

PHNC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Final

April 2, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Church

3240 McMullen Booth Rd.

Clearwater, FL 33761

Members Present: Barb DePerto, Cindy Bridgewater, Judy Moore, Dorothy Sackett, Dee Lewis, Kathleen Aedo, Diane Cudney, Kathy Smuz, Claudia Thomas, Barb Sweet, Rita Yezzi, Maria Greco, Joan Lawler

Members Absent: Jane Bittmann

President -Jane Bittmann (Absent – Barb DePerto presiding)

- Welcome, please silence your phones. We have a quorum today.

Vice President Membership – Barb DePerto

- Current Membership is: 198
- # New Members in March: 4
- Spring Meet & Greet is April 29th. Need a few board members to bring snacks. Board members attending are confirmed: Barb D, Jane, Cindy, Claudia, Diane, Kathleen, Dee, Kathy, Maria. 27 invitations have been sent out; so far, two have confirmed attendance and two have needed to decline.

Vice President General Meetings – Cindy Bridgewater

- For the April Luncheon we have __84__ signed up so far

Secretary – Dorothy Sackett

- Roll call of board members present, for the record.
- Approval of minutes for the March Board meeting:
 - Motion to approve by Kathleen Aedo
 - Motion seconded by Maria Greco
 - All approved? Aye, no nays. Minutes approved.

Treasurer – Judy Moore

- Checking Balance \$1,775
- Savings Balance \$1,317. \$617 is going to go to the Mingler next month.
- Balance CD \$8,000
- **Budget Meeting.** There is a budget meeting coming up on May 6th. Attending will be the current Executive Board and the incoming Executive Board. Judy will send out what everyone's current budget is and would like us to respond with what we think we will need for the next year.

- **Fiscal Year End.** Judy did an analysis of where she thinks we will land with the close of the current budget. An earlier projection was that we may end the year with a \$3,465 deficit. However, we have managed to make that up. One area of savings was in not having a Luncheon Program Chair this year, with Board members stepping in to plan the programs. The savings there was about \$2,000. Judy would like to consider increasing the Programs budget next year, since our luncheon programs are so important. Please bring ideas for potential budget changes to the meeting. Barb D. mentioned perhaps increasing the table décor budget.
- **Board/Coordinator Recognition Party.** There is a line item in the current budget reserving \$250 for a Board/Activity Coordinator party. Are we going to hold this event prior to the end of the current fiscal year? General discussion about how time to plan for this is running out. Decision by the Board is to do this in the Fall.

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

- Next month's program is Ken Stolte discussion on Butterflies.
- This month's program is Nan Colton, presenting Agatha Christie.
- July – we will have a magician, Elliot Smith, who has been with us before.
- **Standing rule about programs (eliminate).** There is a standing rule that programs must be approved 3 months in advance by the Board, probably because of any associated expenses. Is this really necessary? We haven't been doing this – it does create a burden on the Luncheon Program Chair. The consensus is that this standing rule needs to be eliminated; no Board approval is needed for the Chair to operate and plan programs. The Chair is free to schedule programs and advise the Board of such. She will operate within the established budget for Programs.
- **Standing rule about table décor (eliminate).** Another standing rule that needs to be eliminated is one that requires the table décor coordinator to attend Board meetings and present the proposed décor for approval. Again, not necessary as she will be operating within her budget and should have a free hand. Governing Documents committee will meet to revise the Standing Rules on this point and the prior point, and bring revisions to the Board for approval.
- **September program.** Claudia advised that she has a contract now for Ron Mitchell to be our September presenter. She needs a signature today by a member of the Executive Board on the contract.

Activity Group Chair – Dee Lewis

- **Activity coordinator gifts.** When would be the best time to present these gifts? There are 17 coordinators signed up to attend the April luncheon – decision is to present the gifts at the luncheon.
- **We have 21 activities.** It seems that our members do not embrace physical activities, as the Kayaking and Walking activities did not generate much interest. Indoor activities seem to be best. There are four Mah Jongg groups, with two being tournaments – the Mixer and the Mingler. Dee has found that some members who sign up may not necessarily know how to play. There might be vacancies in the

Mixer and Mingler in May when the current term of play concludes. Barb D. feels that no one person should be signed up to play in both the Mixer and the Mingler, to allow space for new members to get involved. Dee said that Casual Mah Jongg is for new members. It's an open group that anyone can join.

