



Kiwanis®

Club of Manatee Sunrise

Konnections!

P.O. Box 985, Bradenton, FL 34206

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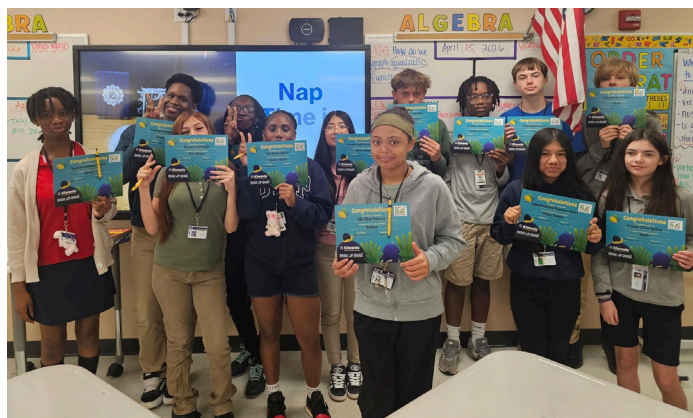
April-June 2026

Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis Supports Palm View K-8

BUG Program



On April 2, three of our members participated in a ceremony at Palm View K - 8 School to present BUG Certificates (Bring UP Grades program), which recognizes primary/elementary school age students who demonstrate academic improvement from one grading period to the next. They conferred a total of 233 certificates upon these outstanding students. It was a pleasure to acknowledge these students for their academic achievements! Thank you to Pam Craig, Sally Leitzman and Karen LaJoie for joining the staff for this important ceremony. Below, some of the middle school students receiving their certificates in their homeroom class.



Earth Day

On April 22, some of our Kiwanis members assisted the K-Kids and Builders Club as they hosted a fun Earth Day event for their school. Classes came in groups during the day for 20-minute stations including pinecone bird feeders, Earth Day fizz (Chemical reaction), Chocolate chip fossil fuel mining and sponge paint earth. The K-Kids and Builders Clubs worked hard all day helping their peers appreciate the importance of Earth Day.



Division Council Meeting May 14th at Lazy Lobster

Division 17 Council convened for the 3rd DCM at the Lazy Lobster on Thursday, May 14th. Many clubs were in attendance and shared their events and service projects.

Right, Manatee Sunrise members Tracey Vita, Karen LaJoie, Joan Hildebrandt, Mark Hildebrandt and Bob Revels were joined by Lt. Governor Linda Skaathun

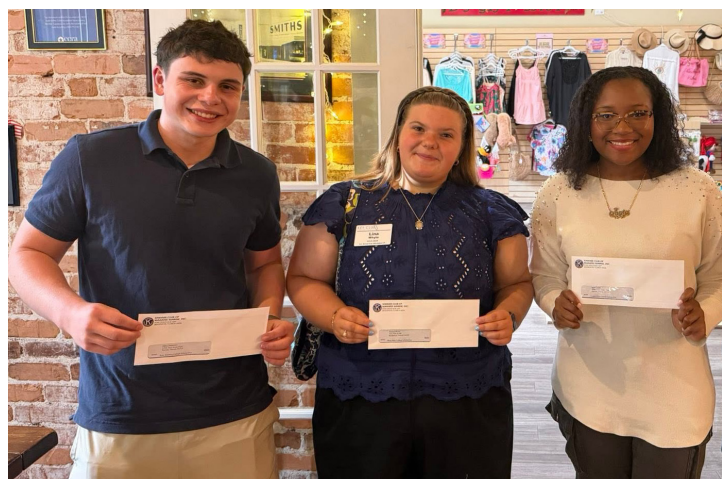
Below, President Karen tells the group about our clubs accomplishments and upcoming events.

Below right, Kim Mills, Governor Tommy Mills, Lt. Governor Shawna M Smith and incoming foundation chairman Mike Baer.



Scholarships

At our April 30th morning meeting, three students joined us for breakfast to pick up their scholarship checks and tell the group about their future plans. These bright young students were: from left: Aiden Patterson who will be attending Florida State University majoring in finance on a pre-law track; Lena White will be attending Florida State majoring in international affairs on the pre-law track; and Jayla Lovett who will be majoring in biology at State College of Florida. Congratulations and best of luck to you all!



Kiwanis Family Festival at LECOM Park

Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis was proud to support the Kiwanis Club of Manatee River and Bradenton Kiwanis at their 2026 Kiwanis Family Festival — a fun-filled evening for the whole community! This was a community event that brought together families, local organizations, and plenty of activities throughout the evening.

Activities included inflatables, face painting, vendors, chance drawings, fireworks, and more, along with Star Wars and Special Needs Night at the ballpark.

Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis had a table with tattoos, face painting and a butterfly photo background with special messages. The Southeast Key Club did an outstanding job with the tattoos and face painting!!



Solve Baby Shower

Members of Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis gathered at Terra Ceia restaurant to present Solve Maternity Homes with much needed items for their residents and new babies. Peggy and Brian shared many success stories of women who were able to get back on their feet, get an education and provide a stable environment for their children. Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause!



Social Time!



On May 2, 9 Manatee Sunrise Kiwanis members enjoyed a night out at a murder mystery at Pineapple Kitchen. Our own Tracey and John were part of the cast as we tried to solve who killed the cabana boy!



On June 9 a group went to Coopers Hawk for a lovely lunch out!



June 20th brought our group together again for a night out at the Marauders game. It was Military Appreciation night, and our group enjoyed the game from the box with good food and a great time! And, Marty stopped in for a visit too!



BUY TICKETS NOW!
\$50 each on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/7th-annual-cornhole-and-cocktails-festival-tickets-1986001473870?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



- Cocktails, wine & beer tastings • Food tastings • Silent Auction
- Ticket Raffles • Cornhole Tournament

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026 2PM - 7PM
Palmetto Fairgrounds, Veterans Hall

Contact us for Sponsor and Vendor Opportunities:
kiwaniscc20@gmail.com
or visit our website at www.manateesunrisekiwanis.com