

# UNITE FOR GOOD FEBRUARY 2026

WWW.ROTARY7750.ORG

## FEBRUARY

Peace and Conflict Prevention/  
Resolution

## MARCH

Water, Sanitation, and  
Hygiene

## APRIL

Environment

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER  
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

**7750**  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



david.brenner00@gmail.com  
580-504-0703



## Walk for Peace through 7750



How fitting it was that a group of Buddhist monks made their walk for peace through parts of our district as Rotary's Peace and Conflict Resolution month approached. Several Rotarians/clubs had a chance to meet and interact with these monks. Above is Pleasantburg Rotarian Regina Coulomb presenting a Unite For Good Rotary pin to the monks during their lunch visit in Saluda. The monks entered South Carolina near McCormick, where DG Dave, E-club member and AG Julia Larson and other Rotarians were able to greet them. They exited the state through Rock Hill on their way to Charlotte.



# "Let There Be Peace on Earth, ...AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME"

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

February is Peace and Conflict Resolution month in the Rotary world. Peace and conflict resolution has been a principle of Rotary for many years.

However, it is important to recognize that peace is more than the absence of war—it is the presence of understanding, opportunity, and cooperation. For

more than a century, Rotary International has made peace and conflict resolution a cornerstone of its mission, recognizing that sustainable peace begins at the community level and grows through service, dialogue, and education.

As Rotarians we understand that conflict often arises from unmet needs, inequality,

lack of access to education, and limited economic opportunity. By addressing these root causes, we help create environments where peace can take hold and thrive. Whether through local service projects or global initiatives, Rotarians work to replace division with collaboration and mistrust with mutual respect. We play a vital role in modeling peaceful problem solving by encouraging respectful conversation, ethical leadership, and collaboration. As I traveled around our district visiting our Rotary Clubs, I am blown away by the impactful humanitarian projects each club is doing. Programs that support education, economic development, and health care reduce the conditions that can lead to conflict.



## PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

Our Rotary Youth Services programs empower young people to become ambassadors of peace. By learning leadership skills and engaging with other cultures early in life, these future leaders develop the empathy and perspective needed to navigate an increasingly complex world. Every club I visit talks about the work they are doing with the young people in their community. What great role models Rotarians are giving these young people

Just a couple weeks ago I had the opportunity, along with other Rotarians, to view the monks as they are walked through our Rotary District on their way from Dallas, Texas to Washington DC. What a quiet message of peace they are sending to the hundreds of thousands of people who are coming out to see them as they make their way to Washington.

Every Rotarian is a peacebuilder. Through our actions, our words, and our service, we demonstrate that cooperation is stronger than conflict. By listening first, seeking common ground, and serving with compassion, we help build bridges where others see barriers.

As we continue to work in our communities, let us remember that peace is not a distant ideal, but a daily practice. Together, through Rotary, we can help create a world where conflicts are resolved through understanding, and peace is given a chance to flourish. I wonder many conflicts would be avoided if everybody followed the "4 Way Test".

As Rotarians let us never forget the words of the song that we sing while we hold hands and sway at the conclusion of our conferences: **Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me.**

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION MONTH



CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION



PEACEFUL  
COMMUNITIES

FOSTERING GLOBAL HARMONY THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

## DG Dave issues exciting matching challenge

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives in your community and around the world. Here's an exciting opportunity to do more good in the world through your Foundation donations.

District Governor Dave Brenner encourages Rotarians in District 7750 to contribute to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund-SHARE between March 1 and April 30. If you participate, you will be doing much good in the world while also potentially earning double Foundation Recognition Points. DG Dave and District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett are donating Recognition Points for this challenge match.

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

Contributions can be made online at My Rotary – <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> or by calling the Rotary Support Center at 866-976-8279 and contributing over the phone.

You also may send a donation by mail (The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693, USA) but if so, you must ensure

the donations reach Rotary International before this challenge match ends. The challenge match may be limited to the first 40,000 Foundation Recognition Points.

Contributions of \$100 or more will be matched with the same number of Recognition Points (for example, donate \$100 and get a match of 100 points).

