

SEMINOLE BEACON

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56th annual chamber awards honor those dedicated to community

By **LOGAN MOSBY GEORGE**
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SEMINOLE — Women dominated the podium during the 56th annual Seminole Chamber Awards Ceremony held May 2 in Madeira Beach.

Of the six awards presented during the evening, five out of the

six — including the top award of the evening — recognized exclusively women who have dedicated their time and energy to the city of Seminole and its residents.

Held on the observation deck of the Cambria Hotel, attendees were treated to cool breezes and a fantastic view — not unlike those you might experience in Havana, which was the theme of the evening.

Pinellas County Clerk of the Courts Ken Burke and Dr. Stephen Nickse kept the crowd entertained as

the masters of ceremonies, and the national anthem was sung by Cierra Reynolds. Pat Matthews, the widow of last year's Mr. Seminole and long-time Seminole City Council Member Bob Matthews, gave the invocation.

Community Contributor Award

The ceremony began with the debut of a new award. The Community Contributor Award recognizes nonprofits and organized groups of people who volunteer their time and energy to programs and initiatives in Seminole. The Kiwanis Seminole Breakfast Club was named the first recipient of the award, due in part to its emphasis on education. Some of the club's initiatives highlighted were its student-lead programs overseen by volunteer teacher advisors and the BUG program (Bringing Up Grades), which is focused on helping student achievement in six Seminole elementary schools. Debbie Vasquez and Leah Hoffman accepted the award on behalf of Kiwanis Club.



**Leah
Hoffman**

"I'd like to thank you all for this wonderful nomination," Hoffman said. "It makes our club very proud. We are small, but we are mighty."

Also nominated in this category were Anona United Methodist Church and Fluff Animal Rescue.