- **Dee's replacement.** Dee did meet with the lady who expressed an interest in becoming the new Activity Group Chair. She actually has 20 years' experience as a computer trainer, so technical/computer skills will be very good, important to the position. Seems like a good fit.
- **New Travel Activity Coordinator.** Dee suggested that the new position of a travel activity coordinator be established as one of our all-club coordinators, since the travel activity will be occasional (2-3 times a year) rather than monthly as most of our activities are.

Special Events Chair - Maria Greco

- **Tampa Bay Downs.** Right now we have 34 people signed up – our minimum for the event was 20. The deadline for this is April 16th. Maria has asked Joan if she could resend the original eblast out again, just to see if there is anyone else who would like to sign up.
- **New Travel Activity (2026-27).** Maria likes the idea of slotting this activity under the general group rather than into the monthly activity bucket (Dee's suggestion above). In December, the Board had previously recommended that Maria assess the level of interest before we officially vote to approve the concept. Maria held a meeting at her home on March 28th which was well-attended, so the interest is definitely there. She also had our liability waiver reviewed by an attorney. His response was received last night, so we have a final draft now. With these steps complete, Maria made a motion to adopt a women-only travel group to be an activity. Discussion: a working title for this will be Wandering Women activity group. We may decide to change the title. Will be open to all female members and their female guests, with the exception of an annual cruise (specifically requested) open to male significant others. Also debated was whether this activity will be classified as one of our regular activities, even though it will not be monthly. The general feeling is that it fits best as one of the regular activities, since several of our monthly activities do take the summer off. Further discussion about how this is structured - whether we allow guests of members or not. Usually one must be a member of PHNC to participate in activities, the nuance here, for the travel club, each member is booking directly with the travel SOT, something to consider. Details of this will be worked out, it is felt we should proceed with Maria's motion. Dorothy seconded the motion. Ayes from Board members with one nay from Claudia, who would prefer all details secured for the Chatterbox before voting. The ayes have it, motion carried. Rita mentioned details are also needed for the web signup.
- **Gala.** Judy has heard that one of our members is interested in having the December Gala, and is actively saying she's going to organize this. Barb has spoken to this individual and recommended that she reach out to Jane for approval to proceed,

and that a presentation to the Board is required. Maria advises that the President has to sign off on the contract, and that the new Special Events coordinator is actually responsible for the Gala. The new coordinator may ask for a committee to help her with organization. It may be possible that this individual is planning a holiday party at her home, not sponsored by the club, but she has been advised of the proper procedure to obtain Board approval if this is not the intention.

Hospitality Chair – Kathleen Aedo

- Suggestion box notes from March luncheon:
 - Provide decaf coffee, good suggestion, we will ask the club to do this.
 - Provide tea bags (we do) and hot coco powder mix (not approved, enough on the drink table already)
 - Provide extra salad dressing (not approved)
- Thinking of you cards were sent to Judy Moore, Ginny DiDomenica, Evelyn Haupt, Josie and Ken Chadwick.
- Kathleen is seeking a hospitality co-chair to replace Diane, who is becoming the Luncheon Program Chair. Kathleen plans to look for a recruit at the Meet and Greet – someone who has computer skills. She will mentor this person, with the intent of having her as co-chair, when eligible, and eventually take over as Hospitality Chair when Kathleen's term ends.

Publicity Chair – Kathy Smuz

- No report

Newsletter Editor – Claudia Thomas

- No report

Facebook Chair – Barb Sweet

- 85 members signed up, very little activity.

