music. Having someone as talented and experienced as Maestro Bogza in our area is a source of immense pride. After the meeting, I was so impressed and tried to buy tickets for a concert online, but they were sold out. Kudos to the Panama City Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Bogza for their success.

THANK YOU: We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members who joined us and participated in our January luncheon. A special thanks goes out to Tammy Haight for arranging our guest speaker and his accompanying assistance, Ellen Andrews, Operations Director for the Panama City Symphony Orchestra. Many thanks to Julie Sanders for the coordination of the fantastic venue, The Deckhand Social.

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON: Yall Come! Our February 3rd luncheon will be held at The Wharf Restaurant at Laketown Wharf, 9902 S. Thomas Drive.

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER: Corporal Amy Burnett is our February guest speaker. Cpl. Burnette works in Criminal Investigations with the Bay Co. Sheriff's office and specializes in domestic violence and human trafficking.

"New Member Installation"



Left to Right:

Arlene Klaas, Membership Chair

Jeanette Poland, Sponsor

Diane Pickering, New Member

Carol Davis, New Member

Monica Thomas, Sponsor

"Welcome New Members"



Hello,

I am originally from Georgia. My husband, Mike, and I lived in Tennessee for 35 years where we had our careers and raised our two sons. I retired from my Federal career as a Human Resources Specialist in 2012. We moved to Florida in 2017 and built a new home in Freeport. In 2022 we moved into the new Margaritaville community in Bay County. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you on your worthwhile projects for our new community. I am very honored to be a new member of the PCB WCC.

Diane Pickering

Carol Adams moved to Latitude Margaritaville Watersound in July 2023 after retiring from the University of North Georgia where she served for 8 years as an Associate VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of University College. While in Georgia, Carol was an active member of local Rotary Clubs and numerous women's organizations that fostered development of both young and adult women as they pursued higher education. Carol has focused her career on helping students of all ages achieve their educational goals, however, her favorite experience was assisting females who returned to college as working adults. Carol also is passionate about helping agencies that rescue animals to prepare them for adoption. Membership in the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach will provide the opportunity to fulfill her need to serve others. She and her husband Tom Adams have lived in Salt Lake City, Plano, TX, Kansas City, and St. Louis, as well as most recently the Atlanta area. She is a proud graduate of the University of Alabama where she earned multiple degrees. In retirement, Carol is discovering a new love of pickleball, enjoys walking with her two pups on any trail she can find, is thrilled with making new friends, and treasures time on the beach with Tom.



Carol Adams

"Women's Civic Club Selected for Latitude Margaritaville Watersound Foundation Grant"

All of us know of the new Latitude Margaritaville at Watersound community on Highway 79. Inspired by the legendary singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett, this new community is known for its friendly atmosphere where the party never ends.

However recently, the Women's Civic Club of PCB learned of another side of this community. In the fall, Monica Thomas (a resident of Margaritaville) brought an opportunity to the WCC Board. Then we learned that Latitude Margaritaville is committed to giving back to the greater community. The Latitude at Watersound Foundation had been created to promote various community initiatives within Bay County and its surrounding areas. Residents were asked to forward a grant application to any organization that they felt was worthy of a donation from the foundation. And of course, Monica immediately thought of the WCC.

A rather lengthy grant application was completed along with a 3 minute digital package highlighting the WCC, its mission, activities, community involvement, etc.

In November, the residents of Latitude Margaritaville Watersound were given the opportunity to vote for the organization they believe is most deserving and valuable to our community. Thanks to our members who are residents of this community and the residents who have attended our events, our club was able to secure one of the top grants to be awarded!

On February 29, The Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach will be receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Latitude at Watersound Foundation, in recognition of the positive impact our club is having on our community!

Many thanks to ALL that were involved in this grant application. We are delighted to be receiving this grant and to be recognized for our positive impact on the PCB Community!!

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

Raising Funds

Spring Fling Juried Arts and Crafts Show and Sale!

