



October 6, 2024

## Events

October 8th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

October 10th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Club Board Meeting](#)

October 16th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Rotary LIFE Meeting](#)

October 16th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Rotary LIFE Meeting](#)

October 19th  
[The Reedy River Greenville: DD25 - Souvenir Inventory](#)

October 22nd  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

October 26th  
[The Reedy River Greenville: Tree Planting](#)

## Years of Service

Uta S. Samuel  
10-11-2011  
13 Years

## Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

## Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

## Meeting Theme



Let's get GROOVY

This week's meeting theme is GROOVY! Wear your tie dye shirts or other 70s related outfits. Embrace your inner Dead Head ??

## Club Meeting Location

**DON'T FORGET: MEETING TIME CHANGE** - Socializing begins at 6:00pm with the meeting at 6:30pm

Club Meetings are held at Holly Tree Country Club in Simpsonville. Come join us at 6:00pm for socializing, followed by the meeting at 6:30pm. The address is 500 Golf Club Drive, Simpsonville, SC. **Some GPS apps do not map correctly if you select "Holly Tree Country Club."** Be sure to use the address to get to the correct location.



**REMINDER:** Beginning January 1, 2024, Club dues no longer cover the cost of your meal at meetings. Any items ordered at Holly Tree Country Club, whether food or drink, are the responsibility of the ordering Club Member.

## Meeting Program/Speaker

By Ann H. Golden

*This schedule is subject to change. Please check each newsletter for the most current information.*

10-8-24 - Regular Meeting - **Booming Business - Kanga Coolers** - Austin Maxwell, co-founder Kanga Coolers

10-22-24 - TBA

11-12-24 - Regular Meeting - District Governor Visit

11-26-24 - No meeting due to Thanksgiving holiday

12-10-24 - Christmas Party

12-24-24 - No meeting due to Christmas holiday

## Booming Business, Austin Maxwell, a founder of Kanga Coolers



Kanga Coolers is a cooler and drinkware brand born as a Clemson college class project in 2017. The team invented the world's first Iceless Cooler designed to keep a cold case of beer cold for up to 7 hours, without ice. In 2019, Austin & his partners went on ABC's *Shark Tank* and scored a deal with Mark Cuban. They now operate a 30,000 square foot warehouse and office headquarters (aka "The Fun Factory") right here in Greenville with a growing team of 16 people!

Austin helps lead the charge on all things Organic Marketing & Partnerships at Kanga!

Some Kanga accolades from the past few years are ...

- Over 100M internal organic views on social media
- A recent feature in a Mr. Beast YouTube video amassing over 400M views
- Launching a co-branded beer (the Kanga Brew) with New Realm Brewing
- 2023 Forbes 30U30
- As Seen On ESPN, Fox, CBS, ABC, Good Morning America, Inc. Magazine, Golf Magazine, and more!

Kanga loves speaking locally with schools and organizations and is very excited to be here with The Rotary Club of the Reedy River!

Bring your friends to learn the story behind Kanga Coolers, a local company with a truly unique product. In fact, the Kanga Cooler was used as the Very Important Duck gift at the VID party last April.



Please let your guests know that we meet at Holly Tree Country Club (use 500 Golf Club Dr., Simpsonville for GPS guidance) and "go Dutch" for our food/beverages. The Club will not be picking up the tab for guests, but we'd very much love to have them join us for this fun and informative presentation.

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## This month is . . .

### Economic & Community Development

Nearly 800 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day. Rotary members are passionate about providing sustainable solutions to poverty.

Our members and our [foundation](#) work to strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

We provide training and access to well-paying jobs and financial management institutions. We create opportunities to help individuals and communities thrive financially and socially. Consider our contributions to the many charities who benefited from the money raised at the Reedy River Duck Derby each year.

