

Rotary Club of  
Punta Gorda

# Taste of Punta Gorda™

March 2, 2025



Iron Chef Sponsor

## Rotary Club of Punta Gorda



### WINTER BULLETIN

#### Pizza & Beer Club Social Redux

**Brooklyn Joe's** Don't miss our Club Social at Brooklyn Joe's Pizza on **MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 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. Bring your spouse, partner, a friend, a prospective member.

Sign up at our next club meeting. Pay for what you order at the event. Lots of fun and a great chance to relax with fellow club members.



#### 2024-2025 Club Sponsors

#### 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



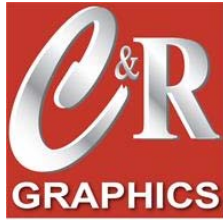
Nancy A. Johnson  
Training Officer



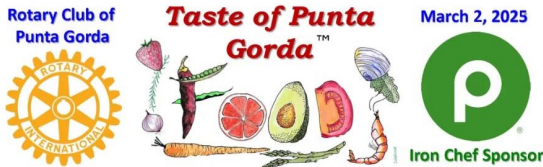
Doris J. Bella  
CEO / Owner



Cell: 239-770-8151  
doris@advertisingmpe.com  
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## Only 7 Weeks to Go—Let's Make Our Largest Fundraiser a Success!



Can you believe we're just a few weeks away from our biggest fundraiser of the year? This event is one of the two major ways we give back to our community, and we need EVERYONE's help to make it a success.

### What's Happening?

The event will feature 20 to 30 local restaurants and food trucks, as well as dessert vendors, food products, arts and crafts, nonprofit organizations, a kids' zone, and live music throughout the day. It's going to be an exciting and fun-filled day, and your support will be essential in making it all come together!

### How You Can Help:

- **Kid Zone Attendant** – We need volunteers to help out in the kids' zone and ensure a fun experience for all ages.
- **Restaurant Sponsor** – Each member is asked to sponsor a restaurant—pick one you love to dine at and help us build partnerships with local businesses!
- **Share the Ticket Link** – Spread the word! Share the event ticket link [Taste of Punta Gorda](#) with friends, family, and colleagues to increase attendance and support.

For more details and to get involved, please visit our website: [Taste of Punta Gorda](#).  
Let's come together and make this event a huge success for our club!



[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](#)  
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

## Punta Gorda Rotary Charity and Education Foundation



[Joey M. Alonso](#)  
Member



[Paul F. Blaine](#)  
Member

[Darcy Hanley](#)  
Chair





## RLI Next Session February 8th



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, February 8th, 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.

## 100th Celebration is April 26



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!



[Paul V. Lioon](#)  
Member



[Charles D. Marsee](#)  
Vice-Committee  
Chair



[Alicia C. Oates](#)  
Member



[Kathryn N. Smith](#)  
Secretary



[Lachlan C. Smith](#)  
Treasurer



[Peter R. Wilkins](#)  
Member



[James C. Williams](#)  
Member

### Events

January 22nd  
[Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting](#)

January 23rd  
[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

January 27th  
[Pizza & Beer Social at Brooklyn Joe's](#)

January 30th  
[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 10th  
[Punta Gorda Rotary New Member Orientation](#)

February 12th  
[Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board Meeting](#)

February 13th  
[Consumer Market Place EXPO](#)

February 13th  
[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 26th  
[Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting](#)

February 27th

Tickets are \$100 per person and go on sale on 1/28/25. You will have access to an exciting evening with live entertainment by the Marker 5 Band and 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 January 28th**, and with a limited capacity of just 200 guests, be sure to gather your group for your table of 8 early!

## Supporting our Community - Grant Recipients

The Foundation has approved the following grant for this quarter. Peace River Wildlife Center - \$4500, My Warriors Place - 1,000; Kaden's Cause - 1500; Peace River Botanical Garden - 3,000; and Punta Gorda Historical Society - 3,000.



We love to support our local initiatives and the upcoming fundraiser, Taste of Punta Gorda, needs every member to be involved. The foundation has had three district matching grants approved. The **Heal Our Harbor** for \$10,000 and a second grant for \$2,000, and **Honor Flight** for \$2500.



## Tools for A Cause



January marks Vocational Service Month in Rotary, a time to reflect on the importance of high ethical standards in all professions, recognize the value of every individual's work, and inspire Rotarians to apply their professional expertise for the betterment of our communities.

In honor of Vocational Service Month, our club is actively collecting unused tools to donate to the youth currently enrolled in the vocational training at Southern Technical College. These tools will help provide students with the resources they need to develop valuable skills that will serve them

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 28th

[Rotary Florida PETS](#)

March 2nd

[TASTE OF PUNTA GORDA](#)

March 6th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

March 12th

[Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board Meeting](#)

March 13th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

March 20th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

March 26th

[Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting](#)

March 27th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

April 3rd

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

April 9th

[Punta Gorda Rotary Club Board Meeting](#)

April 10th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

April 17th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

April 23rd

[Punta Gorda Rotary Foundation Board Meeting](#)

April 24th

[Punta Gorda Weekly Club Meeting](#)

April 26th

[Celebrating A Century of Service](#)

and their communities for years to come.

If you have unused tools that could be put to good use, please donate them by contacting Ed Davis for more details.

