

DECEMBER

Disease Prevention and
Treatment Month

JANUARY

Vocational Service

FEBRUARY

Peace and Conflict Prevention/
Resolution

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



david.brenner00@gmail.com

580-504-0703

7750 clubs working in various ways to prevent disease and to provide treatment

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment month in the Rotary world. I know all Rotarians are well aware of the Rotary focus on Polio Eradication. Our district is a strong supporter of that ongoing effort. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Rotarians in District 7750 for your overwhelming support for eradicating this dreadful disease completely.

The discovery of wild polio virus recently in sewage in Germany reinforces the importance of the ongoing vaccination and surveillance work that we are doing to prevent the recurrence of polio.

There is also much work going on to prevent and treat other diseases around the world as well. The Rotary Foundation programs of scale are aimed at preventing disease. Program of Scale projects like Preventing Cervical Cancer in Egypt and Partners for Malaria free Zambia are working to prevent and treat these diseases.

ROTARY DECEMBER FOCUS: DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



POLIO ERADICATION

➔ Ongoing global effort, with strong support from D7750

GLOBAL IMPACT

➔ Cervical Cancer prevention in Egypt

➔ Malaria-free Zambia Initiative



COMMUNITY ACTION

➔ Blood drives
➔ CART support

ENSURING HEALTH LOCALLY



➔ Measles outbreaks in South Carolina

➔ Vaccine hesitancy concerns

GET INVOLVED

➔ Join Rotary Action Groups (RAGs)



➔ Focus areas: Malaria, hepatitis, mental health

Learn more at rotary.org.

Thank you, District 7750 Rotarians,
for your dedication and service!



➔➔ So you may be asking what can I do in Western South Carolina. Well I believe there is plenty we can do and are doing to support disease prevention and treatment.

Obviously, your support of the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus directly support all the work around the world.

But we have challenges here in South Carolina as well. Just this morning I read about more cases of

continued next page



↑Employees helping fill plates for the residents. Looks like a fun group!

YORK

Thanksgiving project

➡Rotarians helping (l-r): Maria Duncan, Gene Ledbetter, Mike Fuesser, Nicole Whistine, Amy Hagner, Janet Parker, Jenny Hammond (Pres-elect), and Shelby Cowart (President).



YORK MEMBERS HELP SERVE EARLY THANKSGIVING MEAL

York Rotary Club assisted the York County Housing Authority serve an early Thanksgiving meal to their residents. 146 meals were prepared as a boxed lunch. We had a very fulfilling afternoon with this service project.

Disease prevention and treatment—

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measles. The outbreak of measles in places, including South Carolina, and the negativity around vaccinating our children against these childhood diseases are alarming to all of us.

I know many of our clubs are supporting blood drives. Thank you for those efforts.

In addition, the support of Coins for Alzheimer Research Trust (CART) within our district is wonderful. The current President of CART is from our district, PDG Carol Burdette, and our CART chair is Cara Hamilton, both from the Rotary Club of Anderson.

There are also many Rotary Action Groups (RAGS) that you can join that fight diseases around the world,

such as Malaria, Hepatitis, Mental Health, etc. You can join these RAGS and support their efforts both financially and/or participate in the prevention trips around the world, as well as learn more about the great work being done by Rotarians and other organizations around the world. You can find out more about all the RAGS on Rotary.org by clicking on **ROTARY ACTION GROUPS** which is listed in the dropdown under "participate."

Again I want to thank all Rotarians in District 7750 for your dedication and service to disease prevention and treatment in the many different ways that each of you are working.

The Rotary Foundation: End of the Year Giving

If you are a Rotarian who has not yet contributed to the Annual Fund-SHARE or PolioPlus this year, please consider donating before the end of December. Your support of Rotary helps provide clean water and sanitation, brings health and hope to communities affected by diseases such as polio, and fosters economic development and new opportunities.

To donate, visit [this link](#) and make sure you either sign into the website or your Rotary Member ID number. Donations also can be mailed to: The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693 USA. Or donations can be called in at 866-976-8279.

Also, please remember that the Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge Match runs through December 31. Information has been going out weekly about this favorite challenge match brought to you by Doug Kauffmann, District PolioPlus Chair and a member of the Rotary Club of Greenwood.

