

## SEPTEMBER

Basic Education and Literacy

## OCTOBER

Economic and Community Development

## NOVEMBER

Rotary Foundation

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER  
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

# 7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



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## A VIBRANT CLUB is exciting and meaningful

BY DG DAVID BRENNER

I am writing this article the day after a very successful Vibrant Club Forum. Most of the clubs in our district got together at the Vibrant Club Forum to exchange ideas about how to become a vibrant club. In recent years this day has been known as the Membership Summit. But on Aug. 23, the day was significantly different. It was more than just a name change. It's was about exchanging ideas and having fun doing it.

Yes, it was still about Growing Rotary. But it was also an acknowledgement that the world is changing and people are looking for excitement and fun as well as service in the clubs they join. Folks are looking for a club that provides something more than

just the opportunity to serve their community. After all there are plenty of ways to serve, other than joining a Rotary Club. So, our clubs have to give people something more.

But let's start by acknowledging the people do not join Rotary, they join a Rotary Club. Likewise, they do not leave Rotary, they leave a Rotary Club.

To attract new members, and retain our current members, our clubs must be vibrant. What does that look like? It is one that meets today's challenges, it is dynamic, impactful, visible, and yes, it is definitely fun!

When we have clubs that are exciting and engaging, our visibility grows and our members are proud to tell everybody they

know about their Rotary Club. When we have clubs that are full of energy and innovation, our impact deepens.

When we offer meaningful experiences and authentic connections our members stay. Not only do they stay but they are proud to be members of our clubs and want to invite others to join them. Maybe they even wear their Rotary pin and clothes to places other than Rotary meetings where there are no other Rotarians. Just maybe they might ask you what is Rotary and there you go; the conversation begins!

When our clubs are exciting, flexible, filled with opportunities and of course fun, our influence expands.

How? Next page!



Above: DGE Eric Krishbaum looks a bit serious leading this session. But at right: The Rotarians in the back aren't so sure about district leaders PDG Rysheeka and DGE Eric.



## How do we get a Vibrant Club?

So how do we get vibrant clubs. Let's acknowledge two things. First each club has its own personality and culture. and that's great, we can build on that. It would be a pretty boring world if we were all the same. Second, we don't have all the answers. That's why we need things like a Vibrant Club Forum where we can exchange ideas and discuss things that are working in our clubs.

Together we need to explore ways to get there. We must share ideas among ourselves. And hopefully you will pick up ideas from others that you'll want to take back to your club.

### CHALLENGE NUMBER ONE

I have a challenge for you. The next time you go to your Rotary meeting, stop as you enter the room and look around. Do you see excitement? Do you see interesting conversation? Do you see laughter and fun? Or do you see people sitting at the same table where they have always sat, looking at their watch,

and wondering when the meeting is going to start because they want to get back to whatever they were doing before they got here?

Look for excitement and fun, if its not there create it. That is vibrancy.

I will give you one example. I attended the Rotary Club of Easley's meeting this past week. When I entered the room, there was a buzz. I saw excitement, I heard a lot of conversation and laughter. That's vibrancy. And incidentally Easley has increased in membership by 3-5 members in each of the past five years. The club's attrition rate is 11.7%, well below the district average of 16.9%. That's not a coincidence. That is vibrancy.

Do not accept that attrition is not solvable. Granted, life happens, but not at an attrition rate of 16.9%. We can do better. Plenty of clubs are doing better. We can have an attrition rate substantially better than 16.9% if we have vibrant clubs. So, create vibrancy in your club, make it exciting, make it impactful, make





This wasn't exactly hallway conversation where a lot of club issues can be solved, but it was a time at the forum to share ideas on how we can make our clubs more vibrant, more appealing to the people in our communities.

## How do we get a Vibrant Club continued from previous page

it dynamic, make it visible, and yes have fun. Then watch your attrition rate drop. Don't be satisfied if you have as many or more people going out the back door than there are coming in the front door.

### CHALLENGE NUMBER TWO

I have a second challenge for you. Earlier I suggested that you look around the room as you entered your club meeting room. Now I suggest that when you leave your Rotary meeting you ask yourself a few questions

- Did I learn something I didn't know before?
- Did I help somebody?
- Did I learn about a project I am interested in?
- Did I spend time with some friends?
- Did I have fun?
- Am I looking forward to the next meeting?

