



THE QUACKER

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville

February 11, 2024

Events

February 13th
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 27th
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

March 2nd
[The Reedy River Greenville: Community Service - Adopt-A-Road](#)

Years of Service

Ann H. Golden
02-11-2003
21 Years

Eric Krichbaum
02-10-2015
9 Years

Birthdays

Kevin J. Guptill
February 14th
Melissa Michael
February 25th

Wedding Anniversaries

Melissa and Rami
Michael
February 10th

Club Meeting Location



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.

Per Club President Alan: I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meeting where Jerry Blassingame, the Founder and CEO of Soteria, will be our guest speaker. Let us give him a warm welcome.

Club Meetings are held at Holly Tree Country Club in Simpsonville. Come join us at 5:30pm for socializing, followed by the meeting at 6pm. The address is 500 Golf Club Drive, Simpsonville, SC. **Some GPS apps do not map correctly if you select "Holly Tree Country**

Soteria, Jerry Blassingame, Founder and CEO



Jerry Blassingame is founder and CEO of Soteria Community Development Corporation. He endeavors to empower individuals and the community as he advocates for economic and social justice through community and economic development. His passion is assisting individuals who have been incarcerated and helping them to become productive citizens.

Jerry is a certified reentry specialist through the Institute of Prison Ministry at Wheaton College who advocates for systemic change nationally. One of his greatest accomplishments was to help pass Expungement Bill H3209 in South Carolina in 2018.

He served as President of Correctional Ministries and Chaplain Association at Wheaton College from 2019 - 2022, is a 2019 fellow in the Aspen Institute's Healthy Communities Initiative, a 2016 fellow of JustLeadershipUSA, and he received the Buck Mikel award for community development from the Greenville Chamber in 2019 and the United Way Spirit Award in 2023.

Meeting Program/Speaker

By Ann H. Golden

2-13-24 - Regular meeting - **Soteria** - *Jerry Blassingame, Founder and CEO*

2-27-24 - Regular meeting - **As Is: An Insider's Guide to Real Estate** - *Joan Herlong, Joan Herlong & Associates*

3-12-24 - Regular meeting - **Re-Wa** - *Chad Lawson, Director of Communications*

3-26-24 - Regular meeting - **Honduras Water Projects** - *Emilio Porras, President-Elect, Mauldin Rotary Club*

4-9-24 - Regular meeting - **CART** - *Bill Shillito, Past District Governor, Dist. 7670*

4-23-24 - Regular meeting - **On Track Greenville** - *Taylor Dockter, Assistant Director*

5-14-24 - Regular meeting - **Derby Celebration**

5-28-24 - Regular meeting - **Rotary Youth Exchange and RYLA Candidates** - *Wade Cleveland, District RYE Chair*

6-11-24 - Regular meeting - **Zonta Club of Greenville** - *Elaine Braeuning, District Chair*

6-25-24 - Regular meeting - **Awards and Installation**

This month is . . .



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION

Promoting Peace and Conflict Resolution

Reprinted from the February 2024 District 7750 newsletter

Rotary's Peace and Conflict Resolution Month takes place each February. It is a time for Rotary clubs around the world to focus on promoting peace and resolving conflicts in their local communities and beyond. This month is an opportunity to take action towards building a more peaceful world. During this month (or any time), your club can

promote peace by:

1. Hosting events that bring together people from different backgrounds and cultures. This could include cultural festivals, community service projects (like the one featured at the top of the page), or educational seminars on topics related to peace and conflict resolution.
2. Supporting local organizations that are working towards peace and conflict resolution. This could include donating funds, volunteering time, or partnering with local organizations to develop programs that address issues related to peace and conflict.
3. Engaging in advocacy and awareness-raising activities. This could include writing letters to elected officials, organizing rallies or marches, or using social media to spread awareness about peace and conflict resolution issues.

Rotary's Peace and Conflict Resolution Month is an important opportunity for individuals and clubs to take action towards building a more peaceful world.

