



August 25, 2024

## Events

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

**Speaker:** Al Blackmon, District Membership Chair  
**Subject:** The Magic of Membership

September 10th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Weekly Club Meeting](#)

September 12th  
[The Reedy River Greenville Club Board Meeting](#)

## Years of Service

Bobby Brown  
08-07-2019  
5 Years in RRR;  
21 years prior club(s)

## Birthdays

Mark Bacon  
August 4th  
Bobby Brown  
August 10th  
Cynthia Fryer  
August 16th

## Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

## Meeting Time Change

**DON'T FORGET: MEETING TIME CHANGE** - The meeting starts at 6:30pm, with socializing beginning at 6pm. Come join us for an informal gathering prior to the meeting program.



## 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.*

8-27-24 - Regular Meeting - **The Magic of Membership** - Al Blackmon, District Membership Chair

9-10-24 - Regular Meeting - **State of the Schools** - Dr. Burke Royster, Superintendent, Greenville County Schools

9-24-24 - Regular Meeting - Stay tuned!

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

## This month is . . .

### Membership & Extension

It's the perfect time to be sure our Club has its membership growth and retention plan in place so that this time next year, we'll have bragging rights to a membership increase.

## The Magic of Membership - Al Blackmon, District 7750 Membership Chair



Albert Blackmon is the district's 7750 Membership Chair for 2024-25. He's a member of the Rotary Club of Indian Land where he served in several capacities to include member of the Board of Directors, Club President, and Club Membership Chair. Albert's introduction to Rotary was in 1996 via District 7770 where he participated in the Group Study Exchange to Japan District 2750. Upon their arrival back to the US, Albert joined the Five Points Rotary Club in Columbia, SC.

Diverse career background:

- Over 25 years in Corporate America with BellSouth Telecommunications and Time Warner Cable.

### *Career assignments:*

- 5 years as an entrepreneur as the Owner/Strategic Partner with Pride Staff.
- 5 ½ years with the South Carolina Department of Safety as a State Trooper.
- Currently an adjunct instructor of business at USC Lancaster since 2016.

Community service and engagement are important to Albert as he currently serves on the following boards or participates in the following assignments:

- Advisory Board Chair for the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood Program
- United Way of Lancaster County Board of Directors
- Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority Board of Directors
- Co-Bible Study leader with his wife at Elevation Church
- Heavily engaged with Rotary work (has been a member of 3 Rotary Clubs)
- Proud volunteer and huge fan of the Reedy River Duck Derby!

Albert earned his Master in Business Administration from Winthrop University, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from USC Columbia, and two associate degrees from USC Lancaster, an Associate in Science and an Associate in Criminal Justice.

Albert and his Rotarian wife, Walta, reside in Indian Land, SC, with their 16-year-old son. They have three grown children: Jonathan (29) and his wife Stacy, Alexis (27), and Emanuel (27). One granddaughter Issabella (9) and another granddaughter on the way.

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## Welcome Our Newest Member

In addition to awarding grants, our newest member was inducted. Welcome Bhuvnesh Sharma, our newest member. We are excited to have him join Rotary Club of the Reedy River Greenville. Welcome to Rotary, Bhuvnesh!



## Money Into Our Community



When we work hard and earn profits from our signature fundraiser, the Reedy River Duck Derby, the next best thing is witnessing the smiles and pleasure of giving the money to great causes. On August 13, we invited all of our grant recipients to Willy Taco for an opportunity to share our success with them. This year's Derby provided around \$80,000 in funds to help further their causes. Grant recipients included:

- Augustine Literacy Project - \$5,000
- Girls On the Run - \$2,500
- GirlUp - \$2,500
- Harmony Rainbow Girls - \$2,500
- Jasmine Road - \$2,000
- LEAD Collective - \$2,500
- Mauldin Miracle League - \$4,650
- Meals on Wheels - \$1,500
- Rize Prevention - \$2,000
- Safe Harbor - \$2,000
- STRIDES Tutoring - \$3,000
- Carolina Youth Symphony - \$4,000

Rachel's signature project, Brooks Playground, a City of Greenville inclusive playground, will be given \$15,000 in funding with \$8,000 from the Duck Derby and \$7,000 from a matching District Grant. Along with that, The Nature Conservancy and a Rotarian provided matching funds to our relationship with Trees Upstate of \$1,000 from RRR and another \$1,000 from the Rotarian within The Nature Conservancy funding projects in our area. As mentioned previously, First Steps Today, our outstanding set of volunteer workers on Derby Day was gifted a \$1,000 donation.

