THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

DISTRICT GOVERNOR RYSHEEKA BUSH
Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise | rysheeka@yahoo.com
FEBRUARY 2025 | WWW.ROTARY7750.ORG

7 5 0 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



FEBRUARY

Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

MARCH

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

By leveraging the spirit of Valentine's Day with Peace and Conflict Prevention month, your club—or just a single Rotarian—can engage in activities that enhance your community's wellbeing, foster greater connection, and spread love and kindness.

Valentine's and Peace month! who/what in your COMMUNITY CAN USE A LITTLE SPECIAL ATTENTION?

In February, with Valentine's Day creating a spirit of love and compassion, our clubs have a wonderful opportunity to expand our efforts and spread even more joy and support, especially to those who need a little extra help or attention. A few ideas...

Enhance Community Support Programs

You can organize special events and activities to support various groups within the community. For instance, you can arrange visits and provide gifts to seniors in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. These visits not only offer companionship and joy but also show residents that they are valued and remembered.

Fundraisers for Local Charities

Host themed fundraisers that engage the community and raise money for local charities. Examples include Valentine's Day dinners, dances, or bake sales. These fundraisers not only bring people together in celebration but also support vital local services and organizations.

Highlighting heart health in

Promote Health and Wellbeing

February aligns perfectly with both the spirit of Valentine's Day and American Heart Month. You can organize educational workshops, health fairs, and free health screening events...

Support Youth Initiatives

Work with local schools to organize activities that foster a sense of community and empathy among students. This can include mentoring programs, scholarship drives, or youth-led service projects that focus on spreading kindness and love. By empowering young people, you help build the next generation of compassionate leaders.

Acts of Kindness Campaigns

Simple acts of kindness can make a huge difference in someone's day. Examples: paying for someone's coffee, helping a neighbor with groceries, or writing thank-you notes to local service workers. These small gestures, amplified across the community, cultivate a culture of caring and connection.

Supporting Homeless Shelters and Food Banks

Reach out to homeless shelters and food banks to find out what they need. Collect and donate items such as blankets, toiletries, and non-perishable food.

FEBRUARY, WITH ITS FOCUS ON PEACE AND LOVE, IS AN IDEAL TIME TO REACH OUT AND MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY.

THE MAGIC

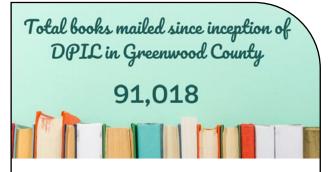
Work for peace at home—or anywhere else! BY DG RYSHEEKA BUSH

The love of Rotary is in the air! This is the month in Rotary that we focus on Peace and Conflict Resolution. I would like to share some ideas that perhaps your club may be interested in that will allow you to spread the word of peace in your community.

- Sponsor a conflict resolution seminar at a local school or meeting area. If you are trained in conflict resolution, reach out to a local school and ask if you can speak with students to share techniques do de-escalate
- tense situations. Erect a Peace Pole at a local park or school. We have three Peace Pole's in our District that were developed during the terms of PDG Lorraine Angelino and PDG Reneé Stubbs.
- Support a local or global project whose focus is peace.
- Research the possibility of a student or graduate from one of Rotary's seven Peace Centers to be a speaker at your club—and invite the local youth.

More ideas can be found at rotary.org. I strongly encourage you to think about what your club can do to spread the word of peace in your community as well as around the world. Continue to be Magical.

←This is the Peace Pole that the Rotary Club of Newberry installed last year.



Emerald City still committed to Dollly Parton Library

The Rotary Club of Emerald City has had a long partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL).

Currently, 1,729 children in Greenwood County are enrolled in DPIL, a program dedicated to fostering early literacy by delivering free books to children from birth to age five.

Additionally, 1,936 children have graduated from the program after celebrating their 5th birthday, ready for the next steps in their educational journey.

But the club won't stop now. Its goal is to enroll at least 60% of the children born in Greenwood, up from the current 40%. Club members know there is still much work to do to ensure all children in their community have access to the resources they need to start their educational paths strong.



New member at Lancaster

Jennifer Page is a new member of the Rotary Club of Lancaster. PDG Joyce Morin presented her Rotary pin. Lancaster has inducted two new members this year and has 60 members.







