

Happy
New Year
2025

Monday, December 30, 2024

Rotary
Club of Greer



President's Message

My fellow Rotarians,

Just when I think we have really topped ourselves in November, December rolls around, and we again hit it out of the park!

The month started with our club hosting the District Governor Rysheeka Bush and Assistant Governor Norman Bunn. We also presented Greer Chief of Police Matt Hamby with toys our members donated for the annual Cops for Tots celebration.

At the Greer Chamber of Commerce 1st Friday Lunch and Learn, I had the opportunity to speak about our club to about 100 attendees. We followed that up by participating in the annual Greer Christmas parade. Moody Blues did an incredible job wrapping Amy McBurnie's Mustang convertible and my truck. We had about 15 members with their dogs and Jeff's children on scooters participating. It was a beautiful day and a superb time passing out candy to the children! Thanks to all who attended!

Maria Amore and Bellamore hosted our annual holiday party. With a great turnout and food from Café on Trade, we had a great time sharing the holiday spirit with our Rotary family!

Lastly, as we look forward to 2025, I see nothing but great things for our club. The excitement and the participation are incredible, and I believe Dining Around Greer is going to be a fantastic event!

As always, thank you all for everything you do.
~Jim Nichols



Rotary Elves Spread Cheer!



This year, the Rotary Club of Greer brought holiday magic to life at the annual **Greer Christmas Parade**! Our club members, affectionately dubbed "Rotary Elves," joined the festive celebration with holiday spirit, big smiles, and plenty of cheer to share with the community.

Decked out in festive attire and with our amazing wrapped vehicles (thanks Moody Blue Designs), our members waved to the crowd, handed out treats, and embraced the joy of connecting with our neighbors during this beloved tradition.

We are proud to be part of such a meaningful event that brings the people of Greer together each year. A big thank-you to all our Rotarian volunteers and their

families who helped make the day so memorable.

We can't wait to participate again next year. Until then, let's carry this holiday spirit into everything we do as we continue to serve and inspire.



In This Issue

[President's Message](#)

[Rotary Elves Spread Cheer!](#)

[Holiday Party Review!](#)

[What's the Latest on Dining Around Greer?](#)

[Join Us for Rise Against Hunger at Mauldin High School on January 18!](#)

[January Health and Happiness](#)

[December Volunteers](#)

[Mark Moreno Confirmed as District Governor Elect 2027-2028](#)

[RI Opportunities Abound](#)

[Rotary Officers for 2025-26](#)

Club Meeting

Greer
Meets at Cartwright Food Hall, 2nd Floor, 215 Trade St, Greer, SC 29651 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
215 Trade St
Greer, SC 29651
Time: Tuesday at 05:30 PM

Club Officers



James Nichols
President



Anna Ryan
President-Elect

Vice
President



Amy
Sherrill
McBurnie
Secretary



Melissa
Patterson
Treasurer

Holiday Party Review!



The 2024 Christmas Party was well-attended by over 30 people and was located at the beautifully bedazzled Bellamore thanks to Maria Amore! The signature mocktail, Jingle Juice, (or cocktail if you chose to do so) was definitely a hit. Our delicious meal, catered by Ed & Kim from Café on Trade St, was so delicious, as were the desserts PLUS they made us all to-go boxes!

We had several nice raffle prizes that we gave away. Thanks to all

who donated items to the raffle and to all those who purchased tickets! I'm glad I liked what I bought for the raffle as my ticket number was called when my gift was up for taking LOL! Deanna managed to pull out two, yes, two of her own raffle ticket numbers, and it wouldn't be right if Frank & Rachel didn't win something - of course they did!

Andrew and his beautiful wife-with-child hosted a Family Feud game with the Naughty Elves versus the Seductive Santas. The Seductive Santas edged out the Naughty Elves for the win. Autumn Lawhun won the last money round by edging out Brian Matsuda, 68 to 66. Lucky for him, they didn't drink wine (which was the prize all the way from Portugal courtesy of the Bonds) and so the White Port came home with us. Many thanks to Anna Ryan and Maria Bellamore for helping me coordinate this year's Christmas Party! ~ Stacey Matsuda



What's the Latest on Dining Around Greer?



As planning for **Dining Around Greer (DAG) 2025** kicks into high gear, we're thrilled to share the latest developments on restaurants, sponsorships, and exciting event additions that promise to make next year's event even more memorable.

Restaurant Recruitment: A Strong Start

We're off to a great start securing restaurants for DAG 2025! So far, **10 of the 29 restaurants** we've approached have confirmed their participation. Contracts have been hand-delivered or emailed, and additional outreach is planned before the end of the year, with follow-ups in January to finalize commitments.

For any remaining spots, we have a robust **backup list of restaurants** ready to join the event. With this proactive approach, we're confident the event hall will be filled with an

incredible array of dining options for attendees to enjoy.

Sponsorships and Raffle Prizes: A Team Effort

A big thank-you to **Lance and Stacey**, who are leading the charge on securing sponsorships and raffle prizes. They will be reaching out to members to encourage everyone to contribute, whether by securing sponsorships or donating prizes.

We're also thrilled to announce that **Health Markets** has generously committed to being a **Platinum Sponsor (\$1,000)** once again—thank you, Jeffrey and the team at Health Markets, for your ongoing

support!

New for 2025: Big Screen TV Door Prize

In 2025, event tickets will include not only tastings from all participating restaurants but also a chance to win a **big-screen TV** as a door prize!

The plan is to cover the cost of the TV through donations from Rotarians. So far, **5 Rotarians have pledged \$50 each**, and we're looking for **12 total donations** to purchase a \$600 TV. The generosity of our members will determine the size of the prize—and all Rotarian donors will be recognized on a sponsor poster at the event.

