



DISTRICT GOVERNOR RYSHEEKA BUSH  
Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise | rysheeka@yahoo.com  
DECEMBER 2024 | WWW.ROTARY7750.ORG

DECEMBER

Disease Prevention and  
Treatment Month

JANUARY

Vocational Service

# 7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



## New club chartered in Oconee County

The Rotary clubs in Oconee County have organized and chartered an evening club, Oconee After Dark. Regular meetings will begin in mid-January.

### Charter members of Oconee After Dark Club

PICTURED:

Catie E. Fisher  
Amy Welch  
Jordan Pope  
Lynn McClain  
Chrys Graves

Amber O'Dell  
Lacey Moore  
Josh Holliday

NOT PICTURED:

Lance Matzke  
Missy McClain  
Emily Roberts  
Jessica Owens  
Ashleigh Jones

# Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for a happy, safe holiday season!



# Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

BY DG RYSHEEKA BUSH

Greetings Rotary family. Happy Holidays to you! We are People of Action. During this season, be intentional about serving your fellow man. There are so many who are unable to enjoy the privileges we have of family, friends, and laughter. Give that gift to someone this year.

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment month. Rotary has a long history of collaboration to improve global health. We partner with such organizations as the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to improve global health. There are many projects led by dedicated Rotarians that play a critical role in improving health outcomes and impacting the effects of disease on the world.

The first initiative, Polio Eradication, has been combated through funding and door to door

vaccination efforts. Vaccination campaigns exist, for not just Polio, but measles, rubella, and other preventable diseases in underserved populations.

Education also has a place in disease prevention and treatment. Rotary sponsors clinics to demonstrate proper hygiene, sanitation, and the value of vaccinations. In the vein of hygiene, providing access to clean water helps to prevent waterborne diseases.

Research is an important part of the relationship we have with WHO, CDC, and other health organizations. It helps to support initiatives for various diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases.

Lastly, be on the look out for emails from Rotarians in the District that coordinate international trips to take part in direct service related to Disease Prevention and Treatment.

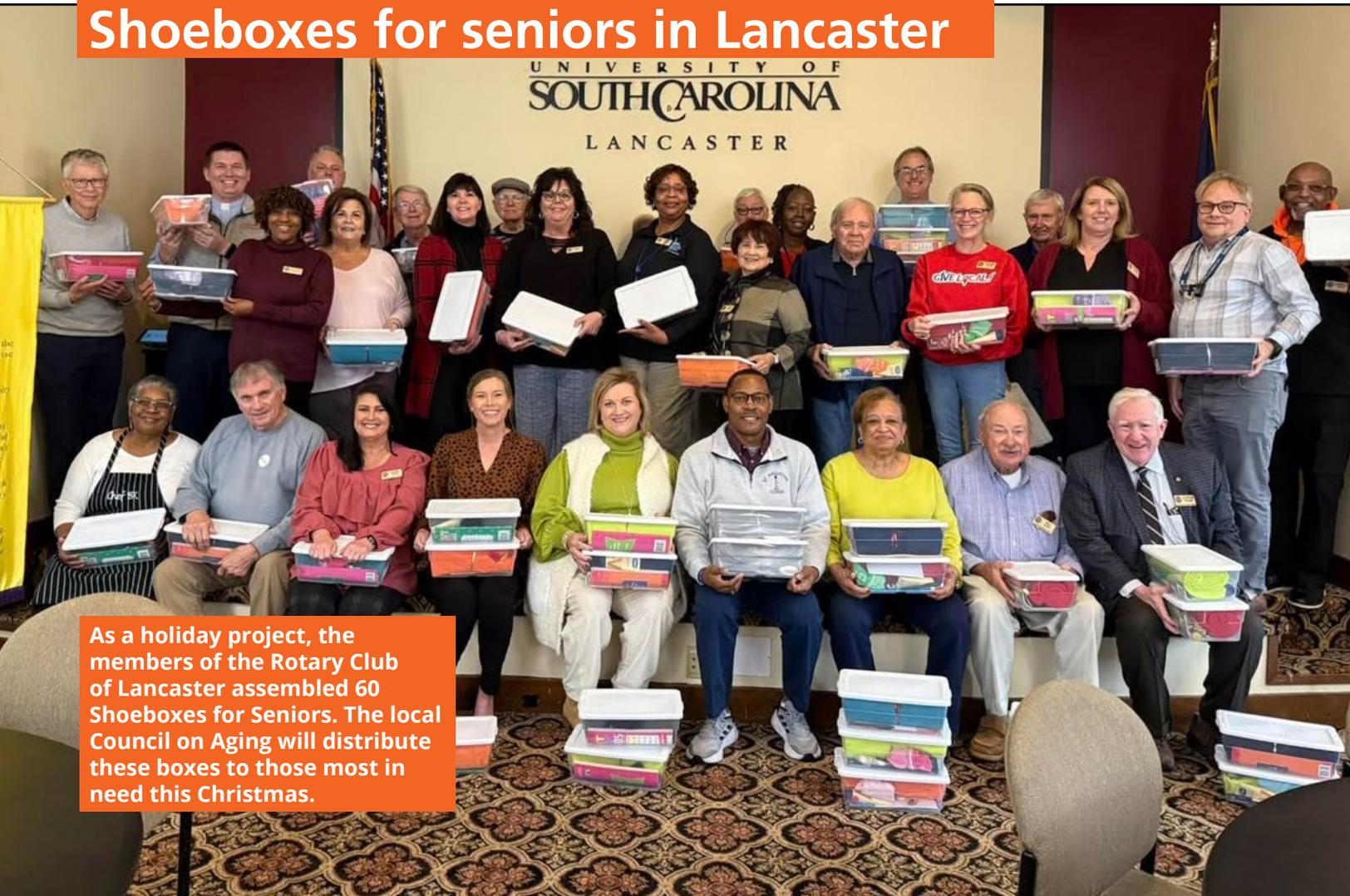


**DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT**

## Shoeboxes for seniors in Lancaster

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
LANCASTER

As a holiday project, the members of the Rotary Club of Lancaster assembled 60 Shoeboxes for Seniors. The local Council on Aging will distribute these boxes to those most in need this Christmas.



