



DISTRICT GOVERNOR RYSHEEKA BUSH
Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise | rysheeka@yahoo.com
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THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY

APRIL

Environment

MAY

Youth Service

7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



BEDS

SHOES

KIDS IN UNION GET SHOES.
KIDS IN OCONEE COUNTY GET BEDS.
KIDS IN GREENVILLE GET CLOTHES.

ROTARIANS
MADE THAT
HAPPEN

Union, page 2. Oconee After Dark, page 3. Pleasantburg, page 4.



CLOTHES

Union's **HAPPY FEET** project empowers local children with new shoes

BY JOEY HANEY

President, Rotary Club of Union

A new initiative launched by the Rotary Club of Union is making a big difference in the lives of local children. The “Happy Feet” program, which kicked off during July 2024, has already provided new shoes to 174 deserving students from Union County Schools.

The purpose of the program is simple yet profound: to enhance self-esteem, build confidence, and promote physical activity and overall well-being for children who might otherwise struggle to afford a new pair of shoes.

By removing the financial barrier that many families face, the Rotary Club is ensuring that students have the footwear they need to feel confident and prepared for the school year.

In a partnership with the local business Shoe Show, each child in the program receives a \$50 shopping pass, which can be exchanged for a new pair of shoes of their choice. The children have the opportunity to select shoes that fit their personal style and needs, whether they're for school, sports, or everyday wear.

The success of the program has been made possible through the generosity of local businesses and individuals who have donated both time and funds to support the initiative. Thanks to these donations, our club has been able to help children who might otherwise go without, removing a significant burden for families in the community.

The impact of “Happy Feet” extends far beyond new shoes. According to educators, the program has



Rotarians pictured from left: Mark Ireton, Charlie Wilson, Robbie Littlejohn, Joey Haney, Lewis Jeter.

had a noticeable effect on the students’ confidence and school performance. Teachers have reported that students who participated in the program seem more motivated and eager to engage in class, while also showing an increase in physical activity during recess and physical education classes.

With 174 children served so far, our club hopes to expand the program in the coming years and provide even more students with the chance to start the school year on the right foot. “We’re already seeing the positive impact in the lives of these children,” Haney added. “We’re grateful for the support of our community, and we look forward to continuing this important work.”

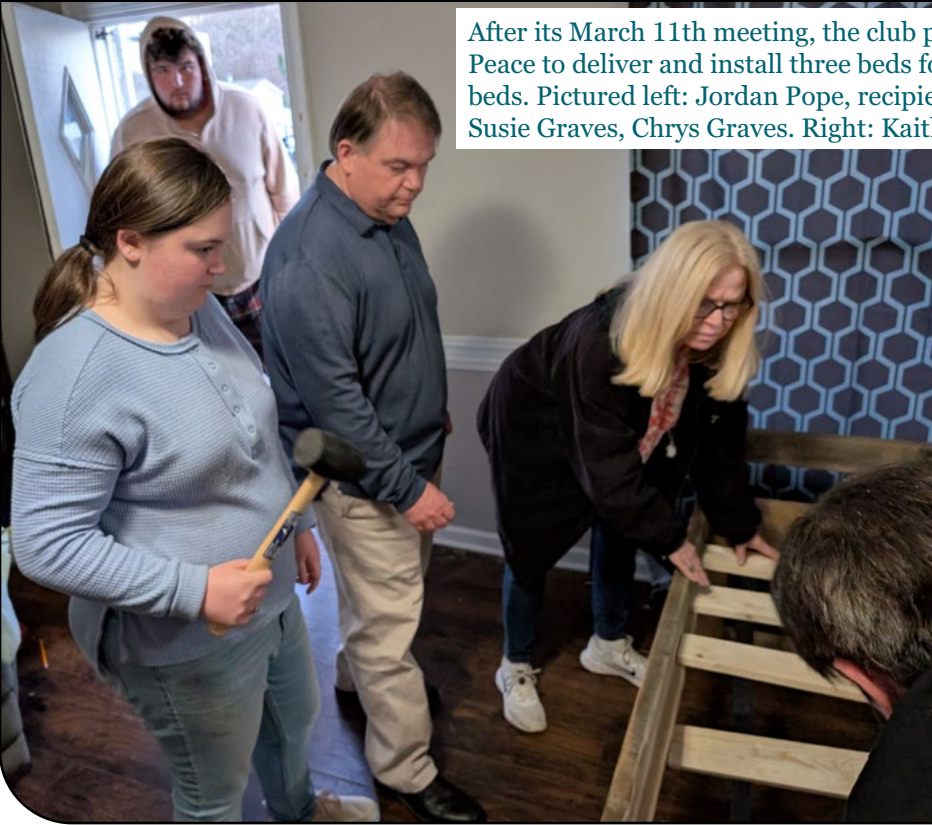
The “Happy Feet” program is just one example of how the Rotary Club of Union is working to make a lasting difference in the lives of local children. As the school year continues, we remain committed to supporting students and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom.

