

UNITE FOR GOOD MARCH 2026

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MARCH

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

APRIL

Environment

MAY

Youth Service

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



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3 of our 7750 PDGs participate in Polio immunizations

Past District Governors Beth Padgett, Carol Burdette and Lorraine Angelino were part of a polio immunization team that delivered and administered polio vaccines across India during February. Details start on page 5. Above is PDG Beth Padgett—our Rotary Foundation Chair— putting the drops in just one of dozens of the children they saved (with all of our financial support) from this debilitating disease.

Membership: It All Starts with an ASK

BY DAVID BRENNER
7750 District Governor

Growing Rotary is simple, it is just hard to do. I saw a survey that said only about 50% of Rotarians have asked 1-5 people about joining Rotary. Actually, these are the people that answered the survey so my guess is that the real number is a lot less than that. Most of us joined Rotary because someone asked us. So why not return the favor?

A few weeks ago we had the Continuous Improvement in Growth and Retention (CIGAR) summit. We heard from clubs that were attracting a lot of new members, and we heard from clubs that have a retention rate of over 90%, and we heard from clubs that are having success with companion clubs. All three are important to Growing Rotary.

Although you have attracted over 200 new members we unfortunately have lost over 200 members as well. We need to keep the pedal to the metal in attracting new members. Discover Rotary in whatever form your club would like to do it works. But it only works if you do it right and are enthusiastic. It can be done in a large forum or just one on one over a cup of coffee.

If you need assistance contact Membership Chair Jamison Tinsley from Emerald City Rotary or Club Support Chair Watson Dorn from Greenwood Rotary.

However, we also have to stop the bleeding and reduce the attrition in many of our clubs. In our district we have nine clubs whose three-year

average attrition is less than 10%. There are an additional 15 clubs whose attrition is less than 15%.

Unfortunately there are also 13 clubs with attrition over 20% including 6 over 25%.

Think about that for a minute. That means as many as 1 in 4 and in some cases 1 in 3 members leave Rotary every year in those clubs. And those numbers are consistent year to year. How does the saying go "Insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result."

People join a Rotary club to do service, meet new people, etc. They stay because their club experience is vibrant, exciting, and fun.

Do you know what the attrition rate of your club is? If not, ask your club president or membership chair to share that information with the club members.

As I pointed out there are plenty of clubs that have a history of retaining members. If your club is not one of them, visit a club that is. Have a board to board meeting and find out what they are doing to keep their members engaged and excited about Rotary.

Now a lot of clubs do an exit interview when a member leaves. That is a good thing to do and can be helpful but I suggest most of them are too superficial. Unless there is some life experience, like a death, job change or moving, they will probably say I do not have the time or it is too expensive.

continued next page

ATTRACT them.



KEEP them.



IT TAKES BOTH TO SUCCEED

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Month



Each March, Rotary highlights one of its most transformative areas of focus: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). It's easy to think of WASH as something that happens "somewhere else," but the truth is that clean water and safe sanitation are the foundation of dignity, health, and opportunity everywhere. Rotary's global WASH work—building wells, installing handwashing stations, supporting menstrual hygiene education, and strengthening community water systems—has changed millions of lives. But the spirit of WASH is just as relevant here at home in South Carolina.

For District 7750, WASH Month is an invitation to connect global impact with local action. Many of our communities face aging water infrastructure, limited access to hygiene supplies, and ongoing environmental challenges that affect rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Rotary clubs can play a meaningful role by raising awareness, supporting local partners, and modeling the stewardship we champion worldwide.

Here are a few ways clubs can observe WASH Month:

- ◆ Partner with local schools to provide hygiene kits, handwashing education, or restroom improvements. Even small upgrades can make a big difference in student health and attendance.
- ◆ Support watershed protection efforts through cleanup days along rivers, lakes, and wetlands. South Carolina is home to critical headwaters that feed communities across the state.
- ◆ Host a program featuring local water authorities, environmental groups, or international WASH project leaders to deepen understanding and spark new service ideas.
- ◆ Raise funds for a global WASH project, whether it's a well in Africa, a sanitation system in Central America, or a menstrual hygiene initiative in South Asia.
- ◆ Highlight WASH stories in club newsletters and social media to inspire members and strengthen Rotary's public image.

Don't let your members bleed out. Why? Look to right

(from page 2)

That answer most likely means that the terminating Rotarian does not feel like the benefit of being a Rotarian justifies the cost and time they are putting into the club.

I encourage you to dig further and find out what your club could do to make the club experience better. And don't wait until the members tell you they are quitting because at that point they have made up their mind. Approach them before their decision if you sense they are losing interest.

Most of us wait until December or June when we

"clean the rolls" so we don't have to pay dues for non participating members.

If you did not attend the CIGAR summit. PDG Renee Stubbs sent a recording to every club president and membership chair. It is always worthwhile to hear what other clubs are doing. I encourage you to watch the CIGAR summit recording.

So let's finish the year strong. Keep recruiting new members and keep working on increasing the retention in your clubs.

MORE ROTARY MEMBERS, MORE CLEAN WATER



Stop the deaths: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

BY DG DAVID BRENNER

March is water, sanitation, and hygiene month in the Rotary world. Access to clean water and proper sanitation is more than a basic necessity—it's essential for health, education, and community development. Through Rotary International, Rotarians around the world are working to close the gap on one of humanity's greatest disparities. Here in District 7750, we are proud to be part of that collective effort.

Fortunately for us, we have access to clean water and sanitation. But think back a year during the Helene disaster and there were thousands of people without safe drinking water.

So, we need to be careful not to take these things for granted. Water, sanitation and hygiene are often referred to as WASH. Let's put the need in perspective, here's why Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) remain critical global priorities:

- 2.1 billion people worldwide still lack access to safely managed drinking water at home.
- 3.4 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services.
- 1.7 billion people lack basic hygiene services in their homes, including handwashing facilities with water and soap.
- Every day, roughly 1,000 children under age 5 die because of diseases linked to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- In many parts of the world, schools and health facilities still lack adequate water and hygiene services—hampering education and care.

These numbers remind us that while progress has been made, major gaps remain on the path to universal access and sustainable development.

In District 7750 we have a number of Global projects to bring safe water to people. Al Steele and Ben Ficklen from the Fort Mill Rotary Club lead a global project to bring water to the remote villages in Honduras. Without this work the women in the villages often have to walk several miles, 2 or 3 times a day to bring water to their homes. Al and Ben visit Honduras twice a year to follow up on the work. If you are interested in participating in one of these trips contact Al.

We also support global projects lead by another district in Guatemala bringing potable water to schools. There is work going on to put the finishing touches on a project in Iberia and another in Honduras

Although our district is not directly involved, our zone is leading a project to bring safe water and hygiene to Haiti. For those of you who do not know, Haiti is part of zone 33/34. HANWASH, the Haitian National WASH Alliance, is making a transformational difference.