# Rotary membership is not a solo job

As many Club Membership Chairs can attest, having the responsibility for Rotary Membership is not a Lone Ranger job. To have a robust and effective membership strategy, it requires not only the active engagement of the ENTIRE CLUB but also a subset of focused membership team members to increase the probability of success for your membership plan.

Allow us to share a 10-step playbook to increase your probability of developing and executing an impactful plan to expand your club’s reach a.k.a., Grow your Membership.

**D-7750 Membership Chair**  
**ALBERT BLACKMON**  
[albert.blackmon@sc.edu](mailto:albert.blackmon@sc.edu)



## 10-STEP MEMBERSHIP PLAYBOOK

Step	Key Action
1	Appoint a strong, organized, “closer” leader who is a master at communications to serve as your Membership Chair. This chair is a key assignment for your club, as the point person for managing this process.
2	The Club Membership Chair should recruit select Rotarians to join the Membership Team. Diversity is a key aspect in creating a team that represents all aspects of the community to ensure all perspectives are engaged.
3	Engage your club’s Officers and Board of Directors in the development of a dynamic, written Membership Plan that includes all club members’ active participation. Use the tools and templates provided by the district to help format your detailed plan of action.
4	With your completed plan, ensure the accountability for action items is clearly understood by those who are assigned. A project plan with milestone dates would be helpful as you conduct follow-up sessions to ensure the plan is being worked properly.
5	Ensure the club’s CULTURE is attractive and welcoming to existing members and visitors of the club. The Member Satisfaction Survey in the Membership Success Center is a great tool to provide the club’s leadership team an assessment of the club from the Rotarians’ perspective.

Step	Key Action
6	It’s time to go live with your Membership Plan in a club meeting. During the presentation of the Club’s Plan, make it easy for your members by equipping them with elevator speeches, key talking points and clear expectations.
7	Consider <i>regular and ad hoc</i> “Informational Rotary Sessions” where prospects can gain an insight into Rotary. Plan to address the local and global impacts. As you may know, a typical Rotary meeting may be a bit strange to an outsider. They leave with little knowledge of what Rotary is about.
8	Set an individual expectation and goal for each Rotarian relative to invitees for the informational session or attending a club meeting. This one-on-one interaction is key to getting quality prospects to visit your club.
9	It’s showtime once the prospective member attends an information session. The club’s most knowledgeable and eloquent speakers would lead an informational discussion. A small number of Rotarian hosts have the responsibility of making them feel comfortable and welcomed.
10	Follow-up with the prospective members is a KEY task you must perform with consistency and structure. Thanking them for attending is an easy task via email. Make sure someone is tasked with a follow-up phone call to assess their interest.

More on membership, next three pages

## Remember, membership is the whole club's responsibility

Again—the club's membership plan is the entire club's responsibility. It will take everyone's focus and attention to ensure the plan's success. The Club's Membership Chair and team are responsible for communication and managing the process. The leaders of the club must assist in ensuring all club members are comfortable initiating a conversation about Rotary and your respective club.

Now that a new member has joined the club, you are responsible for keeping them engaged. The mental switch must now change from recruitment to retention. That's a great article for another newsletter.—Albert

Allow me to thank Ritchie Russell as my co-author of these articles. Ritchie, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Lake Wylie, is a valued member of our District Membership Committee.—Albert



### New Members of Aiken Sunrise, Indian Land and Greenwood

◀Martha Rivers and Donald Branum are the newest members of the Rotary Club of Aiken. Martha is a newly elected Second Judicial Circuit Judge and Donald is the CEO of Rural Health Services.



◀Ken Board is a new member at the Rotary Club of Indian Land.



➔Gerry Partridge is a new member at the Rotary Club of Greenwood.

## Membership is ALL about the Information Sessions

It is a fact, the BEST way to *expand your reach* is to host a Rotary information session. Clubs who host a **Rotary Information Hour** or **Discover Rotary** session attract new members.

This tip is simple and straightforward. Schedule an information hour and invite prospects so they can learn more about Rotary.



# Check your Club Dashboard for the REAL picture of membership progress

**BY PDG TERRY WEAVER**

*Zone 33 Rotary Coordinator*

We have a new, insightful metric by which a club can gauge its progress toward its membership goal during the year. For more than 100 years, the only metric Rotary clubs had to see how they were progressing during the year was their net membership gain or loss. It turns out that's highly misleading. Why is that?

As we know, attrition is real, and a fact of life in membership organizations. Despite relentless efforts to reduce it, attrition will not go away entirely. The problem with looking at net member gain year to date as a metric, particularly in mid-year, is that it completely forgets about attrition that hasn't happened yet,

A much better approach is built into the goal setting process in the Membership Success Center (MSC). We take the club's average terminations over the past three years, and treat that as a forecast of terminations likely to happen this year. It isn't perfect, but it's a lot better than forgetting about them.

