PHNC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – FINAL
October 1, 2026
Holy Trinity Church
3240 McMullen Booth Rd.
Clearwater, FL 33761

Members present: Barb De Perto, Cindy Bridgewater, Maria Greco, Judy Moore, Kathy Smuz, Kathleen Aedo, Gail Laoria, Joan Lawler, Diane Cudney, Claudia Thomas, Sandy Weber, Rita Yezzi

Members absent: Jane Bittmann, Linda Sanford, Barb Sweet

Call to order: 10:00 a.m.

President – Barb DePerto

- We have a quorum.

Secretary – Kathy Smuz

- Roll call of members present.
- Need a motion to approve September Board meeting minutes. Motion by Claudia Thomas. Seconded by Kathleen Aedo. All approve? Yes.
- Scheduled absence/ vacation:
  - Kathleen Aedo, October 26th-November 16th (Gail as backup)
  - Judy Moore, October 15th-19th (can work remotely)

Vice President Membership – Maria Greco

- Current Membership is: 227. There is some concern about outgrowing the dining room at Cypress Run.
- Number of new members in September: 5. All have received membership manuals.
- Meet and Greet: November 4th. 34 invitations were sent, including the Board. We will wait and see how many respond before inviting those who joined in September. Board members attending: Rita, Barb, Cindy, Maria, Judy, Claudia, Kathy, and Gail. Sandy may attend if she can reschedule a previous commitment. Maria will provide paper goods as well as bagels, spreads, fruit, and beverages; other contributions are welcome. Rita will give a big screen TV presentation on accessing the website and its menus.
- Early renewal: The e-blast hasn't gone out yet. There is a glitch on the renewal page and Rita will let us know when the e-blast can be sent. This will include information about the drawing for a free luncheon for those who renew early.

Vice President General Meetings – Cindy Bridgewater

- 69 people are registered for the October luncheon.
- Table décor will be an autumn theme.
- Cypress Run: After 5 years of no price increase, Joe at Cypress Run has told us there will be an increase for the coming year. Banquet prices for other groups at Cypress Run normally start at $34.95, with tax and tips bringing it to $46.75 per person. Other venues in the community start at around $40 per person and won't even accept a group of our size. Other country clubs have much higher prices and limited menu choices, and many charge rental fees for the room, which we do not pay.

- Other options were explored: Buffets actually cost more; we could keep the price $30 or under only if we were limited to a choice of one entrée for everyone; eliminating seafood entrees entirely.
- Cypress Run wishes to retain our business. Joe offered a price of $32 per person, inclusive. The Executive Board recommends accepting this offer as a one-year contract with the option to renew for a second year, capping any increases at 10% ($3.20). Pending General Board approval, Cindy will present this to Joe.
- In order to ease into the increase, the Executive Board recommends charging our members only $30 from January through June. The Club will pick up $2 plus the PayPal charge ($1.16 per registrant), which amounts to $252.80 monthly for 6 months (total $1,516). From July through December, members will be charged the full $32 with the Club picking up the PayPal charge ($576 monthly). This will cost the Club a total of $2,092 for the year, which could be paid for out of our CD, or there may be enough in Checking to cover it.
- Could we lower our annual dues to $25 to offset the luncheon increase cost to members? This would result in a loss of roughly $1000.
- We may not be able to offset the PayPal cost in 2028. Would checks be a better option? No, they are more work and slow down the entire process. Could we use Zelle instead? After discussion, it was decided that Judy will check with our bank to see if it uses Zelle. However, using it wouldn't eliminate PayPal fees since not all members have Zelle.
- An e-blast regarding the price increase will be sent to all members November 1st. Claudia will put it in the December Chatterbox in "Barb's Blackboard."
- Motion to accept the proposed luncheon fee increase of $30 from January through June 2027 and $32 from July through December 2027, with the Club underwriting $2 per luncheon from January through June, plus all PayPal fees incurred throughout the year, pending acceptance of contract by Cypress Run. Motion by Claudia Thomas. Seconded by Diane Cudney. All approve? Yes.
- Please do not discuss this with members until the November e-blast is sent.

Treasurer – Judy Moore

- Checking Balance: $9,062.
- Savings Balance: $1,300, $600 of which is being held for Mah Jongg Mixer and Mingler prize monies to be distributed at the end of the year.
- Balance CD: $8,000.

Luncheon Program Chair – Diane Cudney

- October program: Sunshine City Chorus presenting an *a cappella* performance. They will require no equipment and will not be having lunch with us. Their cost is $350.
- November program: Susan Bradford McLean, a Red Cross "Donut Dolly" volunteer during the Vietnamese War. She will be bringing 2 tables of memorabilia as well as a DVD; discussion of the best way to present it. It was suggested she download it to her laptop to be connected to the TV, or email a copy to Cindy, who would put it on her laptop.
- December program: Diane is in the process of hiring a string quartet (possibly a trio or duo) to play a combination of holiday and other music.