HANWASH is a collaborative initiative of Rotary International designed to bring sustainable, clean water and sanitation solutions to every community in Haiti. Rather

than isolated projects, HANWASH focuses on long-term, nationwide impact by partnering with the Haitian government, local water authorities, Rotary clubs, and global partners. It is a bold vision to bring safe water and sanitation access for the entire country.

Two of the founding partners on HANWASH are Rotarians many of you are familiar with: Barry Rassin, Past Rotary International President, and John Smarge, Past Zone 33/34 Director.

Every day, roughly
1,000 children
under age 5 die
because of diseases
linked to unsafe water,
sanitation, and hygiene



So how can you as a Rotarian in District 7750 get involved in these WASH efforts? Volunteer to go on one of the trips to Honduras with Al Steele and Ben Ficklen. It will be a life altering experience. They would welcome your interest in the work in Honduras. You can also join the Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group of Rotary International and learn more about the work going on and other volunteer opportunities.



Lining up for vaccines from PDGs Beth, Carol and Lorraine.



Carol

District Rotarians participate in Polio immunization trip

Three Past District 7750 Governors — Lorraine Angelino of the Emerald City Rotary Club, Carol Burdette of the Anderson Rotary Club, and Beth Padgett of the Greenville Rotary Club — recently joined a polio immunization mission to India in early February.

They were accompanied by 11 other Rotarians from across the United States and one Rotarian from the United Kingdom. All participants described the experience as both a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a life-changing event.

While in India, the 15 Rotarians personally delivered polio drops to children in New Delhi and Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta). In addition to their immunization efforts, the group visited several Rotary-funded projects, attended local Rotary club meetings and activities, and explored notable historical sites including Mother Teresa's House and the Taj Mahal.

The trip was led by Nancy Barbee of North Carolina, who is a former Zone 33 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator and the current Zone 33



Lorraine

PolioPlus Chair. PDG Nancy has led more than 20 similar trips to India.

India was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization in 2014. For a country to achieve this status, it must go three years without any reported cases of wild poliovirus.

To maintain population immunity and keep polio at bay, India conducts several polio eradication campaigns each year. Full immunization against polio requires that a child receives the vaccine drops over several years.

Volunteers are trained to carefully administer two drops of the oral polio vaccine to each child. While some Rotarians handle the vaccine administration, others help organize the children and keep them

continued next page

Golden Strip Sunrise members step up Foundation giving

Congratulations to the Golden Strip Sunrise newest Paul Harris Fellows, Dave and Kat Arnold, and to Sam Stamps for achieving the Paul Harris Fellow +4 Level.

➔ From left: Melinda Gilreath, Sam Stamps, Dee Vaughan, Kat Arnold, Dave Arnold.



➔ PHF+1 REACHED BY 2 GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE MEMBERS

A couple of other members of Golden Strip Sunrise reached new Paul Harris levels—Randy Gordon and Mike McCourry achieved PHF +1.



The
Rotary
Foundation



India Polio immunization trip—

—continued from previous page

entertained during the waiting process, and other Rotarians distribute small gifts after the vaccinations. Local health care workers also play a vital role on immunization days. They express that it is both rewarding and uplifting to work alongside volunteers who have traveled great distances at their own expense to ensure the continued immunization of children in India against polio.

Since Rotary became a founding partner in the worldwide effort to

eradicate polio in the mid-1980s, the number of annual cases has dropped from about 350,000 to fewer than 100 cases of the crippling poliovirus each year. Today, polio remains endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At the end of the February trip, Nancy Barbee reflected, “This is India. A place where they said polio would never be eradicated. Yet here we are, polio free for over a decade. Never tell Rotarians something can’t be done. We will prove you wrong every time.”



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



AIKEN MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

The Rotary Club of Aiken recognized a whole lot of its members who have reached new levels of Paul Harris Fellow giving. The contributions of these Rotarians will help fund Rotary work in Aiken, South Carolina, and around the world.

Linda Strojan PHF+8
 Bill Tucker PHF+7
 Fred Humes PHF+5
 Don Marcotte PHF+5
 Bob Newburn PHF+5
 Bill Webb PHF+5
 Theresa Haas PHF+4
 John Oakland PHF+4
 Larry Wittenmyer PHF+4
 Van Smith PHF+3
 Lyddie Hanson PHF+2

McDonald Law PHF+2
 Keyatta Priester PHF+2
 John Rush PHF+2
 Ahmed Samaha PHF+2
 Bill Inman PHF+1
 Robert Erikson PHF+1
 Phillip R. Merry PHF+1
 Tim Newman PHF+1
 Charles Rudnick PHF+1
 Tom Williams PHF+1



Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge raises almost \$90,000

BY DRFC BETH PADGETT

Thanks to an enthusiastic response to this year's Doug and Sally Kauffmann PolioPlus Challenge Match, District 7750 is on track to have another outstanding year for raising money to eradicate polio. Doug Kauffmann, a member of the Greenwood Rotary Club, donated \$40,000 to PolioPlus in January to fulfill his pledge. A total of \$48,500 in qualifying gifts was received during the campaign period.

The Kauffmann PolioPlus challenge match began in Rotary year 2020-21. Doug has pledged to continue the match for the next two years

Doug and Sally Kauffmann have inspired Rotarians in District 7750 to increase their donations to PolioPlus through this generous match of both dollars for PolioPlus and matching Recognition Points for qualifying donors. Sally died June 12, 2024.

Thank you for giving generously to The Rotary Foundation and for supporting our work to End Polio. Are you interested in joining the District 7750 PolioPlus Society? It's easy. Give \$100 to Polio Plus this year and preferably in addition to your regular Foundation Annual Fund contribution. Then continue giving \$100 annually until the world is certified free of polio. —Beth

7750 Polio Plus Chair and Generous Polio supporter

DOUG KAUFFMANN

Rotary Club of Greenwood
dkauffmann123@gmail.com
 864-551-9922



Jamisons's membership challenges

I challenge all clubs to take the following steps to refocus our membership efforts and goals:

1. Assess your club's current membership situation through the Membership Success Center. You can see how many members your club has brought in this year, how many the club has lost, and how many more the club is expected to lose based off of the club's historical trends.
2. Establish a goal to be Net +1 from here to June 30. You can use the expected remaining attrition to figure how many new members the club needs to bring in the rest of the year to reach the goal of Net +1 for the remainder of the year.
3. Plan at least two Discover Rotary events to be held between today and May 30. As I've said repeatedly, Discover Rotary is the most effective

way to bring in new Rotarians.

4. Hold Guest Days and invite prospects to club activities. Let people see how effective and fun are clubs are at various events.

5. Make your club aware and get everyone involved. If clubs have all hands on deck working toward the goal of growing the club, then every club should blow the Net +1 goal for the remainder of the year away.