Don't miss the February 22 GIMME session

BY ALBERT BLACKMON

D-7750 Membership Chair albert.blackmon@sc.edu

Wow, the first month of the year is already behind us! How are your personal New Year's resolutions coming along? How are you tracking toward your membership goals?

Join us for a **Membership Booster Session** on **February 22, 9:30–11:30 AM**—online via Zoom. This special session is designed to celebrate successes and equip clubs with additional tools to achieve net membership gains and boost overall performance.

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA FOR THE G.I.M.M.E. SESSION?

- Practical membership expansion ideas and tools: Discover actionable strategies to help your club grow. When leaders see success, they strive for more—we're here to deliver just that.
- 2. Success stories from District 7750 clubs: Learn from the achievements of fellow clubs and find inspiration in their approaches.
- 3. Year-to-date (YTD) success track review: Understand how clubs are performing and identify opportunities for improvement.
- 4. Public Image and Public Relations discussion: Explore ways to elevate your club's visibility and attract new members.

The G.I.M.M.E. session is a powerful reminder that it's not too late to have a significant impact. Let's work together to expand our reach and welcome

GIMME Session

G aining

I mpressive

M embership

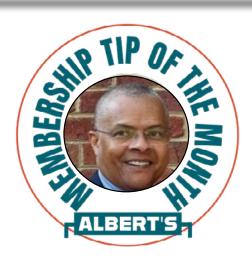
M omentum

veryday

additional quality Rotarians into our community. If you're motivated to grow, we have the tools to help you succeed!

Take a moment to review your club's performance as of January 1, 2025, and lock in two hours on February 22 to push your membership growth to new heights. Your participation is key to making the 2024-25 Rotary year a standout model for growth and success!

Scan the QR code or click here to register.



ow's The Time to act and positively impact your year-end performance. If you haven't already scheduled a Rotary Informational Session (Discover Rotary), plan one at least six weeks from today to bring prospective members together and share the Rotary story.

Your District Membership Team is happy to assist you in developing the program and making it a success! And I am available to join you in person to help deliver the program.—Albert



Success Track ?



The Success Track is where it's at!

District 7750 is above the SUCCESS TRACK again, and we need your help to stay on the course and avoid slipping behind the target success line.

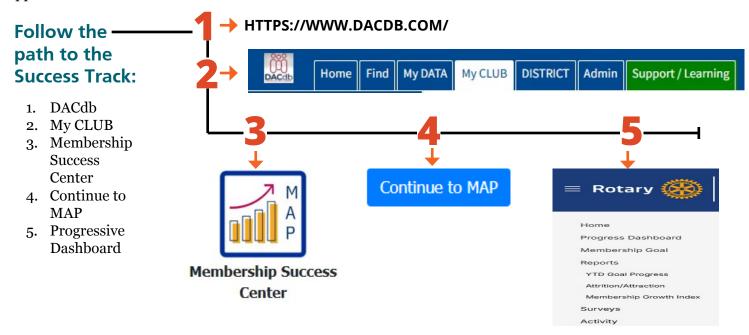
You might be wondering: Why should we review the success track, and what does this chart really tell us?

Planning is an essential ingredient for achieving any goal—whether personal or professional. A well-crafted plan increases your likelihood of success, and measurable goals help you track your progress. That's exactly what the success track does for us.

Based on our annual membership growth goal and average attrition rate (member loss), the gold line represents a steady target, breaking down the year-long goal into manageable, incremental growth. This perspective makes the tracking process more approachable. The blue line shows your club's actual monthly performance as members join or leave. The objective? **Stay on or above the gold line.** Consistency here not only ensures growth for your club this Rotary year but also establishes a reliable process for future membership expansion.

We've all heard the saying, "The world needs more Rotarians." Your club plays a key role in making that happen.