Activity Group Chair – Sandy Weber

- Coordinator Appreciation event: Invitations for the event have been sent to 37 people. Sandy has already received several acceptances, but will follow up with a second e-mail and a phone call if necessary to those who don't respond. There will be glasses of water available. Sandy will order the food ahead of time. There will be a buffet on the bar. Sandy will create "Mixer Bingo" cards as an ice-breaker; Cindy can provide card stock. Sandy will find out if Wine Society will take a check or if we have to use a credit card.
- Activity Request form: For members who wish to propose a new Activity Group. It will be available on the website.
    - There has been a request to start a monthly daytime "Game Time" group for couples. Discussion regarding couples' group. PHNC is described in our bylaws as a women's social club with activities for members only; the current 2 couples' groups were grandfathered in. It was suggested that information about starting a private game group could go in the Bulletin Board in the Chatterbox. Motion to deny the request for the proposed couples afternoon game group because all proposed activities must focus on our female membership and remain consistent with our bylaws. Motion by Claudia Thomas. Seconded by Sandy Weber. All approve? Yes.

Special Events Chair – Linda Sanford (absent) – Claudia Thomas speaking

- Amazon Fulfillment Center tour: Sold out! There has been confusion with people registering directly with Amazon rather than going through the 2-step process on our website. Rita will revise the instructions for future activities so that it's very clear how to register correctly. Those who registered directly with Amazon will have to go on their own and won't be included in our group or be eligible for gift cards.
- Cookie exchange: Sunday, December 6th at Sue Paley's home from 1:30-4:00 p.m. It will be advertised in the December Chatterbox.
- Game Day: Linda is working on this. Questions arose regarding whether or not Mah Jongg will be following tournament rules. The committee hasn't yet discussed the details of the individual games; they will create a proposal and present it to the Board.

Hospitality Chair – Kathleen Aedo and Gail Laoria

- Birthday e-cards: 21 cards were sent in October.
- Suggestion boxes:
    - Have a day where members can wear T-shirts with funny sayings.
    - Have a used handbag sale at luncheons.
    - Didn't like assigned seating. (2)
    - Did like assigned seating (2)
    - Seat 4 new members at tables with 4 long-time members.
    - Please have new programs instead of repeats.
- Claudia suggested a luncheon where we seat people grouped by the state or area they came from.
- Kathleen suggested we announce at luncheons that those interested in getting more involved with the Club, or wishing to suggest someone for a particular area, put their names in the suggestion box and sign them. There is concern about filling Board positions. Meet & Greet is a good place to seek possible candidates.
- Sunshine cards were sent to Barb Sweet, Vicki Mills, Marie Schlesak, and Margaret Johnson.

Publicity Chair – (open)

- No report.

Newsletter Editor – Claudia Thomas

- Thanks to everyone for turning in their information early for the November Chatterbox, which was completed before Microsoft Publisher was discontinued.
- Reminder that we are collecting canned good and cash for FEAST at the November luncheon. Claudia needs volunteers to help but would prefer not to use Board members; she'll make phone calls to those who are signed up for Meet & Greet.

Facebook Chair – Barb Sweet (absent)

Member Communications – Joan Lawler

- There are 2 e-blasts in the queue: one regarding renewals and one on luncheon pricing, to go out November 1st.

Website Chair – Rita Yezzi

- Online membership renewal: Please follow these 4 steps:
  - Log in to www.phnc.us
  - Go to Members menu item
  - Select My Account
  - In the upper left corner, there is a link to renew. Members can update any personal data on the My Account page if necessary.

  If there are problems with renewals, please have members use the Contact Us form. If you as a Board member have a problem or request for the web, please use the Web Ticket form.
- Former members: This is used only for those who were NOT a member in 2026 but were previously a member from 2023-2025. Those who were members before 2023 need to sign in as a NEW member. There will be a link on the website.
- When Board members sign up to renew, you must use your personal login, not your Board position login (for example, Kathy would use her personal login, not secretary@phnc.us. Members must be signed in to renew.
- There is a video on the website on updating your account information.

Unfinished Business

- None.

New Business

- Tips for Cypress Run staff: This is covered by the budget and doesn't need Board approval. Cash gifts will be given at the November luncheon: $75 each to Joe and the chef, $50 each to the sous-chef and line cook, and $50 to each of the three servers.
- Nominations for next year: Cindy, Kathleen, and Judy are timing out of their positions and Kathy will be moving. The bylaws state that the Nominating Committee is to be appointed by January 1st. Several Board members have already been recruiting. It was suggested that potential Board members could shadow the person in whose position they are interested. However, a brand-new member should not be appointed to the Executive Board; there are positions on the General Board that would be suitable. This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting. Kathleen will promote this at the November luncheon.

Adjournment

Motion by Claudia Thomas. Seconded by Maria Greco. All approve? Yes
Meeting adjourned at: 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Smuz
PHNC Secretary
10/4/2026