



Rotary Club of Punta Gorda



SPRING 2024 BULLETIN

Pizza & Beer Club Social



Don't miss our Club Social at Brooklyn Joe's Pizza on **MONDAY, APRIL 22, 6-8 PM**. Owner, Jay Ryan is opening up Brooklyn Joe's just for our club for a special pizza & beer social gathering at his restaurant at 1133 Bal Harbour Blvd, Suite #1115 in Punta Gorda Isles. Just \$20 per person. Bring your spouse, partner, a friend, a prospective member.

Sign up at our next club meeting, and please pay ahead if you can. Lots of fun and a great chance to relax with fellow club members.



Interact is Ready for 2024

We are thrilled to announce District 6960's first Interact Day, organized and hosted by our Rotary Club at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center on April 27, 2024! The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature a pig roast, games, Rotary history, and some friendly competition. We are looking for volunteers to help make this day a success. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Aryn Francis, Michael Bednar, or Jennifer Bucurel.



Interact Day Draft (4).png

Planning for the 100th Anniversary



The time has arrived to start the planning for an amazing, totally awesome Punta Gorda Rotary Club 100th Anniversary celebration on **April 26, 2025!** The location will be the Isles Yacht Club. It will be an appetizer, plated dinner, dessert and a cash bar. The cost pp will be \$100.

A planning committee will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, April 30, at 5PM. (Zoom invite will be sent)

Several club members have volunteered to work on the committee already, and thank you. Darcy Hanley, who is chairing the event says she has a history team of Alan Hitchcock (author), Craig Esterly, Jerry O'Halloran, and Wayne Woodard. But, she needs other positions on the committee to be filled, including:



Club Meeting Place & Time

Punta Gorda
Meets at ISLES YACHT CLUB
1780 W Marion 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 Bengt
Club Programs Chair



Donna Calderon
Club Service Chair



Nancy A. Johnson
Community Service Chair

Treasurer - assist with developing a budget, write checks to pay vendors
 Assistant Treasurer - write check requests and assist treasurer
 Program Chair
 Promotion Chair
 Table Decorations/seating plan
 Advertising, press releases, social media, photography
 Ticket Sales
 Entertainment, sound system, visual enhancements
 Invitations, printing
 Recognition gifts

We need many Rotarians to get involved in the event. We will have a budget, but it would be great to obtain a few sponsors (other Rotary clubs) to purchase a table or two!

Save the date! Get involved in any way you can! If you are just interested in helping, be sure to email Darcy at darcyrhanley@gmail.com.

Our Club is growing!

Join us in welcoming the newest members of our club for the 3rd quarter of Rotary Year 2023-2024:

- Estella Holland: Estella was recommended for membership by Jennifer Bucurel and is interested in Youth Service. She is a Real Estate associate and an attorney in Peru.
- Bari Ann Amadio: Bari is a transfer Rotarian from Rochester who is passionate about community service and fundraising for the arts.
- Richard Sell: Richard is a transfer Rotarian from Manhattan Kansas who served as membership and program chairs and in 2021-22, as Club President. He also headed a major Polio fundraising project for his club. He is a Paul Harris Fellow+3.
- Paul Bucurel: Paul is a transfer Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Meridian Mississippi, where he was Club President in 2004. He has held several leadership roles at the club and district levels, including Governor of District 6820 in 2014-15. He is a Major Donor.



Bari Amadio Paul Bucurel Richard Sell

We also extend a warm welcome to the other new members of this 2023-2024 membership year:

- Jennifer Bucurel
- John Duszynski
- Dr. Debbie Lux
- Michael Hunstad
- Aryn Francis
- Cameron Brady
- Garry Ketts
- Theresea Brackett
- Betty Kedorza
- Shane Harris
- Chrisanna Wright
- Jennifer Pellingier
- Alicia Oates
- Andrea Ariens **
- Barb Boncompte**

** In process.

In Memory of Carol Knutson

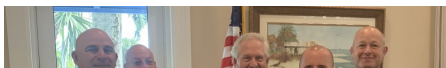
In memory of Carol Knutson who recently passed away. Carol was a loyal Rotarian who joined our club after transferring from Holland, Michigan. She was a University of Michigan alumna. Our thoughts are with her daughter and Rotarian Laura Knutson and her husband Terry Molitor, an honorary member of our club. A donation to RI has been made in her name.



