

DISTRICT GOVERNOR RYSHEEKA BUSH

Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise | rysheeka@yahoo.com

MARCH 2025 | WWW.ROTARY7750.ORG



MARCH

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

APRIL

Environment

7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



FIND A PROJECT THAT FOCUSES ON THIS MONTH'S THEME

At Aiken Sunrise, we call it Coffee and Donuts but it is really....

BY DG RYSHEEKA BUSH

Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise

Greetings Rotary family. We are indeed lucky to be Rotarians in this month of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in the world of Rotary. I encourage each club to focus a service project this month on one of these areas.

At the Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise, we have a Dignity Bag program in which we donate feminine hygiene products to schools at which our Interact Clubs are sponsored. Regrettably, there are young ladies in our communities who miss education opportunities each month due to menstruation. We are People of Action. I encourage you to step in and make a difference.

We have a long history of water projects in Central and South America in our District. As trips to the service sites are advertised to District members, considering joining our District representatives on one of the

journeys. Each Rotarian that has shared their story after a site visit, has done so with tears in their eyes because of the lives that are changed through access to clean water.

There are clubs in our District that participate in river or creek clean ups. This is another way to make a difference in your community. You can turn that into a fishing trip when you've finished. Why not?

Lastly, consider a 'Coffee and Donut Social' aka trash pickup—that's what we call it at Aiken Sunrise. This project is always a fun way to fellowship with club and community members and demonstrate community pride and love on the environment.



Inbound student Dan Balint from Romania and his host sister participating in Spirit Week at Greenville High School.

rotary
**CLUBS NEEDED
TO HOST
STUDENTS....
PAGES 6-8**
**youth
exchange**





Want a strong club? Get your **FELLOWSHIP** right

Fellowship should be a cornerstone of your Rotary club. If you can get that right, most everything else will fall into place.

Clubs that foster a sense of community and belonging among members create an environment where individuals can build lasting friendships, share experiences, and support one another in both personal and professional endeavors.

This camaraderie enhances your club's ability to work together effectively on service projects and fundraisers, amplifying your impact on local and global communities.

Fellowship also encourages members to stay engaged and committed to the club's mission, as they feel valued and connected, thus lowering your attrition rate and making it easier to attract new members. That means the District Membership chair won't have to nag you about increasing membership but so much more importantly, you will be able to expand how much you are able to accomplish—in your community and around the world.

Fellowship can be fostered:

- In the club meeting
- On the side of a road picking up trash
- And at any service project
- Planning a fundraiser/At the fundraiser
- At social events such as dinners, picnics, or outings.
- By recognizing and celebrating members' achievements, birthdays, and anniversaries
- At any multi-club gathering
- ...And in so many other ways

Greenville Breakfast Highway clean-up

The members of the Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast didn't let a little bit of rain stop them from making a difference! Braving the wet weather, volunteers came together for its Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Pictured are: Bill Shuford, PDG Tom Faulkner, Bart Street, Jim Kenyon, Tom Kedrowski, and Sharon Landis. Not in the picture but present were Tammy Rhoades and Joe Gobbett.

How much fellowship was enjoyed along this road?



CURRENT CLUB PRESIDENTS, FINISH STRONG

Incoming presidents plan for a fast START!

ATTENTION ALL Presidents Elect—Congratulations on stepping into one of the most exciting roles in your Rotary journey! As the leader of your club, you are the conductor ensuring that all elements work in harmony to create a thriving and impactful organization. The good news? You're not alone! A dedicated team of district supporters is here to help guide you toward success—whether you're walking, jogging, or sprinting along your leadership path.

Now is the time to lay the groundwork for a strong and strategic year. Begin by collaborating with your incoming Board of Directors and soliciting your Committee Chairs to set the stage for success.

The Key to Rotary's Future: Membership

I may be a little biased, but I truly believe membership is the most critical ingredient in Rotary's present and future success. The more engaged Rotarians we have, the greater our capacity to serve, leading to stronger, healthier, and more prosperous communities—both locally and globally.

As you prepare for your Pre-PETS and PETS sessions, here are some valuable tips to help set the foundation for a successful term:

Five Ways to Expand Our Reach

1. Appoint a Strong Membership Chair

A well-organized, enthusiastic Club Membership Chair is essential to fostering growth and engagement within your club. This role helps create momentum and enthusiasm for expanding your reach in the community.

2. Know Your Numbers

Understanding your club's membership trends—especially the impact of attrition—is crucial. Utilize the Membership Success Center (MSC) to track your progress, analyze trends, and make data-driven decisions to strengthen your club.

3. Host Rotary Information Sessions

One of the most effective ways to attract new members is through Rotary Information Sessions (also known as Discover Rotary). When executed well, these sessions consistently lead to new members joining your club.

4. Foster a Culture of Continuous Growth

Membership growth and retention should be an ongoing priority. I recommend hosting at least two Discover Rotary sessions per year. Schedule them now, add them to your club calendar, and plan accordingly.

5. Leverage Available Resources

You have a wealth of support at your fingertips. Your Assistant Governor (AGs) and District Membership Team are invested in your success—don't hesitate to lean on them for guidance, strategy, and best practices.

Bonus Tip: Complete Your Club's Strategic Plan

Invest time in developing your club's plan, including a S.W.O.T. analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). Engaging your leadership team in this process ensures a well-rounded and actionable strategy for success.

Plan for Success—Don't Just Hope for It

The effort you put in now will determine the success of your club's membership growth in the year ahead. Be proactive, strategic, and intentional in your approach.