In other parts of the world, Rotarians are:

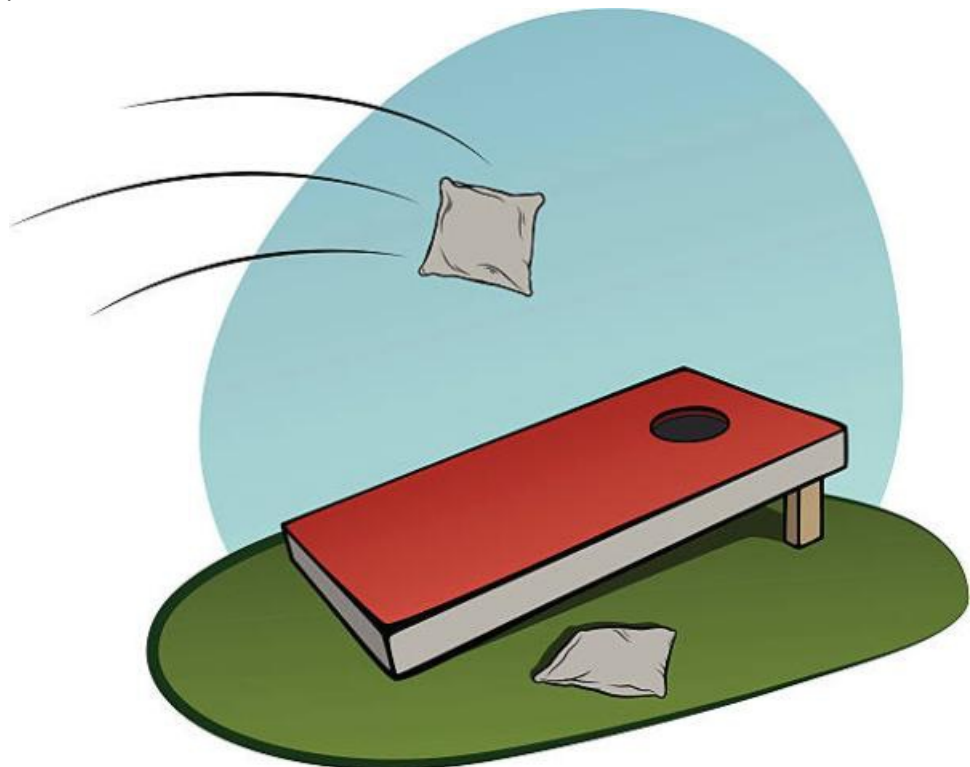
- **Breaking the cycle of poverty for women:** Most of the women living in rural Guatemala do not have the collateral to get loans from regulated financial institutions. The Rotary Club of Guatemala de la Ermita helped 400 local women complete financial literacy courses so they could pool their money and fund their own microlending program.
- **Skills development, business training:** In Esmeraldas, Ecuador, Rotary members helped grant more than 250 microloans and train more than 270 community members in sewing, baking, plumbing, microcredit, business management, and leadership.
- **Sustainable farming:** In west Cameroon, soil erosion and loss of soil fertility have significantly reduced farmers' harvests. Rotary members gave farmers the skills they needed to improve soil fertility, control soil erosion, and market their produce. The results: increased crop yields and profits.

The Rotary Foundation spent \$9.2 million to grow local economies and reduce poverty last year.

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## Corn Hole Social

By Rachel Rutkowski



Please join us at Unity Park at 6:30pm on October 16th for a corn hole social. We'll meet in the park (you'll see us with signs and corn hole boards) for corn hole games and socializing. Then, we'll head to The Commons for dinner. Please spread the word and bring your family and friends. Also, wear your favorite sports team gear!

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## Will It Be Fun?



There's no doubt about it. Club President, Rachel Rutkowski, is putting on the fun. With another themed meeting coming up (be sure to wear your 70s/tie-dye gear) we will do justice to the question asked at the end of every meeting, "Will it be fun?!!" Let's make this another fun meeting with tons of participation. Feel free to invite a potential member that may be interested in Rotary contributions to our community.

## Duck Derby Sponsorships a Must!

Congratulations to Eric Krichbaum for bringing in Legends Concert Series as a \$10,000 sponsor for the Reedy River Duck Derby. We have not had that level of sponsorship in several years, so this should get the juices flowing for **all members** join in the sponsorship landing process.