The Rotary Club of Union hosted 2024 its inaugural “Steak Out For a Cause” dinner in September and netted nearly \$10,000 to help fund the Happy Feet program for 2025.

We believe that every child deserves to start the school year on the right foot, feeling confident, valued, and prepared. Happy Feet provides more than just shoes—it provides an opportunity for these children to walk into school with their heads held high, knowing they are ready to take on the challenges of the school year.

—Union President Joey Haney

After its March 11th meeting, the club partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to deliver and install three beds for children in the area who had no beds. Pictured left: Jordan Pope, recipient family, Donovan Pope (Walhalla,) Susie Graves, Chrys Graves. Right: Kaitlyn, Amber O'Dell, Chrys



Oconee After Dark keeps growing! Builds beds for kids without

BY AG STEPHEN GRAVES
Rotary Club of Walhalla

With help from our sister Oconee County Rotary clubs—Westminster, Seneca, Seneca Golden Corner—the Rotary Club of Walhalla started a companion Rotary club: Oconee After Dark! We're one of the newest and youngest clubs in the district, but we're not standing still! We're up to fifteen members—primarily drawing upon the young leaders in our community.

We've also served our community in a variety of ways. We've had two projects with the Tamasee D.A.R. school, we've collected propane tanks for Western North Carolina, we've delivered and installed beds for children in need (through the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace Charity," which is headed up by one of our members!) and we're helping the Westminster and Walhalla clubs with their upcoming bike race, Issaqueena's Last Ride.

The club meets at various locations around the county on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Come visit us! The first meeting each month is held at Freehouse Brewery, 210 E. Main Street, Walhalla. The second meeting location each month is posted to the club's Facebook page: Oconee After Dark Rotary Club.



Oconee After Dark members work hard then have fun together too. This new club is already up to 15 members.

➔ Pleasantburg members Margaret Banks (left) and Margaret Marcum (right) help children shop for new clothes.

100 children get new spring clothes

Pleasantburg has another successful DRESS-A-CHILD project

The Pleasantburg Rotary Club completed its fifth Dress A Child project March 12-13, with project partner Old Navy-Cherrydale Point in Greenville.

Rotarians accompanied one hundred children from Cherrydale Elementary School along with their parents and guardians on a shopping trip for spring clothes in the store.

The project is supported by a district grant, with matching funds from the Pleasantburg Rotary Club Foundation.

Timed to coincide with store sales and supplemented with additional coupons, the project stretches dollars to maximize each child's "take." Club members were happy to see DGE Dave Brenner appear to help the families shop.



◀ Pleasantburg Rotarian Brenda Owen can barely contain her excitement at her first Dress A Child event.

⬆ Pleasantburg Club's Exchange Student, Lou Borrás, and her Counselor, Kathy Sharp, take a breather by the Pleasantburg Rotary's table. Pleasantburg Rotary stickers on the shopping bags, the table display, and Rotarian namebadges prompted several of the parents to inquire about Rotary and how the club raised funds for the project.

➔ Club president Lale Dogan tallies up the total for a young shopper, with Rotarian Quentin Ball looking on.



⬆ After a successful trip through the store, a Cherrydale student shakes hands with Rotarian Larry Leethank for his help.

Membership Report YTD

	Club	Starting Member Count	New Members YTD	New Members Percent
1	Indian Land	53	18	34%
2	Pickens	30	8	27%
3	North Augusta	16	4	25%
4	Greer	40	9	23%
5	Travelers Rest	14	3	21%
6	York	29	6	21%
7	Lake Wylie	34	7	21%
8	Greenville City Center	45	8	18%
9	E-Club of The Carolinas	23	4	17%
10	Mauldin	12	2	17%
11	Winnsboro	19	3	16%
12	Westminster	26	4	15%
13	Greenville	166	24	14%
14	Pleasantburg	45	6	13%
15	Seneca	25	3	12%
16	Lancaster Breakfast	53	6	11%
17	Anderson	109	12	11%
18	Fort Mill	65	7	11%
19	Blacksburg	10	1	10%
20	Golden Strip Sunrise	22	2	9%
21	Walhalla	34	3	9%
22	Gaffney	59	5	8%
23	Easley	72	6	8%
24	Greenwood	99	8	8%
25	Union	40	3	8%
26	Clinton	30	2	7%
27	Abbeville	47	3	6%
28	Clemson Sunrise	32	2	6%
29	Newberry	64	4	6%
30	Aiken	162	10	6%
31	Rock Hill	65	4	6%
32	Emerald City	84	5	6%
33	Aiken Sunrise	38	2	5%
34	Spartanburg	175	9	5%
35	Lancaster	60	3	5%
36	Seneca Golden Corner	20	1	5%
37	Reedy River Greenville	21	1	5%
38	Clemson	90	4	4%
39	Clover	26	1	4%
40	Spartan West	26	1	4%
41	Chester	54	2	4%
42	Fountain Inn	33	1	3%
43	Laurens	50	1	2%
44	Greater Anderson	62	1	2%
45	Batesburg-Leesville	22	0	0%
46	Carolina Foothills	19	0	0%
47	Greenville Breakfast	16	0	0%
48	North Spartanburg	28	0	0%
49	Simpsonville	32	0	0%
		2,343	201	

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



If your club is behind in membership recruitment....

