



Rotary

Club of Greer



CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Rotary

In This Issue

[September Rotary Theme](#)

[Starting Small, With Room to Grow](#)

[Building a Stronger Rotary House](#)

[Where Do You Fit In?](#)

[Looking Back at August](#)

[September: Get Inspired, Get Involved.](#)

[Bowling, Bowls & Rotary Fellowship](#)

[Help Shape What's Next for Rotary Club of Greer Fundraising](#)

[Join the Fun at Lake Robinson Day](#)

[Paws & Pints for Polio](#)

[Discover More Through RLI](#)

[Save the Date](#)

Club Meeting

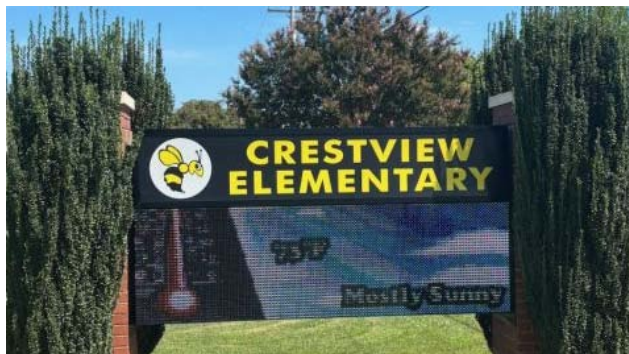
Greer
La Joya Bar & Grill,
219 Trade St,
Greer, SC 29651
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
05:30 PM

September Rotary Theme



Starting Small, With Room to Grow

This year, Greer Rotary has an opportunity to try something a little different: instead of a one-time school supply project, we're exploring how we might build an ongoing relationship with **Crestview Elementary** and make a meaningful difference throughout the school year.



On August 25, Stacey Matsuda, Pam Baldwin, and Carrie Krause met with school leaders to listen, learn, and better understand where our club's time, talents, and resources could have the greatest impact. It was an educational and inspiring conversation that revealed plenty of possibilities—from helping meet immediate needs to finding ways for Rotarians to connect more directly with students and teachers.

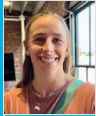
But we're going to **start small and build from there**. We want this partnership to grow with the interest, ideas, and involvement of our members.

Our First Step: Fill a Snack Cart for 630 Students!

Teachers at Crestview are regularly treated to a special snack cart as a way of saying "thank



Lance
Pittman
President



Autumn
Lawhun
President-
Elect



Carrie B.
Krause
Secretary



Deanna
Austin
Treasurer

you." As it travels through the halls, students often excitedly ask, **"Is that for us?"**

On September 4, it will be!

We're hoping to provide enough treats for **all 630 students**, and this is an easy way for every Rotarian to be part of our first project.

When you're shopping this week, grab a box of individually packaged **chips, crackers, fruit snacks, Rice Krispies Treats, or another kid-friendly snack** and bring it to our **September 1 Rotary meeting**. **Please, no products containing nuts.**

Then come to the meeting early or stay after to help put stickers on all the snacks to show that Rotary Club of Greer cares.

Please indicate what you can provide [HERE](#).

What's Next?

We're also exploring an opportunity to use service project funds to provide **Thanksgiving meal baskets for some of Crestview's families with the greatest need**. We'll share more once we learn what would be most helpful.

Beyond that, there are many ways this relationship *could* grow. The important word is **could**. Rather than deciding everything now, we'll start with a couple of meaningful projects, learn more about the school, and see where **member interest and involvement** take us.

A box of snacks is a small beginning—but 630 smiling students is a pretty great place to start.

This is Service Above Self in action. Let's see what we can build together.

Building a Stronger Rotary House

The **District 7750 Vibrant Club Forum** on August 15 brought Rotarians together to explore what it takes to build stronger, more vibrant clubs—all around the theme of **"Building Your Rotary House."**

Greer Rotary was well represented, with **four club members attending sessions and two of our members leading sessions**. Rather than tell you what they learned, we asked those who participated to share a few thoughts from the day.