Think about your answers and remember your fellow Rotarians will likely have the same answers as you. Let's all work together to make sure the answers to those questions are positive.

Our future is bright. I am excited about the possibilities we have to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. But we must react to the world today and make our clubs vibrant. Our vision must be to enable our clubs to be so exciting, so impactful, so visible and so much fun that people will want to become part of it. The Rotary meeting should be the best part of someone's week.

We can do it. Let's be bold. And let's build clubs that our communities and members deserve.—Dave

### I say again: Rotary growth occurs in our Rotary Clubs. AND/BUT....

Our district team is here to help you and your club. Here are the Chairs of your District's Grow Rotary team.

First, our Grow Rotary Chair is **Jamison Tinsley** from the Rotary Club of Emerald City.

Our Club Support team, whose role is to help clubs find ways to attract members is **Jim Nichols** from the Rotary Club of Greer

Our Engagement Chair, miss vibrancy herself, is **Kylie Herbert** from the Rotary Club of Anderson

And this year to help guide clubs that are interested in starting new clubs, whether companion or legacy clubs, we have initiated a New Club Development team headed up by **Roger Heitzeg** from the Rotary Club of Greenville.

Everybody on this team has had success growing their Rotary clubs. They are willing and able to help your club. Take advantage of their experience.

## Beth's September FOUNDATION CHALLENGES

We are going to have a great Rotary Foundation year in 2025-2026. To ensure that we do, I'm challenging all Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs — and all Rotarians — to do the following:

**1** Make sure your club sends in its first quarter donations to The Rotary Foundation before mid-September. Also, make sure the funds are transmitted correctly so that individual Rotarians get the credit they deserve for their donations. Unless a special donation has been made to PolioPlus, all club donations most likely should go to Annual Fund – SHARE. Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs are responsible for making sure donations are sent on a timely basis to The Rotary Foundation.

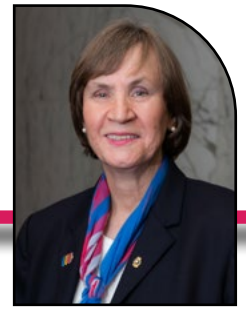
**2** If you did not make a Foundation donation in July, please make a gift (even a small one) before the end of September. It's such a powerful way of saying, "Please join me in donating to our Rotary Foundation!"

**3** Ensure your club members know the

importance of our Rotary Foundation. Make sure some topic related to The Rotary Foundation is on the agenda at least every month so your Rotarians know about the great work that we accomplish through our collective giving to The Rotary Foundation.

**4** Tell your club members what you will do with your District Grant. In doing so, make sure they know that their Foundation donations are funding half of the project.

**5** Look for an exciting announcement in a week or so about a special district event planned for World Polio Day October 24. Sorry, but we couldn't get the details completed by this newsletter's deadline.



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



### ← GRANT MAKES PICKLEBALL AVAILABLE TO DISABLED IN GREER

The Rotary Club of Greer used its District Grant to purchase an adaptive wheelchair for Advanced Pickleball. This funding allows this group to expand its reach and increase service to those with disabilities. Jim Nichols, the club's Foundation chair, presented Sandy Halkett of Adaptive Pickleball with the check to buy the wheelchair. Pickleball for All!



### ↑ THE MORENOS BECOME PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS AT GREER CLUB

Congratulations to Mark and Becky Moreno for achieving Paul Harris Fellow recognition. This honor celebrates significant contributions to The Rotary Foundation, helping fund life-changing projects around the world. Their commitment reflects the very heart of Rotary—turning generosity into lasting change.

**D7750 gifts to PolioPlus  
in 2024-25→**

**\$170,818**

**\$512,454**

**Turned into this much to continue  
efforts to eradicate this disease →**

## **POLIO ERADICATION**

**With the help of our partners, we will get there!**

**BY DOUG KAUFFMAN**

*Rotary Club of Greenwood  
D7750 PolioPlus Chair*

Congratulations on District 7750 Historic Giving Achievement in 2024-2025!!

I want to say congratulations to all of the Rotarians, PolioPlus Coordinators, Presidents, and the Rotary Clubs and of our district for your financial support and educational efforts on behalf of our PolioPlus campaign in the 2024-2025.