The Rotary Foundation accepts Qualified Charitable Distributions from a person's IRA. This is a

great way to potentially lessen the taxes on a Required Minimum Distribution. Also, it is possible to make an outright donation of stocks to The Rotary Foundation.

At the club level, it is essential for Club Presidents, Treasurers, and Rotary Foundation Chairs to ensure that all contributions to The Rotary Foundation made during the first two quarters of Rotary year 2025-26 are submitted before the end of December. To facilitate timely processing, it is recommended that contributions be made by December 15, as mail and recording of contributions typically slow down during this period.

When submitting contributions, please utilize the Rotary Foundation Transmittal Form, which can be found under reports on DACdb – Club Reports – Rotary Transmittal Form, 2.10. Be sure to credit each member appropriately for their contribution. If a Rotary Club has a credit card, a club officer can make the donation for the club members at [rotary.org](#).



D-7750 Foundation Chair
PDG BETH PADGETT
bpadgettrotary@outlook.com

Contributions should be designated either for the Annual Fund-SHARE or PolioPlus, depending on the donor's intent. Typically, contributions made as part of quarterly dues are directed to the Annual Fund-SHARE. If you require assistance, please contact Beth Padgett, District Rotary Foundation Chair, at bpadgettrotary@outlook.com.

Currently, there are nine clubs that have not contributed to Annual Fund-SHARE and 14 clubs that have not contributed to PolioPlus in the current Rotary year.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to The Rotary Foundation. With every gift, you help change lives and create lasting change around the world.

Foundation earns top rating from Charity Navigator

For 17 consecutive years, our Rotary Foundation has earned the top rating from Charity Navigator.

This highly coveted rating means that The Rotary Foundation “exceeds or meets best practices and industry standards across almost all areas” and that our Foundation is “likely to be a highly effective charity.”

Charity Navigator determines its ratings by examining how nonprofits use their funds, how sustainable their programs are, and how well they adhere to industry standards of transparency and accountability.

When you give to The Rotary Foundation, you know that your donation will be well-managed and highly effective in changing lives.



**↑ GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE MEMBERS
ON THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
THE CLUB PURCHASED**

STANDING
Erica Peden
Jim Cashion
Sam Stamps
Mike Watson
Jim Caprell
Becky Miller

AT TOP
Trip Gilreath
Dee Vaughan

↑ The Center for Community Services provides easy access to human services in Greenville County. These services include case management, emergency assistance, education and healthcare. They were in need of new playground equipment in their Head Start area and the Golden Strip Sunrise Club was able to purchase a new piece with the matching grant program from the District.



**↑ TRIP GILREATH:
PAUL HARRIS FELLOW!**

Congratulations to Golden Strip Sunrise member Trip Gilreath for being the newest Paul Harris Fellow. Pictured with him is co-president Melinda Gilreath.



THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

Clubs are busy helping with community needs

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

What a wonderful time of the year with Thanksgiving and then Christmas right around the corner.

As I write this article, Thanksgiving is a couple days away, and I want to express my thanks to all Rotarians in our district for all the great work that you are doing.

As I visit clubs around our district I am overwhelmed by the wonderful projects you are doing to help people in your community.

As you know, I believe that youth development is an important part of our Rotary work, and I am so excited to see so many clubs supporting our youth in so many different ways.

I recently visited Lake Wylie, and 12 of their Interact students attended the meeting that day. What a wonderful experience to meet them and their advisor, and view first hand their enthusiasm for helping others. It certainly

made my day!!

Many clubs are supporting Scout troops. What a wonderful service to our community. Scouts recently participated in a project with the Simpsonville Rotary Club putting flags on veteran's gravesites.

And then I participated with Pleasantburg Rotary doing a similar project in Greenville along with many of the students from their Interact Club. What a great service, as well as a tremendous learning experience for those kids.

During this holiday season many clubs are collecting food for those suffering from food insecurity.

Clubs throughout the district will be out ringing the bell in support of the Salvation Army.

Many clubs are supporting Christmas festivals and Christmas parades in their community.

By Uniting for Good you are making a difference in so many lives.

These are just a few examples

of the great work being done throughout our district. I hope you take time to read this entire newsletter which is full of projects being done by our Rotary Clubs.

If you are a social media follower you will see numerous projects being done every day by Rotarians to help people throughout our district. It is exciting and humbling to be part of such a worthwhile organization.

