

JUNE

Rotary Fellowships

JULY

Maternal and Child Health

AUGUST

Membership and New Club Development

DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVID J. BRENNER
Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

7750

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



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June is usually a rough month for membership

Let's change that

BY DG DAVID BRENNER

As anybody who tracks membership knows, June can be a rough month for our Grow Rotary Initiative as clubs prepare for the July invoices. Last year June beat us badly as we lost over 100 valuable members across our district. We didn't just lose Rotarians, we lost the value that each of them brought to our Rotary Clubs, and they lost the opportunity to benefit from helping people through Rotary. Our challenge this year is to not let that happen again. Our rallying cry for Growing Rotary must be "BEAT JUNE"!

So, how do we BEAT JUNE? First of all, we continue the great work that you are doing to bring in new members. The Rotary clubs in our district have recruited over 360 new members this year. Congratulations for a great job of recruiting new members. Let's not quit now though. We still have the month of June to bring in even more new members. New members bring new ideas, more people to do the good work in our communities, more new leaders, and add to the enthusiasm and fun we have in our clubs. By recruiting new members in June we establish momentum to continue the progress that you have made in Growing Rotary this year into the next Rotary Year.

Of course, the other challenge is to retain our current members. Every member contributes in some way to the success of our club. Maybe it is a skill set, or project support, or leadership, or enthusiasm, or

ideas, or cheerleading. Whatever the value is that they bring to your club, you lose it when a member leaves your club. Rotarians join a club, not Rotary, and likewise they leave a club, not Rotary.

Our clubs need to bring value to each and every member. Reach out to your fellow Rotarians and make sure that your club is bringing value to them. If not, find out what can be done to help. Life happens and maybe another type of membership, like a service membership, or another club that meets at a different time meets their current situation better.

Vibrancy, and fun are necessary ingredients to retaining our members, as well as recruiting new members. As I read in the May 2026 Rotary magazine article Connect For Good "service is our foundation, but fun and fellowship are the glue."

You'll notice at the bottom of emails from me it states "Be a Vibrant Club, Grow Rotary Through Fun, Fellowship, and Service."

Those of you who attended last year's conference in Columbia heard a strong message from our keynote speaker, Justin Brown. His message was "Just Finish It" (a play on Nike's Just Do It ad) You can "Just Finish It" in your club by meeting or exceeding the challenge laid out by District Membership Chair Jamison to end the year with a net + 1 in membership.

So let's make sure we do that by finishing strong and **BEAT JUNE!!**





District 7750 Awards & Installation Picnic

Register Now!

Whether you stay for the full day or join us for the awards, we'd love to celebrate another great Rotary year together.

July 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Greer City Park & Events Center

This year's District 7750 **Awards & Installation event will be a picnic!** DG Dave and DGE Eric wanted to bring a different, more relaxed format to what has traditionally been a fairly formal evening event. We will celebrate outdoors with a family-friendly summer picnic at Greer City Park on Saturday, July 11. Come early for fellowship, food trucks, yard games, inflatables, and fun around the park before we gather indoors for the Awards & Installation program.

- Picnic festivities begin at 10:00 AM
- Food trucks & bar open at 11:00 AM
- Awards & Installation begin at 1:30 PM

Registration is now open, and we encourage you to reserve your spot soon! Check your Wednesday emails for a link and more details! P.S. There's still time for clubs or businesses to participate as event sponsors! Sponsorships are a great way to support the event while recognizing your club's commitment across the district. For sponsorship information, contact Autumn Smith at aut.m.smith12@gmail.com.

Registration is open! Go to DaCdb or check your email for links.

Make Foundation donations by June 15

The end of the 2025-26 Rotary year is almost here, and it is critically important to turn in your Club's donations to The Rotary Foundation. Rotary International asks that all donations are mailed no later than June 15 but preferably earlier.

We've still got to make up some ground this year with our donations to Annual Fund – SHARE, and there's a good chance that some of that money is sitting in a Rotary Club's bank account.

Please act immediately. With each donation, you are "Doing Good in the World" and changing the lives of countless people.

Donations mailed after June 15 may not make it through our slow mail system on time. Also, if you are making donations online or by phone, please do not wait until June 29 or 30 to try to make the donation. The last-minute volume of traffic is terrible, and it is often not possible to make the donation during the

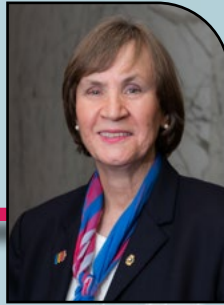
How to send donations to The Rotary Foundation:

By Check: The Rotary Foundation
14280 Collections Center Drive
Chicago, IL 60693, USA

Online: [ROTARY.ORG](https://my.rotary.org/en/donate) -- <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> and make sure you sign in.

By Telephone: 866-976-8279, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST

Need help? Contact District Rotary Foundation Chair Beth Padgett at bpadgettroary@outlook.com. And on a personal note, thank you for all you've done for The Rotary Foundation over the past five years as I have served as DRFC. Through our combined giving, and service, we have done so much good in the world.



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

last couple days of the Rotary year.

Also, please make sure that donations go to Annual Fund -SHARE. This is the Rotary Foundation fund that brings 50% of the donations back to our Rotary District. Up to half of that money can be used for District Grants, and the other half can be used for our Global Grants.

On May 24, our District raised \$409,167 for the Foundation's Annual Fund. We also had raised \$169,449 for PolioPlus.

If mailing a donation, make sure you use the correct address, and that you include your Rotary Member ID Number, and Club and District numbers for each donation. Otherwise, the donation will be treated as an anonymous gift. If you sign into Rotary.org using your email address and password, that means you

have signed in associated with your Member ID. Also, do not mail a donation that needs a receipt. Donations go to a secure collection box, and those donations then are counted at another site. There is not a person involved who can sign a receipt.