This past Rotary year our district raised the second highest dollar amount we have ever achieved in one year...\$170,818. With the two-for-one dollar match provided by the Gates Foundation, our financial impact last year toward eradicating polio was \$512,454. Thank you for your compassion and generosity! My special thank you goes to Beth Padgett, our District Rotary Foundation Chair, for her tireless efforts and her support of the PolioPlus Campaign.

### **Rotary and Gates Foundation Extend Partnership to End Polio**

Rotary International and the Gates Foundation are extending their partnership in the project to end polio. At the Rotary International Convention a

Need a PolioPlus  
Educational Program?  
Please feel free to contact me.

**7750 Polio Plus Chair**

**DOUG KAUFFMANN**

Rotary Club of Greenwood  
[dkauffmann123@gmail.com](mailto:dkauffmann123@gmail.com)  
864-551-9922



continued joint commitment of up to \$450 million was announced. Rotary will continue to raise \$50 million per year, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation.

### **Following the World-wide Polio Eradication Efforts Every Week**

Of course, Rotary International will always remain the first organization to make it their mission to eradicate polio world-wide, and we will always be in the front lines of the fight to achieve our goal. However, several other valuable partners have joined Rotary in our noble effort in what is known as the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. This initiative is a public/private partnership made up of six partners. They are:

1. Rotary International (We have a goal to raise \$50 million a year)
2. The Gates Foundation (Doubles Rotary's annual giving to \$100 million)
3. US CDC (United States Centers for Disease Control)
4. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)
5. WHO (World Health Organization)
6. GAVI (Vaccine Alliance)

**A great way to learn about and follow the fight against polio world-wide on a daily basis is to go: [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org).**



## FINAL Doug and Sally Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge

Doug is once again offering a PolioPlus Match to District 7750 Rotarians in celebration of World Polio Day on October 24.

Between October 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, Doug will match every gift of \$100 or more given to PolioPlus by individual Rotarians up to \$40,000 for the District. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match that money two more times. (For example, if a Rotarian contributes \$100 for PolioPlus, Doug will contribute \$100 to PolioPlus to increase the gift to \$200. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will contribute \$400 to PolioPlus, making the entire gift \$600).

Every Rotarian who gives \$100 to \$500 will also receive that many Rotary Foundation Recognition Points. Contributions can be made online at <https://my.rotary.org/en/polioplus-fund> (make sure you sign in as a Rotarian) or over the phone with the Rotary Support Center at 866-976-8279 will be processed immediately. PolioPlus giving does count toward a Paul Harris Fellow.

Note: Anyone with a PHF+8 or a Major Donor will not be awarded points but your financial contributions will count and be greatly appreciated! Recognition Points are of no value to these donors.

**Doug is a member of the Rotary Club of Greenwood and is our District Polio Chair. Sally was a member of the Rotary Club of Greenwood. She died June 12, 2024. Doug is repeating their successful PolioPlus Challenge Match for the final time.**

## Getting Started for our Rotary 7750 2025-2026 PolioPlus Campaign

### World Polio Day Oct. 24

Celebrate World Polio Day—Annually World Polio Day is October 24.

It is very beneficial to use the Annual World Polio Day as a way to educate your club and your community about the fight to end Polio in the world and to plan special programs and fundraising events to raise funds for your club and district.

We encourage each club in District 7750 to set a PolioPlus financial goal for this Rotary year and record your goal with your club's district goals.

### Need a PolioPlus Educational Program?

Please feel free to contact me as the District 7750 PolioPlus Chair to plan a program!! You can reach me at Doug Kauffmann, [dkauffmann123@gmail.com](mailto:dkauffmann123@gmail.com), or at my cell phone number 864-551-9922.

### Doug's last challenge

Participate in the final Doug and Sally Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge. I will be stepping down as our District PolioPlus Chair after the 2025-26 Rotary Year.—Doug



## Stephanie Urchick to speak at Foundation dinner Oct. 24

Rotary International Immediate Past President Stephanie Urchick will be the keynote speaker at the District Rotary Foundation Celebration on Friday, Oct. 24. Urchick served as RI President in Rotary year 2024-25. She also will participate in a special afternoon reception for Rotarians who have participated in the Million Dollar Campaign to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation, and she will attend part of the General Reception before the dinner.

Registration will open soon in DACdb. Look for a pmail telling you when registration has opened. This year's Foundation Celebration will be at the Greenville Marriott Hotel on One Parkway East Greenville. The venue is easily accessible for most Rotarians in District 7750.

