

JANUARY 2024 | WWW.ROTARY7750.ORG



7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY

Vocational Service

FEBRUARY

Peace and Conflict Prevention/
Resolution



←Workday at the Nature Conservancy's Blue Wall Preserve, digging a post hole for a new fence. The 575-acre Blue Wall Preserve is part of approximately 20,000 acres within the Blue Ridge Escarpment that provide clean drinking water, recreation and protection of ecological diversity in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Looking 1,400 feet up the Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment to views of Hogback Mountain and surrounding peaks, you can see how the preserve earned its nickname.

Makulinski Family gives matching funds for environmental projects

BY PDG ROB HANLEY

D7750 Environmental Chair

Former 7750 Rotarian Mark Makulinski and his family have made an initial contribution of \$100,000 to support environmental projects undertaken by Rotary clubs in South Carolina.

Mark formerly lived in Greenville County and was a member of the Rotary Club of Travelers Rest. He now lives near Atlanta.

Mark and his wife Rose are Arch Klumph Society members and are committed conservationists. They are actively involved with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the world's leading conservation organization.

Mark's family established the Makulinski Family Fund, a donor-advised fund at TNC, with an initial

\$100,000 contribution that will support environmental projects undertaken by Rotary clubs in South Carolina. The Makulinski Family Fund will match Rotary club dollars 1:1.

To date, the Fund has provided more than \$17,000 to District 7750 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, and the total value of these projects is more than \$48,000.

Approved projects include improvements to TNC's Blue Wall Preserve, building a Koi Pond at Tranquility Point, providing outdoor classrooms and environmentally focused school curricula, constructing pollinator habitat, and planting trees in low-income communities.

**APPROXIMATELY
\$50,000 IS STILL
AVAILABLE TO
SUPPORT ROTARY
PROJECTS WITH AN
ENVIRONMENTAL
FOCUS. A CLUB
MAY APPLY FOR
MORE THAN
ONE GRANT. IT'S
NOT TOO LATE
TO IDENTIFY
AND DEVELOP
A PROJECT.
YOU CAN FIND
THE GRANT
APPLICATION
ON THE DISTRICT
7750 WEBSITE,
OR E-MAIL
ROB HANLEY
AT [DG2019@
ROTARY7750.ORG](mailto:DG2019@ROTARY7750.ORG).**

Celebrating achievements and looking ahead

BY DG RENÉE STUBBS

As we find ourselves at the midpoint of this Rotary year, I am delighted to reflect on the incredible dedication and commitment demonstrated by our members and club leaders. The time, talent, and treasure you contribute are pivotal in making Rotary the best service organization worldwide.

One of our achievements so far is successfully recruiting **160 new members**. Through innovative initiatives such as service-only memberships, family memberships, and associate memberships, we strive to make Rotary more affordable and accessible to a broader audience. These efforts align with our core mission of fostering community engagement and service.

Embarking on a new frontier, we are excited to introduce **Impact and Companion** clubs as our latest initiatives. These concepts promise to be a powerhouse for members seeking engagement in service. I have shared these ideas at Board of Directors meetings, and starting this January, we will be hosting District Webinars to provide detailed information and assistance to clubs interested in adopting these initiatives.

As advocates for eradicating **polio**, let's continue our generous support for The Rotary Foundation. We are "This Close" to achieving this monumental goal. In the spring, we will launch another Governor's points match.

I encourage each of you to integrate **Foundation moments** into your meetings. This not only reinforces the importance of giving but also enlightens new members about the incredible impact Rotary has in our communities worldwide.

On the project front, many **District grant projects** have been successfully completed or are well underway. I am particularly thrilled by the enthusiastic response to the Makulinski Environmental grants. Several clubs are joining forces to implement these grants, showcasing the collaborative spirit that defines Rotary.

Lastly, a gentle reminder to **wear your Rotary Masterbrand pin** proudly.

You are our best public relations representative. By displaying your affiliation with Rotary, you invite others to ask, "What's Rotary?" and provide an opportunity to share the incredible work we do.



WHAT'S YOUR ROTARY 2024 RESOLUTION?

Rotary Resolutions for 2024 —A few ways to Create Hope in the World

#1 Share the gift of Rotary— Sponsor a new member!

#2 Attend the District Conference in May— Bring the new member from #1 and *Celebrate Rotary* with Fellowship, Learning, and Fun!