Rotarians Needed for Home & Garden Show



Members of the DAT, Cancer Care Camp for Kids, a charity of KOA Campgrounds, do a two-hour shift at the 2023 Home & Garden Show.

An email was sent to all members on January 30th asking for a handler for Shades and two hours of time from each Rotarian to kick off our duck adoptions at the Home & Garden Show. A follow-up text was then sent to all members personally asking for their participation. The DATs Committee is grateful to:

- Ann Golden
- Eric Krichbaum
- Prudence Taylor
- Laurie Rapp
- Haley Jordan

for signing up for a shift at the Show taking place February 23-25, 2024.

The following shifts remain unstaffed and at least one Rotarian is needed for each of the following:

- Wednesday, male Club member for set-up at the venue (time TBD)
- Friday - 4pm - 7pm
- Saturday - 10am - Noon
- Saturday - Noon to 2pm
- Saturday - 2pm - 4pm
- Saturday - 4pm - 7pm
- Sunday - Noon - 2:30pm
- Sunday - 2:30pm - 5pm
- Load out - Sunday at 5:05pm

This is a great opportunity to meet and learn about the mission of a Duck Adoption Team (DAT) that you'll be partnered with for your shift. Please check your calendars and reach out to Meg Coffey to sign up for one of the above shifts. This is not available in DACdb because each time slot would require a separate entry.

Next Duck Derby Meeting



The next Duck Derby meeting will be February 21, 2024 at 6:30pm and is attended via Zoom. A great way to see where help is needed and to match your talents with the myriad of jobs that need to be completed prior to May 4 (Derby Day), as well as on the day-of. You are invited to attend.

Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: DD24 Committee Meeting

Time: Feb 21, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82629075916?pwd=Tk5iaFAwRmE4bStVaDVMTB5emZWdz09>

Meeting ID: 826 2907 5916

Passcode: 744719

Rotarians Serve at Night to Shine

By Alan Calloway

Our members of The Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville had the honor of volunteering at the Night to Shine event at Greenville First church. Night to Shine is a complimentary event for people with special needs hosted by local churches around the world. The event is open to anyone living with disabilities, ages 14 and older. Helping with the prom-like evening were Rachel Rutkowsk and boyfriend, Garrett, Eric Krichbaum and fiancé, Natja, and Alan Calloway. I hope that more people from our club will take part in this life-changing event in the near future.



Krichbaum Selected as District Governor Nominee



Reprinted from the District 7750 newsletter.

Congratulations to [our very own!] Eric M. Krichbaum, member of the Rotary Club of Reedy River in Greenville, for being selected to serve as District 7750 governor for 2026-2027. Eric joined the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 2001, and was a member for 3 years. After relocating to Simpsonville, he joined the Greenville Evening Rotary Club (now the Reedy River Greenville Rotary club) in 2015. Eric served as the Club President in 2017-18. He has been on the Club's Board of directors and held the positions of Community Service Chair, Charities Treasurer, fundraising project Logistics Committee Chair and Head of the Planning Committee. Eric was the District 7750 Community Service Committee Chair from 2019-2021 and is currently the Assistant Governor for Area 12. He is an RLI graduate, Multiple Paul Harris fellow and a PolioPlus Society member. While in Iowa, he served as a Board member for the Cedar Rapids Science Center and the Cedar Rapids Community Theater. Eric was also on the Advisory Board of the Kansas City Manufacturing Network. Eric worked in leadership positions with various companies throughout his 39-year professional career and retired in April of 2022. Eric received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, graduating as a member of Pi Tau Sigma, the International Mechanical Engineering Honor Society. He later received an MBA with a concentration in Marketing from the University of Nebraska.