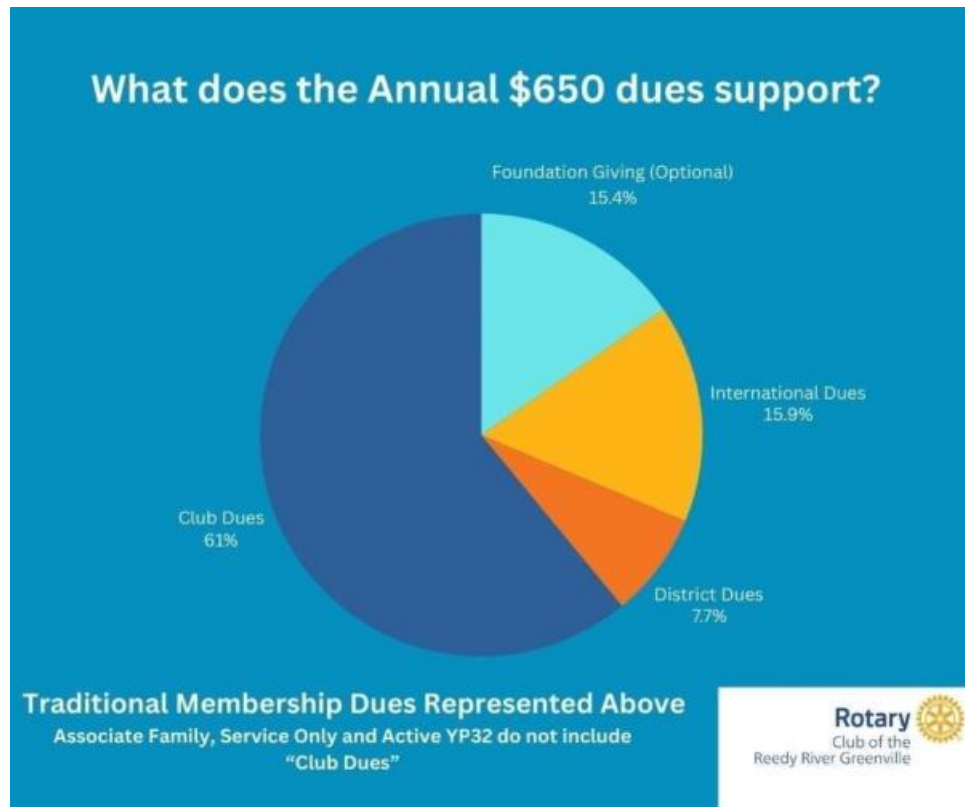
If you're a numbers person, this will not add up to \$80,000, and that is because we need to have seed money for the next Duck Derby. Add it up. How much did we give away?

## WSPA Wins Kevin Dill Award

Our annual Kevin Dill award went to WSPA for their support of the Reedy River Duck Derby. Kevin was a Rotarian in our Club and served as a director for several years and Secretary from 2008-2009. Each year, our Club awards the Kevin Dill award to a business in our community that supports the efforts of Rotarians.



## Membership Matters



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.

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.

## 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** - 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.**

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## Donations Still Accepted for Ed Irick's Bench

A memorial bench for founding Club Member Ed Irick has a lovely view of Reedy River Falls where the annual Reedy River Duck Derby race is held in Falls Park each year. The Club purchased the bench and dedicated it to Ed just before the 20th Derby this year. Donations are still being taken by the Club. Contact Alan Calloway for more information or make a check payable to the Club with "Ed Irick's Bench" in the memo line and turn it in to Laurie Rappl.

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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.  
Simpsonville, SC 29681  
Time: Not Defined at 06:30 PM

## Club Leaders

[Rachel Rutkowski](#)  
President  
[Laurie M. Rapp](#)  
Treasurer

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

[Rami Elmarkiz-Sami Michael](#)  
President-Elect  
[Alan Stewart Calloway](#)  
Club Director  
iPast President  
Membership Chair

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

[Prudence Ann Taylor](#)  
Secretary

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

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