The document of past sponsors is something you can use if you don't have any leads for sponsors. Find the link to the document [here](#) which is live and our Sponsorship Chair, Ann Golden, lives and dies by this document. Treating it as your own document to do as you wish is not cool. You can add a new sponsor to the bottom of the spreadsheet and complete the requisite information. Updates to existing lines on the spreadsheet should go through Ann.



We have sponsors from past Rotarians that need to be approached. Can you be that person? Look for the names Wendy Green and Rebecca Evans and see if you have a connection to reach out and seek sponsorship for the 2025 Derby.

Need some suggestions on how to proceed? Try this list:

Overall chair for 2025 – Ann Golden

VID Party Chair – Valerie Cook

Prize Chair – Laurie Rapp

Committee - **All club members are committee members** and, as such, we **all** contribute to the cause by doing our part and asking businesses for their support.

- **Sponsorships:** 3 types:
  - Corporate (cash)
  - In-Kind (any **service** they can provide, be it media, logistics, technology, etc.)
  - Prizes - (any **goods** from groceries to cash to gift cards for dinner, oil changes, etc.)
- **If you have a business**, please be a sponsor. If you have a job, please ask your employer to sponsor. If you are not employed, use your own network to find sponsors, such as your service providers – doctors, dentists, plumbers, grocers, banks, dry cleaners – anybody. Hotels, restaurants, and entertainment venues are very good prize sponsors.
- **Prizes**, if possible, should come as gift cards for three reasons: We can give those out easily at the Derby, without hauling actual prizes, AND we want winners to visit the place of business and perhaps become a new customer. That's when the prize sponsor realizes the value to themselves in donating. It also prevents having to ship heavy gifts anywhere.

- **Sponsorship Form**

- there is a digital version available to fill out on the [ReedyRiverDuckDerby.com](http://ReedyRiverDuckDerby.com) website. Scroll down until you see the box for Sponsorships. You can send your contacts there or
- use the paper forms that have been handed out at the last few meetings and emailed to you. We have more if you need more paper brochures, or you can print out the brochure you were emailed.

**Approaching sponsors:**

1. Be able to verbalize what Rotary is and does and who Reedy River Rotary is and does.
2. Be able to verbalize who, what, where, when and why the derby happens, where the money goes, and the benefits of sponsorship.
3. Approach potential sponsors, overcoming objections, asking for the sell. In the approach, it might be important to start by asking if the Company financially supports local, non-profit charitable organizations. Then ask to schedule a time to meet. Face-to-face meetings are the best way to make the sale. **Emailing and hoping is not a viable strategy.** Phone calls and texts (if you have a relationship) work.
4. **Try first to obtain cash sponsor** at the highest possible level, with step-down value, if necessary, then in-kind and prize sponsorships as fallbacks if target will not do cash. Be creative and politely persistent. When going back to a sponsor who has been with us, ask if they will go up a level. **Please go back to any sponsor you have previously brought in.**
5. **Adhere to Sponsor registration deadline** – necessary for sponsor to be included when Adoption Papers are printed. It is also important to get invoicing information and follow through. This should be provided on the Sponsor Registration Form. Please check the completed form for the information needed and that it is legible.
6. **Communicate with Sponsor Chair** ([anngolden@charter.net](mailto:anngolden@charter.net)) Ann will be keeping a spreadsheet on all approaches made and results, but won't be able to update if you do not inform her. Feel free to make a copy and keep your own spreadsheet or notes and report information to her. Please email her any paper registration forms you receive and let her know if a digital one is expected or has been submitted. If you secured a verbal sponsorship but did not get a completed sponsorship form, please give the company name, contact name, phone, email, company address, type of sponsorship and dollar value. This also serves as our Very Important Duck (VID) invitation list, so contact info is a must.
7. **Booth on Derby Day** We need to know if they want a booth (\$1500 level and up) and if they need electricity and furnishings.
8. **Logo to use on PR materials** Be sure to ask that a company logo be sent to Eric Krichbaum. At that point, if it is for cash, Charities Treasurer Mark Bacon will invoice the company. Logos will not go on the Reedy River Duck Derby website until the invoice is paid.
9. **Other information** You can give Ann any other information about the sponsorship if appropriate. Keep all your efforts documented by date so that you don't lose track of where you are in bringing in that sponsor. Since we expect most sponsorship to submit digitally this year, make certain to notify Ann, Mark, and Rami Michael (Logistics Chair) if a booth is desired.
10. Not sure what to do? Call Ann Golden with any questions – 864-704-2518
11. Start now!