#3 Support The Rotary Foundation—The treasure we share comes back to our community through your club grant and brings hope to so many people in the world.

#4 Engage in club service—Your service brings hope to those we serve and joy to our lives. It helps us live longer and improve our mental health.

#5 Live by the 4-Way Test—24 powerful words to live by and make a difference in the world.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Rotary's ideals. Together, we are making a lasting impact on communities around the world.

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS
LOOK AHEAD TO SUCCESS

MIDWAY MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Downside: Maybe not as good as we hoped

Upside: A lot of room to grow

BY BUTCH HUGHES

We are now midway through this 2023-2024 Rotary year.

Before July 1, 2023, every incoming club president submitted a plan detailing how their club would grow membership to achieve a membership goal set by each club.

How is your club doing at the halfway point?

Every Rotary club member can access Membership Action Plan (MAP) at

DACdb.com to see the Progress Dashboard for their club. This valuable tool shows the current membership of their club each month and how that compares to the number of new members needed by month for their club to reach goal.

At the halfway point, we have 40 out of 49 clubs BEHIND THE NEW MEMBER ATTRACTION PACE for us to reach our goal by June 30, 2024. The breakout is in the chart to the right.

Every club that is Behind the New Member Attraction Pace should be having discussions at their board and club level regarding how they are going to speed up their membership

attraction pace to exceed their Pace to Goal.

To effectively grow membership, a club needs a plan – it doesn't happen by itself. Without intentional effort, clubs don't grow – they shrink. In fact, most clubs in almost all districts are slowly SHRINKING, not GROWING.

Begin those discussions and planning early in January. It's not too late to close the gap in your club's New Member Attraction Pace.

As Membership Chair, I'm available to assist you and your club speed ahead of the Pace to Goal. Email me at bhughes864@yahoo.com or call and text me at 864.276.4440!



7750 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Butch Hughes

bhughes864@yahoo.com

FAST AND FURIOUS

FOR 24

2,400 MEMBERS IN 2024

We have **40** clubs
BEHIND on the
New Member
Attraction Pace

New Members Behind	Number of Clubs
10	1
9	1
8	1
7	2
6	3
5	2
4	7
3	7
2	5
1	11

We have **9** clubs
ahead of the New
Member Attraction
Pace

New Members Ahead	Number of Clubs
6	1
4	1
1	7

★ **Walhalla**
is up 7
members,
from 21 to 28.

All Rotarians
are invited
to attend.

next **MAP** zoom

January 15, 2024 at 6 p.m.

Membership Attraction – Using Rotary Information Sessions

<https://www.rizones33-34.org/membership-action-plan/>



Top: Julia Larson and PDG Lance Young; Middle: Shirley and PDG Ken Hirsch; Bottom: Lenna Young, John Kimball, Franca Meloncelli, Alberto Meloncelli, write cards to veterans.

E-Club members Franca Meloncelli, Candace Wyman, Julia Larson and Julie Tovey—from scattered parts of the district— deliver snacks for family members at a hospice house in Anderson.

E-Club finds ways to bring Acts of Love from scattered places

BY CANDACE WYMAN

President, Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas

The Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas reaches out to show our caring hearts in many ways. Here are three examples:

HOSPICE: We collected and donated items for the Rainey House in Anderson Sunshine Cart, providing snacks for family members when visiting patients. We collected twin XL sheets for families caring for

loved ones at home who use a hospital bed. We also wrote notes of encouragement and thanks to many of the Hospice staff members who work hard to serve Upstate SC families every day.

VETERANS: Club members prepared more than 300 cards of appreciation for the 4th Annual Thank You Veterans remote service project. We wrote and

sent notes to veterans at the Richard E. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson, personalizing our appreciation for and encouragement to those who have served.

ACTS OF LOVE: Coming soon, more caring in celebration of Valentines Day, reaching out to about 70 recipients of Meals on Wheels in McCormick.



REWA PROVIDES WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICES TO GREENVILLE COUNTY AND PORTIONS OF SPARTANBURG, LAURENS, AND ANDERSON COUNTIES.

PLEASANTBURG GOES ON FIELD TRIP TO LEARN ABOUT UPSTATE AREA WATER AND SANITATION PLANT

Pleasantburg Rotarians learn about wastewater treatment and testing from Babs Johnson, ReWa's Stakeholder Relations Program Manager.



Pleasantburg Rotarians view the lab at ReWa where wastewater samples are tested to ensure the safety of the community and the environment.