This holiday season I am thankful for many things. But high on that list are the wonderful Rotarians that I have had the good fortune to meet and interact with this year. I am very proud to be a Rotarian. I am so happy that years ago someone gave me the "Gift of Rotary" and invited me to join this wonderful organization.

I wish you all a peaceful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time with family and friends during the many holiday events this season.



The Rotary Clubs of North Augusta, Aiken and Aiken Sunrise packed dictionaries to be distributed to ALL third graders in Aiken County School District!!

We're not going to face a membership loss in December. IF!

Congratulations, we have made it to December so we have officially entered the holiday season. Hopefully, it means some time off of work and gathering with loved ones that we don't get to spend enough time with throughout the year.

In the Rotary, world, however it often means that we lose members before January 1. The reason why makes rational sense because the RI bill for each club is based off of the membership number on that date.

Here's a secret, though: Our district does not have to suffer a net membership loss for December. We just need to make sure we stay active and inviting prospective members to make up for any that we lose in December.

As long as we don't take a break from this task during the holidays we can have a positive December. I would also encourage us to make a phone call or send a holiday card to missing Rotarians before dropping them from our membership roles to see whether we can do anything to get them re-engaged with the club.

The most-proven method for attracting new members is to have a Discover Rotary event, which can be a large, somewhat formal gathering or a simple cup of coffee with a prospective member or two.

Remember that RI will provide up to \$1,000 to our district for clubs to have events that build relationships with prospective or new members, which would include supporting Discover Rotary type events or orientation events. This is free money so if

your club has an idea and would like to apply for for some, please contact me.

Once we get new Rotarians in the door, here are four things we can do to get them engaged from the start:

- ◆ Make new members feel like VIPs rather than just another face in the crowd or name on the roster by letting them know how important they are to the club.

- ◆ Get new members involved from day one by assigning them a job or a position on a committee.

- ◆ Create a mentorship program that pairs an experienced Rotarian with the new member so we have that one-on-one connection to ensure the new member's needs are met.

- ◆ Give new members leadership opportunities so they can grow as Rotarians and feel that their voice is heard.

I will also continue to encourage clubs to conduct surveys. The only way can make sure we are meeting members' expectations and find areas where we can improve is by asking them. You can create your own survey, but the Membership Success Center in DACdb

has one already made that you can use. It is easy to send out and access members' responses. If you need help doing a survey or with any other topic, our membership team is here ready to help.

I wish everyone a happy holiday season and thank you for your efforts to Grow Rotary. Please keep doing so throughout the holiday season because what a great gift sharing the gift of Rotary with someone is.



D-7750 Membership Chair

JAMISON TINSLEY

tinslerj@gmail.com



Make new members feel like

VIPs rather than just another face in the crowd or name on the roster by letting them know how important they are to the club.



Get new members involved

from day one by assigning them a job or a position on a committee.



Create a mentorship program

that pairs an experienced Rotarian with the new member so we have that one-on-one connection to ensure the new member's needs are met.



Give new members leadership

opportunities so they can grow as Rotarians and feel that their voice is heard.



Rotarian
Stephanie
Kitchens helping
little shoppers
find the right fit.

Successful Steak Night supports Happy Feet project for Rotary Club of Union

BY MARK IRETON

Rotary Club of Union

The Rotary Club of Union, in conjunction with the local Shoe Show branch, held its 2nd annual Happy Feet Open House for local school children to redeem their vouchers for a new pair of shoes.

The initial amount of vouchers totaled \$250. That morning, 126 children redeemed their voucher for their shoes.

Several Rotary members from the Union Club assisted students who were shopping for their new pair of shoes. It was definitely a blessing for our members to help these children find just the right pair of shoes.

From finding the right size and color, to seeing the smiles on these kids' faces was worth every minute.

Last year, the Union Club was able to put new shoes on 174 children in grades 5K through 5th grade. This year, thanks to generous donors and successful fundraising efforts, the club expanded its goal of putting shoes on 250 students from grades 5K to 8th graders.

As it turns out, this goal will be expanded to include 150 additional 5K to 8th grade students as well as 50 students grades 9 through 12 for a total of 450 vouchers. At this time, 347 children have received a new pair of shoes.

More, next page



Guests enjoying Steak Night Dinner

Union shoes and steaks—

continued from previous page

This project would not get off the ground without the generosity of the people of Union County.

