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APRIL

Environment

MAY

Youth Service

JUNE

Rotary Fellowships

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER  
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

# 7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

## Learn more at the district conference

# A strong PUBLIC IMAGE is essential for clubs to grow

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

A public image plan is essential to the growth of a Rotary Club.

As I visited the clubs this year I encouraged the public image and the membership teams to work together to grow Rotary.

We need to take every opportunity to ensure that the communities that our clubs support know about the services that we are providing. Not only is that essential to recruiting new members but also to encourage our current members.

The best people to tell others about your club are your members. One of the first steps is to wear a Rotary pin, or Rotary hat or something else that displays the Rotary logo.. Displaying your Rotary pride simply starts the conversation. How many of you have had someone ask about Rotary when you have been wearing a Rotary pin?

### How to tell YOUR Rotary story

So how do you tell your personal Rotary story? And how does your club tell its Rotary story? Would you like to find out how to tell your story effectively? I know I would. Well attend the All Clubs Conference

on April 24-26 and maybe you will learn how to do just that.

Marshall Butler, zone director-elect, will conduct two breakout sessions to help us understand how to tell our story.

[Click on this link](#) (AI Paul Harris Video) and see what AI can do to bring Rotary to life. Marshall

was instrumental in creating that video.

Now here is what you will be learning about if you attend Marshall's break out sessions:

### Rotary Design Revolution: Mastering Canva

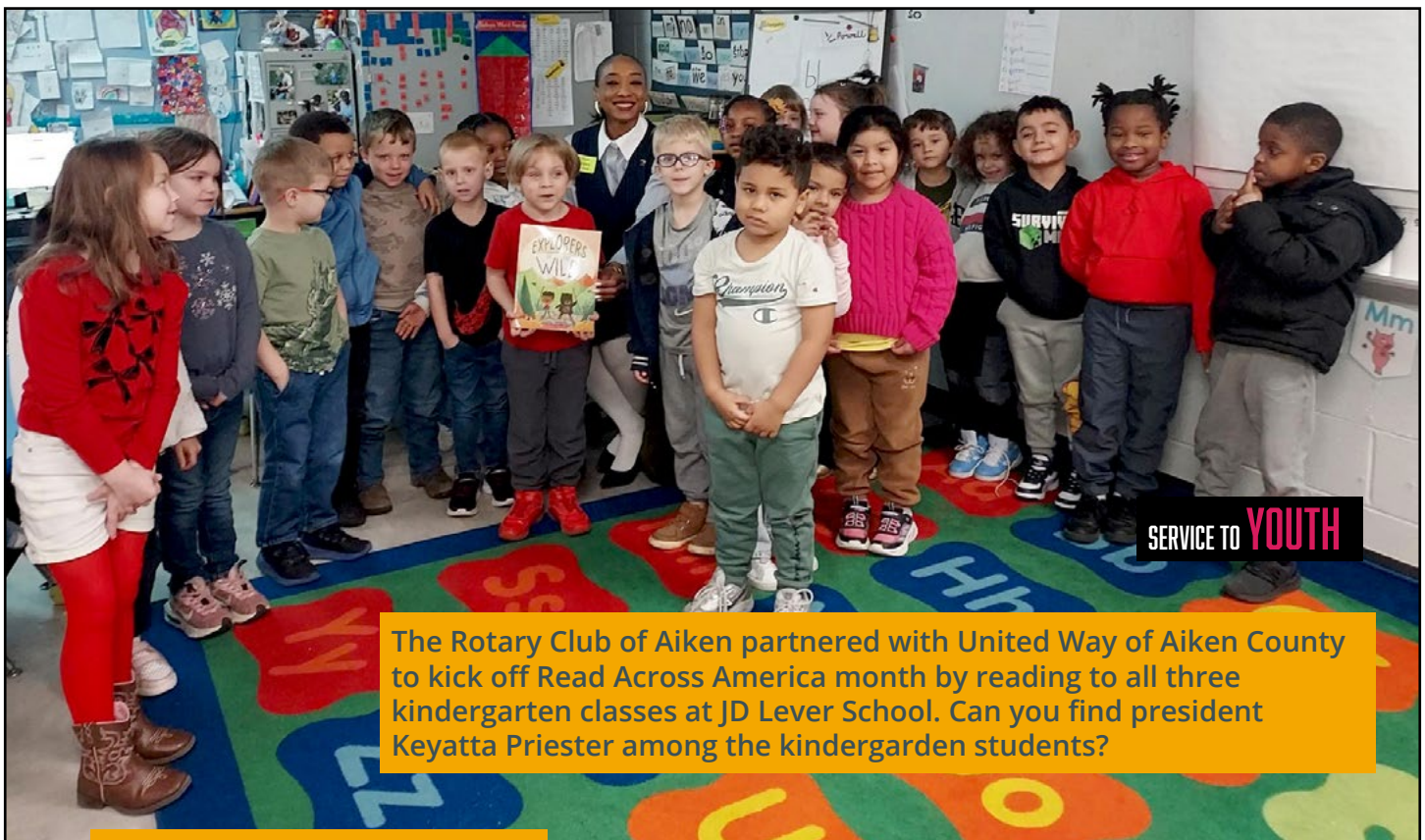
This session introduces Rotarians to Canva and demonstrates how this easy-to-use design platform can help clubs and districts

create professional, engaging public image materials. Participants will learn the basics of Canva, how to use templates, set up team collaboration, maintain brand consistency, and take advantage of powerful features like AI tools and Magic Studio.