This process is simple, but it requires hard work and dedication to make it successful. As Club President, the future of your club is in your hands. Your responsibility is to ensure that, by the time you pass the torch, your club is stronger and better than when you took the helm.

Now, go out there and make an impact! I wish you all the best as you lead your club and make a lasting difference in our district.

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





Strategizing for success always outperforms simply hoping for the best! You've likely heard the phrase, "Hope is not a strategy," and I couldn't agree more. Whether in your professional career or personal life, a well-thought-out plan is the key to success—if you take the time to create a plan and set S.M.A.R.T. goals that provide a clear direction. The real game-changer? Tracking your progress and staying committed to the plan.



Follow Golden Corner's example and keep your club updated on membership types

At a recent meeting, Seneca Golden Corner secretary Cammie Kaiser updated her club about the different membership types. This will help members better identify prospects and suggest the right connection to the club.

D7750 Ranking Report: YTD February 1, 2025

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 a FULL FOUR months remaining. Additionally, let's not lose sight of the last column as we focus on closing those negative gaps.

Club Rank	Club	Starting Member Count	New Members YTD	% New Members to base	Current Mbhrs	Ahead (Behind) New Member Pace
1	Indian Land Lunch	53	17	32%	60	9.4
2	Pickens	30	8	27%	35	1
3	North Augusta	16	4	25%	20	0.7
4	Travelers Rest	14	3	21%	16	-0.8
5	Lake Wylie	34	7	21%	36	0
6	Greenville City Center	45	8	18%	53	-3.5
7	Greer	40	7	18%	42	0
8	E-Club of The Carolinas	23	4	17%	26	-3
9	York	29	5	17%	32	0.5
10	Winnsboro	19	3	16%	21	-0.3
11	Westminster	26	4	15%	27	0.7
12	Greenville	166	21	13%	164	-16.5
13	Seneca	25	3	12%	26	-3.4
14	Lancaster Breakfast	53	6	11%	56	-3
15	Pleasantburg (Greenville)	45	5	11%	47	-2
16	Anderson	109	11	10%	106	-4.4
17	Fort Mill	65	6	9%	69	-6.1
18	Golden Strip Sunrise	22	2	9%	23	-0.5
19	Gaffney	59	5	8%	60	-1.5
20	Union	40	3	8%	42	-0.3
21	Easley	72	5	7%	74	-1.5
22	Clinton	30	2	7%	32	-6.9
23	Abbeville	47	3	6%	50	-7.2
24	Clemson Sunrise	32	2	6%	34	-2.5
25	Aiken	162	10	6%	160	-16.1
26	Rock Hill	65	4	6%	68	-4.4
27	Greenwood	99	6	6%	99	-6.7
28	Emerald City (Greenwood)	84	5	6%	79	-5.9
29	Walhalla	34	2	6%	36	0.1
30	Aiken Sunrise	38	2	5%	37	-1.8
31	the Reedy River Greenvil	21	1	5%	21	-5.4
32	Clemson	90	4	4%	88	-4.9
33	Clover	26	1	4%	26	-2.2
34	Spartan West (Spartanbu	26	1	4%	25	-2.8
35	Lancaster	60	2	3%	57	-9.5
36	Newberry	64	2	3%	64	-6.9
37	Fountain Inn	33	1	3%	32	-6
38	Spartanburg	175	5	3%	176	-17.3
39	Laurens	50	1	2%	45	-3.5
40	Chester	54	1	2%	55	-4.7
41	Greater Anderson	62	1	2%	61	-4.7
42	Batesburg-Leesville	22	0	0%	21	-3.2
43	Blacksburg	10	0	0%	10	-5.1
44	Carolina Foothills	19	0	0%	19	-4.5
45	Greenville Breakfast	16	0	0%	16	-3.2
46	Mauldin	12	0	0%	11	-9.5
47	North Spartanburg	28	0	0%	25	-2.5
48	Seneca Golden Corner	20	0	0%	18	-3.2
49	Simpsonville	32	0	0%	31	-6.4
District Totals:		2396	193	8%	2431	



Pickens club celebrates Rotary's 120th birthday with gift bags for Interactors

↑ This tag was attached to the gifts. It reads:

As a member of the Pickens High School Interact Club, you are an important part of Rotary's legacy of service, leadership, and making a difference. Your dedication to helping others and serving your community embodies the true spirit of Service Above Self.

The Pickens Rotary Club is proud of you and excited to see the impact you will continue to make. Keep using your talents and passion to create positive change because you are the future of Rotary.

We hope you enjoy this small gift in honor of Rotary's 120th birthday. Keep leading, serving and making a difference.

On February 23, Rotary marked its 120th birthday, and the Pickens Rotary Club celebrated the occasion in the best way possible—by giving back!

To honor this milestone, club members assembled gift bags for the Pickens High School Interact Club, recognizing these students for their commitment to "Service Above Self." This small but meaningful project served as a way to encourage and support these young leaders as they continue making a positive impact in their school and community.

By investing in the next generation of Rotarians, we ensure that Rotary's mission of service, leadership, and fellowship continues to grow. Here's to 120 years of making a difference—and many more to come!

rotary youth exchange

Maybe they're not Olympic champions, but these kids are champion ambassadors for their homelands and for Rotary.

