

OCTOBER

Economic and Community
Development

NOVEMBER

Rotary Foundation

DECEMBER

Disease Prevention and
Treatment Month

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



david.brenner00@gmail.com

580-504-0703

PEACE THROUGH ACTION — LET IT BEGIN WITH ME

Improving the economic and social environment in our communities fulfills the promise of the song

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

As I reflected on World Peace day September 21, I thought of the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with Me." It's a song that we often sing at the end of our conferences as we join hands and sway to the music together.

When most of us think about Rotary and peace we think about the Peace scholars in the universities around the world. Or we think about the Russian invasion of Ukraine or the conflicts in the Middle East. We think what can we in Western South Carolina do about that? But the lyrics of the song are "let it begin with me."

In reality peace and conflict resolution occurs continually all around us. Are not many of the conflicts caused by disparities in social and economic circumstances? Can the Rotary clubs in our district do anything about it? The answer is not only yes, but we are in fact already taking action. *After all, Rotarians are people of action.*

Next time you sing or hear the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with Me" remember that you are doing just that— Rotarians, people of action doing good in the world, in our communities, and in ourselves.

October is economic and community development month in the Rotary world. Whether we realize it or not, the projects we are doing in our communities are doing just that. And by improving the economic and social environment in our communities we are fulfilling the promise of the song "let it begin with me."

Let me list a few things that help to bring peace to our communities.

- ▶ Attacking food insecurity
- ▶ Literacy
- ▶ Support of schools
- ▶ Happy feet
- ▶ Cleaning up the environment

I am sure you can think of many more. Then consider our Youth Service programs—Interact, Rotaract, and RYLA. What about youth exchange where kids learn and live with people from another country. Think of the benefits that these programs bring for peace and conflict resolution. Through Rotary youth services our youth are learning that people that look different, talk differently, dress differently are just like us on the inside.

So, let's continue our work to make our communities better. Give our children the opportunity to better themselves and learn about helping others.

PEACE THROUGH ACTION



Page 2 has some examples of what our clubs are doing to bring peace through economic and community development projects.

Focus on this month's emphasis:

Economic and community development projects take lots of forms: impact seen in lots of ways

Here are some examples of how our clubs support economic and community development. Many of these projects overlap into Rotary's other areas of focus, demonstrating how strengthening one aspect of a community impacts other areas.

IN AIKEN COUNTY, the Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise sponsors Interact Clubs at South Aiken High School, Mead Hall, Kennedy Middle School, and Wagener-Salley High School. These youth programs foster leadership and career readiness, indirectly fueling future workforce development.

IN LANCASTER COUNTY, the Lancaster Rotary Club fuel youth empowerment through its Wheels & Wings and 5K fundraiser, channeling grants into STEM camps, mentoring programs, and summer enrichment for underserved students.

IN OCONEE COUNTY, Oconee After Dark members build beds for children in need and recently constructed a cedar-trimmed pavilion for senior outdoor learning and recreation at Veterans Park.

IN NEWBERRY COUNTY, the Rotary Club of Newberry partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help renovate homes for low-income families, contributing both funding and volunteer labor to improve living conditions in the county. The club also supports vocational training and career fairs at Newberry High School, helping students explore trades, tech careers, and college pathways—especially in partnership with Piedmont Technical College.

IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, the Rotary Club of Greenville sponsors an annual Career Day that connects high school juniors with local professionals for shadowing and mentorship, preparing students for careers in high-demand industries.

IN ANDERSON COUNTY,

the Rotary Club of Anderson helped fund the Artist Alleyway Project, transforming a downtown alley into a public art and lighting installation that draws foot traffic and supports local artisans—part of a broader downtown revitalization strategy.

IN YORK COUNTY,

the Rotary Club of York supports agricultural entrepreneurs with training and market access to strengthen that area's rural economy.

IN MCCORMICK COUNTY, where there is no Rotary club, the E-Club of the Carolinas obtained a \$1,000 grant to help McCormick Elementary revitalize its outdoor water garden—linking STEM education to long-term workforce development.

These are just some random examples (*generated by AI*). Every one of our clubs in some way works on projects that strengthen development in its area and in places around the world, often due to our work through The Rotary Foundation. —Sue



**ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**



Rotary should always be a place where service meets friendship, and where doing good in the world is both meaningful and fun.

One of the clearest signs of a healthy Rotary club is how engaged the members are. Engagement is what keeps people showing up, getting involved, and saying YES to opportunities to serve. When members feel included, connected, and valued, they are far more likely to stay active and share their energy, talents, and ideas.

