

28 May 2020

**Rotary Club of
Punta Gorda**



The COG
Rotary Club
of Punta Gorda FL



#4337, District 6960

Chartered

April 22, 1925

P.O. Box 511132

Punta Gorda Florida

33951-1132

puntagordarotary.com

Zoom Meetings: Thursday at 12 NOON

2nd Wed – 10 A.M. Club Board ZOOM Meetings

4th Wed – Punta Gorda Rotary Charity & Education Foundation Board (T.B.A.)

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 more than 33,000 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 Benghatt

Youth Services: Paul Blaine/Charles Marsee

COMMITTEES

Public Image: Keven Knight

Rotary International Foundation:

John Dzurak

Membership: Rex Koch

Newsletter: John Dzurak

PG ROTARY FOUNDATION

President: Craig Esterly

Vice Pres: John Dzurak

Treasurer: Laura Knutson

Secretary: Steve Goettler

Trustee: John Tiller

Trustee: Skip Mansfield

Trustee: Robin Adair

Trustee: George Miller

Standing Trustee: James Williams

Standing Trustee: Darcy Hanley

Standing Trustee: Donna Calderon

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Richard Kirschner

RI PRESIDENT

Mark Daniel Maloney



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 28 – **Roland Archilla**, Guatemala Literacy Project, www.guatemalaliteracy.org

Jun 4 – **Craig Esterly**, Punta Gorda Rotary Club Charity & Education Foundation

Jun 11 – **Bill Truex**, Charlotte County Commissioner

Jun 18 – **VIRTUAL CHANGE OF WATCH PARTY, 5-6 PM**

Jun 25 – **Randall Crouch**, PE, Charlotte Harbor Sunset Club.

Jul 4 – **HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**

Please remember to make a contribution to The Rotary Foundation to fulfill your EREY and even more.

Want to do more for the Club? Throw your hat in the ring to be a member of the Club's **Charity and Education Foundation**. Five (5) vacancies for Trustee positions are open. The election will be at the Foundation's Annual Meeting in early July. Please give your name to Club Secretary Carol Knutson at knutson_carol@yahoo.com and Foundation Secretary Steve Goettler at sgoettler@buckeye-express.com before June 25th.

Thank you to all the members who participated in the TEAM Punta Gorda food drive on Friday, May 22nd. Your generosity makes a big difference!

Birthday, anniversary, happy/sad dollars, and tips for servers go to our virtual tip jar: <https://squareup.com/store/punta-gorda-rotary-club-2>.

Now, a word from Emma Giordana, our Exchange Student who is still in the Czech Republic:

Dear Rotary Club of Punta Gorda,

9 months down, one more to go! I've done the math, I have spent less than 5% of my entire life in the Czech Republic. Now that might not seem like a lot, but it has sure made a big difference in my life.

This past month I have been able to see many friends from school. On a few different days, we were able to meet up in the city and grab some food while catching up. Some friends even came to my house and we were able to swim and play some sports. With one classmate, I was able to ride her horse when I went to her home.



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

Rotary – where business & community Leaders meet, exchange ideas and take action

Riding a horse was something that I haven't done in a long time so I was a bit nervous but I eventually got the hang of it.

About two weeks ago, an exchange student from Mexico was visiting my town with her host family. I hadn't seen her since the last meeting in February so I was so excited to see her again. While she was here, we were able to explore the almost deserted city with the other exchange student in my town. It was very strange seeing my host city like this considering it's usually full of people walking around.

One day, my host family and I got the chance to visit the zoo in a town called Jihlava. I had never been to this specific zoo so I was glad we could go. It was especially amusing to see how my 2 year old host brother reacted since this was his first time at the zoo. He called all of the giraffes "krk" which just translates to the word "neck" in Czech. It was extremely sunny on that day so it was a perfect outing with them.

A few days after that, My host family and I took a weekend trip to Prague. They own a flat there so we were able to sleep there for two nights. During the day, I was able to meet up with some other exchange students and go to some stores and have lunch together. Then, I went walking around with my host family before heading back to the flat. On the second day, my host sister and I met with the same exchange students and had a picnic in the park. We all woke up early the next morning to go visit the local farmers market where we tried some food and fed the ducks before driving home.

This past week I was able to travel to the city of Plzen to visit some friends. This is one of the largest cities in the Czech Republic known for being the city of Pilsner beer. The exchange students who lived there showed me the giant square that had the Cathedral placed right in the center of everything. The Cathedral has a gate with small golden baby heads as decoration. One of these heads was considered good luck if you rub it and make a wish so of course we had to do it. We also got to climb to the top of the Cathedral and look at the entire city which was so beautiful. The rest of the trip consisted of more exploring, eating, and enjoying eachothers company.

One of the best experiences I have had in a while happened in the second largest city, Brno. Myself along with 9 other students decided to get together and explore the city for the day. Most of us had not seen each other for months so it was really exciting. Brno is a very modern and friendly city. While getting off the train, we were asked by a Czech woman where we were from. It turns out that she was an exchange student in Wisconsin during college! Throughout the day our large group was asked more questions by friendly strangers, something that never really happens in Prague. It was a very short trip that was more focused on being with each other rather than learning about the city so I hope I can go back again and learn more about it.

On every single outing I described, every single person, including me, was wearing a mask. This is because it is still required by the Czech government unless you are doing sports outdoors. May 17th is when the state of emergency ended here and May 25th is when all rescritions will be lifted. This means that it is pretty much back to normal despite the masks. My Rotary district has been permitting travel within the country but borders are still closed meaning that I cannot travel outside of the country with my host family. I'm so glad that things are getting back to normal so I can make up for the last 3 months in quarantine! The remaining exchange students and I have made a promise to make this last month the best month of our lives. I'm currently trying to plan something for every day leading up to July 9th. So stayed tuned for my final update next month!

Sincerely, Emma Giordano