NEW PHF AT GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE

Congratulations to Paul Gawel, Golden Strip Sunrise Club's newest Paul Harris Fellow! Pictured with him is club president Melinda Gilreath. It's not too late to make another Foundation gift for 2025-26!

FYI: Beth is completing her three-year term as Foundation chair on June 30. PDG Joyce Morin, Rotary Club of Lancaster, will take over as chair on July 1. **Thank you, Beth, for your service.**

Take Dave's advice and BEAT JUNE: Keep your membership numbers stable; avoid drop-outs

Keeping Rotary members engaged throughout the entire Rotary year is essential because disengagement almost always shows up quietly before it shows up as a June dropout. When members feel connected, useful, and seen, they stay. When they don't, the end of the Rotary year becomes a natural exit point. The core truth is simple: retention is built month by month, not in the final weeks.

Strong engagement starts with meaningful involvement. New and longtime members alike need clear pathways to contribute. Giving someone a small but visible role—such as coordinating a service table, greeting at meetings, or managing a micro-project—creates ownership. People stay where they feel responsible and needed.

Connection is equally important. Clubs that intentionally build friendships retain more members. Regular social gatherings, interest-based meetups, and cross-club fellowship events help members form bonds beyond the weekly meeting. When members have Rotary friends, they don't drift away.

Recognition also matters. Publicly celebrating milestones—service hours, project leadership, or years of membership—reinforces that each person's contribution is valued. Even a short spotlight during a meeting or a feature in the club newsletter can make a member feel seen.

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



What keeps members connected?

MEANINGFUL ROLES — Give members small, manageable responsibilities: greeting, coordinating a speaker, leading a one-day project. Ownership builds belonging.

HANDS-ON SERVICE — Monthly opportunities—packing food, reading to students, trail cleanups—help members feel Rotary, not just attend Rotary.

PERSONAL CHECK-INS — A quick call or coffee with someone who's been absent can reconnect them before they fade away.

INTEREST-BASED FELLOWSHIP — Walking groups, book clubs, wine nights, or vocational tours help friendships form naturally.

RECOGNITION AND VISIBILITY — Celebrate service milestones, spotlight members in newsletters, and acknowledge contributions publicly.

← **Membership Recruitment Tip: Rip off and duplicate this idea from Greenville Breakfast: Invite potential members to events like this.**

Greenville Breakfast combines club fellowship, membership development, fundraising

The Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast had two fellowship socials recently that included potential new members. The events were hosted by Fireforge Crafted Beer and SIP Wine Bar in Greenville. Beyond the fun, this event directly fuels the club's ability to perform "Service Above Self." The proceeds raised will go toward supporting local Greenville charities and ongoing service projects, like our recent work at the Trailhead Community Farm School. —Mary Kedrowski

FROM INSPIRATION TO IMPACT: “Dining Around Indian Land” makes its debut

BY YOLANDA BRYAN-ADAMS

Rotary Club of Indian Land

Vice President - Professional Development Program division

There’s a powerful idea circulating across Rotary clubs and it’s gaining momentum: **R&D – Rip and Duplicate**. Encouraged by Rotary International Director Patrick Eakes, this philosophy challenges clubs to adopt and replicate successful programs that are already making a difference.

The Rotary Club of Indian Land has embraced this call to action, and the result is an exciting new community event set to debut in August: **Dining Around Indian Land**.

Inspired by Success

The vision for this event stems from the tremendous success of the Rotary Club of Greer and its flagship fundraiser, *Dining Around Greer*.

Launched in March 2024, Dining Around Greer has quickly become a signature event that brings together the community through food, fellowship, and philanthropy. Guests enjoy an engaging afternoon sampling dishes from nearly 30 local restaurants, voting on their favorites, and experiencing:

- Friendly competition among vendors
- Guest judges awarding “Best Presentation”
- Raffles, door prizes, and entertainment
- A vibrant, high-energy community atmosphere

Most importantly, the event generates meaningful funds that support impactful service projects both locally and beyond.

Learning Firsthand

Rather than simply reading about the success, members of the Rotary Club of Indian Land took action. Several Rotarians attended a Dining Around Greer event to experience it firsthand—observing every detail, engaging with organizers, and identifying best practices to bring back home.

This hands-on approach reflects Rotary at its best: collaboration, shared learning, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Bringing the Vision to Indian Land

Now, that inspiration is becoming reality.

**R&D IN ACTION: Not research and development but
RIP-OFF AND DUPLICATE**



Dining Around Indian Land will showcase top local food vendors, offer attendees a dynamic tasting experience, and create an environment filled with excitement, connection, and purpose. The event is designed to:

- Highlight the best of the local dining scene
- Provide a fun, engaging experience for attendees
- Raise significant funds for scholarships and community service initiatives
- Establish another signature annual fundraising event for Indian Land

With strong planning and community support, the Rotary Club of Indian Land aims not just to replicate success, but to build upon it.

A Model Worth Following

For Rotary clubs searching for a proven, high-impact fundraiser, the message is simple:

You don’t have to start from scratch. Start from success.

Dining Around Greer has demonstrated the potential to generate **\$10,000+** when executed well. Now, Dining Around Indian Land is poised to carry that momentum forward proving that when great ideas are shared, entire communities benefit.

Join the Movement

As August 2026 approaches, excitement continues to build. Whether you’re a food lover, a community supporter, or a local business, Dining Around Indian Land promises to be an event you won’t want to miss. Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Greer for sharing this program! **Because in Rotary, we don’t just create impact—we multiply it.**

Clover Rotary Club's Pancake Supper raises \$3,000 for local scholarships

BY OLYMPIA CASWELL
Rotary Club of Clover

The Rotary Club of Clover hosted a highly successful Pancake Supper on April 21. The evening brought together Rotarians, families, and friends for delicious food, lively conversation, and strong community spirit—all while supporting an important cause.

