

## AUGUST

Membership and New Club Development

## SEPTEMBER

Basic Education and Literacy

## OCTOBER

Economic and Community Development

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER  
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

# 7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



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## Yes, it's membership month, but...

The Rotary clubs in District 7750 are clearly making a difference in Western South Carolina. But, we can do more! It simply takes more of us. Which leads us to our biggest single internal challenge—growing Rotary.

August is membership month. I guess that is because we should focus on growing Rotary this month. But I think we should be focusing on growing Rotary every month. We should be recruiting new members July

ENGAGE  
GROW  
RETAIN



Click or tap the icon to hear Dave's short message.

through June. It is never too early—and it is never too late—to bring a new member into your Rotary Club.

People don't join Rotary. They join Rotary clubs. That is why as a district we have organized a Grow Rotary team, led by District Membership Chair Jamison Tinsley, to support our Rotary Clubs as they work to grow Rotary.

Look throughout this newsletter for tips on how your club can grow and thrive! —Dave

**AWARDS AND INSTALLATION:**  
Rysheeka has a well-earned smile as she celebrated a successful year. And Dave got a standing applause of support as he was installed as our 2025-26 DG.



## Club of the Year: Rotary Club of Greenville

## THE 3 PILLARS OF GROWTH

### Attraction

- Host Discover Rotary events with help from Jim Nichols and the Club Support Team
- Boost visibility with PI Teams and public image planning
- Maggie McMahon offers PI training (Aug 2) and EPIC Award guidance

### Retention

- Survey members to understand interests and satisfaction
- Improve club experience to retain members
- Kylie Herbert offers support to reduce attrition and boost engagement

### New Clubs

- Launch new or companion clubs w help from Roger Heitzeg and his team
- 3 new clubs started last year—more to come!

## GROW ROTARY using the three pillars

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

**1 ATTRACTION:** We have a Club Support Team made up of your fellow Rotarians who have been successful in growing and attracting new members to their clubs.

The Club Support Team, headed up by Jim Nichols from Greer, will help you develop, plan and execute an attraction event, like Discover Rotary. These information sessions have been shown throughout our district to be highly successful at attracting new members. However, they must be done right and the Club Support Team members are ready to help you do just that. So how do you get people to attend an Information Hour? Simple, you ask. Membership in Rotary always starts with an “ASK.”

Do the folks in your community know about the great work your club is doing? A key element in attracting new members to your club is visibility. We are not “Your Grandfather’s Rotary,” However, many people in your communities do not know that. Club membership teams and PI teams should work together to attract new members (as well as keep

existing members).

A good public image plan for your club is a must if your club is going to grow. We had seven clubs receive the public image (EPIC ) award last year. I hope we have 2 or 3 times than many clubs receive an EPIC Award this year.

Maggie McMahon can help. She will have a public image training session online on Saturday, Aug 2. Be sure someone from your club attends, especially your club public image chair. You can also learn more about ideas to improve your public image by attending the zone PI webinars. Check out [elevaterotary.org](http://elevaterotary.org) for more information about the webinars and other public image ideas.

**2 ATTRITION:** The second part of growing Rotary is reducing attrition. PDG Terry Weaver reminds me, maybe not daily but frequently, that attrition is not a growth strategy. He is 100% correct. You cannot grow your club by reducing attrition.





## 7750 MEMBERSHIP PLAN

<b>Membership Growth</b>	Aim for 5% growth in each club and create 4 new clubs.
<b>Attracting New Members</b>	Organize events like Discover Rotary sessions and focus on public image.
<b>Member Retention</b>	Regularly survey members to understand interests and improve club experience.
<b>Starting New Clubs</b>	Expand through new or companion clubs with dedicated support teams.
<b>Using Data &amp; Training</b>	Monitor growth and retention trends via the Membership Success Center.

## Use the pillars to grow your club— continued from page 2

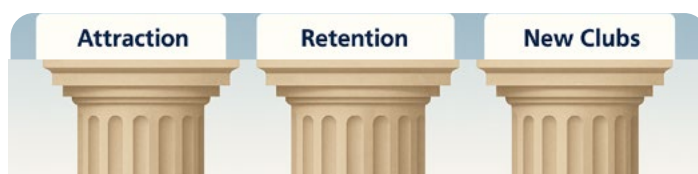
However, attrition can be a declining strategy. We have clubs in our district that are great at attracting members, but unfortunately, they are also great at losing members. That is not a formula for growing your Rotary club. People do not join Rotary, they join a Rotary Club. The reverse is true as well. People don't leave Rotary, they leave a Rotary Club. Now I realize that life happens, and some people move on for various reasons.

But let's be honest with ourselves, some potentially great Rotarians leave because they are not happy or satisfied with the club they belong to.

So how do we keep our members from leaving? We do it by making the club experience worth the time and the money that your members

are investing to be a member of your club.

Do you know how satisfied your members are with your club? The only way to find out is to ask them. When was the last time you asked your club members what they wanted to do?



Club Presidents and membership Chairs, send a survey to your members and find out what they think about the club and what kinds of projects they are interested in doing. You can simply use the canned survey that you can create in the Membership Success Center, or design one of your own.