Engagement isn't just about taking on a project or filling a role. At its heart, it's about building relationships. When members form genuine friendships, when they feel like they belong, and when they're having fun together, Rotary becomes more than a meeting on the calendar. It becomes a meaningful part of people's lives that they genuinely look forward to with excitement. Clubs that make space for laughter and fellowship alongside service and leadership often find members are not only more active but also more likely to invite others to join.

There are plenty of ways clubs can create this kind of energy. Start with varied, impactful service projects that let different members shine. Ask your members what excites them, then find projects to match. Balance those with engaging speakers who not only inform but inspire. Better yet, ask your members who they would love to hear from.

The best way to find this information from your

members is to conduct a membership satisfaction survey. You can create your own survey or use the one that the Membership Success Center creates for you. If you need any help with a survey, please contact your AG or a member of the District Member-ship Team.

Don't forget to celebrate your people along the way. Member spotlights are a simple but powerful way to make everyone feel seen, and there are countless creative ways to do them. If you need ideas, reach out. Your membership team is always happy to brainstorm. And of course, remember to add in fun socials where the only agenda is friendship. A bowling outing, a pub night, or a picnic can go a long way in building camaraderie. The possibilities are endless!

Clubs that combine purpose and enjoyment naturally stay vibrant. By keeping members engaged and making sure the experience is enjoyable, we not only keep the folks we have but also draw in new ones who want to be part of something that matters.

The best way to introduce people to your energetic, fun Rotary clubs is by having a Discover Rotary event. I challenge every club in our district to begin holding regular Discover Rotary events. We have a Club Support Team in place to assist with conducting these information sessions. So let's continue to grow our impact in District 7750 by getting in new members.



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



◀Missy Marsh, center, is the newest member of the Golden Strip Sunrise Club. She is president of the Fountain Inn High School Booster Club. She is flanked by club members Melinda Gilreath and Dee Vaughan.

As of Sept. 26, RI shows 7750 with a net gain of 14 members since July 1.

PUBLIC IMAGE AND MEMBERSHIP

LOCK ARMS (all of us) TO BECOME A WINNING TEAM

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

I am not an advertising guy. However, I remember some of my marketing friends telling me that promoting your product is important not only to attract new customers but also to retain current customers. Does that have a familiar ring when you think about GROWING ROTARY?

I point this out as a reminder to all of us that our club Public Image team and Membership team must lock arms and work together to Grow Rotary. First of all however you must have a good product. I think as Rotarians we can all agree that Rotary is a great product. Then we must take that product and bundle it in an enticing package. A vibrant, exciting, fun club doing great things in the community is the package we must have in order to attract new members and retain our current members.

As I visit the Rotary clubs in our district, I am awed and excited about all the wonderful things you are doing in your communities, and just as excited about

meeting so many wonderful, friendly, hospitable Rotarians.

I know we are all very proud of our clubs and the great things we are doing. Show your pride by wearing your Rotary pin, or hat, or anything else Rotary, so when people ask what that is all about you can help your PI team by telling them.

Then, help your membership team by inviting them to learn more about your club by attending an information hour, social, meeting or service project. The message here is that everyone of us can help promote the public image of our club, and everyone of us can help our club Grow Rotary.

So, I encourage all 2400+ Rotarians in our district to help GROW ROTARY by telling the people we interact with every day about Rotary and about their exciting, fun club.

REMEMBER: IT ALL BEGINS WITH AN ASK.



D-7750 Public Image Chair
MAGGIE MCMAHON

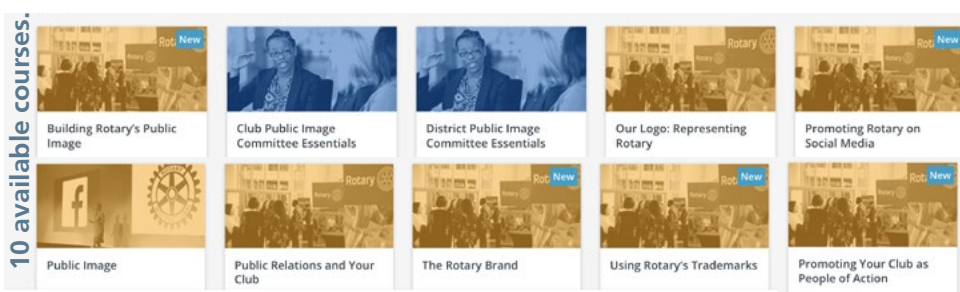
maggieamcmahon@gmail.com
864-941-6490

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



The EPIC award task for October is designed to encourage you to go through some of the 10 public image courses in the Rotary Learning Center to help you improve your PI practices. Club Public Image Chairs should follow the recommended courses for this role found in the "Club Public Image Committee Basics" learning plan.

