



December 9, 2016

# Greenville Rotarian

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**Service Above Self**

Volume 101 Issue 11



## Rotary Club of Greenville OUR NEXT MEETING

*Join us at the Westin Poinsett Hotel  
Tuesday, December 13 at 12:00*

## Teacher of the Year



### GREENVILLE COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

With Rotary's focus on education, one of the most meaningful programs that we can support is Greenville County School's Teacher of the Year. Educators may invent the most innovative scholastic programs, but they are meaningless without the classroom teacher's execution. This year's winners of our Teacher of the Year program represent how much our educational system has progressed in recent years.

Three of our finalists are a veteran kindergarten teacher, a guidance counselor and a high school special education teacher. Most people understand the importance of early childhood education, but it has only been recently that our schools have been able to fund full day kindergarten. Many emotional and physical issues affect children's ability to learn so guidance counselors play a critical role in preparing students to learn - from relieving anxiety to providing food and clothing for students in need. Most would agree that it would be challenging to deal with 15 year old adolescents each day, but our first runner-up embraces her emotionally disabled students with love and support while helping her students find their path in life.

Our Teacher of the Year's classroom further displays the experiments that schools are using to reach students. She teaches in a room that has both first and second graders with two teachers. She has found ways to use her passions to make learning fun for her students. She writes songs about the subject matter she teaches. Her students have excelled academically and they have developed outstanding voices.

Each teacher will share their incredible story on how they were drawn to work with children. All Rotarians will be impressed. This is a meeting you will not want to miss!

### INVITE A FUTURE ROTARIAN AS A GUEST

\$21 includes a delicious lunch, an inspiring program, and free parking.  
Preregistration is required. Walk-ups cannot be accommodated.

# Mark Your Calendar

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 13	Discover Rotary 11:00 at Westin Poinsett Hotel
December 13	Club Meeting, 12:00 at Westin Poinsett Hotel featuring the Greenville County Teacher of the Year
December 20	Club Meeting, 12:00 at Westin Poinsett Hotel featuring State Representative Bruce Bannister
January 10	Club Meeting, 12:00 at Westin Poinsett Hotel featuring Chief Ken Miller
January 24	Club Meeting, 12:00 at Westin Poinsett Hotel featuring Mayor Knox White
March 16	Carolinas PETS (President Elect Training Seminar)
June 10	Rotary International Convention, Atlanta, Georgia
June 30	District 7750 Awards and Installation Banquet, TD Center



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## New Time and Location

Please bring a potential member to our next Discover Rotary Tuesday, November 13 at 11am at the Westin Poinsett Hotel, before our regularly scheduled Club meeting. We changed the time and location to make it easier for you to bring potential members to learn about our Club. You can also have your guest join your for our Club program immediately following Discover Rotary.



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## Remembering Bruce McPherson

Long time Rotarian member Bruce McPherson died Tuesday, November 29th. Bruce joined the Rotary Club of Greenville in 1987 and served on the Board of Directors from 1996 and 1998. He was also a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

# Service Above Self

## Join us in Haiti.

**February 7 to 11**

The proposed trip to Haiti is from the 7th of February until the 11th. February. The schedule will be similar to the one we followed last year.

For those wishing to participate, it will be necessary to arrive in Port au Prince on Tuesday before 3 pm to have transportation before dark. Flights from GSP through Charlotte (American) and Delta through Atlanta. Bookings should be done early.

On Tuesday evening we will attend the Rotary Club of Pietonville meeting and stay in a Hotel in P a P.

The club of Pietonville is being asked to be the host club for a Global Grant for the Goat breeding program at the farm in Lacheteau.

We will travel to the central plateau on the Wednesday morning and spend Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday visiting various sites including the Vocational school, three farms, and go to sites where PIA has the Family Security program in place. (There will be some hiking to the mountain areas) where coffee is grown along with Mangoes and other fruit and nut trees.