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



Bailey Shook, new member at Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer welcomed its newest member, Bailey Shook, left, on February 3. She was sponsored by Holly Henley, right.

If clubs have questions or need assistance, please reach out. We have a district membership team in place to help with your efforts and to work through any challenges. I look forward to all clubs in our district meeting or exceeding the Net +1 goal for the rest of the year. When we do, we will all have earned a victory cigar for our efforts!

I want to thank everyone who spent Valentine's Day morning by participating in our mid-year CIGAR membership summit. We heard informative examples of how clubs are attracting new members, engaging current members, and starting new clubs. If you could not attend the event, I encourage you to watch the video recording of the event. I promise it will give you refreshing ideas for your clubs and renewed energy to carry us through the end of the Rotary year.

We all need to share the gift of Rotary with friend, relatives, and colleagues who we all know have the Rotary heart. The best way to get these prospective Rotarians into the Rotary family is through a personal invitation. Research shows that most Rotarians are satisfied with their clubs. My interactions with different clubs across the district support this finding. We have a great experience to share so let's Grow Rotary by inviting people who would make good Rotarians to a Discover Rotary event, a club service project, a social outing, or for a cup of coffee to discuss what our clubs are doing,

FROM JAMISON:



CIGAR Summit was a great experience

C I G A R CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN GROWTH AND RETENTION



Jeffrey Ryal



Co-President Dee Vaughan, Jeff Jensen, Co-President Melinda Gilreath, Andria Jensen and her sponsor Randy Gordon



GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE INDUCTS 3 NEW MEMBERS

New Members inducted in February:

Jeffrey Ryal | Jeff Jensen | Andria Jensen

A different kind of tool for recruiting members



Click on this graphic to see Arch Klumph talk about the founding of The Rotary Foundation..

Marshall Butler, our director-elect who will be with us at District Conference, had a lot to do with making this happen.

Yes, this is what is now possible using AI, some old Rotary photos, some imagination, and a little computer/AI knowledge. This is Rotary Rap. It is what 21st century Rotary Public Image and membership development tools look like. Different music styles can be used to reach different audiences. These two historical re-creations come courtesy of the work and expertise of some members of the Zone 34 Public Image team.



Clicking this graphic will take you to a report from Paul Harris himself....21st century version.

MORE AT THIS LINK.

These kinds of videos are good for both Public Image and Membership Recruitment usage.

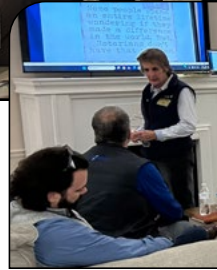
Golden Strip Sunrise explores a satellite club

The Golden Strip Sunrise Club recently held an informational meeting as the first step in creating a satellite club in the booming Five Forks area of Simpsonville in the eastern part of Greenville County.

Food and beverages were served, followed by a “What is Rotary” presentation by co-president Dee Vaughan.

Nine prospective members attended and all completed forms expressing interest at the end of the evening.

At a follow up meeting on February 16 the participants decided to meet on the first and third Mondays at 6:30. Current Golden Strip Sunrise Club members will be visiting the Satellite club to get to know the members better and share their Rotary experiences..—*Rebecca Miller*



What is a satellite club? Hint: It's not out in space somewhere!

Satellite clubs offer members and prospective members a way to create a new club experience together, as a smaller group supported by an established local club. This club type needs fewer members to get started and helps people get exactly what they want out of Rotary.

All satellite clubs begin as an offshoot of one or more Rotary or Rotaract clubs. They have a sponsor club that serves as the governing body of the satellite club. Some satellite clubs eventually become independent Rotary or Rotaract clubs, while others prefer to remain a satellite club.

WHY FORM A SATELLITE CLUB?

- **IT'S EASY.** A Rotary satellite club can form with just eight members, and a Rotaract satellite club can form with at least four. Satellite clubs also don't need approval from the governor.

- **IT OFFERS FLEXIBILITY.** Members of the satellite club can meet at a different time or location than the existing local clubs.

- **IT'S A DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE.** The environment that a satellite club provides often varies from that of the nearby Rotary or Rotaract clubs. It can appeal to those who prefer another meeting format or want a different club culture than what they find at other clubs.

- **IT CAN BE MORE AFFORDABLE.** Although RI dues are the same for satellite club members, clubs and districts set their own dues — which vary widely. Often, satellite club dues are lower because the clubs choose not to meet for a meal that can contribute to higher dues.

- **IT CAN FOCUS ON SPECIFIC INTERESTS.** Satellite

clubs offer the chance to concentrate service efforts on a particular cause or broaden the project possibilities, depending on the group's interests.

- **IT EXPANDS ROTARY'S REACH.** A satellite club can bring Rotary to areas that might not have a club. It can also increase the impact and visibility of Rotary in the community.



NEWS FROM SENECA GOLDEN CORNER



↑Allie Sloan, executive director of Community Foundation of Greater Clemson, updated the Golden Corner Club on the foundation's efforts in Oconee, Pickens and Pendleton areas. Allie stressed that the foundation supports charitable and community projects throughout the area and does not initiate projects. Pictured are president Steve Rushton, Allie and Rotarian David Chudyk.

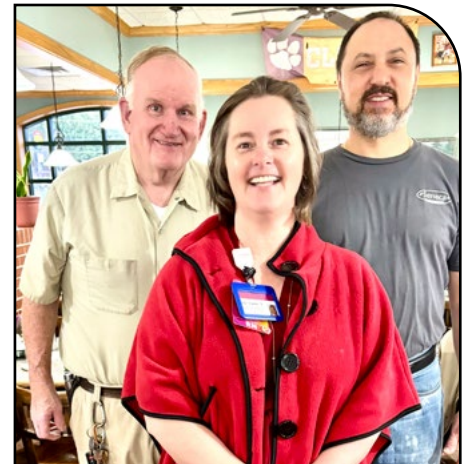
➡Golden Corner members assembled hygiene kits for those who use Our Daily Rest shelter. From left are Rotarians Don Estep, Susie Graves, assistant Governor Steve Graves, club president Steve Rushton and Cheryl Rushton.



↑DJ Laws, right, presidential coordinator of Community Relations at Clemson, updated Golden Corner on the university's incoming class of 5,000 students selected from more than 65,000 applicants. Also, South Carolina's first College of Veterinary Medicine at Clemson will have a class of 80 students. Pictured with DJ are Rotarian Beth Brown and club president Steve Rushton.



↑Golden Corner Rotarian Gene Williams presented Wendy Mathis of Our Daily Rest shelter with 38 hygiene kits. The kits are an ongoing project of Golden Corner R and the latest donation included 22 male kits and 16 female kits.