YEHOR HORBENKO, from Ukraine, sponsored by Greenwood

JACKSON PRITCHARD, outbound, sponsored by Pleasantburg

CATA PELLEGRINI, from Argentina, hosted by Aiken

LOU BORRAS, from France, hosted by Pleasantburg

HARRISON STEELE, outbound, sponsored by Clemson Sunrise

AGUSTIN OLAZABAL, from Bolivia, hosted by Clemson and Clemson Sunrise



Youth Exchange students visit Atlanta

BY WADE CLEVELAND

7750 Youth Exchange Chair

The District's four inbound exchange students joined two 2025-26 outbound applicants for an educational and fun weekend in Atlanta in early February. On the agenda were the Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca Cola, Centennial Olympic Park, Zoo Atlanta, and the Martin Luther King Historic Site.

The size of the Aquarium's tanks and its great variety of species impressed Yehor Horbenko (Ukraine, hosted by Greenwood Rotary Club). Agustin Olazabal (Bolivia, hosted by Clemson and Clemson Sunrise Rotary Clubs) said the Beluga whales were "mesmerizing." (Agustin is understandably very proud of his broad English vocabulary, and works daily to expand it.)

The dolphin show and the sea lion show pleased everyone." Yehor said it was "beautiful," and Lou Borras (France, hosted by Pleasantburg Rotary Club) loved the fun of getting drenched with her friends when the dolphins flapped their tails to splash water into the audience.

Because he's never been there, outbound applicant, Jackson Pritchard (sponsored by Pleasantburg Rotary Club), ranked Zoo Atlanta as his favorite visit of the trip. The big flock of pink flamingos near the entrance and the opportunity to pet unusual species of goats and sheep in the petting zoo were hits for all. (Sadly, the zoo no longer has pandas.)

continued, next page

Youth Exchange students in Atlanta—

At breakfast on Sunday morning before visiting the MLK Historic Site, we discussed racial issues in the US, the history of segregation, the civil rights movement, and Martin Luther King’s advocacy of nonviolent protest. Outbound applicant, Harrison Steele (sponsored by Clemson Sunrise Rotary Club), said that learning more about King was really “cool.”

Harrison also emphasized that experiencing new foods was a highlight of the trip. Students enjoyed burgers at the Varsity, Gus’s fried chicken, authentic Italian Bolognese sauce with tagliarelli, true Naples-style pizza, and pub-food and music at Hard Rock Café. According to Agustin, the fried chicken was the best he’s ever tasted.

As expected, all students agreed that the best part of the trip was making new friends and hanging out with old ones.

While the long-term inbounds (Yehor, Lou, and Agustin) have had several weekends together, they were pleased to add a new inbound, a short-term student, Catalina Pelligrini (Argentina, hosted by Aiken Rotary Club), who arrived on January 1.

As outbound applicants, Jackson and Harrison, were also welcome new additions.



Declared “truly Italian” by one of our former exchange students, Luca from Italy, pizza at Pizza Napoletana is a must.



Happy after fried chicken, mac and cheese, fried okra, baked beans, and pecan pie.



Wet from sitting in the “Splash Zone” (The inbounds said they didn’t know what that meant!)

This group is already excited to be together again (minus Catalina, who returned home at the end of February) at the District Conference.

rotary
youth
exchange

➔Vlad Rusakov from Russia was a huge hit at the Interact Club of St. Joseph's Catholic School.

rotary youth exchange

Students from all over the world would love to be part of your club in 2025-26!

Add a YOUTHFUL AMBASSADOR to your club

BY WADE CLEVELAND

Chair, 7750 Rotary Youth Exchange

Rotary clubs and districts in their home countries have interviewed, selected, and trained these students to be youthful ambassadors for their countries and for Rotary. These young people are excited to join you in doing service and promoting international goodwill.

Now they need your club to agree to host them!

In the past two weeks alone, our district received requests from France, Italy, Slovakia, Bolivia, Brazil, Thailand, Taiwan, and Mexico to host one of their students. Now is the time to add one of these outstanding young people to your club for 2025-26.

Your club's participation will help a student develop lifelong leadership skills, learn a new language, build lasting friendships around the world, and become a global citizen. They also help educate our own students and bring joy and lasting connections to host families and Rotarians.

You may even be assuring that your club's exchange student becomes a Rotary leader of the future, one dedicated to Rotary's ideals of service and peace.

Rotary Youth Exchange's student ambassadors help build world peace one exchange at time.

For more information, contact youth exchange chair Wade Cleveland: 864-569-7296 or rye7750@gmail.com.



Vlad Zhurlov from Russia helping Rotary Club of Greenville understand his home country.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF HOSTING

1. Appoint a club member as the student's counselor, who will work with the student and host family to assist them and to involve the student fully in the life of the club.
2. Find two or three host families for the student. The main requirement for hosting is offering a stable, loving, accepting environment for the student. Host families need not be Rotarians (but they make great prospects!), may be any age, and may or may not have children in the house.
3. Pay the student a monthly allowance of \$125 for ten months.

The audience for Ellen included club members and local educators.



South Carolina Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver visits Pickens Rotary Club

The Pickens Rotary Club welcomed South Carolina Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver as a guest speaker. With a room full of educators, administrators, and community leaders, Ellen shared insights on the current state of education in South Carolina, highlighting priorities such as teacher recruitment and retention, literacy initiatives, and workforce development.