A maximum of 500 points will be awarded per person. Rotarians that are Major Donors or PHF+8 level donors are encouraged to participate but will not receive points. Donors at this level of giving can no longer receive Recognition Points but their gifts certainly are appreciated. Thank you for your leadership giving!

Rotarians also are encouraged to give less than \$100 if a smaller gift better fits their budget.

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



### D-7750 Foundation Chair

**PDG BETH PADGETT**

[bpadgett@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgett@outlook.com)

*"Rotary service means showing up before, during, and after the storm."*—Aiken President Keyatta Priester

## AIKEN CLUBS: SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Rotarians continue to make a meaningful impact when it matters most. A grant from the Zone 33/34 Helene Disaster Recovery Fund made this possible with the combined effort of the Rotary Clubs of Aiken and Aiken Sunrise and the United Way.

We are thankful for the grant, our dedicated Rotarians, and our community partners whose collaboration made this vital resource possible. Together, you are helping ensure safety, stability, and peace of mind for those who need it most. —Keyatta Priester

►Lizzie Abshire (United Way of Aiken County) and Rotarian Kenny Brown (Aiken Sunrise Rotary Club) delivered a generator to a senior citizen to support medical needs during the ice storm.



# Give your club an international flavor —

## HOST A ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT

BY WADE CLEVELAND

7750 Youth Exchange Chair

Students from all over the world want to be part of your club in 2026-27. Rotarians in over a hundred countries on every inhabited continent have interviewed, selected, and begun training thousands of young people to serve as Rotary Youth Exchange Ambassadors next year.

### Won't your club agree to host one?

These young people dream of spending a year abroad. They are eager to join your club in doing service and promoting international goodwill, but they can fulfill their dreams only if local Rotary clubs are willing to host them.

Your club's participation will help a foreign student experience life in our country, develop lifelong leadership skills, learn a new language, build lasting friendships, and become a global citizen. Exchange students also help educate our own students, who benefit greatly from exposure to them. On a purely personal level, exchange students bring joy and lasting connections to host families and Rotarians.

Rotary Youth Exchange Ambassadors build world peace—one exchange at a time.

**For more information, contact the district's youth exchange chair, Wade Cleveland 864-569-7296 or [rye7750@gmail.com](mailto:rye7750@gmail.com).**



### District 7750's International Gathering at Lake Hartwell

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aiden Johnson      | Rock Hill to Spain                  |
| Lilli Bergenser    | Denmark to Clemson Sunrise/Clemson  |
| Cadence Smith      | Spartan West to Italy               |
| Adelaide Brown     | Pleasantburg to France              |
| Logan Sommer       | Pleasantburg to France              |
| Luna Herpolsheimer | Germany to Spartan West/Spartanburg |
| Alessio Tosini     | Italy to Pleasantburg               |

## THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF HOSTING:

**1** Appoint a club member as the student's counselor. The counselor will work with the student and host family to assist them and to involve the student in the life of the club.

**2** Find two or three host families for the student. The main requirement for being a host family is to provide the student a safe, stable, and loving environment. There is no "ideal" model: host families may or may not be Rotarians, may be younger or older, and may or may not have children in the house. Students have thrived in all kinds of host families.

**3** Pay the student a monthly allowance of \$125 for ten months.

**rotary  
youth  
exchange**

**Experience the World**

- Learn more
- Learn a foreign language
- Live abroad
- Make friends
- Understand a different culture
- Live with a host family
- Be an ambassador for the USA
- Enhance your college resume
- Experience adventure
- Learn foreign language
- Travel
- Attain independence
- Make friends
- Understand a different culture
- Live with a host family
- Be an ambassador for the USA
- Enhance your college resume

<https://rotary7750.org/resources-and-links/youth/youthexchange/>

#### What is Rotary Youth Exchange?

Youth Exchange is a study-abroad opportunity for young people who spend anywhere from a few weeks to a full year living abroad with a host family, attending school, and enjoying the hospitality of a host Rotary club. It's available both before and after high school graduation.

**Am I Qualified?** You're qualified if you are 15 to 18-1/2 years old, are above average academically, are flexible and willing to try new things, are open to cultural differences, have demonstrated leadership in your school and community, and wish to serve as an ambassador for our country.