Looking Ahead

With strong community support, dedicated Rotarians, and exciting new features, Dining Around Greer 2025 is shaping up to be a fantastic event. Let's keep the momentum going as we work together to make this fundraiser our best one yet!

If you're interested in helping with sponsorships, raffle prizes, or contributing to the door prize fund, please reach out to Lance, Stacey, or Frank.

Together, we're creating an event that not only celebrates great food but also strengthens our community!
~ Frank Antifonario

Join Us for Rise Against Hunger at Mauldin High School on January 18!

Mark your calendars and roll up your sleeves—our club has an incredible opportunity to make a global impact! On **Saturday, January 18**, we're teaming up with the Rotary Club of Mauldin and **Rise Against Hunger** for a hands-on event at **Mauldin High School**.



What is Rise Against Hunger?

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the most vulnerable populations worldwide. Through their meal packaging events, volunteers work together to assemble highly nutritious, shelf-stable meals that are sent to communities in need.

How You Can Help

This event is a chance to combine fellowship with service as we come together to package meals that will provide essential nutrition to those facing hunger. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or new to this kind of effort, your participation will make a direct, tangible difference in the lives of people around the world.

?? **When:** Saturday, January 18

?? **Where:** Mauldin High School

?? **Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Why This Matters

Hunger is a critical global issue, but it's one we can address with coordinated effort and care. By joining this event, you'll be part of a mission to deliver hope, nourishment, and opportunity to those who need it most.

How to Get Involved


Let's show the strength of our Rotary Club by turning out in full force! If you're interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Jim Mitchell. Invite your friends and family to join, too—this is a wonderful opportunity to share the Rotary spirit of **Service Above Self**.


Together, we can be the change that uplifts lives and strengthens communities. Let's make January 18 a day to remember!

January Health and Happiness

January Health and Happiness

The next Health and Happiness event is just around the corner. See poster below and click on the link to register to attend. You can [REGISTER HERE](#).



Rotary 

Start off your 2025 Rotary Year with

Health & Happiness Hour!

This is a great opportunity to meet interesting and enthusiastic Rotarians, invite potential Rotarians to join the fun, and share exciting news happening in your club. Engage in inter-club networking, show support for other local clubs, and even win prizes and cash in our drawing!

January 13th | 5pm-7pm

California Dreaming, GVL

\$5 Per Person

Special thanks to California Dreaming for supporting Rotary and providing bites for this event.

December Volunteers

Thank You, Volunteers

Maria Amore
Deanna Austin
John Bartlett
Andrew Bond
Isabella Bond
Claudette Eames
Alex Farley
Ian Gonzalez
Carrie Krause

Blake Langford
Barrett Langford
Autumn Lawhun
Jeff Leichter
Stacey Matsuda
Becky Moreno
Mark Moreno
Jim Nichols
Anna Ryan

Mark Moreno - District Governor Elect



It is with great pleasure we present
Rotary District 7750 District Governor for 2027-2028

Mark Moreno
Rotary Club of Greer



Mark is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Greer and served as the club president in 2023-24. Under his leadership and the hard work and dedication of Club members, the Rotary Club of Greer grew from 20+ members to 40 members and won District and RI awards and recognition.

He will serve as the Assistant Governor for Area 12 beginning in 2025.

Learn more about DGN-D Mark in the District Newsletter in January.

We are so proud of this achievement and look forward to seeing you in "Rotary" action at the district level!

RLI Opportunities Abound

Find Your Passion in Rotary!

Rotary Leadership Institute

February 15, 2025
Tri-County Tech Anderson
511 Michelin Blvd.
Anderson, SC
Register at www.midatlanticrli.org
or the District Calendar in DACdb

Join us for an RLI event to learn about our Rotary history, our Foundation, strategies for why and how to grow membership and the latest public image/public relations ideas. Learn, share, and network with fellow Rotarians about how they serve our community and the world. All sessions are highly interactive and fun.

CONTACT: Julia Larson RLI District 7750 Chair



We're Looking for ...
Community minded people,
passionate & fun people,
practical & resourceful people,
helpful people who want to
lead Rotary into the future.

Rotary Leadership Institute - Find Your Passion in Rotary!

PART I - January 18

USC Lancaster Campus
476 Hubbard Drive
Lancaster, SC 29720

PART I, II, and III - February 15

Tri-County Tech Campus

511 Michelin Blvd.
Anderson, SC

All the sessions are **interactive** and allow participants to grow and share in Rotary.

Added bonus: our club will reduce your dues by half on the quarterly membership bill following your attendance at an RLI session! Let Melissa know when you complete a level of training.

RLI is a great way to learn about Rotary beyond the club experience and make new Rotary friends.

At the end of every event, I often hear participants say things like:

'I wish I had attended RLI sooner'

'I learned so much about Rotary and what other clubs are doing'

'I made so many new friends today'

There are more opportunities to attend in other locations during January and February. You can find information on the calendar in DACdb or on the midatlantic website. Register early as these fill up quickly - www.midatlanticrli.org.

Rotary Officers for 2025-26

If you missed our Holiday Party, you also missed our election of officers to the Board. Here is the outcome of that election:

President – Anna Ryan

President-elect – Lance Pittman

Secretary – Amy McBurnie

Treasurer – Deanna Austin

Immediate Past President – Jim Nichols

These members will begin their term in July of 2025. Let's support their leadership in Rotary!

Happy Birthday!



James Yamout
January 15th



Dennis Slusser
January 17th



Andrea Spalding
January 29th