

# Punta Gorda Kiwanis

## Newsletter

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Our meeting took place Mike Hahn rang the bell. Eddie Webb led our opening prayer. We had 13 members and 2 guests. Mike played the 4<sup>th</sup> string QB, leading the meeting with Deb in New Zealand, Ray out of town and Jim dealing with a plumbing issue at home.

Chris Hall, Public Information Officer from the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office was introduced as the guest speaker.



Shop with a Cop was started in 2004 after Hurricane Charley. They started with 30 kids and \$100 each back then. Today they take 150 kids out to shop with a budget of \$200 each. They will host 4 events across Charlotte County. Kids can shop and get gifts wrapped. The club donated \$300 to the program.

- **How it works:** Selected students are paired with a law enforcement officer and given a budget to shop for gifts or school supplies at a local Walmart.
- **Goal:** The program is designed to create positive interactions and foster a sense of community between children and law enforcement.
- **Selection:** Students are chosen by guidance counselors at Charlotte County Public Schools and Charlotte Harbor School based on specific criteria.
- **Participation:** Officers from the CCSO and other local departments participate to provide one-on-one time with the children.

- **Funding:** The event is funded through community donations and partnerships, including with local businesses like Walmart.
- **Impact:** The event helps children in need experience a brighter holiday season or get the necessary supplies for school, while also allowing law enforcement to connect with the community in a meaningful way.

Frank Desguin provided an update on the Aqui Esta Clean-up. Frank Desguin, Mike Hahn, Bob Falce, Ray Anderson, Kay Lavelle and three Key Clubbers cleaned up.

Chris Hall was the Secret Greeter.

Mike, Sam Summer's guest and PNM won the 50/50 of \$18.00. The big pot of \$197 rolls over to the next meeting.

December 13 will be the date for Wreathes Across America. Contact Mike if interested in participating.

Linda Martin was sheriff and collected Happy Dollars.

See you in December. Our speaker on 12/4 will be Christopher Welch from the Salvation Army.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!