


# Rotary
## Club of Greer

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

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## Rotary International Theme




## December Happenings

### December 1 | New Meeting Location & Guest Speaker

Join us at The Slice, 107 S. Main Street in downtown Greer, at 5:30 PM. Fellow Rotarian Tony Beam will be our guest speaker.

**Don't forget:** Bring your Cops for Tots toy donations to this meeting!

### December 4 | Reading at Crestview Elementary

Join our literacy volunteers as we share the joy of reading with Crestview's youngest students. It's a wonderful way to make a difference with just a little of your time.

**Sign up to be a volunteer reader!**

### December 6 | Greer Christmas Parade

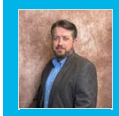
Come join the fun as we celebrate this year's parade theme, ***Christmas Through the Decades!*** Members are encouraged to walk alongside our parade trucks and dress in

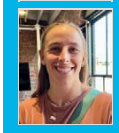
Rotary in the Wild

## Club Meeting

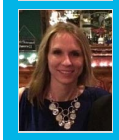
Greer
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Time: 05:30 PM

## Club Officers


Lance Pittman
President


Autumn Lawhun
President-Elect


Carrie B. Krause
Secretary


Deanna Austin
Treasurer

holiday attire inspired by their favorite decade.

The parade begins at 2:30 PM, with the lineup anticipated for around 1:30 PM.

**RSVP to participate in the parade.**

### December 15 | Annual Holiday Party

We're gathering at Bellamore for an evening of holiday cheer, good food and Rotary fellowship! Come celebrate the season with your fellow Rotarians and their guests.

We will also conduct our annual board elections, vote on the proposed bylaws revisions and draw the winning ticket for our quilt raffle.

**Be sure to RSVP and sign up to bring a dish to share!**

### December 19 | Wreaths Across America

Join fellow Rotarians at Hillcrest Memory Gardens (14050 E. Wade Hampton Blvd., Greer) as we honor and remember our veterans this holiday season. A brief ceremony featuring a drill team performance will begin at 11 AM, with wreath placement immediately following.

Bring your family and friends and be part of this meaningful holiday tradition.

**Sign up to participate!**

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## Give a Little Joy This December




### Cops for Tots

Help brighten Christmas for local children in need! Bring your toy donations to our December 1 club meeting.

### Crestview Elementary Angel Tree

We're hoping to partner with Crestview Elementary to help brighten the holidays for some of their families through an Angel Tree project. We're still awaiting confirmation, so keep an eye on your email for details if this opportunity moves forward!

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## Club Business: Looking Ahead to 2027–2028

At our November 17 meeting, the slate of officers and directors for the 2027–2028 Rotary year was presented to the membership. Our annual election will take place on December 15 during our holiday gathering at Bellamore.

### 2027–2028 Board of Directors Slate

President: Autumn Lawhun
President-Elect: Aaron Bruner
Secretary: Carrie Krause
Treasurer: Deanna Austin
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Nichols
Immediate Past President: Lance Pittman
Directors-at-Large: Mica Tholen, Rob Hansen, Rick St. Peter

**Proposed Bylaws Revisions**

We will also vote on the proposed revisions to our club bylaws on December 15. Members are encouraged to review the documents distributed by email on November 18, paying particular attention to the new articles addressing member participation and leave of absence.

If you have questions about the proposed revisions, please reach out to a board member prior to the meeting.

**Watch Your Email: Test Ballot**

We will be using an electronic ballot for our board elections at the December 15 meeting. Prior to December 10, members will receive a test ballot by email to ensure everyone can access and use the online voting system.

**Please take a moment to complete the test ballot when it arrives.** This will help us identify and resolve any technical issues before election night.

The official ballot will be distributed during the December 15 meeting. Paper ballots will be available for members who are unable to vote electronically.

Your participation in these important club decisions is appreciated!

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## Help Us Spread the Word




Our quilt raffle is underway, and we need your help to make it a success! This beautiful, handcrafted quilt would make a wonderful holiday gift, and every ticket purchased supports our club's community service projects.

Please share our raffle posts on social media and encourage your friends, family and coworkers to purchase tickets. Imagine the impact we could make if every member helped spread the word!

Ticket sales close at 6:30 PM on December 15, and the lucky winner will be drawn at our annual holiday party.

**Purchase tickets or share the raffle link today!**

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## Dining Around Greer 2027 – Let's Make It Another Success!

Dining Around Greer 2027 marks the Rotary Club of Greer's 4th consecutive year hosting this signature fundraiser!