↑Lynn Turpin, director of Emergency and Critical Care Services for Prisma Health, updated Golden Corner on the growing number of services at Oconee Memorial Hospital including the Emergency Room that now has 42 beds. Pictured from left are club president Steve Rushton, Lynn and Rotarian George Bakogiannis.

GREATER ANDERSON'S BIG FUNDRAISER IS APRIL 16 DANCING FOR OUR HEROES

The Rotary Club of Greater Anderson will host the 19th Annual Dancing for Our Heroes on Thursday, April 16 at the Civic Center.

This year's theme, "British Invasion," celebrates the iconic cultural movement of the mid-to-late 1960s, when rock and pop music acts from the United Kingdom captured audiences across the United States.

Participating teams will perform to music by UK artists who rose to popularity in America, bringing creativity, energy, and nostalgia to the dance floor.



ORGANIZATIONS THAT WILL BENEFIT

These local nonprofit and charitable organizations have been selected to benefit from this year's event, continuing the club's long-standing tradition of supporting community causes through an evening of entertainment and philanthropy.

- ▶ AIM
- ▶ Anderson Free Clinic
- ▶ Calvary Home for Children
- ▶ Cancer Association of Anderson
- ▶ The Champions Center
- ▶ Family Promise
- ▶ First Light of SC
- ▶ GAMAC
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity
- ▶ Hope Missions
- ▶ Hospice of the Upstate
- ▶ The LOT Project
- ▶ South Main Mercy Center
- ▶ Value Village Collective
- ▶ Vets Helping Vets

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 — 6:30 P.M.

CIVIC CENTER OF ANDERSON
3027 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Anderson, SC 29621

TICKETS: \$100 — TABLES: \$850

Dinner, drinks, show and auction included.
Get tickets: <https://andersonevents.com/>

↑ ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER ANDERSON



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.

Rotary Zones 33/34



MARCH CHALLENGE

Share a story about your club you had published in an external media outline. It could highlight a recent service project, fundraiser, club celebration, or impactful community partnership. Focus on STORYTELLING that shows your club as People of Action. Consider using media templates from the Brand Center to help craft a professional, brand-consistent story. Share the link on your club's channels, and with 7750 Public Image Chair (Maggie) and district newsletter editor (Sue) to increase exposure. Remember to include high-quality photos, a clear headline, and a call to action to inspire readers and reinforce Rotary's impact in your community.

Click for more info.



Foreground: Jeremy Mosteller with APB player, Background: Mark Moreno, Eric Bridge, Anna Ryan.



Sandy Halkett, APB founder and Jim Nichols, club foundation chair.

Rotary Club of Greer supports ADAPTIVE PICKLEBALL with Wheelchair Donation



In late 2024, the Rotary Club of Greer was introduced to the mission of Adaptive Pickleball when its leadership visited the club to share how the organization expands access to pickleball for individuals with physical limitations.

Following that presentation, the club committed to supporting Adaptive Pickleball by helping fund a specialized wheelchair designed for use on the pickleball courts. The project was made possible through proceeds from the club's 2025 Dining Around Greer, combined with a matching district grant.

On February 9, Greer members presented the wheelchair to Adaptive Pickleball during a gathering at the courts. Members remained after the presentation to play pickleball alongside participants, reinforcing the inclusive spirit that inspired the project.

This initiative reflects Rotary's commitment to identifying local needs through connection and responding with meaningful, community-driven action.

Greenville Breakfast KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

May 2 (open invite to all Rotarians/guests)

Members of Greenville Breakfast invite fellow Rotarians and their friends to join them for an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and fundraising at the club's Kentucky Derby Party!

Saturday, May 2

4:00 – 7:30 PM

Ink-N-Ivy

21 East Coffee Street

Greenville, SC 29601

Tickets are \$40. That includes a meal provided by Ink-N-Ivy.

Also as part of the fun:

- Mint juleps from the cash bar
- Raffles and games
- Best Hat competition: Best Fancy Hat and Best Homemade Hat

Dress is casual but derby flair is encouraged.

Funds raised will benefit local charities that are solving real problems and taking action on the community's most persistent challenges.

To purchase tickets, contact: gvlbreakfastrotary@gmail.com.

Let's make it a day of Rotary fellowship, friendly competition, and "Service Above Self" — Derby style!—Mary Kedrowski



Click the invitation to download the flyer.

Save the Date!

District 7750

Awards & Installation Picnic

Family-friendly fun for all!

**July 11, 2026
Greer City Park**

Create Lasting Impact

Rotary
District 7750



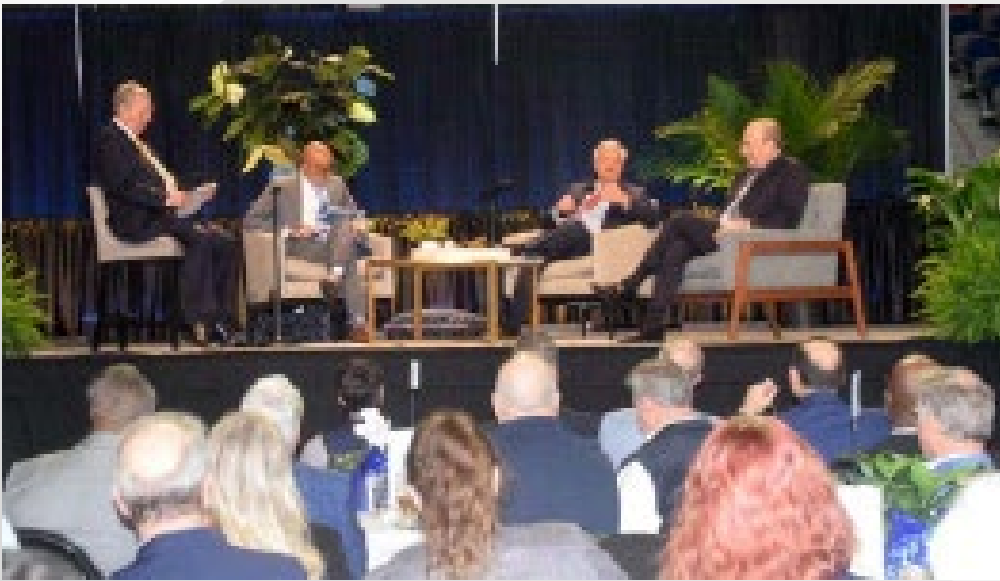
**Something different
to plan ahead for in July**

Awards and installation picnic

Rotary District 7750 invites you to join us for our Awards & Installation Picnic on July 11 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with awards presentation at 1:30 PM.

This family-friendly celebration brings together Rotarians from across the District for a day of fellowship, recognition, and fun. We'll honor outstanding achievements from the past Rotary year and officially install new leadership — all in a relaxed picnic setting perfect for spouses, children, and guests.

Mark your calendar and plan to celebrate the spirit of Rotary together!



