# Punta Gorda Newsletter

***Thursday, June 4, 2026***

The Punta Gorda Kiwanis Club met at Beef o' Bradys at 12pm on Thursday, June 4. We had 12 members in attendance (Bob Falce, Jim Finch, Mike Hahn, Sue Hahn, Kay Lavelle, Bill Martin, Mary Kay Mechlin, Jennifer Rivera, Mike Rooney, Don Rutherford, Whitney Stout, Sam Summers) and 8 guests – Sue Rooney, Sara Kuhar and 7 members of the CHS Key Club.

Sara and the Key Club members gave an update on their successful year. Most members were wearing their t-shirts our club paid for. A couple other members wore the t-shirts from their DCON back in April. Their club won two awards – 15% membership growth and for turning in all their monthly reports on time.

The CHS Key Club has grown to 79 members with 50 being very active. They set several goals for the next year including:

- Increase participation by including a service project at the end of every meeting.
- Encourage participation in district-wide events, such as KCKC and DCMs.
- Each officer will take the lead on monthly service projects and events
- Quarterly awards for participation and attendance
- Increase number of DCON awards by creating a DCON awards committee

The club has also set goals for service projects:

- Create care packages for students in need at East Elementary (and other schools)
- Cards of appreciation for Veterans
- Christmas cards & gifts for residents in local nursing home (memory care unit)
- Stuffed stockings & cookie supplies for Charlotte C.A.R.E.
- Donation drive for Animal Welfare League & creating dog toys by upcycling T-shirts
- Teacher appreciation letters & treats

The club was very appreciative of our club support. The members signed the books for the library at East & Peace River. Jim Finch reminded them to apply for KFCC scholarships when they open up later this year.

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- Kay Lavelle acted as sheriff. Sam Summers won $16.00 with the 50/50 but did not pull the right card – 17 cards next week – big pot is up to $219.00.
- Happy Birthday was sung to Don Rutherford, Sue Hahn and new member Whitney Stout.
- Welcome backs were made for Jennifer Rivera and Don Rutherford.
- Jim Finch is selling raffle tickets for the Florida Kiwanis Foundation. $20.00 for 5 tickets. Prizes are $1,000, $750, $500 and $250 and will be drawn at DCON in early August.
- Our meeting next week will feature Barbara Lockhart from the Environmental Conservancy of North Port, but she will also speak about Charlotte County.