Our Foundation Celebration will be one of the most exciting ones yet. You don't want to miss seeing our most recent RI President at our Foundation dinner in Greenville.

Rotary   
District 7750

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

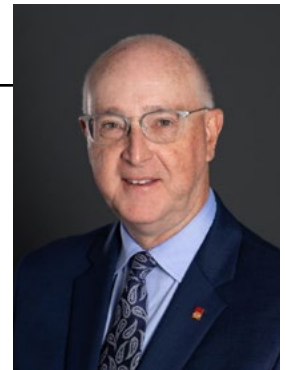
# The Rotary Foundation

Guest Speaker  
Immediate Past Rotary International President  
Stephanie Urchick

**Friday, October 24, 2025**  
General Reception at 6 PM  
Dinner at 7 PM

Greenville Marriott  
One Parkway East, Greenville SC

\$65



## Trustee member and RI president nominee to speak to E-Club Oct. 7

**LARRY A. LUNSFORD**, a trustee of The Rotary Foundation and the nominee to be president of RI in 2027-28, will speak to the E-Club of the Carolinas on Tuesday, Oct. 7, about polio eradication efforts.

Larry is a member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza in Missouri.

**ALL ROTARIANS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THIS MEETING VIA ZOOM.**



**Tuesday, October 7  
Noon**

**Zoom meeting ID:  
876 0367 8273**

**Passcode: 4waytest  
rotaryclubofthecarolinas.com**



Self Portrait Al Walker with Slug the Penguin.

**AL WALKER** served in the Army in WWII in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Germany. His artistic talents were eventually recognized, and he was transferred to the PWB, Combat Team (Psychological Warfare Branch). One of his assignments was to collect documents from Hitler's Eagle's Nest (Berchtesgaden, Germany) to see if any information could be used for propaganda by the PWB. He also worked with Irving Berlin who wrote the song "Fifth Army Where My Heart Is" during a USO tour in Naples.

Before the war Al drew comics for Fiction House and before that worked for Walt Disney Studios in California. His Slug the Penguin character appeared in the Norge Benson series.

## From the Rotarian Magazine — WWII female pilots and my uncle Al Walker

BY JOHNNY WALKER

*Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise*

The September 2025 issue of The Rotarian has a story about women pilots in WWII. Rotarian Lisa Taylor is pictured standing in front of a WWII T-6 Trainer aircraft in the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater, Texas.

On the nose of the aircraft is the emblem for the 4th Fighter Group. The emblem was based on "Slug the Penguin," a Fiction House Comics character created by my uncle, Al Walker. Pilots of the historic P-40 Warhawk and P-47 Thunderbolt learned to fly on the T-6.



Lisa Taylor and National WASP WWII Museum, T-6 Aircraft.



66th  
Weapons  
Squadron  
Emblem

Slug was modified slightly for the 66th Pursuit Squadron, later renamed the 66th Weapons Squadron. The pipe was replaced with a cigar, the hat and gloves changed color to red, but the yellow sweater remained with the arm position and stance the same. Subsequent variations maintained the original look of Slug. The 66th Weapons Squadron

flew P-40 Warhawk and P-47 Thunderbolt aircraft in WWII. They campaigned North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France.

A combat P-47 Thunderbolt, nicknamed

"Toots," with pilot Joseph Angelone was photographed in Grosseto, Italy, 1944. The Slug the Penguin emblem can clearly be seen on the aircraft.

From a cafe in Naples in April 1944 Uncle Al wrote to my father, "I met an old friend ("Slug" the Penguin) on a jacket of an Air Corps Sergeant. I designed the insignia about two and a half years ago for an Air Corps group."

Al Walker commemorated his Army service and connection to the 66th Pursuit Squadron with a self portrait of Slug and friends from the Norge Benson comic books. The Norge Benson characters were created by Uncle Al in 1941, two years before he volunteered for the Army in January 1943.

Another of his WWII creations was the hapless aircraft mechanic, "Greasemonkey Griffin." Greasemonkey was constantly thwarting the Nazis, usually by clumsily interfering with their plans.



"Toots" and pilot Joseph Angelone, 57th Fighter Group - 66th Fighter Squadron, 1944.