Task deadline is Nov. 30. Go here to indicate that you have completed the task.



Join our Million Dollar Campaign

BY PDG BETH PADGETT

District Rotary Foundation Chair

The finish line is in sight for our District's Million Dollar Campaign. But we still have lots of room for **you** to join us on this journey.

You become part of our Million Dollar Campaign with a gift of at least \$10,000 in new money. That can come in an outright gift of \$10,000. It can be a pledge payable over three years. It can be an endowment pledge of at least \$10,000. Your Rotary Club can join by contributing at least \$10,000 in new contributions from the club between July 1, 2023, and January 30, 2026.

All individuals and clubs who participate in the Million Dollar Campaign will be invited to a special reception on Friday, October 24, at the Greenville Marriott.

Ultimately, this campaign isn't about numbers or receptions. It's about ensuring that we have a strong Rotary Foundation today and that we leave a legacy of helping maintain a vibrant Rotary Foundation. After all, our donations to The Rotary Foundation provide the financial resources for us to "Do Good in the World" through Rotary.

Through The Rotary Foundation, we help our neighbors in need. We provide needed supplies and special programs for students in our low-income schools. We bring clean water to remote villages in places such as Honduras and Guatemala. And most of all, we bring hope to places that for generations have known only despair.

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



D-7750 Foundation Chair

PDG BETH PADGETT

bpadgettrotary@outlook.com

Beth's October FOUNDATION Challenges

1. Participate in World Polio Day on October 24th and contribute to PolioPlus as part of the Doug and Sally Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge Match.
2. Attend the District 7750 Rotary Foundation Celebration. It will be Friday, October 24th at the Greenville Marriott Hotel at 1 Parkway East. It's an easily accessible location. Immediate Past RI President Stephanie Urchick will be the keynote speaker.
3. Participate in your club's District Grant. And if your club didn't get a District Grant this year, urge your club leaders to make sure you qualify for next year. Attending Grant Training on Oct. 24th before the Foundation Dinner is the first step.

District 7750 Foundation Team

7750 FOUNDATION CHAIR

Beth Padgett

bpadgettrotary@outlook.com

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Dave Brenner

david.brenner00@gmail.com

POLIOPLUS CHAIR

Doug Kauffmann,

dkauffmann123@gmail.com

DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIR

Bill Harley

william.harley@firstcitizens.com

GLOBAL GRANTS CHAIR

Ben Ficklen

benficklen@comporium.net

PEACE FELLOWSHIP CHAIR

Lorraine Angelino

dg2013@rotary7750.org

PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY CHAIR

Rita Yarbrough

ritayarbrough@bellsouth.net

ANNUAL FUND CHAIR

Eric Krichbaum

Eric.Krichbaum1@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT AND MAJOR GIFTS CHAIR

Lance Young

lsyoung@clemson.edu

If you want a District Grant next year, you **must** send a representative to the Foundation Grant Training **SAME DAY AS CELEBRATION DINNER**

Is your club planning to apply for a District Foundation Grant for Rotary Year 2026-27? Now is the time to start planning. The first requirement for applying is for at least one member of your club must attend the Grant Workshop that will be Friday, **Oct. 24**, at the Greenville Marriott at 1 Parkway East in Greenville. Preferably the person attending will be involved in writing or managing the grant.

Registration for Foundation and Grant Training will begin at 1:30 pm. Foundation 101 will be from 2-3 pm, followed by the required Grant Training from 3:15-4:30 pm. We encourage all participants to stay for the Foundation Celebration Dinner that will follow at 7 pm after a General Reception from 6-7 pm. Immediate Past International RI President Stephanie Urchick will be the guest speaker for the evening.

This year's training and banquet will be on World Polio Day. We will have a short (less than one-quarter mile) End Polio Now Walk from 4:45-5:15. All grant training participants are encouraged to stay for the walk even if they cannot attend the dinner.

October 24th will be a night to remember in our District. Not only will we celebrate a record-breaking year of giving to The Rotary Foundation, but also our District will be recognizing District 7750 Rotarians and some Rotary Clubs that have been instrumental in our successful Million Dollar Campaign.

