



Fall Bulletin

Purchase Flag Today

American flags will fly solemnly at Laishley Park Veterans Day Weekend, November 2024, creating an ***** HEALING FIELD OF HONOR' awe-inspiring panorama.



This stirring display of 1000 flags is a community tribute to honor our heroes, each flag telling a story.

You can dedicate a flag to a military member who gave their lives, a veteran or active-duty military member, a first responder, a healthcare worker, a family member, or a hometown hero. Anyone you

choose!

Sponsor Opportunities: Contact hfohpg@gmail.com

Flag purchase: Scan QR code or visit https://www.puntagordarotary.org/hfoh/

Volunteer sign-up: https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/10C0B44ABA72FABF9C07- 50969252-healing#/



Club Meeting

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

Club Leaders



<u>Alyson Burch</u> Treasurer - Assistant



Stephen J. Goettler Treasurer - Assistant



Alice M. Rose Treasurer - Assistant



James C. Williams President



Alicia Christine Oates President-Elect Public Relations Chair Webmaster



Peter R Wilkins Secretary iPast President



Theresa Brackett **Bulletin Editor Public Relations Chair**



Nancy A Johnson Training Officer



Joey M Alonso Sergeant-at-Arms



Darcy Hanley Community Service Chair Membership Chair



Charles F Marlowe Club Learning Facilitator Rotary Foundation Chair



Andrea Ariens Club Service Chair

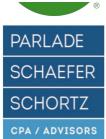


Richard D Sell Club Programs Chair















<u>Chrisanna K Wright</u> <u>Clu</u>b Service Chair



Arnie Eastburn International Service Chair



Ed Davis Vocational Service Chair



Paul F. Blaine Youth Services Chair



<u>Charles D. Marsee</u> Youth Services Project Chair

Punta Gorda Rotary Charity and Education Foundation



<u>Joey M Alonso</u> Member



<u>Paul F. Blaine</u> Member



Jon Michael Duszynski Member



<u>Darcy Hanley</u> Chair



Paul V. Lioon Member



<u>Charles D. Marsee</u> Vice-Committee Chair



<u>Douglas Morey</u> Secretary



Alicia Christine Oates Member



<u>Kathryn N. Smith</u> Member



<u>Lachlan C Smith</u> Treasurer



<u>Peter R Wilkins</u> Member



<u>James C. Williams</u> Member

Events

October 3rd

October 1st
Punta Gorda Rotary Public Image
Meeting
Speaker: Public Image Team meeting



The Rotary International District 33/34 Conference recently took place right here in our hometown, and it was a fantastic opportunity for our members to connect and grow. Several of us attended and enjoyed a wealth of informative speeches and engaging activities that enriched our Rotary experience.

Aryn Francis proudly participated in the flag ceremony, adding a touch of pride to the event. Darcy Hanley presented recognition to our remarkable Foreign Exchange students, celebrating their contributions and experiences. Additionally, our club President, James Williams, collected our club citations, showcasing our commitment to service and excellence.

It was an inspiring gathering, and we left energized and excited to continue our work in the community!



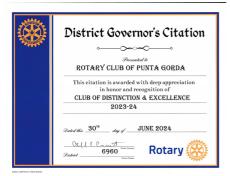








FANTASTIC CITATIONS:







Welcome!

We're thrilled to have you here! At our club meetings, you'll always find a warm welcome waiting for you. Richard Sell, our Program Chair, introduced a fantastic new initiative this summer: a weekly greeter program! Greeters will wear big blue buttons to make their role even more fun.

This initiative has kicked off our new Rotary year with great spirit. The greeter selection process begins with our newer members, giving everyone the chance to welcome fellow Rotarians at our meetings. Richard shared that "I have seen the Greeter program used at other clubs and thought we could do it! The reason behind it is NEW members need to connect. It's hard if you really don't know anyone. Many members sit at the same



table with the same people, like a mini-fraternity/sorority. It's my hope that by being a Greeter it will help connect us







In August, during our Public Image discussion, Garry Ketts shared a wonderful perspective with Theresa Brackett our Public Image Chair. He noted one does not have to be a greeter rather one GETS to be greeter! It's truly an honor, not a chore. So, when it's your turn, take joy in welcoming your fellow Rotarians to our lunch meetings!