The session also includes practical design tips and examples to help Rotarians elevate their messaging and tell the Rotary story more effectively through

continued next page





The Rotary Club of Aiken partnered with United Way of Aiken County to kick off Read Across America month by reading to all three kindergarten classes at JD Lever School. Can you find president Keyatta Priester among the kindergarden students?

ROTARY CLUB OF AIKEN

## About the conference—

continued from page 1

visually compelling graphics for social media, events, and promotions.

### Fueling the Rotary Revolution with AI

This fast-paced, hands-on session introduces Rotarians to practical ways artificial intelligence can support club operations and public image efforts.

Participants will learn how tools like ChatGPT can help generate social media posts, newsletters, event promotions, grant language, and other club communications in minutes.

Through a guided exercise, attendees will practice effective prompting, explore best practices around privacy and accuracy, and leave the session with finished content and reusable templates they can immediately apply in their clubs.

**The connection between public image and membership is just one of the exciting things that you will experience/learn by attending the All Clubs Conference on April 24-26 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville.**

*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

**T**his year, we will celebrate our successes at an Awards & Installation Picnic on July 11 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with awards presentation at 1:30 PM. At this casual, family-friendly event 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.



### PHF+1 in Aiken

Bill Inman is the newest Paul Harris Fellow +1 at the Rotary Club of Aiken. Thank you, Bill, for your commitment to service and dedication to making a difference in your community and around the world. That's club president Keyatta Priester with him.

## Governor's Challenge is up and running

This year's Governor's Challenge will run from March 1 through May 15. District Governor Dave Brenner encourages Rotarians in District 7750 to contribute to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund during this challenge match. Thank you to DG Dave, DRFC Beth Padgett, and Assistant Governor Julia Larson for agreeing to donate Foundation Recognition Points to make this Challenge Match successful.

Without our contributions to Annual Fund – SHARE, we would not have funds for our District Grants that help us do good at home and our Global Grants that change lives around the world.

Donations 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 donation reaches Rotary International by the end of this challenge match.

Contributions of \$100 or more will be matched with the same number of Recognition Points (for example, if you donate \$100 you will get a match of 100 points). A maximum number 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 but they cannot receive points based on RI rules.

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



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



### **MOST CURRENT GLOBAL POLIO CASE NUMBERS** (as of March 2026)

**WILD POLIOVIRUS TYPE 1 (WPV1)**  
**2026 year-to-date: 0 (that is ZERO)**  
**confirmed WPV1 cases**

**This means the world has not yet recorded a new wild polio case in 2026.**

**CIRCULATING VACCINE-DERIVED POLIOVIRUS (cVDPV) 2026**  
**Year-to-date: 18 confirmed cases**

**2025 TOTAL: 44 CASES**  
**31 – Pakistan**  
**13 – Afghanistan**

## District Grant applications due by April 30

Rotary Clubs have through April 30 to submit their applications for a District Grant in 2026-27. Club leaders have received training on how to complete a District Grant Final Report and how to turn in a new grant application. All the information needed to do a District Grant is available on the [District website](#). Information on a club's maximum grant eligibility can be found in this newsletter.

If you have any questions or challenges, please contact as soon as possible District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at [bpadgettrotary@outlook.com](mailto:bpadgettrotary@outlook.com) and District Grants Chair Bill Harley at [william.harley@firstcitizens.com](mailto:william.harley@firstcitizens.com) or incoming DRFC Joyce Morin at [jmorin@comporium.net](mailto:jmorin@comporium.net). District

Grants should be built around community projects that will have a significant impact and use Rotary volunteers.

District Grant applications must be submitted using the online form, but it is strongly advised that the grant writer does a draft. That copy should be saved and shared with the club board and members implementing the grant. Also, remember not to spend any grant money until you receive the grant check and deposit it in your bank. Rotary International usually sends grant funds to District 7750 in mid-August or early September. Also, the final report for this grant will be due March 31, 2027. Plan your grant to accommodate these dates.—Beth

### District Grant Eligibility Amount per Club 2026-27 (Based on 2024-25 Giving)

Club	Members 7/1/24	Annual Fund SHARE	AF SHARE Per Capita	Max. Grant Eligibility
Abbeville	47	\$5,300.00	\$112.77	\$2,000
Aiken	162	\$24,707.38	\$152.51	\$2,000
Aiken Sunrise	38	\$9,299.50	\$244.72	\$4,000
Anderson	109	\$15,485.00	\$142.06	\$2,000
Batesburg-Leesville	22	\$3,450.00	\$156.82	\$2,000
Blacksburg	10	\$1,560.00	\$156.00	\$1,014
Carolina Foothills	19	\$1,900.00	\$100.00	\$1,235
Chester	54	\$4,500.00	\$83.33	\$800
Clemson	90	\$12,855.94	\$142.84	\$2,000
Clemson Sunrise	32	\$4,135.00	\$129.22	\$2,000
Clinton	30	\$4,000.00	\$133.33	\$2,000
Clover	26	\$2,922.00	\$112.38	\$1,899
Easley	72	\$7,800.00	\$108.33	\$2,000
E-Club of The Carolinas	23	\$10,995.90	\$478.08	\$4,000
Emerald City	84	\$28,057.00	\$334.01	\$4,800
Fountain Inn	33	\$6,830.25	\$206.98	\$4,000
Fort Mill	65	\$62,937.00	\$968.26	\$8,000
Gaffney	59	\$1,204.00	\$20.41	\$0
Golden Strip Sunrise	22	\$5,075.75	\$230.72	\$3,299