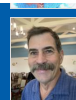
Honoring Local Law Enforcement



In March, Rotarian Breven Baima brought Sgt. David Musgrove, of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Department to lunch where the club honored his service.



Sgt. David Musgrove (second from right), a 20-year veteran of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, was on patrol the night of Feb. 8 when he said he saw a motorcycle speed by his car. Shortly after, he heard



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. Lion
Member



Charles D. Marsee
Vice-Committee Chair



Douglas Morey
Secretary



Lachlan C. Smith
Assistant Treasurer



Peter R. Wilkins
Member



James C. Williams
Treasurer

Events

- April 11th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Nancy Johnson
Subject: Strategic Planning
- April 18th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Kathryn Wallace
Subject: Substance abuse, mental health, and FL law
- April 22nd
Punta Gorda Club Social
- April 25th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Michelle Weir
- May 2nd
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Florida International Airshow
- May 9th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Scholarship students
- May 16th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Jim Hinck
Subject: District Foundation Chair
- May 23rd
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Shelter Box Presentation
- May 30th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Tricia LaPointe
Subject: Peace River Wildlife Center
- June 6th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
- June 13th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Roger B. Handberg
Subject: U.S. Attorney
- June 20th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: C.A.R.T. Program
- June 29th
Punta Gorda Change of Watch



a motorcycle speed by his car. Shortly after, he heard a loud crash. Inside the car was Kayleigh Foley, who was driving to dinner in Englewood, Florida, with Lola and her older daughter, Ariel, 3, when they were struck by the motorcycle, which Musgrove said was traveling at least 90 mph at the time of the crash.

When he arrived at the scene, Musgrove said, he saw the motorcyclist, who was killed in the crash, and heard screaming coming from the driver's side of the car that was hit.

Inside the car was Kayleigh Foley, who was driving to dinner in Englewood, Florida, with Lola and her older daughter, Ariel, 3, when they were struck by the

motorcycle, which Musgrove said was traveling at least 90 mph at the time of the crash.

Musgrove safely pulled Ariel from her car seat on the passenger side of the car and handed her to a bystander who had stopped to help. When Musgrove pulled Lola from her car seat on the driver's side of the car, Foley said she was not sure her younger daughter had survived the crash. She remembers immediately asking Musgrove if Lola was alive or dead.

"He was like, 'Let me do my job,'" Foley said. "And traffic was still going on, no one was stopping, so he put her to the side, in the median, and starts doing CPR." Both Foley and Ariel suffered only minor injuries in the crash, and Sgt. Musgrove was hailed as a local hero.

New Members Run Meetings

During the month of March, President Peter Wilkins invited four new members to take turns running our club meetings while he was out of town. Betty Kedziora, Aryn Francis, Sean Harris, and Alicia Oates each did a great job running their meetings, introducing speakers and making sure that club business got done and lunch went smoothly.

Great thanks to our vibrant class of new members this year! They have stepped up in so many ways to make our club better and bring exciting energy to meetings and activities.



15th Annual Taste of Punta Gorda a Success!!