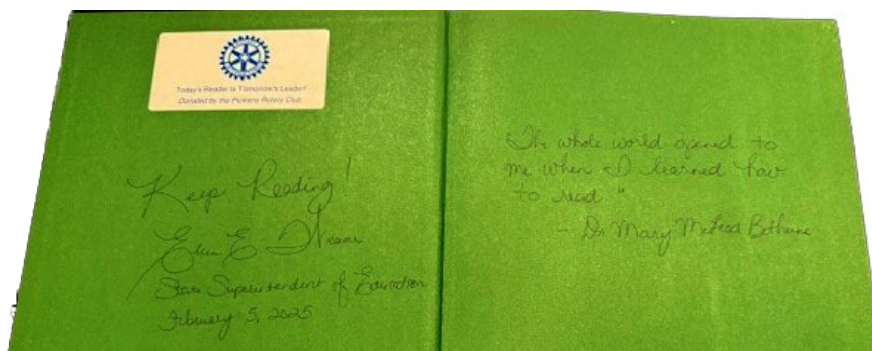
She emphasized the importance of community partnerships in strengthening education and preparing

students for success beyond the classroom. Rotarians and guests engaged in a meaningful discussion, reflecting Rotary's commitment to supporting education, one of the organization's key areas of focus.

As Rotarians, we are reminded that education is a powerful tool for building stronger communities. This meeting reinforced our club's dedication to supporting students and educators through mentorship, scholarships, and service initiatives.



SC Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver

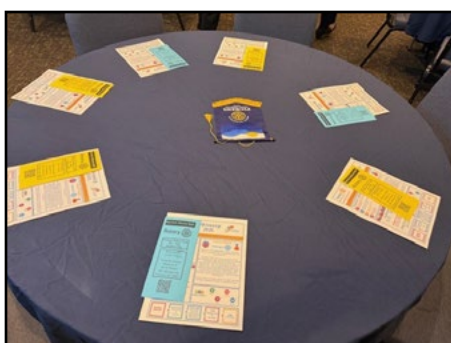


Ellen signed some books while she was the club.



Melanie Johnson, Ellen Weaver, and Tim Johnson.

With so many guests, the Pickens club had lots of information about Rotary available. Good recruiting effort!



**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



FUNDRAISER FOR WALHALLA AND WESTMINSTER CLUBS



For more information:

<https://ilrsc.com/> and <https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Walhalla/ilrsc>.

The registration fee is \$45. The fee includes pre-ride coffee and baked goods, post-ride meal, cue sheets, SAG, and fully stocked rest stops. T-shirts are guaranteed if you register by March 10, at 11:00 am.



Issaqueena's Last Ride! Saturday, March 29

The Rotary Clubs of Walhalla and Westminster, SC, are pleased to present Issaqueena's Last Ride—the most challenging and beautifully scenic ride in the Carolinas—through the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and Foothills of South Carolina.

The races is Saturday, March 29th, and there are three levels, so there is an awesome ride for every level of participant!

The 30 and 52 mile challenges traverse the gently rolling areas of Salem and Tamassee with no difficult climbs.

The 100 mile challenge is highlighted by the climb to Wigington Overlook, with expansive views of Lake Jocassee and the surrounding mountain ridges.

All routes feature scenic rural roads with light traffic.

ROTARY
health
& **HAPPINESS**
GREENVILLE AREA

\$5 Per Person



Monday, April 14 | 5pm-7pm

Ink N Ivy, 21 E Coffee St, Greenville, SC 29601

This is an opportunity to meet interesting and enthusiastic Rotarians, invite potential Rotarians to join the fun, and share exciting news happening in your club. Engage in inter-club networking, show support for other local clubs, and win prizes and cash in our drawing. All Rotarians and their guests invited.

Special thanks to Ink N Ivy for supporting Rotary and providing bites for this event.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

REGISTER at <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.com/Calendar/Event.cfm?EventID=77810657>



Summary of RLI in Anderson on Feb. 15

50 Rotarians • 7 Rotaractors • 12 Graduates

GRADUATES

Amber Crain
Chuck Davidson
Lale Dogan
Jae Espey
Chuck Harrison
John Heydel
Thomas Koenig
Carrie Krause
Barry Morrison

Michael Nebesky
Ashley Smith
Chip Stockman

RLI INSTRUCTORS

DG Rysheeka Bush
RLI Regional Coordinator
Rod Funderburk
7750 RLI Chair Julia Larson

Next in person event

Duncan on August 9
Parts 1, 2 and 3

RLI virtual series in the fall

5:30-8:30 pm on Zoom

- Part 1 Virtual Tuesday, October 14, and Wednesday, October 15
- Part 2 Virtual Tuesday, November 11, and Wednesday, November 12
- Part 3 Virtual Tuesday, December 9, and Wednesday, December 10

➡ 7750 RLI Chair and E-Club member Julia Larson, standing right, with E-Club RLI graduate Chuck Harrison and Part 1 attendee Millie Roux.



RLI participants from Oconee County

WESTMINSTER

Amber Crain
Steve Graves
Morton White
Daby Snipes

SENECA

Mark Eckert
Danny Edwards
Ray Phillips



SENECA STUDENTS *of the MONTH*

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Seneca's February Students of the Month! These students have worked hard and accomplished so much this year.

Connor Whitehead, Seneca Middle
Rotarian Club President Ray Phillips
Jordan Smith, Ravenel Elementary
Rotarian Earnestine Williams
Paisley Tipton, Seneca High

Rotarian Sherri Carr
Layla Wright, Northside Elementary
Dilia Caal Maquin, Blue Ridge
Elementary
Rotarian Andy Inabinet

SENECA GOLDEN CORNER



Rysheeka at Golden Corner

On her official visit to the Seneca Golden Corner club, DG Rysheeka encouraged members to stay involved with their community. Pictured with her are AG Stephen Graves and club co-president Patrick Lee.