Rotary Club of Aiken holds Economic Symposium

President of Richmond's Federal Reserve Bank offers advice to South Carolina

The Rotary Club of Aiken held its inaugural Economic Symposium on Feb. 4 with Tom Barkin, the President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, as speaker.

Tom offered advice on what South Carolina's strategy should be to maintain and improve the strength of its economy. He recommended the our state focus on increasing workforce participation among its residents.

"Participation rates are lower here than they are in other states," Tom said. "Some of that is retirees, but it's not all because of retirees.

"If you think about what it takes to get people off the sidelines, education is a huge part of that — K

to 12, getting people ready with hard skills, but also soft skills," he added.

Tom mentioned a situation in Pickens County, where the county council late last year approved a six-month moratorium that restricts permits for RV parks, campgrounds, commercial lodging establishments and solar farms that could overwhelm the infrastructure.

Several hundred business and community leaders and their guests attended the symposium held at the Aiken Convocation Center.

Keyatta Priester is the president of the Rotary Club of Aiken. Rotary Club Treasurer Tim Newman and Rotary Club President Nominee Sharon Rodgers were the Economic Symposium Luncheon's co-chairs.

The event's title sponsors were the Savannah River National Laboratory and Security Federal Bank.

Barkin's thoughts on the labor market

At the symposium Tom said the impact of artificial intelligence is making business executives and workers uneasy. He believes the employment opportunities that will increase in this country are ones in health care, social services and providing assistance to the elderly in their homes or in residential facilities.

"Those are really hard jobs," he said, and in the future, that could create a problem when "the jobs that we've got aren't matched to the desires of the people who are out there."

Meanwhile, America is experiencing a decline in the size of its workforce that will continue for years, he said.

"The numbers are changing quite significantly. "Fertility is down. That's going to be an issue for population growth. The Baby Boomers are aging ... and that's another set of problems. We're seeing participation in the workforce really drop off for people 65 and up. Net migration in this country has gone way down and it looks like it's going to stay down."

—Tom Barkin at Aiken's Economic Symposium

So....what can we do? Ideas on the next page!

With community and economic development and vocational service in our Rotary DNA, 7750 clubs are in a good position to help mitigate the coming changes Tom talked about. It won't take much to implement some of the suggestions. Next page.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Mitigating the possible coming labor issues

(Ideas for clubs to work on some of issues presented on the previous page)

Based on Tom Barkin's assessment (*previous page*), the issue is a misalignment between a shrinking workforce, the rise of AI, and a growing demand for high-touch, "human-centric" roles that people may not naturally gravitate toward.

So, with vocational service and community development a part of what our clubs do, we are already positioned to bridge these gaps. Some ideas:

1 Vocational Pivot & Skills Training: Since AI is making workers uneasy, Rotary can provide the "human" roadmap for career transitions.

- Targeted Scholarships: Shift club scholarship priorities toward nursing, geriatric care, and social work to incentivize students to enter these high-demand fields.
- AI Literacy Workshops: Host AI & Ethics seminars to help local small business owners and workers understand how to use AI as a tool rather than fearing it as a replacement.

2 Elevating the Dignity of Care: Barkin noted that the available jobs can be really hard and often undesirable. Rotary can use its influence to change the public perception of these roles.

- Vocational Awards: Create specific awards ceremonies to honor local home-health aides and social workers, elevating the social status of these "hard jobs."

- Public Awareness Campaigns: Use the Four-Way Test as a framework to promote the value of service-oriented professions in local media.

3 Addressing the Workforce Shortage: With a shrinking labor pool, clubs can focus on untapped demographics to fill the gap.

- Second-Career Mentorship: Develop programs that help workers displaced by AI transition into healthcare or social services.
- Intergenerational Programs: Since Barkin mentioned elderly care, clubs can facilitate programs where Interact (youth) and Rotaract (young professionals) members engage with the elderly, building the empathy required for these career paths.

4 Advocacy and Community Infrastructure:

- Supporting Caregivers: Establish "Respite Care" projects to support those already working in these difficult fields, preventing burnout and turnover.
- Corporate Partnerships: Partner with local healthcare facilities to create "modernized" work environments that utilize technology to make these "hard jobs" physically easier or more efficient.

Summary: Vocational Service at work

Facing these challenges fits squarely into Rotary's Vocational Service component because each issue calls for the ethical use of professional skills to uplift communities and empower individuals. This table shows how they align.

| CHALLENGE | ROTARY VOCATIONAL SERVICE RESPONSE |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Unease with artificial intelligence | Rotary promotes tech-integration seminars and vocational training to help people adapt to evolving job landscapes, especially where automation creates uncertainty. |
| Labor Shortage | By mentoring youth and retirees, Rotarians tap into underutilized talent pools, fostering inclusion and expanding workforce capacity. |
| "Hard Job" Aversion | Rotary elevates care-giving roles by recognizing their value, offering support, and promoting dignity in service-based professions. |
| Workforce Mismatch | Clubs align scholarships and training with real-world needs—especially in healthcare and social services—ensuring education leads to meaningful employment. |

2026 ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA)

What: The 42nd annual week-long motivational, leadership training, and free enterprise seminar for rising high school juniors and seniors.

When: June 14-19, 2026. The seminar begins with registration at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday and ends following a luncheon on Friday afternoon at approximately 1:00 pm. Delegates are not allowed to drive to the seminar. Each participating club is expected to provide transportation for their delegates to and from the seminar.

Where: Erskine College, Due West, South Carolina.

Who: Sponsored by Rotary District 7750

Why: This seminar is designed to help the delegates develop sound leadership techniques for their daily use in school and extracurricular activities, as well as in life.

Benefits: Personal growth and development

through interaction with peers and outstanding business, political, and community leaders.

Cost: The sponsoring Rotary Club pays \$400 per delegate. Checks should be made payable to RYLA. All payments are expected at the time the delegate names are submitted.

Deadline: Rotary Club Participation Form, Delegate Selection Form, and \$400 per delegate returned with applications no later than Friday, April 17.

For additional information::

Mark Peeler, RYLA Coordinator
Erskine College
P.O. Box 338
Due West, SC 29639
mlp@erskine.edu
864-379-8850

JUNE 14-19
RYLA

LINKS TO MORE RYLA INFO

Fact Sheet

Club Participation Form

High School Recommendation Form

Letter to Presidents

GREENVILLE BREAKFAST HOST MEAL TRAIN FAMILY NIGHT

The Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club was honored to host a Meal Train Family Night at Poe Mill through PMAC Family Nights!

PMAC Family Nights are all about bringing families together — sharing a meal, building connections, and enjoying a fun activity side by side. And we were so excited to be part of it!

There's something special about gathering around a table. A shared meal creates conversation, laughter, and community. Add in a fun activity, and you've got an evening filled with smiles and meaningful moments.