ReWa Director of Workforce Engagement Jay Blankenship speaks to Pleasantburg members about ReWa's community engagement and the multiple benefits available to ReWa's employees.



Wes Wessinger III, ReWa's Talent and Development Program Manager, fills Pleasantburg Rotarians in on ReWa's history, role in the community, and processes.



Pleasantburg Rotarians in front of ReWa's Discovery Center at the conclusion of their recent field trip. From left to right: Marty Yigdall, Eric Baker, Brian Thomas, Ed Maier, Steve Banks, Linda Lee, Jay Blankenship (our host, ReWa Director of Workforce Engagement, and a member of the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg), Tracy Tiddy, and Judy Cromwell.



Pleasantburg learns about Recraft

Pleasantburg Rotarians enjoyed a field trip to Recraft, a reuse center. Recraft collects donations of reusable materials and sorts and redistributes those materials to schools, crafters, artists, and students. Executive Director Grant Cothran explained Recraft's mission and gave Rotarians a tour.



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



Pleasantburg has lunch with first graders at Cherrydale

Pleasantburg Rotarians recently volunteered at Cherrydale Elementary and enjoyed lunch with first-graders while their teachers received a well-deserved break. Pictured are Erika Larson, DGN Dave Brenner, and Jerry Lieberg.





GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE



Christmas Inn Our Town Fountain Inn

The Golden Strip Sunrise Club was the Presenting Sponsor of the Christmas Inn Our Town in Fountain Inn which included the Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting, and Carriage Rides nightly from Dec. 7 – 16. The club sold hot chocolate and cookies as a fundraiser at the Carriage Rides. Top left: Steve and Malinda Epps, Sam Stamps, Sam Gault. Left: Dee Vaughan, Bill Harclerode. Top right: Mike McCourry, Randy Gordon.

Coffee for high school staff

Golden Strip Sunrise provided coffee and snacks for the staff of Fountain Inn High School on Dec. 19 at Steam on Main Street. Pictured: Sam Stamps, Trip and Melinda Gilreath, Jim Cashion, Dee Vaughan.





UNION HELPS PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR GOALS

Charlie Wilson, president of the Rotary Club of Union, presents a check to Karen Petty, principal at Union County High School. This donation will be used to support incentives for UCHS students who achieve their goals for academics, attendance, and discipline each quarter.

E-Club hopes to get Environmental grant; already has projects lined up

E-CLUB BY CANDACE WYMAN

President, Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas

The E-Club of the Carolinas is one of the clubs in D7750 that has already applied for a Makulinski Environmental Matching Grant. The club has confirmed projects with Anderson 1&2 Career & Technology Center (ACTC) and Wren High School (WHS), all in Anderson County, and with McCormick Elementary School (MES) in McCormick County. Each school group will offer these environmental options to students:

- School landscaping enhancement with native plants (Beta Club, WHS)
- Perennial plantings & programming (Employability Education, WHS)
- Mental Health Garden (Students in Action Club, WHS)
- Pollination Garden (WrenSTEM Honor Society, WHS)
- Herbs & Edible Garden (Culinary Arts & Agriculture students, ACTC)
- Planting & Environmental Educational Programming (MES)

Work will be performed by the students, school staff, and club members. Members will also be involved in seeking in-kind donations and support from local businesses in Spring 2024 to further support the work.

Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas is committed to Acts of Green as a project, and the board has approved the \$1,500 matching funds if this grant is approved. We have already confirmed with each of our school partners and our club is ready to move forward in the Spring of 2024.





Deborah Parks and friends



Art Wallace



Andrea White

Rotary Club of Greenwood supports Salvation Army Bell Ringing and local food bank

As is its Christmas tradition, the Rotary Club of Greenwood rang the bell for the Salvation Army this season. This worthy cause raises money to support the Salvation Army in its mission of providing family service programs that help families and needy individuals with emergency food, utility assistance, housing, medications, and other needs.

→ The club also supported the Food Bank of Greenwood County throughout December by donating personal health supplies and volunteering to stock the shelves at the food bank. Pictured: Deborah Parks & Robert Greer.



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 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.



DONATE TO CART



GREER AT CHRISTMAS

The Rotary Club of Greer participated in the Greer Christmas Parade for the first time this year, with 20 members in attendance. Moody Blue Designs, one of the club's corporate members, did a fantastic job on the car and banner.