The Rotarian article on women pilots in WWII and the strange coincidence to my uncle's work brought back fond memories of Uncle Al—WWII Army veteran and comic book artist. —Johnny

## E-Club and Indian Land partner on school supply project in Lancaster County

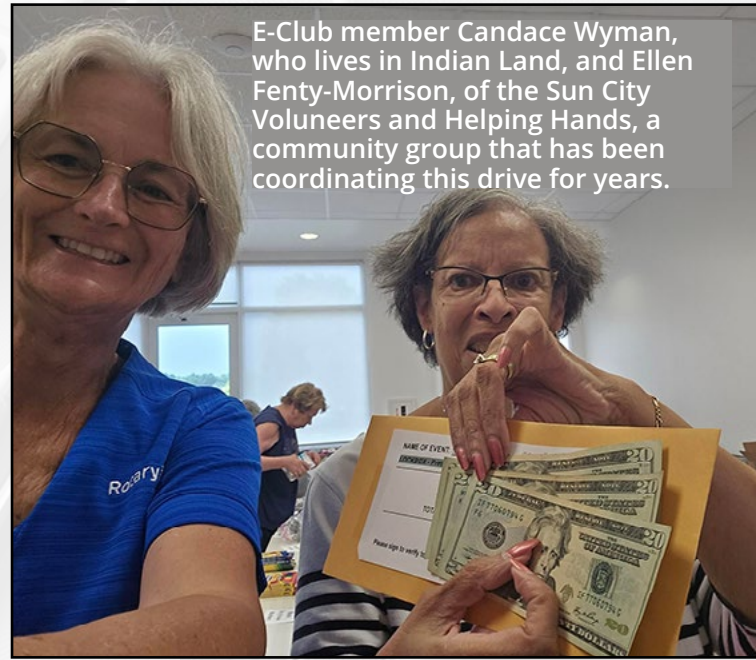
BY CANDACE WYMAN  
*Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas*

Did you know that 1+1+1 can be greater than 3?? That's what happens when you unite a Rotary Club (1), another Rotary Club (1) and another community service organization(1) to collaborate on a great project! The E-Club of the Carolinas partnered with the Rotary Club of Indian Land and another local club to provide school supplies to students in need at 10 schools in Lancaster County.

Our club members also supported additional school supply drives in Anderson and at the Paul Dennis Center in McCormick.

As well as maximizing our impact in these communities, we have built relationships that will pay dividends as we plan more projects in the future.

**Having the right school supplies empowers students to stay organized, focused, and confident in their learning. When students are equipped with what they need, they're less likely to feel stressed or fall behind.**



E-Club member Candace Wyman, who lives in Indian Land, and Ellen Fenty-Morrison, of the Sun City Volunteers and Helping Hands, a community group that has been coordinating this drive for years.



SERVICE TO **YOUTH**



Some of the members of the Rotary Club of Indian Land who helped collect and distribute the supplies to 10 Lancaster County schools.



◀ Greer's service project chair Stacey Matsuda, left, with Alex Farley, Wade Johns, and Frank Antifonario loading car with back-to-school supplies

### BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE SPARKS ROTARY SPIRIT AT GREER CLUB

When the Greer Community Ministries Back-to-School Drive was added to the Rotary Club of Greer's agenda at the last minute, the members didn't just step up—they surged forward! Members quickly gathered backpacks, supplies, and enthusiasm, creating a wave of energy that will help local students start the school year strong.

◀ Fifty-nine backpacks filled with supplies were dropped off to this staff member at Greer Community Ministries.

Whether it's welcoming new members (page 16), securing funding for local service (page 4), or recognizing steadfast commitment to Rotary ideals, August reminded us that the Rotary Club of Greer is growing stronger every day. Together, we're making a difference—locally and globally.

— Carrie Krause, Rotary Club of Greer



## PUBLIC IMAGE: Make a plan to let your community know who you are and what you're doing

**D-7750 Public Image Chair**

**MAGGIE McMAHON**

maggieamcmahon@gmail.com

864-941-6490

Call or email Maggie with any questions about how your club can improve its public image efforts.

### SEPTEMBER TASK FOR EPIC RECOGNITION

Create a CONTENT CALENDAR for your club activities this Rotary year so everyone knows what and when the public image focus will be each month. The calendar will support your plan by having content each month based on your club activities, Rotary monthly themes and special observances, member celebrations, and other information. Meet with your other club committees and incorporate their initiatives. Your calendar will continue to evolve throughout the Rotary year, but this should be your starting point. **To be completed by 10-31-25.**

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>.



