Born December 15, 1964, in San Jose, CA. Fourth child and first daughter of Lawrence and Cornelia Cardon. Her dad named her Barbara since he always liked the name; his sister had the name but had become a nun and wasn't using it. Later, when his sister was no longer a nun, she became Barbie to the whole family to avoid confusing Aunt Barbara and her. To this day, she is still Barbie to the family.

Where did Snoopy come into her life? One year for her birthday or Christmas (she doesn't remember), when she was 4 or 5 years old, she received a stuffed Snoopy. She also attended "afternoon kindergarten" since she was older and a December baby. She had several Charles Shultz books that she took to kindergarten to read during "naptime". She doesn't remember learning to read; she just was able to read.

During her early years, the family hosted several foster children. Eventually, her younger sister and brother (Ramona and Nathan) were adopted, and the family grew to six children. In 1974, the family moved to Watsonville, CA. This was where Barbara first rode a school bus, lived on rural acreage, and developed her lifelong love of farm animals.

As a young child, she learned to fish and to this day loves to trout fish in lakes and rivers. She usually is very successful! She loves to go on road trips, camp, and have adventures.

When she was nine, she was finally able to join 4-H (her brothers were already members). She started sewing, cooking, and sheep. She eventually acquired a flock of sheep, including a ram named Mark. Hah hah..(future husband). One time, one of her ewes had quadruplets, which required a daily trip to a local Portuguese dairy to get milk. She excelled in 4-H.

When in elementary school, she started playing the alto saxophone. In middle school and high school, she played the alto saxophone, baritone saxophone, oboe, and bassoon in both orchestra and marching band.

When she was 15, she started working for Dairy Queen, following in her brothers' footsteps. Those were fun times. During the summer, she picked blackberries and worked at a pizza parlor and at Dairy Queen. She also had a lucrative babysitting business on the side.

Upon graduating from Watsonville High School in 1983, she moved to Fresno and lived with her maternal grandparents and attended Fresno State. This is where she learned about her Dutch heritage and her family's role in Holland during WWII.

While in Fresno, she met her future husband, Mark Brown. They were married in 1988 at St. Patrick's Parish in Watsonville, CA. They were both pursuing teaching degrees at the time. Mark finished school first and was hired by the Fairfield-Suisun School District. They moved to Fairfield, and Barbara finished her teaching degree at Sacramento State. Barbara subsequently was hired by the Vallejo School District. She taught first grade for three years, and then a fourth/fifth combination. During this time, she obtained her special education credential and Master of Special Education from Sacramento State.

During this time, Mark and Barbara conceived their daughter, Lindsay, after six years of treatment and trying. She was born on January 26th, 1994. That Easter, Mark was confirmed into the Catholic faith, and Lindsay was baptized.

After living in Fairfield for eight years, they decided to move closer to family. They moved to Watsonville and moved in with Barbara's parents. They found a 100-year-old vintage farmhouse and moved to Hayes Road. Barbara's parents decided they liked it there and moved with them!

Mark found a job at Rancho San Justo Middle School in Hollister and worked there for over 25 years before retiring. Barbara started at Aromas School as a Resource Teacher and worked there for 10 years before getting her Master of Administration from San Jose State. She served as principal at Toro Park School and as Director of Special Education for four years in the Washington Union School District in Salinas, before moving to Gilroy Unified as Director of Student Services. She finished her career in the Hollister School District as Coordinator of Special Education, Director of Special Education, and loved returning to the classroom as a special day class teacher during and after COVID.

She now spends her time as a tutor, consultant, and contractor for school districts in special education. She enjoys researching genealogy, reading, watching crime dramas, walking the mini donkeys, and crafts when she has the time.

She is excited to serve as your Grand President this coming year.