Who/what businesses do you know, or have a working relationship with, that would consider a level of sponsorship that ranges from \$10,000 to \$750?

- \$10,000 - Champion Duck
- \$7,500 - Million Buck Duck
- \$5,000 - Struttin' Duck
- \$2,500 - Super Duck
- \$1,500 - Feathered Friend
- \$750 - Quacker Backer

Need help getting started? Ask a seasoned Rotarian in our Club as they are here to help and to promote your success.

Bottom line - we all need to be out contacting businesses **now** and working to bring in the sponsor and capital it takes to run a successful event. Let's do this!

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## Inbound Rotary Youth Exchange Students

*Reprinted from the October 2024 District 7750 Newsletter*

Inbound Youth Exchange Our three 2024-25 inbound Youth Exchange students are:

- Yehor Horbenko from Ukraine, hosted by Greenwood
- Lou Borrás from France, hosted by Pleasantburg
- Agustin Olazabal from Bolivia, hosted by Clemson and Clemson Sunrise

Inbound orientation sessions were held in early September and included bowling, boating, a movie, and good food.

## Service/Rotary Opportunities



Take advantage of these service, learning, or meet-up opportunities coming up. More information and the opportunity to sign up are available on [DACdb](#).

**10-16-24 - Rotary LIFE Meet-up** - 6:30-8:30pm - Unity Park/The Commons - Club members and their family, friends, and guests will join us for a cornhole game on the grand lawn of Unity Park at 6:30pm. Afterwards, we'll enjoy food and drink at the adjacent Commons.

**10-19-24 - Duck Derby Souvenir Inventory** - 9am-Noon - Club members will take a physical inventory of the souvenirs in preparation for the 2025 Duck Derby. Members will meet at the storage shed located at 1868 Woodruff Road from 9 until noon on Saturday,

October 19th. Our shed number is H6 (take the last left turn). The entry code for the gate is 1052 - follow the directions on the key pad. There is minimal lifting required by attendees.

**10-26-24 - Tree Planting with Trees Upstate** - 8am-Noon - 201 Carter St., Greenville - Financially supported by a matching grant between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Reedy River Rotary Club of Greenville, Club members will be working with TreesUpstate to plant 30 to 50 trees at Nicholtown Presbyterian Church. TreesUpstate, along with partners from the City of Greenville and the State of South Carolina, identified this location as one of several low to moderate income neighborhoods that suffer from low tree canopy coverage.

**Group photo will be at 8:45** and the tree planting demonstration will be promptly at 9, with volunteers working until around noon. This is a major event with approximately 100 volunteers planting trees and we encourage all Club members to sign up and be part of increasing the tree canopy in our community.

**All participants must also register on the TreesUpstate website using this link** (<https://treesupstate.org/volunteer/>) prior to the event. Detailed instructions regarding the event, including location details, will be provided by TreesUpstate to registered volunteers.

**11-9-24 - Adopt-A-Road Clean Up** - 9am-Noon - 202 Conestee Road (in front of Bosco Baby's Restaurant and Catering) - Club members will be picking up trash along Conestee Lake Road. This event will fulfill the Club's quarterly obligation to pick up trash as participants in the Greenville County Adopt-A-Road program. Wear clothes appropriate for picking up trash, bring a hat and sunscreen/bug spray if it is sunny. All other supplies will be provided.