Kylie Herbert from Anderson is a member of our Grow Rotary Team and will be glad to work with any club that is interested in becoming more irresistible and reducing attrition. If you have more people going out the back door than coming in the front door, call Kylie or Jamison.

### 3 **STARTING NEW CLUBS:** The third part of growing

Rotary is by starting new clubs. Last year we started three new clubs in our district. Roger Heitzeg from Greenville has a team ready and willing to help any club interested in expanding their reach by starting a new or companion club. If you have an idea about starting a new club, call Roger. He can help.

## Attraction or Attrition: Know your nemesis!

So, if your club is not growing do you have an attraction problem or an attrition problem. You can find out easily by going to the **MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS CENTER** in DaCdb and find your club's historical trend. The Membership Success Center is a great tool for clubs. Once you have entered your club's membership goal you can track your performance monthly. You will be able to see early in the year if you are on track to attain your membership goal. The membership success track is based on your club's 3 year history of attrition. —Dave

# Grants still available to help communities in our district recover from 2024 hurricane damage

**BY PDG RYSHEEKA BUSH**

*Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise*

Hurricane Helene ravaged the western portion of our state in late September of 2024, leaving in its wake catastrophic damage to infrastructure and regrettably, loss of life.

Rotary Works and Rotary District 7770 contributed funds that were distributed to the United Way of Anderson, United Way of Pickens, United Way of Piedmont, and the United Way of Greenville to assist with disaster relief.

Rotary Zone 33/34 also offered a disaster relief grant to assist those affected by the devastation of the hurricane. We were awarded \$25,000 that was distributed among 10 areas in the western portion of the state. Consequently, there were food pantries that were (and some continue) struggling with the demand of food insecurity and organizations whose freezers were no longer operational due to the hurricane. They faced great difficulty trying to preserve much needed food donations. The grant provided relief for both of those needs.

## **MONIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE ZONE 33-34 DISASTER RECOVERY FUND FOR QUALIFIED GRANTS**

Grants can be requested of up to \$25,000 for a project related to recovery from Helene in our district. PDG Joyce Morin will be coordinating requests. DG Dave Brenner transmitted grant instruction to club leadership in July.

Priority will be given to grants that have matching funds from the club, Rotarian involvement in the project, partnerships with other organizations, and area-wide projects.

**If you have questions about whether a project can qualify for a grant, contact PDG Joyce, [jmorin@comporium.net](mailto:jmorin@comporium.net), and she will work with your club to evaluate the possibility of submitting a grant request.**



Rotary Disaster Assistance volunteers at work in upstate South Carolina after Helene, thanks to Zones 33-34.



UNITED WAY PHOTO AND VOLUNTEERS.



## What a great Rotary Foundation year!

Thank you! Our District had its best year ever for giving to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund. This is outstanding especially since we set a significant record last year. We also came close to setting another record for PolioPlus. You should be proud of yourselves. You are "Doing (a whole lot of) Good in the World."

Rotarians in our District contributed **\$520,819** to our Foundation's Annual Fund and gave **\$170,818** to PolioPlus. Some of the Annual Fund donations were made to funds other than Annual Fund – SHARE so those will not count toward a club's maximum eligibility for District Grants. Our District will not

receive District Designated Funds in those cases.

Our Rotarians' gifts for PolioPlus help move us closer to fulfilling our promise that one day soon children will live in a world free of polio.

And through the contributions to the Annual Fund, we are increasing our District's ability to do more at home through District Grants and more through our Global Grants in places such as Honduras and Guatemala and possibly other countries this new Rotary year.

Donations made to other areas of the Annual Fund will help fund our Peace Centers and provide disaster response grants in the world.



**D-7750 Foundation Chair**  
**PDG BETH PADGETT**  
[bpadgettrotary@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgettrotary@outlook.com)

As we start this new Rotary year, please consider how you can support The Rotary Foundation, both as an individual and as a club. Let every club strive to be a 100% Foundation Giving Club. Consider joining the Paul Harris Society if you're able to make an annual pledge of at least \$1,000 a year. Think about leaving a legacy of change by becoming a member of the Bequest Society.



### Lancaster Breakfast Book Drive termed a **BLAST**

The Rotary Club of Lancaster Breakfast had a successful book drive that they described as a blast! Club members placed stickers in books & delivered them to The Gregory Family YMCA for their kids summer camp!



## WALHALLA DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT UNDERWAY AT DAR SCHOOL IN OCONEE COUNTY

The Walhalla Rotary Club grant project for this Rotary year is also a full hands-on effort! We're helping the historic Tamasee D.A.R. School renovate a cottage which will house at-risk moms and their families begin new, productive lives. The project will involve painting, cleaning, and repairing the facility, but, also, a reading/mentoring component.

Uniting for Good! —Stephen Graves



Participants in one of the early work-days were Morton White, Steve Graves, Danny Edwards (not pictured,) and Golden Corner President Steve Rushton.



## Foundation celebration Oct. 24

Please join us at the Greenville Marriott on October 24 for our Million Dollar Celebration and our traditional Foundation awards to clubs and individuals. Immediate Past Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick will be our guest. We will have a lot to celebrate!—Beth

## District Grant checks coming soon, maybe by mid-August

Our District soon will receive our District Grant Funds from Rotary International, and those checks will be sent to club Treasurers shortly after we receive the money.