**How Much Does It Cost?** Costs vary from country to country. Local Rotary clubs generously host students, secure room and board with an appropriate host family, assure free school attendance, and provide students a small monthly allowance. Participants are responsible for roundtrip airfare, insurance, travel documents, extra spending money, and optional travel and tour fees.

**How Do I Get Started?** Send an email to the Youth Exchange Chair for local Rotary District 7750 (Western South Carolina) to express your interest and we'll help you and your parents decide if this is the right experience for you. [YouthExchange@Rotary7750.org](mailto:YouthExchange@Rotary7750.org)

This could be your next great adventure!

## rotary youth exchange

### PLEASANTBURG OFTEN HOSTS AND SENDS STUDENTS THROUGH ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

The Rotary Club of Pleasantburg sponsors outbound and hosts inbound Youth Exchange students every year. Two of these students were featured in the club's January 22 lunch meeting.

Top: Logan Summer, senior at Greenville High School, describes her junior year in Lille, France, 2024-2025.

Bottom: Current outbound student, Mauldin High School graduate Jackson Pickhardt, reports live from his host home in Frankfurt, Germany.

## Send a high school student abroad

Give a student the opportunity of a lifetime

High school students in District 7750 can still apply to study abroad with Rotary Youth Exchange. Long-term exchanges for school year 2026-27 and short-term exchanges during the summer of 2026 are both available.

Students are qualified to apply if they are

- 15 to 18-1/2 years old
- Above average academically
- Flexible and willing to try new things
- Curious about cultural differences
- Leaders in their school, church, or community
- Willing to serve as ambassadors for Rotary and for the USA

For more information or to apply, contact Wade Cleveland at 864-569-7296 or email [Youth Exchange@Rotary7750.org](mailto:Youth Exchange@Rotary7750.org).

◀ Download this graphic to print and give to prospective students.



# CIGAR SUMMIT, DISCOVER ROTARY

It's all about growing membership to do more good in our communities and the world.

I hope everyone has settled into 2026 as we continue the work of growing Rotary. After a rough December where we lost several Rotarians, our clubs hit the ground running in January with several clubs holding Discover Rotary events and bringing in several new Rotarians.

Our district has another event that I would love for many Rotarians to attend on February 14. It will be the CIGAR summit (Continuous Improvement in Growth And Retention). This mid-year membership event will take place on Zoom from 9-11 that morning. We will cover several topics by hearing reports from successful clubs on attracting new members and retaining existing members. We will also have a refresher on using the progress charts in the Membership Success Center and learn about new club development efforts going on in our district.

I encourage every club in the district to send a representative to participate in this event. We specifically ask that club Presidents, President-Elects, Membership Chairs, and PI/PR Chairs attend. We are not limiting it to these positions, though, as we encourage anyone interested in growing Rotary to attend.

I also encourage all of our clubs to continue to regularly hold Discover Rotary which can be a large,

somewhat formal gathering or a simple cup of coffee with a prospective member or two. These events have proved to be the best return on investment when it comes to growing Rotary. If you want help putting on a Discover Rotary event, please contact me or somebody else from the District Membership Leadership team. We will be glad to help you plan a successful event as we have a club assistance team dedicated to helping clubs with these membership efforts.

Remember that RI will provide up to \$1,000.00 to our district for clubs to have events that build relationships with prospective or new members, which would include supporting Discovery-Rotary type events or orientation events. This is free money so if your club has an idea and would like to apply for this money, please contact me.

I'm excited about the CIGAR Summit and want all clubs to take advantage of this opportunity to hear from successful clubs about their efforts. This event should give clubs new tools and energy to boost their efforts in growing Rotary. Then when we have a successful remainder of the year, we can enjoy victory cigars at the end of June.



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

## ANOTHER WAY TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CLUB

**ROTARY  
LEADERSHIP  
INSTITUTE**  
**March 7 | Tri-County Technical College**  
511 Michelin Boulevard in Anderson

Register at [www.midatlanticqli.org](http://www.midatlanticqli.org) or go to the District calendar in DaCdb.

