



May 30th 2023

Don't let the good ones go!

At our networking lunch, last week, we were grateful to have FGCU's Small Business development Team as our featured guest speaker. They interact with many entities in their day-to-day operations and they made specific mention of how engaging and energetic our membership is, compared to others they deal with. The sense of belonging and "can-do" spirit were clearly apparent to them. Most importantly, they saw a group of business-minded individuals, united in their voice, sharing their concerns and issues facing them. The most relevant issue affecting businesses these days is clearly false information being spread on social media. Way too much credence is given to messages posted by people who have no access to the correct information, that then touches our daily lives. Too many good people are burning out from giving to our community because of incorrect information absorbed from people who should know better than to "assume". As part of our "let's get to the source" campaign, we encourage everyone to contact businesses directly and verify information that might be seen on social media. It's hard to run a business these days and oftentimes attention to misleading social media posts go undetected for several days, before corrective action can be taken. We are in danger of losing too many hard-working, good people, who

would be a great loss to what our community is all about. As part of this campaign, we have now partnered with FGCU/SBDC to present a series of four complimentary classes to be presented in the month of June in both English and Spanish for ANY business, regardless of membership status, that will help us all with matters relating to starting a new business, managing the books, getting financing and business planning, that will also include how best to manage your social media platform. The dates for these classes to be held at the PG Chamber office are Thursday June 8th (at 11am in English and 1.30pm in Spanish) “Starting a Business”, June 15th at 11am for Bookkeeping, June 22nd for Financing and June 29th for Business Planning. To sign up for any or all of these great classes, please call us on 941 639 3720.

Golf tournament with a twist

On June 17th, our annual Laird’s Chamber golf tournament will be doing something very different this year, as we visit Top Golf in Fort Myers. Imagine a golf tournament with no need for clubs! Noon-3pm, we’ll run our tournament from the comfort of one of their range “lodges” – rain or shine. Come and experience the whole Top Golf package, that includes lunch, prizes and festivities No need to lug clubs, balls or golf shoes – TopGolf supplies you everything you’ll need. Each “lodge” can host teams up to 6 people, but if you don’t have six people, no worries. We’ll accommodate individuals and smaller groups by combining participants together so you can meet new friends and have a blast. Entry fee is \$80 per person – all inclusive. Book your excursion now by calling us on 941 639 3720 or

visiting www.puntagordachamber.com to register in the events section. There is no better way to thank your employees for a job well done this Season! Thanks to our great sponsors: Friendly Floors, Gettel of Charlotte County, WhitCo Insurance Alexia Martin Agency, TIME Realty Services and Dream Salon & Spa.

Showcasing our local arts

Having high quality arts' organizations in your local wheelhouse is a vital part of attracting new entrepreneurs to your residential and commercial mix. We at the PG Chamber has long supported the arts and on June 22nd, we have united four local performing arts groups to perform at the Gulf Theater at the Military Heritage Museum for a night of "Show and Tell". Each of the Charlotte Players, Gulfshore Opera (Charlotte County's opera company), The Punta Gorda Symphony and the Visual Arts Center will showcase their work by presenting a short yet highly entertaining set, highlighting what they do and will the quality they do it at! For just \$24 (\$12 for students and children) you will be royally entertained with a variety show like no other. Plus, you will get to understand the operations of each of the four participants and hopefully choose to see even more of them in the future. Tickets are available at www.gulftheater.org Show starts at 7pm on Thursday June 22nd. Please come and join us.

YOUR CHAMBER'S GOT TALENT II

On August 17, Your Chamber's Got Talent II is back, following Whitney Grace's triumphant win last year. If you are or know of a talented person in our community, this is the moment to be found! There is no cost to enter and, this year, there will be two winners on the night – one that is totally amateur and one that considers themselves to be semi-professional, giving a fairer platform for all to participate.

Last year's talent was very varied - from song, comedy, dance, poetry reading and instrumentalists – a fabulous evening's entertainment. To participate, simply call us on 941.639.3720 and we'll get you the form to complete, which, in turn, will decide running order and on-stage needs.

Audience tickets are also now on sale – visit the Shop Chamber link of www.puntagordachamber.com, click Chamber's Got Talent and follow the Buy Tickets tab. It'll surely be another amazing night to remember, when two new stars will be born.

NETWORKING

Our next PG Chamber networking event will be our Business Over Breakfast on June 14th at the FourPoints by Sheraton Hotel, starting at 7/15am. RSVP for this event is required for catering and space purposes. Please visit the event section of www.puntagordachamber.com to register. Having issues? Call us at 941 639 3720 to grab your seat at the table. Please understand if this event is already FULL. The lesson to learn is to register early for the next one.

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