



AUGUST 2023 | WWW.ROTARY7750.ORG

# 7750

CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

AUGUST

Membership and New Club  
Development

SEPTEMBER

Basic Education and Literacy



**THE 2023 RYLA CLASS** Read about this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp on the next two pages.

FAST AND FURIOUS

FOR 24

2,400 MEMBERS IN 2024

District Membership Chair Butch Hughes has changed one word in the membership theme this year. Read about it on PAGE 4 and figure out how your club can implement his plan.

**August is Membership and Development Month**

## It's a good time to review what's happening in your club

The District and Club Database shows that our clubs dropped 112 members in June and a total of 444 during 2022-23.

The reason given for about one-third of them was NOT INTERESTED.

The question, then, for all of us is what must we change, add, delete to keep our Rotarians engaged?

We work hard to recruit members, to keep our numbers up during the year, and to meet the goals of the

District Governor. Now let's be sure we have a great product to offer our members, including interesting, fun meetings; social opportunities to build camaraderie, and service projects that are meaningful to your members and needed in your community.

More about membership on [PAGE 4](#).

**JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023**

(from DaCdb, unofficial numbers)

**444** terminated members

**358** new members



## AT ERSKINE COLLEGE

# 49 students sponsored by 26 clubs come to RYLA 2023

BY DGN DAVID BRENNER

*Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast*

Forty-nine rising High School juniors and seniors sponsored by 26 Rotary clubs in D7750 attended this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) at Erskine College the first week of June.

The delegates arrived with some trepidation wondering what the week was going to entail. They were then enthusiastically greeted by their counselors for the week, and shown to their rooms. And so their week at RYLA began.

They were about to experience a week of learning and development that they will not forget. The skills they learn at RYLA will benefit them throughout their lives. Just ask Traci Breedlove (2003 RYLA graduate) and Reggie Patterson (2006 RYLA graduate) who return to Erskine every year to serve as Senior Counselors to help guide the students and junior counselors through the week.

The RYLA delegate day begins early, before breakfast, and ends with lights out at 11:00.

During each day they learn about leadership and personal development from knowledgeable instructors. They work in small groups, each with

ONE OF THE TEAMS WITH ITS COUNSELOR

rotary  
youth  
leadership  
awards



their own counselor for the week, on projects and, of course, some competition between groups.

At the end of the week parents are invited to the closing ceremony where the students perform skits to demonstrate what they have learned during the week. The delegates who were so nervous at the beginning of the week now exhibit confidence in themselves and their fellow delegates.

There are a few tears of joy for the fun they have had, and a few tears of sadness as they say good-bye to the many new friends that they made. But they have had an experience they will long remember and appreciate.

## 2023 RYLA CLASS SHOWING THEIR ENTHUSIASM





## A NEW DAY AT RYLA.

THE BEGINNING OF



## LEARN MORE ABOUT RYLA

District 7750 is very fortunate to have such a fantastic, week-long RYLA program. Not every Rotary District has such a great RYLA program. I hope that every Rotary club will send a rising Junior or Senior to RYLA next year.

If your club would like to hear more about RYLA please contact me at david.brenner00@gmail.com or Past District Governor Frank Cox at fcox63@yahoo.com. We will be glad to attend your club meeting and provide more information about our district's RYLA program.

—DGN Dave Brenner

# RYLA

RYLA DIRECTOR MARK PEELER AND THE 2023 COUNSELORS

**CREATE HOPE  
IN THE WORLD  
THROUGH  
YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT  
BY  
SUPPORTING  
ROTARY'S  
YOUTH  
SERVICES  
PROGRAMS.**

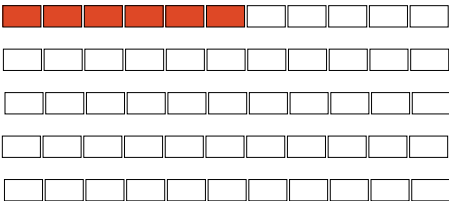


FAST AND FURIOUS

FOR 24

2,400 MEMBERS IN 2024

MEMBERSHIP PROGRESS BAR  
Net Gain of 50 Needed by June 30



Each of these boxes represents one of the 50 net-gain members we need this year to reach our membership goal. When every box is colored in, we will have reached our goal of 2,400.. As of July 24, we had a **net** gain of 6.