On these visits they will see real poverty and the efforts to provide the residents with knowledge, tools, seeds and other ingredients to grow food on small plots. On Thursday evening we will attend the meeting of the local Rotary Club of Mirebalais.

We will depart P a P early Saturday to return to the USA.





# Holiday Lights



## Holiday Lights brighten path to Greenville teen's future

Reprinted from the Greenville News

The Roper Mountain Holiday Lights have done more than brighten Garrett Hawk's Christmas over the years. They've lit the path to what he sees as his life's work.

A recent high school graduate, Hawk plans to study technical theater — working the lights behind the scenes of plays and concerts.

His inspiration stems from his family's tradition of attending the Roper Mountain Holiday Lights, a nonprofit holiday lights event in the Upstate that benefits education and local charities.

Hawk recalls being as young as five and going to see the myriad displays ground lighting and Santa's Winter Wonderland.

He became a volunteer for the event, which is a mega-project of the Rotary Club of Greenville when he was 8.

A 10-year volunteer now, Hawk said he's never taken a year off.

"Not only do I love the lights here, but it's got some sentimental value to it," he said. "These are my babies. I have shaped my life around Roper Mountain Holiday Lights just because it's what I've grown up with and I just love it."

In 2013, the Rotary Club of Greenville honored Hawk with a Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International in recognition of his "dedication to this iconic community service project."

Hawk was born in West Virginia but moved to Greenville when he was a toddler.

Greenville is home, he said, and Christmas is his favorite time of the year.

"I live, eat and breathe Christmas," he said.

Hawk said a reason he loves working with the Holiday Lights event is because "I am a very hands-on person. I love putting stuff together, taking it apart and seeing how it works."

He got the opportunity to do that as a child, helping his grandmother decorate her church and her home for Christmas.

And, throughout his middle and high school life, Hawk said he's been someone teachers could call on if they needed technical help with such things as Promethean boards.

"They would find out what class I was in and call me to come fix whatever was wrong," he said. "And I've also done the sound and lights at Eastside all four years. I also do sound and lights at my church."

These days, Hawk said he manages the set-up and take down of the displays for the Holiday Lights. When repairs are needed, he does that too.

"We start putting things together in August, but we're here year-round," said Hawk, who works as a custodian for Green-

ville County Schools. "It's a 12-month project."

Hawk is among the few people who knows all the hard work that goes into putting together the event.

"As a Holiday Lights veteran, he's part of the tribal knowledge base that's been passed on from generation to generation over a 25-year run. He knows the displays, he knows the mountain and he knows all the processes of making Holiday Lights happen," one Rotary member has said about Hawk.

"I have the whole mountain memorized. If there are some bulbs out or not the right color, I'll change them," he said.

There are 72 displays on the mile-long Holiday Lights route. The event's most iconic display, besides the star, is Frosty the Snowman, Hawk said.

"He's about 600 pounds when he's all put together. He's so big, tall and heavy that we have to stand him up vertically with a lift," he said.

Getting Frosty and the other displays set-up and ready for the 5,000 to 6,000 cars that visit each year is "hard work," he said.

It takes Hawk an hour to turn on all the lights. There are 42 breaker boxes.

Hawk said his efforts are rewarded by the smiles on the faces of children when they see the show.

Another payoff is seeing how the proceeds are distributed.

"That's one thing I personally like about Holiday Lights — you can see all the proceeds here in Greenville County," he said. "I just love seeing what our money does in the community because that's a big part."

Hawk has no plans to abandon his work with the Holiday Lights event. He also hesitates to abandon the displays themselves when they retire.

Hawk said he has a few of the old Holiday Lights displays set up outside his home, in addition to 40 inflatables and a little more than 7,000 lights.

While his family has enjoyed Holiday Lights over the years, they've not been as enamored as Hawk, who said he can't imagine a season without it.

He still drives through the event occasionally, he said. But "I've worn them out."