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Yevette Sutter, Sandhill

Subject: Breast Thermography

October 9th **Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board**

Meeting October 10th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting

Speaker: Tiffany Ervin Subject: C.A.R.T. program

October 15th

Punta Gorda Rotary Public Image Meeting

Speaker: Public Image Team meeting

October 17th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting **Speaker:** Rotarian Charles Marsee **Subject:** S4TL students' reports

October 23rd

Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation

October 24th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Kelly Kowall, My Warriors

Subject: A place of safe refuge for all Veterans and Military Service Members who have returned from the battlefield?.?

October 29th

Punta Gorda Rotary Public Image

Meeting

Speaker: Public Image Team meeting

October 31st

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Betty Kedziora, Charlotte

Harbor Dragon Ladies

Subject: Paddling for Breast Cancer

November 9th

Punta Gorda Rotary's Healing Filed of Honor

November 12th Punta Gorda Rotary Public Image

Meeting

Speaker: Public Image Team meeting

November 13th

Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board

Meeting

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Sherriff Bill Prummel Subject: Charlotte County law enforcement issues

November 21st

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Rotarian Joey Alonso **Subject:** US Naval Sea Cadets

November 26th

Punta Gorda Rotary Public Image

Meeting

Speaker: Public Image Team meeting

November 27th

Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation

Board Meeting

December 5th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Annual Club Meeting &

December 10th

Punta Gorda Rotary Public Image

Meeting

Speaker: Public Image Team meeting

December 10th

Punta Gorda Rotary New Member

Orientation

Speaker: Darcy Hanley

Subject: New Member Orientation December 11th

Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board

October is Polio Plus Month



October is Polio Plus Month. In our Rotary efforts to end polio in the world, everybody in the club is asked to kick in a few bucks toward eradicating polio on our Polio Plus Board. The winner (to be announced sometime the month of November) will receive a Paul Harris Award and a cash prize. Here's Secretary Peter Wilkins and Club Treasurer Chuck Marlowe, with the Polio Plus Board.



Meeting

December 12th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Christmas for Kids from Charlotte Academy

Subject: Santa Claus visits! December 19th

Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Fire Chief Holden Gibbs

Sign up for 10/19 RLI?

Why attend RLI?

Participating in the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) not only enhances your Rotary knowledge but also connects you with fellow Rotarians from our district through the completion of Sessions I, II, and III.

Did you know your club offers reimbursement for attending these valuable sessions?

Big congratulations to Alicia Oates for successfully completing all three sessions this summer! Betty Kedziora and Theresa Brackett also attended their first session and are excited about attending the upcoming session on October 19th. Who else wants to join them?

RLI Parts I, II, and III will take place on Saturday, October 19th, at Woodland Middle School in North Port. Check-in starts at 8:15 AM, with classes running from 9:00 AM to 3:15 PM.

RLI provides in-depth knowledge of Rotary and essential leadership skills that will benefit you in both your professional and volunteer endeavors. You don't need to aim for a Club President role to participate; these sessions are valuable for any Rotarian! Plus, it's a fantastic opportunity to connect with Rotarians from different clubs and exchange ideas.





Join us and elevate your Rotary experience! Register NOW for RLI Gulf Coast Florida Division Parts 1,2,3. **Click Here:** RLI Registeration

RLI Administration: Sherry Penfield, slpenfield@yahoo.com and Judy Hammond, judyhammond@ymail.com

Fall into Community Activities

Our Community Service Committee, led by Breven Baima, Michael Hunstad, and Darcy Hanley, is gearing up for an exciting season of service, and we need more Rotarians to get involved! Together, we can amplify our impact and strengthen our ties to the community.

One of our upcoming projects is the Neighborhood Fall Festival, where we'II have a table at the Cooper Rec Center on

October 26 from 4-6 PM. We're looking for two volunteers to help man the table and promote the Healing Field of Honorâ€″a great opportunity to engage with our neighbors and share the importance of our service initiatives.