Immediate Past RI President Stephanie also will help present awards to our clubs and individual donors. We are honored to have her join us for this fun and inspirational evening. Registration is open on the DACdb calendar and also is being promoted weekly through a link in emails to District 7750 Rotarians. —*Beth*



SOME WAYS TO PROMOTE WORLD POLIO DAY

On every October 24, Rotary joins with our partners, global health organizations, and public health advocates to mark **World Polio Day**. Rotary clubs have a critical role in World Polio Day by hosting events and activities to increase awareness about polio and raise funds toward eradicating it. To build on the success of last year, we need your help!

If you haven't started planning your World Polio Day event or action, now is the time! Here are some ideas to explore with your club:

- **Host a club presentation:** Bring in doctors or health experts who can speak to your club members about the importance of polio eradication at the meeting nearest to 24 October.
- **Set up a booth** in a market, shopping mall, or public square where members wear End Polio Now shirts or hold banners. You could also organize a walk or bike ride with other clubs, districts, or local organizations.
- **Establish a fundraiser for PolioPlus:** Hold a dinner or a concert. Use **Raise for Rotary**, or start a **fundraiser on Facebook**. You can also make a club **donation** directly to PolioPlus. Booths, shows, and sporting events are other good ways to raise funds.
- **Partner on a social media campaign:** Work with other Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs in your area on a campaign to share engaging content on social media about the vital role that Rotary plays in the fight against polio.

World Polio Day is an opportunity to raise awareness in your local community about Rotary and our main humanitarian initiative. Whether you want to promote your event specifically or World Polio Day in general, you have access to a wide selection of graphics, videos, public relations templates, and more in the Rotary Brand Center. Also, this year's District Foundation and Grant Training and Foundation Celebration Dinner is on World Polio Day. Come join us for a very short End Polio Now Walk between the training and general reception. —Beth

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

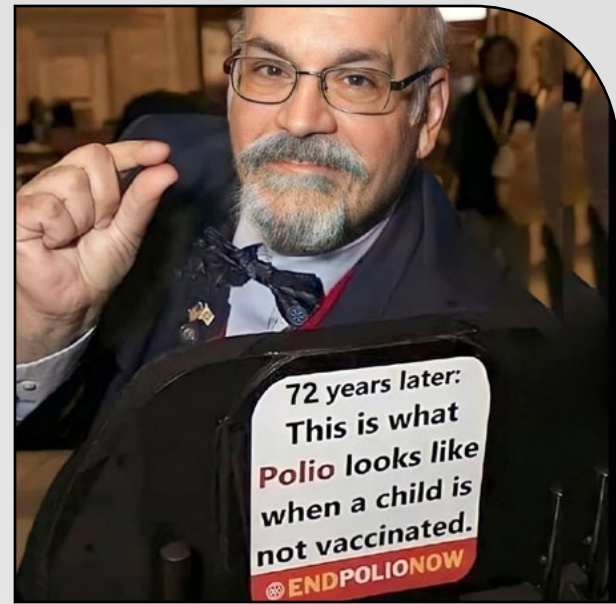


WORLD POLIO DAY

Friday, October 24, 2025

On World Polio Day, we stand as one,
A global fight that's still not done.
Rotary leads with heart and grace,
To end polio in every place.

Vaccines bring hope, a future bright,
For every child, a fearless night.
Together we dream, together we strive,
To keep the flame of health alive.



JOHN NANNI, District 7620 in Maryland:
"September 15 was the 72nd anniversary of when I came down with polio. I was 10 months old, six months before the Salk Vaccine was widely tested. I was paralyzed from my neck down for 6 months. My Mom did physical therapy on me every day and I walked a year later. I started having Post-Polio Syndrome issues when I turned 40 and am in a wheelchair now for most of my mobility."

World Polio Day is October 24. Join John with a "World's Greatest Meal to Help End Polio" by donating the value of a meal to www.endpolio.org.

Paws & Pints for Polio – October 25 in Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer invites Rotarians and friends who are close-by to join them on Saturday, October 25 from 12:00–6:00 PM at The Southern Growl for a tail-wagging good time at **PAWS & PINTS FOR POLIO**.

The afternoon will feature:

- Costume contest for pets and their humans
- Local vendors with treats, gifts, and goodies
- Delicious food from The Southern Growl's kitchen
- Craft Beer selections to enjoy with friends
- Plenty of fun while supporting a global cause

Every pint and paw print helps us move one step closer to eradicating polio worldwide. Bring your pup, your friends, and your appetite—and make a difference while having fun!

