

2023 Board of Directors Nominees

The PCHA Nominating Committee presents this slate of nominees for the Board of Directors and seeks approval from the membership for appointment to the Board of Directors for four year terms:

Denise Bohde: Born and raised in Bartow. She received her bachelor's degree from University of North Georgia. Currently President of the Bartow Economic Development Council, a realtor, a sales representative for WWBF Radio, and serves on the Polk County Historical Commission.

Derek Harpe: Serves as the Recreation and Program Superintendent for Polk County Parks and Natural Resources where he has been employed for over 24 years. He graduated Fort Meade High School and the University of South Florida.

Jan Parham: Retired from a 35-year career in Project Management with the Florida Department of Transportation. She previously served on the Polk County Historical Commission and volunteers with multiple Bartow community organizations.

Tina Peak: Born in Lake Wales and a lifelong resident of Polk County. She earned a master's degree in Library & Information Science from the University of South Florida and served as Lake Wales Library Director from 1982 until her retirement in 2022.

Board of Directors

William Lloyd Harris, President

Jennifer Bush, Vice President

Roderick Hudnell, Treasurer

Lois Sherrouse-Murphy, Secretary

Melvin Sellers, Past President

Richard A. Fifer

S.L. Frisbie IV

John Keating

Lyonal B. Lindsey Jr.

LuAnn Mims

Harriet Rust

Sheila Tindle

Donald Wilson

Myrtice Young

2023 Nominees: Denise Bohde, Derek Harpe, Jan Parham, Tina Peak

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

As of May 2023, there are 355 members of the PCHA. Dues help fund historical research, educational programs for all ages and publications. Members receive a subscription to the *Polk Proud History* quarterly.

The membership year runs from June 1 through May 31. Join us as a new member or renew membership for 2023-24 at your selected membership level. Membership applications available at the check-in area.

Treasurer's Report

2023 is the 3rd year of a PCHA \$3,500 annual sponsorship of the digital platform hosted on the History Center website. The platform provides public access to the *Polk Proud History* publication and will eventually include the PCHA collection of historic photographs.

Sources of PCHA Income include membership dues, book sales, donations, and interest from the investment account. Typical annual expenses include publication costs for *Polk Proud History*, insurance, post office box rental, website hosting fee, and miscellaneous expenses in support of the Pioneer Luncheon.

Heritage Partner Committee

As of May 2023, there are 27 Heritage Partners representing 17 organizations in Polk County. In addition to their role as nominators of our annual Polk Pioneers, the Heritage Partners meet monthly and make site visits to each museum in an ongoing effort to connect historic preservation efforts around our expansive county.

Communications Committee

Polk Proud History is published in February, May, August, and November to create a legacy of Polk County's history and heritage through scholarly articles written by local historians, educators, and researchers. To submit an article for publication consideration, contact LAMimsy@gmail.com.

A Facebook page and website (www.polkcountyhistory.org) are maintained with frequent posts and updates.