## Clover raises funds with hot dogs and chili at car show

The Clover Rotary Club members turned out in force for an exciting fundraiser, serving chili hot dogs and drinks at the Fred Caldwell Chevrolet Car Show on Saturday, Aug. 16. Community spirit was at its best! Check out these snaps of our Rotarians and some of the cars on display!— Olympia Caswell



Tahja Carter, Vance Stine, Cassia Paolone, Lynne Comer, Steve Tripi



Dave Cyphers, John Lovsin



Cassia Paolone, Michael Schonfeld



Terry Hilderbrand  
Olympia Caswell



Catherine Myrick and her nephew Nash,  
who donated and prepared the chili.



Ken Love



### DAVE AT GOLDEN CORNER

DG David Brenner met with the Golden Corner Rotary Club's Board of Directors for an update on the club's 2025-2026 activities. Pictured from left are Cammie Kaiser, Dave, Louis Holleman, Cheryl Rushton, David Chudyk, club president Steve Rushton, and Gene Williams.



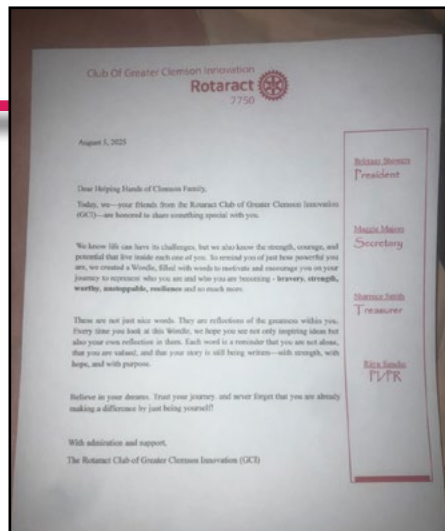
### 100 PERCENT PAUL HARRIS FELLOW CLUB

Dave recognized Golden Corner for being a 100 Percent Paul Harris Fellow Club. Pictured with him are Cammie Kaiser who led the effort for the club to become a 100 Percent Paul Harris Fellow Club and club president Steve Rushton.

## Rotaract



Letter presented with Wordle of Inspiration to young boys at Helping Hands of Clemson.



### SERVICE TO YOUTH

## Clemson's Rotaract Club creates Wordle with words of inspiration

The Rotaract Club at Clemson hosted a virtual service project in which all participants brainstormed words of motivation and inspiration for the young boys at Helping Hands of Clemson, then created a Wordle to be framed and presented.— Brittany Stowers

Rāyn Sancho (PI/PR) holding the framed Wordle of Inspiration before presenting to Helping Hands of Clemson, local organization that accepts abused and/or neglected teenage boys who have been taken into care by the South Carolina Department of Social Services, ages 7-21.



**LITTER FOR BREAKFAST?** Not exactly. The Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast did collect trash as part of its service commitment to Adopt a Highway with the SCDOT. This program picked up 21 tons of roadside litter covering 177 miles. Greenville Breakfast is one of 97 groups participating.

Pictured: Tammy Rhoades, Tom Kedrowski, Bart Street, Anthony Cox, Jim Kenyon, Catherine Thompson, Mary Kedrowski, Rebecca Faulkner



## Pleasantburg already gearing up for 2026 Spring Sing

The forty-fourth Spring Sing will be held on April 14, 2026 in the Concert Hall of the Peace Center in Greenville. It will feature honor choirs composed of over 400 students representing each elementary and middle school in the Greenville County system.

### SPRING SING KICKOFF

Spring Sing Chair and lifelong educator Susan Hughes (right) presents a check from the Pleasantburg Rotary Foundation for start-up expenses to Bradley Wingate at the club's August 21 lunch meeting. Bradley is Director of Visual and Performing Arts for the School District of Greenville County.

When we Unite for Good, we bring about lasting change not only around the world, but in ourselves. Our presence, our commitments, and our friendships matter. We build communities that care. And as we support and sustain one another, we grow in the process.

## OUTBOUND



### OUTBOUND: RYE STUDENT JACKSON'S SENDOFF...

The Pickhardt family and Pleasantburg Rotarians meet at Greenville-Spartanburg Airport on July 30 to send outbound RYE student Jackson Pickhardt from Mauldin High School off for his year in Germany. Left to right: Mom Melanie Pickhardt, brother Griffin, Jackson, dad John, Rotarian Wade Cleveland.