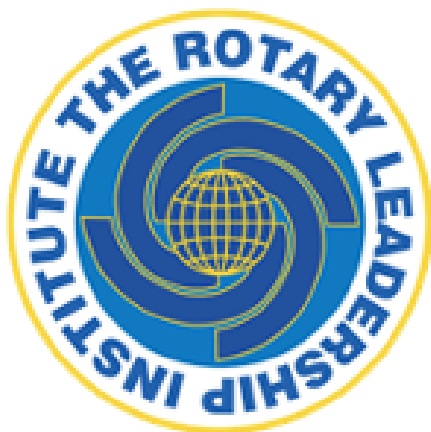


The club also collected toys for the Cops for Tots project. At its annual Christmas party / Holiday event at Bellamore, club president Mark Moreno presented the toys to Greer City Police Chief Matt Hamby.

At left: Club member and district treasurer Melissa Patterson and Greer club secretary Amy McBurnie with some of the toys collected for the Greer Police Department. Bellamore, owned by club member Maria Amore, also collected and donated toys.



NEWLYWEDS AT GREER? DG Renée and Steve were at the Greer Christmas party and got caught up in that club's version of The Newlywed Game. Renée's summary of that event: "We did very well. Guess the Greer Rotarians now know what I sleep in at night! It was so much fun. I think we were 2nd place." They've been married only 40 years so maybe in another few years they will come in first.



If your club is one of the 40 clubs mentioned on page 2 that is behind in growth, RLI may be just the thing to boost the interest of those Rotarians you already have and spur them on to help find new members.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT ROTARY IN A FUN, INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Think of RLI as an INVESTMENT in retention

BY PDG CAROL BURDETTE

Rotary Leadership Institute started in 1992 and 300 districts around the world are now using this institute to help Rotarians understand Rotary and develop leadership skills. This opportunity of learning helps develop lifelong Rotarians. It expands your network, allows you to hear innovative ideas and see the value of Rotary beyond your club!

- 1.** RLI Parts I, II, and III are being offered at MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE, NE Campus on January 27th. Registration begins at 8:30 and the cost is \$95.
- 2.** RLI Parts I, II, and III are being offered at TRI-COUNTY TECH, Anderson Campus on March 2nd. Registration begins at 8:30 and the cost is \$95.

This is a dynamic, interactive fun event for Rotarians within a short distance of wherever you are in District 7750. Go to DACdb today and register!!

CLUBS, IF YOU WANT TO RETAIN YOUR MEMBERS, PAY FOR THEM TO ATTEND THIS POWERFUL DAY OF LEARNING!!

P-mails with more details about these events will go out this month.



HYGIENE KITS FOR SHELTER ADULTS IN NEED

The Golden Corner Rotary Club provided an additional 25 hygiene kits for men and women at the Golden Corner shelter Our Daily Rest. Club past president Gene Williams presented the kits to Our Daily Rest director of women's programs Gwen Daniels.



GOLDEN CORNER CONTINUES MAKING DONATIONS FOR ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Left photo: Golden Corner Rotary Club president Cammie Kaiser, center, presented contributions to Kim Wyatt, left, with the YMCA and Gena Sykes, music director for Oconee Winds Community Band. Right: Golden Corner presented donations to Foothills Care Center and The Arc of Oconee County. The Arc helps those with intellectual and developmental disabilities while Foothills Care provides services for men and women with family issues. Pictured from left are Susan Lombardo, Rotarians Cammie Kaiser and Louis Holleman, Delane Rogers and Laura Price. The Golden Corner Rotary Club is marking its 30th anniversary with 30 donations to Oconee community organizations.

Weavers inducted into Arch Klumph Society

Terry and Pam Weaver were recognized at the Foundation Celebration as District 7750's newest Arch Klumph Society members. They are members of the Rotary Club of Greenville. Terry is a Past District Governor and Pam served for a decade as the first District Administrator.

Named after the sixth president of Rotary, the Arch Klumph Society recognizes The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors — those who have contributed \$250,000 or more during their lifetime.

Arch Klumph is considered the "Father of The Rotary Foundation" that was founded as a way to make it possible for Rotarians to "Do Good in the World." There are more than 700 AKS members in Rotary International.

Donors to the Foundation give for many reasons, but they share a common purpose — to do good in the world. Arch Klumph Society members exemplify this mission and are leaders in philanthropy. They believe in the work

of the Foundation and have made it their personal mission to support causes such as eradicating polio, providing clean water and sanitation in developing countries, and helping the people in the poorest countries achieve a way of improving their lives.