All of our paperwork is at Rotary International, and we're at their mercy. **We hope to have the checks by mid-August.**

As soon as you receive and deposit your District Grant check, you can start your projects. A couple of the checks will come from District 7750's main account. Our District has provided some supplemental funding to ensure as many clubs as possible can enhance their work in their own communities.

Make sure to keep a copy of your bank statement that shows when you deposited the check. You will need that when you submit your final report.

Also, please remember that you must have receipts for all purchases made with the grant funds and with your club's match of those funds.

Finally, Rotary International will not accept any receipts for purchases made before the club received and deposited the grant check.

Bill Harley is the longtime District Grants Chair. He does a great job every year, so please tell him "thank you" when you see him.—Beth

### Foundation rule:

**Do not make purchases before your grant check is deposited!**  
**YOU WILL NOT GET REIMBURSED.**





## Why it matters

Securing \$1 million in gifts and commitments ensures that we can continue responding to urgent needs in our communities and around the world. These gifts provide the resources to launch new projects, sustain long-term efforts, and empower future generations of leaders and volunteers.

This campaign is our commitment to lasting impact—today, tomorrow, and for decades to come.

### How to Join

Join the campaign with a new gift or commitment of \$10,000 or more made between July 1, 2023, and January 31, 2026. This can include:

- An outright gift to the Annual Fund or PolioPlus
- A three-year pledge
- Cumulative giving during the campaign period
- A bequest or gift to the Foundation Endowment

### Are You Already a Member?

You may already be part of Rotary District 7750's Million Dollar Campaign without realizing it! If you've:

- Included The Rotary Foundation in your will, IRA, or life insurance policy,
- Made a bequest years ago that has grown in value,
- Have already committed to give \$10,000 or more between July 1, 2023, and January 31, 2026

## District 7750 Foundation Team 2025-26

### 7750 FOUNDATION CHAIR

**Beth Padgett**

[bpadgettr Rotary@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgettr Rotary@outlook.com)

### DISTRICT GOVERNOR

**Dave Brenner**

[david.brenner00@gmail.com](mailto:david.brenner00@gmail.com)

### POLIOPLUS CHAIR

**Doug Kauffmann**

[dkauffmann123@gmail.com](mailto:dkauffmann123@gmail.com)

### DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIR

**Bill Harley**

[william.harley@firstcitizens.com](mailto:william.harley@firstcitizens.com)

### GLOBAL GRANTS CHAIR

**Ben Ficklen**

[benficklen@comporium.net](mailto:benficklen@comporium.net)

### PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY CHAIR

**Rita Yarbrough**

[ritayarbrough@bellsouth.net](mailto:ritayarbrough@bellsouth.net)

### ANNUAL FUND CHAIR

**Eric Krichbaum**

[Eric.Krichbaum1@gmail.com](mailto:Eric.Krichbaum1@gmail.com)

### ENDOWMENT AND MAJOR GIFTS CHAIR

**Lance Young**

[lsyoung@clemson.edu](mailto:lsyoung@clemson.edu)

### PEACE FELLOWSHIP CHAIR

**Lorraine Angelino**

[dg2013@rotary7750.org](mailto:dg2013@rotary7750.org)

Spartanburg is the district's largest club with 186 active/honorary members. (From DaCdb)

## Spartanburg celebrates its numerous successes during 2024-25

BY SCOTT R. GIROUARD

Area 4 Assistant Governor

The Rotary Club of Spartanburg held its annual meeting to celebrate accomplishments and introduce new leadership.

Members recognized William Marcus, Jim Rohrer, and Tammy Whaley for completing their three-year terms on the board. They also thanked Ross Hammond, Cindy Hughes, and BG Kondaveeti for reaching the halfway point in their service.

The club welcomed new board members Ann Angermeier, Leah Blanton, and John Langford, and highlighted Ann's role in organizing programs.

Louis Smith led the club as President during the 2024–2025 year. He helped drive the success of the club's Gala, which raised \$45,600 for Total Ministries, Project R.E.S.T., and PolioPlus. **The club distributed more than \$35,000 in Youth Opportunity Grants** and contributed to disaster relief following Hurricane Helene. Members also supported the Rotary Foundation.

The club awarded **\$2,500 scholarships** to students attending Wofford College, Converse College, and USC Upstate. The club donated \$1,000 to the Hub City Writer's Project and backed "Story Book Live," a Little Theater initiative that serves children nationwide.

Club members **promoted science and literacy by sending Region Three Science Fair winners to the International Science and Engineering Fair and by hosting Rotary Reader Day in District Seven.**

At the close of the 2024–2025 year, the club had 186 members—maintaining its spot as the largest in District 7750. At the end of the Annual Meeting, Louis Smith passed the gavel to incoming President Chip McLeod.

The club recognized Louis Smith, CEO of Smithworks Fine Jewelry, for his leadership. They also acknowledged his wife Carter Willard Smith for helping coordinate the Gala.

Chip is a Senior Resident and First Vice President at Merrill Lynch who brings 31 years of experience and a strong record in community service and mission work to his president's role.