From Carrie

I had the opportunity to lead the **"Front Porch" session on Public Image and Public Relations**, where we explored what makes a porch, and a Rotary club, look inviting, inspiring, and fun. We even played with AI as a tool for telling our Rotary stories.

My takeaway: Rotary leaders are searching for new ways to engage their members, make their clubs more welcoming, and ensure the good work they're doing is seen and understood in their communities. All three of these contribute to growth and retention.

From Autumn

One of my favorite takeaways from the Vibrant Club Forum was the idea of thinking about our Rotary Club as a clubhouse.

The front porch is what everyone sees first. It should be welcoming and make people want to



come inside. But once they're through the door, we also want them to become part of what keeps the house running.

A clubhouse has a lot of rooms, and every room needs attention. Our club is the same. Service is a room. Fundraising is a room. The Rotary Foundation, membership, and other committees all have their own spaces too.

If everyone only comes over to hang out in the living room, eventually the rest of the house gets neglected.

Engagement is about more than attending meetings. We want every member to find a "room" that interests them and make it their own. You don't have to take care of the whole house, and you don't have to do it alone. Find a room, find a roommate, and help us fill the house!

When we all pitch in, we make our Rotary clubhouse stronger together.

From Aaron



In August, I supported District 7750 as the New Club Membership Chair at the Vibrant Club Forum, leading two sessions on membership options and new club development. I worked with Dee Vaughan from Fountain Inn on her club's new companion club in Five Forks, and we dug into who's missing from our clubs today, like young professionals, teachers, shift workers, manufacturing, and trades, and then showed what a club built for them would look like.

My takeaway: About 8 club presidents are ready to lead new club development for 2026-2027, and 4 clubs already have companion clubs, 2 started in the

last year. With over 10 membership types available, we can find a way to include our community in Rotary!

Where Do You Fit In?

Rotary is more rewarding when you get involved. Our committees offer opportunities to connect with fellow members, use your talents, try something new, and help move our club forward. Take a look at our committee structure and find a place that interests you!

Rotary Club of Greer — 2026–27 Committee Structure



All standing committees report to the Board of Directors • Dining Around Greer reports through Fundraising

Looking Back at August

August gave us two opportunities to learn a little more about the people, businesses, and history that make Greer special.



We kicked off the month with **Aaron Robinson of 13 Stripes Brewery**, who shared the story of the brewery, including its current build-out of a new location in Hampton Station, and the opportunities that change has brought. Members also learned more about 13 Stripes' commitment to the community, and the ways the brewery uses its business to support local nonprofits and causes, especially veteran causes.

On August 18, **Jonathan Lovegrove of the Greer Heritage Museum** helped us celebrate Greer's 150th birthday with a fascinating—and entertaining—look back at our community's history. One fact we won't soon forget: in its early days, Greer was home to just **eight families and three saloons!** If Jonathan's presentation left you wanting to know more, a visit to the Greer Heritage Museum is a great place to continue exploring the people and stories that made Greer what it is today.



We also celebrated the achievement of Paul Harris +1 for Mark and Becky Moreno. Thank you for your continued support of The Rotary Foundation!

Thank you to Aaron and Jonathan for two great evenings celebrating our community—past and present!

September: Get Inspired. Get Involved.

September brings opportunities to learn more about one of our own, connect with an important community cause, and get involved as Greer Rotary ramps up a busy season of service.

On **September 1**, our own **Amy McBurnie** will share her **Rotarian Story**, giving us a chance to learn more about the experiences, interests, and journey that brought her to Rotary. We'll also hear updates on several service and community projects taking shape this fall—and ways members can get involved.



On **September 15**, we'll welcome **Jennifer Mullinax**, co-chair of the **Greenville Out of the Darkness Community Walk**, in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Jennifer will share how the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention supports research, education, and families across South Carolina, as well as information about the Greenville Out of the Darkness Walk at Conestee Park on October 24.



Join us in September for fellowship, meaningful conversations, and plenty of opportunities to put Service Above Self into action.

