

Florence Rotary Club Welcomes New Leadership



L to R: Ed Henderson, Taylor Hucks McMillan

The Florence Rotary Club announced the induction of Roger Edward “Ed” Henderson as its 104th President during a celebratory meeting held in June. Ed Henderson succeeds Taylor Hucks McMillan, the outgoing President, in a tradition known as the Passing of the Gavel. This symbolic ceremony marks the transition of leadership within the club.

Ed Henderson, a distinguished lawyer and community leader, presented outgoing Florence Rotary President Taylor Hucks McMillan with the gavel as a token of appreciation for her exemplary service. "I know I have big shoes to fill as Taylor's successor—she was a fantastic president and is a true asset to the club," Henderson stated.

Born in Chesterfield, South Carolina, Ed Henderson has a robust background in both law and military service. After earning his degrees from Wofford College and the University of South Carolina School of Law, he began his career at a Bennettsville, South Carolina law firm, focusing on personal injury and criminal defense. His career path then led him to serve as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Paul M. Burch, followed by four years of active duty in the United States Marine Corps with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, 2d Marine Division.

Post-military service, Ed joined a large multi-state civil defense firm and later practiced civil litigation and criminal defense in Florence. In 2024, he joined Hatfield Temple as a trial attorney and litigator, specializing in personal injury, workers' compensation, and insurance bad faith litigation. Ed also continues his service as a Judge Advocate in the South Carolina Army National Guard.

Ed is married to Christie Henderson, an attorney at McLeod Health, and they have two sons, Hank and George. The family is active at First Presbyterian Church. Ed became a Rotary member in 2019 and was honored as the Young Professional Rotarian of the Year in 2023. He has also contributed to the community as a City of Florence Little League Baseball Coach.

In his new role, Ed Henderson aims to drive growth and community engagement within the Florence Rotary Club. "I am committed to expanding our membership base and enhancing networking opportunities for our members," he shared. "Our focus will remain on serving the community, upholding the Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' through impactful service projects and outreach."

The induction ceremony also saw the appointment of new officers: Travis Blayton as President Elect, Robby Hill as Secretary, Elizabeth Smyth as Sergeant at Arms, and Tom Ewart as Treasurer.

The Florence Rotary Club also honored outstanding members with awards:

- **President's Award:** Jean Leatherman
- **Young Professional Rotarian of the Year:** Travis Blayton
- **Four Way Test Award:** George Stukes
- **Rotarian of the Year:** Ed Henderson