DISCOVER ROTARY

Many of our clubs are behind the pace of new member attraction needed to finish the year with a net membership gain. If that's your club's situation, please plan and schedule a Rotary Information Hour (Discover Rotary) event in late April or early May. These are **GUARANTEED** to attract new members, if done according to a best-practices recipe. There's no invention needed – everything you need is in the Discover Rotary Toolbox. Your District 7750 Membership Task Force is available to help on request.

On the next page is a testimonial from the Fort Mill club that scheduled and executed a Discover Rotary session last fall. This larger club did one large-scale Discover Rotary session, executed it well and followed up diligently with prospects. As a result, they have attracted nine new members. There are five applications awaiting the approval process, bringing the total expected new members to 14.

Travis Mayo chaired and led this successful event. His article on the next page shares his experience that is proof that the strategy we're recommending is worth the effort.—*Albert*

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way."
 —John C. Maxwell



DISCOVER ROTARY

Your Highest Return-on-Investment Membership Strategy

BY TRAVIS MAYO
Rotary Club of Fort Mill



For centuries—well, at least the past hundred years—humans have gathered in groups to discuss civilization, service, and occasionally, the reminder that tomorrow is their anniversary. This phenomenon is known as Rotary. And like all great human institutions, it thrives on one crucial thing: new blood.

In November, the Fort Mill Rotary Club hosted a successful Discover Rotary Event, drawing in potential new members like moths to the warm glow of community service. But how does one actually sell, plan, promote, execute, and survive such an event?

Fortunately, our board needed no convincing. The moment the idea was proposed, they recognized it as a much-needed initiative. Membership growth had long been on our radar, and while our projects were thriving, we knew we could do even more with fresh faces and new energy. With the board fully on board (pun intended), we moved straight to **scheduling**—a process that involved carefully avoiding major community events, playoff games, and any other gatherings that might tempt our guests away.

Then came promotion, a delicate exercise in

coercion disguised as encouragement. Every member was tasked with inviting just one guest. We armed them with a simple, friendly message to send out, posted reminders on social media, and framed the event as both an opportunity for guests and a fun night out for club members.

With the event taking shape, we turned to **organization**, ensuring it struck the delicate balance between structured and casual. Guests were greeted warmly at the door, their name tags acting as both icebreakers and subtle encouragement to stay and mingle. Our club's more extroverted members were assigned as Rotary Ambassadors, tasked with engaging visitors rather than clustering together in a Rotarian huddle. Speeches were kept **brief and lively**, capped at three minutes. Our president delivered an engaging rundown of what Rotary is, why it matters, and how it changes lives. And our talented Sergeant at Arms kept things moving and people laughing.

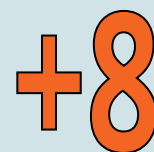
The highlight of the evening was the Meet the Committees Expo, an **interactive setup** where guests could roam freely, stopping at tables that showcased our club's work. They could ask questions, hear personal stories, and imagine themselves jumping into service projects. By the end of the night, conversations flowed easily, empty drink cups filled the room, and the invisible walls separating Rotarians from potential Rotarians had all but disappeared.

But a successful event means little without

continued next page



Be like the Fort Mill
Rotary Club.



AND
MORE
IN THE
PIPELINE!

WELCOME
ANTHONY
KYLE
SYLVYA



Rotary Club of Greer inducts three members in March

There is something magical happening in Greer—we are being found! In March we added three new members to our club. Join us in welcoming Anthony Del Aguila, inducted on March 4, and Sylvya Vanini and Kyle Brook, inducted on March 18.—Carrie Krause

➔ Sponsor Mark Moreno, new members **Kyle Brook** and **Sylvya Vanini**, Sponsor Becky Moreno.



↑ Sponsor Jason Schoettelkotte, new member **Anthony Del Aguila**, President Jim Nichols.



Fort Mill's success with Discover Rotary—

from the previous page

follow-up. The next morning, every guest received a thank-you email and an invitation to a future meeting, ensuring the momentum was carried forward. And now, four months later, we can say with confidence: eight guests from that night are now members of the club — a true testament to the impact of the event. More are on the way.

With this influx of new members, we recognized the need to improve our onboarding process to ensure they didn't just join, but became **engaged, long-term Rotarians**. We formalized a system where each new member was paired with their sponsoring

Rotarian, who took an active role in helping them integrate into the club. Sponsors guided them into joining a committee, making sure they found an engagement opportunity that matched their interests. New members were also encouraged to sign up as greeters at our weekly lunches—an easy way to meet everyone and start feeling like part of the group.