A sincere thank you goes to the hardworking Rotarians of Clover, our generous sponsors, the outstanding Interact Club volunteers, and the dedicated Chartwell's staff for making the event possible.

We are pleased to report that the supper raised about \$3,000. Every dollar will go to fund scholarships for students in the Clover School District. This year, the club proudly awarded a scholarship to Jillian Elkins, President of the Interact Club.



Clover Interact Club Award Ceremony

These are some of the members of the Interact Club at Clover High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Clover. **JILLIAN ELKINS**, the recipient of the Clover Rotary Club Scholarship, is second from left on the front row. She is the current Interact president.



Above: Yvonne Pierce, Clover High School Interact Adviser, and Michael Schonfeld, Pancake Supper Event Chair. The collage at right shows Rotarians and Interactors having fun, raising money, and celebrating!





Indian Land Rotarians combine fellowship and education on tour of Gallo winery

BY ALBERT BLACKMON

Rotary Club of Indian Land

The Rotary Club of Indian Land traded its traditional Tuesday lunch meeting for a memorable and engaging field trip proving that fellowship and learning don't always have to happen around a lunch meeting table.

Club members boarded two small buses and headed out for a behind-the-scenes visit to the renowned E. & J. Gallo Winery facility. The visit was made possible by Rotarian Crystal Sauer, who graciously opened the doors to her workplace and helped coordinate an exceptional experience for fellow members.



From the moment the tour began, Rotarians were captivated. The sheer scale and efficiency of the operation were nothing short of impressive.

From massive stainless-steel tanks to high-speed packaging lines, the facility showcased a level of precision, cleanliness, and output that left attendees in awe.

As captured beautifully through the lens of Rotarian Bill King, the images tell the story of an immaculate operation producing on a truly staggering scale.

But beyond the visual impact, the visit served a deeper purpose.

This “meeting on the move” highlighted the value of stepping outside the norm. By visiting a local business, members gained insight into an

industry many had never experienced up close. It sparked conversations, strengthened relationships, and reinforced one of Rotary's core principles, connection.

The benefits were mutual. While Rotarians learned about the inner workings of a major operation, the host organization also gained exposure to Rotary's mission and community impact. It's a powerful reminder that these experiences can open doors, not just for learning, but for future membership and partnerships.

So, what's the takeaway?

If you're looking for a creative way to break the monotony of routine meetings, consider taking Rotary on the road. Organize a field trip. Visit a local business. Meet people where they are. And while you're there, extend the invitation. You never know who might be inspired to join a network of leaders committed to service above self.

Fun. Informational. Engaging. And impactful.

That's what Rotary looks like, inside and outside the meeting room.



This winery is in Fort Lawn in Chester County near the Lancaster County line.

Service above self... but bragging rights above everything when the axes came out

The Golden Corner Rotary Club hosted the Rotary clubs in Oconee County for an evening of pizza, snacks and ax throwing at Timber Ridge Ax Throwing. No injuries were reported!



Golden Corner Rotary Club's Charles Dolly tries his hand at axe throwing.



Golden Corner president Steve Rushton and president-elect Cheryl Rushton with Timber Ridge owners Matthew and Mellissa Gooch.



Golden Corner Rotarian Gene Williams celebrates a bullseye at Timber Ridge Axe Throwing.

It's a good thing these Rotarians were NOT on the winery tour with the Indian Land club before this fellowship event!

Pleasantburg at work

Shirts and Skins clean up Stone Avenue

Pleasantburg Rotarians split into teams of Shirts and Skins to clean up Stone Avenue in Greenville before enjoying lunch together at the Universal Joint. Left to right: Sam Doyle, Keaton Postler, Eric Baker, Tracy Tiddy, Linda Lee, Henry Dupre, Kathy Sharp, Barry Kimbrough, and behind the camera, Larry Lee.





Packing hygiene kits

The Golden Corner Rotary Club assembled hygiene kits for area homeless. The kits, for men and women, were presented to Our Daily Rest shelter in Seneca.

Pictured, front to back:

- Don Estep
- Steve Grave, Cheryl Rushton
- Beth Brown
- Gene Williams
- Susie Graves
- Cammie Kaiser
- Steve Rushton
- Steve Moore
- Patrick Lee
- Lorraine Harding