**WE ARE EXCITED FOR THE FUTURE UNDER CHIP'S LEADERSHIP. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ROTARY CLUB OF SPARTANBURG WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE UNDER HIS GUIDANCE.**—Outgoing president Louis Smith



Louis Smith passes the gavel to Chip McLeod.



Ann Angermeier, an incoming board member, was recognized for organizing the club's programs in 2024-25.



Kit Jennings provides the club with a brief overview of the club's budget and programs.





Hillcrest High: Mr and Mrs Lynes with their son, Alexander. Choral Director Holly Hill, Ella Fonokalafi and her mom.



Mauldin High: Danny Polanco, Olivia Kate Wells, Fountain Inn High: Janeria Dulin, Savannah Sanchez-Chenet.

Golden Strip Sunrise and  
Fountain Inn

## Night of Singing results in six scholarships

**F**or the past 26 years, the Golden Strip Sunrise Club and the Fountain Inn Club have sponsored "A Rotary Night of Singing." Students from high schools, middle schools and elementary schools in the Golden Strip area present their very best musically. Rotarians sell ads to cover the cost of printing the program and most importantly fund college scholarships to students in the participating high schools.

This year the Golden Strip Sunrise Club awarded the scholarships to six recipients. From Hillcrest High Alexander Lynes and Ella Fonokalafi, from Fountain Inn High Janeria Dulin and Savannah Sanchez-Chenet, and from Mauldin High Danny Polanco and Olivia Kate Wells.



## AWARDS BANQUET FACES!

## **PUBLIC IMAGE:** make sure your community knows what you are doing! **NOT TO BRAG, BUT TO GET SUPPORT**

### **AUGUST TASK FOR EPIC RECOGNITION**

Create a **PUBLIC IMAGE PLAN** for your club by outlining what content you'll share, when you'll share it, where you'll share it, and how you'll get the word out. To be completed by 10-31-25.

**HINT: USE AI TO HELP YOU.** The plan below was generated in five minutes using Co-pilot but you can use any AI tool. The initial prompt: "Create a public image plan for the Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas outlining what content the club will share on Facebook and its website, when we'll share it, where we'll share it, and how we'll get the word out. Use hashtags from rotary.org." The results were tweaked twice to get a more accurate response. Keep asking AI for tweaks until you get what you want, or take what it gives you as a starting point and modify yourself to add more detail, such as specific dates and who is responsible.



At the Awards Banquet: Nicole Cabral, president of the Rotary Club of Emerald City, displays the EPIC Award the club earned in 2024-25.

CONTENT TO SHARE		
CONTENT TYPE	WHERE IT APPEARS	EXAMPLE POSTS & HASHTAGS
Member Spotlights	Facebook + Website	"Meet Julia, turning accessibility into action! #PeopleOfAction #WeAreRotary"
Service Highlights	Facebook + Website	"From roadside cleanups to global outreach — see us in action! #RotaryInAction #ServiceAboveSelf"
Event Recaps & Celebrations	Facebook	"Grateful for the hands that made last week's Rotary drive a success #ProudRotarian #RotaryMoments"
CONTENT CALENDAR		
FREQUENCY	POST TYPE	PURPOSE
Weekly	Facebook updates (spotlights, service recaps, behind-the-scenes)	Keep engagement consistent and story-driven
Bi-weekly	Website blog/article	Provide deeper insights and reflections
Monthly	Website feature story + Facebook announcement	Showcase impact with a unified message
Quarterly	Summary posts or thematic reflections	Celebrate broader milestones and seasonal themes



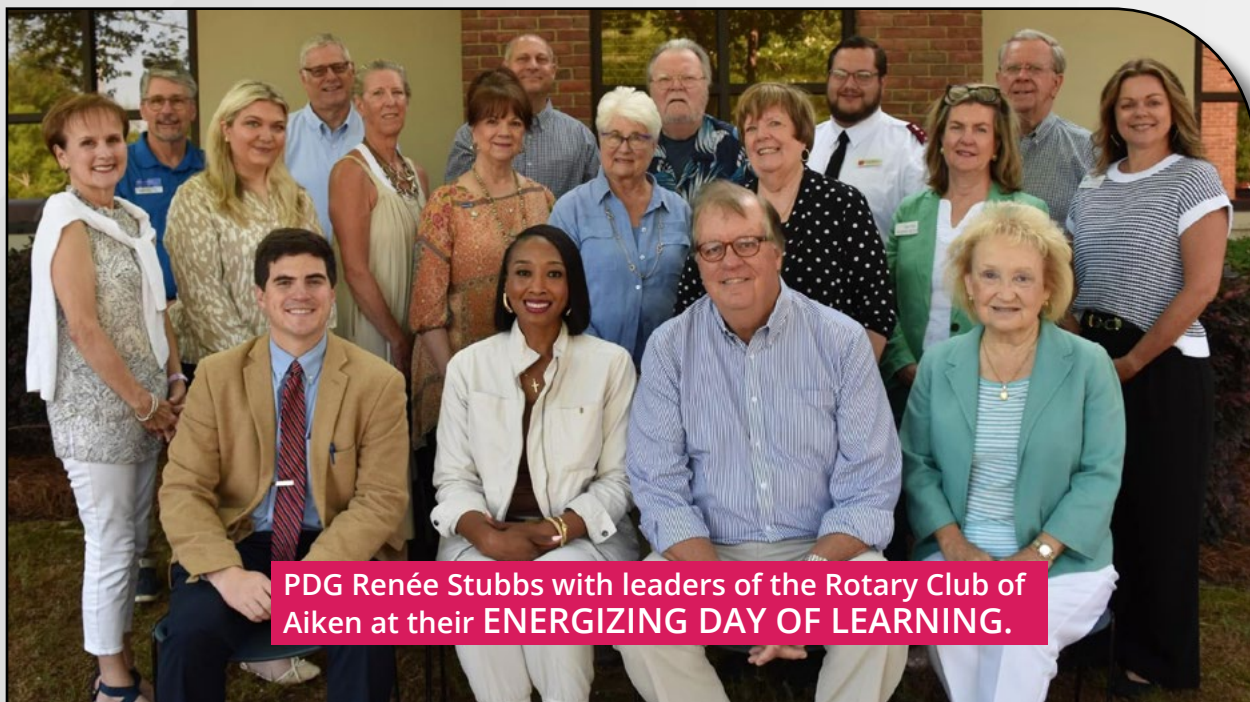
**D-7750 Public Image Chair**  
**MAGGIE MCMAHON**  
maggieamcmahon@gmail.com  
864-941-6490