What better way to implement our Rotary 2023-24 theme, Create Hope in the World, than inviting someone to join Rotary? We can do more with more Rotarians! Come to Newberry and learn what your club can do to increase its membership.

We're changing up our membership theme a bit: not in '24 but FOR 24 (00)

In last month's newsletter, I wrote that my theme for this Rotary year is Fast & Furious in 24. I'm changing our membership theme to Fast & Furious For 24.

You are probably wondering why change. It's simple. Our District membership has fallen to less that 2,400. Estimates are we will finish 2022-23 around 2,350 members.



7750 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
Butch Hughes  
bhughes864@yahoo.com

District 7750 membership was 2,654 on July 1, 2018; 2,648 on July 1, 2019; 2,512 on July 1, 2020; 2,426 on July 1, 2021; 2,409 on July 1, 2022; and 2,356 as of July 20, 2023.

My goal for this year is to reverse this decline in membership and finish 2023-24 Rotary year above 2,400 in membership.

I like the Fast & Furious theme because that's how we should approach membership growth.

At the District **7750 Membership Summit in Newberry on Saturday, August 5**, we are asking all Club Presidents, President-Elects,

Club Membership Chairs, and any club member to join us to learn how to be Fast & Furious about membership growth.

They will see their club's 5-year membership trends, and their club's attrition/attraction ratio to know whether their club is in DRIVE and moving toward growth; in NEUTRAL and not growing; or in REVERSE and losing members.

They will also learn how to attract and retain members from several in our District that have been successful in growing membership through launching different club types; utilizing different membership options available to all clubs; and changing club atmosphere to make Rotary meetings more attractive to new members.

I truly believe that a **FAST & FURIOUS** focus on membership this year will allow our District to drive membership above 2,400 or more in 2023-24. I look forward to our journey!

Year	Start #	Gain/ Loss
July 1, 2018	2,654	
July 1, 2019	2,648	-6
July 1, 2020	2,512	-136
July 1, 2021	2,426	-86
July 1, 2022	2,409	-17
July 1, 2023	2,350	-59
NET LOSS		-304

It should be easy! NOPE

Gaining only 50 net members this year should be a relatively easy task. Right? Every club gains one or two members and we're there. But look what has happened the past five years. We've been more likely to lose 50 members than gain! In fact, we've had an **AVERAGE LOSS OF MORE THAN 60** members per year during this period. Yes, Covid had a big impact in 2020 but we have not made any progress toward recovery of those lost members and we continue to lose more.



**ENIGMA:** a person or thing that is mysterious, puzzling, or difficult to understand.

## ABOUT RENÉE

# Creating Hope in Rotary: A Journey of Service

Let's get a glimpse into the life and journey of District Governor Renée Stubbs.

To understand her better, let us start with a quote from a former high school principal who once called her an 'enigma,' setting the stage for an intriguing life story.

As a math major and a classical pianist, she displayed a unique blend of skills that left people pondering. Her passion for education led her to devote more than four decades to teaching secondary math, guiding as an instructional coach, and sharing knowledge as a college professor.

But her contributions to education did not stop there. Renée's journey branched into becoming a



## RENÉE—THE TEACHER.

consultant at the National Dropout Prevention Center, speaking at both local and international conferences on instructional best practices, and even writing and serving as a co-PI for NSF million-dollar grants focused on recruiting and engaging science and math teachers.