Additionally, we invite all members to contribute to our downtown Trick or Treat event by bringing in candy. Collection bags will be available during our meetings on October 3 and 10, so let's spread some joy to our local children!

Our Community Service Committee has planned projects for every month, so mark your calendars! Save the Date for January 13 at the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC), where we will be building oyster gardens to help restore our local marine ecosystems.

Together, let's strengthen our community and embody the spirit of Rotary through active participation. Join us in these efforts and make a lasting impact!

Platinum Baby!

Darcy Hanley has shown remarkable dedication as our Membership Chair, consistently working toward our membership goals. Thanks to her efforts, our club has been recognized by the district for achieving membership growth for four consecutive years. Darcy plays a crucial role in our success by attracting new members and fostering a vibrant community.

The Zones 33-34 Membership Action Plan (MAP) team awards Platinum status to clubs that experience two or more years of growth. Platinum Clubs embody Rotary $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}^{m}$ Vision Statement: $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}^{m}$ Vision Statement: $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}^{m}$ Action to create lasting change $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}^{m}$ across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}^{m}$

The accompanying certificate highlights all the clubs in our district with Platinum status, providing an opportunity for collaboration and shared ideas as we continue to grow Rotary together.



International Coastal Cleanup

Early Saturday morning in mid-September, 51 community members answered Punta Gorda Rotary Clubâ€[™]s call to clean up Ponce De Leon Park on the western edge of the city as part of the 52^{nd} Annual Coastal Clean-up Day. Charlotte Countyâ€[™]s participation in this event is organized each year by Rhonda Harvey, Executive Director of Keep Charlotte Beautiful.

Ponce De Leon Park

In addition to our Rotarians, volunteers answering the call represented Allegiant Air, Girl Scout Troop 181, Heal Our Harbor, and the Charlotte High School Interact Club. In a couple of hours, volunteers picked up 330 pounds of trash from near the boat ramp, fishing piers, mangrove boardwalk, playground, picnic areas, around the Peace River Wildlife Center, and along Rotary beach.

Trash items gathered included Styrofoam that had been dumped on the shoreline, light bulbs, plastic bottles, straws and other pieces of plastic waste, cigarette butts, and even a full-size bedsheet that had been buried in the sand on the beach.





Steven May $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ s family joined Dave Schutz from Heal Our Harbor for the event. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ wife Lynlee and I enjoy taking Cypress, our 5-year-old son, to events like this where we can actively give back. We appreciate that organizations like the Rotary Club help put on events like this, among your other efforts. $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ Among the volunteers there were nineteen who were under the age of eighteen.

Thank you to Rotarians Darcy Hanley, Polly Pierce, and Rich Sell, who oversaw the distribution of gloves, grabbers, and buckets for volunteers and ensured that the trash was properly collected and disposed of.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Helene brought major storm surge to the park and the Peace River Wildlife Center, so a completely different kind of clean-up is now underway. Volunteers, of course, always wanted.

New Members!

We're excited to introduce two incredible new members who joined our Rotary family in the first quarter of this year!

Polly Pierce was inducted on August 15, 2024, and sheâ \in TMs already making waves! With a passion for volunteering, Polly is actively involved in the Dragon Boat races, organizes 5Ks to support victims of drug abuse, and enjoys playing pickle-ball and practicing yoga. Weâ \in TMre thrilled to have her on the Youth Service Committee, where she will undoubtedly make a positive impact. Pollyâ \in TMs sponsor is Betty Kedziora.



Kristin Mangas joined us on September 9, 2024. With a rich history in Rotary as a former participant in S4TL, Kristin is eager to get involved. She coaches Pop Warner cheerleading, loves kayaking, and is an avid runner, often participating in 5Ks. Kristin will be collaborating with Aryn Francis to enhance the Kids Zone at the upcoming Taste of Punta Gorda. Her sponsor is Paul Blaine. Welcome, Polly and Kristinâ€″we're so glad to have you with us!





We Did It! DDF Grant



We are thrilled to announce a significant achievement for our Rotary Foundation: we successfully submitted a DDF grant, which has been approved for \$10,000! This funding will support the Heal Our Harbor Project, an initiative dedicated to ensuring the health of our local waterways.