If you'd rather talk to a person than AI to get help with your public image plan, call or email Maggie.



The name of the recognition for public image in Rotary Zones 33/34 is Excellence in Public Image Coordination (EPIC) Award. You can learn more and see the 12-month goals for public image at <https://www.rizones33-34.org/public-image>.





PDG Renée Stubbs with leaders of the Rotary Club of Aiken at their ENERGIZING DAY OF LEARNING.

## Rotary Club of Aiken launches year with ENERGIZING DAY OF LEARNING

BY KEYATTA D. PRIESTER

*President, Rotary Club of Aiken*

To kick off the 2025–2026 Rotary year, the Rotary Club of Aiken hosted a dynamic Day of Learning to equip incoming officers, committee chairs, and key leaders with tools, support, and confidence for success.

**Opening Remarks by President-Elect Keyatta Priester**—Keyatta welcomed attendees with a message on teamwork, emphasizing that the day was about more than systems—it was about building relationships and growing together.

**Hands-On DaCdb Training**—Led by PDG Renée Stubbs, participants dove into Rotary's DaCdb platform to manage roles, communicate with teams, and stay organized. Leaders practiced real-time updates, email messaging, and file sharing for smoother operations.

**Motivation from Assistant District Governor King Laurence**—King inspired the group with high-energy insights, reminding everyone that strong leadership builds strong clubs—and Aiken's leadership team is poised for excellence.

**Peer Tips and Lessons Learned**—Past committee chairs shared their experience, offering practical advice, key dates, and valuable lessons to help new leaders hit the ground running.

**Leveraging Professional Expertise**—The club welcomed new members stepping into leadership roles, including Tim Newman, a recently retired finance expert who now serves as Treasurer. He's mentoring others and building a finance team to ensure smooth transitions and prevent burnout.

**Working Lunch Wrap-Up**—The day ended with a collaborative lunch where members finalized committee setups and got personalized support. Attendees left energized, connected, and ready to lead.

**A Model for Leadership Support**—The event stands as a blueprint for other clubs aiming to strengthen leadership transitions. When we lead together, we grow together.

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**Aiken has 151 active members, according to DaCdb. The club continues to invest in people—driving excellence in service, leadership, and community impact.**





↑ Rotary 7750 enjoying the rodeo!

## 7750 at the convention in Calgary

Rotary District 7750 had 24 attendees at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Besides enjoying fellowship and fun with nearly 15,000 Rotarians from around the world, many of us took in the culture of Canada by attending rodeos and walks through nature.

For those with an adventurous spirit, time was spent in Calgary's vibrant culture and proximity to beautiful natural attractions, including five UNESCO World Heritage Sites within driving distance, such as Banff National Park and Waterton Glacier International Peace Park.—Rysheeka



➡ PDGs Carol Burdette and Beth Padgett in the House of Friendship. These two 7750 leaders definitely make a world of difference.



↑ PDGs Becky and Tom Faulkner.



↑ TWO PRESIDENTS AND A PDG  
PDG Lorraine Angelino is between two 2024-25 club presidents: Julia Larson, E-Club of the Carolinas and her own president at Emerald City, Nikole Cabral.

◀ Prudence Taylor, Rotary Club of Emerald City, enjoying the scenery of Calgary.



## Jamison on MEMBERSHIP

# One month in and WOW, what a start to this Rotary year!

District 7750 clubs are already buzzing with energy: launching bold service projects, creating fresh fellowship opportunities, and opening their doors to new members who are ready to roll up their sleeves and serve. The momentum is real and is just the beginning! Remember, it is not too early to start focusing on membership.

Looking for a game-changer? Consider starting an innovative club! Whether it's a cause-based group, a companion club, or a new meeting format that fits modern schedules, it's easier than you think and it could be exactly what your community is waiting for. If you have questions about how to start one, please contact Roger Heitzeg, who is our Innovative Club Advocate.