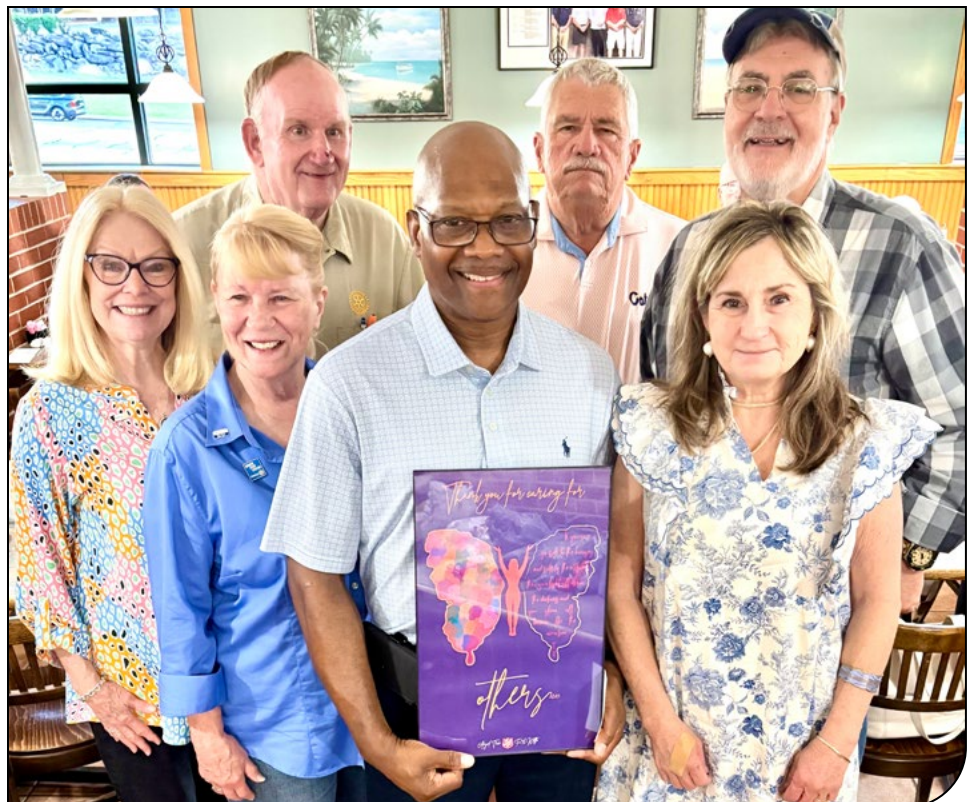
↑ ↓ NEWS FROM SENECA GOLDEN CORNER

BELATED THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS KETTLE BELL-RINGING

The Golden Corner Rotary Club received a belated but much appreciated "Thank-You" card from the Salvation Army for participating in the Army's annual Christmas Kettle Bell-Ringing fundraiser.

Pictured from left, front: Susie Graves, Cheryl Rushton, Gene Williams and Beth Brown

Back, from left: Club president Steve Rushton, Louis Holleman, ADG Steve Graves



NEWS FROM SENECA GOLDEN CORNER



↑ WALHALLA ROTARIAN SPEAKS TO GOLDEN CORNER

Amber Crain, right, Foundation Chair for the Walhalla Rotary Club spoke to the Golden Corner Rotary Club about the foundation's work with such international projects as eradication of Polio and providing clean drinking water. The foundation also provides grants to local Rotary Clubs. With Amber is president-elect Cheryl Rushton.



← SCHOOL DISTRICT UPDATE

Andy Smith, left, superintendent of the School District of Oconee County, updated Golden Corner about the district's more than 10,200 students and 17 schools. Smith is a 30-year veteran of education including serving as the assistant superintendent of Secondary Instruction for Oconee County and in the Gwinnett County, Ga., district. Also pictured is Rotarian Steve Moore.

→ SC WORKS

Stephanie Blake, right, Workforce Consultant with SC Works, updated the Golden Corner Rotary Club on efforts to employ those who may have barriers to finding jobs. Blake's work often deals with charities and service organizations. Pictured with Blake are Rotarian Cheryl Rushton and Club President Steve Rushton.



SERVICE TO YOUTH

PLEASANTBURG IS PROUD OF ITS CHERRYDALE PANTHERS

The Cherrydale Panthers, outfitted by the Pleasantburg Rotary Club, won the 2026 Greenville County Schools Elementary Soccer Club Championships.

A fresh Rotary year begins July 1, so energize your club now: strengthen membership engagement, refresh public image efforts, set clear service goals, and inspire members to start strong together. Add focused leadership planning, celebrate wins, and align committees early to build momentum that carries confidently into July.

Last year's RYLA strengthened this year's Interact

BY BRIAN ENDRES
Youth Services Chair
Rotary Club of Indian Land

When we think about investing for the future, most of us immediately consider retirement plans. Yet, I would argue the same principle applies to building the future of Rotary. The more we invest today in our youth, the greater the return we'll see in the form of passionate, service-minded Rotarians tomorrow.

As the Youth Services Chair for the Rotary Club of Indian Land, my goal is to ensure we are maximizing our efforts to nurture and empower young leaders. Allow me to share a powerful "domino effect" story that beautifully illustrates how early investments in youth are already shaping Rotary's future.

Meet Zackary Hamilton and Xavier Brunet, two outstanding students from Indian Land High School. Both represented our club as Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) recipients in July 2025 at Erskine College.

During their presentation to our club following the weeklong leadership experience, Zackary and Xavier shared valuable lessons learned about leadership, teamwork, and Rotary's global mission of "Service Above Self." They also gave us a few laughs recounting their initial "adventure" with unexpected dorm challenges which quickly turned into a bonding opportunity with fellow students and RYLA leaders from across South Carolina.

Their enthusiasm was contagious. You could sense the program's impact by the volume and depth of questions our members asked during their presentation. It was one of those moments that reminds us how effective Rotary's youth programs truly are.

Now, here's where the domino effect comes in. Inspired by their RYLA experience, Zackary and Xavier have stepped up as President and Vice



SERVICE TO YOUTH



↑ Brian

↑ Zackary and Xavier used the leadership skills they learned at RYLA last summer to strengthen their Interact Club this year.



President of the Indian Land High School Interact Club. Their energy, optimism, and leadership are truly inspiring. With this level of passion, it's easy to envision them continuing their Rotary journey through college Rotaract and, one day, becoming Rotarians themselves.

Zackary aspires to become an anesthesiologist, while Xavier plans to pursue a career in engineering.

We are incredibly proud of both young men for their commitment to leadership and community service. The Rotary Club of Indian Land celebrates their success and looks forward to seeing how far their dedication, and our collective investment will carry them in the years ahead.



← **Every school year**
 (make sure the high schools in your area have Interact clubs!)

← **2026: June 14-19 at Erskine College**

Dining Around Greer continues to support LOCAL IMPACT

BY CARRIE KRAUSE
Rotary Club of Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer was proud to once again distribute grants made possible through proceeds from our annual Dining Around Greer fundraiser. Thanks to the support of our community, sponsors, restaurants, and attendees, this year's event helped fund five local organizations serving important needs across the Greer area.

Grant recipients included:

**Greer Relief • Greer Community Ministries
 Greer Soup Kitchen • American Cancer Society
 Creative Advancement Centers**

These organizations support a wide range of needs including food insecurity, education, advocacy, wellness, and essential community services.