The success track chart is accessible in DACdb, both at the district and club levels. Take a moment to review your club's performance and see how it measures up. Together, we can continue making a difference!—Albert





District 7750 — Membership Ranking Report

July 1, 2024-January 1, 2025

Our ranking report is based on the percentage of members added to your July 1, 2024 base. Let's continue to celebrate the new Rotarians added to the district during this Rotary year and gear up to add more as we have four months remaining. Additionally, let's not lose sight of the last column as we focus on closing those negative gaps. —*Albert*

Club Ranking	Club	Starting Member Count	New Members YTD	% New Members YTD	Ahead (Behind) New Member Pace
1	Indian Land Lunch	53	16	30.2%	9.5
2	Pickens	30	8	26.7%	2
3	Travelers Rest	14	3	21.4%	-0.3
4	E-Club of The Carolinas	23	4	17.4%	-2
5	York	29	5	17.2%	1.2
6	Winnsboro	19	3	15.8%	0.2
7	Westminster	26	4	15.4%	1.2
8	Greer	40	6	15.0%	0.5
9	Lake Wylie	34	5	14.7%	-1
10	Greenville City Center	45	6	13.3%	-3.9
11	North Augusta	16	2	12.5%	-0.8
12	Seneca	25	3	12.0%	-2.5
13	Greenville	166	17	10.2%	-15.3
14	Anderson	109	11	10.1%	-2.1
15	Lancaster Breakfast	53	5	9.4%	-2.6
16	Golden Strip Sunrise	22	2	9.1%	-0.3
17	Pleasantburg	45	4	8.9%	-2
18	Gaffney	59	5	8.5%	-0.5
19	Fort Mill	65	5	7.7%	-5.4
20	Clinton	30	2	6.7%	-5.6
21	Clemson Sunrise	32	2	6.3%	-1.8
22	Rock Hill	65	4	6.2%	-3.1
23	Emerald City	84	5	6.0%	-4.4
24	Walhalla	34	2	5.9%	0.3
25	Aiken	162	9	5.6%	-13.4
26	Aiken Sunrise	38	2	5.3%	-1.3
27	Greenwood	99	5	5.1%	-5.9
28	Union	40	2	5.0%	-0.8
29	Reedy River Greenville	21	1	4.8%	-4.5
30	Newberry	64	3	4.7%	-4.6
31	Abbeville	47	2	4.3%	-6.7





Club Ranking	Club	Starting Member Count	New Members YTD	% New Members YTD	Ahead (Behind) New Member Pace
32	Easley	72	3	4.2%	-2.5
33	Clover	26	1	3.8%	-1.7
34	Spartan West	26	1	3.8%	-2.3
35	Clemson	90	3	3.3%	-4.6
36	Lancaster	60	2	3.3%	-7.8
37	Fountain Inn	33	1	3.0%	-5
38	Spartanburg	175	4	2.3%	-15.1
39	Laurens	50	1	2.0%	-2.8
40	Chester	54	1	1.9%	-3.9
41	Greater Anderson	62	1	1.6%	-3.9
42	Batesburg-Leesville	22	0	0.0%	-2.7
43	Blacksburg	10	0	0.0%	-4.4
44	Carolina Foothills	19	0	0.0%	-3.8
45	Greenville Breakfast	16	0	0.0%	-2.7
46	Mauldin	12	0	0.0%	-8.2
47	North Spartanburg	28	0	0.0%	-2.2
48	Seneca Golden Corner	20	0	0.0%	-2.7
49	Simpsonville	32	0	0.0%	-5.5



Westminister inducts three members

The Rotary Club of Westminster inducted three new members: Judy Caywood,. Brandon Smith, and Wil Collins. Westminister now has 26 members, up four for the year.



Spartanburg inducts new member

The Rotary Club of Spartanburg had a special task for DG Rysheeka when she visited on Jan. 7—she inducted new member Bill Oldham. Pictured are club president Louis Smith, Rysheeka and Bill. And, by the way, Rysheeka enjoyed the Piedmont Club's special fried shrimp too. Spartanburg has 179 members, up four for the year.





Short-term youth exchange student from Argentina in Aiken

The Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise is sponsoring youth exchange student Catalina Pelligrini. Catalina arrived on January 1 from Argentina for a short-term stay. Her host family, with which she is pictured, is Tim Bey and Tammy Surrency. Also pictured are 7750 Youth Exchange chair Wade Cleveland and club president Forest Mahan



Two new members at Pleasantburg

Past president Tracy Tiddy, left, filled in for club president Lale Dogan, to induct new members Carroll Howell and Brenda Owen at the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg's January lunch meeting. New members Carroll Howell (second from left) and Brenda Owen (second from right), with sponsors Linda Lee (left) and Crystal O'Connor (right).