Here's another easy win: if your club sends out a weekly email or monthly newsletter, share it! Forward it to friends, colleagues, and community members you think would make great Rotarians. Sometimes, all it takes is one invite to spark someone's interest and change their life... and your club.

Need backup? The Club Membership Support

Team is ready to help. Log in to DACdb, click the District tab, head to District Committees, and select Club Membership

Support Team (be sure you've selected Club Year 2025-2026). Also, feel free to contact me directly about any issues or questions you are having with membership.

And don't forget: the Becoming a Vibrant Club Forum is coming up in Greenville on August 23. This event will be packed with fresh ideas and proven strategies to take your club to the next level. I look forward to seeing you there so don't miss it! Rumor has it that our own DG Dave might be playing the role of the late, great Alex Trebek.

Let's keep riding this wave of energy and make 2025-2026 a year of bold growth, unstoppable engagement, and deeper impact. Together, we're uniting for good!



**D-7750 Membership Chair**  
**JAMISON TINSLEY**  
[tinslerj@gmail.com](mailto:tinslerj@gmail.com)



## Membership Momentum:

### Rotary District Highlights:

Here's what I'm seeing so far:

Club Goals	Clubs are jumping in to set and meet their membership goals for the year.
Engaging Events & Projects	Creative events and projects are drawing in prospective members and re-engaging longtime Rotarians.
Eyes on Net Growth	Everyone's keeping their eyes on the prize: net growth — because adding members only matters if we keep them inspired and involved.

Contact Jamison with any membership-related questions so that your club can keep riding the wave!





York's outgoing president Cindy Spragg presented Craig Hazelwood with the Rotarian of the Year Award.



Shelby Cowart presented Cindy Spragg with outgoing President's plaque.



Outgoing President Cindy Spragg presented incoming president Shelby Cowart with the president's pin.

## YORK ROTARY CLUB



Cindy Spragg presented School Superintendent Kelly Cox with a check from the Rotary Club of York to support the new school initiative—Western York County Agriculture Arena.



### YORK COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL

Four representatives from the team attended York's weekly meeting. The club recognized the team for winning the Upper State Championship and presented a monetary donation to the girls. L to R: Coach Danny Mazel, Layla Clayton, Marisa Reyes, Kayla Johnson, Briley Comer, and club president-elect Jenny Hammond.



↑➡ York celebrated the end of another successful year with a social at a local restaurant.





AND HE'S GOT A GOOD REASON!

## Clemson Sunrise grateful for its first international member, Sagar Kanhere, who's moving to Tennessee

BY TOM VON KAENEL

*Rotary Club of Clemson Sunrise*

The Rotary Club of Clemson Sunrise is bidding farewell to one of its dedicated members, Sagar Kanhere, who is relocating to Knoxville, TN, to begin a tenure-track assistant professor position at the University of Tennessee.

Sagar joined Rotary in 2020 with a desire to serve the Clemson community, understand local initiatives, and gain perspective on the community's view of immigrants. He found his experience to be immensely valuable, learning effective service and leadership skills while building cherished friendships and receiving valuable mentorship.

Sagar's personal journey, growing up in rural



Sagar Kanhere, left, first learned of Rotary's work in the rural village in India where he grew up. He is pictured with Curtiz White, a fellow Clemson Sunrise Rotarian who was part of the club's racial harmony initiative.

India and seeing Rotary's impactful presence in his village, further highlights the personal significance of their involvement. Sagar's contributions to various committees and projects will be greatly missed by the Clemson Sunrise Rotary Club. However, we are grateful for his accomplishments and friendship and embodying our motto of "Service Above Self."

This is the kind of member a club hates to lose but we can't help but be proud of Sagar for the service he has given the Clemson area and D7750 and what he will bring to the club in Knoxville that he becomes a part of.

**NOT MANY HAVE PERFECT ATTENDANCE THESE DAYS—BUT LORRAINE DOES**

Golden Corner Rotarian Lorraine Harding, an Upstate Realtor, was recognized for 31 years of perfect attendance.



**SENECA GOLDEN CORNER**



**SENECA GOLDEN CORNER FOUND ITS TREASURER IN THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE!**

Cheryl Rushton is the newest member of the Golden Corner Club. A retired CPA, she will serve as the club's treasurer. She is pictured with her husband Steve, the club president.

## What are they wearing? An almost 20-year-old tradition continues at Pleasantburg

Ulan Abdimamatov, Pleasantburg Rotary Club's 2007-2008 RYE student from Kyrgyzstan, had no idea his gift to the club would leave such a lasting impression.

Every year since Ulan's gift of ceremonial Kyrgyz regalia to then club president Ed Maier, the kalpak (headwear) and chapan (robe), along with an elaborate horse whip, are passed from one president to another during the official incoming president's induction.

Made by tribal women, the color and patterns of the chapan, as well as the placement of the kalpak's pointed creases, reflect the power and position of the leader in the community.

—Wade Cleveland



### PROPER WAY TO WEAR THE KALPAK!

In a photo provided by former RYE student Ulan Abdimamatov, a Kyrgyz community leader in Kyrgyzstan (left), wears his kalpak with points to the sides, while the lower status person on the right wears a white and black kalpak with the points facing front to back.