First tee in Oconee County

Louis Holleman, right, a Seneca High Golf coach and Rotarian updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club about the First Tee program at Cross Creek and in Oconee County. First Tee is a youth development program that teaches leadership and responsibility through golf. Pictured at left is Golden Corner Rotary Club co-president Patrick Lee.



Golden Corner talks insurance

Rotarian Vic Holley, second from right, with Foothills Insurance Agency, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on the importance of having complete coverage because often times minimum coverage can lead to serious financial losses. Pictured from left are new member David Chudyk with Chudyk Financial Services in Seneca, assistant governor Stephen Graves, Holley and club co-president Beth Brown.

New member

David Chudyk with Chudyk Financial Services in Seneca is the newest member of the Golden Corner Rotary Club.





Dominion Senior Living brings joy to Belton Honea Path High School's Interact Club

BY LIZ BROCK

Rotary Club of Anderson

In a heartwarming and unique twist to their usual activities, the Interact Club at Belton Honea Path High School welcomed a special group of guests on February 7. Residents from Dominion Senior Living paid a visit to the students for a fun-filled meeting that left everyone with smiles on their faces.

The seniors and students bonded over a friendly game of bingo, where laughter and friendly competition filled the air. After the game, they worked together to create handmade Valentine's Day cards, which the students would later deliver to the residents at Dominion Senior Living.

"It was such a great opportunity to connect with people from different generations," said a junior, a member of the Interact Club. "The seniors had so many fun stories to share, and the experience really brought us closer together as a community."

This special meeting was not only an opportunity for the students to give back, but it also strengthened

the bond between the local senior living community and the young members of the Interact Club. For the residents, it was a meaningful day of connection, and for the students, it was a lesson in kindness, generosity, and the importance of community involvement.

Both the students and residents left the event with fond memories and new friendships, as well as the excitement of knowing that their Valentine's cards would brighten the residents' days.



Belton Honea Path High School
sponsored by Rotary Club of Anderson

Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

Workday on the farm

MARY KEDROWSKI

Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

The Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast partnered with Trailhead Community Farm School for a meaningful day of service.

Trailhead offers a year-round, experiential educational program designed to provide academic and therapeutic support to neurodivergent students and their families.

Volunteers worked hard to rebuild a section of the garden fence, replace the roof on the garden shed, and repair the garden gate—helping to enhance this vital learning environment.

It was a rewarding experience to support an organization that makes such a difference in the lives of its students and their families.



Greenville Breakfast members PDG Tom Faulkner and Jim Kenyon



Rotarian Bill Shuford and his son Tom, working on the roof.

↓ Jim Kenyon, Tom Shuford (son of Bill Shuford), Bill Shuford, Sharon Landis, PDG Tom Faulkner, Joe Gobbett, Tom Kedrowski, Courtney Eidson (Executive Director-Trailhead Community Farm School), and PDG Becky Faulkner.





“I read my book every day!”

Pleasantburg Rotarian and author reads to students

Over a three-day period, Pleasantburg Rotarian, educator, and children’s author Crystal Ball O’Connor led a literacy program centered around three of her books for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders at Cherrydale Elementary School in Greenville.

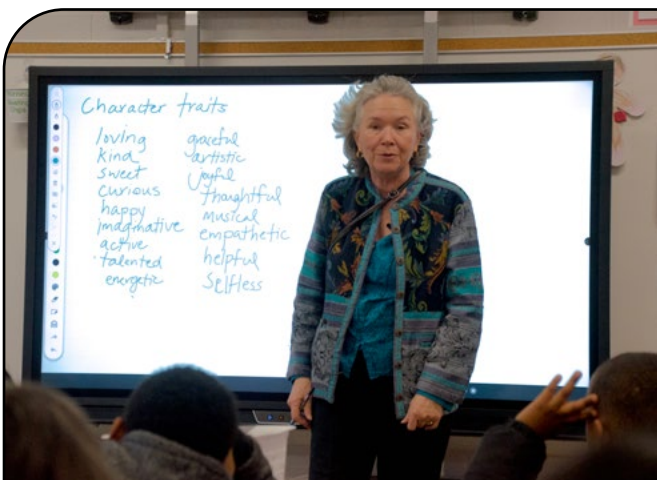
Assisted by fellow club members, Crystal read one of her books to each class, engaged the students in storytelling, and encouraged the students to write their own stories.

At the conclusion of each classroom session, the



students received an autographed copy of the book that had been read and an individual photograph of themselves with the author.

Club members assisting in the classrooms were delighted when many of the students remembered Crystal from prior years and remembered the book characters and songs from prior years. Some had even brought to school the book they had received last year. One student proudly told her: “I read my book every day!”



Crystal encourages students to think about different aspects of writing, including descriptive words,



Fellow Rotarians Crystal Ball O’Connor and her brother Quentin Ball with a happy class of students.



Panel: Channel 7 News Anchor, Amy Wood, Michele Covington, Walter Kivett and Albert Blackmon from the Indian Land Lunch Club.



Local TV reporter Amy Wood with some of the students touring the station's facilities in Greenville.



Some of the 90 students who came to Greenville's Career Day. All of these are from Greenville Technical College Charter High School.

Greenville Rotary's Career Day gives students glimpse into what paths they might take

BY PAM WEAVER

Rotary Club of Greenville

Ninety high school sophomores and juniors joined the Greenville Rotary Club for Career Day on February 11. At noon they enjoyed lunch and meeting with club members.

The program consisted of three panelists, interviewed by Channel 7 Anchor, Amy Wood. Each told the story of their career path.

