



THE QUACKER

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville

November 10, 2024

Events

November 12th
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

November 14th
[The Reedy River Greenville Club Board Meeting](#)

November 20th
[Girls On The Run-race packet pick up](#)

December 8th
[Carolina Youth Symphony Holiday Concert](#)
December 10th
Christmas Party

Years of Service

James Hagood
Sams III
11-15-2021
3 Years

Birthdays

Uta S. Samuel
November 11th
Eric Michael Krichbaum
November 17th

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Club Meeting Location



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.

- 10-22-24 - Club Assembly - *Duck Derby from A to Z* - get your "quack" on for the race
- 11-12-24 - Regular Meeting - *Rysheeka Bush, District Governor's Visit* (Board members will meet with DG Bush before or after the Club Meeting)
- 11-26-24 - No meeting due to Thanksgiving holiday
- 12-10-24 - Christmas Party
- 12-24-24 - No meeting due to Christmas holiday
- 1-14-25 - Regular Meeting - *Value of Literature*, Dr. Michelle McLendon, UM GED program

District Governor Visit on Nov. 12

District Governor Rysheeka N. Bush, MS, LPC, is deeply rooted in Aiken County, hailing from the quaint town of New Ellenton, SC, with a rich family history woven into the community's fabric. With over two decades of dedicated service, she is an integral part of Helping Hands, Inc., a residential facility for children in foster care.

Rysheeka's journey with the agency began as an intern and has flourished into her current role as Clinical Program Manager. In this capacity, she not only oversees the clinical needs of youth in placement but also facilitates therapeutic training for staff. Her academic journey reflects her commitment to serving others. A graduate of Aiken Technical College with Associate of Arts and Human Services Degrees, she continued her education at the University of South Carolina-Aiken, earning dual degrees in Psychology and Sociology. Her academic pursuits culminated in a Master of Science Degree in Applied Clinical Psychology from the same institution. Licensed as a Professional Counselor in South Carolina, Rysheeka specializes in adolescent trauma, bringing a compassionate and informed approach to her work. Beyond her professional endeavors, Rysheeka's heart for service extends to her community involvement. As a proud Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Aiken Sunrise, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, earning the distinction of District Governor for Rotary District 7750 for the 2024-25 term. Additionally, she serves on various boards in the Aiken area, representing her employer and embodying the values of hard work and dedication instilled by her family. Driven by a profound



sense of duty and compassion, Rysheeka N. Bush embodies the spirit of service, enriching the lives of those around her through her unwavering commitment to helping others.

This month is . . .

Rotary Foundation Month

Hopefully, you understand that the Rotary Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Rotary International that maintains a stellar rating within the non-profit community. Each quarter, if you choose, you donate \$25 to the Rotary Foundation for an annual gift of \$100. But you can donate more, if you'd like.

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects. Around 88 cents of every dollar gets donated to worthwhile projects.

With our help, Rotary can make lives better in our community and around the world.

The mission

The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

What impact can one donation have?

- For as little as 60 cents, a child can be protected from polio.
 - \$50 can provide clean water to help fight waterborne illness.
 - \$500 can launch an antibullying campaign and create a safe environment for children.
-

Duck Adoptions Start at the Home & Garden Show



EVERY MEMBER IS NEEDED FOR A SHIFT

Save the date! We are kicking off our 21st Annual Reedy River Duck Derby duck adoptions at the Home & Garden Show being held February 21-23, 2025. That may seem like a long way off, but here's the schedule. You can select your date and time and *every member is expected to fill a 2-3 hour slot*. This much in advance, it is hoped that you can carve out this block of time to serve the Club.

What do you do? You support a Duck Adoption Team (like Chris and her team from KOA Care Camps for Kids shown in picture) and help with cash and credit/debit card sales. You help answer questions about duck adoptions (experienced DATs need less support than newbie DATs), sell souvenirs, talk about the charities supported by the Reedy River Duck Derby (use this [document](#) to get a start on groups we supported from the 2023 Duck Derby), talk about Rotary and what our Club does, as well as Rotary in our area and around the globe.

Friday, February 21, 2025

10am-Noon

Noon-2pm

2pm-4:30pm

4:30pm-7pm

Saturday, February 22, 2025

10am-Noon

Noon-2pm

2pm-4:30pm

4:30pm-7pm

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Noon-2:30pm

2:30-5pm

Additionally, there are the load-in with set-up and the load-out options. Load-in is a bit more flexible and can take place on Wednesday or Thursday prior to the show starting on Friday. Load-out cannot start prior to 5pm on Sunday, but can be completed fairly quickly as far as getting things boxed up and out the door and into a vehicle.