**12-8-24 - Carolina Youth Symphony** - 2pm - 5pm - The best type of volunteering brings a pleasurable experience for your time commitment. Club members usher for this stellar holiday program with music provided by three outstanding youth orchestras within the CYS program.

**12-10-24 - Club Christmas Party** - Time TBA - River Walk Clubhouse. More information coming on this event, but please mark your calendar so you can join us as it will take the place of our 2nd Tuesday December meeting.

Remember to register for the above at DACdb and follow instructions within each volunteer opportunity above that may require a second sign-up on the organizing group's website.

## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities





**Feed & Seed - 701 Easley Bridge Road, Suite 6010, Greenville, SC** - The fresh food box programs provide individuals facing food insecurity with a healthy variety of fresh produce, including items sourced from local farmers. Feed & Sees relies on the generous support of volunteers to help us pack boxes in a warehouse which will be delivered to sites in Pickens, Oconee and Abbeville counties.

What to expect on packing day: Arrive at Feed & Seed between 10:15 and 10:30 so that you have time to sign in, wash your hands, and put on hairnets and gloves. Once all volunteers have arrived, we will circle up to discuss our Fresh Food Box programs and go over food safety guidelines. We are a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) facility and do require all volunteers to comply with the following expectations:

- Closed-toed shoes required.
- No shorts or dresses.
- Hairnets are required. PPE will be provided.
- Beard Nets are required for the bearded folk. PPE will be provided.
- Gloves are required. PPE will be provided. Hand-washing will be required prior to putting on gloves.
- No Jewelry Allowed. (exception plain, solid bands).
- No Food or Drinks in the warehouse area.
- No Personal Bags in the warehouse area.

New volunteers must complete a waiver prior to their first volunteer experience! Click [here](#) for Feed & Seed website for more information and sign waiver. **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

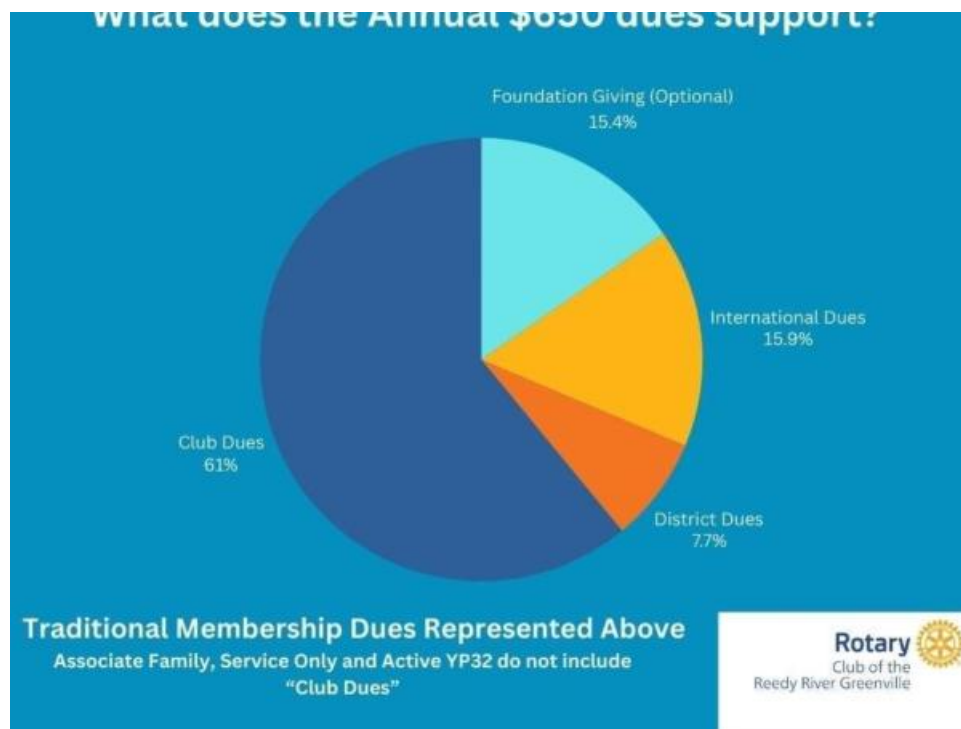
**Meals on Wheels** - Deliver hope, friendship, independence and more. When you get involved with Meals on Wheels, you are delivering so much more than daily nourishment. You deliver friendship to those who spend their days alone. You deliver independence, allowing people to age in their homes with dignity. You deliver hope to those often forgotten. Volunteer your time, refer someone who needs help, or make a donation. No matter how you get involved, youâ€™ll deliver more than meals. [Volunteer Application | Meals On Wheels Greenville](#). Prudence Taylor regularly volunteers with Meals on Wheels and would be a source of information if you have questions. **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**The Children's Museum of the Upstate** - Spread creativity and empower children as a volunteer. [Volunteer - TCMU Upstate \(tcmupstate.org\)](#). **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