"Terry and Pam Weaver do much more than give so generously to The Rotary Foundation," said Beth Padgett, District Rotary Foundation Chair.

Terry serves as the Zone 33 Rotary Coordinator, and he also chairs Discover Rotary in his own club and runs Zoom for his club meetings. Pam works with both Discover Rotary and Orientation for her club, and she is the District

Community Service Chair. The Weavers always can be found hard at work at club service projects and fundraisers.

Patrick Eakes, the incoming Rotary International Director for Zones 33 and 34, made the District presentation for the Weavers' Arch Klumph Society recognition.



THANK YOU, PAM AND TERRY

GREENVILLE CLUB MEMBERS CELEBRATE THE WEAVERS' ARCH KLUMPH GIFT

The Greenville Rotary Club, the oldest and one of the largest clubs in District 7750, has donated \$1,511,223 to The Rotary Foundation. Club members were on hand at the Foundation Celebration to see Terry and Pam Weaver recognized as the District's newest Arch Klumph Society members.



Greenwood Rotarian Doug Kauffmann receives Regional PolioPlus Service Award

Doug Kauffmann, a member of the Rotary Club of Greenwood, received the Regional PolioPlus Service Award at the Rotary Foundation Celebration on Dec. 1.

This award was established by the trustees of the Rotary Foundation to recognize outstanding contributions to the effort by Rotarians and thereby to encourage final efforts to eradicate polio.

Doug is serving his fourth year as the District 7750 PolioPlus Chair, and this also is the fourth year for the Doug and Sally Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge Match.

According to the award's criteria, "Personal financial contributions to PolioPlus, however noteworthy, are not a basis for the award. Outstanding service in the field of advocacy, however, is not precluded as a consideration for the award. Fundraising efforts that support Rotary's PolioPlus program may be considered in the evaluation of nominees for the award."



Greenwood Rotarian and generous polio supporter Doug Kauffman with 7750 Foundation chair Beth Padgett.

The Regional Awards are given for each of the major regions and do not exceed 60 per year. Doug was recognized for service in the Americas' Region.

Doug has been a strong supporter of PolioPlus and advocate in the campaign to eradicate polio since he joined Rotary in 1996.



"For years, Doug has championed our PolioPlus efforts and enthusiastically shared his time in speaking to Rotary Clubs in District 7750 and coaching clubs on how to improve giving to PolioPlus. He has elevated PolioPlus giving in our District by using personal funds as a Challenge Match to leverage more funds from Rotarians for PolioPlus."

—Foundation Chair Beth Padgett

THANK YOU, DOUG AND SALLY

ROTARIANS LEARN REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRICT GRANTS

Pay attention to changes

BY PDG BETH PADGETT
7750 Foundation Chair

Eighty Rotarians attended the annual training required for clubs to be eligible to receive a District Grant.

These grants are funded through the District Designated Funds that come back to Rotary Districts every year based on contributions to The Rotary Foundation. There have been some important changes/updates to how grants are handled:

District Grant priorities include:

- Having a grant that serves a large number of people.
- Ensuring significant Rotary Club involvement in the project.
- Avoiding a grant that essentially is a pass-through to another organization.
- Ensuring Rotary branding, making sure the mission of the project is clear.
- Doing a project inside District 7750.

Change in grant match

The District Grant Committee has approved two new policies to bring clarity to existing policies.

For a decade, clubs have been required to provide an equal match for its grant. Occasionally a Rotary Club will not meet its match either because it has not planned adequate club funding or it envisioned a more ambitious project.

Under the new policy, a Rotary Club that does not substantially provide its club match will have that amount deducted from its maximum eligibility for the next grant year.

Receipts required

Additionally, Rotary Clubs are expected to provide receipts for the entire Rotary-funded portion of the grant. Most clubs now do this.



Foundation training and banquet

Greer club members Jim Mitchell and Mark Moreno were among the Rotarians attending the Rotary Foundation training and dinner on Dec. 1.

If they have received a \$2,500 grant, they will provide receipts (proof of funding) for at least a \$5,000 project.

On rare occasions, a Rotary Club has solicited a partner that is required to provide direct funding for a project. Those exceptions should be discussed in advance with DRFC Beth Padgett and District Grants Chair Bill Harley because a partnership letter now will be required along with the grant application.