Why did this Discover Rotary event work? Because it was fun, welcoming, and—most importantly—it let people see themselves in Rotary. Our club's strongest asset is our members, so we created an event that not only

showcased them but also gave them something they felt confident about inviting friends, colleagues, and neighbors to—a night where everyone left feeling like they belonged.

You have time to do a Discover Rotary event in late April or early May, with time left to convert those prospects to members.

These events do not need to be large scale. If you follow the Recipe for a Successful Membership Event with only 4-6 prospects, your club will secure 2 or 3 new members. Do another one a month later, and you'll get the same result.



Rusty Infinger and Amy Randall were among the Greenville Rotarians working on this project.

Greenville Rotary members help rebuild deck for handicapped couple

A team of volunteers from the Rotary Club of Greenville rolled up their sleeves with Rebuild Upstate to complete a life-changing project for Mr. and Mrs. W!

Mr. and Mrs. W, both wheelchair users, had an unsafe back deck that posed a serious hazard. Over two days, volunteers demolished the old deck, rebuilt it from the ground up, added railings, and constructed safe steps with handrails—ensuring this couple has a secure and accessible secondary exit from their home.

Rebuild Upstate provided skilled site leaders, all the supplies and guidance—our partnership continues to make a meaningful impact!



↑ PDG Terry Weaver and Tom Murphy.

↓ Phil Townsend and future Rotarian Crosby Arthur.



Carla Cadet, Mrs. W, Pam Weaver, Mr. W, Terry Weaver, Tom Murphy, Rebuild Upstate Volunteer Doug Greenwell.



Christopher Karins and Kristine Amin.



Learning opportunities through Rotary

Develop your leadership skills and grow personally

BY DGE DAVID BRENNER

Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

Having just returned from an inspiring weekend at President-elect Training Seminar PETS, (soon to be called PELS for learning), I find myself reflecting on the benefits of being a Rotarian. One of those benefits is the tremendous opportunity for personal development like our Presidents-elect (PEs) went through at PETS.

At PETS and PrePETS our PEs learned about leadership, project management, organization, planning and other skills that will help them as the leaders or their respective clubs.

In Rotary you can learn and develop your skills as a leader, project manager, team member, unique skills (such as treasurer, public speaking, public image, etc), and other aspects of personal growth. These skills benefit you not only in Rotary, but also in your chosen professional career.

D-7750 Governor-Elect
DAVID BRENNER
david.brenner00@gmail.com

COURSES IN MY ROTARY

There are many ways to learn in Rotary. One of the quickest and easiest methods is to complete some of the many online courses in My Rotary. Simply log into Rotary.org and click the big yellow box that says Learning Center. It opens up to a whole array of learning courses. The courses do not take long to complete, and you can take them at your convenience. Check out the Learning Center today and take a look at all the courses that are available to you by just being a Rotarian.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

RLI is available to further develop your skills and learn more about Rotary. One of the greatest things about RLI is that you get to interact with Rotarians from other clubs and sometimes from other districts. Learn from each other.

Many clubs will cover the cost of attendance at these courses. Check with your club treasurer to see if your club will cover the cost to attend.

There are many RLI sessions either in our district or a short drive from your location.

Check Dacdb or midatlanticrli.org to find the dates

AT PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING

- Skills learned at PETS and PrePETS include leadership, project management, organization, and planning.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN ROTARY:

- Learn leadership, project management, teamwork, and unique skills (e.g., treasurer, public speaking, public image).
- Development skills applicable to both Rotary and professional careers.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Online courses in My Rotary's Learning Center. Accessible via Rotary.org, convenient and time-efficient.



ROTARY LEARNING INSTITUTE (RLI):

- Interact with Rotarians from other clubs and districts.
- Costs often covered by clubs; check with club treasurer.
- Completion of 3 sessions allows participation in facilitator courses.

DISTRICT EVENTS AND CONFERENCES:

- Opportunities to hear from expert speakers and engage in breakout discussions.
- Combine learning with fun activities.

LEARN BY DOING:

- Volunteer for leadership roles or project management in clubs.
- Running for club president provides access to PETS/PELS sessions, district learning events, and networking with Rotarians.

PROMOTING GROWTH AND MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

- Encourage new members to utilize learning resources like RLI and the Learning Center.
- Include learning opportunities in onboarding programs.
- Involved and knowledgeable members help make clubs more dynamic and engaging.

and locations where courses are offered After you have completed all 3 sessions (each a day long) you can participate in a facilitator's course and become an RLI facilitator. There is no better way to learn than to teach. Contact our district RLI Chair Julia Larson at doejulia99@gmail.com for more information.

continued, next page



Presidents-Elect Training Seminar: PEs from three districts learn together!

The beauty of Carolinas PETS is that presidents from seven districts have a chance to interact and learn from each other.

