



SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

April 26 is our 100th Celebration Party

By Darcy Hanley

This celebration is under 30 days away!!

The PARTY begins at 5PM -9:30 PM at the Isles Yacht Club.

- Hot appetizers will be passed from 5 to 6 with a cash bar. The program will begin at 6PM.
- Dinner will be a choice of beef medallions, Mahi Mahi and Pasta Primavera, followed by dessert, coffee or tea.
- The music will be provided by Marker 5 Band (yes, they played at the Taste of Punta Gorda),
- a photo-booth,
- slide show,
- and District Governor Kelsy Sola will be the guest of honor. Expect to be dazzled by the gift and a 50/50 for Interact. Did

Did I mention a Paul Harris giveaway?

You really do not want to miss this! About getting tickets. You can see Darcy and pay with cash or check. Click here to purchase tickets on [EventBrite](#) or go to our website at www.puntagodarotaryorg. Hope to see you there. If you cannot attend, a \$100.00 donation is gratefully accepted.



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



[Alyson Burch](#)
Treasurer - Assistant



[Alice M. Rose](#)
Treasurer - Assistant



[James C. Williams](#)
President



[Alicia C. 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](#)
Treasurer
Club Learning Facilitator
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Andrea Ariens](#)
Club Service Chair

Richard D. Sell



- April 24 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- **April 26 100th Anniversary Gala at the Isles Yacht Club**
- May 1 Jessika Sanders, Navigating family tragedies
- May 8 Kit Smith, Punta Gorda Rotary scholarship presentations
- May 15 Natsuki's farewell presentation
- May 22 Don Thomas, Rotary membership excitement
- May 29 Katelin Deushane, Adult Library Services
- June 5 Natalie Proctor, What's new and different at Lake Michigan Credit Union
- **June 6-7 District 6960 Conference, Westin Hotel, Cape Coral**
- June 12 Rick Pucci, Tools for Kids Program
- **June 15-21 S4TL (Students 4 Tomorrow's Leaders), Florida Southern College**
- June 19 Amanda Carr, BMX Olympian and pilot
- **June 26 Change of Watch special luncheon at the Isles Yacht Club**

RLI - More the Merrier

By Theresa Brackett



Join us and elevate your Rotary experience!
 Register NOW for Rotary Leadership Institute Gulf Coast Florida Division Parts 1,2,3.

Click Here: [RLI Registration](#)

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.

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






















RLI Parts I, II, and III will take place on **Saturday, April 12th**, at Woodland Middle School in North Port. Check-in starts at 8:30, with classes running from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Foundation Gives 3rd Quarter Grants

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

The Club's Charity and Education Foundation met and approved seven grants to community groups the last week in March. Congratulations to all the recipients and thank you Rotarians for making these grants possible!

- **Southern Technical College** will receive \$400 for the tool project that Rotarian and Vocation Director Ed Davis has developed. The funds will go toward purchase and signage on a Rotary Tool Chest to house donated tools. Ed will also be joining the HVAC's public advisory committee.
- **Charlotte Re-Entry Initiative, Inc.**, for which Rotarians Craig Esterly and Polly Pierce both

-  Club Programs Chair
 -  [Chrisanna K Wright](#)
Club Service Chair
 -  [Arnie Eastburn](#)
International Service Chair
 -  [Ed Davis](#)
Vocational Service Chair
 -  [Paul F. Blaine](#)
Youth Services Chair
 -  [Charles D. Marsee](#)
Youth Services Project Chair
- 100th Anniversary of Punta Gorda Rotary Charter Steering Committee**
-  [Bari Ann Amadio](#)
Member
 -  [Andrea Ariens](#)
Member
 -  [Breven Baima](#)
Member
 -  [Donna Calderon](#)
Vice-Committee Chair
 -  [Robert J. Clendenin](#)
Member
 -  [Susan Cravens](#)
Member
 -  [W. Craig Esterly](#)
Member
 -  [Darcy Hanley](#)
Chair
 -  [Alan F. Hitchcock](#)
Member
 -  [Paul V. Lioon](#)
Member
 -  [Jerry O'Halloran](#)
Member
 -  [James T. Sanders, Jr.](#)
Member
 -  [Richard D. Sell](#)
Member
 -  [Peter R. Wilkins](#)
Member
 -  [James C. Williams](#)
Member
- [Walter Wayne Woodard](#)

volunteer, will receive \$1,500 for curriculum and class materials for re-entry classes at Charlotte County Prison and Charlotte County Jail.