During her career, Renée received an invitation to join Rotary and serve as an Interact Club sponsor. Being the daughter of a Rotarian, she eagerly embraced the opportunity to combine her vocation with her passion for service. Soon, she became an integral part of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), contributing as a faculty member and helping develop essential curriculum materials. Her commitment didn't end there, and she eventually assumed the role of District RLI chair.

(continued on the next page)

## RENÉE—THE ROTARIAN.

For Renée, being a member of Rotary means being part of a greater collective effort. It is a platform that enables her to transcend her individual limitations and make a meaningful impact on her community and beyond. Through her contributions to The Rotary Foundation, she can serve not only her district but also the world, leaving a legacy of hope and progress.



## NEWS FROM GOLDEN CORNER



**PERFECT ATTENDANCE**—Golden Corner Rotarian Lorraine Harding, right, was presented her perfect attendance pin recognizing 29 years of service. Pictured at left is club president Cammie Kaiser.



**PAST PRESIDENT**—Golden Corner Rotarian Steve Moore received his past-president's plaque and pin from 2023-24 president Cammie Kaiser.



**CLUB BANNER**—Golden Corner Rotary Club president Cammie Kaiser, left, and assistant governor Helen Westmoreland with the 2023-24 RI theme banner.



## RENÉE—THE PIANIST.

## About Renée— (continued from page 5)

Renée's deep understanding of Rotary's values and goals inspired her to aim higher and contribute more. Hence, when offered the chance to serve as an Assistant Governor, she gladly accepted.

The journey to becoming a District Governor has been a deeply rewarding experience for Renée. She encourages more Rotarians to step up and join the district leadership line or volunteer as committee chairs or committee members, as their collective efforts can ignite

positive change in the world.

Beyond Rotary, Renée's commitment to service extends to various spheres of her community. She is a member of the Newberry Opera House Guild, where she has served on the board of directors and chaired several fundraising events. Additionally, she serves on the Grace Lutheran Church Preschool school board, the Newberry College Alumni Board of Managers, and generously volunteers at The Living Hope Foundation.

**With a lifetime dedicated to serving others through education and community engagement, Renée is poised to make a significant impact during her tenure as District Governor. Her commitment to **Create Hope in the World** serves as an inspiration to all Rotarians in District 7750, motivating them to embrace the spirit of service and contribute to a better tomorrow.**





Rotary Club of  
Pleasantburg

Rotarian of  
the Year

2022-2023

**TRAVIS  
SEWARD**

For exemplary service  
and outstanding  
dedication to the ideals  
of Rotary

## Greater Clemson Innovation Rotaract Club chartered

The Rotaract Club of Greater Clemson Innovation is 7750's first community Rotaract club.

Founding members were inducted at a meeting of partner club Clemson Sunrise Rotary on June 23. The club advisors are Sagar Kanhere & Ri'Cha ri Sancho.

"We are so very excited to begin serving the surrounding communities through service projects and partnerships, and ultimately through learning the true needs of the local areas," said president Brittany Stowers.

### Founding members

President: Brittany Stowers

Secretary: Maggie Majors

Treasurer: Sherece Smith

PR/PI: Rayn Sancho

Alnessa Hickmon

Jay Stowers



That's IPDG Joyce Morin in the middle. Installing these new Rotaractors was one of Joyce's last tasks as 2022-23 DG. From left: Rayn, Sherece, Maggie, Brittany, Joyce, Alnessa, Jay.



