



Rotary

Club of Greer



Tuesday, July 28, 2026

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



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Club Meeting

Greer
Meets at La Joya Bar
& Grill, 219 Trade St,
Greer, SC 29651

August Rotary Theme



July Meeting Highlights

July was a month of meaningful stories, well-deserved recognition, and exciting opportunities to serve.

At our first meeting, member **Ken Gebert** shared a heartfelt personal journey that reminded us of the power of resilience, gratitude, and fellowship. We also celebrated two outstanding club members, as **Autumn Lawhun** and **Frank Antifonario** received **Paul Harris Fellow Awards**, and **Rachel Antifonario** was honored as our **2025-2026 Jim Mitchell Rotarian of the Year**.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Time: 05:30 PM

Club Officers



Lance
Pittman
President



Autumn
Lawhun
President-
Elect



Carrie B.
Krause
Secretary



Deanna
Austin
Treasurer



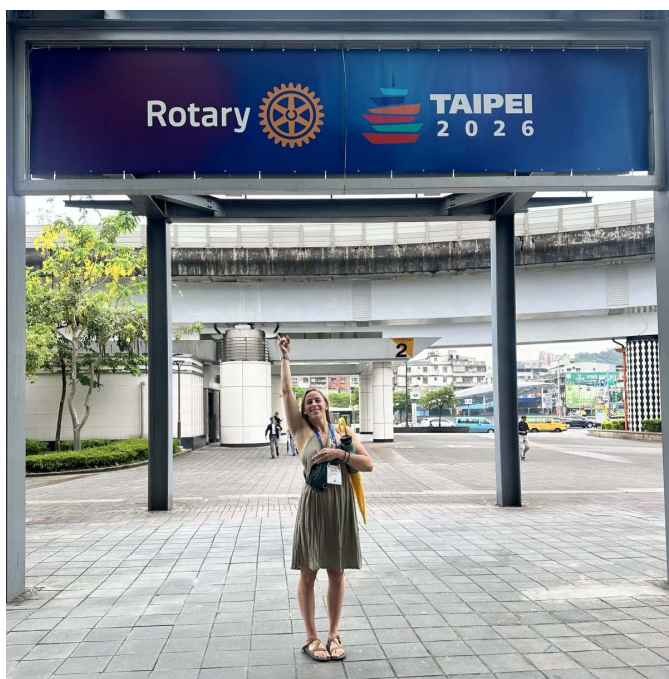
Later in the month, **Rose Davis of Rebuild Upstate** introduced members to the organization's mission of providing critical home repairs for our neighbors in need and shared ways our club can become involved in future service opportunities.

We also recognized **Rachel Antifonario** and **Amy McBurnie** with additional **Paul Harris Fellow Awards** in appreciation of their commitment to Rotary and its Foundation. Members generously dedicated their **Happy Dollar** donations to support **Venezuela's relief efforts**, demonstrating our continued commitment to helping communities both locally and around the world.

What a start to the new Rotary year!



My First Rotary International Convention



Recently, as most of you know, I traveled to Taipei, Taiwan, to attend my first Rotary International Convention. While I expected to learn a lot, I didn't expect the trip itself to become such a powerful reminder of what it truly means to be a Rotarian.

The experience started before we even landed. On my flight from Seattle, you couldn't point to a row on the plane without finding at least one Rotarian. When the flight attendant welcomed all the Rotarians onboard, the entire plane erupted in cheers. It was the first moment that made me realize this wasn't just another conference—it was something much bigger. That feeling continued everywhere we went.

At my hotel, I met Rotarians from all over the world. The first two I talked with mirrored this. One was from Manila in the Philippines and was heading out for an early morning walk, while the other was from Australia and volunteering at the "No Plastic Soup" exhibit in the House of Friendship. Throughout my stay, I met members from France, the Dominican Republic, Australia, the United States, the Philippines, and countless other places.