For more information about the Roper Mountain Holiday Lights schedule and events, visit <http://ropermountainholidaylights.com/calendar/>



## Fun Facts about the Holiday Lights

Reprinted from the Greenville News

- Roper Mountain Holiday Lights is a non-profit Holiday Light show in Greenville!
- Volunteers begin setting the lights up in early September each year to get ready to open by Thanksgiving night.
- Nearly 7,000 volunteer man-hours go into setting, running and dismantling Roper Mountain Holiday Lights.
- A portion of the 4,080 square foot warehouse where the lights are stored during the off-season is transformed into Santa's Workshop.
- There are 32 electrical meters throughout the site that are used to operate the lights.
- It takes one person an hour to turn the lights on each night all across Roper Mountain.
- The electricity bill for the 2014 Holiday Lights was \$7,000!
- Since 1992, more than \$2.2 million has been given back to local charities and non-profit organizations.
- The tallest display is the 24 foot tall Trampoline Ginger Bread Man.
- The longest display is Candy Cane Lane!
- The sleigh behind Santa in his Workshop is fully restored and is more than 100 years old.
- The Buck Mickel Star has over 2,500 lights and stands 97.5 feet tall.
- Nearly 900 people volunteer to help with the project every year.
- There are 72 lights displays (ground lighting not included).
- The 72 light displays require 63,792 bulbs!
- More than 20,000 vehicles pass through Holiday Lights every year!

## We Need Your Help!

Call all your friends and neighbors and encourage them to come out and create a family tradition. This is an incredible way to celebrate the holiday season.

## Help the Rotary Club of Greenville Play Santa

This year we will be collecting donations to purchase gifts for the for the young men at Generations Group Home.

We look forward to having the boys join us for our December 20th meeting and sharing the gifts with them!

Please consider donating at the next meeting on December 13 or you can mail a check to:

*Catriona Carlisle  
c/o Meals on Wheels  
15 Oregon Street  
Greenville, SC 29605*



# Opening Night at Holiday Lights





# Holiday Lights on Social Media

Watch the Holiday Lights Video



Roper Mountain Holiday Lights





# Welcome New Members

Welcome to our newest members, Trey Gardner, Suzy Nelson, and Jerry O'Neal.



## Proposed New Member:

Brock Koonce, PhotoElectric



## Board of Directors Nominations for 2017

Treasurer: Mark Swanson  
Secretary: Ron Demonet

New Board Members  
Dolly Durham-Montgomery  
Laura Moore  
Grady Patterson  
Walker Smith  
Stinson Ferguson

**Rotary**  
Club of Greenville



## Rotary Foundation named the world's outstanding foundation for 2016

BY AMELIA NELSON  
7750 Polio Chair

Our Rotary Foundation was named the world's outstanding foundation for 2016 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The judges cited PolioPlus as a major driver for its selection. That includes YOU—your generosity to helping eradicate polio is an important part of our Foundation receiving this honor.

As you know, this is our Centennial year-long celebration of the Foundation. Every Rotary club is asked by RI President John Germ to set a goal of at least \$2,650, a higher goal than usual in honor of the centennial and the need world-wide.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), of which Rotary is a Partner, is working on strengthening surveillance and immunization in Africa and East Mediterranean to ensure polio has been eradicated and immunity against the virus improves.

We still hope to complete eradication during 2017 even with the discovery of 4 polio cases in the Borno region of Nigeria. Vaccination activities continue and new

innovative technology is being used to ensure workers are getting to areas where vaccinations are most needed. This new technology is a smartphone application called Survey 123 where consultants report weekly, anywhere in the world, on their activities.

Vaccinations continue to be administered amidst insecurity. WHO, UNICEF and partners reached 1.1 million children with the oral polio vaccine in South Sudan this November. Other places with the poliovirus are in countries where conflict and lack of security make it difficult to reach children.

Because of the volunteers and committed workers, there was only 1 wild poliovirus case reported this past week. The total number for 2016 is 33 compared to 74 in 2015.



CLICK THE GRAPHIC TO GO TO THE END POLIO NOW WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW CLUBS CAN HELP.