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**District Grant Eligibility Amount per Club 2026-27****(Based on 2024-25 Giving)**

Club	Members 7/1/24	Annual Fund SHARE	AF SHARE Per Capita	Max. Grant Eligibility
Greater Anderson	62	\$12,690.01	\$204.68	\$4,000
Greenville	166	\$70,236.50	\$423.11	\$7,200
Greenville Breakfast	16	\$2,520.00	\$157.50	\$1,638
Greenville City Center	45	\$11,120.50	\$247.12	\$4,000
Greenwood	99	\$12,147.02	\$122.70	\$2,000
Greer	40	\$3,609.00	\$90.23	\$800
Indian Land	53	\$7,405.00	\$139.72	\$2,000
Lake Wylie	34	\$4,512.50	\$132.72	\$2,000
Lancaster	60	\$11,046.91	\$184.12	\$4,000
Lancaster Breakfast	53	\$9,883.13	\$186.47	\$4,000
Laurens	50	\$8,130.00	\$162.60	\$2,000
Mauldin	12	\$600.00	\$50.00	\$0
Newberry	64	\$27,484.01	\$429.44	\$6,400
North Augusta	16	\$250.00	\$15.63	\$0
North Spartanburg	28	\$2,975.00	\$106.25	\$1,934
Pickens	30	\$3,918.75	\$130.63	\$2,000
Pleasantburg	45	\$12,870.01	\$286.00	\$4,000
Rock Hill	65	\$3,525.00	\$54.23	\$0
Seneca	25	\$5,730.55	\$229.22	\$3,725
Seneca Golden Corner	20	\$861.66	\$43.08	\$0
Simpsonville	32	\$5,164.25	\$161.38	\$2,000
Spartan West	26	\$6,978.50	\$268.40	\$4,000
Spartanburg	175	\$8,860.00	\$50.63	\$0
Reedy River Greenville	21	\$18,255.00	\$869.29	\$5,600
Travelers Rest	14	\$575.00	\$41.07	\$0
Union	40	\$4,116.00	\$102.90	\$2,000
Walhalla	34	\$1,426.50	\$41.96	\$0
Westminster	26	\$1,250.00	\$48.08	\$0
Winnsboro	19	\$1,000.00	\$52.63	\$0
York	29	\$10,219.50	\$352.40	\$4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$118,344</b>



Above: Members of the Rotary Club of Trieste with Indian Land Rotarian Revery Johnson (standing second from left); and at left, Revery exchanges banners with the president of the Trieste club.



## EXCHANGE OF CLUB BANNERS

### A Rotary Tradition of Fellowship

The exchange of small banners, flags, or pennants is one of Rotary's most colorful and enduring customs. Rotarians traveling to other clubs often bring a banner to exchange as a gesture of friendship, and many clubs proudly display the banners they've received at meetings and district events.

The Rotary International Board first acknowledged the popularity of banner exchanges in 1959, encouraging clubs to design banners that reflect the character of their community and country. Including images, slogans, or symbols that represent the club's local identity is recommended.

Because banner exchanges can create financial strain—especially for clubs in high-traffic areas—Rotary advises moderation so that costs never interfere with core service activities.

A well-designed banner tells a story of community pride. Exchanging them remains a meaningful Rotary tradition and a tangible symbol of our international fellowship.—*Albert Blackmon*

### INDIAN LAND HAS EXCHANGED LOTS OF BANNERS

In addition to the recent banner exchange with the Rotary Club of Trieste in Trieste, Italy, the Rotary Club of Indian Land has exchanged banners with several other Rotary clubs over the past year.

These exchanges include visits with the Rotary Club of Washington, DC, facilitated by Professional Development Program (PDP) Division Vice President Yolanda Bryan-Adams; the Rotary Club of Lake Buena Vista during President-Elect Bill King's make-up visit while at Disney; and the Rotary Club of New York through PDP Rotarian Tracey Hyson.

# Don't wait until June to prevent drop-outs

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

As we begin the final quarter of the Rotary year I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Rotary Clubs in our district on their progress to date.

All but two of the clubs in our district have added at least one new member. And as you know, that means new energy, new ideas, and more hands to do the good work in your community. We also have an exciting new club about to start in the Five Forks region. And a couple more in the planning stage.

But the job is not done. We need to continue growing. Each member in our club brings a unique set of skills, expertise, and enthusiasm to do good in our communities. Attracting new members brings renewed enthusiasm to your club.

If your club does not have an Information Hour or some other membership recruitment event currently planned, I encourage you to do so before the end of the Rotary Year.