This is what "Service Above Self" looks like — showing up, serving others, and strengthening families right here in our community.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and heart to make the night such a success!—*Mary Kedrowski*



ROTARIANS ON THE MEAL TRAIN

Bart Street
Anthony Cox
Tammy Rhoades
Tom Faulkner
Catherine Thompson
DG David Brenner

PRESIDENT'S DAY REMEMBRANCE

Aiken Rotarian was part of history in 1963

Aiken Rotarian and former South Carolina House Representative James L. Felder spoke to his club on President's Day about his military assignment when President Kennedy was shot.

James was head of the casket detail and a pallbearer for the late president. For the four days after the assassination, President Kennedy's body was never out of his sight. He witnessed the autopsy and embalming at Bethesda Naval Hospital and stood guard until the president was transported to the White House.

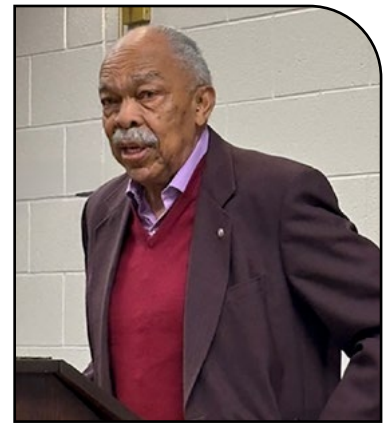
He also shared the moment when Jacqueline Kennedy viewed her husband for the final time.

Beyond his military service, James has had a distinguished career in law, civil rights, and public service. He is an attorney, civil rights activist, historian, and former member of the South Carolina

House of Representatives, where he served from 1970 to 1972. He was among the first three African Americans elected to the South Carolina legislature since the Reconstruction era.

James is the author of four books, including *I Buried John F. Kennedy*, *The Life and Times of Dr. Luns C. Richardson*, *The Making of an AME Bishop*, and *Civil Rights in South Carolina: From Peaceful Protests to Groundbreaking Rulings*.

At 86 years old, he currently serves as Board Chairman of the South Carolina Civil Rights Museum in Orangeburg, continuing his lifelong commitment to preserving history and advancing civil rights education.



KATHY DELIVERS MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN GUATAMALA

Pleasantburg Rotarian Kathy Sharp joined others from District 7750 in Guatemala to help with Rotary water projects there. Here she is assisting with the delivery of medical supplies to Chumisa School.



AIKEN PRESIDENT NAMED CHAMBER'S WOMAN OF YEAR

Congratulations Keyatta Priester, president of the Rotary Club of Aiken, for being named the 2025 Aiken Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year.

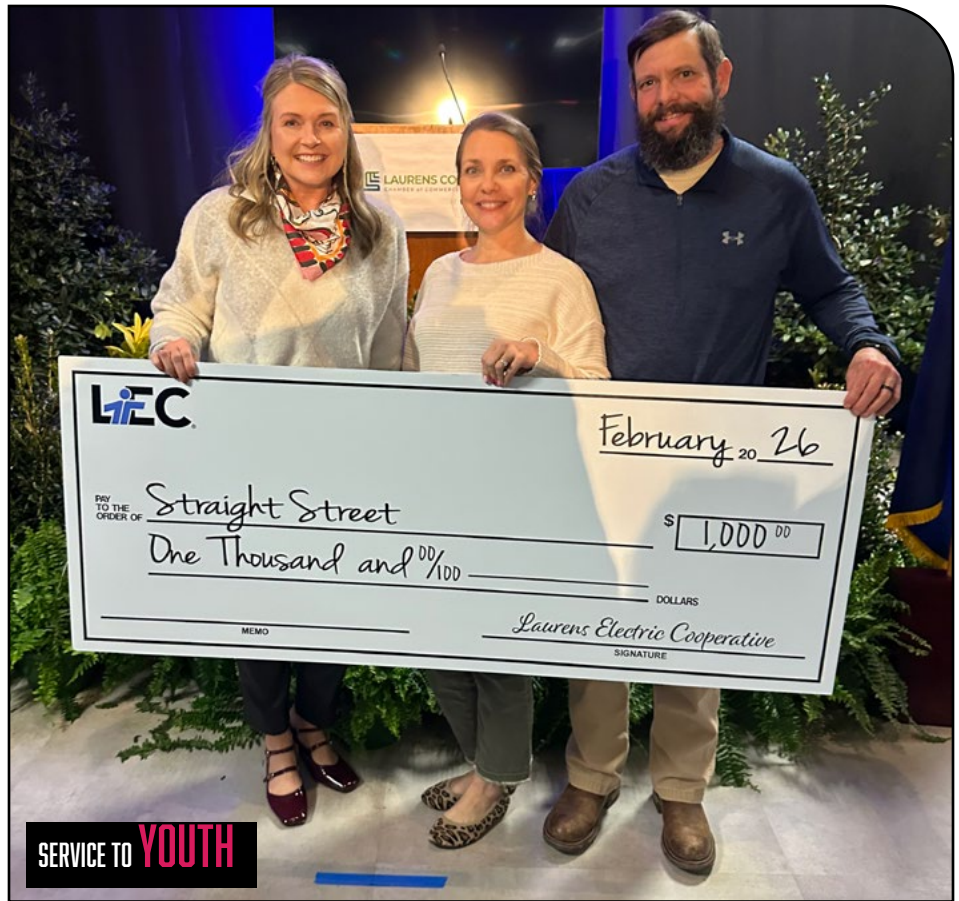
Laurens Club supports Straight Street

BY COURTNEY STONELL
Rotary Club of Laurens

The Rotary Club of Laurens supported Straight Street by writing and submitting the Laurens Electric Cooperative (LEC) Community Impact Grant on the program's behalf — and we are excited to share that the grant was awarded.

Straight Street serves Laurens County youth ages 13–19 by providing a safe, structured environment where teens can gather, build friendships, and engage in positive activities such as basketball, games, and fellowship. More than just a recreation space, Straight Street offers an avenue of outreach away from at-risk behaviors and into a supportive community where young people can grow and thrive.

We are grateful to Laurens Electric Cooperative for investing in initiatives that enhance quality of life for our local youth. The award was presented during the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, a wonderful evening celebrating the partnerships and organizations that help strengthen our community.



Club president Cathy Little with Van & Kari Tumblin Director of Straight Street.

THIS PROJECT REFLECTS ROTARY'S COMMITMENT TO SERVICE ABOVE SELF AND TO CREATING MEANINGFUL, LASTING IMPACT FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.



WHEN YOU CHANGE TONIGHT, YOU MAKE A BETTER TOMORROW.
—Scott Turner

◀ Scott Turner, center, with Sleep In Heavenly Peace, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on the organization's efforts to see that every child has their own bed. Heavenly Peace has built and delivered more than 535 beds in Oconee County since its inception including 302 in 2025. Pictured with Scott are club president Steve Rushton and Rotarian Don Estep.