Through Dining Around Greer, our club is grateful to reinvest directly into programs that make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors.

We are thankful for everyone who helped make this year's event another success and look forward to continuing to serve our community through Rotary.



Greer president Anna Ryan presents a \$1,000 check to Martha Bennett representing Greer Soup Kitchen.



← SOME OF THE RECIPIENTS

- Jeff Farrington—Greer Community Ministries
- Anna Ryan—President
- John Bartlett—Grants Chair
- Dan Dudley—Creative Advancement Center
- Joe Lynch—Greer Relief
- Pam Baldwin—Relay for Life American Cancer Society

➔ These new members will make it possible for the Rotary Club of Greer to do even more community service! Welcome, Greg and Cora.

Two new members inducted at Greer

The Rotary Club of Greer has added two new members recently: Greg Snyder and Cora Newcomb. We are grateful to continue growing our club with individuals who share a passion for service, fellowship, and making a positive impact in our community and beyond. Welcome to Rotary, Greg and Cora!—*Carrie Krause*





GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE Literacy Chair Kat Arnold delivered donated books to Lead Academy, a public charter school in Greenville. Sarah Mitchell, the school's Director of Development, said **all of the books were claimed by the next morning.** The donation reflects Rotary's ongoing commitment to promoting literacy at every level.

Supporting Education: A Rotary Commitment

BY REBECCA MILLER
 Rotary Club of Golden Strip Sunrise

One of the key causes that Rotary prioritizes is supporting education. On May 4, in addition to our cookouts and assisting at the concession stand, the Golden Strip Sunrise Club had the pleasure of hosting the faculty and staff of Fountain Inn High School for a morning of coffee and doughnuts.

➔ Shelly Savage, Fountain Inn High School Principal, with club members Stephanie Smith, Jim Cashion, Kat Arnold, Dee Vaughan, Melinda Gilreath, Becky Miller, Trip Gilreath, Steve Epps, Dave Arnold, Sam Stamps.



June is Fellowships month

Fellowships can lead to friendships

BY DG DAVE BRENNER

June is Rotary Fellowship month in the Rotary world. One of the strengths of Rotary International is the way it connects people across cultures, professions, and passions.

While service projects often bring Rotarians together locally, Rotary Fellowships create opportunities for members around the world to build friendships through shared interests and activities.

So what are Rotary Fellowships? Rotary Fellowships are international groups officially recognized by Rotary that unite people who share a common hobby, profession, recreational interest, or cause. They remind us that Rotary is not only about service — it is also about friendship, connection, and personal growth. The Rotary Vision states that Rotary creates lasting change in ourselves. Rotary Fellowships can help do that by creating friendships around the world based on shared experiences and interests.

There are dozens of Rotary Fellowships covering a wide range of interests. Some focus on recreation and sports, while others center on professional networking, cultural exchange, or humanitarian interests. Membership is open to Rotarians, family members, program participants, and friends of Rotary.

These fellowships help members:

1. Build friendships across the globe
2. Strengthen international understanding
3. Enhance the Rotary experience
4. Encourage collaboration and networking
5. Increase member engagement and retention

Whether you enjoy cycling, wine appreciation, photography, music, flying, genealogy, or scuba diving, there is likely a Rotary Fellowship for you. Rotary Fellowships strengthen the heart of Rotary by deepening personal connections. In today's busy world, meaningful friendships matter more than ever.

Fellowships give members another reason to stay engaged and involved.

For newer members especially, fellowships can provide a welcoming path into the larger world of Rotary. Shared interests often lead to stronger relationships, greater participation, Rotary Fellowships strengthen the heart of Rotary by deepening personal connections.

They also create unique opportunities for collaboration. A Rotarian traveling abroad can often connect instantly with fellowship members in another country, creating an immediate sense of belonging

and hospitality. Many Fellowships will have a booth in the House of Friendship at the International Convention.

Some fellowships organize international conventions, service activities, online discussions, newsletters, and travel opportunities. Many members say these groups have helped them form lifelong friendships beyond their local clubs and districts.

Personally, I am a member of the

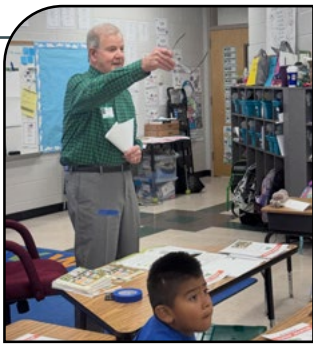
International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians (IFSR). Rotary clubs can recognize Scouters in their club by applying for the Dochterman Award through the IFSR. The Award recognizes Rotarians for their service to Rotary and Scouting. We have many recipients of the Dochterman Award in District 7750. The Award is named after Cliff Dochterman who was a Rotary International President and dedicated Scouter.

To learn more about Rotary Fellowships and the list of Fellowships, visit Rotary International Fellowships at Rotary.org