We have emailed the restaurants and food service businesses to confirm their participation in next year's event. Some have already responded and are excited to be back, ready to serve samples to more than 250 attendees. Others are unable to participate this year, so we will need to find replacements to fill those open tables.

This is where every Rotarian can help! If you frequent a restaurant or know someone in the food service business, take a moment to speak with the person in charge and see if they would be interested in participating in Dining Around Greer 2027.




It is also not too early to start reaching out to businesses for sponsorships and raffle prizes. Imagine how successful we could be if every Rotarian secured just one sponsorship or raffle prize!

We have resources available to make this easier. Our club Google Drive contains documents and spreadsheets listing restaurants, sponsors, and businesses that have donated prizes in the past. We also have introductory letters that can be attached to emails when contacting potential supporters or printed and taken along when visiting businesses you frequent.

Dining Around Greer is truly a team effort! There is a role for every member, whether it's selling tickets, securing restaurant participation, obtaining sponsorships and donations, or volunteering at the event on March 7th.

Let's all do our part to make Dining Around Greer 2027 our best event yet!

**So, roll up your sleeves, reach out, and let's get to work!**

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## A Month of Service, A Lasting Impact.

***November was a busy month for the Rotary Club of Greer, with four hands-on service projects that supported our veterans, Greer schools, and improved the lives of those in our community.***

### Stuff the Duffle: Supporting Our Veterans




As we have since the beginning of the Rotary Club of Greer, our first meeting in November was dedicated to saluting veterans. At our November 3 meeting, we continued a service project launched last year to support veterans in need by filling knapsacks with cold weather essentials and personal hygiene kits.

Last year, it took our club 15 minutes to fill 50 bags. This year, we beat our record by three minutes! The filled bags were delivered to the Greenville County Veterans Affairs Office by Amy and Aaron on November 6 in support of their "Stuff the Duffle" drive.

A big thank you to Amy for setting up this service opportunity. We appreciate everyone who donated and participated, and a huge shout-out to Bailey and her coworkers for their generosity. Bailey's fundraising efforts allow us to direct other donations toward our December Wreaths Across America project, extending our support for veterans even further.

## Honoring Those Who Served



On November 7, **Carrie and Kerry**, and their grandson, joined Rotarians from several area clubs at Springwood Cemetery to honor our veterans. Together, the three placed 32 markers and identified six additional veteran headstones in their assigned area. Rotarians returned on November 14 to collect the markers.

It was a meaningful opportunity to honor those who served while sharing the spirit of Rotary service with the next generation.

## Building Access, Building Independence

On November 14, members of the Rotary Club of Greer, alongside family and friends, partnered with Rebuild Upstate to construct an accessibility ramp for a Greer resident, providing a safer and easier way to get from their home to their vehicle.




Working in two groups, our volunteers learned more about Rebuild Upstate's mission and resourceful approach to community projects. Some learned how to build a ramp from the ground up, while others sharpened their construction and power tool skills!

Thank you to Rotarians **Jim, Deanna, Stacey, Jason, Autumn, Anna and Greg,** along with Autumn's husband, father-in-law and a fellow softball player, for volunteering their time.

It was a day filled with teamwork, laughter, learning and a little hard work. A few hours of our time made a lasting difference for a member of our community. That's what Service Above Self is all about!

## Inspiring Young Readers




On November 23, members of our newly launched literacy group visited Crestview Elementary to read to students in the early elementary grades, sharing their love of reading and encouraging young learners.

Thank you to Mica, Rachel and Autumn for taking time out of their day to make reading fun and engaging for these young students!

Want to join in the fun? Our next reading opportunity is December 4. Sign up to spend a little time making a difference in the lives of our youngest learners.

# Every Rotarian, Every Year, Making a Difference

This year we received the Every Rotarian Every Year Award. This signifies that in our club, every member contributed to the Rotary Foundation, and as a club we averaged over $100 per member in giving. For this, we have qualified again for a District Grant.



As most of you can recall, our club received a grant 2 years ago to purchase an Adaptive Wheelchair for Adaptive Pickleball of the Upstate here in Greer. What a great opportunity! For those of you who attended the presentation ceremony, you witnessed the impact we made in the lives of some people with limited mobility in Greer.

This is what our giving does. Not only does it do good around the world, it makes an impact in our community.

Remember, for every dollar donated to the foundation, 75% of it comes back to the District for the District Grants.

Let's keep making great strides in our community!