RLI event reaches 18 Rotarians

Eighteen Rotarians participated in the RLI Part I event held in Lancaster on Jan. 18. Facilitators included 7750 RLI Chair Julia Larson, PDG Rod Funderburk (7770, standing left below), Kylie Herbert. Melissa Evans, standing center in the photo below from 7770, was observing as a facilitator.



Next Rotary Leadership Institute

ANDERSON ON FEBRUARY 15

February 15

Tri-County Tech Anderson Parts 1-2-3

Register and find more details at www.midatlanticrli.org or go to the calendar in DaCdb.







Dining Around Greer coming up in March

The Rotary Club of Greer is sponsoring its Dining Around Greer fundraiser for the second year, an event where attendees can experience the best of Greer's

culinary scene in one afternoon. There will be a raffle for several prizes and a single door prize, a 65" Smart TV.

Proceeds from this event directly support Rotary Club of Greer's initiatives, including scholarships, community service projects, and Rotary International projects.

EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: March 2, 1:00 - 3:30 PM LOCATION: Greer City Hall TICKETS: https://bit.ly/

DAG2025, \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door



Seneca gets update on local Fine Arts Center

Seneca's City Administrator Scott Moulder updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club about the city's new 702seat fine arts center downtown and the work to incorporate the former Seneca Middle School into the city's recreation programs. Pictured from left are club co-president Beth Brown, Scott, Rotarian Lorraine Harding and co-president Patrick Lee.

Greenville City Center celebrates 70 years of service





he Rotary Club of Greenville City Center celebrated its 70th anniversary on January 17.

This milestone is a testament to the dedication of its members—past and present—who worked tirelessly to live out the Rotary motto: Service Above Self.

Greenville City Center, with 54 members, meets at lunchtime on Fridays at the Poinsett Club in downtown Greenville. Terry Tate is president.



Pleasantburg kicks it up a notch to get ready for Spring Sing

BY LINDA LEE

Rotary Club of Pleasantburg

While work on Spring Sing, co-sponsored by the Greenville County Schools and the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg, continues year-round, January kicks off three months of intense last minute preparations.

At the club's January lunch meeting, Bradley Wingate, Director of Visual and Performing Arts for the Greenville County Schools, and key staff briefed club members on the Greenville County Schools' role in bringing this event to life.

The 2025 Spring Sing, the 43rd, is scheduled for April 8 at the Peace Center in Greenville.

Spring Sing is the club's signature event, bringing together over 450 elementary and middle school students in a professionally conducted performance in the Concert Hall of the Peace Center.

→How the students are selected

Lead Middle School Teacher Vaness Rhodes (left) and Lead Elementary School Teacher Jenn Davis, describe the process for selecting students for the honor choirs and rehearsal schedules.



Spring Sing Committee member Kristina Hammock presents Bradley Wingate with a check from the Pleasantburg Rotary Foundation, for Spring Sing music and rehearsal expenses.





Videographers for Spring Sing

Unsung heroes of Spring Sing are the videographers: Michael Geer (left) and Codie Sloan. They bring years of professional broadcast experience to bear when producing a polished and permanent video record of Spring Sing.





Pleasantburg new year fun social

While Pleasantburg Rotary Club members are busy getting ready for Spring Sing, they also took some time to just enjoy some fellowship. They jumped into the New Year with a social at Fireforge Crafted Brew in downtown Greenville. George (left) and Susan Hughes, a house divided between Simpsonsville (George) and Pleasantburg (Susan) Rotary clubs, with grandson Tillman, a young Rotarian-in-Training. And Kathy Sharp (left) and Wade Cleveland take a break from their Youth Exchange duties to catch up with fellow Rotarians at the event.



Leave a lasting gift to Rotary

Many Rotarians give consistently and enthusiastically to The Rotary Foundation because they have a keen understanding of the good that gift does each year. It's reassuring to learn that we Rotarians can have an impact now through our annual giving and forever through our legacy giving.

As we move to the halfway point of District 7750's Million Dollar Campaign, it's important to remember that much of the giving will be done through bequests that will continue doing good long after our days on earth have ended.

A bequest of \$25,000 will generate approximately \$1,000 a year in perpetuity. In short, a Paul Harris Society member can ensure that the tradition of giving \$1,000 a year for the Annual Fund continues for generations because the value of a gift to Rotary's Endowment keeps on growing.

