

November 2025

In This Issue

2025-2026 Officers

2025-2026 Directors

Peebles Biography

New Members

2025 Gentry Awards

Speaker Program

Past Presidents

OFFICERS

President

John C. Smarge

President-Elect

Ronald N. Riner,
M.D.

Vice President

Pauline T. Eide

Past President

Francis S. Rooney

Secretary

Janet P. Rathbun

Treasurer

Arthur D. Collins, Jr.

DIRECTORS

Jamie B. Andersen

James N. Barton

David R. Casper

Ronald B. Ciesla

Pamela R. Collins

Sandra Edwards

Thomas Everist



R. Donahue Peebles

Chairman & CEO

The Peebles Corporation

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Hilton Naples

Recognized as one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the nation, R. Donahue (Don)

Peebles, Jr. is Chairman and CEO of The Peebles Corporation, one of the country's most active privately held national real estate investment and development companies. Mr. Peebles strictly adheres to his company's guiding principle of Affirmative Development™ to provide transformative economic inclusion for minority and woman owned businesses in the communities where the company does business.

The Peebles Corporation (TPC), founded in Washington, DC in 1983, has a successful track record of investing in select markets, across multiple property types, and through several economic cycles. TPC has overseen the execution of over 10 million square feet of real estate development and has a pending development pipeline of approximately 4 million square feet and over \$8 billion in key metropolitan cities including New York, San Francisco, Boston, Miami, Charlotte, Atlanta, and Washington, DC.

Mr. Peebles is a frequent guest commentator on CNBC, CNN, FOX News, and FOX Business Network, and is a highly sought-after speaker. He is the author of two top-selling books, *The Peebles Principles* and *The Peebles Path to Real Estate Wealth*, which provide rules and principles to succeed in real estate.

He is the former Chairman of the Board of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, served on President Barack Obama's National Finance Committee, was the Chairman of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, and serves on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater New York.

Linda C. Flewelling
Leslie M. Frécon
Mark J. Gerencser
Bradley L. Heiges
Douglas Johnson
Roy Kapani
John J. Lawson
Mary Morton
Scott O'Dell
Mark Schwartz
Jeanne Seewald
Jay B. Stephens
Deborah A. Stewart
Robert Stucker
Gary L. Tice
Joanne S. Wyss

This season, we kindly ask all members to RSVP for each luncheon. You only need to RSVP once per event. If your plans change, please contact the Forum Club office by phone or email to update your reservation.

RSVP Here

Guest Ticket Request for November 13, 2025 R. Donahue Peebles

To place a request for one guest ticket, please submit to:
forumclub@theforumclub.org

If guest tickets are available, requests are processed in order of receipt.

Tickets will be mailed by that date, and you will be billed for \$85, or notified if there is no space. Tickets are non-exchangeable and non-refundable.

Regret for November 13, 2025 R. Donahue Peebles

If you cannot attend, and no one will be using your ticket, please kindly email your regret to
forumclub@theforumclub.org.

You may regret until 5:00 p.m., Thursday, November 6, 2025, to receive a \$65 refund at the end of the season.

Your regret will help us to have an accurate count for attendance. You may also log your regret here.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ellie Buchanan
John Chandler
Seldon Dotson
Jeffrey Glassover
Rich Grows
David Hanson
Alan Keener
Jim Klinke
Merrell O'Shea
Kim Reynolds
Charles Stewart
Kermit Sutton
Martin VandenBroek

Norman Carlson
Barbara Crooks
Merrill Fox
Jo Goodman
Steve Hall
Helen Johnson
Frank Kistler
Thomas Oliveri
Richard Pettingill
Susan Sonderby
Joe Stone
CAT Tieger
Erica Vanover

GENTRY AWARDS

April 10, 2025

William S. Gentry, Marco Island Bureau Chief for the Naples Daily News, and other community leaders organized a club to present prominent and well-informed speakers to the growing number of retired executives in the Naples area. The Forum Club of Southwest Florida began in 1985.

In 1988, Bill Gentry again had the foresight to invite students from each area high school to the luncheon meetings as guests of a sponsoring Club member.

In 1992, as a tribute to the accomplishments of the founder of the Club and its first Executive Director after his death, the Board of Directors established the William S. Gentry Student Scholarship Award that is presented each year to one senior from each Collier County high school. Three years ago, the Forum Club board of directors agreed to add a scholarship for one home schooled senior in Collier County. This year the Club's scholarship fund and the Gentry Award were combined into the Forum Club Members' Gentry Award. Students are selected by the Club's Education Committee.