Our District Membership Chair, Jamison Tinsley, has challenged each club to net one new member before the end of June—a very realistic goal. Contact Jamison or Club Support Team Chair

Watson Dorn to help you organize an Information Hour or Discover Rotary. They will assign a Club Support Team member to work with your club. By finishing strong this year, we can carry that momentum into next year and get off to a good start.

This is also a great time of the year to do a club survey. Find out what your members are interested in, what they like about the club, and what they do not like about the club. Doing the survey now, lets you incorporate that information into your plans for next year.

But adding new members is not the only challenge. We need to do everything we can to retain our current members. As we all know when June rolls around we start looking at terminating those members who are not active. Last year we lost more than 100 members in our district during the month of June. That's 100 fewer Rotarians to help us do good in our communities. Let's not let that happen again this year.

Every member of your club adds value to your club, whether they attend meetings regularly or not. Maybe the value they bring is hands-

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**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

## GROWING ROTARY — LET'S FINISH STRONG.

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVE BRENNER

### ATTRACT NEW MEMBERS (GROWTH)

- Net One New Member by June 30 (Tinsley Challenge)
- Plan a Recruitment Event (e.g., Information Hour)
- Use Club Support Team Help (Jamison Tinsley, Watson Dorn)
- Benefits: New Energy, Ideas, Hands for Service

### RETAIN CURRENT MEMBERS (RETENTION)

- ACTION: Contact Members Not Seen Lately NOW (Don't wait for June)
- Ask What's Needed to Retain Membership
- Explore Alternative Clubs & Membership Options
- Reason: Avoid "June Terminations" (>100 members lost last year)
- Every Rotarian Adds Value: Skills, Expertise, Experience

**FINISH STRONG & CONTINUE THE GREAT WORK! POWER TO THE PEOPLE OF ACTION.**

**DISTRICT 7750**



### AIKEN

Dora Pennington (sponsored by Delta Pennington) is the newest member of the Rotary Club of Aiken. Pictured from left are Jimmy Foley, Dora, Delta, and Club President Keyatta Priester.



### GREER

The Rotary Club of Greer welcomes new member Ken Gebert, center. At left is his sponsor, Jim Nichols. At right is club president Anna Ryan.

**FOLLOW THE LEAD OF AIKEN AND GREER: FIND NEW MEMBERS NOW—AND BE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO TO KEEP THE ONES YOU HAVE! LET'S NOT LOSE 100 MEMBERS IN JUNE!**

**Act now to engage and retain members—**(continued from previous page)

on service, skill expertise, experience, or different ideas. Whatever the value is that a member brings to your club, you will lose if they leave the club.

I strongly encourage you to contact those members that you have not seen for awhile now! Do not wait until the middle of June and give them a call to see if they want to remain in the club. Find out what the club needs to do to retain their membership so that they can

continue to help the club be successful.

If you wait until they have decided to quit Rotary, it is too late. Act now to find out what you need to do to retain all your members.

Don't just accept the time and money issue, dig deeper. There are alternative clubs and membership options that can help people retain the gift of Rotary and provide support to your club.

But if you wait until the end of

June, it may be too late.

Remember, it's not about the numbers. It is all about the value each Rotarian in the club brings to your club, and about the value that Rotary brings to them. Let's all work to bring the value and gift of Rotary to each and every member of our club.

We have had a great year so far. I have been overwhelmed by all the great work each of the clubs in our district is doing. Let's finish strong and continue the great work of Rotary.



Rotarian Traci Kennedy, Executive Director of Total Ministries in Spartanburg

## In Spartanburg ROTARY HAS HEART Ball raises \$30,000 and honors Citizen of the Year

**BY SCOTT GIROUARD**

*Rotary Foundation Chair, Rotary Club of Spartanburg*

The Spartanburg Rotary Club hosted the annual Rotary has Heart Ball on February 24th. We honored our Citizen of the Year Darwin Simpson and celebrated the organizations who were benefiting from the evening's proceeds.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors and attendees, Total Ministries of Spartanburg County, Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas, and The Rotary Foundation will each receive an equal share of over \$30,000 that will be the net proceeds of the event.

Thanks again to all who attended, planned, and put so much work into the evening!



↑McCall Morehead, Bill Bean, Darwin Simpson, and Jim Shaw. Darwin is holding the Paul Harris Award Certificate from the late Don Bain who originally brought Darwin into the Spartanburg Rotary Club. Darwin also received Don Bain's Paul Harris Medal.

### SERVICE TO YOUTH

## Greater Anderson co-sponsoring event to help kids

The Rotary Club of Greater Anderson is a sponsor, along with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Upstate, of the 6th Annual Feast for Kids' Sake – Make a Difference in a Child's Life!

The event will raise money to provide children with caring, consistent mentors who guide them toward reaching their full potential.