Several individual donors and local corporate sponsors as well as a partnership with the local Shoe Show branch have allowed our Rotary Club to make this happen.

When we decided to take on this project, obviously we needed to raise funds; thus, Steak Night was born.

Paths were made available for us to secure a venue, acquire auction items, and secure individual and corporate sponsorships.

The first Steak Night was a success in that the club netted over \$11,000.



◀ President Mark Ireton, Barbara Rippy (Donor), and Past President Joey Haney accepting a \$10,000 donation at Steak Night.



Rotarians Lewis Jeter, Stephanie Kitchens, Cari Conley, and Mark Ireton pictured with some of the kids who got new shoes.

This year, Steak Night was once again a success. Last year we had 188 guests for our inaugural Steak Night. This year we had 255 guests. Because of this, we were able to raise more money than the previous year, therefore, increasing our ability to put more shoes on children's feet.

The community of Union County has embraced our Happy Feet program with open arms and generous hearts. We are very grateful for those who have worked hard, spent countless hours, and given financial resources in making this program a success.

COMBINED WITH PRIVATE DONORS, THE FIRST YEAR OF HAPPY FEET SAW A WINDFALL OF \$20,000.



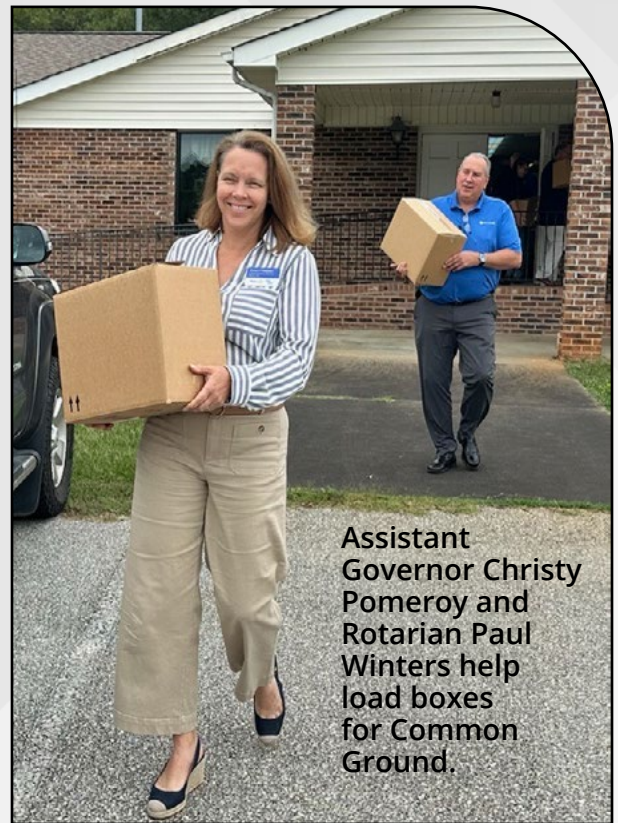
Two Travelers Rest members and their daughters plant trees for TreesUpstate

Lezah Cruz, president of the Rotary Club of Travelers Rest, and her daughter GiGi, along with club member Reggie Small and his daughter Brittani planted trees for TreesUpstate on October 18.





Union Rotarians Randy Lowell, Jenna Fleming, Jane Taylor, and Joey Haney get hygiene items ready to be packed for Common Ground ministries



Assistant Governor Christy Pomeroy and Rotarian Paul Winters help load boxes for Common Ground.



Union Rotarian Trevor Storm packs a food box for Common Ground.



Union President Mark Ireton with Common Ground ministry assistant director Tyler Heatherly.

Union packs food and hygiene boxes for monthly service project

For our September service project, members of the Rotary Club of Union teamed up to donate to a local ministry. Members donated and packed 13 boxes of non-perishable food items and two boxes of hygiene items.

These boxes were presented to Tyler Heatherly, director of operations at Common Ground Ministries. Heatherly was very thankful for the donations. He said that each food box would feed a family of four for about five days. The food boxes included bags of rice,

canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta and pasta sauce, beans, breakfast bars, and other items.

The hygiene boxes included toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, deodorant, soap, shampoo, and other items.

Common Ground serves around 100 people per week, including giving out 15 or so food boxes per week.— Union president Mark Ireton



Death of PDG Barbara Shayeb- Helou

PDG Barbara Shayeb-Helou died Nov. 10 after several years of declining health. She had served as a District Governor in Florida and moved to Greenville to be near her daughter. She was a member of the Rotary Club of Travelers Rest.