Learn more at <https://rotarygreer.org/paws-and-pint>.
The Southern Growl is located at 155 N Buncombe Road in Greer.



PAWS and PINTS for POLIO

Rotary Club of Greer SC
rotarygreer.org



Stephanie Urchick to speak at Foundation dinner Oct. 24

Immediate past RI president Stephanie Urchick will be the keynote speaker at the District Rotary Foundation Celebration on Friday, Oct. 24. Stephanie will also 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.

Register now in DACdb. The event will be at the Greenville Marriott Hotel on One Parkway East Greenville. The venue is easily accessible for most Rotarians in District 7750.

This 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 dinner in Greenville.

**Dress: Rotary business. Bring your generosity.
Leave with a full heart and fuller stomach.**

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**

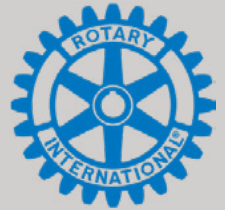
Attention Rotary Club
PRESIDENTS-ELECT and
PRESIDENTS-NOMINEE:

Mark your calendars for these
 upcoming **REQUIRED** meetings.
 Details as each event gets closer.

PrePETS: Feb. 28
 in Newberry

PETS: Mar. 19-21
 in Greensboro

—DGE Eric Krichbaum



Rotary Club of Pickens

OCTOBER 25 2025

Ride to the Rock



Details and registration at
ridetotherock.org.

Who's willing to take the Pickens club's challenge for a scenic mountain bike ride to Table Rock?

The Rotary Club of Pickens is getting ready for its signature event: the 13th Annual Ride to the Rock.

This year's ride is on Saturday, October 25, starting in downtown Pickens. It's a scenic and challenging cycling event through the mountains, offering riders four route options: 19, 37, 51, and 61 miles.

The ride attracts cyclists from across the region and is a great way to experience the beauty of the area while connecting with the community.

More information and registration details can be found at <https://ridetotherock.org>.— Meredith Oh, Rotary Club of Pickens

A Child's Haven treats children with developmental delays as a result of limited resources, abuse, or neglect, and provides support & education for their families.

Greenville completes landscaping project at A Child's Haven

Over the past three months, Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Greenville and community partners have completed three landscaping volunteer days at A Child's Haven, making a meaningful impact on the therapeutic outdoor environments that are such an important part of the children's healing.

These spaces provide safe, calming areas where children receiving treatment can learn, grow, and build resilience—and keeping them well-maintained is vital to ACH's mission.

From mowing to mulching, weeding, and tree removal, Rotary members, spouses, and community partners worked side by side to make a difference. — *Jeni Townsend*

↕ Special thanks go to Daniel from Sunlight Landscapes and Tim & Ben from Precision Landscape Solutions, who donated their time, expertise, and equipment for each project, as well as the Rotarian spouses who pitched in with extra tools and energy. Their combined efforts have left the campus looking better than ever. If you need landscaping, consider supporting these business as a way of thanking them for their generosity.





DAVE GETS HIGHEST SCOUTING FELLOWSHIP AWARD

During his visit to the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg on September 18, DG Dave was surprised when past club president and fellow Scouting Rotarian Mac McLean (right) presented him with the Cliff Dochterman Award, the highest honor bestowed by the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians. Joining in the presentation were (left to right) Greenville Breakfast Club President and Scouting Fellowship member Bill Shuford, Pleasantburg President Wade Cleveland, and AG and fellow Scouting Rotarian Eric Baker. Members of Dave's own Greenville Breakfast Club were also in attendance to celebrate this special occasion.

Golden Corner hosts Seneca High School RYLA students

Golden Corner hosted the four most recent Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) students from Seneca High School at a recent meeting. Pictured, front, from left are students Gabriella Skelton, Jada Williams, Caitlyn Brinkman and Emmanuel Attisso. Back, from left, are Golden Corner Rotary Club president Steve Rushton, Rotarian and RYLA coordinator Gene Williams and Seneca High School faculty advisor Karon National. These students were jointly sponsored by Golden Corner and Seneca Rotary Clubs.



Oconee After Dark members recognized in the community



REAH: REALTOR OF YEAR

Congratulations to Reah Smith, a member of Oconee After Dark who was named the 2025 Realtor of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Realtors. The award honors members who have contributed significantly to the real estate profession and their community.