The Heal Our Harbor Project is entirely volunteer-driven, focusing on water quality testing at four specific locations in Punta Gorda Isles (PGI). With the approved grant, the team aims to expand their testing efforts to include additional sites in PGI and Burnt Store Isles, further enhancing our community $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{T}^{m}$ environmental stewardship.







This impactful project was introduced to us by TEAM Punta Gorda, highlighting the collaborative spirit that defines our community. By securing this grant, we are not only investing in the health of our local environment but also fostering a sense of responsibility and engagement among our volunteers.

A Rotary District Designated Fund (DDF) grant is a grant given to Rotary clubs by their district to fund short-term, small-scale projects that address needs in the district. DDF grants are funded by a portion of the contributions made to the Annual Programs Fund by Rotarians, clubs, and others in the district three years prior.

Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this project to life. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our community and paving the way for a healthier, more sustainable future!

THE FULLA GOLDA NOLARY CHAD LECENTLY LECOPHIZED ITS LIVE 2027-23 NOLARY TOURIT EXCHAINGE STUDENTS.

Natsuki "Natsu†Asano is 17 years old and is a junior this year at Charlotte High School. Natsu is from Fukuoka, Japan. She is making new friends at CHS, improving her English, and involved in school activities, including the school's Interact Club, according to Rotary Club officials. Interact is a student-led service club at CHS sponsored by Rotary.

Sam Thomas, 16, was a sophomore at Florida Southwestern Collegiate High School in Punta Gorda last year. He is also a member of the CHS Interact Club. He is spending his junior year abroad in Campo Grande, Brazil. Campo Grande is a medium-size city and a provincial capital in southwestern Brazil. He is a high school student at Collegio Salesiano



Dom Basco, a private college preparatory school. To prepare for his exchange, Sam has been studying Portuguese for the past five months. Sam is the son of Greg and Amy Thomas, who are also Natsu's initial host family. Sam is working through Visa issues and has not left as of yet.

Rotary Youth Exchange is a worldwide program in which well-qualified high school students live and study abroad for a school year in one of about 30 countries in Europe, Asia and South America. Through its worldwide network of about 33,000 service clubs in almost 200 countries, Rotary International has annually sponsored thousands of student exchanges since 1975.



In addition to studying at a local high school, RYE students are hosted and guided by their local Rotary Club. They live with Rotary-selected host families, immerse themselves in a new culture, learn a new language, and make new friends from all over the world. The program is designed to build self-confidence, independence, and new abilities, which can be a life-changing experience.

Southwest Florida students, ages 14-18, interested in learning more about Rotary Youth Exchange and their parents are invited to call Paul Blaine, District 6960 RYE Outbound Coordinator, at 419-305-6224.

Area families interested in hosting an international exchange student in their homes for 3-5 months are also invited to call.

Sponsor Pursuit is On



The Sponsor Committee, led by Peter Wilkins and Jim Sanders, has finalized an impressive sponsorship package for our upcoming fundraisers. This comprehensive package offers our sponsors a unique opportunity to support all of our fundraising events in one cohesive arrangement.

If you are passionate about community engagement and would like to contribute to our sponsorship efforts, we invite you to join this dedicated committee. Your support will help us enhance our fundraising initiatives and strengthen our impact in the community.

If you're interested in being part of the Sponsor Committee, please reach out to Peter Wilkins or Jim Sanders. They

would greatly appreciate your involvement and insights as we work together to secure valuable partnerships. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference!