Alberto G. Meloncelli, E-Club of the Carolinas, Area 9, D7750
 Vib (Vibhuti) Shah E-Club of Raleigh International, NC, D7710
 Meurt (Mary Margaret) Jackson Rotary Club of Greenwood, Area 9, D7750
 Glenda W Corley Rotary Club of Emerald City, Area 9, D7750
 Andrea Alemanni Grunenwald E-Club of Global Trekkers, D7690

Opportunities to learn through Rotary— *from the previous page*

DISTRICT EVENTS

You can also learn a lot by attending the district conference and other events. At these events you will get to hear from expert speakers, as well as participate in discussions with Rotarians from other clubs in the breakout sessions. There are also always exciting things to do at the conference as well. Why not learn and have fun at the same time.

LEARN BY DOING

Volunteer for a leadership position or project management in your club. You will learn skills unique to those positions from experienced Rotarians. Skills that again will benefit you in the workplace. Put in for election as your club president. As a president-elect you will have

the opportunity to attend the President-elect Training Seminar (PETS), which I mentioned is soon to be renamed PELS for learning. PETS is an exciting experience where you will get to hear from very experienced speakers and learn from Rotarians with a variety of backgrounds. You will attend district sessions, as well as breakout sessions where you will get to learn and discuss issues with Rotarians from all over the Carolinas that are in attendance.

DON'T WAIT

So fellow Rotarians, don't wait any longer. Take advantage of these many learning opportunities for skill development and personal growth.

Club Presidents and Membership Chairs are you interested in

growing your club? If so, and I know you are, start promoting the opportunity for personal growth and skill development as a Rotarian during your recruitment of new members.

Encourage your members to participate in the many learning opportunities available to them as Rotarians. Include RLI and courses in the Learning Center in your onboarding programs for new members. You will have more knowledgeable members that will help make your clubs more exciting and irresistible.

History shows us that Rotarians that are more involved and have more knowledge and understanding of Rotary tend to stay in Rotary.



April is Environment Month on the Rotary calendar

ACTS OF GREEN

PROJECT IDEAS

Ideas for environmental projects you can do alone or with your club:

- Commit to using a refillable water bottle or beverage holder
- Change paper bills to online billing
- Request removal from catalog mail lists
- Use reef-safe sunscreen
- Turn off electronics when not in use
- Plant a tree or perennial plants, pollinator plants, & reduce pesticides
- Recycle aluminum, cardboard, & more
- Use reusable bags at stores
- Use cold water for laundry
- Carry reusable utensils with you – eating utensils and multi-use straws
- Cut up non-recyclable or unusable plastic items to reduce danger to animals

—Julie Tovey, E-Club of the Carolinas

Members of the **ROTARY E-CLUB OF THE CAROLINAS** will be engaged in remote environmental service projects from March 22-April 5 in recognition of Earth Day 2025 and Rotary’s April emphasis on the environment. The club has organized this ACTS of GREEN project for the past several years.

News from Seneca Golden Corner



Police chief

Seneca Police Chief Casey Bowling, center, updated Golden Corner about his department’s outreach programs including the latest initiative to contact senior citizens every day and help secure any assistance they may need. Pictured with Chief Bowling is co-president Beth Brown.



Special events

Riley Johnson, Seneca’s Events Coordinator, updated Golden Corner about the city’s 2025 schedule of activities including the kickoff of Jazz on the Alley March 27 featuring StoneEcho. Seneca will also host Cruizin On Main April 5 and celebrate Juneteenth June 19-21. Pictured with Riley is co-president Patrick Lee, right.



Foster care

Greg Bearden, a board member for Oconee Foster Care Review Board, updated Golden Corner about board responsibilities including to ensure foster children are receiving appropriate care. At the end of January 2025, the board had reviewed 56 cases in Oconee County. Pictured with Greg is Rotarian Gene Williams, right.

Golden Strip Sunrise



Star Party at Generations Group Home

Golden Strip Sunrise entertained the boys at Generations Group Home with a pizza dinner and bingo on March 21. Pictured: Becky Gault, Trip Gilreath, Dee Vaughan, Mike McCourry, Sam Gault, Melinda Gilreath



First of four GSSR road clean-up days

Golden Strip Sunrise completed the first of four road clean ups for the year on March 8 on South Street in Simpsonville. Pictured: Mike Watson, Jim Caprell, Becky Miller, Trip Gilreath

Make A Wish at Fountain Inn High School

The **GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE CLUB** participated in the Fountain Inn High School Spirit Week by donating \$1500 towards the Make A Wish Foundation. Make A Wish South Carolina grants transformative wishes for children facing critical illnesses. Pictured: Trip Gilreath, Melinda Gilreath, leaders of the Fountain Inn High School Student Council.



Students of the Month in Seneca



Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Seneca's March Students of the Month!

