



**San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club**  
Chartered May 19, 1987 - District 5840 - Club #24625  
www.sanortheastrotary.com



# the Nor'easter



**Rotary**  
Club of San Antonio  
Northeast



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**March 19, 2024**

**Salsalito Cantina Mexican Restaurant, 14535 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247**  
**Meeting from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



**Rotary's Four Way Test 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?



Our speaker this evening is our own Assistant Governor Jan King. She will be speaking to us about the total eclipse that will be taking place on Monday, April 8, 2024. The moon will blot out the entire sun. For a few minutes, it will look and feel like twilight. You will be able to see this rare event along a line across Texas from Del Rio to Texarkana.



**UPCOMING CLUB CALENDAR**

<b>Friday, March 22nd</b>	Pickleball Social at the Walzem YMCA
<b>Saturday, March 23rd</b>	Rotary Day SA 2024
<b>Tuesday, March 26th</b>	Angela Paduch, Fresh Start Surgical Gifts
<b>Tuesday, April 2nd</b>	Speaker from the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association
<b>Thursday, April 11th</b>	Rotary Night at the Missions
<b>Saturday, April 20th</b>	Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Training NOTE - Registration closes on April 10th

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Becky Robles is celebrating her 5th Rotary Anniversary TODAY.  
Analyn Jimenez will be celebrating her 7th Rotary Anniversary on March 21st.  
Congratulations ladies and THANK YOU.



**At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is at \$161. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, who will leave with at least \$80.50.**

The District 5840 District Annual Fund Raffle tickets were passed out at our meeting last week. Please sell as many tickets as you can to raise as much money as possible for the Annual Fund.



Why give money to the Annual Fund? Because the service projects funded by the Annual Fund help change lives across the globe, in each of our communities and in ourselves. Each Rotary club in our District can receive funds from the Annual Fund for their own unique projects.

The prize for the Raffle winners is a \$1,000 gift card. There are seven (7) prizes. The winner of the third drawing is the SELLER of the ticket so please be sure to complete that information on the ticket stubs. All ticket stubs must be turned into PDG Jerry Hardy by May 25, 2024.



Spring officially arrives at 10:06 p.m. this evening



**Join Us for Rotary Day SA 2024**  
**Saturday, March 23**  
**McAllister Park**  
**Pavilion #5**



**Service Opportunities:**

- Tree ring mulching
- Litter pick up
- Invasive species removal
- Dog park mulching
- Painting picnic tables
- Repainting the posts and cable

**THIS SATURDAY**



**Registration Required:**

- 9:00am: Check in, breakfast tacos, orientation
- 10am - 2pm: Service Hours
- Volunteers must be 10 or older
- All volunteers must sign a waiver
- Wear your Rotary shirts, appropriate shoes and bring gloves

Scan the QR code to register



Join your fellow Rotarians in a district-wide day of service.

One of the most recent events that the Madison High School Interact Club participated in was the Christ Community Church clean-up. Members of the Interact club came out and picked up trash and raked leaves.



**James Madison Interact Club**

The Madison Interactors also worked at the NEISD Clothes Pantry this semester. The club members sorted through the clothes that were donated by the NEISD community. These donations are then given to families in the NEISD community who need them newer clothes to wear for the school year.

Our guest speakers on March 12th Madison High School Interactors Alexa Huerta, Christian Berumen, and Kaci Katsuda. They spoke to us about their recent experiences at Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA). All three students gave us a great presentation.

Open to more than 150 outstanding representatives of clubs throughout District 5840, the RYLA Conference is held in January over the Martin Luther King weekend. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership program for young people ages 14-30. Organized by clubs, districts, or Multi-districts, RYLA allows participants to learn new skills through civic engagement and personal and professional development opportunities.



Thanks go out to San Antonio Northeast Rotarians Debbie Degollado, Russell Sturgeon, Trina Forcey, Anthony Strickland, Preston McKinney, and Kelly Carreon for volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House of San Antonio on Thursday, March 14th to sponsor a dinner for families of the house with children in nearby hospitals throughout the Medical Center. Club members helped prepare and cook a three course spaghetti dinner for families of the house, roughly 50 house guests. Thanks for the opportunity to help the families in need. We would like to thank the Ronald McDonald House for allowing our club to support the organization.