Rotary Club of Punta Club AND Charity and Education Foundation

Sponsor Levels	Healing Field of Honor	Taste of Punta Gorda	100 th Anniversary	Sponsor Amount
Platinum	Row of 10 flags, 10 VIP seating at dedication, logo recognition on the field, full page ad in program, promotional materials, on website, and social media	10 VIP tickets, TV and radio promotion, TV advertising, recognition in the program, on event banners, free vendor space, logo on t-shirts	Sponsor banner, recognition at event, logo on swag bag, first option to purchase a table, full page ad in program	\$8,000
Diamond	8 flags, logo recognition on the field, VIP seating for 6, half page ad in the program, recognition in promotional materials, on website, and on social media	6 VIP tickets, radio, print, and social media advertising, logo on event banners, recognition in program, free vendor space, recognition on t-shirts	Recognition at each table, logo on the bar, half page ad in program	\$5000
Ruby	6 flags, logo recognition, quarter page ad in program, recognition in promotional materials, on website, and social media	4 VIP tickets, recognition in the program, and print and social media advertising, logo on event banners, recognition on t-shirts	Quarter page ad in the program	\$3000
Sapphire	4 flags, website, recognition on the field, in promotional materials, and on social media	2 free admission tickets, 4 drink tickets, recognition in print advertising and program, logo on banners on the field, recognition on t-shirts	1/8 Page ad in program	\$1500
Emerald	2 flags, recognition on the field, and in promotional materials	1 free admission, 2 drink tickets, recognition in print advertising, logo on banners on the field	Recognition at the event	\$500

Search A Word

Rotary Search-a-Word

R	K	R	I	S	Т	I	N	Α	G	R	W	Н	X
N	0	N	E	Н	U	N	D	R	E	D	R	Ε	D
X	Т	P	L	Α	T	I	N	U	М	T	N	L	P
Н	F	Р	S	G	R	E	E	Т	E	R	Т	E	Υ
S	0	T	0	C	D	E	Α	L	D	D	Н	N	D
P	0	L	L	Υ	Α	G	S	E	N	Н	G	E	N
L	Т	Α	Α	N	R	R	N	G	R	N	I	R	Α
S	Х	I	R	L	0	I	Т	Н	I	Т	L	U	С
Т	Ε	R	D	I	W	I	R	С	S	N	Т	Ε	N
N	Р	R	I	N	I	L	R	I	Α	L	0	Ε	0
Α	Α	N	U	S	G	Α	L	F	Ε	N	Р	0	Н
R	Р	S	R	0	S	N	0	P	S	G	S	I	Α
G	R	T	Ε	Ε	С	N	Ε	R	Ε	F	N	0	С
W	I	D	L	X	0	В	R	Ε	T	L	Ε	Н	S

FLAGS UNWINED **PLATINUM** GREETER CONFERENCE SHELTERBOX KRISTIN SPOTLIGHT HELENE CART POLLY RLI SPONSORS GRANTS CANDY ONEHUNDRED

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7556681/

100th Celebration Prep

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening on April 26, 2025, at the Isles Yacht Club as we celebrate 100 years of service in style! Join us for a night filled with fun, cherished memories, fellowship, and yes, plenty of dancing!

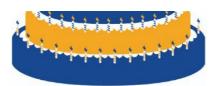
Tickets are **\$100** per person and include access to an exciting evening with live entertainment by the **Marker 5 Band**. There will also be a cash bar to keep the festivities flowing.

We invite you to consider becoming a sponsor for this momentous occasion! Sponsorships are available for \$1,000, and sponsors will receive prominent recognition at all our fundraisers, including the **Healing Field of Honor** and **Taste of Punta Gorda**, as well as during the Celebrating a Century of Service event.

Tickets will go on sale in **February**, and with a limited capacity of just **200 guests**, be sure to gather your table of 8 early!





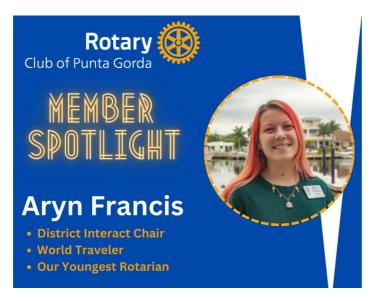


Rotary Spotlight - Members and Speakers

The Public Image team is ready to bring your attention to our members and speakers on social media - https://www.facebook.com/puntagordarotary. We want to celebrate and recognize the great people involved in our club and community. The board voted on and agree that promoting our speakers before our club meeting as a Facebook Event will allow.

Barabara Boncompte not only created the clean and strategic graphics for each category, she is also the liaison to the guest speaker content Facebook Event postings with Richard Sell.