- Kali Mayes: Ravenel Elementary
- Rotarian Lyn Norton
- Reece Robertson: Seneca Middle
- Rotarian Sherri Carr
- Darrion Schwering: Northside Elementary
- Hailey Jones: Seneca High
- Rotarian Earnestine Williams
- Isaac Flores: Blue Ridge Elementary
- Rotarian Andy Inabinet



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

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>

GREENVILLE ROTARIANS CELEBRATE 60 YEARS FOR LITERACY ASSOCIATION

Members of the Rotary Club of Greenville at the 60th anniversary celebration of Greenville Literacy Association. From left are: Brad Schneider, Terry Weaver, Pam Weaver, President Roger Heitzeg, President-Elect Kristine Amin, Taylor Lybrand, Peggy Brock, Club Admin Jeni Townsend, and President Nominee Rusty Infinger.



Greenville Rotary partnership with Greenville Literacy

BY PAM WEAVER
Rotary Club of Greenville

Greenville Rotary’s work with the Greenville Literacy Association is one of our oldest partnerships. Materials for GED prep cost about \$250 each. That is often an obstacle for many students wanting to earn their GED, so we provide scholarship funding for them.

The club has had two book drives for GLA that have collected about 500 books so far this year. We have provided volunteers for the Really Good, Really Big, Really Cheap Book Sale and will do so again this summer.

Members are encouraged to tutor as they are able.

We played a key role in the recent 60th GLA anniversary celebration by providing operational support, helping secure a venue and being a sponsor. See photo of the 9 club members who sat at the Greenville Rotary Sponsored table.

April 12, 2025
9:00am - 2:00pm
Camp Thunderbird
1 Thunderbird Ln, Lake Wylie, SC 29710

- Kayak and Stand Up Paddleboard Races
- Silent Auction
- Music
- Food & Vendor Booths

Info and registration:

www.PaddleForTheCureLW.com

Paddle for the Cure to end Alzheimer’s

The Rotary Club of Lake Wylie invited all of us to the the 3rd Annual Paddle for the Cure—the Race to Beat Alzheimer's.

This year's event will be held at Camp Thunderbird on Lake Wylie on April 12 from 9 am -2 pm.

For those who like to paddle there are multiple races for adults and a 2K race for those 12-17 years of age.

If you don't paddle no worries, come join us for food, music, vendor booths and a huge silent auction.

For more information please visit our website 3rd Annual Paddle for the Cure and to register to paddle please sign up at Register for Paddle for the Cure - 2025.

Pleasantburg has banquet honoring French exchange student

The Pleasantburg Rotary club honored its international exchange student, Lou Borrás of Lens, France, with a five course French-themed dinner on March 21, hosted (and cooked!) by Wade Cleveland and Travis Seward.



Inbound Youth Exchange parent at the club

Pleasantburg Rotarians welcomed Emilie Borrás of Lens, France, to the March 20 meeting. Emilie is the emother of Youth Exchange student Lou Borrás. From left are club president Lale Dogan, Emilie Borrás, Lou Borrás, and 7750 Youth Exchange chair Wade Cleveland.



↑ Announcing the menu

Bobby Elrod
Lale Dogan
Lou Borrás
Wade Cleveland



← In the kitchen:

Wade Cleveland, Alecia Elrod, and Travis Seward dishing up the main course.

rotary
youth
exchange



Guests of honor

Debbie Bucklaew—Lou's host mother
Isabella Bucklaew—Lou's host sister
Lou Borrás—Inbound exchange student



At the Pleasantbug Youth Exchange banquet!

Jim O'Connor, Linda Lee, Quentin Ball, Tammy Harrison, Val Vandersloot, Susan Hughes, Don Vandersloot, Bert van Ommen, Mark Stone, Caroline Molenaar, Kathy Sharp, Henry Dupre.

Give to the Foundation, earn Matching Points!

This year's Governor's Challenge will run from March 15 through April 30. Thank you to Pam and Terry Weaver for donating the Foundation Recognition Points to make this Challenge Match successful.

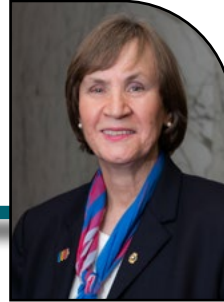
Without our contributions to Annual Fund – SHARE, we would not have funds for our District Grants that help us do good at home and our Global Grants that change lives around the world.

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

If you need help making a contribution, contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at bpadgettrotary@outlook.com.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE ROTARY FOUNDATION. TOGETHER, WE ARE "DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD!"



York recognizes new Paul Harris Fellows

- Dean Boyd, PHF +2
- Grier Sandifer, PHF +5
- Shelby Cowart, PHF
- Maria Duncan, PHF +6
- Gene Ledbetter, PHF +1

Gifts like these make District Grants possible.

➔ This chart shows how much District Grant funds each club is eligible for in 2025-26 based upon the club's giving in 2023-24.