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 2, 2024! We will need volunteers and shoppers for our annual Spring Fling held at Frank Brown Park from 9-3. We currently have over 30 sponsors. Lots of new vendors who have applied with some amazing products! Please refer any vendors to our website wccpcb.org to the events tab, where they can download an application or contact Julie Sanders jqsander@aol.com for information on becoming a vendor!

Julie Sanders, Chairman



Dance and Silent Auction

Dear Club Members,

As a valued member of the Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach, your support means a great deal to us and our mission. We are reaching out to you with an important request regarding our very important upcoming fundraising event.

“Oh What A Night – Caring & Sharing With Our Community” Dance & Auction event is fast approaching, and we are working hard to make it a success. We are thrilled to be raising funds for the numerous charitable and community entities we support, and we truly believe in the positive impact it will have on our community.

As members of our club, we would like to invite you to join us at this special event. Your presence would mean a lot to us, and your support will help us make a significant difference in the lives of those we have made a commitment, as a club member, to serve.

To ensure our chef can prepare a delicious menu for all our guests, a headcount is required. You will need to purchase your tickets by January 29th so that we can provide an accurate headcount. This will not only secure your attendance but also contribute to the success of our fundraiser. Tickets are available for purchase at www.wccpcb.org or you may contact Jane Fillingim at 850-499-0223 or Darlene Dial at 850-814-8668.

We understand that everyone has busy schedules, but your participation would mean a lot to us. Your presence at the event will not only show your support for our cause but also help us create a stronger and more connected community. If you have an item that you would like to donate for the auction, please reach out to Tammy Haight at 770-833-4838 or Kelly Bertin at 404-909-9323.

Thank you for considering our request. We are looking forward to seeing you on February 3rd at our **“Oh What A Night – Caring & Sharing With Our Community”** Dance & Auction event and sharing this special evening with you.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jane, Darlene, Tammy or Kelly.

Warmest Regards,

Your Chairs and Co-Chairs,
*Jane Fillingim, Darlene Dial
Tammy Haight, Kelly Bertin*



Dewar's Discovery Pack
 Donated by: Michele Morros
 The Beach Team



Angelo's Steak Pit Basket including \$50 Gift Card
 Donated by: Angelo's Steak Pit



Everything Pink Gift Basket
 Donated by: Monica Thomas



Professional In-Office Teeth Cleaning & Botox Treatment
 Donated by: 30A Smiles



Special Beach Events

Mardi Gras

The Special Beach Events Committee was excited and ready to work at this year's Mardi Gras Music Festival at Aaron Bessant Park. We were unable to work this event last year due to the renovation project at the park. However, the weather did not cooperate. Due to showers, the concerts were shortened and were on an accelerated time frame. Then the small crowd at the park was cleared due to a tornado watch and expected lightning.

But the Special Beach Events Committee still had a good time and made a small profit for the club.

We never know what to expect from the weather at events such as this, and honestly, we have had so many beautiful days in the past to work events like this that we were due for a bad one! So we are going to regroup and prepare for our next fundraising event. And that is a BIG one that everyone enjoys – UnwineD! We will be needing 70 volunteers to pour samples of wine and other spirits for the partygoers. The date is April 6, so please put us on your calendar. Signups will begin shortly!



Front Row: Karen Demeester, Joyce Kippes, Monica Thomas, Jeanette Poland, Patty Rocco, Tim Rocco, Flo Watson



First Customers



Dena Roewe, Jackie Logan, Sue Jiles

Thanks to all the committee members that came out to work Mardi Gras and brought husbands! Thanks to all those that signed up to work and we had to cancel! We appreciate you all greatly!

Cheri Leistner and Sue Jiles, Special Beach Events Chair

"Supporting the Community"

Boys and Girls Club

The club will be collecting the following items at the February Luncheon for the Boys and Girls Club

- * Construction Paper
- * Crayons
- * Markers
- * Drawing Paper
- * Colored Pencils
- * Board Games
- * Card Games (such as Uno, Monopoly Go, Phase 10)
- * Playing Cards

There will also be a collection jar if you would prefer to donate cash instead of items.