Students also learned of other opportunities Greenville Rotary offers: Rotary Youth Exchange, RYLA and Service Above Self Scholarships. Greenville County Technical College sponsored the

event, including the cost of lunch and parking for the students and their chaperones.

Following the regular meeting, students met with Rotarians for round-table discussions about the career cluster of their choice.

Some groups stayed at the Westin Poinsett, while others walked to nearby businesses for a discussion and shadowing opportunity.

Those experiences included the Channel 7 Newsroom, an Architecture firm, a Law firm, a Theatre and the Greenville

Symphony board room.

Probably the biggest take-away for the students was that they don't have to decide what career they want for the rest of their lives. Career paths take many different twists and turns.

Following the event, one member said, "That reminded me of why I'm a Rotarian." They meant that by being a Greenville Rotarian hosting a round-table on Career Day they knew they made a huge difference in a high school student's life.



↑ Club member Henry Dupre demonstrates how to get on the kids' level in the classroom!

◀ Rotarians Susan Spencer, David King, and Eric Baker with an excited group of first graders and their teacher.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY



Rotarian David King responds to raised hand during JA Our Families class session at Cherrydale Elementary.

Pleasantburg Rotarians teach first graders about family life

The Rotary Club of Pleasantburg participated in Junior Achievement (JA) in a Day at Cherrydale Elementary on February 18, providing funding and volunteers to teach the JA Our Families learning experience to first-grade students.

This impactful initiative helped 1st graders learn how family members' jobs and businesses contribute to the well-being of the family and the community. Students learned in a fun and interactive way the concept of needs and wants and explored the ways families plan for and acquire goods and services. Students analyzed their own skills to determine ways they can support their families and they learned so much more!

JA helps bring the real world perspective to students and helps plant the seeds early so students can be better prepared for future success.

What a beautiful place for a fundraiser!



THE ROTARY CLUB OF GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE is planning its 2nd annual Golf Tournament on Monday May 12 at Fox Run Country Club in Simpsonville. A player that makes a Hole in One on #6 or #11 wins a golf cart from Garrett Discount Golf Carts! In addition to raffle prizes, a Silent Auction will be held from April 28 to May 12. Click on the QR code for details on how to participate.

Meet and Greet

The Rotary Club of Golden Strip Sunrise held a Meet and Greet at Fountain Inn High School for the staff and parents of members of its Interact Club. They said they were so engaged in conversations with parents and staff that they forgot to take more photos!

Trip Gilreath
Melinda Gilreath
Dee Vaughan
Sam Stamps
Becky Miller



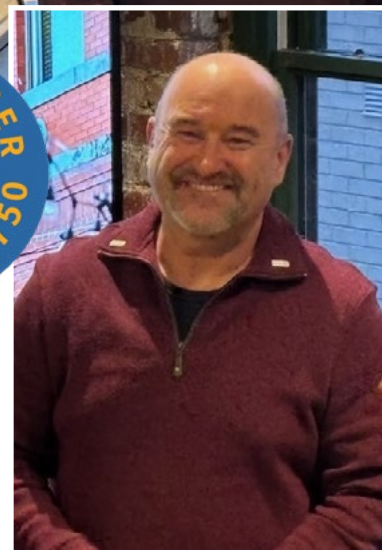
Good public image • Member recruitment possibility with parents • Community service



New members at Greer

Club president Jim Nichols inducts Bonnie Briggs and Bob Briggs, at right. Beside Jim is Deanna Austin, who sponsored Bonnie and Bob.

New member
Eric Bridge, s
ponsored by
Mark Moreno



Paul Harris +8

Foundation chair Mark Moreno presents club president Jim Nichols with his Paul Harris +8 pin.

Rotary Club of Greer welcomes new members and celebrates leadership milestone

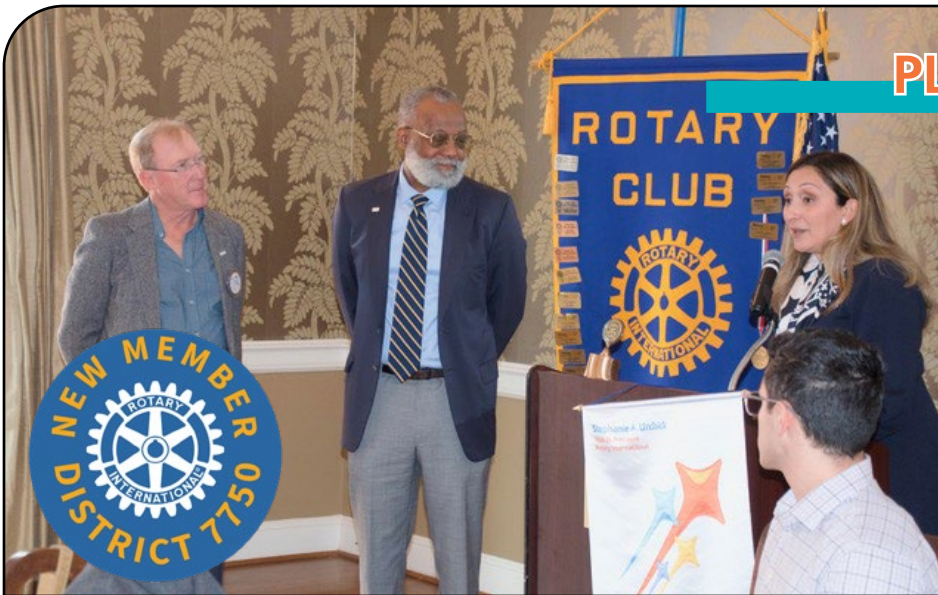
BY CARRIE KRAUSE

Rotary Club of Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer is growing! We recently welcomed three new members into our club, each bringing fresh energy and a shared commitment to service. Welcome to Eric Bridge and Bonnie and Bob Briggs!