Learn more about how Rotary is organized and all that we do.  
PDG Carol Burdette, 7750 RLI Chair, [carolburdettesc@gmail.com](mailto:carolburdettesc@gmail.com)



Join us for the CIGAR summit on February 14 but know that the only thing smoking that day will be the ideas that will HELP YOUR CLUB GROW.



# GROW ROTARY CIGAR SUMMIT

FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

## C I G A R CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN GROWTH AND RETENTION

JOIN US TO LEARN, SHARE, AND GROW! - District 7750

WHEN: Via Zoom on Feb. 14

WHO: Presidents, Presidents-elect, Membership Chairs, and PI Chairs.

WHY: Hear success stories on attracting and retaining members, plus learn the secret behind the CIGAR acronym.



**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.



### FEBRUARY TASKS:

Provide an example of a successful collaboration that has helped increase your reach and strengthen your impact. Internally, this could be where your club committees worked together (i.e. public image, service projects and membership) to plan, promote and execute an initiative. Externally, it might be a partnership with another Rotary club, community organization, donor, or other group to expand your project's reach. Share how the partnership added value, resources, and exposure. Provide examples of how you've documented and shared the collaboration — photos, videos, testimonials. Consider using Rotary's Service Project Center to find partners and let others find you.

[Click for more info.](#)



### FOUR NEW MEMBERS

DG Dave inducted four new members into the Carolina Foothills club during his official visit. New members pictured with Dave are Wayne Copeland, Taylor Deal, Danny Jones, and Donald Jones. Wayne, Taylor, and Donald are new Rotarians. Danny is a new resident to the area but has been involved in Rotary in several states for many years.



In December, Carolina Foothills President Cathy McMillan participated in the Induction ceremony for officers of the Landrum High School Interact Club. Teresa Price and Chris Hood are the sponsors.



DG David Brenner with some of the Interact students at his official visit to Carolina Foothills.

## Carolina Foothills expands membership, enjoys fellowship

BY CATHY MCMILLAN

*President, Carolina Foothills Rotary*

Carolina Foothills Rotary Club has had some very good meetings and activities over the past few months.

In September we heard from District One Schools Superintendent Mark Smith about the bond referendum that would be voted on in November. Several schools are on schedule to be built to keep up with the growth in our area.

We participated in the Inman Harvest Day Festival with our Interact students from Chapman and Landrum High Schools. We greeted visitors to Inman and gave out informational brochures about our Rotary Club and handed out candy.

In October we heard from Inman Chief of Police Keith Tucker about development in the city of Inman and some tips for keeping safe. A very good question and answer session was hosted by Chief Tucker.

Another interesting and informative program in October was with representatives of SCDOT, who shared about various road projects and plans for our area and the upstate. Our area has seen much growth and construction and infrastructure and the roads are always a topic of discussion. A representative from SCDOT at the state level attended as well as the Spartanburg County head engineer for DOT.

On November 18, we were delighted to welcome as our guest speaker newly elected Spartanburg County Sheriff Bill Rhyne. Bill is an Inman native and graduate of Chapman High School. He had as his guests several of his command team. He shared his vision for the Sheriff Department and some of the issues that face our county.

Also in December, we hosted DG Dave who shared goals and updates of our Rotary district and Rotary International with our club and challenged us to "Unite for Good" to make our club stronger and make a larger impact on our community and the world.

We welcomed Interact students from Chapman High School as our guests at this meeting with the District Governor.

More, next page



### CAROLINA FOOTHILLS LEARNS MORE ABOUT ITS INTERACT CLUB AT CHAPMAN HIGH SCHOOL

The first meeting of 2026 for Carolina Foothills featured student leaders from the Chapman High Interact Club. Sponsor Katie Allsbrook, students Kaleigha Bailey, Colby Treadway, and Azummi Yang brought a very informative program about how the Interact Club at Chapman operates. Students are required to get service hours through school and community service projects. Some of the projects include blood drives, volunteering at the Soup Kitchen and food pantries, treats and snacks for teachers and staff, and assisting with projects at Inman Elementary School. They conduct a recycling program at Chapman. Kaleigha Bailey shared that she attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly (RYLA) and what an impact it had on her life, giving her confidence and courage to accept a leadership role in her school.