Cheri Leistner- Boys and Girls Club Liaison

Community Outreach

Red Hat Party



Jean Cooney

A Red Hat Tea Party was held at Charter Senior Living on January 22nd. Organized by Community Outreach Committee members Dawn Wise and Denise Rentz, it was a wonderful event for all involved. WCC provided the red hats and tea sets, and Charter provided the refreshments. The residents that participated included Jean Cooney, a WCC inactive member and past club officer. We enjoyed delicious food, singing, and even dancing! The next Red Hat Tea party will be held on February 26 at 2:30p.m. Six volunteers are needed for each event. If you are interested in participating, please contact Denise Rentz deniserentz1@gmail.com or Dawn Wise dwise1945@yahoo.com.



"Charter's Red Hat Ladies"



Hostess Dawn Wise

Backpack Blessings

Backpack Blessings, Inc is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides weekend meals to students in all Panama City Beach Schools. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, they are able to pack and distribute nutritious meals weekly to over 370 student from Pre-K to High School.

The Women's Civic Club volunteered on January 18th and will return to volunteer to Backpack Blessings on the 2nd Thursday of the month, February through May. It takes approximately 1 hour to complete, and it begins at 8:30 a.m. The address is Hospitality Depot, 158 Griffin Blvd, Panama City Beach 32413.

Ways to help Backpack Blessings

Volunteer

- Weekly bag packing and distribution to schools - Thursday 8:30 a.m. at Hospitality Depot

Sponsor students

- \$250 provides 1 student weekend meals for the entire school year
- \$500 provides 2 students weekend meals for the entire school year
- \$1,000 provides 4 students weekend meals for the entire school year



Women's Civic Club Volunteers



Monica Thomas, Denise Rentz



Pam Sanders, Kelly Bertin



Cheri Leistner, Annetta Henderson, Jeanette Poland

March Luncheon Collections will be for Community Outreach.

School Projects



**Hutchinson Beach Elementary
Principal Glenda Nouskhajian,
Tonia Sampson, Jan Schott**



Patronis Elementary
Principal Brooke Loyed, Sharon
Williams, Lisa Fish**



**Breakfast Point Academy
Admin Yesenia Loren, Sherrill
Kelley**

**Patronis had two students who lost everything in the recent tornado. We were able to use cash donations we received to give the school a \$50 Walmart gift card to be used especially for them!



**Walsingham Academy
Edie Lloyd, Admin Monica Dobbel**



**West Bay Elementary
Jeanette Poland, Principal Denise Moss, Karen Demeester**

The School Projects Committee had the privilege of delivering clothing to supply the clothes closets at the five elementary schools in Panama City Beach this month. Thank you for your generous donations.

Thank you,
Jeanette Poland & Denice Dare

Scholarships



Caitlyn Nobel

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

I want to give a big thank you!

This past year has been one for the books. During this year I achieved many many things. First, I became an official member of my church and began serving every weekend in the cafe, and then I got accepted into the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP). Right before I graduated from High School, my basketball coach baptized me in the Gulf. This summer I worked for eight weeks as an Apprentice in SEAP and then I worked my weekends as a lifeguard. SEAP places academically talented high school students with interest and ability in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as apprentices in Department of Defense (DoD) laboratories for eight weeks during the summer.

While working closely with research personnel, who acted as mentors, I was able to experience scientific and engineering practices that were not available in my high school environment. The program offers students like myself exposure to science and engineering activities at DoD laboratories. This tends to encourage a positive image toward the defense community, and helps foster an interest in future employment within the DoD. Participation in this program also helped me serve as a positive role model not only for my peers but also for my younger siblings by encouraging others to take more science math courses.