**Trees Upstate** - is a nonprofit organization founded in 2005. Their mission is to **plant, promote, and protect** trees in the Upstate. They **plant** trees in parks, schools, and neighborhoods, **promote** the benefits of trees, and **protect** by providing education and technical support to help inform policies and systems change. Though they are dormant in the summer months, they will have volunteer opportunities at this link: [Volunteer - Trees Upstate](#). **Notify Elizabeth Clarke of your service hours for the Club's record-keeping.**

## Membership Matters

What does the Annual \$650 dues support?



Membership Tip from District 7750 Membership Chair, Albert Blackmon

*Getting your "ASK" started and ending your "ASK" are the hardest parts of the conversation. What's happening within your club is the easy part. Here are two conversation starters: I have no idea why I haven't talked with you about Rotary. Did you know our motto is Service Above Self? Here are a few things our club is doing in our community. Our club is a team of like-minded folks focused on making things better for our local and global communities. No religious or political focus, just people who walk the talk relative to service to our communities. Don't forget your "ASK" Linda, I think you'd be a great fit for Rotary, which Tuesday works best for you to join me for a meeting?*

Membership matters, and if you're not aware of the number of members that ebb and flow through the Club, you should be. The work we perform on the Reedy River Duck Derby is huge; it benefits our community and has been awarded "Best of the Upstate." A small Club like ours is truly stretched as we get into the meat of Derby season that just kicked off again for the 2025 Derby.

Solution? Membership! We want members that share our vision, and we have many different choices for people to become a member of our Club. Please review the options below; feel free to use the information in an effort to recruit new members.

#### **Membership Types**

The Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville offers a variety of membership options:

#### **Traditional Membership**

A traditional member pays full price which totals at \$550/year or \$137.50/quarter.

#### **Family Membership**

A family membership includes a traditional membership as well as an additional associate membership for the traditional member's partner. Dues for this membership total at \$790/year for both members or \$197.50/quarter.

#### **Corporate Membership**

A corporate membership offers an organization or business to purchase a membership for an employee at \$550/year or \$137.50/quarter. Any additional employee that the organization or business wishes to purchase a membership for will cost \$220/year or \$55/quarter.

#### **Associate Membership**

The associate membership is offered to individuals who are aged 32 years or younger, or do not have the means to pay for full membership dues. It is expected that over time, this member will be able to upgrade to traditional membership status. The dues for this membership type are \$220/year or \$55/quarter. For this membership type, individuals are required to complete a minimum 6 hours of community service per quarter in order to remain eligible for this membership type.

#### **Service-Only Membership**

A service-only member is not expected to attend regular meetings and only participates in the community service opportunities organized by the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville. The dues for this membership type are \$220/year or \$55/quarter. For this membership type, individuals are required to complete a minimum 6 hours of community service per quarter in order to remain eligible for this membership type.



### *Rotary Foundation Giving*

Each member is recommended to give \$25/quarter or \$100/year to The Rotary Foundation in addition to their dues. This is an optional donation.

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## **No New Members? Then What?**

*Reprinted from the October 2024 District 7750 Newsletter*

No new members? Then what? Despite some clubs'™ best efforts, they are still struggling to recruit new members. So what can they do in the meantime?