Reah is a realtor at Lake Keowee Real Estate in Oconee County. She joined the fairly new Oconee After Dark club, a satellite of the Rotary Club of Walhalla, in March.



Lynn McClain



Missy McClain

LYNN AND MISSY: POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Lynn McClain and Missy McClain, members of Oconee After Dark, received the "Caring for the Carolinas" award for October from WSPA-7. The TV station presents the award monthly in collaboration with local partners to honor volunteers and community members who make a positive impact in the Carolinas. Missy and Lynn joined the satellite club in April. They are florists in Walhalla.



GOLDEN CORNER PRESENTS HYGIENE KITS TO SHELTER

The Golden Corner Rotary Club donated more than 40 hygiene kits to Our Daily Rest shelter for men and women. This is part of the club's ongoing project, which members carry out three to four times a year. In the photo, from left to right, are Mike Douglas from Our Daily Rest, Rotarian Gene Williams, and Our Daily Rest's Thomas Geiger.



GOLDEN CORNER GETS UPDATE ON CART

7750 CART chair Cara Hamilton of the Rotary Club of Anderson updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club about CART. Pictured with Cara are club president Steve Rushton and Rotarian Don Estep. CART awarded more than \$2 million for cutting-edge research. One hundred percent of donations go toward Alzheimer's research.



WALHALLA COACH TALKS ABOUT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP—AND HIS BOOK

Byron Wimphrie, head coach of the Walhalla High School Girls Basketball team, told the Golden Corner Rotary Club about the team's journey to the state championship title. Byron is also the author of "Battle Tested Coach." Pictured from left are Byron, club president Steve Rushton and Rotarian Lorraine Harding.



Initiative empowers young people with developmental disabilities Emerald City works another year with Penguin Project

BY RACHEL STRAYER

Rotary Club of Emerald City

Emerald City Rotarians have been supporting Greenwood Community Theatre (GCT) during Penguin Project productions for years. We volunteer as ushers, concession stand helpers, and last-minute support. By taking on these roles, we give the theatre staff a break so they can focus on the performers and the production.

The Penguin Project is a national nonprofit that helps young people with developmental disabilities shine on stage. Each actor has a peer mentor who helps them build social skills, confidence, and lasting friendships through acting.

GCT is one of only two theatre companies in South Carolina that put on a Penguin Project production each year. We're so grateful to live in a community that values inclusion and opportunity. Rotary's values of Service Above Self and building stronger communities are all over this program. This year's

Presidential Message, Unite for Good, really shows how The Penguin Project brings together actors, mentors, families, and volunteers to create something amazing.

This year's production of *101 Dalmatians Kids* was full of talent, energy, and joy. As usual, the entire cast and crew, along with family members and alumni, sang and danced to *Don't Stop Believin'* after each performance. That tradition is the heart of the program: belonging, celebrating, and community spirit.

Emerald City Rotary is honored to stand with Greenwood Community Theatre and The Penguin Project in creating meaningful experiences for these incredible young people and their families.

WHY PENGUIN? Penguins can't fly like other birds—but they thrive in their own way. The name symbolizes how these young artists adapt and flourish, proving that limitations don't define potential.



SERVICE TO YOUTH

Greenville Breakfast continues partnership with GirlUp GVL

BY MARY KEDROWSKI

Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

The Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast is thrilled to continue its 4+ year partnership with GirlUp GVL! With our latest contribution, we are helping local middle and high school girls master sewing—and so much more.

Beyond creating beautiful items, these young women are building patience, confidence, and a lifelong skill.

We're incredibly proud of their work and excited to see what amazing things they create next!

Greenville Breakfast Rotarian Sharon Landis with one of the girls.



Search is underway for the 2028-29 DG

We are only a quarter into the 2025-26 Rotary year under Dave's leadership but it is already time to be thinking about who will lead us as District Governor in 2028-29. Candidates must have served as a Rotary Club President, been a Rotarian for at least seven years at the time of taking office and preferably served in a district-level role such as AG or committee chair. **Club presidents have the required nomination forms.**

What does the DG do?

