

# Rotary

## Club of Spring Valley (Columbia)



Monday, August 4, 2025

### Meeting agenda 8.7.2025

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**



#### Club Meeting

Spring Valley (Columbia)  
Meets at Northeast Presbyterian Church  
601 Polo Road  
Columbia, SC 29223  
Time: Thursday at 01:00 PM

#### Club Leaders



Lachaska Salmond  
President



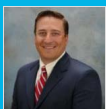
Michele L. Dunphy  
President-Elect



Denise LaRue Ruben  
Satellite Club Chair



Sara Raub  
Secretary



William Keith Chichester  
Treasurer



Jennifer Guerry Broome  
Club Director / Board Member



John Walko  
Club Director / Board Member



Diane Wood Junis  
Foundation



Spring Valley  
Rotary



**Menu: Cold Plate - shrimp, tuna and chicken salad, croissants, crackers, house salad, fruit tray and cookies**

**Invocation and Pledge: Stan Luallin**

**Health and Happiness: Lindsay Agostini**

**New Member Induction: Brian Dunphy**

**Welcome, Cynthia Villar**

**Paul Harris Fellow Presentation: Diane Junis**

**Bev Ryan will present to David Hall, Midlands Orphan Relief**

**Announcements: President Lachaska**

**Introduction of Speaker: Paula Matthews, PDG (2011-2012)**

**Sandy Morckel, District 7770 Governor (2025-2026)**



**Sandy Morckel**

District Governor (2025-2026)

Rotary District 7770

Mobile: 614.306.8856

611 Fisherman's Bend

Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Chair  
Public Image  
Chair



Brian P. Dunphy  
Membership  
Chair



Peter J. Stahl  
Service Projects  
Chair



Ted Rausch  
iPast President

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**August 14, 2025**

Meet our 2025-2026  
Youth Exchange  
Students

**August 21, 2025**

Honorary Member  
Celebration

**August 28, 2025**

Alejandro Espaillat MD  
FACS

Ophthalmology update -  
various eye conditions,  
including cataract  
surgery, glaucoma, and  
diabetic eye disease, as  
well as the application  
of artificial intelligence  
in Ophthalmology

**September 11, 2025**

LaToshia Chukes,  
Founder

Kind Acts for Humanity

## Service Opportunities

August 16th

**Adopt-a-Highway  
Trash Pick-Up**

August 18th

**Transitions Service  
Opportunity**

September 15th

**Transitions Service  
Opportunity**

September 29th

**Transitions Service  
Opportunity**

[smorckel@gmail.com](mailto:smorckel@gmail.com)



## New Member Proposed-Cynthia Villar



Deborah DePaoli has proposed Cynthia Villar for membership. Cynthia is a lifelong Christian and Columbia International University (CIU) MBA graduate with over 20 years of experience in different market sectors. She serves as the Director of CIU's Business & Career Development Center, which was started as an initiative based on three pillars: entrepreneurship, employment, and mentoring, to increase and expand access to high-quality training workshops and programs to help students, alumni, and the community start their own companies, pursue their dream job in today's high-demanding fields, or connect with mentors/coaches to grow personally and professionally. She combines this role with her Adjunct Faculty position teaching Marketing, Business Communications, and Capstone for the CIU School of Business.

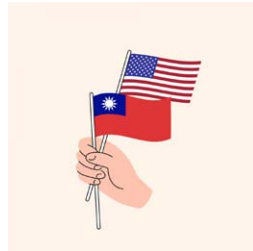
Cynthia led the formation of the Business Innovation and Development Center at her undergraduate university in Lima, Peru. She won Entrepreneur of the Year in 2017 and Fintech Founder of the Year in 2018. Cynthia was also selected as an Outstanding Women Entrepreneur of the GIST Catalyst program in Brisbane, Australia in 2018 and has participated in several international contests such as StartUp Peru, StartUp Chile, StartUp Mexico, Village Capital, GIST, Techstars, Halcyon Incubator, WeXChange, Visa's Everywhere Initiative, The Holt Fintech Accelerator, Kunan, Open Road Alliance, FinXperience, and F10 Accelerator.

Cynthia currently serves as a mentor and consultant for different entrepreneurship organizations in Peru, Chile, Argentina, and the USA and is on the steering committee for Halcyon Incubator. Cynthia works hand in hand with very talented and dedicated international CIU Graduate Assistants who are all devoted to making this center one of the best in the world.