Member Communications – Joan Lawler

- No report

Website Chair – Rita Yezzi

- Update on the notifications issue. No notifications are being sent currently from the website. This has been happening since March 8th, but Rita noticed it on the 16th. She's working with BlueHost, our email provider, and Diocesan, which hosts our website. Diocesan takes the email just so far, when we sign up for an activity, for example, and an email is generated. BlueHost takes that email and sends it on through the forwarding function. This is the step that is failing. The website folks are telling Rita that the website is set up correctly, and the BlueHost folks are saying everything looks good from their end. Rita has spent about 7 hours on the phone with BlueHost, but Diocesan communicates only via email. When you get to

BlueHost, you have to go through an AI gate to determine the reason for the call, which step cannot be bypassed. Rita has a ticket number that's open.

We may need to change email providers, even though we signed up for a three-year contract. It was a very inexpensive contract. We paid \$350 for three years and that covers all of our emails.

In the meantime, we are able to pull reports that fill the gap with email notifications, in terms of luncheons and activities. Nothing is coming into our webmail. It's a big problem.

Judy – if we leave BlueHost, will we be provided with a pro-rated refund? Rita doubts it since the program was so inexpensive. Rita has asked Diocesan to advise what some of their other clients are using for email hosting. If we do go with a new company, she'll let everyone know what the costs are.

- Sherry Rehm can no longer help with the website. She has other website obligations that are demanding significant time.

Unfinished Business

- **Approval of 2026-27 General Board Officers and Chairs.** From the Nominating Committee, recommending the following:
 - Past President Advisor, Jane Bittmann
 - Activity Group Chair, Sandra Weber
 - Publicity, JoAnn Sarpolis
 - Special Events, Linda Sanford
 - Luncheon Program Chair, Diane Cutney
 - Hospitality, Kathleen Aedo
 - Facebook, Barb Sweet
 - Chatterbox, Claudia Thomas
 - Member Communications, Joan Lawler
 - Website, Rita Yezzi
- Motion to approve the slate of General Board Chairs made by Claudia Thomas, seconded by Kathy Smuz. All approved by voice vote, no nays. Motion carried.

New Business

- **Approval of 2026-27 Coordinators.** From the Nominating Committee, recommending the following:
 - All Club Coordinators
 - Jewelry Sales, Bonnie White and Alison Clark McKenney
 - Pot of Gold, Diane Densmore
 - Sunshine, JoAnn Sarpolis
 - Table Décor, Susan Paley

- Motion to approve the slate of All Club Coordinators made by Claudia Thomas, seconded by Kathleen Aedo. All approved by voice vote, no nays. Motion carried.

Activity Coordinators. Dee will forward the list of names to everyone via email. All activity coordinators have agreed to serve.

- Motion to approve the slate of Activity Coordinators made by Dee Lewis. Motion seconded by Claudia Thomas. All approved by voice vote, no nays. Motion carried.
- **Mentoring Program.** Judy feels that a mentoring program for new members would help us eventually find members who feel comfortable volunteering for coordinator or Board positions. If each of us were to take a new member and show them the ropes, perhaps sitting with them at luncheons, helping them with the website, explaining the activities and also learning a little more about them. General agreement that this is a very nice idea. Judy feels that a committee could be formed that would make a list of what is important for a new member to learn and be introduced to. Start out with this committee as mentors, then perhaps ask long-standing members if they would like to mentor as well. Claudia suggested that the new member manual be included in the club introduction – how to find things there. Let Claudia know if there is something that should be added to the manual as well. Maria suggested that the Meet and Greet would be a good event to introduce new members to the website. Color copies of the Chatterbox are useful to bring to the meeting as well.

Judy asked if we would like to form a committee. The Board agreed to proceed.

Decision: Judy will kick this off, with herself and Maria, Cindy, Barb D., Barb S. and Dorothy meeting initially to develop parameters of the program. She will bring information back to the Board in May. Once finalized, the thought is to put something in the Chatterbox calling for mentors. Board members may also be mentors.

Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by: _Claudia Thomas_ 2nd by: __Maria Greco__

All Approve? Aye, meeting adjourned

Meeting adjourned at __11:31__

Respectfully submitted
Dorothy Sackett, Secretary
4-7-26