



January 2024 Bulletin

Starting the New Year with Twelve New Members

Our club welcomed ten new members during the last quarter of 2024, surely a quarterly record. In October, Betty Kedziora, Cameron Brady, Michael Hunstad, and Aryn Francis joined us. November brought the induction of Garry Ketts, Shane Harris, Theresa Brackett, and Chrisanna Wright. And to close the year in December, Alicia Christine Oates and Jennifer Pelling became members. Two other new members, Debi Lux and Jon Duszynski, made twelve new members for 2023.

A new member orientation was organized at FM Don's by Membership Chair Darcy Hanley on December 21st. President Peter Wilkins gave a nice presentation about Rotary, covering a bit of Rotary's history, what Rotary stands for and our purpose of "service above self."



Our new members are already very active, several taking leadership roles in the Taste of Punta Gorda and in the club generally. Our club is blessed with new energy and excitement!

Christmas at La Esperanza de Jesus Orphanage



Thanks to Rotarian Rosa Benght-Pena, our club Foundation, and our project partner the Garden Mission, the children at the La Esperanza de Jesus Orphanage in Honduras got a great visit from Santa this Christmas.



Club Meeting Place & Time

Punta Gorda
Meets at ISLES YACHT CLUB, 1780 W
Marlon Ave, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

Club Officers



Jennifer Pollinger
Treasurer - Assistant



Peter R Wilkins
President



James C. Williams
President-Elect
Public Relations Chair
International Service Chair



Stephen J. Goettler
Secretary



Alyson Burch
Treasurer
Past President



Laura C Knutson
Treasurer - Assistant



Arnie Eastburn
Bulletin Editor



Breven Baima
Sergeant-at-Arms



Darcy Hanley
Membership Chair
Youth Services Chair



Charles F Marlowe
Rotary Foundation Chair



Rosa Benght
Club Programs Chair



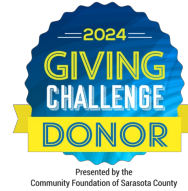
Donna Calderon
Club Service Chair



Let's Get Ready for the Giving Challenge

April 9-10, 2024, is the semi-annual Giving Challenge, run by the Sarasota Community Foundation and the Patterson Foundation. We are signed up to participate in the Giving Challenge, and donations to our club during the two days of the challenge will be matched by the Patterson Foundation.

President-Elect James is seeking members who would like to serve on a small committee to handle the logistics of our participation.



??????? **JANUARY**

Training Webinar, *Social Media Strategies for the 2024 Giving Challenge*: Jan. 31, 2024

FEBRUARY

Training Webinar, *Social Media Strategies: Small Group Feedback 1*: Feb. 12, 2024

Training Webinar, *Communication & Storytelling Strategies*: Feb. TBD, 2024

Training Webinar, *Social Media Strategies: Small Group Feedback 2*: Feb. 26, 2024

MARCH 2024

Training Webinar, *Final Steps for Success*: Mar. 5, 2024

Training Opportunity, *3rd Quarterly Virtual Open House*: Mar. 7, 2024

APRIL 2024

Giving Challenge: April 9-10, 2024

Training Webinar, *Donor Stewardship after the Giving Challenge*: April 16, 2024



Nancy A. Johnson
Community Service Chair



Ed Davis
Vocational Service Chair

Punta Gorda Rotary Charity and Education Foundation

Paul F. Blaine
Member

Darcy Hanley
Chair

Nancy A. Johnson
Member

Paul V. Lioon
Member

Charles D. Marsee
Vice-Committee Chair

Douglas Morey
Secretary

Lachlan C. Smith
Assistant Treasurer

Peter R. Wilkins
Member

James C. Williams
Treasurer

Events

January 4th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Stephanie Rusch

Subject: Charlotte Technical College

January 11th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Melissa Suarez

Subject: Exchange Student's experience in Japan

January 18th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Jim Hinck

Subject: All about the Rotary Foundation

February 1st

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Jaha Cummings

Subject: The Downtown Punta Gorda Digest

February 15th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Michele DiBerardino

Subject: Punta Gorda City Clerk's Office

February 22nd

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

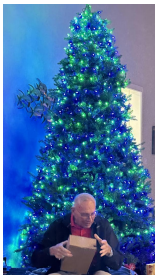
Speaker: Club Assembly

February 29th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Zarita Mattox-Dixon

A Fun Club Christmas Party



Debi Lux volunteered her home for the 2023 Club Christmas Party and gift exchange. It was great fun for everyone, and you'll want to be sure not to miss the next one in 2024. After eating from a smorgasbord of great food, Michael Hunstad officiated the "white elephant" gift exchange. It will make for a Happy New Year!