Let's take a real-life example. Our District has six endowed funds at this time. Three are for Annual Fund – SHARE, while two are for the World Fund and one is for a global grant.

A Rotarian in our District made a \$25,000 bequest years ago. Upon death, that bequest began producing spendable earnings while the principle also was growing. This year, that endowed fund provided \$548.35 for District Designated Funds that come back to our District and an equal amount for the World Fund. At the same time, even while providing more than \$1,000 a year for current Rotary projects, the endowed fund has grown to \$30,597.

In this current Rotary year, \$2,807.03 has come back to our District through the endowed funds designated for SHARE. At the same time, an equal amount of money has gone to the World Fund for such things as providing a match for Global Grants.

These gifts will continue because Rotary preserves and invests the initial contribution and spends only a portion of the earnings. This illustrates the power of legacy giving.



D-7750 Foundation Chair PDG BETH PADGETT bpadgettrotary@outlook.com

Leaving a bequest through The Rotary Foundation is easy. That gift will be managed by one of the most highly respected nonprofit organizations in the world. And through that legacy giving, a person can continue "Doing Good in the World" forever.

Interested in becoming a member of The Rotary Foundation's Bequest

Society? Contact District Rotary
Foundation Chair Beth Padgett
at bpadgettrotary@outlook.
com or District Endowment and
Major Gifts Chair Lance Young at
lsyoung@clemson.edu. Also, we
can connect you with Rotary Major
Gifts Officer Jon Teich.



↑PHF+4 in Walhalla

Tim Merrell, a member of the Rotary Club of Walhalla, received his Paul Harris plus 4 pin from club member and assistant governor Steve Graves. Gifts like these make District Grants possible—and help us do work around the world.



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. The number in bold print is the amount of the District Grant.

SIMPSONVILLE

Dictionary

\$1,500

The Simpsonville Rotary Club will distribute dictionaries to all 3rd graders in the eight elementary schools in the Simpsonville area. Twenty Rotarians are involved, and 1,300 students will benefit. The total budget for the project is \$3,500.

SIMPSONVILLE Shop with a Cop \$500

The Simpsonville Rotary Club will provide gifts for families at Christmas through a program sponsored by the Simpsonville Police Department. The families participating in the program have been impacted by crime.

SIMPSONVILLERotary Christmas

\$500

Simpsonville Rotary Club again will participate in the annual Christmas toy giveaway for the community. They will provide toys for the event that also will include performances, free food and rides.

Featured District Grants 2024-25

Club	Project	Grant
Simpsonville	Rotary Christmas	\$500.00
Simpsonville	Shop with a Cop	\$500.00
Simpsonville	. Dictionary	\$1,500.00
Spartan West	Rest Victims	\$2,500.00
Spartanburg	Piedmont Science	\$2,500.00
Travelers Rest	Children's Garden	\$800.00
Union	Magic of Reading	\$2,500.00
Walhalla	Special Needs Bikes	\$1,000.00
Westminster	Pedals Possible	\$1,000.00
Winnsboro	Outdoor Food Pantry	\$1,000.00
York	School Readiness	\$3,000.00

SPARTAN WEST

Victims' Rest Space

\$2,500

The Spartan West Rotary Club will help furnish a space in the Spartanburg County Courthouse for those who are victims of domestic violence. The space will be furnished with comfortable furniture with the goal of providing a soothing and comfortable space. Twenty-seven Rotarians are involved, and 2,500 people will benefit from this project. The total budget is \$5,000.

SPARTANBURG

Science Fair

\$2,500

The Spartanburg Rotary Club will support the Piedmont Science Fair as the sole sponsor of this event. Funds will be used for the following: Equipment Rental, Refreshments, Student Materials, Gift Cards for Prize Winners, and International Science Fair Costs for Winners. Fifty Rotarians are involved, and 500 students will

benefit from the project. The total budget is \$12,500.

TRAVELERS REST

Children's Garden

\$800

The Travelers Rest Rotary Club will work on a phased educational garden that teaches children about plants, colors, animals, and other topics. Also helping with the project is Girl Scout Troop 3370.