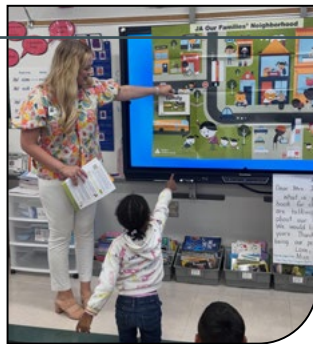


Some of the Rotary Fellowships

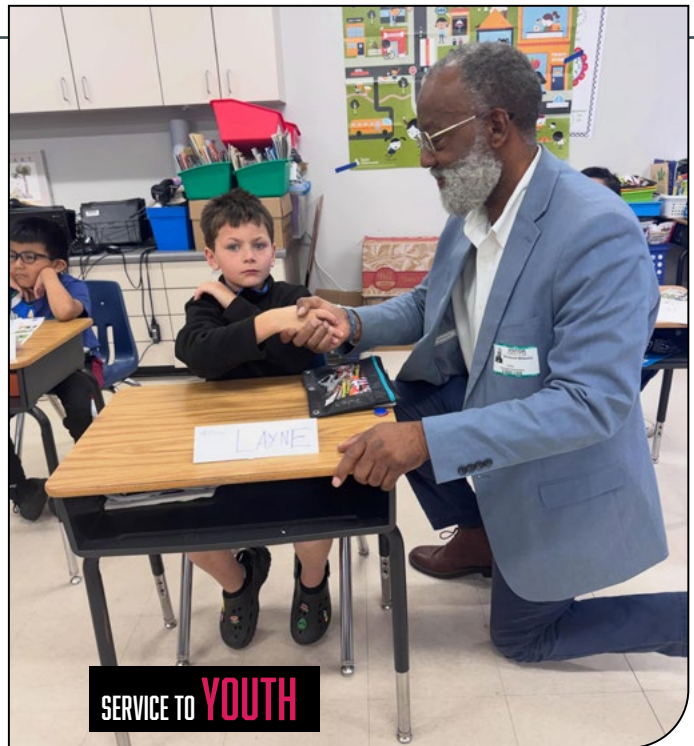
International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians
Rotarian Fellowship of Cycling to Serve
International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians
Rotary Fellowship of Jazz
Rotary Fellowship of Brewers
Rotary Fellowship of Photography
Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals



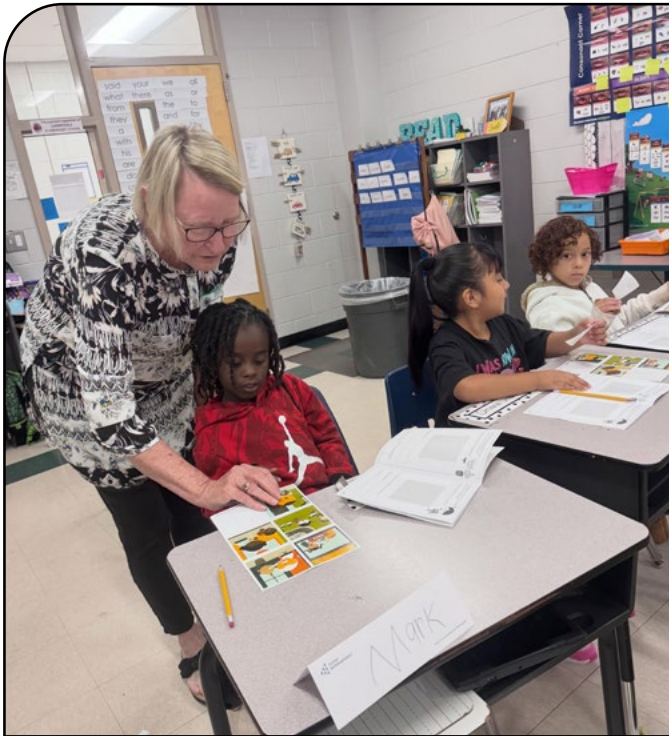
Henry Dupre



Brenda Owen



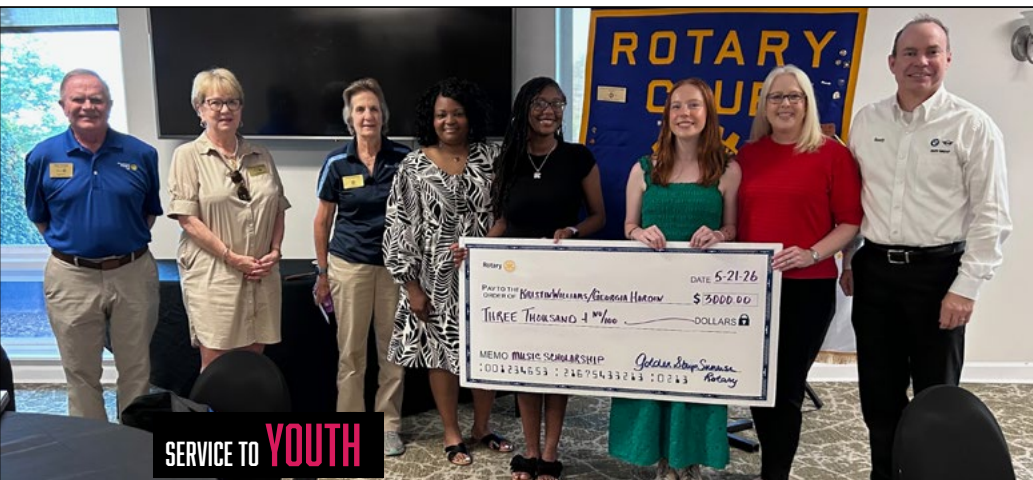
Sherwood Williams



Karoline Ziegler

Pleasantburg Rotarians at Junior Achievement Day

Cherrydale Elementary first graders learned about families, needs vs. wants, and community roles from Pleasantburg Rotary volunteers during JA (Junior Achievement) in a Day.



GOLDEN STRIP SUNRISE ROTARY NIGHT OF SINGING SCHOLARSHIPS

A portion of the funds Golden Strip Sunrise raises from the annual Rotary Night of Singing goes to music scholarships for some deserving seniors. On May 21 the club presented two of these scholarships to Hillcrest seniors Kristin Williams and Georgia Hardin.

Pictured from left: Sam Stamps, Melinda Gilreath, Dee Vaughan, Kristin's godmother, Kristin Williams, Georgia Hardin, and Georgia's parents.