We also celebrate a significant achievement by our club president, Jim Nichols, who was honored with the Paul Harris +8 pin—a testament to his dedication to Rotary's mission and his generous contributions to The Rotary Foundation. This milestone reflects years of commitment to service and support for global humanitarian efforts

PLEASANTBURG NEWS



↑New member at Pleasantburg

Pleasantburg Rotary Club President LaLe Dogan (right) inducts Sherwood Williams (center), a District Executive of Scouting America, into Rotary membership. Accompanying Sherwood to the left is Eric Baker, a club director and Assistant District Governor.



↑VisitGreenville

Heath Dillard, President and CEO of VisitGreenvilleSC spoke to club members at their February 6 lunch meeting about Greenville's visitor and tourist economy.



◀President gives happy bucks for safe travel home from Turkey

Ed Maier (left) collects Happy Bucks from Club President LaLe Dogan at the club's February 6 meeting. LaLe expressed gratitude for safe travels home from her native Turkey and for the aid provided by Rotarians during recent natural disasters.

Italian dinner and fellowship

◀Pleasantburg members and guests enjoyed a dinner social on February 11 at Tavola Italian Restaurant in Simpsonville. Left to right: Donald Vandersloot, Val Vandersloot, Larry Lee, Susan Hughes, Rotarian-in-Training Tillman Hughes, George Hughes, and Kristina Hammock. Jerry Lieberg is behind the camera.



↑Cherokee Chief

Cherokee Chief and tribal archaeologist Lamar Nelson of Duncan, SC shared an overview of Native American and local tribal history at the club's February 20 meeting. Among the artifacts Chief Nelson demonstrated were the atlatl and dart, developed and used over 3,000 years ago by hunter-gatherer Native Americans. Also demonstrated was the bow and arrow.

Give to the Foundation, earn Matching Points!

Here's a win-win. District Governor Rysheeka Bush has issued a challenge to see if we can raise more funds for The Rotary Foundation. She (along with Pam and Terry Weaver) will match qualifying Annual Fund – SHARE donations between March 1 and April 30. We see the impact of our giving to The Rotary Foundation every day in District 7750 through the work funded in part with our District Grants. And through our Global Grants, we create hope in the world and profoundly change lives in places such as Honduras, Guatemala, and Haiti.

This year's Governor's Challenge will run from March 1 through April 30. Thank you to Pam and Terry Weaver for donating the Foundation Recognition Points to make this Challenge Match successful.

Without our contributions to Annual Fund – SHARE, we would not have funds for our District Grants that help us do good at home and our Global Grants that change lives around the world.

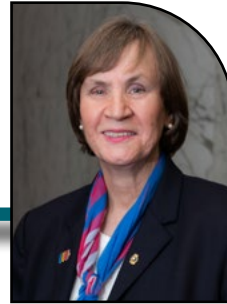
Donations can be made online at My Rotary –

<https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> or by calling the Rotary Support Center at 866-976-8279 and contributing over the phone. You also may send a donation by mail (The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693,

USA) but if so, you must ensure the donation reaches Rotary International no later than May 5. The challenge match may be limited to the first 40,000 Foundation Recognition Points.

Contributions of \$100 or more will be matched with the same number of Recognition Points (for example, donate \$100 and get a match of 100 points). A maximum number of 500 points will be awarded per person. Rotarians that are Major Donors or PHF+8 level donors are encouraged to participate but will not receive

points. (Donors at this level of giving can no longer receive Recognition Points but their gifts certainly are appreciated. Thank you for your leadership giving!) Rotarians also are encouraged to give less than \$100 if a smaller gift better fits their budget.



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



Blacksburg earns 100% PHF Club banner

DG Rysheeka presented the 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club banner to the Rotary Club of Blacksburg during her official visit. Shown with Rysheeka is club president David Roark.

IF YOU NEED HELP MAKING A CONTRIBUTION, CONTACT DISTRICT ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR BETH PADGETT AT BPADGETTROTARY@OUTLOOK.COM.



Venus Poe receives her first Paul Harris Fellow

Fountain Inn Rotarian Venus Poe received her first Paul Harris Fellow pin and certificate from club president Aaron Hood. Gifts like Venus's make District and Global grants possible. They bring clean water and support sanitation and hygiene projects in some of the most needy parts of our world. Thank you Venus—and all Rotarians—for your support.

This Million Dollar Campaign will ensure that we leave a lasting legacy of “Doing Good in the World” as we also elevate giving today to vital Rotary programs.

Join our Foundation's Million Dollar Campaign

BY PDG BETH PADGETT

7750 Foundation Chair

District 7750 Rotarians will celebrate our Million Dollar Campaign on **Friday, November 14**, at the Greenville Marriott on Parkway Drive. More details will be forthcoming, but we wanted Rotarians to “Save This Date.”

Donors to the Million Dollar Campaign will be recognized during this special event. All Rotarians in our District are invited to our traditional Rotary Foundation Celebration Dinner that evening.

Fourteen Rotarians and two Rotary Clubs already are members of the Million Dollar Campaign Society. You can be, too

You become part of our Million Dollar Campaign with a gift of at least \$10,000 in new money.

That can come in an outright gift of \$10,000. It can be a pledge payable over three years. It can be an endowment pledge of at least \$10,000.