Her hobbies include: walking, going to the beach, driving, trying new food, good music, traveling, meeting new people, reading, and learning new things. She will be inducted at our August 7 meeting.

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## Youth Exchange Update - Amelia has arrived!



Amelia is pictured leaving Taiwan with the following L to R: Her grandmother, Siao-Jing HONG JHANG, her aunt, Jiahua Zhang, Amelia, Apollo, President of the Rotary Club of Chung Ho Yuan-Tung in Taipei, Taiwan, and Tony, the youth exchange officer for Amelia's sponsoring club.

After a long flight and a missed connection in Atlanta, Amelia arrived on Friday afternoon, August 1. Some of those who were on site for her mid-morning arrival couldn't stay, but others joined in the afternoon! Welcome Amelia!



If you are interested in serving on the Youth Exchange Committee, please reach out to Shelly. [shellydunphy@icloud.com](mailto:shellydunphy@icloud.com)

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## The Weekly Raffle - Benefitting CART 1st Qtr

Our new card is.....



Door prizes are always needed for our weekly raffles. Please consider contributing an item. Any questions, contact Judy Gaskins, [jgaskins001@sc.rr.com](mailto:jgaskins001@sc.rr.com) or (803) 315-3723. Have items you can "re-gift?" A



bottle of wine is always the coveted prize! Or maybe a gift card?

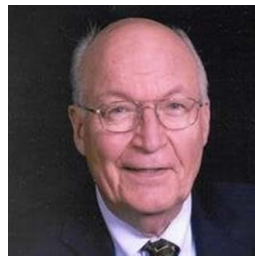
**For the first quarter of this Rotary year (July-September) our weekly raffle proceeds will support The Cart Fund. Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust** is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 by Roger Ackerman, a Rotarian in Sumter, SC. Its mission is to provide **"seed" money for cutting-edge research grants** aimed at finding a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's disease. The fund is supported by Rotarians who contribute spare change during meetings, ensuring that **100% of donations go directly to research.**



[www.cartfund.org](http://www.cartfund.org)

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## With Sympathy



We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Rotarian John Runy. John died on Wednesday, July 30. John rejoined our club in December 2024 and was looking forward to being an active member again in his retirement, until his health issues became very complicated.

**A Celebration of Life will be held 1 o'clock, Tuesday, August 5th, at Northeast Presbyterian Church. The family will receive friends following the service.** Memorial donations may be made to Pawmetto Lifeline Shelter, 1275 Bower Parkway, Columbia, S.C. 29212, or to Northeast Presbyterian Church, 601 Polo Road, Columbia, S.C. 29223.

If you would like to send a note of sympathy to his spouse, Carol, the mailing address is:  
22 Northlake Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

[LTC John Runy, US Army \(Ret\) Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information](#)

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## Stay Connected via Facebook

Facebook is a great way to stay connected as a member of our club in two different ways.

1. Please "LIKE" our public Facebook page:  
**Spring Valley Rotary Club**





On this page we post membership information and the impact of all of our community service work. Please SHARE these public posts so that you can help promote the good work of our club. You never know what Facebook friend you have

who just might be interested in becoming a Rotarian!

2. Please join our private club group called: **Rotary Club of Spring Valley**. This is a "Member-Only" group, so nothing posted here can be shared. This page includes member reminders, service project opportunities, club needs, etc.

You need to be invited to join this group, so if you are not already a member, please send an email to Diane Junis at [dianejunis@gmail.com](mailto:dianejunis@gmail.com), and an invitation link will be sent.

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## SIGN UP NOW - Saturday, August 16

### [Adopt-a Highway SIGN UP LINK](#)



Join fellow Rotarians as we pick up trash on our section of Polo Rd. Meet in the parking lot behind the Taco Bell, at the corner of Polo and Two Notch Rd at **8:45 am, and we'll finish by 10 am**. Non-Rotarians, spouses, teenagers and prospective members are always welcome! Please wear gloves. All other materials will be provided. **Questions? Contact Greg Seymour at [gseymour25@yahoo.com](mailto:gseymour25@yahoo.com)**

**Saturday, August 16: Signed up are: Ginny Reed, Diane Junis, Corey Price, Brian and Shelly Dunphy and our YE Student Amelia! We need at least 6-8 more volunteers!**

**Save the date for our last pick-up of the calendar year:  
Saturday, November 15**



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### Meals on Wheels Delivery

**8/7: Peter Stahl and Bev Ryan**

**8/14: Phil Newsom and ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**8/21: Phil Newsom and Lindsay Agostini**

8/28 TWO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

9/4: TWO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### [MEALS ON WHEELS SIGN UP](#) link

Please sign up for a Thursday Meals on Wheels delivery. This involves meeting at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church (across from SVHS) at 10:30 a.m. and delivering meals to 5–10 homes on our Northeast Route, which takes about an hour.