Not all grants may be funded; no more surplus to help

The sustainability of District Grants was discussed in great length. Because the District Finance Committee has shared generously from surplus funds over the past few years, the grant committee has been able to fund 100 percent of all eligible grants.

That will not be possible going forward because those surplus funds are depleted. **Knowing that all grants may not be funded should inspire clubs to comply with all requirements and guidelines for District Grants.**

Clubs make a difference in their communities

Rotary Clubs in District 7750 are making a difference in their communities through funds provided by Rotary Foundation District Grants that are matched with club funds. In some cases, the total amount of the project exceeds the amount of the District Grant plus club match because a club provides more funds or partners with another organization.

GREENVILLE BREAKFAST

Blue Wall
\$2,500

The Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast will work in partnership with Greenville City Center Rotary and The Nature Conservancy to provide educational signage and undertake trail and habitat improvements at the Blue Wall Preserve in northern Greenville County. Educational signage will include kiosks at preserve entrances and at various locations along the trail. Trail activities include maintenance and repairs. Habitat improvements will include removing invasive species and planting native species. More than 30 Rotarians will be involved, and 1,500 people will benefit from this project.

GREENVILLE CITY CENTER

Blue Wall
\$2,500

The Rotary Club of Greenville City Center will work in partnership with Greenville Breakfast Rotary and The Nature Conservancy to provide educational signage and undertake trail and habitat improvements at the Blue Wall Preserve in northern

Featured District Grants 2023-2024

Club	Project	Grant
Greenville Breakfast	Blue Wall	\$2,500
Greenville Center City	Blue Wall	\$2,500
Greenwood.....	Local Food Bank.....	\$3,000
Greenwood.....	Rise Against Hunger	\$3,000
Indian Land Lunch	Literacy Projects	\$2,500
Lake Wylie	Kindness Connects	\$2,500
Lancaster	Healing Minds	\$5,000
Lancaster Breakfast	Bike Project.....	\$5,000
Laurens	Backpack Program	\$5,000
Mauldin.....	Generations Home	\$1,250
Mauldin.....	Casa Colibra.....	\$1,250
Mauldin.....	Rise Against Hunger	\$2,500
Newberry	Free Medical Clinic.....	\$5,000

Greenville County. The two Rotary Clubs are combining their District Grants and club matches for this joint project.

GREENWOOD

Local Food Bank
\$3,000

The Rotary Club of Greenwood will work with the Food Bank of Greenwood County to offer additional food relief to the local community by the donation of money and volunteer hours. Volunteers are needed for tasks such as receiving and sorting food and gathering it for distribution to families. About 2,000 people will benefit from this project, and 30 Rotarians will be involved.

GREENWOOD

Rise Against Hunger
\$3,000

The Rotary Club of Greenwood will host a meal packaging event for the benefit of Rise Against Hunger, an international hunger relief organization that provides meals to support school and orphanage feeding programs in

developing countries. Sixty-five Rotarians will be involved and about 23,000 people will benefit from the meals.

INDIAN LAND LUNCH

Literacy Projects
\$2,500

The Rotary Club of Indian Land Lunch will distribute dictionaries to the three Indian Land elementary schools; read to students and provide copies of the books read to them either at elementary schools and/or the Housing Authority housing; work with Lancaster First Steps to enhance the participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library; and provide financial contributions to the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood program. More than a thousand people will benefit, and 40 Rotarians will be involved.

LAKE WYLIE

Kindness Connects Us
\$2,500

The Rotary Club of Lake Wylie will create an event spotlighting



District Grants—

Continued from previous page

both the academic goal of reading and the community goal of kindness in the greater Clover community. The grant also will provide books to encourage the reader to provide kindness in the community. Thirty Rotarians will be involved, and the project will benefit 9,300 people.

LANCASTER **Healing Minds** **\$5,000**

The Rotary Club of Lancaster will sponsor the Healing Minds Strengthening Communities project that is designed to raise awareness, combat stigma and advocate for the prevention and

intervention of mental health issues. Twenty-five Rotarians will be involved in a project that has the potential of reaching more than 100,000 people.

LANCASTER BREAKFAST **Bike Project** **\$5,000**

The Rotary Club of Lancaster Breakfast will sponsor the Pedals Possible project that will purchase and donate bicycles to children in underserved neighborhoods within the Lancaster area. The Lancaster Breakfast Club will partner with Promise Neighborhood to identify children who could use and appreciate a new bike of their own.