Email megcoffey@yahoo.com and with your preferred date and time. First-come, first-served. Again, all of us will take a 2-3 hour shift for the Home & Garden Show at the Greenville Convention Center or participate in load-in or load-out. Meg is the contact person for all things Duck Adoption Teams (DATs) with regard to the Duck Derby, so feel free to reach out with any questions.

Rotary Etiquette

Rysheeka Bush, District Governor of Rotary District 7750, will be attending our meeting with her message to our members on November 12.

It is customary when the Governor is introduced, that all members stand to show respect. This is also done at the end of the Governor's presentation. Let's do our part to show respect for Ms. Bush when she visits our Club.

Brooks' Playground



That's Brooks and her dad in the excavating equipment.

According to Elizabeth Clarke, the group that attended the Brooks' Playground groundbreaking ceremony was well worth it. This is a project funded partially with Duck Derby money and with a matching grant from the District totaling \$15,000. President Rachel Rutkowski selected this all-inclusive playground as her signature project for our Club in her year of leadership. Along with other Reedy River Rotarians and District 7750 personnel at the groundbreaking ceremony of Brooks' Playground in Cleveland Park, Mayor Knox White and Greenville Parks and Recreation representatives were in attendance. Brooks, for whom the playground is named, got to unload the



first scoop of dirt.

Some additional information on the inclusive playground that will open in Cleveland Park in 2024 from GVLToday: it is the result of a local family's experience with their child and their support helped make the park a reality. Named after four-year-old Greenvillian Brooks Foster, the playground will feature accessible equipment so everyone has a place to play.

Paul and Reagin Foster — Brooks' parents who donated ~\$800,000+ to the project — say they've struggled to find places to play in Greenville with the necessary amenities for their daughter who has Pontine Tegmental Cap Dysplasia (a rare neurological syndrome), so they got to work on developing a space that met their needs and could be enjoyed by all children.

Renderings of the playground by Landscape Structures are shown below.





“Our vision was a place where Brooks could play outside with her siblings and friends,” Reagin explains. “A play area with equipment and resources that meet the needs of children with a diverse range of disabilities, both visible and non-visible, and a fun, inclusive, and sensory-rich environment where ALL kids can develop critical physical, social and emotional skills.”

The playground has been specially designed to consider kids from six months to 13-years-old with differences and provide ways for them to be active:

- Accessible playground equipment
- Shade structures
- A shelter with picnic tables
- A new restroom building
- 700 ft. of new sidewalk to improve the park's accessible connectivity

Look at That Trash!



Club Members Elizabeth Clarke, Buvnesh Sharma, Brian Miller and son, Garrett, and Eric Krichbaum

show off the bags of trash they collected at the quarterly cleanup on Conestee Lake Road. Interestingly, it is a short road, a quick cut-through for some, but seemingly the county's largest trash can. The things you find every three months, if you do it regularly, will astound you. Thanks to our Club Members who made it happen! The next clean up is scheduled for February.

What's a Vocational Talk?

By Ann H. Golden

How well do you know your fellow Rotarians? Vocational talks are introductions of members to their fellow club members, no matter how long you have been in the club. Newer members may be clueless about the long timers' histories. What would you like your club members to know about you? Maybe you can make an opportunity to do business together!

Vocational talks are usually about your occupation, even if you are retired, and the journey to where you are today. It can include where you grew up, your educational history, family, or favorite pastimes. Occasionally, we have two or three of our club members give their vocational talks at a meeting. They can last 5 to 7 minutes to include Q&A. Fairly recently, we had three members - Valerie Cook, Laurie Rappl, and Mark Bacon - introduce their histories to the club and they did a great job.

Each of you is expected to be prepared to do this and will be given that opportunity. It really helps to bring us into better understanding and appreciation of each other. I will be calling on you in the future, so why not prepare now? Who knows, our planned program could fall through, and it's great to always have a Plan B.

Feel free to volunteer to be next!

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-wather 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.

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](#).

POSTPONED UNTIL 2025 - Tree Planting with Trees Upstate

11-20-24 - Girls on the Run Race Packet Pick-up - 2 times to choose from - Club members will hand out race packets for Girls on the Run's fall race at CU-iCAR located at 5 Research Dr, Greenville, SC 29607. The event will run from 1-5 pm, in 2 shifts; the first from 1-3pm and the second from 3-5pm. In addition to registering your participation on DACdb, you must register on the Girls on the Run [website](#) to pick the shift(s) you wish to work. Sign up on the GOTR website by November 8th to get a free t-shirt. Be sure to click all the way through the registration process (must hit NEXT at bottom of page a few times). Elizabeth Clarke will be there for both shifts. Come join her!