Services will be Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at the small chapel at Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville. A reception is scheduled that day from 4:30 - 6:30 at Greenville Country Club. All Rotarians are invited.

Rotary   TAIPEI 2026

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026



Register and pay in full by 15 December 2025,
before prices increase, at convention.rotary.org.



AIKEN SUNRISE SADDENED BY DEATH OF A LONG-TIME, SUPPORTIVE MEMBER

Aiken Sunrise club members were saddened with the death of one of their most supportive members, Rob Novit. As a local newspaper reporter, Rob often made sure Aiken Sunrise events and projects were in the paper. He and fellow club member Johnny Walker met frequently to discuss local, national and international events.

Beyond reporting, Rob not only was a true Rotarian but he also coached youth sports, chaired the Red Cross Bloodmobile, and served on boards for local organizations. —Johnny Walker, Aiken Sunrise

↑ Former Aiken Standard reporter Rob Novit, seated front left, joins fellow Aiken Sunrise Rotary Club members Rysheeka Bush (now PDG), David Crotty, Carolyn Campbell, Marion Crotty and Andrew Marine at a social event in 2017.

Greenville Breakfast member helps GirlUpGVL

Sharon Landis, member of the Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast, spent time at GirlUp GVL teaching the art of sewing pillowcases—so much more than just stitching fabric together.

Her patience and expertise helped guide these students through each step of the process and show them that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to.

GirlUp GVL is dedicated to empowering young women to reach their highest potential through hands-on experiences that build confidence, creativity, and practical life skills. Through programs like this sewing workshop, girls learn precision,



Sharon Landis (back row on the left), from Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club, taught the art of sewing pillowcases—and so much more than just stitching fabric together at GirlUp GVL.

problem-solving, and the satisfaction of creating something with their own hands.

For more than four years, Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club has supported GirlUp GVL's mission to empower

young women through practical skills and creative expression. Volunteers like Sharon embody our commitment to "Service Above Self" by investing time and talent into the next generation of confident, capable young women.

Greenville Breakfast: Serving up more than a meal at Poe Mill Achievement Center After-School Program

On November 13th, Bill Shuford, from Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club, visited Poe Mill Achievement Center After-School Program, a free after-school and summer enrichment program serving elementary children in Greenville, SC.

PMAC provides vital educational support and safe enrichment opportunities for local youth,



Bill Shuford making a difference at after-school program.

and part of that care includes providing nutritious meals during after-school programming. Bill brought in and served dinner to the students, ensuring they had a meal while participating in their evening activities.

Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club is making a real difference in our community—not just by providing a meal, but by showing up and demonstrating that our community cares about the well-being and success of every child.

7750 LEADERSHIP LINE

Recognizing our Governor Line at the annual meeting of the 7750 Council of Governors:
 Immediate Past District Governor Rysheeka Bush, Aiken Sunrise
 District Governor Dave Brenner, Greenville Breakfast
 District Governor Elect Eric Krichbaum, Reedy River
 District Governor Nominee Mark Moreno, Greer

NEWS FROM SENECA GOLDEN CORNER

From left are Golden Corner Rotary Club president Steve Rushton, Rotarian Teddy Martin, Nations and Rotarian Lorraine Harding. Lorraine and Teddy are members of the foundation's board.

◀ HOSPITAL IN SENECA ADDS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT; UPDATES GOLDEN CORNER CLUB

Cortni Nations, executive director of the Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation, updated the Golden Corner Club about the hospital's new behavioral health unit that will provide specialized care for patients experiencing a psychiatric or substance use disorder crisis. The foundation is also supporting an expansion of the hospital's cancer institute.

➔ NEW MAYOR IN SENECA

Seneca's newly-elected mayor Ronnie O'Kelley, left, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on several city projects including the 715-seat fine arts center and the new amphitheater in Norton-Thompson Park. Ronnie is the first new mayor in over 25 years and succeeded former mayor Dan Alexander who is now on city council.



Seneca mayor Ronnie O'Kelley and Rotarian Steve Moore.

Number 13 was not unlucky!

Ride to the Rock!