### DECEMBER POLIO FUNDRAISER:

#### Give a gift in honor or memory of someone

We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and we have so much for which to be thankful here in our country. Now we are entering the "season of giving". Would you like to know the joy of ending polio? Of helping provide vaccinations to families we will never meet? Of ending the fear of polio?

Then please participate in our DECEMBER POLIO FUNDRAISER. Make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one or someone you know who is a post-polio survivor or someone who lost their life to polio.

Let's make this season about others and help finish the eradication of polio. We are [this] close!

To make your donation and receive credit towards your Paul Harris Fellow as well as tax credit, [click here](#) to download the form.

More than

**\$57,000** has

been given to polio

through November in

D7750.

We are doing great—

we just need to keep

this effort on the front

burner. The silent

auction revenue at the

All Club Conference

will also go towards

Polio.—Lance

# Charities and Why We are Here

## Support Greenville Rotary Charities by Using Amazon Smile

**Remember to use AmazonSmile on Black Friday.**

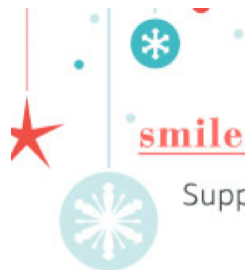
Sign up for Amazon Smile under Rotary Charities, Inc. and we receive .5% of your purchase in cash.  
Yep, that's right. Every little bit helps.



**Our unique link is <http://smile.amazon.com/57-6022329>.**



*Leading Through Service*



**Start with a Smile at  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) this Holiday Season**

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials  
including gifts, decorations, and more.

**You shop. Amazon gives.**



## The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.





# CELEBRATE WITH US IN ATLANTA

Our hope is that more than 45,000 Rotarians visit Atlanta for the convention, and that everyone goes home saying they had a great time. We want you to experience the hospitality of Atlanta and feel the passion Rotarians have for doing good in the world.

I'm really looking forward to sharing this with my son and brother, both Rotarians who have never been to a Rotary International Convention. Hope to see you in Atlanta.



Robert Hall, Rotary Club of Dunwoody,  
Georgia, USA

Chair, Host Organization Committee,  
2017 Atlanta Convention

**Register today at  
[riconvention.org](http://riconvention.org)**



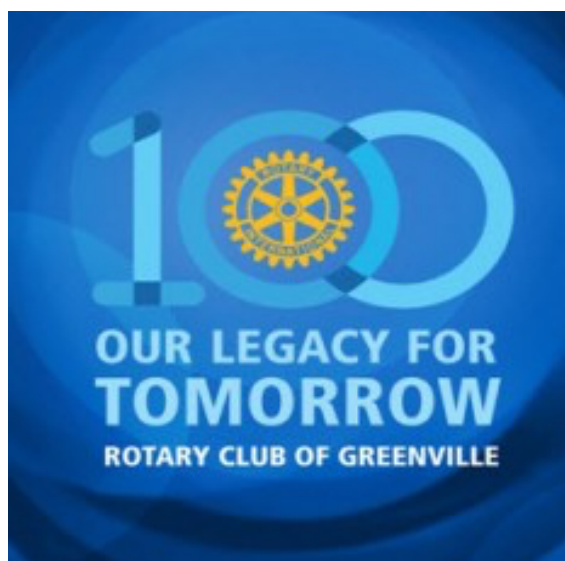
**ROTARY CONVENTION  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA, USA  
10-14 JUNE 2017**





**Of the things we think, say or do**

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**



## **The Greenville Rotarian**

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Greenville

Organized January 7, 1916

RI President	John Germ
District Governor	Lance Young
Club President	Stephanie Lewis
President Elect	Scott Stephens
Secretary	Russ Miller
Treasurer	David Karr
Bulletin Editor	Russell Stall
Administrative Director	Mandy Dutton

### **Rotary Club of Greenville**

728 N. Pleasantburg Drive Greenville, SC 29607  
Office: 864-235-2293 Fax: 864-235-3328

#### **Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday - 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Friday - Closed.