



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

**THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY**

**MAY**

Youth Service

**JUNE**

Rotary Fellowships

# 7750

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**



## **YORK ROTARY: HAVING FUN AND HELPING KIDS**

Members of the Rotary Club of York had fun while filling 100 bag kits for the York School District's Parenting Partnership Early Connections Program. The club bought the materials that focus on math and hands-on activities for children under school age. The kits encourage creative play focusing on fine and gross motor skills and language development.



**BASIC EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY**



Rotary  
District 7750



# *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, 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



# Get ready for the District Conference

**BY DG RYSHEEKA BUSH**

Greetings fellow Rotarians. I have concluded scheduled club visits and am now able to visit with clubs for fun activities and fundraisers. I'm truly having the time of my life. We have an amazing District!

I am formally inviting you to the 2025 Magical District Conference in our beautiful state capital May 16 and 17. I hope you will join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and engaging learning sessions.

There will be opportunities to take part in impactful service projects. We will have a magic show Saturday evening to

celebrate the Magic of Rotary, complete with a fun wine raffle. There will also be a licensed vendor on site for those who wish to stock up on their Rotary swag. So, come on out!

I hope to see you in Columbia, SC May 16 and 17 for a magical weekend of fun.

*I apologize for the change of plans with the Governor's Mansion tour- we were just informed that there is an event at the mansion that evening and afternoon tours on the 17th are closed. The team is working on a comparable replacement activity).*

## Magical District Conference

**MAY 16 - 17, 2025**

Hilton  
Columbia Downtown

**THANK YOU, PEACH STATE, FOR HELPING US BRING THE MAGIC OF ROTARY™ TO LIFE! WITH BUSINESS PARTNERS LIKE YOU, WE'RE EMPOWERED TO SERVE, CONNECT, AND INSPIRE.**

**DISTRICT 7750 CONFERENCE SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT**

**PRESIDENTIAL SPONSOR**



Sponsors like Peach State Federal Credit Union help keep the cost of our district conference for Rotarians lower.

It's not too late to join us as a sponsor! Sponsorship opportunities are still available — and it's sponsors like YOU who help make the magic happen!

Interested in sponsoring? Contact District Conference Sponsorship Chair, Alicia Fitts at [afitts@peachstatefcu.org](mailto:afitts@peachstatefcu.org)!



## 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 benefiting 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](mailto:candacewyman@gmail.com) or Julia Larson at [docjulia99@gmail.com](mailto: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.





## Miracles in Union Rotary Club of Union recognizes eight organizations considered game-changers in its community

**BY ANNA BROWN**

*Rotary Club of Union*

Rotary Club of Union President Joey Haney said the eight organizations who received donations from the club through its Community Outreach Program are all doing miracles in the community.

“You are game changers for our Union Community,” Joey said. “And we want to show our appreciation and invest because you are doing big things for our community. Let me thank you and I thank you on behalf of our Rotary Club.”

Teresa Humphries and Angela Lakes accepted the donation on behalf of Visions of Hope that provides emergency food boxes, tents and hygiene supplies to anyone in need.

“Our basic goal is to let people who have fallen on hard times or who are living on the street know that people care for them, they are loved, and if there is anyway possible to get them off the street we will follow the process to help them.”

Common Ground Ministries was represented by Tyler Heatherly. He said Common Ground offers food, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags and other items. He said it was originally founded to assist the homeless but had expanded to the community. On

certain days of the week, lunch is provided.

Marie Knox and Tom Foley represented Jacob’s Well. The ministry’s initiatives include two food distributions a month. They also provide emergency food assistance and offer blessing boxes—eight were put up during the pandemic and are still used today.

Dale Goff, Bob Love, Rebecca and Bill Rochester and Mary Owens, family services director of the Union Housing Authority,

accepted the donation for Love thy Neighbor.

Love Thy Neighbor offers, at no cost, tutoring and mentoring to families, monthly neighbor dinners (one had

### Organizations that received \$2,500 donations from the club are:

- Visions of Hope
- Common Ground Ministries
- Jacob’s Well
- Love Thy Neighbor
- C4
- Prodigal’s Home
- Union County Pregnancy Center
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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## Golden Strip Sunrise packs boxes for Feed & Seed

On April 8 Golden Strip Sunrise Rotarians packed fresh food boxes for Feed & Seed, a non-profit food hub serving local farmers and families in the Upstate of South Carolina.

## Union Miracle Projects—

continued from previous page

85 attendees), services to seniors through Catawba Council on Aging, (250 seniors have been served) and supports Mental Health First Aid Training at the library.