District Grant applications due by April 30

Rotary Clubs have through April 30 to submit their applications for a District Grant in 2025-26. Club leaders have received training on how to complete a District Grant Final Report and how to turn in a new grant application. All the information needed to do a District Grant is available on the [District website](#). Information on a club's maximum grant eligibility can be found in this newsletter.

If you have any questions or challenges, please contact as soon as possible District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at bpadgettrotary@outlook.com and District Grants Chair Bill Harley at william.harley@firstcitizens.com. District Grants should be built around community projects that will have a significant impact and use Rotary volunteers.

District Grant applications must be submitted using the online form, but it is strongly advised that the grant writer does a draft. That copy should be saved and shared with the club board and members implementing the grant. Also, remember not to spend any grant money until you receive the grant check and deposit it in your bank. Rotary International usually sends grant funds to District 7750 in August or early September.

Club	Members 7/1/23	Annual Fund SHARE	AF SHARE Per Capita	Max. Grant Eligibility
Abbeville	44	\$7,545.00	\$171.48	\$2,000
Aiken	166	\$30,298.00	\$182.52	\$4,000
Aiken Sunrise	40	\$10,320.00	\$258.00	\$4,000
Anderson	106	\$22,584.00	\$213.06	\$4,000
Batesburg-Leesville	21	\$3,550.00	\$169.05	\$2,000
Blacksburg	12	\$1,695.00	\$141.25	\$1,102
Carolina Foothills	22	\$1,900.00	\$86.36	\$800
Chester	54	\$1,500.00	\$27.78	\$0
Clemson	84	\$25,692.38	\$305.86	\$4,400
Clemson Sunrise	33	\$5,343.75	\$161.93	\$2,000
Clinton	31	\$3,875.00	\$125.00	\$2,000
Clover	24	\$2,315.00	\$96.46	\$800
Easley	68	\$9,910.00	\$145.74	\$2,000
E-Club of The Carolinas	18	\$10,593.00	\$588.50	\$4,000
Emerald City	83	\$28,585.00	\$344.40	\$6,400
Fort Mill	64	\$61,608.91	\$962.64	\$8,000
Fountain Inn	37	\$2,090.00	\$56.49	\$0
Gaffney	55	\$3,917.50	\$71.23	\$0
Golden Strip Sunrise	19	\$5,580.00	\$293.68	\$3,627
Greater Anderson	63	\$12,975.00	\$205.95	\$4,000
Greenville	161	\$67,726.00	\$420.66	\$7,200
Greenville Breakfast	14	\$2,662.00	\$190.14	\$1,730
Greenville City Center	46	\$6,200.00	\$134.78	\$2,000
Greenwood	109	\$10,942.00	\$100.39	\$2,000
Greer	29	\$3,671.00	\$126.59	\$2,000
Indian Land Lunch	47	\$5,925.00	\$126.06	\$2,000
Lake Wylie	30	\$5,230.00	\$174.33	\$2,000
Lancaster	54	\$10,477.00	\$194.02	\$4,000
Lancaster Breakfast	56	\$10,375.00	\$185.27	\$4,000
Laurens	48	\$8,750.01	\$182.29	\$4,000
Mauldin	15	\$2,950.00	\$196.67	\$1,918
Newberry	65	\$21,232.00	\$326.65	\$4,000
North Augusta	17	\$325.00	\$19.12	\$0
North Spartanburg	27	\$3,750.00	\$138.89	\$2,000
Pickens	29	\$3,100.00	\$106.90	\$2,000
Pleasantburg	40	\$13,611.00	\$340.28	\$4,000
Rock Hill	59	\$7,200.00	\$122.03	\$2,000
Seneca	27	\$6,645.00	\$246.11	\$4,000
Seneca Golden Corner	22	\$1,417.50	\$64.43	\$0
Simpsonville	37	\$4,884.00	\$132.00	\$2,000
Spartan West	29	\$4,100.00	\$141.38	\$2,000
Spartanburg	176	\$15,320.00	\$87.05	\$800
the Reedy River	22	\$17,200.00	\$781.82	\$6,400
Travelers Rest	16	\$975.00	\$60.94	\$0
Union	34	\$7,130.00	\$209.71	\$4,000
Walhalla	22	\$4,892.00	\$222.36	\$3,180
Westminster	31	\$3,935.00	\$126.94	\$2,000
Winnsboro	17	\$1,395.00	\$82.06	\$800
York	25	\$13,665.00	\$546.60	\$4,400

Leave a legacy through Rotary in your estate plan

By leaving a gift to Rotary’s endowment in your estate plan, you can ensure that the good works done through Rotary continue. A gift from your estate to the Endowment will provide ongoing financial support just as your annual contributions do today.

It is easy to include The Rotary Foundation in your estate plan. District Endowment Chair Lance Young and District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett are eager to help with endowment gifts.

Also, Foundation Major Gifts Officer Jon Teich can provide

customized suggestions for what may work best for individual Rotarians.