A couple of options that were discussed by the group of club leaders were:

- 1) Have the president serve a second year, and
- 2) Co-presidency, that is, two Rotarians serve as club president for the year. In fact, there are clubs in our district that are doing both of these options this year.

Please note that if your president is going to serve a 2nd year, he or she must attend Pre PETS and PETS. The same is true of co-presidents. If both cannot attend, then at least one is required to attend. And, since Pre PETS and PETS build upon each other, the same person should attend both. Also, if your club determines they must have co-presidents it is imperative that the duties of each be well defined and agreed upon beforehand. Your club must get approval from the incoming District Governor for either of these options.

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## **Two Ideas to Improve Your Club's Public Image**

*Reprinted from the October 2024 District 7750 Newsletter. This article was provided by Public Image Chair, Maggie McMahon*

**SHOWCASE IMPACTFUL PROJECTS:** Highlight the club's™ service projects and humanitarian efforts through various channels like social media, local newspapers, and community events. Sharing success stories and testimonials can demonstrate the club's™ positive impact on the community.

**ENGAGE WITH THE COMMUNITY:** Organize and participate in local events such as marathons, recycling drives, or fundraisers. These activities not only raise awareness but also foster a sense of community involvement.

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## **Health & Happiness - Celebrating Veterans - November 11**

**Monday, November 11, the Greer Club is hosting** Health & Happiness in honor of our Veterans.

It will take place at La Joya Bar & Grill at 219 Trade Street in Greer. Bring a friend and join us from 5-7pm for \$4.50 margarita specials, networking, a 50/50 raffle, and bring contributions for homeless Veterans for Upstate Warrior Solution to distribute including the following warm-weather gear:

- gloves
- scarves
- warm hats

Health & Happiness events take place from 5pm to 7pm. **Please come and support Rotary and La Joya** as you mingle with Rotarians from other clubs in the area.

Each person attending pays \$5, entering them in a 50/50 raffle. During the gathering, tickets will be drawn, and often prizes from the host space are contributed as well. The highlight of the event is half of the collected money for the Rotarian and the other half to the host Rotary Club's charity projects.

Potential members might enjoy this casual setting as a way to find out about our Club and what others are doing, so don't hesitate to bring a guest along. If you pay their \$5 50/50 fee and they win, that might be a great introduction to a potential new Rotarian. It's also a good way to drum up support for events Clubs are sponsoring or are putting on like the Reedy River Duck Derby. **Bring \$5 to join in** on this fun-filled event, and you could win some excellent prizes or half the 50/50 pot.

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## **Contribute to The Quacker**

If you are unable to use EzStory in DACdb, submit something for *The Quacker* by emailing the information to [megcoffey@yahoo.com](mailto:megcoffey@yahoo.com). Submissions must be received by the Wednesday prior to the next meeting.

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## Club Mailing Address

Please use this address for all club correspondence, remitting dues (unless you pay online), and Duck Derby business.

Rotary Club of Reedy River Greenville  
Box # 500  
325 Rocky Slope Rd, Suite 104  
Greenville, SC 29607

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## Club Meeting

The Reedy River Greenville  
Meets at Holly Tree Country Club (2nd & 4th Tuesdays Only)  
500 Golf Club Dr. Holly Tree Country Club  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
Time: Tuesday at 06:30 PM

## Club Leaders

[Rachel Rutkowski](#)  
President

[Laurie M. Rapp](#)  
Treasurer

[Elizabeth Foster Clarke](#)  
Club Director  
Service Projects Chair

[Robert L Brown Jr.](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael](#)  
President-Elect

[Mark William Bacon](#)  
Charities Committee Chair

[Meghan A. Coffey](#)  
Club Director  
RYLA Chair  
Bulletin Editor

[Prudence Ann Taylor](#)  
Secretary

[Alan Stewart Calloway](#)  
Club Director  
Past President  
Membership Chair

[Ann H. Golden](#)  
Program Chair  
Club Director