What we want to do is “pre-replace” those members likely to depart this year plus add enough new

members to meet our membership growth goal. The progress dashboard in the MSC plots that on a month-to-month basis, and clearly reveals the club's pace of new member attraction, compared to the total number needed by June of 2025.

Here is a short video clip that explains that: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_JUqconnvFo&t=392s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_JUqconnvFo&t=392s)

Interested in your club's progress? Log in through DACdb: [RIZones33-34.org/MSC](http://RIZones33-34.org/MSC)

Here are a couple of examples of clubs either ahead of or behind their new member pace for last year:

- Club began the year slowly, and never caught up with the pace needed to meet its goal. After several months running at 6 behind pace, a June surge brought them within 4 of pace. Predictably, they finished the year down by 1 member, rather than a 3-member gain.
- Club began the year with 2 new members in July, flat-lined for several months, then added 6 new members to pull not only ahead of pace, but to exceed their new members needed. Predictably, finished 2 ahead of pace, with a net gain of +4 vs. a goal of +2.



Jamie Patterson, left, is a member of the Rotary Club of York. He was welcomed and presented his member packet by President Cindy Spragg.



Katie Piscatelli, left, was welcomed into the Rotary Club of York by President Cindy Spragg at the meeting on Halloween Thursday!

## New members at York

# MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS TRACK

BY ALBERT BLACKMON

Below are our ranking reports from DACdb. Our focus is on results tied to the club's Success Track, as we recognize that attrition is a real challenge. While we encourage everyone to strive for the club's end-of-year goal of +2 NET or 5% of the base (whichever is greater), it's equally important not to overlook your progress relative to the Success Track.

In other words, average terminations can creep up unexpectedly. Keep a close eye on your specific Success Track in DACdb. As you evaluate your Net Gain Focus, celebrate the growth, but remain mindful of your standing in relation to the Success Track.

MEMBERSHIP NET GAIN

Club	Net Gain/Loss	Ahead (Behind) New Member Pace	Starting Members 1 July	Current Mbrs	New Members YTD	Terminations YTD
Indian Land Lunch	7	9.6	53	60	14	-7
Pickens	6	4	30	36	8	-2
Greenville City Center	6	-0.5	45	51	6	0
Greer	4	2.4	40	44	6	-2
Lake Wylie	4	1	34	38	5	-1
Rock Hill	4	-0.8	65	69	4	0
E-Club of The Carolinas	3	-1	23	26	3	0
Lancaster Breakfast	3	-1.1	53	56	4	-1
Walhalla	2	0.9	34	36	2	0
North Augusta	2	0.1	16	18	2	0
Union	2	0.1	40	42	2	0
Clemson Sunrise	2	-0.5	32	34	2	0
Seneca	2	-0.7	25	27	3	-1
Emerald City (Greenwood)	2	-1.3	84	86	5	-3
Easley	2	-1.6	72	74	2	0
Clinton	2		30	32	2	0
Abbeville	2		47	49	2	0
Fort Mill	2		65	67	3	-1
Aiken	2		162	164	8	-6

MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS TRACK

Club	Ahead (Behind) New Member Pace	Net Gain/Loss	Starting Members 1 July	Current Mbrs	New Members YTD	Terminations YTD
Indian Land Lunch	9.6	7	53	60	14	-7
Pickens	4	6	30	36	8	-2
Greer	2.4	4	40	44	6	-2
Lake Wylie	1	4	34	38	5	-1
Walhalla	0.9	2	34	36	2	0
Gaffney	0.3	0	59	59	4	-4
North Augusta	0.1	2	16	18	2	0
Union	0.1	2	40	42	2	0
Travelers Rest	-0.3	1	14	15	2	-1
Greenville City Center	-0.5	6	45	51	6	0
Clemson Sunrise	-0.5	2	32	34	2	0
York	-0.5	1	29	30	2	-1



Seneca Rotarian John McRoberts, wearing the Halloween costume, nominated and presented Greg Couti with the club's prestigious Ballenger Award.

## Seneca recognizes Greg Coutu with its 2024 Ballenger Award

"Greg is a true example of the Rotarian mindset. His hands remain open asking, 'How can I help?' He has been involved with many situational opportunities that allow him to give of his time, resources and talents to help others in our area. I have personally seen him always use a mindset in his business to build goodwill and better friendships. He is honest and dedicated to making sure his customers always have a positive experience."

—Rotarian John McRoberts, who nominated Greg

The Seneca Rotary Club has presented its prestigious 2024 Ballenger Award to Greg Coutu, a realtor with Allen Tate Realtors Keowee Waterfront.

Once a year, the Club recognizes a business in the greater Seneca area for achieving the high level of service advocated by Rotary. The Award is named for Grady Ballenger, the first president of the Seneca Rotary Club and the owner/operator of a hardware store on Main Street in downtown Seneca for many years.

The Ballenger Award is given to a business/businessperson that is located in the greater Seneca area, has been operated for at least 10 years, demonstrates and promotes high ethical standards and is dedicated to providing stellar service to the community. The Award is always presented to a non-Rotarian.

Greg was born and raised in Seneca and graduated from Seneca High School in 1999. He went on to graduate from Clemson University in 2003 and has been a fixture in the Lake Keowee market ever since. His local knowledge and love for the lake has allowed

him to successfully sell dream properties to clients from all over the world and have a lot of fun doing it!