There will be 50 beneficiaries and 60 Rotarians involved.

LAURENS **Backpack Program** **\$5,000**

The Rotary Club of Laurens will work with EB Morris Elementary School to supply backpacks of food for children who need support on weekends. Packing is done every Friday morning and is privately handled with the students. Thirty Rotarians are involved, and 55 students will benefit from the project.



District grant helps Spartan West provide supplies for local mental health center



At left, members of the Rotary Club of Spartan West and some of their guests packed more than 100 water bottles with socks, gift cards, and hygiene items for Spartanburg Area Mental Health Center. In the right photo are club president Brian Harrison and Spartanburg Area Mental Health Representative Tanna Thompson. Founders Federal Credit Union donated the water bottles. This project was funded with a 2023-24 district grant. Note how this grant meets the priorities listed on page 15—participation, branding, local, etc.

More grants—

MAULDIN

Generations Group Home

\$1,250

The Rotary Club of Mauldin will help provide a ballfield back stop replacement for Generations Group Home for Boys. The Greer Rotary Club will also help with the project. Twenty Rotarians will be involved in the project that will benefit about 100 boys.

MAULDIN

Casa Colibra

\$1,250

The Rotary Club of Mauldin will participate in an eye care mission to provide prescription glasses and safety glasses to the Mayan people of Nuevo Eden, Guatemala. About 1,000 people will benefit from the project that will involve 20 Rotarians.

MAULDIN

Rise Against Hunger

\$2,500

The Rotary Club of Mauldin will conduct a Rise Against Hunger Food Packing event to pack meals for feeding needy individuals in places of most need but probably in developing countries. Fifty Rotarians will be involved, and 20,000-plus meals will be packed.

Golden Strip Sunrise recognized for EREY giving

Golden Strip Sunrise was recognized for Every Rotarian Every Year and 100% giving of at least \$100/capita at the Dec. 1 Foundation Banquet. The club was also recognized for its contribution to Polio Plus and the Rotarian Citation award. Club president Dee Vaughan is shown with PDG Patrick Eakes, speaker for the banquet. These kinds of gifts make District Grants possible.



NEWBERRY

Free Medical Clinic

\$5,000

The Newberry Rotary Club will renovate the free medical clinic in Newberry with much needed repairs to include plumbing, electrical, lighting, mechanical, and flooring. The free clinic has used their resources toward medical supplies and equipment and has let the building become neglected. Seventy Rotarians will participate in this project, and the number of beneficiaries is estimated at 2,000.

KEY INFO/DATES FOR DISTRICT GRANTS

- Final reports for 2023-24 District Grants are due by March 31.
- Grant applications for 2024-25 are due by April 30.
- Also, any Rotary Club that is having an issue implementing its current District Grant should immediately contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at bpadgettrotary@outlook.com.



E-CLUB HAS MOST MEMBERS AT FOUNDATION BANQUET: The E-Club of the Carolinas was out in force for the Foundation Celebration on December 1 with 11 club members at the event. The E-Club had the most members in the District attending the annual Foundation dinner in Greenville.

Golden Strip Sunrise supports Generations Boys Home

1. Each member of the Golden Strip Sunrise Club provided a Christmas gift for the residents of the Generations Boys Home.

2. Phyllis and Jim Cashion sponsored a food truck at the home. Pictured are Dee Vaughan, Steve Epps, Jim Cashion, and Sam Stamps.

3. Phyllis and Jim Cashion, and Jacque Gray served Christmas Morning Breakfast to the boys.



Celebrate Rotary

Save the date for our District Conference May 17-18 in Greenville.
Registration info is coming this month. Celebrate Rotary with
Fellowship, Service, Learning, and Fun.



DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2024

May 17 - 19

GREENVILLE, SC

And don't
forget
PrePETS
and PETS
coming up



WE'RE JUST BARELY PAST CHRISTMAS AND INTO A NEW YEAR BUT IT IS ALREADY TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT SPONSORING A STUDENT TO RYLA IN THE SUMMER OF 2024.

Sponsor a RYLA delegate this summer

BY DGN DAVE BRENNER

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a program that focuses on developing leadership skills in young people.

It involves seminars, workshops, and team-building activities aimed at empowering participants to become effective leaders in their community.

We are very fortunate in District 7750 to have a wonderful week-long RYLA program on the campus of Erskine College.