Contact PDG Lance at lsyoung@clemson.edu and PDG Beth at bpadgettrotyary@outlook.com. Also, more information on Rotary’s Endowment can be found [here](#).

District 7750 is more than halfway through its Million Dollar Campaign designed to raise \$1 million or more in major or planned gifts for The Rotary Foundation. Increased Annual Fund gifts have an immediate impact in our District while endowment gifts ensure adequate

funding for future projects.

A special celebration will be held on Friday, November 14, at the Greenville Parkway Marriott in addition to the annual Foundation Celebration dinner. Rotarians can participate in this special campaign through Major Gift pledges and life income agreements of at least \$10,000 that are initiated during the campaign period. This also includes cumulative outright contributions of \$10,000 or more during the campaign timeline that began July 1, 2023.—Beth



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 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.

2 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



Update on Guatemala Global Grant project at Pleasantburg

In keeping with RI’s March focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, Pleasantburg Rotarian Kathy Sharp shared her experiences on a recent trip to Guatemala to visit water distribution systems built through Rotary Global Grants.



Magical District Conference

MAY 16 - 17, 2025

Hilton
Columbia Downtown

Friday, May 16

- Unlock the magic of service with engaging service activities followed by 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
- Rotary licensed vendor will be selling branded merchandise during the morning and evening sessions



Service projects planned at District Conference

The service projects for this year's District Conference will showcase People of Action.

We will have three one-hour projects benefitting the Levine Cancer Institute on May 16 at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.

On May 17 we will have a one-hour project at 1 p.m. to benefit the Haitian Children's Book Center.

Contact E-Club members

Candace Wyman at candacewyman@gmail.com or Julia Larson at docjulia99@gmail.com for more info or go directly to <https://givebutter.com/7750Serves>

for information and registration. The QR code will also take you to information about the projects.





GREENVILLE BREAKFAST GETS A JUMP ON UNITE FOR GOOD: WORKED ON SEVERAL JOINT SERVICE PROJECTS

The Greenville Breakfast Club participated with Studio Church of Taylors to perform some service projects. The combined efforts of the two groups epitomizes the new Rotary message of UNITE FOR GOOD. The service effort was performed at the Poe Mill Achievement Center that is a free after-school and summer enrichment program for elementary children in Greenville, SC. PMAC is 100% funded by donations and grants and any support is welcome. Pictured: DGE Dave Brenner, Jim Kenyon, Joe Gobbett, and Bill Shuford



JIM CASHION: GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE CHARTER MEMBER CELEBRATES HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

Wishing a joyful 80th Birthday to Jim Cashion! Jim is a founding member of the Golden Strip Sunrise Club. We celebrate and value all the time and contributions Jim has dedicated to Rotary over the years. There was a party at City Range Grill in Greenville and included all of Jim's kids and grandkids. Photo: Jim and his wife Phyllis.

New Members in February

Stamey, Joshua A	Anderson	Totten, Bernard	Indian Land Lunch
Santiago, Emily M	Blacksburg	Fuentes, Perla	Mauldin
Williams, LaTanya R.	Chester	Lorza, Maria	Mauldin
Watson, Centuria	Chester	Fernandez, Susan	Newberry
Wade, Dennis Keith	Chester	Heath, Mary Beth	Newberry
Caldwell , Charlie	Easley	Combs, Laura	Pleasantburg
Schorr , Anna	Fort Mill	Chudyk, David T	Seneca Golden Corner
Handler, Jay	Greenville	Chambers, Randall	Spartanburg
Turk, Troy	Greenville	Bound, Linda G	Spartanburg
Henney, Coleman	Greenville	Shuler, Jon E.	Spartanburg
Abbott, Linn	Greenville	Fortune, Wilson	Spartanburg
Agnew, Quincy D.	Greenwood	Albertson, Broadus	Walhalla
Byers, Kenneth M.	Greenwood	McPhail, Luke	Walhalla
Briggs, Bonnie L	Greer	Parker, Christie	York
Welch, Bob	Greer		

FEBRUARY 2025: 29 NEW MEMBERS — 22 TERMINATED MEMBERS (1 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.

Blooming season is here and it's time to clean-up!

Greetings Rotary family. Blooming season is here so let's Spring into action to finish the Rotary year strong. We have thawed out from the winter months and now is the time to engage in environmental projects. Consider cleaning along the waterways, trash pick up at your local park, or starting a garden to address food deserts in your community. Rotarians that are gifted in the environmental sciences, consider sharing that talent with a student population or organizing a learning session through your Rotary club.



As the bees are carrying pollen to make our ecosystem beautiful, carry environmental projects to your local community. For additional assistance with environmental projects, reach out to PDG/Environmental Committee Chair Rob Hanley dg2019@rotary7750.org. —Rysheeka

2025 RI CONVENTION



MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

#Rotary25

INFORMATION AT

rotarycalgary2025.org

Deadline for May newsletter is **April 25.**

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

Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.