## Membership Summit is Aug. 5

Piedmont Technical College - Newberry Campus

1922 Wilson Road

Newberry, SC 29108

**9:00 am - 3:30 pm** Registration begins at 8:30; Coffee and donuts to start the day and lunch at mid-day.

**CLICK TO REGISTER FOR D-7750 MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT**

**\$35**

includes  
breakfast snacks  
and lunch

**IT'S NOT  
TOO LATE TO  
REGISTER AND  
ATTEND.**



## THEATER PRODUCTION IN PENDLETON RAISES FUNDS FOR CART

CART Board Secretary PDG Carol Burdette, right, and District 7750 CART Chair Cara Tangari Hamilton, both members of the Rotary Club of Anderson, hosted a special, collaborative fundraising theater production of "Tuesdays with Morrie" at The Clemson Little Theatre in Pendleton. We appreciate the theatre partnering with Rotary District 7750 and CART to raise awareness and vital funding for cutting-edge Alzheimer's research! Hugh-and Rita Burgess, CART Chairs for the Anderson Club, also helped to host the event the event.

### TO GIVE TO CART ONLINE:

Our clubs in D-7750 have been big supporters of The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) for many years. You can throw your change (or bills) in the blue buckets at your meeting or donate online.

1. Go to [www.mycartfund.org](http://www.mycartfund.org) or click to link at left to go to the CART page.
2. Enter your DACdb User Name & Password
3. Click on the dark blue sign-in button
4. You'll create an ID in the CART Online Contribution Portal that's tagged to your club and our District.



## ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AUGUST 26

AT THE SPARK CENTER IN DUNCAN

REGISTER NOW FOR-PARTS I, II OR III





## ANDERSON CLUB RECOGNIZED FOR PROVIDING MICRO- FOOD PANTRY

These Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Anderson club were present at a gala to receive an award of appreciation for the installation of a micro food pantry at the Westside Community Center. From left: Bryce Nivens, Becky Campbell, Tassy Mannis, Carol Burdette, and Liz Brock.



**CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP**—Kylie Herbert, right, completed her term as president of the Rotary Club of Anderson and Liz Brock took over as the 2023-2024 President.



## ↑POCKET PARK SOCIAL—

Anderson Club members enjoyed a social at a local pocket park and brewery.



←**FIRST MEETING**—Liz Brock presiding at her first meeting as president of the Rotary Club of Anderson.





## GREENVILLE CLUBS PACK FRESH FOOD FOR PICKENS/OCONEE COUNTIES

Volunteers from five Greenville area clubs packed 213 food boxes for the Feed & Seed Company's "Food Share South Carolina" program. This program provides boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, sourced from local farmers and food makers, to low income families in Pickens and Oconee counties. Participating clubs were Reedy River, Greenville Breakfast, Pleasantburg, Golden Strip Sunrise, and Mauldin.



Butch Hughes, Cara Hamilton, Carol Burdette, Ralph Little, Liz Brock, Sam Gilmer, Kylie Herbert, Tassy Mannis at the District Awards Banquet.

## ANDERSON CLUB CELEBRATES ITS SUCCESSES

The Rotary Club of Anderson is (and should be) proud of its accomplishments during the past year or so. These are some of the members who were at the District Awards Banquet in June to celebrate: Hugh and Rita Burgess won the Changemaker Award for 2022-2023 raising money for CART; Cara Hamilton was 7750 CART chair; winning the Gold Governors of Excellence Award; PDG Carol Burdette for serving three years as 7750 membership chair, and Butch Hughes who is taking on that role.



# What a Rotary Foundation year—\$484,801 to the Annual Fund

**BY PDG BETH PADGETT**

*7750 Foundation Chair*

Thank you! Our District had one of its best years ever for giving to The Rotary Foundation. We started out slow with overall Foundation giving, but some clubs and individuals really stepped up near the end of the year.

To me, this says that Rotarians in District 7750 see the value of giving to The Rotary Foundation and appreciate the life-changing work that takes place as we “do good in the world” through our donations.

It’s easy to see the good we do in our own communities through our District Grants. Increasingly, Rotarians are seeing the importance of the life-saving work that

we are doing in Honduras, Guatemala, and Haiti. With each gift to Annual Fund – SHARE, you are helping us do good at home and throughout the world.