Even riding the Taipei subway became part of the experience. Every train seemed to be filled with Rotary badges, conversations, and laughter. I'm sure the local commuters were more than ready for the convention to end after a week of listening to enthusiastic Rotarians chatting with complete strangers! But watching people who had never met instantly connect over a shared commitment to service was something special.

We often say that Rotary is "something bigger than ourselves." This convention was the first time I truly saw what that meant.

There were more than **37,000 Rotarians** attending the convention, and during the Opening Ceremony I was sitting in an arena with only half of them. Looking around that room was surreal. It wasn't just the size of the crowd, it was realizing that every single person there represented another club, another community, and another group of people working to make the world a little better.

It was a tangible reminder that our club is part of a truly global movement.

Another takeaway was hearing that many of the challenges we discuss locally aren't unique to us, our district, or our zone. Topics like declining membership, attracting younger members, and adapting to changing communities were being discussed by clubs of every size from every corner of the world. It was reassuring to know that while these challenges are shared, so are the ideas and solutions. I attended several breakout sessions and came home with pages of notes, new ideas, and plenty to reflect on over the coming months.



More than anything, I left inspired.

Rotary isn't just a collection of local clubs—it's a worldwide fellowship of people who believe they can make a difference. Seeing that firsthand is something I'll never forget.

If you've ever considered attending a Rotary International Convention, I can't recommend it enough. And if you're thinking ahead, start planning now for 2030 in Chicago. As Rotary celebrates its 150th anniversary in the city where it all began, I have a feeling it's going to be the biggest and one of the most memorable conventions in Rotary history.

~Autumn Lawhun



Our club had a fantastic time supporting the **District 7750 Awards & Installation Picnic** in Greer! From welcoming guests and helping behind the scenes to celebrating Rotary's accomplishments, Greer Rotarians were well represented throughout the day.

A special congratulation to **Autumn Lawhun**, who served as Event Chair. Her vision, leadership, and countless hours of planning helped bring this new event to life. Trying something different takes courage, and we're proud of everyone who embraced the opportunity to create a fun, family-friendly celebration of Rotary.

The South Carolina heat certainly made its presence known, but thankfully the rain held off until it was time to move indoors for the awards ceremony. Most importantly, it was wonderful to see so many Greer members volunteer their time, represent our club with pride, and help make the day a success.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in—you made Greer shine!

(Frank & Rachel Antifonario, Deanna Austin, Pamela Baldwin, Aaron Bruner, Kerry & Carrie Krause, Autumn Lawhun, Mark & Becky Moreno, Jim Nichols, Melissa Patterson, Lance Pittman, Anna Ryan, and Mica Tholen)

Welcome New Members

*Help us make every meeting welcoming.
Introduce yourself, invite someone to sit with you,
and help our newest Rotarians feel at home.*

Looking Ahead to August

August features two outstanding programs you won't want to miss.

On **August 4**, we'll welcome **Aaron Robinson of 13 Stripes Brewery**, who will share the story behind one of Greer's favorite hometown businesses and the brewery's journey from vision to community favorite. We'll also receive an update on a new way Greer Rotary hopes to make a lasting difference in the lives of local students. Building on the enthusiasm surrounding last year's backpack project, our club is working toward an ongoing partnership with a **Greer Title I elementary school** to support students and teachers throughout the school year.



On **August 18**, we'll welcome **Jonathan Lovegrove of the Greer Heritage Museum**, who will take us on a journey through the people, places, and stories that have shaped our community.

We hope you'll join us for two evenings of fellowship, learning, and discovering new ways to connect with and serve the Greer community.

Save the Date

SAVE THE DATE

August 4: Club Meeting @ La Joya; Guest Speaker: Aaron Robinson

August 10: Board Meeting @ Capris Greer

August 15: Vibrant Club Forum, Kroc Center, Greenville

August 18: Club Meeting @ LaJoya; Guest Speaker: Jonathan Lovegrove

August 22: RLI, Kroc Center, Greenville



Vibrant Club Forum

Every Rotary club wants to attract new members, keep current members engaged, and make an even greater impact in its community. The **District 7750 Vibrant Club Forum** on **Saturday, August 15**, at the **Kroc Center in Greenville** is designed to help us do just that.