Shades Helps Celebrate Stomper



One good turn deserves another. We were blessed to have Stomper, the Swamp Rabbit hockey team mascot, join us for the Poinsettia Christmas parade in December. In February, former member Gary Farrar donned the suit and Brian Miller of the Club attended as Shades' handler, to participate in Stomper's birthday party. This annual celebration has been on Shades' calendar for several years, and we're grateful to both Brian and Gary for taking on this task with all the other mascots who joined in the celebration.

Dining Around Greer

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE



Ticket's \$25.00 in advance or \$30.00 at the door

Reprinted from the District 7750 newsletter

The Rotary Club of Greer is hosting Dining Around Greer on February 18th from 1:00-3:30pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door for the event taking place at Greer City Hall, 301 Poinsett Street. Enjoy samples from several Greer restaurants and caterers along with live music by singer/songwriter (and Rotarian) Jim Mitchell.

As a new club, this is their first major fundraiser where they are supporting the Club's causes, including local and international organizations such as Cops for Tots (Greer Police), Greer Relief, scholarships for high school students going on to vocational studies or college, World Eradication of Polio, as well as Rise Against Hunger, Upstate Warrior Solution, and more.

Come out and support the Rotary Club of Greer and their efforts to help worthwhile causes.

Paul Harris + 4



Thanks to a real estate purchase utilizing Rotary Club of Greenville member, Suzy Tumblin, a Paul Harris plus four was awarded to Meg Coffey. Suzy, a real estate agent for Keller Williams, has always given back after a completed sale. Ten percent of the purchase price goes to the charity of the buyer's choice. In this case, Meg asked that the donation go to Polio Plus. At one of the Reedy River Rotary Club's December meetings, Suzy presented a check to the Club in honor of Meg's home purchase and the rest is history. Meg received her Paul Harris plus four pin on January 9. For any of your real estate needs, please reach out to Suzy Tumblin at Keller Williams Realty, who can be reached by calling 864-275-6882. It will be a win-win for you.

You Can Serve - Join In!

Please remember to RSVP for these events on DACdb.co

Events are tapering down as we gear up for the 20th Annual Reedy River Duck Derby. Please save the date for the Stripping and Tagging party on April 30, 2024. All hands on deck and friends and family are welcome. More details will be provided.

Duck Derby Committees - The work has begun for the Reedy River Duck Derby and all members are needed to make the 20th anniversary of this event the best one ever. If you are not yet on a committee, please contact Head Duck Eric Krichbaum to find a committee that utilizes your strengths.

A review of the Habitat for Humanity project will appear in the next newsletter.

3-2-24 - 9am - Noon - Adopt-A-Road - 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. For planning purposes, the event is expected to start at 9 and end by noon. Plan to meet at the parking lot at 202 Conestee Road (in front of Bosco Baby's Restaurant and Catering). Wear clothes appropriate for picking up trash, bring a hat if it is sunny. All other supplies will be provided.

Ongoing - times/days vary - The Children's Museum of the Upstate (TCMU) - One to three volunteers (you and your friends, or be partnered up with others) can help with:

- steamWORKS
- Facilities & Exhibits
- Brain Bag Prep

Sign up at the TCMU website and then let Eric Krichbaum know your hours and date(s) of service so it can be added to the Club's community service tracking spreadsheet.

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. Submissions must be received by the Wednesday prior to the next 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.
Simpsonville, SC 29681
Time: Tuesday at 05:30 PM

Club Leaders

Alan Stewart Calloway
President

Laurie M. Rapp
Treasurer

Ann H. Golden
Club Director
Club Programs Chair

Tanisha Elder-Kirk
Sergeant-at-Arms
Membership Chair

Rachel Rutkowski
President-Elect

Mark William Bacon
Rotary Foundation Chair

Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael
Club Director

Eric Michael Krichbaum
Service Projects Chair
District Governor Nominee

Prudence Ann Taylor
Club Admin Chair
Secretary

Meghan A. Coffey
Bulletin Editor
Club Director
RYLA Chair

John B Moore Jr.
Club Director

Melissa Michael
Literacy Chair