The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club will hold a Pickleball Social on Friday, March 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Walzem YMCA located at 5538 Walzem Rd. There are three courts. Paddles and balls will be provided. You just need to show up with your own tennis shoes. Pizza, water, and sodas will be provided. You can bring your own beer of choice if you like. A waiver will need to be signed by all participants. All Rotarians are invited to this club social. Please invite your friends to come out and join us as well.

### Remembering Paul Alexander, who lived 70 years in an iron lung

By Arnold Grahl

Paul Alexander, a 78-year-old man from Texas, USA, who spent most of his life in an iron lung, died on March 11, 2024. Alexander contracted polio in 1952, when he was just 6 years old. The disease paralyzed him from the neck down so he couldn't breathe on his own. He earned a law degree, passed the bar exam, and practiced law in Dallas for a time. He was also briefly a member of a Rotary e-club.

The following is a story that was reported in 2015

One might think a man living with polio in an iron lung would know about Rotary. But it wasn't until Paul Alexander had a business meeting with a member in Duncanville, Texas, earlier this year that he learned Rotary fights to eradicate the very disease that left him almost completely paralyzed. "I was completely blown away by the idea. For all these years, I didn't know the work they were doing," says Alexander, a practicing attorney in Dallas. "It's such a perfect fit for me."

Alexander contracted polio during a major U.S. outbreak of the disease in the late 1950s when he was six years old, and almost died in the hospital before a doctor noticed he wasn't breathing and rushed him into an iron lung, an airtight metal tank that encloses all of the body except the head and uses regulated changes in air pressure to force the lungs to inhale and exhale. Alexander is among a small number of people in the world today still using an iron lung to assist his paralytic polio. The need for the 800-pound machines declined dramatically after the polio vaccine became widely available in the early 1960s.

In October, Alexander became a member of the Rotary E-Club of District 5810 during an induction ceremony held in his home, attended by Rotary's President Gary C.K. Huang through an online connection. Alexander is writing a book about his experience and wants to be an ambassador for Rotary promoting the benefits of eradicating polio.

For 10 years, Alexander never left the device or his house. But then he had a breakthrough, teaching himself to breathe on his own by forcing air into his lungs. That allowed him to get around in a wheelchair for up to eight hours. "The first day I was outside the house was extraordinary. It was a 100 percent improvement," he recalls.

Determined to go to college, he moved onto campus and with the help of a nursing assistant attended classes, earning a degree from the University of Texas. He eventually went on to earn a law degree, passed the bar, and practices civil and criminal law. He has a computer keyboard and a touchtone phone by his head which he can manipulate with a plastic stick held in his mouth. When he goes to court for a case, he has assistants who help him. He's traveled farther from his home on rare occasions. The iron lung, which has wheels, is shipped to meet him at his destination.

His father was president of a Dallas Rotary club in the 1960s, but Alexander says he doesn't remember it. His introduction to Rotary began when he met Duncanville member Alexander Peralta. Peralta told the Rotary District 5810 governor, Bill Dendy, who immediately decided Alexander would be the perfect subject of a video his wife was making on polio eradication. Alexander agreed, and a film crew from the district's e-club came out to shoot the interview.

"I visited him weekly after that," Dendy says. "One day, I said to him, 'Paul, you could be a contributing member of Rotary.' He asked me how that would be possible. And I told him with an e-club, which meets online, it would be very possible." Since joining Rotary, he's become a popular speaker in the Dallas Rotary community. He's already addressed two large gatherings and is scheduled to speak at the next district conference. The Waxahachie Rotary Club, which builds wheelchair ramps as a project, built him a new one when they heard he transports his iron lung to the hospital or for longer trips. "It means so much to me to belong to this organization," Alexander said during a phone call to his home recently. "I'm having a great time and staying awake at night thinking of ideas. So many people have come into my life. I never knew there were so many caring people out there."

