

THE ROTARIAN

JANUARY 2026



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope this message finds you well as we begin the New Year.

Our first program was today, featuring Julia Larson, Assistant Governor, who shared the initiative to recycle lithium batteries after attending the Calgary International Rotary Conference. She highlighted how our club can support this effort and make a meaningful impact.

At our next meeting, we will welcome Michael Vahjen and Jessi Carter of Old Pope Farm & Forge in Hodges. The husband-and-wife team will share their journey of building a family farm and forge, where they now offer hands-on knife-making workshops.

This month, our club will be actively involved in several service projects, including assembling Dignity Bags for middle school students and preparing backpack meals for those in need.

Looking ahead to February, we will partner with the Emerald City Club for the Heart of Rotary initiative.

We hope you'll join us at an upcoming meeting to learn more and get involved.

Kind regards,

Meurt Jackson

“

Small acts, when multiplied by many, can transform the world.



12.3.25 Service Member Group Holiday Social

This Month

January 13: Julia Larson, Lithium Battery Recycling Program

January 27: Michael Vahjen & Jessi Carter, Old Pope Farm & Forge

Club Meetings: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays • 12:00 PM
Main Event @ Sports Break

Zoom Meeting ID: 968 1461 8242
Passcode: 286476

YOUR ROTARY LEADERSHIP

President: Meurt Jackson
President-Elect: Chuck Davidson
Vice President: John Heydel
Secretary: Watson Dorn
Treasurer: Bonnie Ashley
Program Chair: Jessica Garcia
Administration: Christi Loudon

FROM THE BOARD

JANUARY 2026

UPDATES FROM BOARD MEETINGS & COMMITTEES

- **Main Event Contract:** The proposed agreement with Main Event for our club meetings for another year beginning in January 2026, was approved at the same meal rate of \$19.50 with a 50 minimum guarantee.
- **Initiation Fee:** For all new member options, the current Initiation Fee was eliminated and only an Application Fee of \$50 (reduced to \$25 if a previous Rotarian or a Rotaract member within last 2 years) will be charged.
- **Dues Proration:** New member dues will be prorated by month starting with month after approval.
- **Lunch Fee:** Family members and guest under the age of 12 will not be charged a lunch fee.
- **TRF Contribution Recognition:** Club members that are Arch Klump Society, Major Donor, Paul Harris Society, Sustaining Member, and PolioPlus Society level contributors to The Rotary Foundation as of the previous Rotary year will be recognized during a club meeting.
- **Club Socials:** The club shall dedicate 2 club lunch meetings to a fellowship meeting without a program, and shall hold 2 social events during each year with a Social Committee of at least 3 members assigned to coordinate and an Officer/Director assigned to chair, with a budget allocation of up to \$1000 per event to offset member charges to participate (if any).

WILL YOU SHARE YOUR ROTARY STORY?

We are seeking members to share their Rotary Story at our upcoming meetings. We would love to hear from you!

JUST ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS...

1. Start with Why You Joined
2. Share Your First Rotary Experience
3. Highlight Meaningful Involvement
4. Explain What Rotary Has Given You
5. Share What You've Helped Accomplish
6. End with Why You Stay (and Why Others Should Join)

ELECTED BOARD UPDATE FOR 2026 - 2027

New Directors

- John Heydel
- Mamie Nicholson
- Bill Reynolds
- Van Taylor

Officers

President: Chuck Davidson
Vice President: Meurt Jackson
President-Elect: Art Wallace
Treasurer : Bonnie Ashley
Secretary: Stephen Baggett

FOLLOW US AND SHARE ON SOCIAL



OTHER NEWS




JANUARY 2026

PEOPLE IN ACTION



LOOKING AHEAD

Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Event

 **17** Saturday, April 18
 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 Northside Baptist Church, Greenwood

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)

Grow your Rotary knowledge and leadership skills:

- Jan 24 – Fountain Inn (Part I)
- Mar 7 – Anderson (Parts I, II & III)

Register in My Club > Calendar. Ask a Director about possible reimbursement of the \$95 fee.



DUES & BILLING - QUICK OVERVIEW

- Dues are billed annually.
- Minimum quarterly payment is due on the first day of the quarter.
- Lunch Membership: \$480/year
- Service/Associate Membership: \$240/year (lunch not included)
- Resignations must be submitted before quarter end to avoid next-quarter dues