Golden Strip Sunrise members Melinda Gilreath and Dee Vaughan with CART director Tiffany Ervin of Spartanburg.

Golden Strip Sunrise: \$6,400 to CART Aiding the FIGHT AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S

The CART Fund is committed to supporting innovative, high-impact research aimed at discovering a cure for Alzheimer's Disease. Remarkably, ****100% of all donations**** are allocated directly to research efforts.

In the photo above, Tiffany Ervin, who spoke at one of our recent meetings, is seen as we presented her with a check funded by our hot chocolate and night of singing fundraisers.—*Rebecca Miller, Golden Strip Sunrise*

To give to CART online:

Our clubs in D-7750 have been big supporters of The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) for many years. You can throw your change (or bills) in the blue buckets at your meeting or donate online.

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



WALHALLA FUNDRAISER Walhalla raised \$359.75 for CART at its February BBQ. Club members contributed by bringing sides, salads, and desserts—and put extra money in the CART buckets. Moving closer to a cure!



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

PETS: Mar. 19-21
in Greensboro

Going to the All Clubs Conference: Here's Why

BY DG DAVID BRENNER

Each year our Rotary district holds an All Clubs Conference. This year the conference "Rotary in Motion...Unite, Lead Serve" will be held on April 24-26 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville.

The conference committee headed up by Travis Seward from the Rotary Club of Pleasantburg is working hard to produce an exciting conference for the Rotarians in District 7750

So why should you attend the conference? It is a good question so let me give you some the benefits of attending the conference. The conference is held so that Rotarians from all over our district can get together, exchange ideas, make friends, renew friendships, and hear about new things going on in Rotary. And of course, have some fun while doing it.

This year's conference is about uniting and moving forward. Rotary must adapt as the world changes. As Paul Harris said "If Rotary is to realize its proper destiny, it must be evolutionary at all times and revolutionary on occasion". So, we have lined up speakers to guide us to do just that.

KEY SPEAKERS

Gregor Baum is a Peace Fellow and Rotoractor from Germany. He is currently studying in Jacksonville. He has an inspiring story that he will share with us.

Our keynote speaker is Marshall Butler, from the Rotary Club of West Jacksonville. Marshall is the incoming zone Director and will be a member of the Board of Directors for Rotary International beginning in July. It is not an exaggeration to say that Marshall will be helping to lead the revolution of Rotary as we move forward. He will have some things to say that I am sure will wet your appetite about Rotary in Motion.

INTERACT WITH US FOR FIRST TIME

For the first time ever, we will have Interact students join the conference for Saturday morning. They will have separate breakout sessions between breakfast and lunch, including spending time with Gregor Baum, representatives from The Greenville Federal Credit Union and Find Great People to

prepare them for leadership positions at school, in the community and at future careers.

REMEMBER THE '60S AND '70S

And of course, as you have heard me say many times, FUN is the secret sauce of Rotary. So, we plan to ensure that the conference is fun beginning on Friday night, April 24, at our 60s/70s party. We will be listening and dancing to some of the greatest music ever.

Anybody have any idea what some of the Rotary themes were in the 60s and 70s? Dress up in your best 60s/70s look and come find out.

On Saturday afternoon we will learn more history with historical tours of Greenville. And you will be able visit Greenville's wonderful Unity Park (did you know before it was Unity Park it was the location of the city dump).

And if that's not enough how about a Bourbon tasting at the Bohemian. Sound like fun? It will be, so don't miss it.

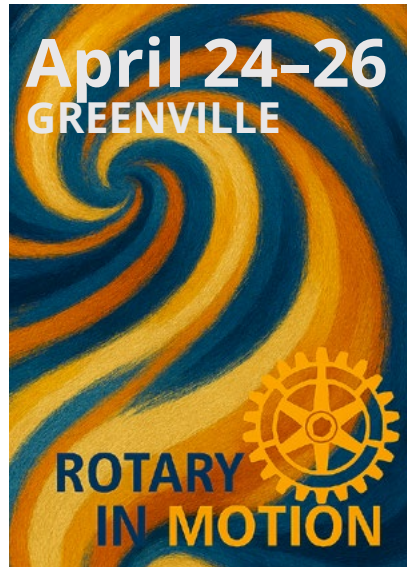
On Sunday morning you can also stay and enjoy a Jazz Brunch in support of CART.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE PROJECT

You can also participate in the Friday afternoon service project. We will have a room at the Hyatt where we will be assembling beds for children that do not have a bed to sleep on. The service project will be in support of the Oconee County branch of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". Does it not break your heart to know there are children in our communities that do not have a bed to sleep on.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Registration is open. **SO REGISTER NOW!** You can attend the whole weekend, or if you cannot attend all weekend, there are options to register for part of the weekend. We have a special rate at the Hyatt that you can register to stay as well. I hope to see you for an Informative, Inspirational, and Fun weekend "Rotary in Motion... Unite, Lead, Serve". Plan now to join me and other District 7750 Rotarians for an exciting Rotary weekend on April 24-26



News from Pleasantburg



MEMBER SHARES ABOUT HIMSELF AND HIS WORK AT GOODWILL

Pleasantburg Rotarian William Coates, Donated Goods Acquisition Manager for Goodwill Industries of Upstate/ Midlands South Carolina, shares a little bit of his life story and his work.



RUDOLPH GORDON LITERACY PROJECT LAUNCHED

Regina Coulomb is joined by her young friends at Cherrydale Elementary School in Greenville on Book Fair day as she launches the Rudolph Gordon Literacy Project Book Fair Voucher program. The club's Rudolph Gordon Literacy Project honors the late Rudolph Gordon, a longtime club member, former Superintendent of the Greenville County Schools, and literacy advocate.



GREENVILLE'S MUSIC SCENE

Grey Thompson and Jay Spivey were the highlight of a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Greenville City Center. As they do on their weekly Jay and Grey Facebook show, Jay and Grey shared insights on the music scene around Greenville.



JON ROGERS RECOGNIZED

Rotarian and Scouting America's Swamp Rabbit District Executive Sherwood Williams presents Jon Rogers with the James West Fellowship Award.



Pleasantburg
Picking up others' trash

Adopt-a-Highway volunteers (left to right) Left to right: Alessio Tosini, Val Vandersloot, Larry Lee, Henry Dupre, Don Vandersloot. Not shown, Travis Seward.



Alessio Tosini, Travis Seward, Wade Cleveland



Pizza Grillmaster Jeff Tiddy at the grill with Alessio Tosini.



Alessio and Travis.