### ... INBOUND: JACKSON'S WELCOME IN GERMANY

Jackson arrives safe and sound, greeted by his host family in Munich.

## INBOUND



### INBOUND ALESSIO TOSINI ARRIVES IN GREENVILLE...

Alessio is attending Wade Hampton High School in Greenville. He is from Naples, Italy.



### ...AND HE'S ALREADY GETTING GOLF LESSONS

AG Eric Baker demonstrates his golf chops by helping inbound student Alessio Tosini with his grip and swing.



Luna went straight from the airport to Cracker Barrel, where she had her first South Carolina iced tea!

**ARRIVING FROM HEIDELBERG TO SPARTANBURG:** Luna Herpolsheimer from Heidelberg, Germany, is one of our three inbound Youth Exchange students this year. She is hosted by Spartan West Rotary Club. On hand to meet her were Jeff, Jena, Anders, and Cadence Smith—Luna’s first host family. Spartan West’s youth exchange officer, Marvin Lord, and Luna’s counselor, Luciana Azzoni Lord, were also on hand to greet her.



**Rotary**  
Youth Exchange



**MEET AND GREET FOR YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT ALESSIO ON AUGUST 12**



Front: Sabina Cavalli from Greenville City Center; Pleasantburg Rotarian Susan Hughes, exchange student Alessio Tosini, AG Eric Baker, Chris McDaniel (guest), Pleasantburg Rotarians Ben Rosenberger, Karen Baker, Bill McCann, Margaret Marcum, Val Vandersloot, Don Vandersloot, Susan Spencer then that’s Stephen Piper from Greenville City Center on the far right.

## Engage the members you have/ invite others to join you

On Saturday, August 23rd, eighty District 7750 Rotarians, from some of our newest members to those more seasoned, gathered at The Kroc Center in Greenville, SC for *The Vibrant Club Forum*, an all-day workshop with one purpose in mind: strengthening clubs through shared ideas and renewed vision.

Fresh strategies, new inspiration, and proven best practices were shared throughout the sessions, all designed to help clubs create even greater impact in their communities. Unique ideas led to informative conversations which sparked connections across clubs, and attendees left energized to bring these insights home and put them into action. It is time to recruit potential Rotarians so we can share the gift of Rotary and increase our impact by growing Rotary.

A central theme of the day was the importance of continuing to engage current members while also inviting new members into Rotary. Strong clubs thrive when existing members feel connected, valued, and inspired to serve. That sense of belonging not only keeps members active but also generates fresh ideas, stronger friendships, and more meaningful service.

At the same time, welcoming new members is vital. Every new Rotarian brings distinctive talents, perspectives, and energy that strengthen our ability to serve and ensure our clubs remain vibrant and relevant for years to come.



**D-7750 Membership Chair**  
**JAMISON TINSLEY**  
tinslerj@gmail.com

**D**istrict 7750 thrives when our clubs are strong, healthy, and growing.

If you have questions or concerns about the health or growth of your club, we are here to help. Your District Membership Committee is ready, willing, and able to support you, whether that means serving as featured speakers at club meetings, helping plan and hold Discover Rotary events, or simply talking through ideas, issues, or concerns.

Contact information for the team is available in DACdb, and we welcome the chance to collaborate with you.

I encourage every club to hold a Discover Rotary or Rotary information session to introduce your club to prospective members. That method proves to have the highest success rate and is not a difficult process.

DG Dave Brenner and I were pleased with the attendance, participation, and enthusiasm of the participants in this Forum. The result was a powerful day of collaboration, strategy, and motivation, and we are eager to see the positive outcomes that will grow from it as we continue to grow Rotary.—*Jamison*



Each brings unique talents, professional expertise, and a heart for service which will help strengthen our club and our impact in the community.— *Carrie Krause, Rotary Club of Greer*

### NEW MEMBERS AT ROTARY CLUB OF GREER

**STACEY WAGNER** with sponsor Becky Moreno  
Jeremy Mosteller, sponsor, with **WADE JOHNS**  
**ZANE ABSTEN** with sponsor Autumn Lawhun





## At Vibrant Club Forum

## Walhalla among clubs recognized for membership growth

Walhalla was one of the 7750 clubs recognized at the zone level for membership growth last year. The club's membership chair, Sheila Galloway, received the certificate at the Vibrant Club Forum held in Greenville during August. Walhalla has had four consecutive years of net membership growth. Sheila had to leave before photos, but pictured at the Forum are Steve Graves (Walhalla), Daby Snipes (Wesminster), and Sarah Melton (Oconee After Dark).

