

PHNC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Final

January 8, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church

3240 McMullen Booth Rd.

Clearwater, FL 33761

Board Members Present: Jane Bittmann, Barb DePerto, Cindy Bridgewater, Dorothy Sackett, Judy Moore, Dee Lewis, Kathleen Aedo, Kathy Smuz, Claudia Thomas, Barb Sweet, Rita Yezzi.

Committee Chairs Present: Elaine Kirkhoff

Board Members Absent: Christine Dandaraw, Joan Lawler, Maria Greco, Diane Cudney

President -Jane Bittmann

- Welcome, everyone, please silence your phones. Welcome to 2026! We have a quorum today.
- **Co-chairs welcome at meetings and Board voting process.** Would like to relay a conversation at our Executive Board meeting the other day regarding co-chairs attending the General Board meetings. A procedural question had come up in regard to whether co-chairs should sit at the Board table or in the visitors' chairs during the meetings. The Exec Board determined that co-chairs are welcome to sit at the table with everyone else. In regard to voting, however, co-chairs do not vote unless the chair of their committee is absent and unable to cast a vote, assuring the objective of one vote per committee. For the voting process, we will start calling names out for each committee chair to voice their vote. Are there any questions or concerns about any of this? Hearing none, Jane's remarks are concluded.

Vice President Membership – Barb DePerto

- Current membership is 232. This doesn't reflect the 59 2025 members who haven't renewed yet.
- New Members in December: 1
- New Members in January so far: 2
- **Spring Meet and Greet.** We have 16 new members since the last Meet and Greet. 4 new members did not attend that Meet and Greet due to illness or other various circumstances, and would like to come to our next Meet and Greet. Discussion about possible dates for this event – **April 29th was decided.**
- # Members non-renewing is 59. The normal deadline for renewals would be January 15th, however, there is an issue with the website that is preventing folks from renewing successfully. Rita said she is working with the developer to resolve the issue and hopes to have a fix within a day or two. Lists of members to call to encourage them to renew have been distributed – please hold off on making these calls until the website is able to process renewals again. Rita will let us know when this occurs.
- Renewal deadline is Jan. 15th, push that back to perhaps the end of the month. General agreement to move the deadline to the end of the month, at which time Rita will begin the process of removing non-renewed members from the member directory. Non-renewed members would also attend the January luncheon as guests.

Vice President General Meetings – Cindy Bridgewater

- This month's luncheon: Jan. 20th. 88 people are registered. 9 are bringing husbands or significant others for the program. Two tables are reserved for them.
- Table Décor: Sue Paley is working on the table décor.

- Kathy Smuz has sent a letter of confirmation to the entertainers for their appearance. She will also give Judy a check request for their fee; Judy will have the check ready to give to them the day of the luncheon performance.
- Pot of Gold: no report

Secretary – Dorothy Sackett

- Need a motion to approve December Board meeting minutes: Claudia Thomas
Seconded by: Kathleen Aedo All approve? All present “aye”. Minutes approved.

Treasurer – Judy Moore

- Checking Balance \$12,153
- Savings Balance \$1,317 (incl. \$627 belonging to the Mixers and Minglers)
- Balance CD \$8,630.47 which comes due January 12th. Judy will evaluate moving about \$600 of this to checking to give us a cushion, and will let us know her thoughts on this. We get about \$300 in interest a year from the CD, which is nice.

Luncheon Program Chair – Ad Hoc Program Committee Chair – Barb DePerto

- Next month’s (Feb) program is our Fashion Show, “Tres Chic”. Elaine Kirkhoff is the Chair for the fashion show and is with us today to provide an update.
- **Elaine Kirkhoff:**
 - Some of us are getting together to assemble the table favors, little purses, at Claudia’s home. We’re changing the date for this to February 4th at 10:30, if that works for everyone. The new date is agreed upon.
 - The day of the show, there will be no jewelry sales.
 - The business meeting will be abbreviated. Jane will present the various committee reports herself, alternating them with the models coming out. The purpose of this is to have models changing for their next runway turn while Jane is presenting business reports.
 - Fashions modeled – some will be for sale and available in certain sizes and colors. Orders will also be taken. Elaine will find out whether payment will be by check or credit card or both. This information will be provided for the Chatterbox, website and any eblast that may go out about the event. Also find out if prepayment for orders is required.
 - Luncheon for the 10 models and the dressers will be in the bar. Cindy said she hasn’t received approval from the club for anyone eating in the bar yet. Elaine said this group does need to eat before anyone else – Cindy confirmed that the club does understand that and accommodation will be made for them to be able to eat early. Cindy will let Elaine know how this will work.
 - Gift cards – Judy will go to Chicos and obtain the cards and bring them to the luncheon.
 - Judy has booked the harpist. Will confirm the time with her – 11:00-1:00.
- This month’s program is Package Deal Music & dance; spouses invited, will have couple’s tables reserved.
- **Cindy - Capping Luncheon Attendance.** Cindy mentioned that last month’s slow luncheon service, with a delay in meals coming out of the kitchen, was attributable to the number in attendance, per the club. We had 106 attending in December. The explanation from Joe is that anytime attendance approaches 90-100, the kitchen is really too small to handle that sized crowd, and a buffet would really be best. We’ve made a decision to cap luncheon attendance at 110, beginning with the February program. We will try to anticipate months with high attendance and plan for buffets if possible.