- **The Glistad Literacy Foundation** receives \$1,500 for book subscriptions for young children through the Charlotte County Imagination Library. Rotarians serve on the board of directors of the foundation.
- **Girls on the Run**, for which Rotarian Polly Pierce is a dedicated volunteer, receives \$500 toward its scholarship program aimed at girls who would not otherwise be able to participate in this excellent empowerment program.
- **The Boys and Girls Club of Charlotte County** receives \$500 for its summer camp scholarship program, which will support one camper for the seven-week program.
- **TEAM Punta Gorda** will receive \$250 in general support for its bicycle loan, community garden, Punta Gorda in bloom, and "Paint Your Heart Out" programs.
- **Cathy's Place of Charlotte County & Drug Free Charlotte County's Overdose Awareness Day 5K** fundraising race on Saturday, August 30th, receives \$250. Rotarian Polly Pierce is the race director. Sign-ups are at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PuntaGorda/OADAY5K>.

Punta Gorda Rotary Sends Four to RYLA!

By Paul F. Blaine



Our club's Youth Service program recently had four CHS students at RYLA.

RYLA, an acronym for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is our district's four-day leadership development program for high school students. It is held each year at the Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center, which is a beautiful setting located about an hour northeast of Punta Gorda. RYLA's program includes activities and speakers to enhance the leadership capabilities of its select group of participants.

Our club's RYLA delegates this year included: Angely Gongora, Gr. 10; Ana-Mel Fernandes, Gr. 11; and our club's inbound exchange student from Japan, Natsuki Asano, Gr. 11.

Our club was also represented by CHS senior Rian Twogood. Rian was one of our RYLA delegates last year, and was selected as a "Yellow Shirt" youth leader for this year's RYLA program. As most club members know, Rian has also been selected as a 2025-26 outbound Rotary Youth Exchange student. Rian will be living with host families and attending high school next year in Thailand!

Punta Gorda Rotarian Aryn Francis also served on RYLA's leadership team again this year. Aryn was a "Red Shirt" adult leader, and she also led a RYLA session about Rotary Youth Exchange. Aryn was a RYE student to Italy during the 2018-19 school year.

Angely, Ana-Mel, Natsu, and Rian are all active members of CHS Interact Club. Aryn is our club's liaison to CHS Interact, and she is also District 6960's Interact Chair.

Change of Watch

On Thursday, June 26, at the Isles Yacht Club and in lieu of our regular luncheon, President James Williams will hand over his gavel to Alicia Oates, our new president for the Rotary Year 2025-2026. Always a fun event, the "Change of Watch" event says "thank



Member

Events

- April 3rd
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Charles Marsee - S4TL
Subject: S4TL update
- April 9th
Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board Meeting
- April 10th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Club Assembly
- April 17th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Dick Carr
Subject: Vietnam Wall
- April 23rd
Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting
- April 24th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Paul Blaine
Subject: RYLA students' reports
- April 26th
Celebrating A Century of Service
Speaker: Kelsey Sola
Subject: A Century of Service - Celebrating 100th anniversary of our club charter
- May 1st
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Jessika Sanders
Subject: Navigating Family Tragedies
- May 8th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Kathryn Smith
Subject: Scholarship Presentations
- May 13th
Punta Gorda Rotary New Member Orientation
Speaker: Darcy Hanley
Subject: New Member Orientation
- May 14th
Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board Meeting
- May 15th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Natsuki Asano
Subject: Exchange Student's Farewell
- May 22nd
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Don Thomas
Subject: District Membership Chair
- May 28th
Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting
- May 29th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Katelin Deushane
Subject: Adult Services Librarian
- June 5th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Natalie Proctor
Subject: Lake Michigan Credit Union
- June 11th
Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board Meeting
- June 12th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Rick Pucci
Subject: Tools for Students program
- June 19th
Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Amanda Carr
Subject: BMX Olympian & Pilot
- June 25th
Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting
- June 26th
CHANGE OF WATCH Meeting
Speaker: Change of Watch



THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

you" to our outgoing officers and directors and inducts our new officers and directors for the upcoming year.