### To give to CART online:

Our clubs in D-7750 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.

1. Go to [www.mycartfund.org](http://www.mycartfund.org) or click to link at left to go to the CART page.
2. Enter your DACdb User Name & Password
3. Click on the dark blue sign-in button
4. You'll create an ID in the CART Online Contribution Portal that's tagged to your club and our District.



**>> Donate to CART**

“We’ve got a ton of leadership talent in Rotary thanks to our RLI alums. We want to make sure we’re recognizing those skills and learning from each other. Their expertise is incredibly valuable as we tackle leadership challenges together.”—Laurie Reuben, D7620

## Mid-Atlantic region of RLI stepping up alumni program

BY LINDA SUSSMAN

Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute Reporter  
Rotary Club of Capitol Hill - Washington DC

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) has launched its new Alumni Program, kicking things off with a celebration of about 70 alumni at the Mid-Atlantic RLI Summer Meeting in North Carolina.

RLI is a resource for both new and seasoned Rotarians, offering all kinds of leadership and learning opportunities. And now, once you complete your first RLI training course, you officially become an RLI Alum—with even more chances to connect and grow!

RLI courses are open to all Rotarians—whether you’re in a leadership role, just curious about getting more involved, or want to understand our organization better.

### More than 3,000 Alumni and growing!

There are already more than 3,000 RLI alumni in the Mid-Atlantic region. The training—and now the alumni events—are great ways to meet Rotarians from other clubs. At these meetings, participants often discover shared interests, like peace, health, or farming, and keep exchanging ideas long after

the training ends. Alumni are encouraged to spread the word about RLI—attend future sessions, invite others, and talk about it at club meetings



### What's Next for RLI Alumni?

The alumni celebration was part of a summer meeting that included RLI I–III training, graduate courses, and new faculty sessions. Looking ahead, RLI alumni will be featured at joint club and district events where you can stop by the RLI Table at the House of Friendship to learn more.

Alumni will also be celebrated at future Mid-Atlantic RLI meetings, including the Winter Meeting in January 2026.

**AUGUST RLI GRADS TO ADD TO OUR ALUMNI LIST: Kristine Amin, Carolyn Batchler, Mark Bound, Daniel Dunn, Claudette Paulin Eames, Mark Eckert, Catherine Hamby, Jeremy Hart, Les Hicken, Spencer Smith, Bronwen Talley-Coffey, Terry Tate, Andie Dent Taylor, Matt Williamson, Melinda Bennett Gilreath. And there's a few RLI instructors pictured too!**



## New Members in July

Arnold, David	Golden Strip Sunrise
Arnold, Katherine	Golden Strip Sunrise
Brewer, Paul	North Augusta
Carter, Tahja	Clover
Cashion, James E III	Golden Strip Sunrise
Catledge, Katie	Spartan West
Clayton, John B.	Reedy River
Coggins, Teresa	Carolina Foothills
Dillenger, Jennifer A	Spartanburg
Gilmer, Sam	Abbeville
Graybeal, Dianne	Pleasantburg
Gruenemeier, Angela R	Golden Strip Sunrise
Hayes, Stephen E	Golden Strip Sunrise

Hindshaw, Hunter
Kennedy, Brian K
MacCarthy, John
May, Anna Ruth
Melton, Sarah
Priest, John
Provalenko, Robert
Rushton, Cheryl Jean
Salinas, Lucinda
Salman, Deborah
Sheridan, Anna L
Wald, Steven

Chester
Golden Strip Sunrise
Simpsonville
Westminster
Oconee After Dark
Anderson
Indian Land
Seneca Golden Corner
Aiken
Fort Mill
Anderson
Oconee After Dark

**JULY 2025: 26 NEW MEMBERS — 21 TERMINATED MEMBERS (3 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.**



**ONE MORE THINK-TANK CONVERSATION FROM THE VIBRANT CLUB FORUM.**

**Deadline for October newsletter is **Sept 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.