Girls on the Run is a national non-profit organization and designs programming that strengthens third to eighth grade girls' social, emotional, physical and behavioral skills to successfully navigate life experiences.

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 outstanding holiday program with music provided by three wonderful 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.

2-8-25 - 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.

Remember to register for the above opportunities at DACdb and follow instructions within each volunteer opportunity 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, you'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 - [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.**

Duck Derby Sponsorships a Must!

Ok, members, how are we doing at bringing in sponsors?

Does everyone have May 3, 2025 blocked out on their calendar so we can count on everyone to pitch in on Derby Day?

Sponsorships allow us to rent the ducks, produce signage, hire a person to help with PR, and purchase the popular souvenirs in bulk to be ready for May 3, 2025. We don't make any money until ducks start getting "adopted." And when does that happen? That will be a question asked at the meeting, so start looking for that answer elsewhere in this newsletter.



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 brought in by past members that need to be approached for the 2025 race. Can you be that person?

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

Overall chair for 2025– Ann Golden

VID Party Chair – Valerie Cook

Prize Chair – Laurie Rappl

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 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) 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?

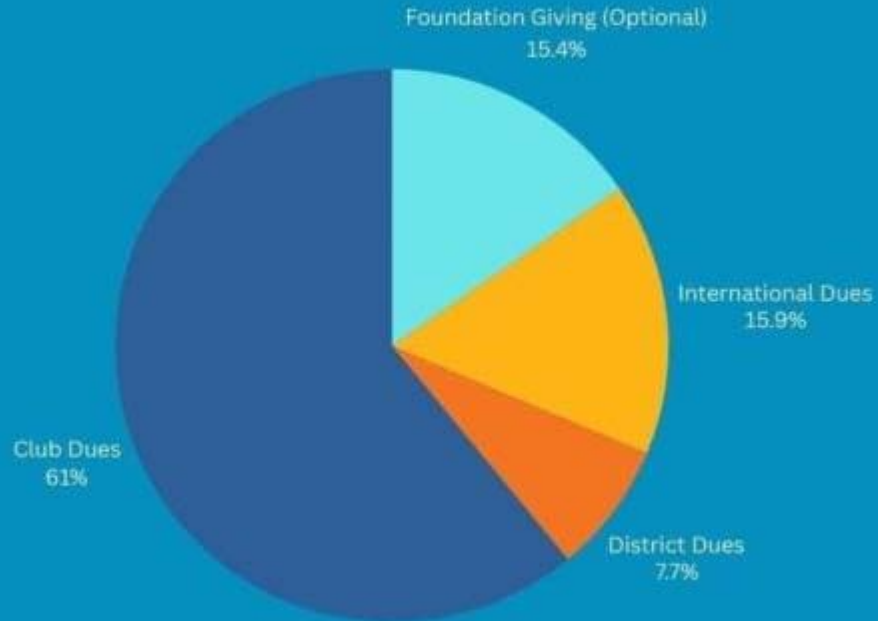
- \$10,000 - Champion Duck
- \$7,500 - Million Buck Duck
- \$5,000 - Struttin' Duck
- \$2,500 - Super Duck
- \$1,500 - Feathered Friend
- \$750 - Quacker Backer

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 the capital it takes to run a successful event. Let's do this!

Invite Potential Members

What does the Annual \$650 dues support?



Traditional Membership Dues Represented Above

Associate Family, Service Only and Active YP32 do not include "Club Dues"



As we learned from Al Blackmon, starting your ASK and ending your ASK to a potential new member are the hardest parts of the conversation when selecting someone who would make a great Rotarian. And we want great Rotarians interested in joining our mission in Rotary.

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.

Contribute to The Quacker

The Quacker is produced using DACdb on a **computer** and texted information takes additional manipulation from phone to computer. If your phone takes high-resolution pictures (HEIC), they are not compatible with DACdb and, therefore, an additional step to convert those files to JPEG, JPG, or PNG has to take place. If you use EzStory in DACdb, please send an email stating the name of your article. If you are unable to use EzStory, submit something for *The Quacker* by **emailing** the copy and pictures in one of the above formats to megcoffey@yahoo.com. Newsletters are put together on Sunday afternoon prior to the Tuesday meeting.

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

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

[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
iPast President
Membership Chair

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

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