Melanie Johnson, Meredith Oh,
and DG Dave Brenner

Number 13 was not unlucky for the **ROTARY CLUB OF PICKENS**. The club sponsored its 13th Annual Ride to the Rock on Saturday, October 25. The event was a great success with a strong turnout of riders and once again served as one of our club's key fundraisers for the year. Cyclists took on multiple route options through the foothills, supported by an outstanding team of volunteers and community partners. Planning is already underway for the 14th Annual Ride to the Rock next fall, and we look forward to another successful event.— *Meredith Oh*



Travelers Rest club president Lezah Cruz and her daughter GiGi, and club member Reggie Small with his daughter Brittany, finishing up a tree planting.



Rotary Club of Travelers Rest members participated in Trees Upstate tree-planting

BY **LESLIE W. HICKEN**

Rotary Club of Travelers Rest

The Rotary Club of Travelers Rest participated in a tree planting project with Trees Upstate on Saturday, October 18th. Featured in the photograph at right above is Rotarian Harvey Choplin with some of the volunteers. This project supports one of the main goals for our club in protecting the environment within the city of Travelers Rest.



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.



PI challenge for December

The Zones 33–34 Public Image Challenge for December 2025 is to provide feedback on how the Public Image Team has supported your club's efforts. Clubs are asked to share insights, suggestions, and reflections on the team's impact, which helps improve future initiatives and contributes to the EPIC Award competition. Deadline: January 31, 2026

Purpose:

- Strengthen collaboration between clubs and the Public Image Team.
- Identify best practices and areas for improvement.
- Showcase Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self by amplifying impact through storytelling and visibility.

[Click for more info.](#)

Newberry Rotary: Feed Thy Neighbor

BY DEBBIE HARTNESS

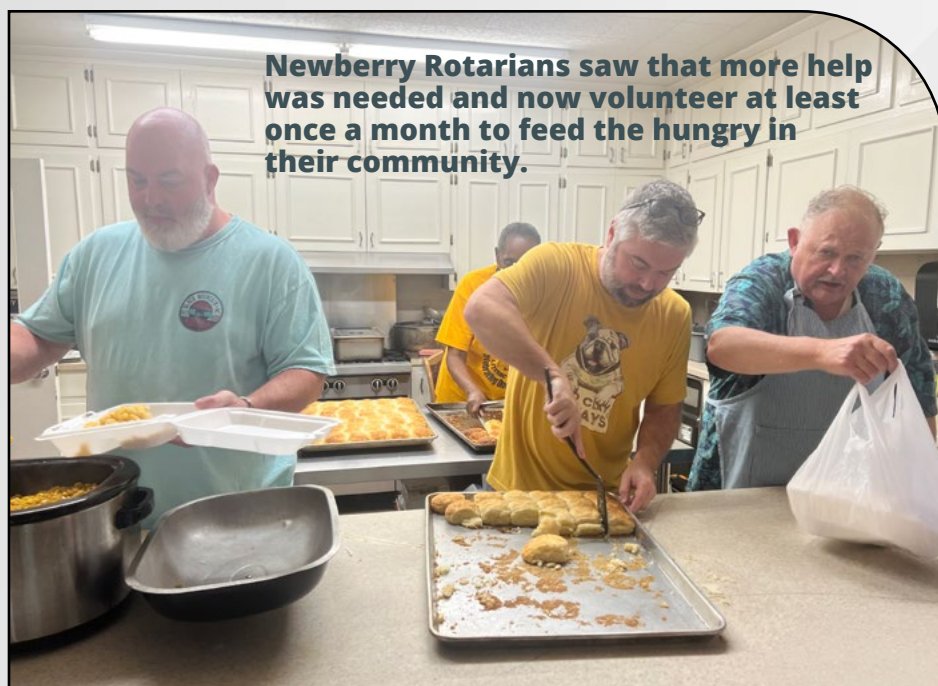
Rotary Club of Newberry

Newberry has a program to feed the people of Newberry County. It's called Feed Thy Neighbor.

It was started about four years ago under the guidance of Rotarian Mary Beth Heath. It operates out of the kitchen of the fellowship hall of O'Neal Street Methodist Church. Mayor Foster Senn, also a Rotarian, brought in a group of Rotarians from Newberry to see the kitchen.

At its conception the kitchen fed about 20-30 people every Saturday. At one point it was serving as many as 275. In addition to serving a hot meal every Saturday, the fellowship hall serves as a heating center in winter and a cooling center in summer.