You can participate in the online auction April 14-21 and/or attend Chef's Dinner and Wine Tastings at various locations. [Details here.](#)

6th Annual  
**FEAST FOR KID'S SAKE**  
All Things Food & Drink Auction

**START**  
Bidding opens on  
Tuesday, April 14  
7:30 PM

**FINISH**  
Bidding closes on  
Tuesday, April 21  
7:30 PM

**Bid on Gift Cards to Local...**

- Restaurants
- Bakeries
- Wineries
- Coffee shops
- Meal prep services
- Hotel stays with breakfast



**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.



This is it! The final PI Challenge task for the year. Many Rotary and Rotaract clubs are already doing a great job in creating a positive Public Image in their communities. The EPIC Award recognizes these clubs for their efforts.

For the April task, please share a little feedback, as well as the names of your club's Incoming Club Public Image Chair, Secretary and President. We want to make sure we continue to maintain contact with your club and provide your club leaders with support.

Task deadline date is April 30, 2026.

**Rotary**  
Zones 33/34

## PUBLIC IMAGE BOOT CAMP

PREPARE FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2026-27 ROTARY YEAR!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 28 | 6PM EDT**

Register at [RotaryZones3334.org](https://RotaryZones3334.org)

### ROTARY REVOLUTION VIDEO

Dave mentioned the Rotary Revolution rap video in his column. [See how that video](#) was created with AI tools and how clubs can use customizable templates to share Rotary's story creatively.

➔ Putting photos and brief information like this on Facebook or other social media is a simple way to let others know what YOUR club is doing in and for YOUR community.

### GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE SUPPORTS ADAPTIVE GOLF

Carolina Adaptive Golf is an organization whose clinics deliver adaptive golf therapy to veterans, youth & adults with unique abilities. In the photo Steve Epps, right, presents a check for \$750 to Executive Director Brandon Worley.



## NEWS FROM PLEASANTBURG



Pleasantburg Rotary's membership boasts some terrific creative talent. New member Cary Doyle (second from left) and his South Carolina Experimental Theater Initiative ensemble's production of Medea won Best of Fringe at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee earlier this month. Photo: Cary Doyle and SCETI.

### FOCUS ON WATER

In keeping with Rotary International's designation of March as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene month, the Pleasantburg Club hosted Deb Sofield, the first woman elected and appointed to the Greenville Water Commission, as guest speaker.



Deb Sofield



### PLEASANTBURG OUTFITS THE SOCCER TEAM

Cherrydale Elementary School's soccer team, the Panthers, shows off new gear provided by members of the Pleasantburg Rotary Club. Club members outfitted every child wishing to participate in this after school activity.

## From Classrooms to Communities: E-Club Service Highlights

This spring, Rotary E-Club of the Carolinas has been actively engaged in meaningful projects that reflect our commitment to education, community, and environmental stewardship. On March 4, the club partnered with McCormick Elementary School to bring the Josh the Otter Water Safety Project to more than 220 students. Each student received a free book and materials and left with life-saving knowledge they can carry with them and share with others. Plus, they got a visit from Josh. —Julie Tovey



### ↑ JOSH THE OTTER IN McCORMICK

E-Club members with Josh the Otter in McCormick: Franca Meloncelli, Alberto Meloncelli, Millie Roux, Josh, Dann Dunn, ADG Julia Larson.



Dann Dunn and Alberto Meloncelli.

### ← ACTS OF GREEN BY MEMBERS (WHEREVER THEY ARE)

Continuing its commitment to the environment, the E-club has launched its annual Acts of Green Remote Service Project, running from March 22 through April 22, culminating on Earth Day. This initiative empowers our members and all Rotarians to take simple, everyday actions in their own communities while inspiring others to do the same. Through small individual actions like using refillable water bottles, recycling, and reducing waste we demonstrate how we can positively impact the world around us, reinforcing that service has no boundaries.

## ROTARY CLUB OF AIKEN



SERVICE TO YOUTH

The Rotary Club of Aiken partnered with United Way of Aiken County to kick off Read Across America month by reading to all three kindergarten classes at JD Lever School. Can you find president Keyatta Priester among the kindergarten students?

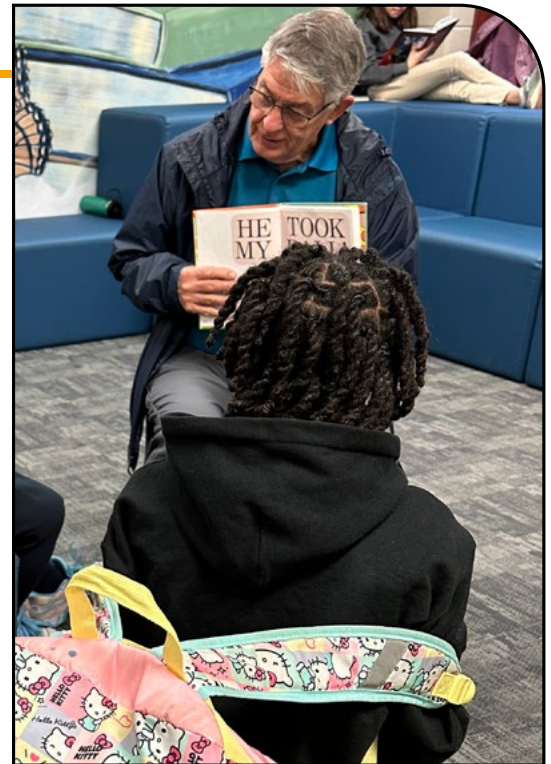
➔ Golden Strip Sunrise member Steve Epps reads to students at Lead Academy.