PLEASANTBURG'S WINTER DINNER

The Rotary Club of Pleasantburg brought January to a close with its annual Winter Dinner at the home of Wade Cleveland and Travis Seward in Greenville's historic Hampton-Pinckney district. In honor of this year's inbound youth exchange student, Alessio Tosini, the club enjoyed delicious cucina napoletana, prepared by Wade and Travis, and representative of Alessio's Naples home. Rotarian Jerry Lieberg's poetic contribution to the evening's festivities perfectly capture the occasion. [READ JERRY'S POEM.](#)



Would-be clowns at The Varsity (L to R: Alessio, Luna, Lilli)



Opening their eyes to the American struggle for equality: National Center for Civil and Human Rights

Inbound Exchange students enjoy weekend in Atlanta: LESSONS IN AMERICAN LIFE

Curious about our youth exchange program? Want to know about our activities? Wondering how we help them learn about life in the US? Read on!

The District's three inbound exchange students, **Alessio Tosini** (Italy, hosted by Pleasantburg), **Luna Herpolsheimer** (Germany, hosted by Spartan West and Spartanburg), and **Lilli Bergenser** (Denmark, hosted by Clemson Sunrise and Clemson) recently spent a long weekend exploring the top sites of Atlanta.

First lesson: Atlanta is not like a compact, European city with a defined "center." Rather, it's like three separate cities, spread across 12-15 miles, and connected (for better or worse) by big highways that are always crowded.

Second lesson: Fast food is treasured. A classic American lunch of burgers, hot dogs, onion rings, and fries at The Varsity opened the weekend fun. No one complained at all about the lack of vegetables, the calories, or the amount of fat. Instead, everyone just enjoyed this Atlanta tradition -- and loved the food.

Third lesson: Atlanta offers more than Interstate highways; Americans also value the natural world. Flamingos, giraffes, snakes, and lemurs highlighted

the students' Friday afternoon at Zoo Atlanta, but the most exciting animal adventure of the day was an impressive appearance by three lion brothers, Azizi, Hondo and Hatari. They strolled casually around the front of their enclosure as if fully aware of the show they were putting on for their delighted visitors.

Upon entering our VRBO rental, Luna and Lilli proclaimed it "cute." Ideally located, it was also perfect for games, music, dinner on Friday, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and the fun of just hanging out.

Saturday's activities began at the Georgia Aquarium, which Luna described as "an amazing display of beautiful creatures." First, the inbounds "oohed and aahed" at the agility and power of the dolphins, but no less entertaining was the humorous sea lion show. While sharks, otters, penguins, and the coral reef always please, the overall favorite at the Aquarium was the graceful elegance of the beluga whales.

Fourth lesson: consumerism reigns. Following a lunch of fried chicken, the group visited another Atlanta institution, the World of Coca Cola. They quickly noted that it's more of an extended

continued, next page

rotary
youth
exchange

Youth exchange trip to Atlanta—

continued from previous page

advertisement than a museum. In the room of Coke memorabilia, each located an advertisement in his or her native language. Then more than one became teary-eyed after watching the film, “Moments of Happiness.” All were amused with some of the beverages offered for tasting at the end of the visit. Most important, the Coke gift store offered many options for new pins for their blazers.

Fifth lesson: Americans can be very cosmopolitan. In addition to the huge diversity of languages and even dress the students noted, Atlanta offers many options for international dining. Yet taking an Italian student to eat pizza in the US is always intimidating, and it’s even more frightening when the student is from Naples and the restaurant uses “Napoletana” in its name. Not to worry; Alessio loved the pizza Margherita at Antico Pizza Napoletana and said, “I felt at home again. I tasted the flavors of my homeland after six months.” He even met another customer who’s also from Naples!

Sixth lesson: The struggle for equal rights is real and ongoing. Interestingly, Lilli commented on Saturday how impressed she was at the large number of African-American families and couples she noticed out enjoying the same activities she was experiencing. She said she had not seen this before during her stay in the US.

Sunday’s activities offered more insight into her

observation. In the morning the students visited the Martin Luther King Historic Site, saw his birth house and tomb, explored his old neighborhood, and heard a ranger talk at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King attended as a child and sometimes preached as an adult. Luna said the experience made King “more tangible,” as she walked where he walked and lived. King became not just “an impactful phenomenon, but also a real person.”

Following lunch at Hard Rock Café, they continued their civil rights history lesson at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. While many exhibits are sobering and even somber, they provoked a lively discussion of our country’s efforts to overcome a shameful past. Alessio commented: “It really opened my mind and helped me understand how hard life must have been for a black person during those times.” Lilli remarked that the MLK Site and Civil Rights Museum helped her “understand the impact of segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and how the South has shaped American history.”

Then, exhilarated and exhausted, they headed home.

Exposing our exchange students to American traditions, culture, history, learning, and lots of fun! That’s a typical Rotary Youth Exchange weekend. It’s also how we promote international peace, good will, and understanding.



Alessio’s “taste of home:” Authentic Neapolitan pizza at Antico Pizza



Classic American consumerism: The World of Coca-Cola.

New Members in January

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Alford, Jane | Indian Land | Hooper, Lisa Anne | Lake Wylie |
| Ausberry, Michael Jr. | Indian Land | Horne, Bettie Rose | Greenwood |
| Booth, Ronnie L | Anderson | Hughes, Evie | Oconee After Dark |
| Bucy, David | Spartanburg | Jones, Daniel | Clover |
| Clement, Kevin | Anderson | Leichter, Jeffrey | Greer |
| Clouden, Chris | Indian Land | Mastny, Aaron | Greenville City Center |
| Cook, Will J | Blacksburg | Miller, Joshua Shane | Seneca |
| Cooper, Amanda | Anderson | Pickens, Mary | Anderson |
| Cooper, Robert M Jr | Anderson | Pickett, Otis W | Clemson |
| Cox, Angel J. | Spartanburg | Ryal, Jeffrey P | Golden Strip Sunrise |
| Davis, Beth Lee | Anderson | Sita, Anthony J | Spartanburg |
| Detrich, David | Oconee After Dark | Uter, Carla | Indian Land |
| Fernandez, Michael | Lake Wylie | Vevelez, Trenap | Mauldin |
| Hansen, Lizabeth Jane | Lake Wylie | Williams , Quincella | Anderson |
| Hoffmann, Bill | Clemson | | |

JANUARY 2026: 20 NEW MEMBERS — 11 TERMINATED MEMBERS (0 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.

Rotary Leadership Institute



Mid Atlantic RLI
MD • DE • DC • WV • TN • VA • NC • SC

March 7 at Tri-County Tech

511 Michelin Blvd. | Anderson, SC 29625

Register at www.midatlanticrli.org

Join us for an RLI event to learn about our Rotary history, our Foundation, strategies for why and how to grow membership and the latest public image/public relations ideas. Learn, share, and network with fellow Rotarians about how they serve our community and the world. All sessions are highly interactive and fun.

More Info? **PDG CAROL BURDETTE** | 7750 RLI Chair | carolburdettesc@gmail.com

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

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

Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.