Mary Beth and her volunteers serve sandwiches, snacks, and beverages. The Rotary Club of Newberry looked and knew Mary Beth needed help. Being a "people of action," they organized to help



Left to Right: Patrick McDuffie, a friend of Rotarian Jeff Wicker (middle) and Rotarian Sam Price.

the kitchen. The first thing they did is develop teams of Rotarians to serve every third Saturday. This gives Mary Beth (who does all the cooking and often ends up serving) much needed assistance.

Remember, this service started in a small kitchen as part of a fellowship hall in a church. Kitchen equipment needed to be upgraded to commercial quality or repaired. The Rotary Club of Newberry pooled their money with

their District Rotary to develop a grant to help. The grant replaced a badly cracked serving counter, replaced a broken dishwasher, converted a pantry to commercial shelving, added a commercial refrigerator, an ice maker, and a commercial laundry sink.

To help serve with Rotary on the third Saturday of a month, contact Mayor Foster Senn through the City of Newberry.



Paul Harris Society member in Seneca

Charles Crook, a member of the Seneca Rotary Club, was recognized as a Paul Harris Society member at a recent club meeting.

Charles has been a Rotarian for about 25 years and a member of the Seneca Rotary Club for almost a decade. He was joined at the meeting by his wife, Stephanie. A Paul Harris Society member pledges to give at least \$1,000 annually to The Rotary Foundation.

District Foundation chair PDG Beth Padgett presented his recognition.

Becoming an RLI-trained facilitator

BY LINDA SUSSMAN

Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute

Because Rotary Leadership Institute is structured at the Zone Level, participants from 7750 might encounter instructors coming from Pennsylvania to South Carolina.

For example, Pat Sheikh is a newly certified RLI facilitator from Washington, DC. She was an agricultural trade and development expert with extensive government experience at the U.S Department of Agriculture and the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Even before joining Rotary in the US, her work in Afghanistan with the non-profit organization, Roots of Peace, led to meetings with Rotary clubs in Kabul to develop a program that supported farmers and was also linked to increased polio vaccinations among their children.

Pat took her RLI facilitator

training in North Carolina. She found that coming together in-person for this training was a welcome change to her virtual participation in previous RLI trainings.

"...I think it is very helpful to do RLI in person because people share stories with you or approaches that you may not be aware of... Even during breaks, people talk together, which rarely happens during zoom-trainings...I found interacting with others in person provided an opportunity to share approaches on how to solve issues in Rotary and in life"

"The training in North Carolina reinforced for me that we all have different ways of learning and the need to work with people according to their mode of learning...the RLI facilitator was excellent in terms of describing



Pat Sheikh is a new facilitator for RLI in our region. She is the president of the Capitol Hill Rotary Club in Washington, DC D7620.

how people absorb information and that they might do it very differently.

If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, look for information about the Mid-Atlantic RLI and upcoming training dates [here](#).



OCONEE COUNTY CLUBS HELP WALHALLA CELEBRATE OKTOBERFEST

Oconee County Rotary Clubs helped Walhalla celebrate Oktoberfest with the Rotary 5K Oktoberfest run. Rotarians ran in the 5K event and helped with the registration and refreshments tents. Joining the Rotarians were the Clemson University Tiger mascot, Seneca High's Bobcat, Big Foot and Walhalla High's Razorback. Walhalla was founded in 1850 by the Charleston-based German Colonization Society.

Greer projects range from PAWS TO PACKS

BY CARRIE KRAUSE
Rotary Club of Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer has enjoyed a meaningful and energizing fall, blending fellowship, hands-on service, and club growth.

We kicked off the season with our Paws & Pints for Polio fundraiser, where Rotarians, families, and four-legged friends came together to support Rotary's mission to end polio.

With matching funds, the event raised over \$1,600, and we were honored to have Immediate Past RI President Stephanie Urchick join us to award the costume contest prizes and celebrate our impact.



↑ Newest member Holly Henley with Becky Moreno (sponsor).

➡ Best Dog Costume with owner, past RI president Stephanie Urchick.



↑ Clockwise starting in left foreground: Frank Antifonario, John Bartlett, Lance Pittman, Amy McBurnie, Alex Farley, Karen Hansen (guest).