Brad Goodale of C4 accepted the donation on behalf of the ministry. “We meet people in a crisis,” he said. “We can’t do what we do without two things— the Lord Jesus Christ and people like you, specifically the ministries that are sitting in front of you.”

Goodale said the ministries represented at Rotary work hand in hand with one another. He said when C4 is able to place someone in need of shelter, often the other ministries follow closely with food

and clothing.

He said he hopes the community can see Union County’s homeless population and drug addicted population has decreased.

Prodigal’s Home Assistant Director Daniel Coleman said the home takes men who are bound by the chains of addiction and tries to instill in them all God has to offer.

“We provide them with a roof over their head, we join with several different programs who help them get insurance, make sure they get their GED,” he said. “We have companies who allow them an opportunity to get work.”

Pregnancy Center Executive Director Lisa Hartley said the

organization provides pregnancy tests, formula, food, diapers and other items, and tries to show people how they can go from dependency to self-sufficiency and help their children to be lifelong learners.

David Turner, Larry Yarbrough and Charlie Wilson, who is also a Rotary member, represented Neighbors Helping Neighbors. When it started, the ministry did home repairs, including roofing and plumbing. Today, the group builds ramps for the handicapped. The group has already completed four this year and built 15 last year. Five people are currently on the waiting list.



D7750 clubs have been big supporters of The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust) for many years. You can throw your change (or bills) in the blue buckets at your meeting or donate online at [www.mycartfund.org](http://www.mycartfund.org).





Welcome, Zack

## Zack Quick is new member at Rotary Club of Walhalla

Zack Quick is a new member of the Rotary Club of Walhalla. Zack works at Tigers Ford. He is pictured with club president Morton White.

**By the time you read this, the May 1st numbers will be live in the Membership Success Center—and the growth continues! More clubs are gaining traction and adding new members.**

# District 7750 Ranks #1 in Membership Growth!

It is with great pride and admiration that I share some incredible news — District 7750 is currently ranked #1 in membership NET growth across Zones 33/34! In fact, we're the only district boasting triple-digit NET membership growth year-to-date.

April was an exceptional month for us, marked by significant gains in membership. This achievement is a direct result of your strategic planning and intentional execution of Rotary Informational Sessions — also known as Discover Rotary programs. These efforts have fueled our remarkable growth in recent weeks.

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



Based on the Membership Task Force's insights, we expect this upward trend to continue, especially as several clubs have recently hosted Discover Rotary events. Many of you have also followed through on action items from the August 2024 Membership Summit—those "golden ticket" strategies are truly paying off. Keep that momentum going to secure long-term success.

We still have two full months to make a lasting impact on the 2024-25 Rotary year.

Let's be clear—we're not resting on our #1 ranking. We know attrition can still shift the numbers, so let's double down on our efforts and finish this Rotary year strong, united, and Net+. Together, we're setting the stage for a record-breaking 2024-25! **Let's keep pushing forward—because District 7750 leads by example!**

## Don't let the looming June storm of attrition rain on your parade!

Just like any forecasted storm, preparation is key to staying comfortable and dry. Your best defense? Equip yourself with the DACdb Club Survey and make sure to factor in the average attrition rate when calculating your membership goals for the year.

Think of the survey and attrition planning as your umbrella and raincoat—they'll protect you when the storm hits. Now's the time to check your storm gear and make sure it's ready for action.

And remember—it's perfectly okay to step out of harm's way. Taking shelter from the storm simply means you planned ahead and made the right moves before the clouds rolled in.

Stay dry, stay prepared, and stay growing!



# Year-to-Date New Member Progress by Club

This chart shows the number of members each club had at July 1, the net gain or loss of members, the number of new members and the new member percent. Sorted by highest percentage increase.

Indian Land	53	17	27	51%
Walhalla	34	15	17	50%
Blacksburg	10	3	3	30%
Greer	40	7	12	30%
Travelers Rest	14	3	4	29%
Pickens	30	5	8	27%
Mauldin	12	2	3	25%
North Augusta	16	4	4	25%
Fountain Inn	33	5	8	24%
E-Club of The Carolinas	23	4	5	22%
York	29	4	6	21%
Fort Mill	65	11	13	20%
Greenville City Center	45	9	9	20%
Greenville	166	4	32	19%
Westminster	26	1	5	19%
Lake Wylie	34	1	6	18%
Winnsboro	19	2	3	16%
Pleasantburg	45	4	7	16%
Lancaster Breakfast	53	4	7	13%
Anderson	109	-2	14	13%
Easley	72	2	9	13%
Union	40	4	5	13%
Greenwood	99	2	11	11%
Newberry	64	3	7	11%
Abbeville	47	5	5	11%