### WADE'S VERSION OF HOW TO WEAR THE HEADGEAR

Pleasantburg club president Wade Cleveland, left, with co-president Travis Seward, illustrates his version of the positioning of the headwear appropriate to a tribal leader during the Pleasantburg's club's July induction celebration. The robe looks a little off too. What fun, and what a tradition!



### REGINA COULOMB NAMED PLEASANTBURG ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR

Past president Lale Dogan (right) recognizes Rotarian of the Year and president (2022-23) Regina Coulomb, during the club's induction celebration at Woodside Bistro in West Greenville.

**PLEASANTBURG ROTARY CLUB**



## CLUB RECOGNITIONS FOR 2024-25

## Rotary Action Plan

**CLUB OF THE YEAR LEVEL 1**

Rotary Club of E-Club of the Carolinas. Julia Larson, president.

**CLUB OF THE YEAR LEVEL 2**

Rotary Club of Greenville City Center. Terry Tate, president.

**CLUB OF THE YEAR LEVEL 3**

Rotary Club of Indian Land. Michael Olson, president.

## Membership recognitions made at Awards Banquet

**PLEASANTBURG CLUB AT DISTRICT AWARDS BANQUET**

Celebrating the club's achievements, left to right are: Linda Lee, Judy Cromwell, president-elect Crystal Ball O'Connor, Kathy Sharp, past-president Larry Lee, co-presidents Wade Cleveland and Travis Seward, past-presidents Lale Dogan and Tracy Tiddy, and club treasurer Tammy Harrison. Attending but not shown: Assistant Governor Eric Baker and Sara Mansbach.

## Becoming a VIBRANT CLUB Forum



Click or tap the icon to hear Dave's short message.

**August 23, 2025 - Greenville**

*(Formerly The Membership Summit)*

- ❖ Join Rotary District 7750 leaders and club members for a membership forum different from any other!
- ❖ Small group breakouts on best practices on topics like Rotary Information Hour, Orientation, and Membership Attraction.
- ❖ Small, medium, and large club breakouts to share successes and concerns relevant to your club's size. Share ideas on topics such as fundraising, community service, succession planning, and PI-PR.
- ❖ Play Membership Jeopardy to win prizes!



Kat and Dave Arnold, Angie Gruenemeier.



Brian Kennedy center, and James Cashion III right, with their sponsor Jim Cashion Jr on the left.

## Golden Strip Sunrise inducted five new members in July!



## Rotary Leadership Institute

**August 9 | SPARK Center, Duncan**

Learn more about Rotary history, the Rotary Foundation, strategies for why and how to grow membership and the latest public image ideas.

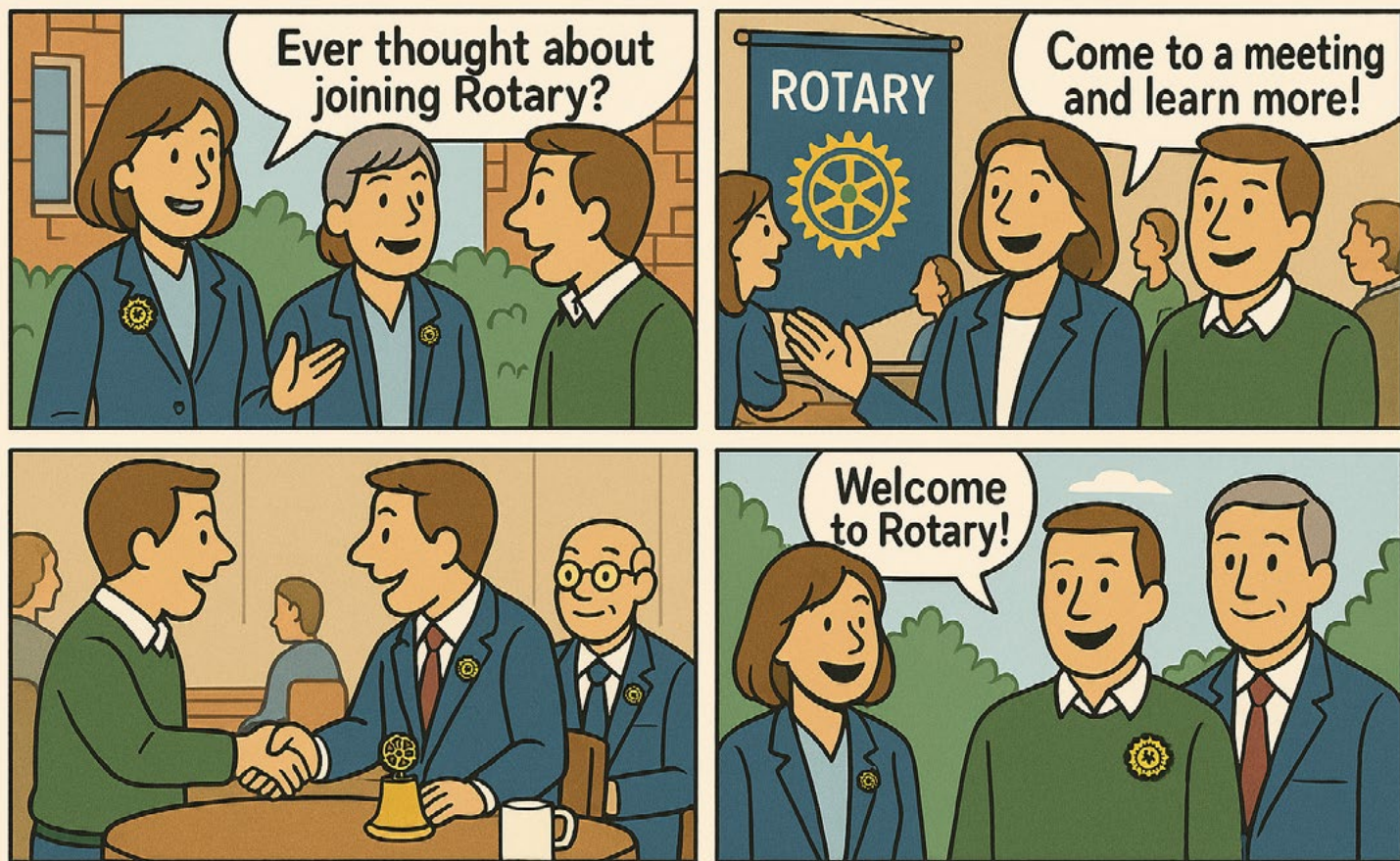
Sessions are interactive and fun.