## Golden Strip Sunrise (GSS) members read to students

Eight Rotarians from the Golden Strip Sunrise Club have volunteered in a literacy program for local schools. The program was started by Kat Arnold, who has a background in special education, including experience as a teaching assistant and substitute teacher in middle and high school settings.

Volunteers include Steve Epps, Sam Stamps, Dee Vaughn, Melinda Gilreath, Jim Caprell, Angie Gruenemeier, Randy Gordon, and Erica Peden.

Members read with students both individually and in group settings at Bells Crossing Elementary, Bryson Elementary, Plain Elementary as well as the LEAD Academy.



### GSS MEMBERS HELPING AT A BASEBALL GAME

One of the ways Golden Strip Sunrise supports Fountain Inn High School is working the concession stand at baseball games. Pictured here are Melinda Gilreath, Dee Vaughan and Kat Arnold at a recent game.



### GSS GIVES \$1,000 TO SUPPORT BACKPACK FOOD BAGS

Golden Strip Sunrise Club presented a check for \$1,000 to Henry Pickard, Director of Backpack Blessings. Backpack Blessings is dedicated to supplying supplemental weekend food bags to children in the Upstate of South Carolina who may be at risk of hunger. Pictured: Henry Pickard and Rotarian Sam Gault.



Inbound students from only three Rotary districts, all in Yucatan, Mexico. Wade: "Our district's students deserve this opportunity."

## Immediate dilemma: Two outbounds will not be able to go without reciprocal inbound host clubs

BY WADE CLEVELAND

Chair, 7750 Youth Exchange

Of the five outstanding students who applied for the 2026–27 Rotary Youth Exchange program, two come from families whose individual situations render them unable to host an inbound exchange student. I base this conclusion on my own personal conversations with both families.

This creates a critical challenge.

**If no clubs in District 7750 step forward to host an inbound student, these two deserving young people will not be able to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange** — and their opportunity to experience this life-changing opportunity will be lost.

Given Rotary's deep commitment to youth development, leadership, and international understanding, we have a responsibility to act.

### WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

For these students to move forward, we need **two**

**clubs** to commit to hosting **one inbound student each**.

Hosting is not a burden—it is a **club project**, just like any other:

First, a club commits to the value and impact of the effort.

Then, members step up to champion and lead the project.

Result: With planning and shared support, success follows.

This is Rotary in action—supporting young leaders, building global connections, and living out our mission.

### WHY IT MATTERS

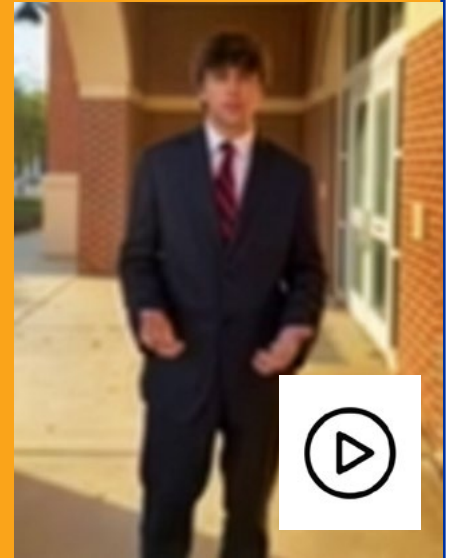
Rotary Youth Exchange students don't just travel — they serve as our ambassadors of goodwill, leadership, and cultural understanding. These

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**OUTBOUND  
YOUTH  
EXCHANGE:**  
Hanna and  
Bryce want to  
go as global  
ambassadors  
but...



Hanna Threfall



Bryce Wilson

...they can't without two clubs stepping up to host

THEY'VE EACH MADE A ONE-MINUTE VIDEO TELLING US WHY THEY WANT TO BE YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS. CLICK ON EACH ONE TO LISTEN AND RESPOND IF YOU CAN.



## Youth Exchange need—

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students represent the very best of what Rotary stands for.

We cannot allow a lack of host clubs to stand in the way of these student's future.

### How You Can Help

We are asking your club to:

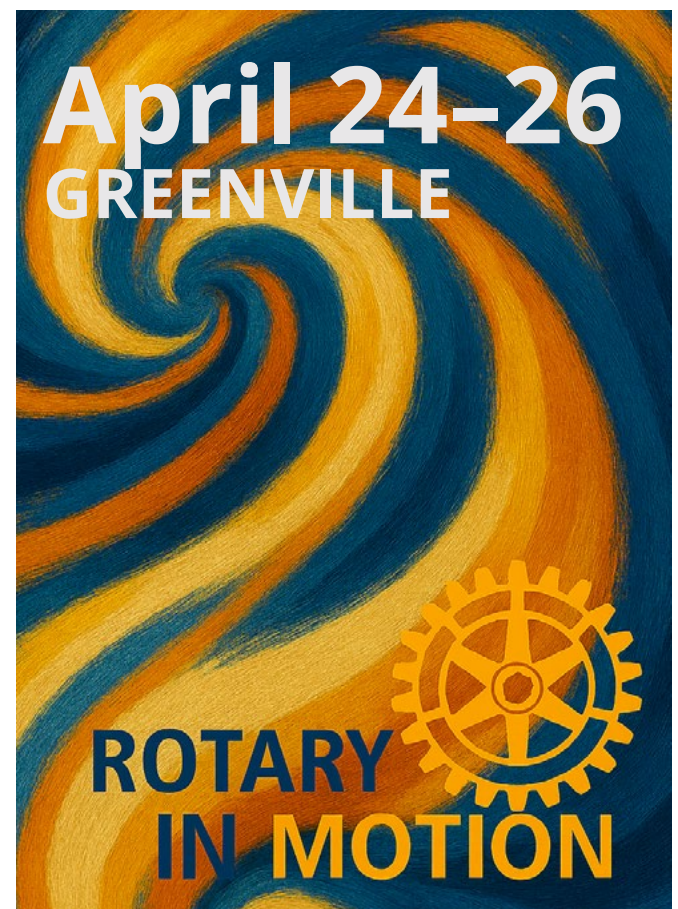
Commit to hosting an inbound student

- Identify a member (or members) willing to champion the effort.
- Enjoy the immeasurable pleasure and satisfaction of adding a foreign student to your club next year.
- Support is available every step of the way. With guidance, structure, and shared responsibility, hosting is absolutely achievable.

I am ready to work directly with any club, board, or individual willing to step forward and make this happen.

Together, we can ensure these students have the opportunity they've earned—and continue Rotary's legacy of investing in the next generation of leaders.

**LET'S NOT MISS THIS MOMENT. YOUR CLUB'S LEADERSHIP CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.**



April 24–26  
GREENVILLE

ROTARY  
IN MOTION

**REGISTER FOR THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE NOW!**



## INCOMING CLUB LEADERS ENJOY FELLOWSHIP AT PETS

Building relationships at the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) is one of the most valuable parts of preparing for a Rotary year of service. Leaders come together not just to learn, but to connect, collaborate, and strengthen the shared commitment to Service Above Self.

In the forefront are Rotarians from Area 8: Doug Rickert, the Rotary Club of Batesburg-Leesville; King Laurence, Christa Evans, Rasheem Neloms from Aiken Sunrise and Charles Rudnick, Aiken. Conversations like these build friendships, spark new ideas, and remind us that Rotary's greatest impact starts with strong relationships among those who serve. Together, we learn better, lead better, and serve our communities better.



Mary-Langston  
Willis Don



Erica Peden

Two associated with the Golden Strip Sunrise Club

## 25 leaders under 40 recognized in Fountain Inn

The city of Fountain Inn recognized 25 individuals under 40 as exceptional leaders in the community. Two people associated with the Golden Strip Sunrise Club were included in this year's distinctive group. Erica Peden, one of the newest members of Golden Strip, and Mary-Langston Willis Don from the Miriam Foundation were selected to receive this recognition.—*Rebecca Miller*

## 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

**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

SERVICE TO **YOUTH**

**JUNE 14-19**  
**RYLA**

### LINKS TO MORE RYLA INFO

Fact Sheet

Club Participation Form

High School Recommendation Form

Letter to Presidents

## APRIL SHOWERS

CAN'T DAMPEN OUR SERVICE

April showers may dim the day,  
But **Rotary** hearts still light the way.  
Rain-slick streets can't slow our stride,  
**Service** moves with steady pride.  
From local needs to distant lands,  
We lift up lives with willing hands.  
Storms may come, but **hope stays clear**—  
Rotary's work blooms **through the year**.

**Rotary**



# PROTECTING OUR PLANET:

## Rotary's Commitment to the Environment

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

April is Environment month in the Rotary world. The environment became Rotary's seventh area of focus in 2020, recognizing that sustainable change requires both immediate action and long-term commitment.

I know many Rotarians in our district were excited, as I was, when Rotary took the step to add the Environment as the seventh area of focus. Environmental degradation affects everything from public health to economic stability, and Rotary members are uniquely positioned to respond through service, leadership, and collaboration.

In communities across the globe, members of Rotary International are taking action to protect our environment—one of the most pressing challenges of our time. From clean water initiatives to conservation projects, Rotary clubs are demonstrating that local action can create global impact.

And across our district, clubs are embracing this call to action in meaningful ways. Tree planting projects are restoring natural habitats and improving air quality. Community clean-up efforts are reducing pollution in parks, waterways, and neighborhoods. Educational programs are raising awareness about recycling, conservation, and responsible resource use—especially among younger generations. To highlight just one of the many projects across our district, the Rotary Club of Lake Wylie in partnership with the Clover High School has initiated a hydroponic vegetable garden project. Members

of Lake Wylie and Clover High School will be highlighting this project at our All Clubs Conference on Saturday, April 25. Just another great reason to attend the district's All Clubs Conference.

We are working to improve the environmental benefits of our communities in many ways. Water stewardship remains a cornerstone of Rotary's environmental work. Protecting watersheds, reducing plastic waste, and supporting clean water initiatives not only safeguard ecosystems but also improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations. These efforts often intersect with Rotary's work in disease prevention and economic development, highlighting the interconnected nature of our mission.