Clinton	30	3	3	10%
Chester	54	4	5	9%
Batesburg-Leesville	22	1	2	9%
Golden Strip Sunrise	22	1	2	9%
Emerald City	84	-4	7	8%
Aiken	162	2	13	8%
Seneca	25	0	2	8%
Clover	26	1	2	8%
Gaffney	59	0	4	7%
Clemson Sunrise	32	2	2	6%
Rock Hill	65	3	4	6%
Spartanburg	175	4	10	6%
Clemson	90	-4	5	6%
Aiken Sunrise	38	-1	2	5%
Lancaster	60	-3	3	5%
Seneca Golden Corner	20	-1	1	5%
Reedy River	21	0	1	5%
Spartan West	26	-1	1	4%
Greater Anderson	62	-1	2	3%
Laurens	50	-6	1	2%
Carolina Foothills	19	-5	0	0%
Greenville Breakfast	16	0	0	0%
North Spartanburg	28	-3	0	0%
Simpsonville	32	-1	0	0%
<b>District Totals:</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>13%</b>

MAKE THE CONNECTION (FUN = GROWTH)



## York club packs condiments, then will distribute hot dogs at big electric co-op event

Members of the Rotary Club of York assembled bags with hot dog condiments for the York Electric Co-op annual meeting. The Co-op makes a monetary donation to the club for its help in preparing 8,000 bags with packets of mustard, ketchup and napkins. On the day of the event, the 8,000 hot dogs will be cooked, placed in buns, wrapped and placed in the bags to be distributed to Co-op members by the Rotarians. These pictures were taken at a club meeting in April but the end result is that members will have a **great recruiting opportunity** when they pass out the hot dogs at the event in May. Being out in its community and having fun together are two reasons **York is among the top clubs** in membership growth this year.



# FINISH STRONG

## Strategies to end year with net positive growth

BY ALBERT BLACKMON  
*7750 Membership Chair*



**DISTRICT 7750**

**H**ere are some key strategies to help your club finish strong with Net Positive growth:

### 1. Attrition Is Real

Every year, clubs face unexpected losses near June 30. Be proactive—plan for it.

### 2. Expand Your Membership Base Now

Follow up with guests and speakers who've visited your club. A simple phone call can lead to a new Rotarian.

Schedule a Discover Rotary session for the first or second week of June. With prompt follow-up, you can welcome new members before June 30.

Reconnect with former members. Life changes—check in to see if the time is right for them to return. Some clubs are hosting Re-Discover Rotary sessions for former Rotarians to share updates regarding the club's culture and events.

Club Presidents and Presidents-Elect should collaborate now to execute these strategies. A strong finish now sets the stage for a fast start in July.

### 3. Survey Your Club Culture

Use the Member Satisfaction Survey in the Membership Success Center to understand your current environment. Growth isn't just about new members — it's also about retaining the ones we have.

### 4. Embrace Innovation

Explore new club formats (e.g., Satellite, Companion, or Service-Only Clubs) and flexible membership types (Family, Corporate, Young Professional, etc.) to meet people where they are.

### 5. Leverage Your Resources

You're not in this alone. Your Assistant Governors and District Membership Team are here to support you. Tap into their knowledge, strategies, and encouragement.





Elementary Honor Chorus, above, and Middle School Honor Chorus backstage awaiting curtains up.



A big thank you goes out to the 2025 Event Sponsor, Rogers Financial Group. Shown here with plaque for the company office are Rotarians, Jon Rogers (seated, right) and David King.



District and club Rotary leadership were in attendance for the event: PDG Renee Stubbs; AG Eric Baker, DG Rysheeka Bush, DGE Dave Brenner, Spring Sing Chair Susan Hughes,

## Another successful Spring Sing *for Rotary Club of Pleasantburg*



Rotarian Linda Lee, left, and the Greenville Federal Credit Union's Senior Vice President for Marketing and Brand Strategy, Catherine James, present the Spring Sing Scholarship to Lucas Bower of Travelers Rest High School.

On April 8, the Pleasantburg Rotary Club and Greenville County Schools presented their 43rd Spring Sing to a capacity audience at The Peace Center in Greenville.

Two honors choirs, one composed of elementary students representing each elementary school in the district, and the other of middle school students from each middle school, performed under the direction of guest choral clinician, David Mandt of Birmingham, Alabama.