A spouse or friend, non-member or potential member can deliver with you.

Club Coordinator: PHIL NEWSOM 803-315-0299

[newsomp133@gmail.com](mailto:newsomp133@gmail.com)

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### Serving Dinner at Transitions

#### [Transitions 2025 Sign Up LINK](#)



**Next Service Date:**

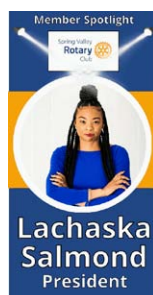
**Monday, August 18 @ 5:15 pm**

Signed up are: Brian Dunphy, Ginny Reed, Sara Raub and a guest. We're good, but please consider signing up for Monday, September 15 or 29. We have TWO Mondays in September.

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### Member Spotlight - Lachaska Salmond

Thank you, John Walko for providing member spotlights on our Facebook pages. I'll include them in the bulletin for those not on Facebook. If you'd like to be featured, let John know and he will send you the questionnaire. [jwalko8374@gmail.com](mailto:jwalko8374@gmail.com)



Spotlight on Lachaska — our current Club President, and if you know her, you know she was born for the bright lights!

**Career-Minded Questions:**

**Q: What inspired you to pursue your current career path, and what keeps you motivated to continue growing in your field?**

A: My own story of being a young widow and not having the financial resources drives me to educate and empower people now so they are prepared for the unexpected and can retire on their terms.

**Q: What is one career lesson you've learned the hard way that you would share with others in our Rotary community?**

A: Make sure you know your worth and do not take the first offer given to you if it doesn't align with your number.

**Q: If you could switch careers for a day, what would you choose and why?**

A: A fashion professional, so I can go to the high-end shows and visit the most extravagant, luxurious stores!

**Q: How do you maintain a healthy work-life balance, and what tips do you have for staying productive without burning out?**

A: I try to balance, but honestly, I am still trying to figure that out! lol

**Personal-Minded Questions:**

**Q: What's a hobby or activity you're passionate about that most people might not know about?**

A: I like to skate.

**Q: What's one personal accomplishment you're most proud of, and how did it impact your life?**

A: Becoming a financial advisor was one of the best decisions I made in my career. It has allowed me to help my family and other families financially.

**Q: If you could invite anyone—past or present—to dinner, who would it be and what would you talk about?**

A: Tyra Banks and we would talk all things fashion!

**Rotary-Minded Questions:**

**Q: What motivates you to stay involved with Rotary, and how has it impacted both your personal and professional life?**

A: I like the comradery and the ability to serve. I also learn a lot from my members in business and in life.

**Q: Can you share a moment in Rotary that made you feel truly proud to be part of this organization?**

A: When I first started, I volunteered with Diane to help with Meals on Wheels, and she inspired me so much. We had things in common I never would have thought we did. It was a great experience.

**Q: What is one way you think our Rotary Club can make an even bigger impact in our community?**

A: Getting out and being part of other community events and letting people know we are here would be impactful.

Thank You Lachaska Salmond!

You are a true inspiration — a newer Rotary member willing to donate your time to making our club better and now becoming PRESIDENT!

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**Fall Social - Save the Date - Tuesday, Sept 16**



Spring Valley  
Rotary

Let's Connect &  
Have Fun at  
Lowes Foods  
Beer Den!

**Lowes**  
FOODS

120 Forum Dr.  
Village at Sandhills

September 16th  
at 5:30 PM

FYI: It's a BYO...buy your own Event!





## Birthdays



[James William "Bill" Oliver](#)  
August 5th



[Marion Hanna](#)  
August 8th



[Roland S. Corning](#)  
August 9th

## Wedding Anniversaries



[Robert F. "Bobby" Curtis](#)  
August 4th



[Phillip F. Newsom](#)  
August 5th

## Years of Service



[Judith C. Gaskins](#)  
24 Years

[Viola Robinson Faust](#)  
2 Years