As we look ahead, every Rotarian has a role to play. Whether it's reducing personal environmental footprints, supporting club initiatives, or advocating for sustainable practices in our communities, small actions can lead to significant change.

Together, we can honor Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self" by protecting the planet we all share. By investing in our environment today, we ensure a healthier, more sustainable world for generations to come.

If your club is interested in ideas for an environmental project contact PDG Rob Hanley at [rhanley@trccompanies.com](mailto:rhanley@trccompanies.com). Rob will be excited to help you develop a project for your community.

Let's unite for good—and for green.



In communities across the globe, **ROTARIANS** are **taking action** to protect our environment—one of the most pressing challenges of our time. From clean water initiatives to conservation projects, Rotary clubs are demonstrating that **LOCAL ACTION** can create **GLOBAL IMPACT**.

news from Seneca Golden Corner



### GOLDEN CORNER BUILDING BEDS FOR YOUTH

The Golden Corner Rotary Club presented a check to Sleep in Heavenly Peace to help them build and present beds to the youth of the Oconee County area. The organization built and donated more than 530 beds last year. Pictured from left are Golden Corner Rotary Club president Steve Rushton, Kaitlyn Turner and Scott Turner.



### YMCA EXPANSIONS IN SENECA

Pam Holladay, business and finance executive with the Foothills Area YMCA, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club about expansions at the Y's Cottingham campus near Prisma's Oconee Memorial Hospital. She said the Y is about community development and support and also offers childcare and youth programs.



### BACK AT CLEMSON

Brad Glenn, left, a native of Seneca and graduate of Clemson University, has returned home and joined the coaching staff of Dabo Sweeney and the Clemson Tigers working with tight ends and player development. Speaking to Golden Corner, Brad highlighted his coaching career that includes stops at the University of Cincinnati, Virginia Tech, Georgia State, Western Carolina and Appalachian State. Pictured with him is Rotarian Louis Holleman.

## York supplements food supplies for residents in need

The Rotary Club of York undertook a project to help supplement food supplies of local residents in need during the winter months, when their resources might be limited following the holiday season. Bags of groceries were delivered to approximately 40 families.



↑ York Rotary members assembling bags of food for residents of the York Housing Authority.



**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**  
 John Lindsay  
 Louise Mellon  
 Keyatta Priester  
 Frank Sawyer  
 Vanessa Steiner  
 Lisa Van Pelt-Diller  
*(not all are pictured)*

**AIKEN'S COMPASSION COMMITTEE**

The Rotary Club of Aiken's Compassion Committee was established to help club members in need. Whether a member needs a connection to resources, or knows a fellow Rotarian affected by illness or is facing a difficult time, the committee is there to help and support. Their motto: Together, we're stronger.



**NEW FIVE FORKS SATELLITE CLUB JUMPS RIGHT INTO SERVICE**

Jumping right into service projects, the new Golden Strip/Five Forks Satellite Club gathered on March 16 to put together pet food bags for the Center for Community Service's food pantry. Pictured: Denise Lowry, Lindsey Sill.



**NEW MEMBER AT EMERALD CITY**

April Timms, center, is the newest member of the Rotary Club of Emerald City in Greenwood. Her sponsors are club president Glenda Corley, left, and PDG Lorraine Angelino.

## New Members in February

Bronson, Kevin	Westminster	Langford, William L.	York
Brown, Neal F.	Walhalla	Luckadoo , Ted IV	Newberry
Byrne, Robert T.	Aiken	Luis, Jose	Indian Land
Canupp, Patti	Laurens	Martin, Andrew	Indian Land
Coleman, Daniel	Union	Mattingly, Lindsay	Indian Land
Cox, William	Greater Anderson	McAda, Sara	Greenville
Crawford, Scott	Westminster	McCray, Jason	Lancaster
Das, Sreemoy	Greenville	McNamee, David	Clemson
Davis, Sunny	Anderson	Milby, Bethany	Greater Anderson
Fisher, Fyke	Fountain Inn	Monroe, Kellan Lee	Spartanburg
Ford, Logan	Aiken	Nielsen, Rob	Greenville
Gaddy, Henry	Greater Anderson	Parker, Richard B	Indian Land
Gilbert-Hayes, Victoria	Indian Land	Parsley, Jennifer	Indian Land
Hart, Natalie Norris	Travelers Rest	Reaves, Lynn	Laurens
Hazelton, Terri H	Indian Land	Shook, Bailey E.	Greer
Holbrook, Beverly D.	Blacksburg	Solomon, Elizabeth	Greenville
Holbrook, Flint K	Blacksburg	Thomas, Ashley	Aiken
Hunt, James D Jr.	Spartanburg	Turner, Michael	Simpsonville
Jensen, Andria L	Golden Strip Sunrise	Ward, Lacie	Walhalla
Jensen, Jeff	Golden Strip Sunrise	Winterberg, Cheri	Lake Wylie
Kukelski, Colby	Aiken	Wright, Tomeiko	Lancaster
Kyker, Michelle T.	Greater Anderson		

**FEBRUARY 2026: 43 NEW MEMBERS —22 TERMINATED MEMBERS (4 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.**

What's this about? Look for more in next month's newsletter.



**HAS LED TO**



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

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

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