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What Can You Do for the Taste of Punta Gorda?

The Taste of Punta Gorda is just eight weeks away. You can help make it a success by giving a couple of days of your time between now and January 30th!

What can you do? Here are some things you can do:

GET ONE SPONSOR for the Taste! A business you patronize. Your business. A neighbor or friend's business. It's a great marketing opportunity! The deadline for advertising sponsor support is January 30th, but we'll accept sponsors right up to the day of the Taste! Ask for an application form from Darcy @ darcyhanley@gmail.com



SIGN UP ONE RESTAURANT for the Taste! Ask a restaurateur who you know or where you often eat out to sign up! It's a great marketing tool for businesses, so give a restaurateur an application. Ask for one from James @ techjunc@gmail.com, and sign them up!

SIGN UP YOURSELF AND FRIENDS TO VOLUNTEER for the Taste weekend. Pick up a **Volunteer form** at lunch or ask for one from James @ techjunc@gmail.com. Fill it out and return it to James. ONE FORM FOR EACH VOLUNTEER. And get it turned in by January 30th so we can order t-shirts for you.

We expect 5,000 attendees at the Taste. 30 Restaurants, 60+ vendors, a Kid's Zone, and music all day with Deb and the Dynamics, the Marker 5 Band, and the Boogie-men.

Thank you for your service above self!

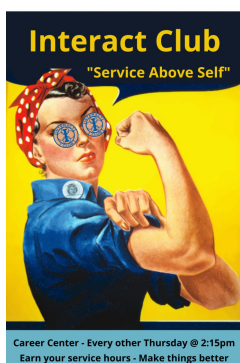
Interact is Ready for 2024



Charlotte High School Interactors are busy recruiting members as we enter the new year. A kick-off event was held in October with the club's new advisor Jaime Eyster, CHS's Career Counselor. Rotarians Michael Bedar, Jennifer Bucurel, and Aryn Francis are working with the students throughout this year.

Aryn is already chair of a new event to be called Interact Day, which will tentatively be held on April 27th. District Governor Alfred Current, Area 6 Assistant Governor Chuck Marlowe, Darcy Hanley, and others met in December to sketch out plans for this inaugural event.

Interact Day will bring together Interact students from several other Interact Clubs in our Rotary District 6960, possibly at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC). Presentations and interactive demonstrations about RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership), S4TL (Students for Tomorrow's Leaders), the student exchange program, Polio Plus, and other Rotary work. Participants will receive a t-shirt designed by Interactors.



Helping the Homeless in Charlotte County

Rotarians Craig Esterly, Breven Baima, and Debi Lux have all stepped up to help homeless residents of Charlotte County by donating items to Jesus Loves Ministries. Recently, Craig delivered a donation of hundred of toothbrushes to the ministry. During 2023 other deliveries were made of food, and our Club Foundation funded washing machines for the ministry. Got something you can donate?



Upcoming Dates to Remember

January 6. Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). Parts I, II, III. This is a great program for any Rotarian, especially new Rotarians. Held at **Woodland Middle School**, 2700 Panacea Blvd, North Port, FL 34289. Sign up through the District Calendar on DACdb.

January 10. Club Board Meeting. 8:00 a.m. via Zoom. If you wish to attend contact President Peter. All members are welcome.

January 10. Taste of Punta Gorda General Meeting. 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Invitation will be sent to all members by James.

January 20. DACdb U -- What's Important in Preparing for Rotary Year 2024. What's Important in Preparing for Rotary Year 2024-25? If it has been awhile since you logged into DACdb or never at all, this session will walk you through some basics for DACdb. Sign up through the District Calendar on DACdb.

January 24. Taste of Punta Gorda General Meeting. 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Invitation will be sent to all members by James.

January 27. Annual Mid-Year Meeting for Presidents, Assistant Governors, District Chairs and Governor Core. 9:00 a.m., Woodland Middle School, 2700 Panacea Blvd, North Port, FL 34289. Sign up through the District Calendar on DACdb.

February 3. Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). Parts I only. Location TBA. Sign up through the District Calendar on DACdb.