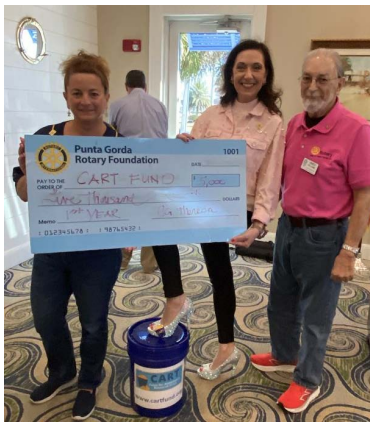


## Support the CART Fund: Coins for Alzheimer's Research

The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a nonprofit grassroots organization that provides "seed" money for cutting-edge, high-impact research grants aimed at finding a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's disease. Since its founding, the CART Fund has raised millions to support innovative scientific studies focused on combating this devastating illness.

Our club had CART Funds's Executive Director, Tiffany Ervin as a guest speaker to kick off our first meeting of the new year! Our club reintroduced the program at our lunches back in April. We were pleased to announce during Tiffany's visit that our club will have \$5,000 raised for the Rotarian year to date. She kicked off her presentation with sparks of enthusiasm and sparkly CART shoes.

Look for CART collection containers at upcoming meetings and events, and help us continue to fund groundbreaking research for a world without Alzheimer's. Your change can make a change. A warm thank you goes out to our BLUE BUCKET Buddies Chuck Marlowe, George Miller and CART Fund Chair Theresa Brackett who help get the buckets out at each meeting.



## Back the Blue

Rest in peace Charlotte County Cpl. Elio Diaz. Cpl Diaz who died in the line of duty in December.





## 2025-2026 ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

### ELECTION BALLOT FOR OFFICERS & DIRECTORS for 2025-2026 OFFICERS

- President-Elect\*\*** Andrea Ariens
- Programs** Betty Kedziora
- Secretary** Peter Wilkins
- Treasurer** vacant
- Sgt at Arms** Breven Baima

### DIRECTORS

- Club Service** Chrisanna Wright
- Community Service** Joey Alonso
- International Service** Arnie Eastburn
- Vocational Service** Ed Davis
- Youth Service** Paul Blaine & Kristin Mangas
- Membership** Rich Sell
- Public Image** Theresa Brackett
- Strategic Planning** Nancy Johnson

### OFFICERS that also serve on the Board following the Club by-laws

- President\*\*** Alicia Oates
- Immediate Past President** James Williams

\*\* These Officers and Directors will also serve on the Board of Trustees of The Punta Gorda Rotary Charity and Education Foundation.

## NEW Fall Member Spotlights

Yes our club has amazing members and the PI team is spotlighting a member every month on our club's Facebook page. Check out their fun facts. Thank you, Barbara Boncompte for leading this effort.

**Rotary**  
Club of Punta Gorda

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**James Sanders**

**FUN FACTS:**

- His Birthday is Christmas Day & 12/25
- Past president of the Rotary
- His 28th Rotary Anniversary Is New Year's Eve

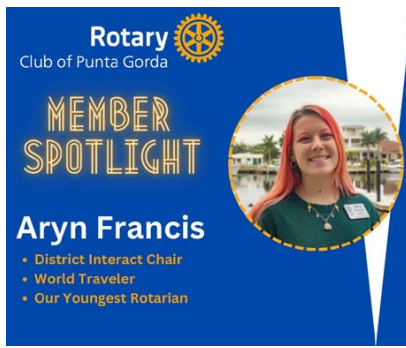
**Rotary**  
Club of Punta Gorda

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Wayne W. Woodard**

**FUN FACTS:**

- College Sky Diver
- World Traveler
- Avid Sweepstakes Winner
- Rotarian for over 50 years



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## Hurricane Helene & Milton

Charlotte County experienced extreme damage from the surges of Hurricane Helene and Milton which hit less than two weeks apart. The level of destruction impacted some of our club members and resulted in canceling the Healing Field of Flags. We wish all a smooth recovery and rebuild into 2025.



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## Butterfly Chaser

Check out Chuck Marlowe working on the PG library's butterfly garden. His wife, Elaine Lawell is heading the project for the OG Garden club and our foundation helped the project with a grant.



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## Wreaths Across America

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day was held on Saturday, December 13, 2025. More than two million volunteers and supporters gathered to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad, including Punta Gorda!



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## Club Christmas Gathering

Our club's Christmas gathering was a great way to be grateful for our fellowship to close out 2024. Thank you Debbie Lux for hosting the holiday event.



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## Dates to Remember

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

January 23, 2025 Rotary Youth Exchange +Club Assembly  
January 27, 2025 Club Social at Brooklyn Joe's  
January 30, 2025 District Youth Club Meeting  
February 6, 2025 Kelsey Mitchell, Club Meeting  
February 8, 2025 RLI Session I,II, III - At Northport

February 13, 2025 Chamber Expo Event at CH Convention Center  
February 13, 2025 Tom Cavanaugh/Sailing Club Meeting  
February 27, 2025 Boys & Gilrs Club Meeting  
March 1, 2025 Taste of Punta Gorda  
March 6, 2025 Water4Life Club Meeting & RYLA Awards  
March 27, 2025 Volunteer Reading Program  
April 26, 2025 Club's 100th Anniversary Celebration

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