By James C. Williams on Wednesday, March 8, 2023

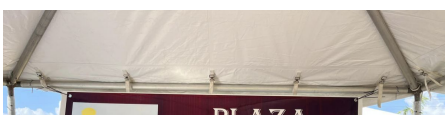


On Sunday, March 5th, over 3,500 people attended the 15th Annual Taste of Punta Gorda, hosted by the Punta Gorda Rotary Club & Foundation at Laisley Park in Punta Gorda. Publix Super Markets was the presenting sponsor for the third year in a row, Ingman Marine the returning Top Chef sponsor, and many local businesses taking other sponsor slots. Nineteen restaurants signed up, and ... top honors went to Sughar Ray's Caribbean, Brooklyn Joe's, and the Metro Diner. Seventy vendors of specialty foods, arts, crafts, and nonprofit groups served attendees and music was provided by the BoogieMen, a Charlotte County favorite! A great kids' zone offer bounce houses, rock climbing, laser tag, and more.

This is the club's major annual fundraiser, all proceeds going toward grants to area charities and in support of Rotary's seven areas of service.



Restaurant winners at Taste 2024, Anna & Luis Contreras, Unwined Wine Bar





Plaza Mexico at

the 2024 Taste. Photo by Sue Wade.

Club Foundation Grants

The Punta Gorda Rotary Club Foundation gives grants throughout the year on a quarterly basis. Members recommend grant projects from organizations that they know of and work with in the community, and groups come to the Foundation with proposals as well. Our Rotary Club worked with Charlotte High School's Project Graduation for many years, and our support of this night of safe fun and celebration has been ongoing. In the photo below (L-R), Aryn Francis and Darcy Hanley represent the club giving a donation check to Jessica Cline and Geoff Lorah of Project Graduation, with Paul Lioon, our club's sponsor of the project, standing by.



Grants given in March include:

\$100.00 to TEAM Punta Gorda for a sponsorship at their annual golf scramble and \$200.00 for TEAM's Peddle and Play project. Proposed by Nancy Johnson.

\$1,500.00 to the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center for its Oyster bed rejuvenation project. Sponsored by Michael Bednar.

\$500.00 to sponsor a "White Shirt" attendee to S4TL (Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders). Sponsored by Charles Marsee and the Youth Committee.

\$1,500.00 for a vocational project in cooperation with the Charlotte Technical College. Sponsored by Ed Davis.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

April 11. Club Strategic Plan Presentation. Nancy Johnson and Peter Wilkins will present the work of the Strategic Planning group at our regular lunch meeting.

April 18. Kathryn Wallace, who will be Assistant Governor for Area 6 during the 2024-25 Rotary Year, will make a presentation on "Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and Florida Law" at our regular lunch meeting.

April 22. CLUB BEER & PIZZA SOCIAL, 6-8 PM, at Brooklyn Joe's, 1133 Bal Harbour Blvd, Suite #1115, in PGI.

April 25. Michelle Weir, from FSW/CHS will speak to the club at our regular lunch meeting.

April 27. DISTRICT 6960 INTERACT DAY at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda.

May 2. Southwest Florida Airshow presentation at our regular lunch meeting.

May 4. District Training Assembly. Location TBA

May 9. Punta Gorda Rotary Scholarship Students will visit the club for our regular lunch meeting.

May 16. Jim Hinck, District Foundation Chair, will speak to the club at our regular lunch meeting.

May 23. Shelter Box makes a presentation to the club at our lunch meeting.

May 30. Tricia LaPointe, Executive Director, Peace River Wildlife Center, is our lunch speaker.

June 6. Club Assembly at our regular lunch meeting.

June 13. Roger B. Handerg, U.S. Attorney, is our club luncheon speaker.

June 20. CART Program (Alzheimers) presentation at our lunch meeting.

June 29. CHANGE OF WATCH dinner at the Isles Yacht Club.

July 9-12. DISTRICT 6960 CONFERENCE in Punta Gorda. Beginning with a Paella Party at Lashley Park's covered pavilions on Thursday the 9th, the Conference runs from Friday through Saturday night at the Charlotte Harbor Convention Center with speakers, awards, and a House of Friendship. It's capped off with a Polio Walk on Sunday, July 12. ***It's right in our backyard, so MARK YOUR CALENDAR, and be sure to attend!***