Greg carries a love and enthusiasm for his profession that is rarely found. He is honest, hardworking and treats every client as he would want to be treated. Waterfront property value and regulations vary from lake to lake and is ever changing. Greg understands the importance of this for potential buyers and sellers and goes above and beyond expectations to make sure his clients are educated and excited to purchase the perfect property.

When not selling real estate, you will often find Greg, his wife, Lindsey, and their two daughters out on Lake Keowee or getting ready for a ball game at Clemson. He has also enjoyed being invited back as a guest lecturer in the School of Business over the years and supporting his favorite local charities. Greg currently serves as a member and Treasurer of the Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation Board. He has also served on the Oconee County Parks & Recreation Board and is actively involved with Ripple of One.



### Seneca recognizes five teachers of the year

The Rotary Club of Seneca celebrated its 2024 Rotary Teachers of the Year for the Seneca area schools. Rotarians who presented the teachers to the club standing in the back are Lyn Norton, President Ray Phillips, Andy Inabinet, and Earnestine Williams.

The teachers recognized are from left to right – **Emily Cutler**, Ravenel Elementary  
**Jodi Ann Taylor**, Seneca Middl  
**Kennedy Burton**, Blue Ridge Elementary  
**Elizabeth Qualkinbush**, Seneca High  
**Sarah DeWolf**, Northside Elementary.

**ROTARY CLUB OF SENECA**



### Aged 11 to 91, Rotarians and Boy Scouts cleaned a stretch of road in Oconee County

Two local service organizations, Seneca Boy Scout Troop 226 ("Do a Good Turn Daily") and Rotary Club of Seneca ("Service Above Self") worked together to clean up 1.5 miles of local roads. Scouts & Rotarians (ages 11-91) serving the community together to pick up 25 bags of trash!!



## NEWS FROM YORK



**YORK ROTARY QUARTERLY ROAD CLEAN-UP DAY.** Members of the club met to pick up trash. York Comprehensive High School football team members also joined in helping out with this community service.



► President Cindy Spragg, President-elect Shelby Cowart, and Maria Duncan ready to go!



### Rotary Leadership Institute

## Two district events scheduled early in 2025

### **LANCASTER**

January 18

USC Lancaster Campus  
Part 1 Only

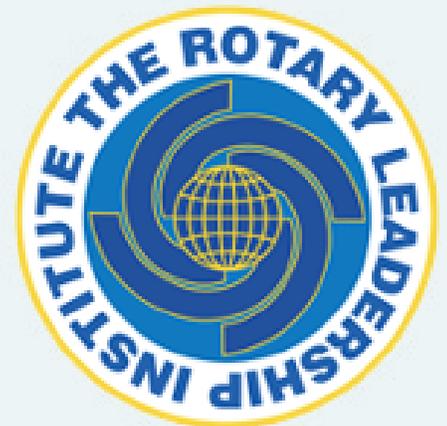
### **ANDERSON**

February 15

Tri-County Tech Anderson  
Parts 1-2-3

Register and find more details at [www.midatlanticrli.org](http://www.midatlanticrli.org)  
or go to the calendar in DaCdb.

Need help or for more info: 7750 RLI Chair Julia Larson—[docjulia99@gmail.com](mailto:docjulia99@gmail.com)



**RLI is a fun way to learn more about Rotary and interact  
with Rotarians from other clubs and districts.**

For Rotary Club of Greer

# October Volunteerism: Members in Action

**BY CARRIE KRAUSE**

*Rotary Club of Greer*

October highlighted the dedication of our members, with over half of our 40-member club participating in volunteer initiatives. Our efforts included:

- Assisting fellow members with personal site clean-ups, strengthening our sense of community.
- Contributing as a club, both financially, and with a donation drive, for Western NC storm relief.
- Stocking food and supplies at Greer Relief to support local families.
- Hosting an ice cream social at Greer Community Ministries' Senior Dining program, bringing joy and fellowship to the elderly.
- Promoting clean water and conservation at Lake Robinson, underscoring Rotary's environmental commitment.



Carrie Krause stocking pantry at Greer Relief.



Claudette Eames leading water conservation activity at Lake Robinson Days.



Some of the supplies the Rotary Club of Greer collected for Western North Carolina.



Stacey Matsuda helping create fall wreaths at Greer Community Ministries' Senior Dining Ice Cream Social.



Cleaning up a club member's property after Helene.

**These efforts reflect Rotary's spirit of "Service Above Self" as our members continuously step up to create positive change, both near and far. We look forward to building on these successes as we move forward!**



## 2024 Clemson Oyster Roast raises \$30,000+

And remembers the Four Jims

BY BRIAN BAKER

*Rotary Club of Clemson*

The Rotary Club of Clemson is thrilled to announce the resounding success of its 19th Annual Oyster Roast, an event that not only brought together the local community but also raised over \$30,000 to support numerous local charities and Rotary International's mission to eradicate polio.

This year's Oyster Roast, held on October 18th at Tiger Park in Clemson, was a momentous occasion, celebrating not only the dedication and commitment of its members but also the positive impact Rotary can make on the local and global community. The event was attended by members, friends, and supporters of the Rotary Club of Clemson, creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and philanthropy that will have a lasting impact.

A remarkable highlight of this year's event was the significant contribution of over **\$30,000, which will be allocated towards supporting various local charities through grants.** These funds will help make a positive change in our community, addressing essential needs and providing assistance to those in need.