Over 450 young singers participated in this once-in-a-lifetime experience to perform on the stage of the Upstate's leading

performing arts venue.

In addition, Lucas Bower, graduating senior from Travelers Rest High School received the \$2,000 Spring Sing Scholarship sponsored by the Greenville Federal Credit Union.

It was all hands on deck as Pleasantburg Rotarians manned a Rotary information table and assisted Peace Center ushers by distributing printed programs.

Members of the St. Joseph's Catholic High School Interact Club (sponsored by the Pleasantburg Rotary Club) led by Kevin Stanton, greeted arriving audience members as they entered the Peace Center.



Welcome, Emily



## BLACKSBURG INDUCTS NEW MEMBER

The Blacksburg Rotary Club welcomes new member Emily Santiago. Emily is the Community and Volunteer Coordinator for the Cherokee County Meals on Wheels. Pictured with Emily is Ed Elliott who performed her induction ceremony. Blacksburg is our smallest club and has inducted three new members this year.



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



## ...PACKS BACKPACKS

Members of the Blacksburg Rotary Club always enjoy helping Backpack Buddies by serving as the 5th week packing team.

## ... HELPS STOCK CLOTHES CLOSET WITH CHILDREN'S ITEMS



The Blacksburg Rotary Club made a donation to the Blacksburg Primary School's clothing closet. The closet provides clothing, underwear and socks for children when needed. The club heard that the closet was low on socks and underwear and "passed the hat" at a meeting to make the donation. Pictured with school principal Michael Bender are club members Mason Standbridge, president David Roark, Ed Elliott and Carolyn Batchler.





## SENECA GOLDEN CORNER

### ↓ Radiology equipment update

Teri Howes, radiation oncologist with Prisma Health Cancer Institute in Seneca, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on the institute's latest equipment and encouraged everyone to get tested early. Pictured from left are Golden Corner Rotary Club co-president Beth Brown, Rotary District 7750 assistant governor Stephen Graves, Teri, Rotarian David Williams and club co-president Patrick Lee.



### ↑ Seneca Golden Corner provides hygiene kits to Our Daily Rest

The Golden Corner Rotary Club presented Our Daily Rest shelter with 47 hygiene kits for men and women as part of the club's ongoing community service. Rotarian Gene Williams presented the kits to Gwen Daniels..



Steve Rushton, Rotarian and longtime Clemson and Oconee businessman, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on the changes in financial

management as most institutions move to all digital transactions.



Will Chapman, administrator for Prisma Health Baptist Easley Hospital and Oconee Memorial Hospital, updated the Golden Corner Club

about the many updates to medical services at Prisma Health and the addition of a Tennessee hospital to the Prisma Health System.



Tri-County Technical College's nationally-recognized student support coordinator Catherine DuRant updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club

about the college's I-BEST, Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training program. The program helps students with education and life skills while they are on a path to certification or graduation.





**50-year Rotarian Bill Graham, Rotary Club of Union, receives PHF+8**

Union Rotarian Bill Graham received his Paul Harris Fellow +8 award for his extraordinary level of giving to the Rotary Foundation. Beth Padgett, Foundation Chair for Rotary District 7750, presented the award at a club meeting. Bill has been a Rotarian for more than 50 years.

**If you need help making a contribution, contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at [bpadgettrotary@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgettrotary@outlook.com). Thank you for all you do for Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Together, we are "Doing Good in the World!"**

**DG Rysheeka issues exciting challenge for giving to The Rotary Foundation**

**You can get double points for gifts in May**

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. We need a strong push in District 7750 to reach our Foundation goal this year for **Annual Fund-SHARE**.

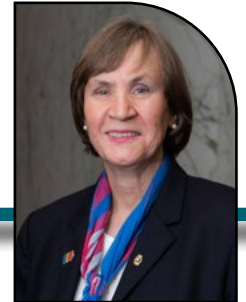
District Governor Rysheeka Bush encourages Rotarians in District 7750 to contribute to Annual Fund-SHARE between now and May 31! If you participate, you will be doing much good in the world while also potentially earning double Foundation Recognition Points. Points for this Challenge Match are donated by Pam and Terry Weaver.

There are several ways to participate in this challenge match. Make sure you choose Annual Fund-SHARE when making your donation and provide your Rotary (Member) ID Number.