If you can only make a couple of lunch meetings a week, please be sure to put this one on your calendar and come celebrate both outgoing and incoming

Punta Gorda Rotary club leaders.



Be the first to text: sunshine to 207-400-0525 by 4/09/25 and attend the 4/10/25 club meeting for your surprise.

Rotary District 6960 Conference

Rotary District 6960

2025 District Conference
June 6-7 at The Westin, Cape Coral

Don't Miss Out on the Event of the Year

Rotarydistrict6960.org

Kelsey Mitchell
RD 6960's Governor

Exposed at the Charlotte County Chamber Business Expo

By Richard D Sell

What a fantastic day it was! On Thursday, February 13th, the Punta Gorda Rotary Club proudly participated in the Charlotte County Chamber Expo. It was an exciting opportunity to connect with fellow Chamber members and guests, and the energy was truly inspiring!

With over 15 engaged Rotarians on hand, we had meaningful conversations and shared Rotary's mission with the community. We distributed **over 200** File for Life home safety cards—an important tool that could make a life-saving difference in an emergency.

The highlight of the day was our **FREE 3-hour boat ride** giveaway on Charlotte Harbor, which generated a lot of excitement. It was a perfect way to introduce new people to the warmth and camaraderie that defines Rotary.

Thanks to our participation, we've already seen an increase in membership, and we're thrilled to continue building on this momentum.



We're already signed up for next year!

Here's to more fellowship, fun, and positive impact in the year ahead!

Arnie Eastburn: Bringing Health and Hope to Mozambique

By Barbara Boncompte

Fellow Rotarian Arnie Eastburn is making a profound impact through Water4Life Mozambique, a non-profit organization dedicated to combating water scarcity in one of the world's most vulnerable regions. With his entrepreneurial expertise and deep commitment to humanitarian efforts, Arnie has led the charge in providing access to clean, safe drinking water, transforming the lives of thousands who once relied on contaminated sources. Backed by a dedicated team of 12 professional board members, he ensures the organization's mission is carried out effectively, creating lasting change for communities in desperate need.



Under Arnie's leadership, Water4Life Mozambique has established 376 life-giving wells, bringing clean water to over 451,200 people across Zambezia. The impact has been extraordinary, reducing waterborne illnesses and dramatically improving the health and well-being of entire communities, particularly for children. This initiative stands as a beacon of hope, proving that sustainable solutions can change lives. Join us in supporting this mission—because clean water is not just a necessity, it's a right. Visit www.water4lifemozambique.org and click "Donate Now" to be a part of this life-changing movement!

Joey Alonso: Leading the Next Generation of Patriots

By Barbara Boncompte

Rotary is proud to recognize Joey Alonso, Commanding Officer of the Gulf Eagle Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Dedicated to instilling leadership, discipline, and patriotism in young

Americans, Joey leads one of the nation's premier youth programs, guiding cadets along the I-75 corridor from Collier to Charlotte County. His unwavering commitment ensures that these future leaders develop strong values, a sense of service, and the skills needed to succeed in both military and civilian life.



Under Joey's leadership, the Gulf Eagle Division plays an active role in the community, offering support at local events such as the Taste of Punta Gorda and engaging in service projects that align with Rotary's mission. Through hands-on training and mentorship, he helps shape young men and women into responsible, civic-minded individuals. His dedication to youth development and patriotic service exemplifies the spirit of Rotary, and we are honored to support his work in building a stronger, service-driven future.

The Sea Cadets of Gulf Eagle Division were extremely proud to present our Nation's Colors and lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance during [Punta Gorda Rotary's 17th Annual Taste of Punta Gorda](#) food and music festival.

Thirteen cadets provided over 14 hours each of hard work supporting this fun event. From setup Saturday to clean up Sunday, we were completely exhausted but loved every minute of helping out our community.

They are ready for 2026!!!!

[#seacadets](#)

[#AllAheadFlank](#)

[#gulfeagledivision](#)

NEW Fall Member Spotlights

By Barbara Boncompte

Aren't our members the best! Thank you Babara for showcasing our members in a spotlight on Facebook.



2024-2025 Club Sponsors



PARLADE
SCHAEFER
SCHORTZ
CPA / ADVISORS



2024-2025 Club Sponsors (Contiued)



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RV/Auto/Truck Service & Sales



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CREWS
BANK & TRUST



FARRLAW 100 YEARS

Good things
come from
Sysco