Not sure what a DG's responsibilities are? Here are a few:

- ▶ Lead and inspire clubs across the district to achieve Rotary's goals and uphold its values.
- ▶ Plan and conduct official visits to each club, offering guidance, encouragement, and support.
- ▶ Set strategic direction for the district, aligning with Rotary International.
- ▶ Communicate regularly with club presidents and district leaders to foster collaboration and resolve challenges.
- ▶ Oversee district operations, including budgets, training, and compliance with Rotary policies.
- ▶ Support leadership development, mentoring future leaders and promoting participation in training events.
- ▶ Coordinate district-wide initiatives, such as service projects, fundraising campaigns, and public image efforts.
- ▶ Recognize club achievements and promote best practices to elevate impact across the district.
- ▶ Represent the district at Rotary International events and maintain connections with global Rotary leadership.
- ▶ Ensure continuity by preparing the incoming District Governor and supporting a smooth leadership transition.



Rotary Fellowships connect members with shared interests, fostering friendships and celebrating passions. With more than 90 recognized groups, there's something for everyone, from sailing to photography.

BY LALE DOGAN
Rotary Club of Pleasantburg

JAZZ, GIN, AND LICENSE PLATES

There's a Rotary Fellowship for that!



The very first Rotary meeting in 1905 was founded on one simple yet powerful desire: fellowship.

Now, 119 years later, Rotary is globally recognized for its local and international service projects, its leadership in eradicating polio, its work in peacebuilding, and its facilitation of humanitarian causes across the world. But at the heart of all this impact is still the same core value that started it all: **connection through fellowship**.

So where does fellowship fit into our Rotary journey now? How do we enjoy and benefit from this aspect of Rotary? Is fellowship meant to be only with Rotarians from our own clubs, nearby clubs, or within our districts? It doesn't have to be and this is exactly what Rotary Fellowship Groups are designed to do!

Rotary Fellowships are independent, international groups of Rotary members, Rotaractors or Rotary Peace Fellows (and even non-members in many cases) who share a common recreational interest, vocation, or identity.

They're officially recognized by Rotary International, but they are self-governed – consistent with RI policy and bylaws- and operate outside of the club and district structure. Each Fellowship has

its own leadership, membership rules, activities, and events—but all of them focus on two key things: building lasting friendships and celebrating shared passions.

With more than 90 officially recognized Fellowships, there's something for everyone. Some focus on professions, others are all about recreation, service, or social connection: sailing, photography, jazz, gin, wine, cycling, foreign languages, caravanning, animal welfare—even license plate collecting.

How do you get in on the fun? Just go to the website: www.rotary.org/fellowships, browse the list of active Fellowships and find one (or more!) that fit your interest, contact the group through their website or email to join—some have small dues or member requirements, but many are open and free.

Whether you're a lifelong Rotarian or brand new to the movement, Rotary Fellowships offer a unique and meaningful way to deepen your engagement. They remind us that at its heart, Rotary is a global family that knows no boundaries or limitations, and it is expanded by curiosity, passion, and purpose.

And just like in 1905, it's still what brings us together.

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS ARE A VIBRANT WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE HEART OF ROTARY—CONNECTION THROUGH SHARED PASSIONS. THESE INDEPENDENT, INTERNATIONAL GROUPS UNITE MEMBERS AROUND HOBBIES, VOCATIONS, AND IDENTITIES, FROM SAILING AND PHOTOGRAPHY TO JAZZ AND ANIMAL WELFARE. WITH MORE THAN 90 FELLOWSHIPS TO EXPLORE, THEY OFFER A FUN, MEANINGFUL PATH TO BUILD FRIENDSHIPS BEYOND CLUB AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

GO TO ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS PAGE.



1ST AND 2ND PLACE DUCK DERBY PRIZE WINNERS Bev Upright and Kathy Dombrowski accept their prizes from members and friends of the Reedy River Rotary Club.



\$3,000 TO GIRLS ON THE RUN, an organization that provides youth development programs for young girls.



\$2,500 TO THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM of the Upstate.

\$4,650 TO MAULDIN MIRACLE LEAGUE, providing the opportunity for children and young adults with physical and/or mental challenges to play baseball on a safe, specially-designed baseball field.

Reedy River delivers \$100,000+ to the community

BY MEG COFFEE

Rotary Club of Reedy River

The small, but mighty Rotary Club of the Reedy River distributed more than \$101,000 to many charities in the Greenville area. The money was raised through the annual Reedy River Duck Derby.

In the spring of 2025, the club celebrated its 21st race, complete with 14,000 ducks racing over Reedy River Falls to the finish line. Prizes were awarded to nearly 60 of the fastest finishing ducks who were adopted by community members.