Additionally, the Rotary Club of Clemson is proud to continue its support of Rotary International's

mission to eradicate polio from the world. A portion of the funds raised at the Oyster Roast will be dedicated to this vital global effort, contributing to the ongoing fight against this crippling disease.

As we gathered, we did so this year with especially heavy hearts. Over the past two years, our community lost four great men, all of which made a tremendous impact in this world, this community, and our club. In a touching tribute, we asked that everyone take a moment to remember and celebrate the four Jims; James L. Woods Jr., James T. Richardson, James Leon "Lee" Woods, and James W. Hampton. All were dedicated members of our club whose tireless commitment to bettering our community and their compassionate spirit are deeply missed, but their legacies of service certainly live on. In their honor, proceeds made to this memorial will go to benefit the Rotary Foundation, supporting humanitarian projects around the globe.

The Rotary Club of Clemson extends its sincere appreciation to all attendees, sponsors, and volunteers who made this event possible. This year's Oyster Roast is a testament to the Rotary Club's commitment to "Service Above Self."

## SENECA GOLDEN CORNER

### Golden Corner members pack and deliver hygiene kits to local shelter

Members of the Seneca Golden Corner Rotary Club assembled more than 30 hygiene kits for women and men who are clients at Our Daily Rest and Our Daily Bread.

More than 30 kits for men and women at the shelter and soup kitchen. The kits are a regular project of the club.



▲ Pictured from left packing the kits are Golden Corner Rotarians Eddie Perry, Steve Rushton, Gene Williams, David Williams and Cammie Kaiser.



◀ Rotarian Gene Williams, left, delivered the kits to Our Daily Rest officials Gwen Daniels and Antonio Brown.



◀ Jerry Edwards, center, editor and publisher of The Journal based in Seneca, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on the paper's Christmas for Kids program that is expected to reach more than 1,800 children this year.

### Making the turn

Kyle Preskil with Making The Turn Ministries, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club about the organization's efforts to help men who have battled through addiction and need assistance to succeed. The group plans to have services for women soon.



Rotarian Steve Rushton and Kyle Preskil.

### Miss Oktoberfest at Golden Corner

The reigning Miss Oktoberfest Ashlyn Denny and her mother Carla recently visited the Golden Corner Rotary Club and updated the club about her work with children in the Pediatric Unit at Prisma Oconee Memorial Hospital. She is also working with Hurricane Helene relief services. Pictured at right is Golden Corner Rotary Club co-President Patrick Lee.



**Hope In Lancaster County: Our mission is to provide support and education that will promote food security and a path to economic mobility.**

**In Lancaster County**

**Four clubs support effort to promote food security**

**BY SHARON NOVINGER**

*Rotary Club of Lancaster Breakfast*

The three Rotary clubs in Lancaster County and the Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas joined forces in a spirited and competitive effort to stock the food pantry at HOPE in Lancaster, Inc.

“We are proud of these clubs for creating a food pantry challenge that results in a huge win for the Lancaster County community,” said DG Rysheeka Bush. “Rotarians are People of Action, and these four clubs exhibited a winning combination for the local community, aligning perfectly with HOPE’s mission.”

Each club was tasked with collecting designated food items for the friendly competition that concluded on October 29.

Total donations yielded 1,561 pounds of food, 525 items, to help fill the pantry shelves.

Last year HOPE distributed more than 453,000 pounds of food to struggling households, which it could not have done without regular support from community partners. These food donations allow households to use the funds freed up by the food they receive from the pantry to address other needs. This is so meaningful to families who don’t have the money to buy much food on their own.

In 2022, the Rotary Clubs of Lancaster County held a similar challenge, collecting 1,045 jars of spaghetti sauce for HOPE. Based on the energy created between the clubs and passion to contribute to the community, the clubs are considering making this challenge an annual event.

“Lancaster area Rotary clubs love a friendly competition,” said Lancaster Breakfast President April Williams.

The real winners, though, are those

in our community who are able to have food in their pantries—made possible by the generosity of Rotarians.”

“My experience as a non-profit director and a long-time HOPE board member has shown me the incredible power of local organizations,” said Lancaster Rotary Club President Melanie Outlaw. “I was honored to join forces with Rotarians from across the county to support HOPE’s food pantry. While the friendly competition was fun, the real

reward was knowing that we were making a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors.”

Michael Olson, President of the Rotary Clubs of Indian Land, added, “Ensuring our local economy flourishes is essential, and we feel compelled to engage actively in programs that

support community growth.”

Although the E-Club joined the food pantry challenge a bit later, its members, some of whom live in the area, made a significant impact on the amount of food collected. “Although we joined the challenge later, our team was eager to contribute and support the Lancaster community. We are looking forward to seeing how we can continue to help in the future,” said Julia Larson, President of the E-Club of the Carolinas.

April Williams summed up the collective sentiment: “We understand that many individuals and families face difficult times for various reasons, and we are delighted to have organizations like HOPE to assist during these times of need. Rotary is honored to

contribute and be part of the solution.”

**We appreciate Rotarians joining us as we provide support and education that will promote food security and a path to economic mobility. These Rotary clubs truly exemplify service above self with their faithful support of HOPE in Lancaster.—Susan Dolphin, HOPE’s Executive Director**

ROTARY CLUB	Food item
Lancaster	Grits
Lancaster Breakfast	Juices
Clubs of Indian Land	Peanut Butter and Jelly
E-Club of the Carolinas	All of the above



### DG Rysheeka at Greenville Club

District Governor Rysheeka Bush visited the Rotary Club of Greenville on November 11-12. She met with the board on Monday night, then shared her Rotary story at the club meeting the next day.