Service took center stage throughout the month. Our members—young and old—rolled up their sleeves to fill 50 duffle bags of essential items for local veterans through Greenville County Veterans Affairs, completing the project in just 15 minutes thanks to incredible teamwork.

In the midst of these efforts, we also gathered at Greer Relief, where a dedicated group of volunteers packed 200 emergency food bags for neighbors in need. It was a powerful reminder of how Rotary multiplies impact when we serve side by side.



➡ Background: Anna Ryan, Foreground: Anthony Del Aguila and Bonnie Briggs.

Four service projects highlighted Pleasantburg Rotary Club's month of giving in November



↑ Adopt-A-Highway: Usual Saturday morning social!

Youth Exchange Student Alessio Tosini (left) joins Val Vandersloot, Val's husband Don, Travis Seward, Tracy Tiddy, Larry Lee (not shown), and Wade Cleveland (not shown), showing off treasures retrieved during the Pleasantburg club's traditional Saturday Morning Social (aka Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on Stone Avenue).



↑ Cherrydale Food Bank: Non-perishables delivered

Pleasantburg Rotarians Kathy Sharp (and young Rotarian-In-Training, Kathy's granddaughter) and Regina Coulomb delivered non-perishable food supplies donated by club members to Cherrydale Elementary School for its food pantry during the stoppage of federal SNAP benefits.



↑ Literacy: Crystal reads, kids join in—and each gets a book

Rotarian Crystal O'Connor and helper club members returned for the fourth year to Cherrydale Elementary to promote literacy. Crystal (standing) guided second, third, and fourth graders through a reading and at times, dramatic interpretation, of her books. Each student received a signed copy of the book read to their class, as well as a photograph posing with the author.



↓ Pleasantburg and Greer members, others place flags for Veterans Day

Forty-three volunteers from Pleasantburg and Greer Rotary clubs, St. Joseph's High School and Greenville Technical College Charter High School Interactors, and the local community converged on Springwood Cemetery in downtown Greenville on November 8 to place more than 700 flags on veterans graves. Volunteers returned the following Saturday to retrieve the flags.



New Members in October

Bowie, Brandon	Emerald City	McClellan, Thomas Allen	Travelers Rest
Copeland, Wayne Jr	Carolina Foothills	McCray, Charles Andrew	Aiken Sunrise
Cox, Phillip P	Golden Strip Sunrise	McGinnis, Cecilia	Greenwood
Dent, Kim	Fort Mill	McMahon, Maggie A.	Fort Mill
Dittmer, Mallory	Fort Mill	Metts, William C	Greenwood
Dixon, Latoya	Fort Mill	Miller, Shaquana	Anderson
Doyle, Cary	Pleasantburg	Myers, Charles	Batesburg-Leesville
Funderburk, Ethan	Lancaster Breakfast	Peabody, Mark	Clemson Sunrise
Garmon, Steven Meredith	Winnsboro	Peden, Erica N	Golden Strip Sunrise
Hartke, Cassandra L	Anderson	Pennington, Delta	Aiken
Heil, James	Lancaster	Rinard, Samantha	Lancaster Breakfast
Hope, Steve	Abbeville	Steigenwald, Christine	Fort Mill
Ingold, Shayla	Fountain Inn	Waelde, John	Greenville
Kaylor, Charlie	Greenville	Warner, Charles Osborn III	Aiken
Larson, Julia N	Emerald City	Wichers, Andrew S.R.	Spartanburg
Martinez, Tricia	Indian Land	Yang, Ning	Anderson
Mattingly, Lucas	Greenville	Young, Grey	Fort Mill

OCTOBER 2025: 18 NEW MEMBERS — 18 TERMINATED MEMBERS (0 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.

ROTARY



Happy Holidays

Service Above Self

A Season of Giving and Good Cheer

The holiday season is upon us! This time of year offers a perfect opportunity to reflect on the spirit of service and fellowship that defines us as Rotarians.

Whether you're decorating a tree, lighting a menorah, or just enjoying some well-deserved downtime, take time to celebrate all that we, together in Rotary, have accomplished this year. As we celebrate, let's also remember those in need and reinforce our commitment to Service Above Self.

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to your community and the greater Rotary world. Wishing you a season full of laughs, good food, and unforgettable memories! May your holidays be filled with peace, happiness, and the true spirit of community. —Your 7750 district leadership

Deadline for January newsletter is Dec. 27.

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

Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.