►Collecting for the soup kitchen.



Interact students at the Harvest Day Festival.



The next big event for Carolina Foothills is our Rise Against Hunger event on Feb. 28 at Inman Intermediate School. This event brings people and students together to pack meals that are sent to countries where adequate food is not available for children. The meals are provided at schools so children can come to school and get a nutritionally complete meal. This is one of our favorite projects of the club.—Cathy McMillan

## GREENVILLE AREA HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FEB. 16

Bridgeway Brewing: 610 Bridgeway Blvd  
Simpsonville 29681

HOSTED BY THE REEDY RIVER ROTARY CLUB.  
\$5 at the door

Get to know Rotarians from other clubs  
& let's GROW together. Bring potential Rotarians!

**ALL CLUBS, ROTARIANS AND GUESTS INVITED.**





Left: Diane Merritt, Mauldin Mayor Terry Merritt, Alex Lawhun, Autumn Lawhun (Greer). Above: Rise Against Hunger Rep speaking to the group.

## Mauldin Rotary leads community effort for Rise Against Hunger

BY CARRIE KRAUSE

*Rotary Club of Greer*

The Mauldin Rotary Club recently held its annual Rise Against Hunger service project, bringing together Rotarians and community volunteers for a powerful morning of service and impact. This signature project continues to grow each year, demonstrating the strength of collaboration across clubs and organizations.

Mauldin Rotary members participating included President Bob Stouffer, Norman Bunn, Emilio Porras, and Mauldin Mayor Terry Merritt, who volunteered alongside his wife, Diane. The Rotary Club of Greer was pleased to assist once again, continuing its annual tradition of supporting this meaningful project. Representing Greer were Autumn Lawhun and her husband Alex, Kyle Brook, and Mark Moreno.

Additional volunteers included Families in Motion, a group of Colombians living in Greenville, as well as students from the Interact Clubs at Mauldin High School and Southside Christian High School, both of whom participate annually.

Rise Against Hunger provides nutritious meals to school-aged children in food-insecure areas around the world. Thanks to the combined efforts of all volunteers, an impressive 11,880 meals were

packaged in just under one hour.

The experience was both awe-inspiring and humbling, and it served as a valuable teaching opportunity for the younger volunteers. Congratulations to the Mauldin Rotary Club for leading another successful project that made a meaningful difference locally and globally.



Mauldin Rotarian Emilio Porras, standing with members of the Mauldin High School Interact Club.

## ROTARY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE



## EARN DOUBLE RECOGNITION POINTS

DG DAVE BRENNER AND FOUNDATION CHAIR BETH PADGETT ARE MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.

MARCH 1 - APRIL 30  
**ANNUAL FUND-SHARE**



**X2**

DO MORE GOOD IN THE WORLD



**CONTRIBUTE NOW**



**CHANGE LIVES  
COMMUNITY & GLOBALLY**

**If you missed it and don't know what this is about, read Beth's column on page 3. It's about earning extra recognition points—but more importantly about doing more good in the world.**

April 24-26  
GREENVILLE



## District Conference April 24-26 ROTARY IN MOTION: Unite. Lead. Serve.

HYATT REGENCY, DOWNTOWN GREENVILLE | REGISTRATION OPENS SOON.

Join Rotarians from across the district for an energizing, multi-day experience that blends service, leadership, fellowship, and celebration—with Rotary youth at the heart of the weekend.

- Reconnect with the purpose and power of Rotary
- Strengthen your club's impact, reach, and engagement
- Be inspired by youth leadership and future changemakers
- Enjoy meaningful service, memorable fellowship, and great fun
- Leave with renewed momentum to Unite. Lead. Serve.