Contributions can be made online at My Rotary – <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> or by calling the Rotary Support Center

at 866-976-8279 and 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 donations reach Rotary International before this challenge match ends. Donations sent by mail must be recorded at RI by May 31. 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](mailto:bpadgettrotary@outlook.com)**





# Golden Strip Sunrise



Sam Stamps, HIS Daycare Manager Ruth Buckmire, Becky Miller, Vince Petrell, Sam Gault, Jim Caprell, Interactors Sarina and Linda, Mike McCourry, Dee Vaughan.



District Grant project for Golden Strip Sunrise

## Pollinator Gardens

The district grant project for the Rotary Club of Golden Strip Sunrise aims to establish three pollinator gardens in Fountain Inn.

The club is collaborating with the Miriam Foundation to create these gardens at Fountain Inn Elementary, the Senior Activity Center, and HIS Daycare. These photos mark the project's initial phase; stay tuned for further updates as we move forward with the construction and planting.—Rebecca Miller



**No need to have a separate fundraiser for polio!**

As the audience departed the Peace Center following Pleasantburg's Spring Sing, Rotarians collected cash donations for Polio Plus. This is Travis Seward with Polio Plus buckets at the ready.







Rotary   
District 7750

# SAVE THE DATE

*Awards and Installation  
Celebration*

JULY | 18 | 2025

Poinsett Club  
Greenville, SC

More Info Coming Soon!

## ↑ Fountain Inn members prepare books to deliver to students

The Rotary Club of Fountain Inn donated 400 books to Fountain Inn Elementary students. Members also participate in Read to Me every other Wednesday. Literacy is an important pillar of Rotary and this club.

← Plan now to help thank those Rotarians who have led us during 2024-25 and support those who will be our leaders in 2025-26 at the Annual Awards and Installation banquet on July 18.



# New Members in March

Brown, Thomas D.	Abbeville	Hofmann, Carrie L	Greenwood
Crosby, Chris M.	Abbeville	Brook, Kyle S.	Greer
Heaton, Mark	Aiken	Del Aguila, Anthony R.	Greer
Jones, Don	Aiken	Vanini, Sylvya	Greer
Campbell, Donald L	Anderson	Alvey, Korry	Indian Land
Greer, Brandie	Anderson	Backer, Billie	Indian Land
Johnson, Johanna	Anderson	Backer, Jesse	Indian Land
Rucker, Wyatt	Batesburg-Leesville	Blackmon, Brittany Alexis	Indian Land
Hinson, Nathan B.	Chester	Houghtaling, Alaina J	Indian Land
Stillwell, Jessica Sorrell	Chester	Hynson, Tracey	Indian Land
Pope, Donald L Jr.	Clemson	Lingle, Lynne	Indian Land
Arsenault, Savannah	Clover	Mulvaney, Michael F.	Indian Land
Freeman, Stella M	Easley	Sellers, Keith	Indian Land
Gleason, Andrew L	Easley	Wahmann, Maryann	Indian Land
Hofmann, Robert W.	Emerald City	Wahmann, Robert J	Indian Land
John, Chacko	Emerald City	Cabral, Nikole	Lander Rotaract
Rusenko, John	Fort Mill	Leggieri, MaryKate	Lander Rotaract
Creps, Daniel	Fountain Inn	Epting, Morgan	Newberry
Dyer, Clifton E. "Buddy"	Fountain Inn	Kitchen, Lee Anne	Newberry
Garrett, Mase	Fountain Inn	Motsinger, Scott	Newberry
Muller, Thomas Jr.	Fountain Inn	Gilbert, Caleb	Oconee After Dark
Smith, Heyward	Fountain Inn	Roberts, Josh	Oconee After Dark
West, Cynthia	Fountain Inn	Smith, Reah Land	Oconee After Dark
Bazen, Coleman	Greenville	Turner, Kaitlyn	Oconee After Dark
Brunner, Bob	Greenville	Whitson, Monnie	Simpsonville
Karins, Christopher	Greenville	Leahy, Thomas D Jr.	Spartanburg
Pritchard, Holly	Greenville	Maness, Joseph	Union
Rigby, Chris	Greenville	Blundy, Bethany	Walhalla
Decker, Lonnie	Greenville City Center	Ross, Christle	Westminster
Barksdale, Thomas H.	Greenwood		

**MARCH 2025: 59 NEW MEMBERS — 27 TERMINATED MEMBERS (1 DECEASED).** Data from DaCdb.

**IN MARCH: 11 new members for Indian Land; Six for Fountain Inn!**

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

**Send items to newsletter editor Sue Poss, [pdgsueposs@gmail.com](mailto:pdgsueposs@gmail.com).**

**Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.**