Left to right: David Norman, Jr., Luke Rhodes, PDG Beth Padgett, Brett Caldwell, Lisa Mangione, DG Rysheeka Bush, Roger Heitzeg, Ryan Brown, Kristine Amine, Jeremy Hart, Amy Randall, Jeni Townsend, David Carfolite, DGE David Brenner, & Rusty Infinger.



Left to right: Christina Wieland, Thomas Sanders, Terry Weaver, Jess Abbott, Tommy Abbott, Tonya Camunas, Hillary Perry, Beth Kelly, & Rusty Infinger.

## Greenville Rotarians build book nooks for service partner

In October, the Rotary Club of Greenville's After Hours club, together with its service partner, A Child's Haven, built outdoor book nooks for their campus.

In November, the club again pulled its teams together to build indoor book nooks, which are special spaces where children can discover the joy of reading. This is in support of their planned launch of Betty's Book Buddies early next year, a project championed by community leader Betty Farr.



Left to right: Amy Randall, Tanya Camunas & Rusty Infinger.





Bill Harclerode, Trip and Melinda Gilreath

### Golden Strip Sunrise in the Pumpkin Patch

Golden Strip Sunrise members assisted with sales at the Pumpkin Patch in Simpsonville, benefitting The Little White House, which helps children with severe autism or ADHD. They combine the Montessori approach to education with real life learning to create a unique program. Their mission is to equip the students with skills that will enhance their lives in a positive way.



Vince Petrell  
Sam Stamps  
Becky Miller  
Jim Cashion



### Golden Strip helps with community clean-up day

Golden Strip Sunrise took part in a community clean-up day at the Center for Community Services (CCS), a vital multi-service hub in Greenville County. This collaboration underscores the commitment of local organizations to foster a cleaner and more welcoming environment for those who rely on CCS for various human services.

Left Photo: Vince Petrell, Paul Gawell, Sam Stamps, prospective Rotarian Alan, Dee Vaughan.

Right Photo: Jim Caprell



Sam Gault, Steve Epps, Melinda Gilreath, Jim Cashion, Tiffany Ervin, Dee Vaughan, Sam Stamps, Vince Petrell, Shelly Savage, Chuck Crews.

## Golden Strip Sunrise & Fountain Inn sponsor Night of Singing to support schools' music programs



On November 14, the Golden Strip Sunrise and Fountain Inn Rotary Clubs hosted the 27th Annual Rotary Night of Singing.

Students from high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools showcased their musical talents to an audience of 2,100.

Tickets were sold by the schools, with the proceeds

supporting the music program.

To help cover printing costs and provide funding for high school music scholarships, Rotarians sold advertisements in the program to local businesses and community organizations.

The emcee for the event was Tiffany Ervin of Spartanburg, Executive Director of CART.



Sam Stamps, Bill Harclerode



Dee Vaughan, Trip and Melinda Gilreath.

## Golden Strip Sunrise helps with festival to support abused boys

The Generations Group held a Fall Festival on October 25 and Rotarians from Golden Strip Sunrise were there to help by working the bouncy castle, football and baseball throws, and the prize tent where the boys redeemed their earned tickets for prizes. Generations Group Home plays a critical role in offering specialized support and rehabilitation for boys who have been sexually abused.

# Rotary Club of Greer: A Season of Service and Impact



**Area club members gather at La Joya Bar & Grille for Health and Happiness**

**Virginia Barnes, Upstate Warrior Solutions, received the donations for homeless veterans collected by Greer Rotarians.**

## ROTARY CLUB OF GREER

# Quilts of Valor: Honoring Veterans

In a moving ceremony on November 5, Quilts of Valor made a presentation to honor members of the Rotary Club of Greer who are veterans. Beautiful, handcrafted quilts were gifted to those who served in the armed forces, expressing the country's deep gratitude for their service and sacrifice. This heartfelt presentation brought together our club in a special moment of reflection and respect.—*Carrie Krause*



Greer veterans honored, from left: Frank Antifonario, Isabella Martinez Bond, JR Covert, Kerry Krause, Amy McBurnie, Mark Moreno, Jim Nichols, Russ Shumway.

Jim Nichols, President of the Greer club, receiving his quilt from members of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.





### Pleasantburg recognizes its veterans

Pleasantburg Club Rotarians observed Veterans Day at their November 7 meeting by honoring club members who had served in the United States military. These veterans, collectively of the Air Force, Navy, Army, and Marines, shared stories of their military service and the impact it had on their lives. Left to right: Bob Grazio, Barry Kimbrough, Jon Rodgers, and Quentin Ball, joined by DGE Dave Brenner of the Greenville Breakfast Club. Not pictured: Mark Sexton, who joined by Zoom.



### Pleasantburg places flags on veterans' graves

In a pop-up service project, club members (left to right) Kristina Hammock, Larry Lee, and Susan Hughes continued the Veterans Day observance by helping other community volunteers place flags on the graves of veterans at Springwood Cemetery in Greenville. The event was sponsored by the Upstate Cemetery Preservation Alliance.



Newberry laypeople of the year: Mary Beth Heath and Tracey Wise.



Jason Edwards



Big crowd for a full breakfast.