A Triple Crown Success: Derby Fundraiser Recap

BY MARY KEDROWSKI

Rotary Club of Greenville Breakfast

Greenville Breakfast Rotary Club hosted a spectacular Kentucky Derby Fundraiser at Ink N Ivy in May, and the results were a winner for our community. Members and guests enjoyed an afternoon steeped in southern charm, featuring:

- Signature Mint Juleps and a vibrant social atmosphere
- The “Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports” viewed live
- Our highly competitive Best Hat Competition
- Thrilling raffle drawings with prizes from local donors



This event’s success was driven by the generosity of our local business partners:

Fox Rothschild LLP ♦ TD Bank ♦ Street Wealth Management (Bart Street, CFP)
Bank of Travelers Rest ♦ Joe Gobbett, Broker In Charge of Blackstream Commercial Real Estate



From a pile of lumber to a finished shed!

In April, Greenville Breakfast Rotarians headed out to Trailhead Community Farm School to build a brand-new shed for their students.

While we spent the weekend building a new storage shed, the real goal was supporting their mission of hands-on agricultural education. This new space will house the tools students use daily to develop life skills, gain confidence, and connect with nature.—*Mary Kedrowski*

Greenville Breakfast road clean-up

Members of Greenville Breakfast gathered for their quarterly Adopt-A-Highway Wade Hampton Boulevard road clean-up in May. They picked up six bags of litter to help keep Greenville clean and beautiful. According to the 2026 Keep America Beautiful Study litter is on the decline. Our efforts will continue when we do an August clean up.—*Mary Kedrowski*



Anthony Cox, Tom Kedrowski, PDG Tom Faulkner, PDG Rebecca Faulkner, David Brenner and Jim Kenyon.

Rotary Action Group focuses on Girls Empowerment

—EQUALITY AND LEADERSHIP

BY LALE DOGAN

Rotary Club of Pleasantburg

Rotarians are people of action. When we see a need, we design a project, rally our clubs, and get to work. But sometimes, the challenges we want to tackle require specialized knowledge that goes beyond our local club's roster. That is exactly where Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) come in. RAGs are independent, global networks of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and subject-matter experts who share a deep expertise and passion for a specific humanitarian focus.

While there are dozens of incredible RAGs operating worldwide, there is one growing group doing critical work that we all should know about: The Rotary Action Group for Girls' Empowerment (RAG4GE). RAG4GE focuses on improving the quality of life for girls up to age 18 by creating avenues that will allow them equity, equality, and leadership.

Research consistently shows that when you invest in a girl's health, education, and safety, you transform an entire community. Every additional year of school increases a girl's eventual wages by an average of 12%. Because educated girls reinvest up to 90% of their income back into their families (compared to 30–40% for men), closing gender labor gaps has the macroeconomic power to add up to \$28 trillion to the global annual GDP. Research also shows that an educated girl invests in the education of the next two generations by making sure their children and grandchildren are also educated.

As discussed at a recent international broadcast celebrating the International Day of the Girl Child,

four proven program models stand out as success stories:

1. Infrastructure & Safe Boarding (Morocco)



Spearheaded by Dr. Dina Salasi, a partnership between local clubs and the Moroccan Ministry of Education, transforms inadequate spaces into safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments by performing structural overhauls (waterproofing, electricity, plumbing, and safety night-lighting)

while expanding dormitory capacity and sanitation blocks. This systemic change shifted community culture, turning female education into a source of family pride and preventing early dropouts. 14,000 girls and 4,000 boys have benefited from this project since its inception.





2. WASH & Reusable Pad Production (Zimbabwe)


Period poverty forces rural girls to miss up to 60 school days annually. The project, backed by a Global Grant and the collaboration

of a small rural club in Nebraska with the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls, targeted an impact of 9,000 girls across the Hwange district. By training local girls and women to manufacture eco-friendly, reusable pads that last 3 to 6 years, the program completely restored school attendance and academic performance. It also provided invaluable entrepreneurship skills, eliminated toxic plastic waste from disposable products, and is currently expanding into a second Global Grant to provide girl-friendly toilets and clean water infrastructure.

Rotary  **ROTARY GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT** 

— EMPOWERED GIRLS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES. BRIGHTER TOMORROWS. —

 <p>1 INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFE BOARDING (MOROCCO)</p> <p>Rotary builds and renovates safe, inclusive boarding facilities so girls—especially those in rural areas—can live, learn and thrive.</p> <p>MOROCCO</p>	 <p>2 WASH & REUSABLE PAD PRODUCTION (ZIMBABWE)</p> <p>Rotary promotes menstrual health and dignity through WASH education and local reusable pad production—keeping girls in school and empowering communities.</p> <p>ZIMBABWE</p>
 <p>3 FREE CHILD SAFETY & PREVENTION (GLOBAL)</p> <p>Rotary equips girls with life skills, rights awareness and access to child safety education—helping prevent harm and create safer communities worldwide.</p> <p>GLOBAL</p>	 <p>4 LONG-TERM EDUCATIONAL PIPELINES (VIETNAM)</p> <p>Rotary builds long-term pathways—mentorship, scholarships and skills training—so girls can stay in school, transition to careers and lead with confidence.</p> <p>VIETNAM</p>

WHEN GIRLS ARE EMPOWERED, EVERYONE BENEFITS. | **Rotary**  **PEOPLE OF ACTION MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

—continued next page



Alessio.



Hana, Alessio, and Jayla.



DG Dave and Alessio.

MAY WAS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

Pleasantburg celebrates Youth Services Month

Alessio Tossini, Pleasantburg's Youth Exchange student, provides a snapshot of life in his hometown of Naples, Italy, while sharing experiences and reflections from his year in the United States. Alessio is rare among exchange students, as he actually graduated with a high school diploma from Wade Hampton High School in Greenville where he also founded the school's Interact Club. Rarely are

international exchange students in local schools allowed to earn a diploma.

Pleasantburg's outgoing exchange student Hana Threfall of Wade Hampton High School and RYLA 2026 student Jayla McGill of Greenville Tech Charter High School joined Alessio in celebrating Rotary youth programs.