Bowling, Bowls & Rotary Fellowship

Mark your calendars for our bowling outing on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:00 p.m. at Peach Bowl Lanes. Address 14515 E. Wade Hampton Blvd., Greer. Each lane can accommodate 6 bowlers, so we will need a headcount in order to reserve the lanes. Food and drink are available! Please sign up [HERE](#).



Then in October, bring your favorite soup for our first annual Fall Soup Cook-off scheduled for Sunday, October 18th at 1:00 p.m. Rob and Karen Hansen are hosting at their house, 118 Leander Dr., Greer. Watch for sign-up in the October newsletter!

We will sample, judge, and award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Everyone is encouraged to bring drinks and/or bread. Don't worry, football will be on the television!

Help Shape What's Next for Rotary Club of Greer Fundraising

Successful fundraising makes much of what Greer Rotary does possible, from providing grants to deserving local organizations to supporting Rotary's worldwide fight to end polio.

Over the past three years, **Dining Around Greer (DAG)** has grown into a recognized community event and successful fundraiser, even attracting the attention of other Rotary clubs that have reached out to learn from our experience. **Paws & Pints for Polio** has also provided a fun way to engage our community while raising funds for Rotary's polio eradication efforts.

Now, our Fundraising Committee is looking at **what's next**.

Dennis Slusser has joined the committee and is developing a fundraising idea involving a **cruise**, which he will share at the meeting on September 1. Other possibilities being explored include a **wine-tasting evening**, **mini-golf event**, **pancake breakfast**, **restaurant partnership**, and a **gaming tournament with Not Just Gamin'** in downtown Greer.



Not every fundraiser has to be a large event. Some may raise significant dollars, while others can introduce Rotary to new people, strengthen community relationships, and increase awareness of the work our club does. The best ideas can accomplish both!

Members. Ideas. Support.

That's what the Fundraising Committee needs most. Whether you have a great idea, community connections, event-planning experience, or simply a willingness to lend a hand, there's a place for you on the team.

Help us create what's next—and turn great ideas into greater impact for Greer.

Join the Fun at Lake Robinson Day

Greer Rotary is heading back to **Lake Robinson Day on October 17**, and we'd love to have you join us!

This annual community event is a great opportunity to spend time with fellow Rotarians, meet families from throughout the Greer area, and share what Rotary is all about. Our club's table will feature a fun, hands-on activity focused on **clean water and protecting our environment**—and we need members there to help welcome visitors and join in the fun.

Did you know that **Supporting the Environment is Rotary's seventh Area of Focus**? Protecting our natural resources, improving water quality, and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices are all part of Rotary's work around the world. Lake Robinson Day gives us a chance to bring that commitment home and connect it directly to a resource that's important to our own community.

You don't need any special expertise to help. Come spend some time at our table, talk with neighbors about Rotary, help with the activity, and show our community what **Service Above Self** looks like.



Lake Robinson Day | October 17 | 10 - 2 PM | Lake Robinson

Paws & Pints for Polio



Did You Know?



Rotary Leadership Institute

Did You Know?

RLI isn't a day of sitting through lectures. Rotary Leadership Institute sessions are built around conversation, participation, and learning from other Rotarians. You'll share experiences, tackle real club challenges, exchange ideas, and hear what's working in clubs across the district.

One of the best parts of RLI is discovering that you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You leave with practical ideas you can bring back to your own club—and new Rotary connections that often continue long after the day is over.

Come ready to participate, share, and be inspired. You may be surprised by how quickly the day goes!

Online Options:

October 5-6, Part II or III

November 2–3, Part 1 or II

In-Person Options:

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.

SAVE THE DATE

September 1: Club Meeting @ LaJoya;

September 14: Board Meeting @ Capris

September 15: Club Meeting @ LaJoya

September 29: Club Social @ Peach Bowl Lanes, 6:00 PM

October 6: Club Meeting @ LaJoya

October 12: Board Meeting

October 17: Lake Robinson Day

October 20: Club Meeting @ LaJoya

October 24 (tentative): Paws & Pints
for Polio @ Southern Growl