## Newberry club sponsors 44th Annual Prayer Breakfast

Bright and early on Friday Nov. 22, the Rotary Club of Newberry hosted its 44th Annual Prayer Breakfast at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

A full breakfast was served and several prayers were given to benefit the community and those in attendance.

The highlight of the event is always the naming the Layperson Of The Year – someone who has

distinguished themselves in service to others in the community. This year Mary Beth Heath and Tracey Wise were co-recipients because of their collaboration for the benefit of the community.

More than 100 were in attendance to have breakfast and to hear Jason Edwards speak about denying self and serving others.

## News from Pleasantburg



### Netherlands Rotarian exchanges flags with Pleasantburg president Lale Dogan

Christina Molinaar of the Rotary Club of Harderwijk in The Netherlands exchanges club banners with Pleasantburg Club President Lale Dogan while visiting the club's lunch meeting on Nov. 21.



### Pleasantburg club hears about homeless issue

Sgt. Adrian S. Allen (left) of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, who spoke at the Pleasantburg club's November 21 meeting regarding the Homeless Response Team's efforts to move residents from homeless camps to safer housing, discusses the issue with Rotarian John McAfee.

## Paws & Pints for Polio: Fun for a Cause

### on a chilly day

On October 27, the Rotary Club of Greer hosted its first Paws & Pints for Polio event—a lively afternoon that brought the community together to support Rotary's End Polio Now campaign.

Despite the chilly weather, attendees and their furry friends gathered at Southern Growl Brewing for a day of fun and impactful fundraising.

Thanks to the generous support of Knotty Pawz Toys, Barkbox, and Woofies, the event raised awareness and funds to eradicate polio, showing that service can be both meaningful and enjoyable—even on a brisk fall day!

With the proceeds from the event combined with matching donations, the club raised just over **\$1,500** for PolioPlus.



Jim Nichols presents one of the prizes to a happy attendee, Puppy!

## News from Greer



**Two new Major Donors from E-Club of the Carolinas**

Both Franca and Alberto Melloncelli, members of the Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas, were recognized as Major Donors Level 1 at the Foundation, IPDG Renee Stubbs made the presentation.

**Grier Sandifer receives PHF+5 at York**

Club President Cindy Spragg, right, presented Grier Sandifer with his Paul Harris pin level 5.



**Rogers makes grandson a Paul Harris Fellow at Pleasantburg**

Pleasantburg Rotarian Jon Rogers (right) honored his grandson, Micah King, with a Paul Harris Fellow at the club's November 7 meeting.

# Clubs make a difference in their communities

Here is how some Rotary Clubs are using their District Grants to make a difference in their local communities.

## GREENVILLE

**Literacy**  
**\$4,000**

The Rotary Club of Greenville will help GED students at Greenville Literacy Association with the testing fees and materials needed for students to prepare for and take the GED exam. Paying these fees often is an obstacle along the way for students seeking to earn their GED so they can find higher-paying jobs. Rotarians will work with GLA’s annual book sale, support GLA’s graduation ceremonies for GED students, and occasionally serve as tutors. Approximately 60 Rotarians will work with this project that has more than 400 beneficiaries.

## GREENVILLE

**Alexander Elementary**  
**\$5,000**

The Rotary Club of Greenville will support Alexander Elementary School which is a Title I school with 100% of the students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Funds will be used for teacher support, student support, family support, and student staff celebrations. Eighty Rotarians

## Featured District Grants 2024-25

Club .....	Project .....	Grant .....
Greenville.....	Literacy .....	\$4,000.00
Greenville.....	Alexander Elementary .....	\$5,000.00
Greenville Breakfast .....	Food Insecurity .....	\$2,000.00
Greenville City Center ....	River Meadow .....	\$2,500.00
Greenwood.....	Rise Against Hunger .....	\$2,500.00
Indian Land Lunch .....	Literacy Projects .....	\$5,000.00
Lake Wylie .....	Music to Youth.....	\$2,500.00
Lancaster .....	Flock It Up .....	\$5,000.00
Lancaster Breakfast .....	Conservation .....	\$5,000.00
Laurens .....	Backpack Program.....	\$5,000.00

will participate in this project that has 550 beneficiaries.

## GREENVILLE BREAKFAST

**Food Insecurity**  
**\$2,000**

The Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club will work with Mill Village Farm’s FoodShare program by purchasing fresh vegetables that will be distributed to low-income households for a deep discount. Vegetables are placed in FoodShare boxes and distributed to low-income households. Sixteen Rotarians will work on this project that has 1,600 potential beneficiaries.

## GREENVILLE CITY CENTER

**River Meadow**  
**\$2,500**

The Greenville City Center Rotary Club will improve a 1.8-acre section of land on the Swamp Rabbit running and biking trail that is used by 2000 individuals per day. They will inventory the plants on the property, prepare a

design incorporating walking trails, educational signage and plantings, and remove invasive vegetation. Twenty-five Rotarians will be involved in a project with 2,000 beneficiaries.

## GREENWOOD

**Rise Against Hunger**  
**\$2,500**

The Rotary Club of Greenwood will conduct a Rise Against Hunger food packing event during which 20,000 meals. Fifty-five Rotarians will be involve, and 20,000 individuals will benefit.

## INDIAN LAND LUNCH

**Literacy Projects**  
**\$5,000**

Indian Land Lunch Rotary Club will supply dictionaries to the three Indian Land Elementary Schools and read to students and provide copies of the books read to the students. They will provide algebra- level calculators to Middle School math teachers to allow a resource to all





## Blacksburg uses district grant to support Backpack Buddies

The Blacksburg Rotary Club donated \$2,000 to Backpack Buddies, a program designed to provide food during weekends and holidays when children do not have access to school meals.

