



# the Nor'easter

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Rotary Club of San Antonio Northeast



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Rotary

February 3, 2026

Salsalito Cantina Mexican Restaurant  
14535 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247  
Social at 5:30 p.m. - Meeting from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Salsalito  
CANTINA  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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 Dr. Francisco Solis, President of San Antonio College. Francisco Solis, J.D., is the 14th president of San Antonio College. He is also a SAC alum, having earned an associate of applied science in mortuary science degree in 1995.



His tenure at the college began in 1999. Since then, he has served in a variety of teaching and leadership roles. He began as a professor and coordinator in the mortuary science program. Other roles included dean for performance excellence and director of learning assessment and review, where he collaborated closely with college leadership to design and implement the institution's strategic plan.

Notably, Dr. Solis contributed to SAC's accreditation report to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and played a significant role in applications that led to major recognition for the college, including the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the Seal of Excelencia, the Carnegie Leadership for Public Purpose Classification and the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

After serving as interim president from June 2022 to January 2023, he retired from SAC in May 2023. Later, at the request of Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores, Solis came out of retirement in March 2024 to serve as interim president again. The Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees unanimously approved him as the college's 14th president on May 20, 2025.

In addition to his career at San Antonio College, Solis has been president of the American Board of Funeral Service Education, chair of the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color, and president of the San Antonio Chapter of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE). He continues to teach as a faculty lecturer at the University of Texas at San Antonio in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Program.

Solis is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, St. Edward's University, San Antonio College, and Central Catholic High School.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 10th Kathy Benitez,  
Alaska Sea Glass Art

February 17th Madison Interact students that attended RYLA

February 24th Amanda Potter

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

We do not have any birthdays or anniversaries to report this week.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$86. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$43.

Have you invited friends, family, and colleagues to a Rotary meeting? This is essential for club growth, as personal invitations are the most effective method for attracting new members. Members are encouraged to share their passion by bringing guests to meetings, social events, or service projects to experience the impact of Rotary firsthand.



### Key Aspects of Inviting Someone to Rotary:

**How to Invite:** Share personal stories about why Rotary matters to you and invite prospects to experience a meeting or project.

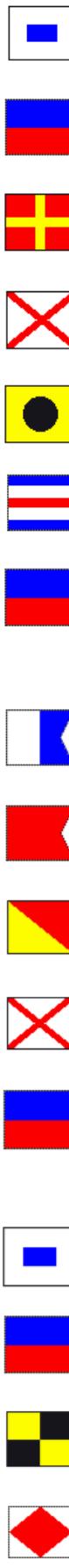
**Target Audience:** Consider friends, colleagues, or acquaintances who share similar values and interests.

**Process:** After a guest shows interest, follow up with them to see if they enjoyed the meeting.

**Benefits:** Highlighting opportunities for friendship, professional networking, and community service helps show the value of membership.

For those looking to introduce others, taking a friend to a local project or for coffee to discuss the club's impact is recommended.

## District Governor Craig Hardy's February Message



February is Rotary International's Peace and Conflict Resolution Month, a time to reflect on one of Rotary's most enduring commitments: building a more peaceful world through understanding, service, and collaboration. Peace is more than the absence of war. It is the presence of opportunity, trust, fairness, and hope. Conflict - whether global, national, or local - often grows from unmet needs, inequality, lack of education, or the inability to communicate across differences. Rotary addresses these root causes by bringing people together to listen, learn, and take action.

Through Rotary Peace Centers, we invest in leaders who are trained in mediation, diplomacy, and conflict prevention. Through service projects, we strengthen communities by supporting education, clean water, economic development, and health, conditions that make peace possible. Through our clubs, we model civil dialogue and respect, proving that people of different backgrounds, professions, and beliefs can work together for the common good.

This year's theme, Unite for Good, reminds us that peace is not built alone. It requires partnerships, shared purpose, and the willingness to reach across divides. When Rotary clubs collaborate with one another, with local organizations, and with our communities, we amplify our impact. Unity does not mean uniformity; it means choosing cooperation over conflict and understanding over division.