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Friday | Service & Fellowship

*Kick off the weekend with hands-on service and a high-energy evening event.*

Friday Afternoon: District service project

Friday Night: Groovin' for Good — a fun, retro-themed night of food music, fellowship, and purpose

### Saturday | Leadership, Learning & Celebration

*A dynamic day designed for Rotarians and Rotary youth together.*

Saturday Morning: Breakfast and General Session

Inspiring plenary sessions and speakers including Gregor Baum, Rotaract District Representative 7720

Leadership and service learning experiences

Rotarian learning tracks focused on:

- Increasing Impact
- Expanding Reach
- Enhancing Engagement
- Adapting for the Future
- Youth participation through Interact, RYLA, and Youth Exchange

Lunch, recognition, and closing celebration

Optional Saturday Afternoon: experiences let you explore Greenville, connect informally, and continue the fellowship.

Saturday Evening concludes with a Governor's Dinner, featuring keynote remarks by Marshall M. Butler, RI Director, 2026-28.

### Sunday | Reflection & Inspiration

Sunday Morning: Fellowship breakfast and final keynote and conference close

Sunday 10:30 AM: CART Jazz Brunch with live music, celebration, and purpose

End the weekend on a high note with a joyful jazz brunch that brings Rotarians, friends, and neighbors together in support of The CART Fund and the fight against Alzheimer's.



Marshall M. Butler  
RI Director, 2026-28



Gregor Baum  
Rotaract Representative  
D-7720

**THIS IS MORE THAN A CONFERENCE. IT'S A REMINDER OF WHO WE ARE, WHY WE SERVE, AND WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN WE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER.**

**UNITE. LEAD. SERVE.**

# Fundraiser underway to support youth programs and district conference

The Rotary Club of Pleasantburg has organized a car raffle to support District 7750 youth programs and District Conference.

The winner will drive away with a 2026 Chevrolet TRAX

Tickets are \$100 each, with only 550 available. The drawing will be March 27.

## HOW TO Purchase Tickets

1. PAY BY VENMO @Rotary-Foundation-568. At checkout. Enter: Your name, phone number, email, and address in the "What's this for" field.
2. PAY BY CHECK Make payable to: Pleasantburg Rotary Foundation

Mail to:

District 7750 Car Raffle  
Travis Seward  
308 Hampton Ave  
Greenville, SC 29601

Every ticket sold directly supports our district's Leadership Development for Rotarians at our District Conference in April 2026 and our Youth Exchange Program. NOTE: The Pleasantburg Club is organizing the event, but the funds go to Rotary District 7750.



[Download this flyer.](#)

## Upcoming required training for Rotary Club **PRESIDENTS-ELECT** and **PRESIDENTS-NOMINEE:**



**PrePETS: Feb. 28**  
in Newberry

**PETS: Mar. 19-21**  
in Greensboro

# Empowering Service through expertise: Rotary Action Groups (RAGs)

BY LALE DOGAN

Rotary Club of Pleasantburg

Did you know that your club has access to a global network of experts ready to help your next project succeed?

While our clubs are the heart of Rotary, Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) are the knowledge hubs that power our projects. Whether you are planning a community garden or a large-scale international water project, you don't have to start from scratch. There is a RAG filled with professionals ready to partner with you. RAGs provide the specialized knowledge and strategic oversight necessary to transform local or international initiatives into sustainable, high-impact global projects.

Covering all seven areas of focus, Rotary Action Groups provide specialized expertise in promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment.

Created in 2005 and recognized by the Rotary International Board, RAGs are autonomous, international groups consisting of Rotary members, nonmembers, and program participants (such as Rotaractors or alumni). They offer their professional knowledge, advice about partners and funding, and guidance on the best practices and project management strategies.

According to the [Rotary Action Groups official site](#), RAGs network now includes more than 31,500 members across 150 countries. So far, these experts have powered over 10,000 projects and raised more than \$10 million USD to drive sustainable change. Most recent reported results were for

2023- 2024, which for that year 25 of the Rotary Action Groups supported 1,002 projects and raised \$1,684,059 around the world.

Visit [Rotary.org/Action-Groups](#) to connect with an expert for your next project. Remember, when a club decides to engage with a RAG, they are essentially inviting a world-class consultant to their table.

You don't just have to ask for help—you can join one! If you have a professional background in a specific area, your expertise is needed. You can:

- Visit [Rotary.org/RAGs](#) to see the full list of 30+ groups.
- Reach out to a group that aligns with your passion.
- Bring that knowledge back to our club to make our projects even stronger!