~ Jim Nichols, Foundation Chair

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# November Meeting Highlights

**November 3 | Saluting Our Veterans**

Our first meeting of November continued our annual tradition of honoring veterans with our hands-on Stuff the Duffle service project. Members also received updates on upcoming service opportunities, holiday activities and plans for the Greer Christmas Parade.

**November 17 | American Cancer Society**

Fellow Rotarian Pamela Baldwin joined us to share information about the important work of the American Cancer Society, including the importance of early detection and regular cancer screenings. Following her presentation, our club selected Relay for Life on April 23, 2027, as our April service project.



Members also received updates on our upcoming holiday activities, and the slate of nominees for the 2027–2028 Board of Directors was presented.

Thank you to everyone who joined us this month!

## Rotarian Teaches About the Past

### How the South Won the Revolutionary War




You may have noticed SC's new auto license plate design during your daily commutes – the motto reads: "Where the Revolutionary War Was Won."

After reading the license plate you may wonder, "what does that mean?"
You might think, "wasn't the war won in Yorktown, Virginia?"

Come to the Greer Library on December 14, 2026 6:30 – 7:30 where Professional Storyteller Cora Newcomb will tell the story of "How The South Won the War."
It was the late-war battles and the victories of Cowpens, Guilford Courthouse and Kings Mountain that turned the tide of the war. The saying, "where the war was won" is based on the battles that actually brought the British down.

## Rotary in the Wild




While camping at Lake Hartwell, the Krauses took a side trip to South Cove County Park and saw this Rotary sign in the wild!

If you see signs of Rotary on your trips, take a photo and send it and information about where you were, to newseditor@rotarygreer.org!

## Discover More Through RLI

**Did You Know?**

**Rotary Leadership Institute**

### Did You Know? Service Beyond the Project

One of the topics explored at the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is how to make our service projects more impactful and sustainable.

As Rotarians, we often focus on what we can do to help. But what if we started by asking our community what it needs? Understanding community needs, developing meaningful partnerships and considering the long-term impact of our efforts can help us make better use of our time, talents and resources.

Think about our recent partnership with Rebuild Upstate. A few hours of volunteer service created something that will benefit a local resident for years to come.

RLI encourages us to look beyond the completion of a project and consider the lasting difference we can make.

***Upcoming RLI Dates***
***Online Options:***
January 19-20, Part I or III
February 15-16, Part I
March 16-17, Part I or II

***In-Person Options:***
January 16, Columbia, Part I, II, III
January 23, Clayton, NC, Part I, II, III
March 27, Anderson, Part 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.

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## Set Sail for a Cause!

**Pack your bags, invite your friends and help Rotary make a difference!**



The Rotary Club of Greer is embarking on an exciting new fundraising adventure aboard the Norwegian Escape! Enjoy a getaway with friends and family, experience some Rotary fellowship and support our community at the same time.

**Departure:** October 18, 2027
**Duration:** 4 days
**Departure Port:** Port Canaveral, Florida
**Ship:** Norwegian Escape

### Great Rates for a Great Cause

We have 60 cabins currently on hold at locked-in rates. All prices below are per cabin, based on double occupancy, and include taxes, fees and a $100 contribution to our club ($50 per person).

| Stateroom | Standard | Package |
|---|---|---|
| Inside | $630.00 | $926.38 |
| Balcony | $749.30 | $1,045.00 |

Package rates include drinks, Wi-Fi, shore excursions and signature dining benefits.

**The best part? Every reservation includes a $50 per person contribution to the Rotary Club of Greer, helping fund our local community service initiatives.**

**Big Fundraising Potential!**

Our club earns $150 for every cabin booked.

For every 12 cabins booked, our club earns one complimentary cabin, which we can redeem for its cash value or raffle off.

Dennis will also donate 10% of his earned commission back to the club.

If we fill all 60 cabins, we could raise $9,000 from cabin bookings alone, plus the additional incentives!

## Ready to Set Sail?

Reserve your cabin with a deposit of just $50 per person.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure.

Cancel without penalty up to 120 days before departure.

All reservations must be made through Dennis Slusser to receive the fundraising benefits. Booking confirmations will come directly from Norwegian Cruise Line.

**For reservations and additional information:**
864-494-2179
Funinthesunvac@gmail.com

Dennis will share more and answer questions at our December 1 meeting.

## All Hands on Deck!

You don't have to cruise to help make this fundraiser a success! Our role as club members is to market and promote this opportunity. Invite your friends, family, coworkers and fellow Rotarians. Share it on social media and encourage others to do the same.

**Let's fill those cabins and turn a vacation into something great for our community!**