The program helps 165 children from all of Blacksburg's schools. The club used its district grant to make this gift. Club members will also help pack the backpacks.

◀ Blacksburg president David Roark presents the check to Robin Woodward, program director of the Blacksburg Backpack Buddy program.

## 2024-25 District Grants—

continued from previous page

students. And they will hold an event for Rotarians to explain the importance of math. Fifty Rotarians will be involved, and 1,000 students to benefit.

### LAKE WYLIE

#### Music to Youth

**\$2,500**

Lake Wylie Rotary Club will acquire musical instruments and provide for musical lessons to students at Crowders Creek Elementary School. This is a school where the students could probably not be able to obtain instruments or musical lessons. Twenty Rotarians will be involved and this project has the potential to impact any one of 1,200 students.

### LANCASTER

#### Flock It Up

**\$5,000**

Lancaster Rotary Club will provide Flock cameras in the Lancaster area to monitor activity and be a deterrent to crime. The total population of the Lancaster area (108,000) will benefit, and 30 Rotarians are involved.

### LANCASTER BREAKFAST

#### Conservation

**\$5,000**

Lancaster Breakfast Rotary Club will develop the 2.5-mile Lindsay Pettus Greenway with 1) Environmental interpretation signs, 2) Tree ID signs, 3) Plant hardwood trees, and 4) Plant understory plants. There will be 2,000 beneficiaries, and 50 Rotarians will be involved.



## Babette Sabia becomes Bequest Society Level 3

Babette Sabia of Indian Land Lunch received her Bequest Society Level 3 Award from PDG Renée at the Foundation Banquet.



## Foundation speaker Vanessa Ervin

Vanessa Ervin, a Past District Governor from North Carolina, was the keynote speaker for the 2024 Foundation Celebration held November 8 in Greenville. She delivered an inspirational speech on "IMPACT - Ordinary People Making an Extraordinary Impact On Their World."

# Giving Tuesday! (Or Other Days of the Week – Through Dec. 20!)

## DG Rysheeka Bush's Rotary Foundation Challenge

District Governor Rysheeka Bush would like to see how many Rotarians in District 7750 will contribute to Annual Fund-SHARE on December 3, 2024, which is Giving Tuesday! We also will count contributions made from Thursday, 11/28 – Friday, 12/20. Yes, this year, Giving Tuesday will last almost a month in District 7750. Thank you to several District 7750 Rotarians for donating Recognition Points for this challenge match.

Contributions can be made online at My Rotary – <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> or by calling the Rotary Support Center at 866-976-8279 and making a contribution over the phone. Contributions also can be made through your club as long as they are sent to Rotary International no later than Dec. 20. Make sure your Rotary Member ID Number is associated with your gift.

- Rotarians who make at least a \$100 donation

will be given 100 points.

- Contributions over \$100 will receive an equal number of matching points (for example, donate \$200 get 200 points).
- Points will be matched up to \$500.

Major Donors or PHF+8 level donors are encouraged to participate but will not receive points because they can no longer use Foundation Matching Points donated by another Rotarian. Your gifts are greatly appreciated, as is your leadership giving to The Rotary Foundation.

**Thank you for all you do for Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. You are changing lives every day through your donations.**

**If you need help making a contribution, contact Beth Padgett at [bpadgettrotary@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgettrotary@outlook.com).**

## Fort Mill leads district in per capita giving

Fort Mill Rotary Club, represented by Al Steele and Ben Ficklen, received First Place for being the Top Per Capita Giving Club to The Rotary Foundation. Fort Mill Rotarians contributed \$962.64 per capita to the Annual Fund in 2023-24. Fort Mill also was second place for Top Total Giving Club with an annual contribution of \$62,608. From left: Al Steele, IPDG Reneé Stubbs, Ben Ficklen.



# New Members in October

Biggerstaff, Laura	Greer	Napodano, Abbey	Fort Mill
Branum, Donald	Aiken	Page, Jonah	Lancaster Breakfast
Donkers, Ronald Gerhard	Travelers Rest	Patrick, Sandi	Lancaster Breakfast
Dunlap, William	Laurens	Piscatelli, Katie	York
Ekwo, Sixtus	Indian Land Lunch	Rivers, Martha M	Aiken
Evans, Elizabeth A	Indian Land Lunch	Sakraida, Kathy	Greenville City Center
Good, Michael	Aiken	Simmons, Steven F	Aiken
Hatchett, Brian	Pickens	Skeen, David W. Jr.	Spartanburg
James, Van M	Anderson	Stevenson, Brantley	Lancaster Breakfast
Jones, Hunter	Greenville	Tabor, Jordan	Fort Mill
Knox, Robyn G.	Anderson	Wallace, Leslie E	Union
Long, Steve	Fort Mill	Wieland, Christina	Greenville
McKinney, George H. II	Greenwood	Woodworth, Jim	Pickens

**OCTOBER 2024: 26 NEW MEMBERS – 21 TERMINATED MEMBERS (0 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.**



**The Greenville Rotary Club was recognized at the Foundation Banquet for being the Top Total Giving Club with an annual contribution of \$67,726. Pictured are some of the members who were at the celebration.**

**Deadline for January newsletter is Dec. 26.**

**Send items to newsletter editor Sue Poss, pdgsueposs@gmail.com.**