Your Rotary Club can join by contributing at least \$10,000 in new contributions from the club between July 1, 2023, and January 30, 2026. If a club qualifies, it will be invited to the special celebration with the club president deciding who gets to attend on behalf of the club.

Also, some Rotarians may have already pledged at least \$10,000 but you don't realize it, and neither does The Rotary Foundation. You may have included The Rotary Foundation in your will but never told anyone. By sharing this information with

Rotary, you're possibly already part of our ambitious campaign if your bequest is \$10,000 or more. Why do you need to make this official? First, so that it is known, and there won't be any confusion when your estate is settled. Second, so that you have the option of controlling exactly where your donation will go.

Also, a \$10,000 bequest made a decade or more ago may have grown to the point that you are now eligible to be part of our Million Dollar Campaign. For example, if you have made The Rotary Foundation a beneficiary of your IRA by donating a percentage of the account, the amount may have increased to the point that you have added another \$10,000 or more to the bequest.

Contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at bpadgettrotary@outlook.com for more information including how to work with Jon Teich, our region's Major Gifts Officer, on crafting a plan that is right for you and your family.



New members at Golden Strip Sunrise

Golden Strip Sunrise welcomed three new members in February:

Shelly Savage
Stephanie Smith
Mike Watson

How new members impact our Rotary Foundation

New members like these three at Golden Strip Sunrise will not only strengthen their own club, but as they get more involved and aware of the good Rotary does, they will bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to our Rotary Foundation.

They will contribute not only financially but also by participating in fundraising activities, sharing innovative ideas, and leveraging their unique skills. Their involvement will help amplify their club's and our district's efforts in supporting global initiatives

including disease prevention, water sanitation, education, and economic development.

New members also engage with the community, raising awareness about the Foundation's mission and encouraging wider support. Their dedication and new passion ensure the continuity of Rotary's commitment to making a positive, lasting difference in the world.



Key Foundation Dates

Yes, we can see the finish line for Rotary year 2024-25. Before we get there, club presidents and presidents-elect should keep a few key dates in mind.

1 Is your club nearing the **COMPLETION OF YOUR DISTRICT GRANT** for this year? If not, do you have a plan to have it completed by March 31? What do you need to do to ensure the timely completion of your project?

The Final Report for the 2024-25 District Grant is due **MARCH 31**. If your club is having a problem with its project, reach out to DRFC Beth Padgett at bpadgettrotary@outlook.com or District Grant Chair Bill Harley at william.harley@firstcitizens.com. If you wait until the deadline to alert Beth and Bill about an issue with your grant, you risk not being able to resolve the issue. If you cannot complete your District Grant, you must repay the full amount of the grant because our District will have to return that money to Rotary International.

2 The grant applications for the **2025-26 DISTRICT GRANT** are due **APRIL 30**. The President-Elect should ensure that the deadline is met. This doesn't mean that the PE must write the grant, but next year's president should make sure a complete grant application will be submitted on time if the club is eligible in 2025-26. A club that misses the deadline risks not receiving grant funding next year.

3 Has your club treasurer been sending **ROTARY FOUNDATION DONATIONS TO RI ON TIME**? Is your club sitting on some Foundation funds? Please turn these funds in as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of The Rotary Foundation, Together, we are doing good in the world and in our own communities.—Beth



Magical District Conference

MAY 16 - 17, 2025

**Hilton
Columbia Downtown**

Friday, May 16

- Unlock the magic of service and fellowship at the Fireflies Baseball Game

Saturday, May 17

- With morning workshops, afternoon adventures and an evening of connection, you'll embrace the magic of Rotary all day long!
- Adventures include: Riverbanks Zoo, Edventure, Governor's Mansion and Statehouse tours
- Don't miss the magician, speaker, and dinner at the District Governor's Celebration



New Members in January

Abbott, Linn	Greenville	Mahan, Alex	Greenville City Center
Adams, Beverly	Lancaster Breakfast	Morningstar, Riley	Clemson
Adams, Daniel	Easley	Murphy, Thomas	Greenville
Blood, Savannah	Indian Land Lunch	Newman, Tim	Aiken
Bridge, Eric	Greer	Oldham, William R	Spartanburg
Bryant, George N.	Easley	Page, Jennifer B	Lancaster
Carter, Nikki E.	Seneca	Parker, John P.	Greenville City Center
Conley, Carolyn	Union	Peace, Jiles	Easley
Ennis, Lisa	Aiken	Schell, Sophia	Lake Wylie
Fox, Sharon E.	Greenwood	Watkins, Jane	Gaffney
Frazier, Kenneth	Greenville	Watson, Michael D	Golden Strip Sunrise
Green, Young	Seneca	Weber, Donald A	Fort Mill
Hobby, Austin H	Anderson	Williams, Sherwood O	Pleasantburg
Holt, Steve	North Augusta	Woodworth, Jim	Easley
Lobe, David	Lake Wylie		

JANUARY 2025: 29 NEW MEMBERS — 20 TERMINATED MEMBERS (0 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.



Anderson Rotaract builds Habitat House

The Anderson University Rotaract Club organized a Habitat for Humanity Anderson build day. Rotaract President Keith Gabbert, club leaders Jake Baker, Rodman Foster, David White, Maitea Carbajal, Avery Croston, and Weston Pack with member Luke Plumley were joined by Rotary Club members Chase Kinsey, Blake Sanders, and Rick Smyth. It was the second time Rotaract has sponsored the build completing the vinyl siding for the new house. The club is in its second year and has exploded to 61 members!

Deadline for April newsletter is March 25.

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

Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.