- **Cindy - Luncheon Registration Closing Date.** This month (January) there was a change in the registration closing date because we moved the date of the board meeting. The two dates have historically been associated. Because the first Thursday fell on January 1, the Board meeting was moved to January 8th, generating a change in the registration date as well. However, from the point of view of the member, moving the luncheon registration date away from the first Thursday of the month could be confusing. Members probably don't realize the historical tie to the first Thursday Board meeting date. The two don't really need to be the same. After discussion, the Board has decided to make 11:59 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month the time/day that registration for that month's luncheon closes. It will not change if the date of the Board meeting changes. Make this clear in the admin guide and in standing rules by the Governing Documents Committee.
- **Barb - Future Luncheon Programs.** This month's program will be Package Deal music and dancing, spouses invited. For February, the fashion show. For March, we have bluebirds. For April, we have Agatha Christie. For May, we have butterflies. In June, we have line dancing.
- **Claudia - December Program.** The entertainer (Ron Mitchell) did not show up last month, and we have been offered a rebooking at half-price if we so choose to do that. She has put in a call to the agent, Jacob, to see when Ron might be available. He does have a heavy cruise schedule. We didn't pay him in advance.
- **Rita - Compensation to Members for December Program No-Show.** Should we consider compensating or reimbursing members for the fact that the entertainer did not show up? No one has complained or asked for reimbursement yet. Judy presented a financial analysis of the situation. Basically, the \$25 luncheon fee doesn't contain anything for entertainment costs. \$23 goes directly to the country club. If a credit card is involved, there is a PayPal fee assessed. One could make the case that the \$30 membership fee pays for entertainment along with other administrative costs of the club, so we could divide \$30 by 12 (months) to potentially refund a couple of dollars. Discussion ensued and it was decided that since no one has asked for reimbursement, we will not make the effort to bring the topic up since members pay so very little for entertainment anyway.
- **Judy - Voucher for Activity Coordinators.** Thinking of something special we might do for activity coordinators, Judy asked Rita if the system could handle setting up a special luncheon voucher just for coordinators. When someone goes in to register for a luncheon, the options are "check, credit card and voucher". Could we have a second voucher for the coordinators? Something that is set at a \$15 voucher toward a luncheon while leaving the regular voucher at \$25. Rita will research this.

Activity Group Chair – Dee Lewis

- Arts & Antiques – still do not have a coordinator for this.
- Activity Chairs' responsibilities – Dee wants to discuss at the luncheon this month. Everyone agrees this would be a good idea.
- Bunco is expanding. The Rollers have 16 and the Regulars have 12. The problem that we're having is that the members don't have homes large enough to host this many people. We're going to be seeing who might be able to host.
- Rosemarie Bakshis volunteered to teach MJ starting this month, but she had only one person contact her to sign up for lessons. She will try again in April.
- Dee sends the book club coordinators a note asking them to send their memberships to Barb and their lists of books for each month to Claudia for the Chatterbox.

Special Events Chair - Maria Greco (absent), Jane presenting

- **Mardi Gras Gala update.** Only 23 tickets have been sold. The recommendation from Maria and the Executive Board is to cancel the event. Maria has been in touch with the club about our \$500 non-refundable deposit, and they have agreed to hold the deposit and apply it toward a future event to be scheduled no later than February 10, 2027. Claudia made a motion to cancel the Gala. Rita seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Secretary called Board members by name to vote, all “aye”, motion passed. Judy will reimburse everyone who has paid.
- **Ideas for special events** were explored. Claudia described a card party that we used to have that was lots of fun. All of the activity groups got together for the afternoon and competed. Someone mentioned bus trips that we used to take.
- **Mentors.** Barb Sweet brought up the idea of establishing a mentor program for new members. Someone would be assigned to each new member to stay in touch with them, shepherd them through the process, act as a guide, sit with them at luncheons, etc., until they are comfortable, participating, and know a few people. Everyone thought this type of outreach would greatly enhance the new member experience. Barb DePerto and several others like the idea – we just need to figure out how to implement.

Hospitality Chair – Kathleen Aedo / Diane Cudney

- Discussion on how Birthday luncheon vouchers should be handled.
- We had 16 birthday cards go out this month.
- No suggestions in the suggestion boxes during the December luncheon. Dee asked if people could put their names on their suggestions. Kathleen will bring that up.
- Three cards went out to members: Kathy Rhoads, sympathy; Sara Hastings, get well; Elaine McKenna, thinking of you.

Publicity Chair – Kathy Smuz

- Made the rounds of the libraries and the Y and replenished handouts. People are picking our materials up!

Newsletter Editor – Claudia Thomas

- The Hero to a Child collection that we took up during our December luncheon resulted in a donation of \$1,385 plus one gift card with the amount not marked. Claudia dropped that off the next day, and the organization was so excited to receive our donation – they really put it to good use.

Facebook Chair – Barb Sweet

- We have 91 on Facebook. Very little FB activity this past month, probably due to the holiday

Member Communications – Joan Lawler (Absent)

- No report

Website Chair – Rita Yezzi

- Planning for the web training in May for the new Board. Would like your thoughts – was the last training a good use of your time? Do you have any suggestions? We’re planning to do basically the same thing this year. The Board affirms that the training is excellent and no particular suggestions are offered.

Unfinished Business

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New Business

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Adjourned

- Motion to adjourn by: _Claudia Thomas__ 2nd by: _Cindy Bridgewater__
- All Approve? aye

Meeting adjourned at __11:20__

Respectfully submitted
Dorothy Sackett, Secretary
1-13-26