Thank you to the members who supported the Gentry Scholarship fund.



*Aubrey Rogers High School - Adrian Alvarez-Garcia
Barron Collier High School - Harrison White
Community School of Naples - Annalisa Benedito
Everglades City School - Emersyn Brown
First Baptist Academy - Trent Maloney
Golden Gate High School - Leidy Villagomez
Gulf Coast High School - David Fultz*

Immokalee High School - Kelly Garcia
Lely High School - Diane Stinfil
Lorenzo Walker Technical School - Lauro Villagomez
Marco Island Academy - Jacob Watt
Mason Classical Academy - Kailyn Dekker
Naples High School - Grayce Garthoeffner
PACE - Kasandra Gomez-Aguilar
Palmetto Ridge High School - Dominic Encinas Almazan
St. John Neumann - Kennedy Seeber
Seacrest Country Day School - Laura Barbosa-Casagrande
The Village School - Megan Laudermilch

2025-2026 SPEAKER PROGRAM

R. DONAHUE PEEBLES

November 13, 2025

American Author

TBA

December 5, 2025

MARY DILLON

January 9, 2026

CEO, Foot Locker

CHARLIE BAKER

February 2, 2026

President, NCAA

EVAN GREENBERG

February 11, 2026

CEO, Chubb Limited/Chubb Group

STEPHEN SQUERI

February 23, 2026

CEO, American Express

AMBASSADOR KEVIN RUDD

March 6, 2026

Australian Ambassador to the USA & Prime Minister of Australia

JONATHAN TURLEY

March 16, 2026

American Attorney & Legal Scholar

DR. MUNG CHIANG

March 23, 2026

President, Purdue University

ELLEN STOFAN, PhD

April 10, 2026

The Smithsonian Institution

MISSION STATEMENT

The Forum Club's mission is to:

- *Provide a congenial meeting atmosphere for members to enjoy prominent speakers in fields such as academia, business, economics, finance, government, health, international relations, media and the arts, science and technology*
- *Promote the highest civic, moral and ethical standards*
- *Share the "Forum Club Experience" with outstanding high school students in Collier County.*
- *Provide scholarships to Collier County high school students*

PAST PRESIDENTS

Francis S. Rooney
2024-2025

Ulla Norris
2010-2011

Raymond Mueller*
1996-1997

Elizabeth K. Wessel
2023-2024

Wade F. Keller
2009-2010

Donald J. York*
1995

Edward M. Liddy
2022-2023

Alan M. Horton
2008-2009

John M. Passidomo*
1994

Susan S. Jones 2021-2022	Malcolm B. Chancey Jr. 2007-2008	William C. Sinclair* 1993
Clark T. Randt, Jr. 2020-2021	W. Wallace Abbott* 2006-2007	Joe B. Cox 1992
Joseph G. Fogg, III 2019-2020	Carl J. Kuehner 2005-2006	John T. Duffner* 1991
Verne G. Istock 2018-2019	Richard I. Wilson* 2004-2005	Alan R. Korest* 1990
Richard S. Bodman 2017-2018	William E. Hoglund* 2003-2004	Tom Shea* 1989
Melvin C. Short Jr. 2016-2017	L. Lindsey Halstead* 2002-2003	Corbin A. Wyant* 1988
Shelly Church 2015-2016	Edwin J. Putzell Jr.* 2001-2002	Robert D. Stakich* 1987
Thomas B. Wheeler 2014-2015	Linda C. Flewelling 2000-2001	Brenda C. Wilson 1986
William F. Allyn 2013-2014	Thomas E. Ingram 1999-2000	Leonard F. Llewellyn* 1985
Thomas A. Bringardner 2012-2013	Carol E. Girardin 1998-1999	William S. Gentry* Founder
David A. Rismiller* 2011-2012	R. James Harvey* 1997-1998	*deceased

INQUIRIES

Forum Club of Southwest Florida, Inc.
3200 Bailey Lane, Suite 199, Naples, FL 34105
(239) 436-3574
forumclub@TheForumClub.org
www.TheForumClub.org

Forum Club of Southwest Florida | 3200 Bailey Lane Suite 199 | Naples, FL 34105 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!