Peace also begins close to home. Each conversation we approach with empathy, each disagreement we handle with respect, and each act of service we perform strengthens the fabric of our communities. As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to be ambassadors of peace, people who lead by example and act with integrity.

As we observe Peace and Conflict Resolution Month, let us recommit to Rotary's role as a force for unity. By working together, locally and globally, we truly Unite for Good—and in doing so, help create a more peaceful world for generations to come.



## District Foundation Raffle Winners

We would like to thank all the Rotary clubs that participated in the District Rotary Foundation Raffle! **\$88,000** was contributed to your Rotary Foundation! Raffle winners were Cynthia and Greg Faldyn from the Rotary Club of Kerrville.



District 5840 is pleased to announce the chartering of its newest Rotary club. The **Rotary Club of Wilson County** was officially chartered on January 5, 2026, with an initial membership of 19 charter members. The club was welcomed to Rotary District 5840 by District Governor Craig Hardy.



Thanks to the hard work of Rotarians Rosie Ramirez and PDG Dwayne Hopkins the club is off to a great start. The club will serve communities throughout Wilson County, including Floresville, La Vernia, Sutherland Springs, Poth, and surrounding areas.

The Rotary Club of Wilson County meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Jake's Cafe, 507 10th Street, Floresville, TX 78114.

Our speaker last week was Cameron Weber. Cameron is a junior at Keystone School with a passion for 3D printing, designing, and flying autonomous drones. His passion started with a love for model planes, and his enthusiasm for innovative and efficient technologies. He has been working in this field for 3 years,



and plans to go into aerospace engineering. There were a lot of great questions from those in attendance. Cameron was joined by his father Craig Weber who is a member of the San Antonio North Central Rotary Club. After his very interesting presentation, Cameron was presented a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the Rotary magazine by club president Trina Forcey.

## Rotary inaugurates new Peace Center at Symbiosis International University (SIU)

Applications for Rotary's one-year Postgraduate Diploma Program 2027 at SIU will be open from 1 February -15 May 2026

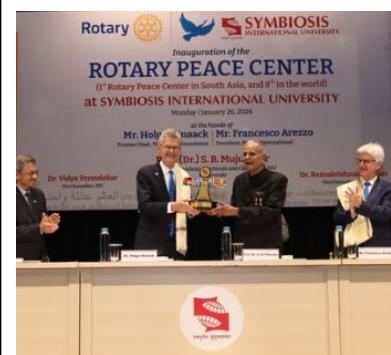
PUNE, India (27 Jan. 2026) – In a significant step toward supporting peace and development, the Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University (SIU) was inaugurated on 26 January 2026.

A culmination of the ethos, vision, mission, and expertise of both Rotary International and Symbiosis, the center is situated on Symbiosis' scenic 400+ acre Lavale campus in Pune. It offers a fully funded one year postgraduate diploma program in Peace and Development Studies. The program has been designed for mid-career professionals working in different sectors of peace and development either within Asia or Asian communities.

"In this interconnected world, peace can no longer be viewed as an abstract ideal; it must be cultivated through institutions that combine knowledge, ethical leadership, and action. Rotary believes that sustainable peace is built when education empowers individuals to serve beyond borders and think beyond divisions," said Francesco Arezzo, Rotary International President (2025-26). "The establishment of the Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University reflects Rotary's commitment to nurturing leaders who understand and act with integrity towards a cause. Through this initiative, the center will contribute not only to regional peacebuilding in Asia but to a stronger global framework for shared responsibility," he added.



For Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Principal Director of Symbiosis and the Pro Chancellor of Symbiosis International University, "The establishment of the Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University aligns closely with the core values of Symbiosis and is especially meaningful as it coincides with our 55th anniversary. Founded by Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, based on the ideal of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", the mission of Symbiosis was to bring together students from across India and around the world to encourage international understanding and a spirit of brotherhood. Our visionary founder believed that providing quality education was the only way to promote international understanding."