In November of last year, I also applied to work in more internships located at the DoD laboratory in Panama City. I applied for the Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) and the Science, and Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART). I should hear back sometime between January and March to find out if I was accepted into either program.

Most importantly, I want to say thank you! Last year I received a \$2,000.00 Scholarship from the Women's Civic Club. This scholarship was made available by many fundraising efforts of the club. I am most thankful to this club for providing me with such an opportunity. I was able to pay off a little bit over 80% of my first semester fees. This scholarship helped pay for my cost of tuition and fees as well as my books! That being said I only had to pay \$387 for the remaining costs of my tuition and books.

Starting last fall, I began my first semester of college and made many new friends. My first semester of college was quite easy. I was enrolled in College Algebra, Research Genre and Context, Female Friendship Alliances in Shakespeare, and Public Speaking. I learned so much from my teachers and I love how I can build a relationship with my teachers since my class sizes were typically between 7 and 18 students. I earned a GPA of 3.6 which brought my cumulative GPA from a 3.0 to a 3.3. I am so excited about the next semester as it will be equally challenging and rewarding. The classes I am enrolled in are Analytic Trigonometry, Pre Calculus Algebra, First Year Engineering Lab, General Chemistry, General Chemistry Lab, and Introduction to World Religion.

Best Wishes and Happy New Year!

Caitlyn Noble

"Spending Time Together"

Member to Member

New Member Orientation

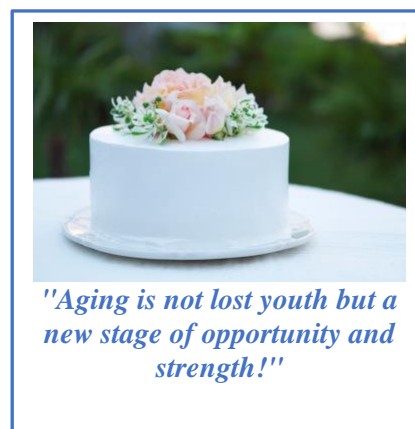
Calling all new members to save the date for the WCC New Member Orientation! This event will take place the evening of April 18 and will be a night of information and fun! This orientation provides the opportunity to learn more about the WCC, its committees and its expectations. All attending will have the opportunity to ask questions and network with the board members. This event is for all members installed during the 2023-24 year, as well as members installed last year who were unable to attend the orientation. More information will be coming soon

"Recognizing our Members"

Happy Birthday Wishes!!

February

10	Sue Jiles
17	Felicia England
18	Tammy Haight



"Upcoming Events"

- Feb 1 General Meeting and Luncheon at The Wharf, 9902 S Thomas Drive, 11AM
- Feb 3 Dance and Silent Auction at The Laketown Wharf Event Center, 9902 S Thomas Dr., 6-10PM
- Feb 8 Backpacks for Blessings at 158 Griffin Blvd, 8:30AM
- Feb 19 Winter Resident Appreciation Days at Laketown Wharf Event Center, 8-10:30AM
- Feb 29 Board Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 309 R Jackson, 10AM
- Feb 29 Latitude at Watersound Day of Giving at Latitude Margaritaville Watersound Bar, 5:30PM
- Mar 2 Spring Fling Arts & Craft Show at Frank Brown Park
- Mar 7 General Meeting and Luncheon at Captain Jack's, 8208 Thomas Drive, 11AM
- Apr 4 Fashion Show and Luncheon at Harpoon Harry's, 12627 Front Beach Road, 11AM
- Apr 6 UNwineD at Aaron Bessant Park
- Apr 18 New Member Orientation at Gulfview United Methodist Church, 245 Wisteria Lane

"In Appreciation"

From: West Bay Elementary School

Dear Women's Civic Club,

Thank you so much for donating clothing and hygiene items to help support our scholars. Your support helps us meet so many need our scholars may have.

Sincerely,
West Bay Elementary Staff

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

Contact Information

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Facebook: Women's Civic Club of PCB, FL
Women's Civic Club of Panama City Beach
Hashtag: #wccpcb

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