Girls Empowerment continued from previous page

3. Free Child Safety & Prevention (Global)

More than 1 billion children suffer physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and neglect annually, representing roughly 50% of the world's child population. RAG4GE highlights and implements the "My Body Is My Body" program—a free, award-winning musical body safety curriculum that equips parents, educators, and social workers with the tools to teach vital protection rules to children as young as three years old.

In specific target zones, such as South Africa's Limpopo province, the curriculum has successfully reached 80% of the local population through peer educators.

4. Long-Term Educational Pipelines (Vietnam)

In heavily patriarchal Vietnam, girls face intense cultural pressure to drop out by the 6th grade to manage domestic chores, leaving older adolescent girls (ages 16–18) highly vulnerable to human trafficking rings that exploit their limited options. Local clubs establish long-term educational pipelines providing tuition, books, uniforms, desks, lamps, and bicycles to keep disadvantaged girls in school continuously from middle school through university graduation.

This initiative has raised over \$400,000 over 13 years. It currently supports a cohort of 250 to 280 direct students annually, with a long-term goal of scaling

to 1,000 girls. In 2024 alone, 280 students received direct financial support while 747 others gained essential life skills. Strikingly, graduated alumni are now paying it forward by joining Children of Vietnam staff and establishing the country's third chartered Rotary Club.

Learn more about this and other RAGs' initiatives, access specialized toolkits, and find out how your club can partner with global experts by visiting the official RAGs website: <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-action-groups>, Girls Empowerment Rotary Action Group: <https://girlsempowermentrag.org> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B_DOLRMK6o.



Happy to Complete Orientation; Sad Not To Be Meeting Again
(L to R: Soloman Pardue, Claire Laurence, Hana Threlfall, Wade Cleveland, Chloe Bui, Bryce Wilson).

rotary
youth
exchange

2026-27 outbound exchange students complete orientation

Our five 2026-27 outbound exchange students completed their orientation sessions over the weekend of May 16-17. This spring we had six separate sessions of about three hours each. That's over eighteen hours of discussions and preparation for their time abroad!

Wondering what we did for that many hours? Topics covered included:

- ▶ Rotary and the Rotary Foundation
- ▶ Qualities of a Good Exchange Student
- ▶ Being an Ambassador
- ▶ Culture, Culture Shock, and How to Handle It
- ▶ The "Do's" (Tips for Making the Most of the Experience) and the "Don'ts" (RYE rules)
- ▶ Staying Safe, Avoiding Problems, and Solving Problems

In addition, every session included a discussion of current events in the US and the world, encouragement and tips for language learning, discussions of the US (geography, government, culture, etc.), and lots of review. We have an outstanding group of very prepared students representing District 7750. They will make us proud.—*Youth Exchange Chair and DGND Wade Cleveland*

2026-27 OUTBOUND STUDENTS

STUDENT	SPONSORING CLUB	DESTINATION
Soloman Pardue	Aiken	Bad Homburg, Germany
Tram Thuy (Chloe) Bui	Spartan West	Ry, Denmark
Hana Threlfall	Pleasantburg	Girua, Brazil
Bryce Wilson	Fort Mill	Budapest, Hungary
Claire Laurence (short term)	Clemson Sunrise	Almendralejo, Spain

New Members in April

Austin, Brett	Greenville	Long, Jeff	Emerald City
Bishop, Carolyn	Anderson	Magyar, Kaci	Simpsonville
Bourla, Jack M	Spartanburg	McAlister, Amy	Emerald City
Buck, Steve	Newberry	McMillan, Andrew C.	Spartanburg
Clark, Anne B.	Reedy River	Mignery, Rebecca A	Indian Land
Coker, Tee	Simpsonville	Miller, Anna	Fort Mill
Darnell, Cindy	Lake Wylie	Monczewski, Patti	Aiken
Davis, Emily	Anderson	Mothkovich, Jamie C	Aiken
Dearden, Becky	Aiken	Munna, Lavern	Reedy River
Detmer, Matthew W	Golden Strip Sunrise	Norvell, Charles	Reedy River
Doyle, Samantha	Pleasantburg	Outlaw, Judy	Reedy River
Ehrmann, Glenda	Reedy River	Pearce, Dwanda Reed	Lake Wylie
Eisengrein, Mark R.	Easley	Phomphakdy, Chanthaxay	Indian Land
Gaffney, Gary	Fountain Inn	Ponder, Eric M	Fountain Inn
Hagopian, Jack	Pleasantburg	Postler, Keaton	Pleasantburg
Hawkins, Linda	Reedy River	Pressley, Alvin D	Winnsboro
Hawkins, Richard	Reedy River	Price, Macky	Newberry
Horton, Cathy J	Indian Land	Reeder, Tara B.	Aiken
Hyslip, Thomas	E-Club of the Carolinas	Ricketson, Michelle	Greater Anderson
Jensen, David	Reedy River	Smith, Luther	Reedy River
Judge, Julie	Spartanburg	Sutton, Emma C	York
Kaiser, Sandra	Indian Land	Vorse, Brian	Fountain Inn
Kestner, Josh	Clemson	Welnowski, Amy	Golden Strip Sunrise
King, Jeffrey B	Golden Strip Sunrise	Welnowski, Larry	Golden Strip Sunrise

APRIL 2026: 48 NEW MEMBERS — 21 TERMINATED MEMBERS (2 DECEASED). Data from DaCdb.

**BEAT
JUNE**

7750 MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY	
Members at July 1, 2025	2,393
Members at May 26, 2026	2,485
Net Increase	92

Obviously this is an increase but we can't depend on this gain to hold up based on our past history of the year-end drop-outs. Let's double our efforts to follow Dave's advice to BEAT JUNE. Figures from DaCdb on May 26. Not official RI numbers but a good estimate!

Deadline for July newsletter is June 25.

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

Feel free to send your news items throughout the month.