Betty Kedziora will lead the content for the Monthly Member Spotlight and will look for fun facts about each member that is selected by a random process. Watch out when we put the spotlight on you! Our first spotlight member is Aryn Francis.



Foundation Grants Approved



In the spirit of service and community support, our Foundation Grant Chair, Charles Marsee, diligently accepts grant requests every quarter for our Grant Committee to review. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Rotary family to empower local projects and initiatives that align with our mission.

We are excited to announce that the Foundation has approved additional grants for several impactful initiatives, totaling over \$19,000 to date. Our recipients in 2024 thus far include Cathy's Place (Overdose Awareness), Team Punta Gorda organic garden, Gulf Eagle Division US Naval Sea Corps, Peace River Wildlife Center, Peace River Botanical Garden Together, YMCA, Hope Crossroads, Student PG Historical Society, Gulf Shore Sailing, Punta Gorda Fire Department and

Wreaths Across America.

The next grant deadline is December 12, so if you know of a worthy cause or project, now is the time to act! You can find the grant applications on our website at puntagordarotary.org. Simply navigate to the Foundation tab and scroll to the bottom of the page.

If you're interested in contributing your time and expertise, we would love to have you on the Grant Committee. Please reach out to Charles Marsee, $\underline{\text{cmarsee@aol.com}}$, for more information. Together, $\underline{\text{leta}} \in \mathbb{T}^{\text{ms}}$ continue to uplift our community through the power of Rotary!



Quarter Grant recipients included, from left, Polly Pierce, Cathy's Place; Sandy Dressler, Team Punta Gorda; Tricia LaPointe, Peace River Wildlife Center; Joey Alonso, Gulf Eagle Division of the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets; and Tanna Horner, Peace River Botanical Garden.

In Memory of Skip

Arthur Rulon "Skip" Mansfield passed away on July 19, 2024. Skip was a life-long sailor and adventurer. He loved selling yachts, and became know throughout the sailing world in the U.S. and abroad, where he was always recognized.

He joined Punta Gorda Rotary in March 1996, and tirelessly supported the Taste of Punta Gorda and other club fundraising activities. His attendance at meetings was regular for 28 years, and he was always among the first to volunteer when help was needed. He was a Paul Harris Fellow, and in recognition of his long service, the club's board of directors made Skip an honorary member.



The Club UnWine'ds



Christina Wright and Andrea Ariens launched the new Rotary year with a vibrant club social at Punta Gorda's beloved unWined Wine and Beer Bar in August.

With its warm and inviting atmosphere, unWined was the perfect backdrop for our club family to connect over delicious tapas and a delightful selection of wines. Laughter and engaging conversations filled the air as members enjoyed the camaraderie that makes our club special.

Fun fact: This charming venue, a family-run establishment, took home first place in our 2024 Taste of Punta Gorda fundraiser, and we're eager to see them shine

again at the 2025 event on March 2nd!

Mark your calendars for our next social eventâ€″you won't want to miss it! Let's keep the spirit alive and continue building our Rotary fellowship together! The Dart night had to be rescheduled due to hurricane Helene.





Upcoming Dates to Remember

October C.A.R.T Fund Club Mtg Tiffany Ervin, Executive Director of the C.A.R.T. 10 program will talk about Rotary's fight against Alzheimer's disease. October **Bring Candy to Club Meeting** The Punta Gorda downtown community needs 10 candy to support the downtown Halloween festivities. RLI - 1,2,3 Courses Rotary Leadership Institute. Notify James Williams October 19 if you would like to attend. October **Foundation Board Mtg** Contact the Foundation Secretary for a zoom link if you wish to attend the meeting. November **Healing Field of Honor** More info go to: 10 & 11 https://www.healingfield.org/event/puntagordafl24

December New Member Orientation 10 December Board Mtg

TEAM Punta Gorda Office, 227 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda

If you would like an invitation to sit in, please

contact Presuent James at techjund@gmail.com, a week prior to the meeting.

December Special Christmas Mtg 12

 $\operatorname{\mathsf{Kids}}$ from Charlotte Academy meet Santa at our club meeting.