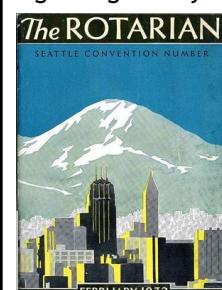
The Rotary Peace Center at SIU will welcome up to 40 Rotary Peace Fellows each year. "With India's rich diversity and complex social landscape, the Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University will offer unique opportunities for cultivating leaders who can navigate conflict with empathy and innovation," said Bharat S. Pandya, Trustee, The Rotary Foundation (2022-2026). "By collaborating with Symbiosis, we are creating a platform where emerging and experienced peacebuilders can gain the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to address local and global challenges. This center will help in nurturing a new generation of leaders in Asia, dedicated to strengthening dialogue, understanding, and sustainable peace," he added.

Applications for Rotary's one year postgraduate diploma program at SIU will be open from 1 February – 15 May 2026. Visit [rotary.org/peace-fellowships](https://rotary.org/peace-fellowships) to learn more about Rotary Peace Fellowship programs and how to apply.

"The Rotary Peace Center at SIU will cater to the greater Asia region, integrating an interdisciplinary approach with experiential learning. The one year postgraduate diploma program will be offered in a blended learning format to empower mid-level professionals working in different spheres of peace and development, to advance their engagement in sustainable and actionable outcomes for social change in Asia," said Dr. Sulakshana Sen, Center Head, Rotary Peace Center at Symbiosis International University.

Rotary currently awards up to 170 fully funded fellowships for dedicated peace and development leaders from around the world to study at one of its eight peace center programs. Since 2002, Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,800 individuals for careers in peacebuilding, and program alumni serve as leaders in governmental and non-governmental agencies, international organizations, and more.

As we have done in the past, with the Big Game taking place this Sunday, we thought we would share with you some information regarding Rotary's presence in the two cities being represented - Seattle, Washington and Boston, Massachusetts.



There are no less than 12 Rotary clubs that call Seattle home. The first formal gathering of the Rotary Club of Seattle was on June 15, 1909 at the Olympus Café. The Rotary Club of Seattle is more commonly referred to as '#4', because it was the fourth Rotary club chartered, following Chicago, San Francisco and Oakland.

The city of Seattle has hosted two Rotary International Conventions, the first being in 1932, which drew 5,182 attendees. Amidst the Great Depression, the event focused on the role of Rotary in community affairs and international service. Seattle hosted the Rotary International convention for a second time which drew 8,015 attendees. Seattle area Rotary clubs are part of Rotary District 5030.

Whereas Seattle has 12 Rotary clubs, there are seven Rotary clubs in the Boston area. The oldest of the Boston area Rotary clubs is the Boston #7 Rotary Club. Formed in 1909, the Rotary Club of Boston was founded only four years after Rotary's first club in Chicago, IL. The club was formed before there was an organized "National Association of Rotary Clubs." Boston Rotary clubs are part of Rotary District 7930.

Boston hosted the Rotary International Convention in 1933, the year after Seattle hosted the convention. The Boston convention drew 8,430 people attendees. This was the first Rotary convention to feature a live radio broadcast that was heard around the world. Rotary founder Paul Harris addressed the audience, stating, "If you have love of 'men' in your heart, then you are potential Rotarians".

While Boston is the largest city closest to the team from Massachusetts playing in the Big Game, the team actually plays in Foxboro. The Foxboro Rotary Club not only donates money, but its members are also strong believers in the power of "sweat equity" - giving people "hands on" assistance. The Foxboro Rotary donates money to many different charities and human service organizations, such as the Rodman Ride for Kids, YMCA Youth Camps, Kennedy Donvan Center, Friends of Wrentham State School, Foxboro Discretionary Fund, Foxboro Senior Center, local athletic clubs as well as providing scholarships to help assist in furthering education. The name of the town is officially spelled *Foxborough*. Foxborough is a town in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, approximately 22 miles southwest of Boston and 18 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island. "Foxborough" is the official spelling of the town name, although the alternative spelling "Foxboro" is also frequently used. This alternative spelling is used by the United States Postal Service as the correct form by which to address mail to recipients in the town although both can be processed by their system. The sign on the post office reads "Foxboro."