Each year there is a chance to win \$1,000,000, but that elusive prize has yet to be captured in the Club's history. This year 1st place of a year's worth of groceries from Publix, 2nd prize of \$2,500 cash, and 3rd prize of a weekend stay at the Embassy Suites with a round of golf for two were a few of the numerous prizes handed out.

The club spends much of each year planning and arranging the many moving parts that come together on Derby Day with the help of dozens of volunteers, many from other Rotary Clubs in

the area.

In addition to grant money distributed, 17 nonprofits who joined in to help with duck adoptions and earned portions of the adoption amount ranging from \$55 to over \$1,700.

Even more charities applied through our grant process with 19 organizations receiving amounts that spanned from \$2,000 to \$7,000 with one lucky group—Next Steps—receiving a combined Duck Derby/District Grant totaling \$12,800.

Reedy River Rotary can't say enough about Next Steps, a local organization empowering people to break the cycle of addiction. This group supplied people power that helped set up the park, shuttled things throughout the park during the event, and hauled most of the ducks from the riverbank back to a waiting truck.

To top that off, we matched a grant from The Nature Conservancy that made a combined donation of \$5,000 to Trees Upstate, a favorite charity of the club.



\$4,000 TO WALT'S WALTZ — works to destigmatize mental health issues.

Fountain Inn and Golden Strip Sunrise host cookout for high school faculty



↑ Dave & Kat Arnold, Angie Gruenemeier are new members who are excited to get involved in their community.



↑ Fountain Inn club members Buddy Dyer, Anthony Bennon, John Mahoney and Charles Fleming handing out desserts to faculty and staff.

← Grillmasters Mike Watson and Brian Kennedy grilling the burgers

Golden Strip Sunrise and Fountain Inn hosted a cookout for the faculty and staff of Fountain Inn High School recently. Showing support for our educators is one way of making a positive impact in the community and is an example of how much you can accomplish by working together with other clubs in your area! — *Rebecca Miller, Rotary Club of Golden Strip Sunrise*

➔ **RECRUITING TOOL:** A tournament can also be a recruiting tool for your club. Pictured here are Patrick Cox and Wes Brissie. Patrick is slated to be the next newest club member!

Golden Strip Sunrise golf tournament both fun and profitable

The Golden Strip Sunrise annual golf tournament, postponed from May because of weather, was a big success in August and the accompanying silent auction was an even better success.

The proceeds will support local organizations, including the Center for Community Services, the Miriam Foundation, and Generations Boys Home.

A total of 22 teams took part, with the winners receiving 43" UHD 4K TVs. Following the tournament, everyone gathered for a cookout while prizes were awarded.



➔ Club members Becky Miller, Melinda Gilreath and Steve Epps register participants



↑ Kat Arnold and Interactor Vanessa drove the beverage cart to make sure everyone stayed hydrated.



New Members in August

Absten, Zane M.	Greer	Johns, Arnold Ward	Greer
Barksdale, Thomas H.	Greenville City Center	Jones, Clara	Lancaster
Barrett, Taylor	Laurens	Kedrowski, Mary	Greenville Breakfast
Bohan, Emily	Greenville	Kennedy, Mary Beth	Laurens
Branham, Heath	York	Letson, Craig	Greenville City Center
Case, Ann	Fountain Inn	Long, Ben	Walhalla
Case, Ashley Phillips	Fountain Inn	Lutterloh, Karl	Aiken
Clark, Shirley	Laurens	Maas, Gigi	Indian Land
Cole, Reed	Easley	Marsh, Missey	Golden Strip Sunrise
Cox, Elissa	York	Nelson, Justin	Fountain Inn
DeAngelis, Steven	Easley	Rowe, James	Seneca
Deitz, Holly	Greenville	Scott, Thomas	Aiken
DiPietro, Mario	Easley	Swayngim, Dillon	Spartanburg
Gray, Tyree	Greater Anderson	Wagner, Stacy	Greer
Hammond, George	Fountain Inn	Whittier, Carolyn	Newberry

AUGUST 2025: 30 NEW MEMBERS — 35 TERMINATED MEMBERS (1 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.

➔ALESSIO AT GREENVILLE DRIVE: ROTARIANS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN...

Reedy Rip'it (center), mascot for the Greenville Drive, welcomes Youth Exchange student Alessio Tosini (right) and his Rotary counselor Ben Rosenberger to a game at Fluor Field in Greenville in late August.



**Deadline for
November newsletter
is **Oct. 25.****

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

Feel free to send your news
items throughout the month.

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