VIBRANT CLUB Forum

August 15, 2026 - Greenville

Kroc Center- 424 Westfield St - Greenville, SC

- ❖ Join Rotary District 7750 leaders and club members for a membership forum different from any other!
- ❖ Small group breakouts on best practices on topics like Rotary Information Hour, Orientation, and Membership Attraction.
- ❖ Small, medium, and large club breakouts to share successes and concerns relevant to your club's size. Share ideas on topics such as fundraising, community service, succession planning, and PI-PR.
- ❖ Play Membership Jeopardy to win prizes!

DISCOVER HOW HAVING A MORE DYNAMIC, VIBRANT, AND FUN CLUB CAN HELP:

- Keep clubs relevant to new and existing members
- Attract and engage members
- Increase your club's visibility and influence in the community
- Make a greater impact on the community
- Increase donations and financial sustainability

**CREATE
LASTING
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Whether you're a new member, committee chair, or longtime Rotarian, you'll leave with practical ideas you can bring back to Greer. Through interactive discussions with clubs of similar size, you'll discover fresh approaches to membership, service, fundraising, public image, and leadership succession—all tailored to the challenges and opportunities clubs face today.

One great idea can make a lasting difference. Join fellow Rotarians from across District 7750, share what's working in Greer, and bring home new inspiration to help our club continue to grow and thrive.

Every member is welcome, and every perspective matters. We hope you'll join us!

Did You Know?



Rotary Leadership Institute

Rotarians who participate in the **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)** are more likely to remain active in Rotary, take on leadership roles, build lasting friendships, and discover opportunities they never knew existed. RLI isn't just for club officers—it's for every member who wants to get more from their Rotary experience.

Whether you're new to Rotary or have been a member for years, RLI will give you fresh ideas, a broader perspective, and a deeper understanding of how Rotary changes lives.

Ready to invest in your Rotary journey? Join us at an upcoming RLI session!

Online Options:

August 11-12, Part I

October 5–6, Part II or III

November 2–3, Part 1 or II

In-Person Options:

August 22, Kroc Center, Greenville, SC, Parts I, II, III (*this one fills up fast, so don't wait to register!*)

October 3, Asheville, NC, Parts I, II, III

There are other training opportunities farther away if you want to travel.

Ready to register? Log into **DACdb** and head to the "Calendar" or "RLI Training" tabs. If you've forgotten your login, don't sweat it — just reach out to **Carrie** for a quick reset.

From the Secretary's Desk

A few quick reminders to help you stay connected... Keeping up with Greer Rotary has never been easier!

Need to reach the Board?

Email rotary-board-and-leadership@rotarygreer.org

Questions for the Secretary?

I'm happy to help! Reach me at admin@rotarygreer.org—especially if you need help accessing DACdb or have questions about club communications.

Need to contact the President?

Email president@rotarygreer.org

Want to share information with the entire club?

Use members@rotarygreer.org for official club business only.

New! Pay online with Zeffy

We've added a new way to make payments online through [Zeffy](#), and it's so easy! You have the option to pay membership dues, Happy Dollars or 50/50. (Be sure to use the drop-down to mark OTHER when you get to the 'Help Keep Zeffy Free...' section so you aren't charged a processing fee.) Questions? Reach out to Deanna at treasurer@rotarygreer.org.

Keep your information current

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or updated your email? Help make my job easier by taking a few minutes to update your information in both **DACdb** and **MyRotary** so you don't miss important club and Rotary International communications. While most updates in DACdb roll up to MyRotary, alas, permanent address changes do not...

Thank you for helping keep our club connected and running smoothly.

~ Carrie Krause