Register at [www.midatlanticrli.org](http://www.midatlanticrli.org) or go to the District Calendar in DaCdb.  
Contact: 7750 RLI Chair PDG Carol Burdette, [carolburdettesc@gmail.com](mailto:carolburdettesc@gmail.com)



ONCE YOU'VE ENLISTED A FEW MORE HANDS TO HELP YOUR CLUB, SEND THEM TO RLI SO THEY ARE MORE AWARE OF ALL THAT ROTARY DOES IN THE WORLD, AND HOW WE DO IT.





**New member alert! One handshake, one mission, infinite impact. Rotary isn't just tradition—it's transformation.**

## August Is Membership Month — Make it count

August is Rotary's Membership Month, and it's more than just a calendar observance—it's the start of a year-long effort to strengthen our clubs from the inside out.

This month, we focus on the importance of membership: reconnecting with current members, recognizing contributions, and encouraging active participation. It's a great time to renew our commitment to service and make sure every member feels valued and engaged.

At the same time, we should use this momentum to reach outward. Visibility matters—hosting community events, partnering with local organizations, and sharing our impact helps people see why Rotary is worth joining. The goal isn't just growth in numbers, but growth in involvement.

As Dave has said: Membership Month is just the beginning.

Our focus should stay on keeping members engaged, offering meaningful projects, and opening doors to leadership. When members feel useful and connected, they stick around—and they bring others along.

Let's use August to start strong and set the pace for the months ahead. Together, we can build clubs that thrive all year long.

**ENGAGE**  
**GROW**  
**RETAIN**





Home Club of the District Governor Banner passes from King Laurence of the Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise to Bill Shuford, Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast.



DG Dave installs the 2025-2026 AGs.



More than 200 Rotarians attended the 2025 Awards and Installation Celebration at the Poinsett Club in Greenville



Faith Line was recognized for her years of service as the District Administrator. That's PDG Carol Burdette with her and a whole bunch of other Rotarians who appreciate the work Faith has done for us.



Congratulations to the clubs that achieved the Rotary International Club Excellence Award.



Looks like it is fun being installed as the DGE and DGN. Dave with his successors, Eric and Mark, both with big smiles! First time in several years that we've had three males in a row lead us!

## INSTALLATION AND AWARDS BANQUET



## New Members in June

Alexander, Donna	Seneca
Antonucci, Jon	Greenville
Bailey, Jeff	Union
Bazen, Coleman	Greenville
Boyett, Kevin Ramsey	Spartanburg
Briggs, Forrest	Greenville
Brosnan, Denis	Clemson
Dawkins, Shanese R	Gaffney
Fetzer, Jason	Greenville
Fike, Jennifer G.	Spartanburg
Gasparin, Heloiza Döering	Greer
Gomes, Lincoln Alex	Greer
Ironmonger, Leslie	Seneca
Marchi, Theresa	Clemson Sunrise

McGurer, Dennis Scott	Aiken
Nickson, Eldon	Fountain Inn
O'Shields, Kenny	Union
Pasquith, Robert Ben	Spartanburg
Paulsen, Christina	Newberry
Penland, Jody	Laurens
Plummer, Amy D	Easley
Tholen, Mica L	Greer
Turner, Connie L	Indian Land
Venditti, Elizabeth	Indian Land
Walker, David	Greenwood
West, Rebecca	Greenville
Wieland, Ulrich Steffen	Greenville

**JUNE 2025: 27 NEW MEMBERS — 123 TERMINATED MEMBERS (1 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.**

At June 30, 2025, RI had D7750 with 2450 members. We had 2397 members at the beginning of 2024-25.



## 7750 EVENTS

2025-26

AUGUST 9	ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE	SPARK CENTER DUNCAN
AUGUST 23	VIBRANT CLUB FORUM	KROC CENTER GREENVILLE
OCTOBER 24	FOUNDATION DINNER	MARRIOTT GREENVILLE
APRIL 24-26	ALL CLUBS CONFERENCE	HYATT GREENVILLE

**Deadline for September newsletter is August 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.