Some RAGs do not charge any membership dues but some do. These membership options might be annual or lifetime. 2023- 2024 average annual

membership cost was US \$25; average lifetime membership cost was US \$93. Some Action Groups offer three-year or five-year membership options.

RAGs are a reminder that in Rotary, our vocations are our greatest gifts to the world. Joined with mission of service above self, they transform our good ideas into global standards by providing the technical blueprints and the international partnerships necessary to achieve lasting results so we can ensure that our legacy is one of professional excellence and profound, permanent impact.

**Some RAGs do not charge any membership dues but some do. These membership options might be annual or lifetime. Average annual membership cost: \$25; average lifetime membership cost:\$93. Some Action Groups offer three-year or five-year membership options.**



Come see how Greer does "Service Above Self" (with a side of something delicious).  
We look forward to seeing our District friends there!

## Support Rotary One Bite at a Time: Dining Around Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer invites you to our signature fundraiser of the year! Dining Around Greer is back, bringing the city's finest culinary talents together under one roof for an unforgettable afternoon of food, fellowship, and philanthropy.

This isn't your average event—it's a curated tasting experience. Local restaurants and premier food vendors will be serving up their best samples, offering you a "tour of Greer" in a single location. Plus you have the opportunity to win a door prize and amazing raffle prizes!

### WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Every ticket purchased fuels our club's mission. As our primary fundraiser, the proceeds from this event directly support our Rotary service projects and community initiatives. By joining us, you aren't

BY CARRIE KRAUSE  
*Rotary Club of Greer*

just enjoying a great meal; you are helping us provide scholarships, support local service organizations, and fund the vital service work that defines our club.

### ACT FAST – LIMITED CAPACITY!

This event sells out every year, so we encourage our fellow District members to secure their tickets early.

### JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF SERVICE & FLAVOR:

Date: March 1, 2026

Time: 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Location: Greer Event Center @ Greer City Hall

Tickets: [rotarygreer.org/dining-around-greer](http://rotarygreer.org/dining-around-greer); \$35 Presale, \$45 at the door.

## New Members in December

|                        |                        |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Bruner, Aaron E.       | Greer                  | Lehman, David H.       | Aiken            |
| Dahlstrom, Alex        | Pleasantburg           | Lowder, Jeremy         | Greenville       |
| Erwin, Tate            | Batesburg-Leesville    | Montgomery, Brian      | Anderson         |
| Escher, Kaitlyn        | Simpsonville           | Morris, Michael Lee    | Greater Anderson |
| Fitzpatrick, Press     | Greenville City Center | Narayanaswamy, Ravi    | Aiken            |
| Galigher, Al-Jier      | Pleasantburg           | Palmer, Kevin          | Lake Wylie       |
| Gossett, Christopher   | Fort Mill              | Perdue, Austin Michael | Chester          |
| Hall, Richard K Jr.    | Clemson                | St. Peter, Cynthia     | Greer            |
| Hansen, Karen L.       | Greer                  | St. Peter, Rick M.     | Greer            |
| Hansen, Rob            | Greer                  | Welch, Todd            | Greer            |
| Hodges, Thavolia Alice | Greenwood              | Wheeler, Tammy Stover  | Lancaster        |
| Jones, Donald          | Carolina Foothills     | White, Kyle            | Anderson         |

DECEMBER 2025: 24 NEW MEMBERS — 73 TERMINATED MEMBERS (6 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.

## 50 years in Rotary

### Cecil Brown, Laurens

The Rotary Club of Laurens proudly celebrated a remarkable milestone — 50 years of service from longtime member Cecil

Brown. Cecil's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to "Service Above Self" have made a lasting impact on our club and community. We are grateful for his five decades of continuous service and were honored to recognize his contributions during this special celebration.



Joe Babb—Director, past president,  
7x Paul Harris Fellow  
Cathy Little—president  
Cecil Brown—3x Paul Harris Fellow  
Betsy Brown—Cecil's wife  
Byron Brown—3x Paul Harris Fellow

**Deadline for March newsletter is Feb. 25.**

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

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