UNION

Magic of Reading

\$2,500

The Union Rotary Club will distribute grade-level reading books and book bags to kindergarten children in four public elementary schools and one private school in Union County. Thirty-four Rotarians are involved, and 450 children will benefit. The total budget for the project is \$7,750.

More, next page





More grants—

WALHALLA

Special Needs Bikes

\$1,000

The Walhalla Rotary Club will help purchase special bicycles for the schools' developmentally challenged students. This will allow them to experience the joy of being a child.

WESTMINSTER

Pedals Possible

\$1,000

The Westminster Rotary Club will help fund an adaptive bicycle for a school in the Westminster area. This will help special students receive the benefit of body movement and motion that they normally are not able to experience.

WINNSBORO

Outdoor Food Pantry

\$1,000

The Winnsboro Rotary Club will provide at least two publicly accessible food pantries. In 2019 Winnsboro was designated as a food desert by South Carolina DHEC.

YORK

School Readiness

\$3,000

The York Rotary Club will distribute school readiness packs to young children up to 5 years old. The packs will be tailored to aid these children with ELA and math activities to enhance their math and literacy skills as they prepare to enter school for the first time. Twenty-five Rotarians are involved and between 100 - 200 families should benefit. The total budget is \$6,000.

Celebrate Rotary on February 23

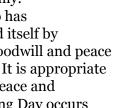
Happy Birthday, Rotary! This was the day in 1905 when Rotary founder Paul Harris and three of his friends met in a downtown office building in Chicago for what was to become the first meeting of a Rotary Club. Paul Harris surely had no idea what he was creating when he put together this small group to exchange ideas

and build a network for meeting people and making new friends.

Soon Rotary Clubs were springing up all over the country in large cities, and within years those large clubs were venturing out to places such as the Upstate of South Carolina to form other clubs. And then, Rotary crossed the borders to other countries, and by 1922 Rotary clubs were on six continents.

Consider for a few minutes what Rotary has achieved in these past 120 years. Together, as Rotarians, we have helped the world almost eradicate polio. We also have been a leader in fighting malaria and malnutrition. We have brought clean water and sanitation to thousands of communities. We have helped children learn to read and made it possible for adults to acquire skills needed to sustain a family.

Rotary also has distinguished itself by promoting goodwill and peace in the world. It is appropriate that World Peace and **Understanding Day occurs**



each year on February 23. To help fulfill its mission in this area, Rotary International has set up Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution around the world.

Consider recognizing Rotary's birthday this month by a special gift. Buy books for a school that has many needs. Have a food drive to help your local food bank. Give a gift to The Rotary Foundation. Ensure Rotary stays strong well into the future through a gift to the Bequest Society. Use this month—and especially February 23 as a time to take action. —Beth



▶Pickens Rotarian becomes **Paul Harris Fellow**

DG Rysheeka presented Harold Alexander, member of the Rotary Club of Pickens, with his first Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Gifts like these make District Grants possible—and help us do work around the world.





New Members in December

Bedenbaugh, Michael Abbeville Erskine, Amy K. Newberry Anderson, Forrest Aiken Howell, Carroll Pleasantburg Spainhour, Erin A Anderson Owen. Brenda Childers Pleasantburg Goins, Caroline M Cox, Christopher Clemson Spartanburg Roux. Millie E-Club of the Carolinas Alfaro, Marco Spartanburg Punch, Matthew W Fort Mill Caywood, Judy Westminster Fort Mill Thomas, Tracy Collins, James Wil Jr. Westminster Greenville Smith, Brandon Westminster Boss, Jeff Leonard, Mark Greenville Winnsboro KENNEDY, Lionel McCallum, Michelle Greenville Bartlett, Brandon L Winnsboro Jones, Alice M. Greenwood York Hammond, Jenny Barnes, Tracie Newberry

DECEMBER 2024: 23 NEW MEMBERS – 27 TERMINATED MEMBERS (0 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.



Two new members at Pleasantburg

Past president Tracy Tiddy, left, filled in for club president Lale Dogan, to induct new members Carroll Howell and Brenda Owen at the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg's January lunch meeting. New members Carroll Howell (second from left) and Brenda Owen (second from right), with sponsors Linda Lee (left) and Crystal O'Connor (right).

Deadline for March newsletter is Feb. 25.

Send items to newsletter editor Sue Poss, pdgsueposs@gmail.com. Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.