

26 March 2020

Rotary Club of Punta Gorda

#4337, District 6960
Chartered April 22, 1925
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www.puntagordarotary.com

COG Rotary
Club of Punta Gorda FL



COVID-19 Edition

No. 2



endpolio.org. Now that 99 percent of the world's population lives in regions certified polio-free, the goal of eradication is closer than ever.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- Oct 26, Apr 2, Apr 9 – **Regular Club Meetings** – CANCELED
- Mar 28 – **Great American Clean-up Project** – CANCELED
- District Assembly** – CANCELED
- Apr 8 – **Club Board Meeting** – To be held on ZOOM or via conference call
- Apr 25 – **Punta Gorda Block Party** - CANCELED
- Jun 6-10 – **Rotary International Conference** - CANCELED

I trust you are all staying at home. Our cat Harley wonders why were around all the time, and now he's got us wondering what he does besides sleep when were not around. Our day has become a bit routine, with a bike ride every morning, reading, checking social media, a time in the pool in the afternoon, and always figuring what to eat next. It reminds us of cruising on our sailboat, which is a nice memory.

How our is Club is addressing COVID-19 in our community? Although our Foundation Board canceled its March 25th meeting, we voted electronically this week to give a \$2,000 grant to the Charlotte Community Foundation "Hands Up Grant"(HUG), which will be providing assistance to those affected by job or income loss. This is part Charlotte County Community Organizations Active in a Disaster (COAD), which has created a point of entry for residents seeking assistance with the economic hardships they may experience as a result of COVID-19. COAD is looking for volunteers, and you can find out more at <https://coadfl.org>.

Individual donations can make a big difference. David Smith told me he thinks we can support the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Other food pantries in need of donations are the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, and Meals on Wheels of Charlotte County. Many churches in our county also run food banks. If you can, please donate to any of these organizations. And remember, food distribution will become a much greater need in coming days as folks lose their jobs and cannot afford to feed their families.

Make contact with seniors in our local Assisted Care Living facilities. If you have the time, why not get some nice cards and send them to residents of local facilities, such as the Life Care Center, Brookdale Punta Gorda Isles, and the Palms of Punta Gorda, or Chelsea Place and Harborview Acres in Port Charlotte. Of course there are many others in our Charlotte County. I'm sure it would cheer them up to know folks are caring about them. Would one or two of our members chair a committee for this?

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THE FOUR WAY TEST
Of the things we think, say or do -
FIRST - Is it the TRUTH?
SECOND - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
THIRD - Will it build GOODWILL and better friendships?
FOURTH - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

One of 34,000 Rotary Clubs Worldwide

CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- President: James Williams
- Vice Pres.: Alyson Burch
- Past President: J. Bradford Gambin
- Pres. Elect: Darcy Hanley
- Secretary: Carol Knutson
- Treasurer: Alice Rose
- Sergeant at Arms: John Tiller
- International: George Miller
- Vocational: David Smith
- Community Service: Donna Calderon
- Club Service: Rosa Benghtt
- Youth Services: Paul Blaine/Charles Marsee

COMMITTEES

- Rotary International Foundation: John Dzurak
- Membership: Rex Koch
- Newsletter: John Dzurak

PUNTA GORDA FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

Craig Esterly

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Richard Kirschner

RI PRESIDENT

Mark Daniel Maloney

MEETING DUTY ROSTER

Please sign up for Greeter, Invocation, and Pledge!!
Thank you!



Visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/puntagordarotary

Rotary - where business & community Leaders meet, Exchange Ideas and Take Action

Here's a list of online donation addresses for the organizations mentioned above.

Donate to HUG: <https://charlottecf.org/donate>

Donate to food pantries: <https://donate.harrychapinfoodbank.org/>
<https://cchomelesscoalition.org/donate/>
<https://mowofcc.org/donate>

If you donate or volunteer to help any group, please let the organization know your from the Punta Gorda Rotary Club. On donations you can recognize our Rotary Club by indicating it as your business or company or by asking them to send a recognition of your donation to President, Punta Gorda Rotary Club, 25160 Harborside Blvd, Punta Gorda, FL 33955. This will allow the club and our district to track our efforts!

What's happening elsewhere in our Rotary world to fight COVID-19? A great example is our End Polio project. Using the vast infrastructure developed to identify the poliovirus and deliver vaccination campaigns, the polio eradication program is pitching in to protect the vulnerable from COVID-19, especially in polio-endemic countries. From Pakistan to Nigeria, the program is drawing on years of experience fighting outbreaks to support governments as they respond to the new virus. Please take a look at this website:

<https://www.endpolio.org/polio-eradication-staff-support-covid-19-response>.

Stay connected with each other! Without regular meetings, it's important we all stay in touch. Call one another. If you need help, please reach out for help to your fellow members. Use email and phone messaging. If you're on Facebook, be sure you "like" and "follow" our club's pages. Our club has a main page, and we have pages for two of our projects, "The Last Straw" and "Citizens Coalition to End Human Trafficking, and our District 6960 has a FB page as well. You can reach them at the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/puntagordarotary/posts/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/thelaststrawpg/posts/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/citizenscoalitiontoendhumantrafficking/posts/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/RotaryInternationalDistrict6960/posts/>

ZOOM. Don't forget, please let me know if you have downloaded the ZOOM app at <https://zoom.us>. I hope to hold our April 8th Board meeting on ZOOM, and perhaps we can hold a full club meeting on ZOOM as well.

News of members. Let me know if you have some news to share with everyone. Bob Hookham who recently visited us from the Fort William Rotary Club in Ontario, Canada wrote me a couple of days ago to report heavy traffic headed north, with most hotels open but serving customers ticket window. No hotel breakfasts though north of Nashville. He also asked that we check out his club's website. Get a gander of their big annual project! Wow! See it at <https://fwrotary.ca/>