The RYLA program offers rising Juniors and Seniors, not only the opportunity to learn and develop their skills, but to also meet and interact with other students from all over western South Carolina .

The RYLA program in District 7750 for this year will be June 2-8, 2024 at Erskine College.

In order for a student to participate in RYLA they must be sponsored by a Rotary club. I encourage all clubs in our District to sponsor at least one young person as a delegate to 2024 RYLA. I know many clubs will sponsor multiple students.

The program is available to all rising Juniors and Seniors. We have many young men and women throughout our district that would



From 2023 RYLA

benefit from attending RYLA. Let's give them the opportunity!! RYLA registration deadline will be in early April, so now is the time to identify candidates for your clubs to sponsor.

Although some of the delegates are members of an Interact Club in their school, this is not a requirement. Many of the delegates are not Interactors.

I have had several Rotarians around the district tell me that they did not know a program like RYLA even existed. They have told me that if I knew about RYLA I would have encouraged my son or daughter to apply.

I encourage all clubs to have a program about RYLA at one of your meetings over the next couple of months.

Also, if your club does sponsor an Interact Club be sure they

know about RYLA. Meet with the guidance counselor in your local high schools, and let them know about the opportunity and benefit to the students to attend RYLA.

Watch the the video from RYLA 2023 with comments from the students who attended. There is no better message than to hear directly from the RYLA delegates about their experience during the week at Erskine. This is a great video to share at club meetings, Interact meetings, and with school administrators. The link for the video is <https://vimeo.com/886311171>.

Thank you for supporting RYLA and more importantly the youth in our district. RYLA and your support will make a difference in their lives.

Your district committee will be glad to come to your club or Interact meeting and talk about RYLA. Just contact PDG Frank Cox, Youth Services Chair, at fcox63@yahoo.com, or Dave Brenner, RYLA Chair, at david.brenner00@gmail.com.

New Members in November

37 new members in November

Lindell, Lynette F	Abbeville	Shiancoe, Armah	Indian Land Lunch
Fuller, Trish	Abbeville	Gulotta, Anthony	Indian Land Lunch
Phillips, Ben R. Jr.	Anderson	Lindsay, Michael	Lancaster Breakfast
Bryant, Sonya M.	Batesburg-Leesville	Blue, Katherine	Lancaster Breakfast
Couch, Thomas H.	Easley	Dunbar, Brian	North Spartanburg
Short, Christman M	Easley	Switzer, L. Ray	North Spartanburg
Price, Crystal S	Gaffney	Huckabee, Chad	North Spartanburg
Ward, Heath D	Gaffney	Cantrell, Chet D	North Spartanburg
Standridge, Felixicity	Gaffney	Cunningham, Michael J.	Pickens
Gilreath, Mack D	Golden Strip Sunrise	Stubbs, Gaston, Marion	
Herlihy, Amanda	Greenville	& Stubbs PA	Rock Hill
Snyder, Philip	Greenville	Ross, Ben	Rock Hill
Ethridge, Phillip Michael	Greenville City Center	Strom, Trevor S	Union
Tessler, Courtney E	Greenville City Center	Graves, Susan	Walhalla
Finlan, Eva	Greenwood	Lee, Davy	Walhalla
Blair, Emily M.	Greenwood	Graves, Stephen	Walhalla
Mills, Kevin T	Indian Land Lunch	Blundy, Bethany	Walhalla
Wojtkowski, Monica	Indian Land Lunch	Sokol, Stephen M.	Walhalla
Cooper, Justin D	Indian Land Lunch	Harshaw, Daniel H.	York

NOVEMBER 2023: 37 NEW MEMBERS —30 TERMINATED MEMBERS (3 DECEASED)

WALHALLA FACTOID

The Rotary Club of Walhalla, one of the smaller clubs in our district with 28 members, has increased its membership by seven through Dec. 26. That includes nine new members. It has lost two members. Long-time member and former assistant governor Lamar Bailes died in July. Another member dropped out because of health.

One other member has also been dropped. Senator Lindsey Graham, an Oconee County native who had been an honorary member of the Walhalla Club since 1992, was dropped at the end of October. The reason: non-attendance! Afterall Sen. Graham is busy in Washington as the Ranking Member on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and is a member of three other committees.

Deadline for February newsletter is January 25.
Send items to newsletter editor Sue Poss, pdgsueposs@gmail.com.