In 2022-23, our District contributed **\$484,801** to the Annual Fund, but more importantly, of that amount, \$479,073.86 went to Annual Fund – SHARE. The SHARE

part is so important because half of those funds come back to our District to use for our District Grants and Global Grants.

We also had the **BEST SINGLE YEAR** for giving to PolioPlus. In 2022-23, we donated \$168,961 to eradicating polio and fulfilling the promise that Rotarians made in the mid-1980s to the children of the world. A special thank you to Doug and Sally Kauffmann for sponsoring their PolioPlus Challenge Match for the third consecutive year.

As we start this new Rotary year, please consider how you can support The Rotary Foundation, both as

an individual and as a club. Let every club strive to be a 100% Foundation Giving Club. Consider joining the Paul Harris Society if you’re able to make an annual pledge of at least \$1,000 a year. Think about leaving a legacy of change by becoming a Benefactor or member of the Bequest Society.

## Get ready for your Grant funds

We will soon receive our District Grant funds from Rotary International and those checks will be sent to club treasurers shortly after we receive the money. Speaking of people who deserve a “thank you,” let’s

show our appreciation to Bill Harley for his longtime work as District Grants Chair. He does a great job.

As soon as you receive your District Grant check(s), you can start your projects. Some of the checks will come from the District Grant Account and some will come from the District’s main account. It’s a little-known fact that our District often supplements

the amount we distribute for District Grants to ensure as many of our clubs as possible have access to these funds needed for local projects.

Make sure you keep a copy of the bank statement when you deposit the check(s) and it is posted to your checking account. That statement, along with receipts for money that you spend, is required when you submit your final report. And **don’t spend any District Grant funds until you have deposited the grant check in your bank.**

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Padgett or Bill Harley.

**THE SHARE PART IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE HALF OF THOSE FUNDS COME BACK TO OUR DISTRICT TO USE FOR OUR DISTRICT AND GLOBAL GRANTS.**



**D-7750 Foundation Chair**  
**PDG BETH PADGETT**  
[bpadgettrotary@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgettrotary@outlook.com)





### THREE REACH NEW PHF LEVELS AT TRAVELERS REST

Three members of the Rotary Club of Travelers Rest were recognized for their contributions to The Rotary Foundation as one Rotary year ended and another began.

🕒 2022-23 president Les Hicken presented Ed Webb and Harvey Choplin with their Paul Harris +3 recognitions.

🕒 23-24 President Harvey Choplin presented Elizabeth Steifle with her Paul Harris+2 pin. Betsy works at the Bank of Travelers Rest.

## District 7750 Foundation Team

### BETH PADGETT

District Rotary Foundation Chair  
bpadgettr Rotary@outlook.com

### RENEE STUBBS

District Governor  
rcstubbs@att.net

### DOUG KAUFFMANN

PolioPlus Chair  
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### BILL HARLEY

District Grants Chair  
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### BEN FICKLEN

Global Grants Chair  
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### RITA YARBROUGH

Paul Harris Society Chair  
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### RYSHEEKA BUSH

Annual Fund Chair  
rysheeka@yahoo.com

### DAVE BRENNER

Endowment Chair  
david.brenner00@gmail.com

### LORRAINE ANGELINO

Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator & Peace Fellowship Chair  
dg2013@rotary7750.org





## BETH'S CHALLENGES TO ALL 2023-24 CLUB PRESIDENTS/ FOUNDATION CHAIRS

**BY FOUNDATION CHAIR PDG BETH PADGETT**

*Here are the August Challenges for every club president and club Foundation chair.*

**1** Show your Rotary Club that you believe in the Foundation by donating to Annual Fund-SHARE.

**2** Every club president and club Foundation chair should meet in August to discuss how to implement your club's Foundation goals. While you're at it, make sure those goals are in My Rotary.

**3** Talk about the importance of THE ROTARY FOUNDATION during at least one meeting in August. Have you already discussed the importance of our Foundation with your club members? If so, great, and use your Foundation Minute in August to discuss your new District Grant or recognize new Paul Harris Fellows.

**4** Start planning something special for World Polio Day (October 24) and Rotary Foundation Month in November.

**5** Get in touch with District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett when you have questions, need ideas, or want to plan a Foundation program.

## Foundation Facts

**JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023**

by DRFC Beth Padgett

District 7750 Rotary Foundation Fundraising  
(through 6/30/2023 – 100% of Year Completed)

Annual Fund Goal	\$398,805 (49 of 49 – 100%)
Annual Fund Total	\$484,801 (121.6%goal)
Annual Fund Per Capita	\$ 201.25 (2,409 members)
Other Funds	\$5,182
Endowment Fund	\$29,000
PolioPlus Goal	\$105,552 (49 of 49 – 100%)
PolioPlus	\$168,961 (160.1% goal)
Polio Per Capita	\$70.14 (2,409 members)
Total Giving	\$687,944
\$0 AF Clubs	0 (0 of 49)
\$0 Polio Clubs	1 (1 of 49)
DDF Transfer – Polio	\$ 43,000
Major Gifts	6
Major Donors	20
Paul Harris Fellows	504
Bequest Society	2
Benefactors	9
EREY	1,952 (2,409 members – 81%)
Sustaining Members	1,277 (2,409 members – 53 %)
Paul Harris Society Eligible	127
Paul Harris Society Members	103 (-2 for year)
Rotary Direct	87 (+7 for year)

### All-time for District

Paul Harris Fellows	5,878
Benefactors	872
Bequest Society	115
Major Donors	130

## Membership Champions

40 new members in June

Barron, Anne	Emerald City Evening Satellite	Lewis, Grace M	Lancaster
Blackmon, Walta	Indian Land Lunch	Lowery, Rachel L	Indian Land Lunch
Blakely-West, Samantha	Greenville	Luff, Lee R	Anderson
Brosnan, Denis	Aiken	MacCarthy, John	Greenville
Brouwer, Donald P.	Lancaster Breakfast	McCall, Noel	Indian Land Lunch
Brown, Laura Carole	Greater Anderson	Mezger, Fritz W.	North Spartanburg
Burton, Jenny	Easley	Moore, Claude L. III	Rock Hill
Cartledge, NaToya	Emerald City Evening Satellite	Murray, Patty	Emerald City Evening Satellite
Cox, Anthony	Greenville Breakfast	Nichols, Marshall	Golden Strip Sunrise
Cutrone, John	Indian Land Lunch	Padgett, Chris	Abbeville
Edwards, M. Todd	Greenville	Phillips, Eddie	Mauldin
Folks, Robert K.	Lancaster Breakfast	Ratner, Lorraine	Indian Land Lunch
Francis, Silberio	Lancaster	Rawlings, Janeen M.	Chester
Harper, Todd J	Greenville City Center	Redfern, Gordon W. Jr.	Newberry
Harris, Gavin	Lake Wylie	Schneider, Sebastian	Greenville
Harrison, Tammy	Pleasantburg	Sizoo, Joanne C	Fort Mill
Hester, Brian W.	Chester	Tavernier, David M.	Aiken
Hoyt, Karen	Emerald City Evening Satellite	Vilardebo, Matt	Fort Mill
Jones, Nicholas	Indian Land Lunch	Whitaker, Sundiata M.	Chester
		Witherspoon, Jerry T	Lancaster Breakfast
		Yamout, James	Greer

**JUNE: 40 NEW MEMBERS —112 TERMINATED MEMBERS (4 DECEASED)**

### Who to call for

- Public Image
- Membership
- The Rotary Foundation

#### PUBLIC IMAGE

**MAGGIE McMAHON**, Spartan West  
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#### THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

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## Deadline for September newsletter is August 25.

Send items to newsletter editor Sue Poss, [pdgsueposs@gmail.com](mailto:pdgsueposs@gmail.com).