



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



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

June 23, 2026

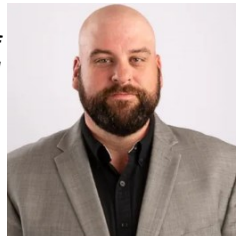
Salsalito Cantina Mexican Restaurant
14535 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, TX 78247
Social at 5:30 p.m. - Meeting from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



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 Joshua Mair, Marketing Partner and Team President of the San Antonio Toros, a professional outdoor football team competing in the revived Continental Football League (CoFL).



Joshua is a proud San Antonio native, born and raised in the heart of the Alamo City. As a lifelong football enthusiast, he's channeled his passion for the game into ownership of the San Antonio Toros, bringing professional football excitement to his hometown. With over 25 years of leadership in public service, Joshua is committed to building strong communities both on and off the field. His deep roots in San Antonio fuel his vision for the Toros as a team that embodies the spirit,



With June being Rotary Fellowship Month, we continue at our look at the Rotary Fellowships worldwide. Today we take a look at the Wine Appreciation Fellowship (RWF).



The Rotary Fellowship of Wine Appreciation is one of the largest fellowships within Rotary with members in over 70 countries. The fellowship has an email newsletter and members are encouraged to visit their interactive wine website frequently for updates, features, articles and information on wine events and trips. Annual meetings are held at the RI International Conventions.

Rotary Wine Appreciation Fellowship



By joining the Rotary Wine Appreciation Fellowship, one will learn more about wine and gain a better appreciation of wine. Lifetime Members are welcome to attend any

dinner and there is a special Lifetime Members only dinner each time. Otherwise, you must be an active Annual member to attend a dinner.

Where available, the RWF will schedule a tour either before or after the convention to explore the wines of the area. You must be a Lifetime or Annual Member to go on a tour. Your spouse or significant other are also a Lifetime Member when you join RWF, and are able to attend the dinners and tours.

One of the benefits of being a member is finding other members around the world. It's a great way to meet new people when you are travelling where you know you will already have something in common with them -- WINE!

The Rotary Wine Appreciation Fellowship encourages the formation of local chapters where there are 25 or more RWF members in a District or geographical area.

It only costs \$100 to become a Lifetime Member of the RWF. This one-time fee permanently covers your dues without annual billing. Lifetime membership also includes exclusive perks such as invitations to private, members-only events. Only available to Lifetime Members is the coolest pin in Rotary - the famous corkscrew pin! Additional pins (magnetic or lapel) are available for \$10 plus shipping.



The Rotary Wine Appreciation Fellowship hosted a booth at the House of Friendship at the recent 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan. The RWF also hosted two dinners at the convention. The first dinner took place at Marco Polo, one of Taipei's top, award-winning, Italian restaurants in the heart of Taipei. Guests enjoyed a modern, romantic ambiance, and indulged in an excellent Italian cuisine with selected wines, while relishing the breath-taking views of Taipei City. Soup, Pasta, Beef Tenderloin and Lobster, and Dessert were on the menu. The wines chosen will span Italy and New Zealand. The entire restaurant of 87 seats was dedicated to the RWF for this event.

The second dinner took place at Ya Yuan, known for its fashionable mix of Cantonese Cuisine & Hong Kong Style Dim Sum. Beginning in 1984, Ya Yuan proceeded to hire renowned chefs from both Hong Kong and Macau. It's signature features, such as freshly made steamed dim sum and freshly caught and cooked seafood, became models for later competitors across Taiwan.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

June 30th Karon Cuellar and Veronica Calderon, Arms of Hope

SPECIAL MEETING AND LOCATION AND TIME

2026-27 District Governor Bobby Martinez will be making his official visit to the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club on **Tuesday, July 7, 2026**. This will also be the **San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's 40th Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet**. 2026-2027 club officers will also be installed at this time. This special meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. and will take place at **El Chaparral Mexican Restaurant** in the Redland Trails Shopping Center located at 2838 N Loop 1604 E, San Antonio, TX 78232.



Club Treasurer Becky Robles has e-mailed out the members' dues invoices to San Antonio Northeast Rotarians for the period of July 2026 through December 2026. **Invoice payments are due no later than Wednesday, July 15, 2026.**



Please note that dues are \$100 every six months (or \$200 per Rotary year). This amount helps cover dues from Rotary International, District dues, and also helps cover shared costs such as speaker meals and general operating expenses.

As an added option, you may also choose to make a voluntary donation to the Paul Harris Fund when submitting your dues. The donation amount is entirely up to you.

Please notify Dan Clark (danclark@ibc.com) and Rebecca Robles (rebeccarobles@ibc.com) if you will not be continuing your membership with the club **no later than Monday, June 29, 2026.**

At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$710. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$355

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We do not have any birthdays or anniversaries to report this week. We all can make sure that this does not happen in the future by each club member inviting a friend to one of our Rotary club meetings.



Becoming a member connects you with a diverse group of professionals who share your drive to give back. Through regular meetings and events, you will:

- Discuss your community's needs and develop creative ways to meet them
- Connect with others who are changing the world
- Expand your leadership and professional skills
- Catch up with friends and meet new ones

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK

We had another great meeting last week. A former Rotarian by the name of Tony Hernandez visited us last week. Tony was a Rotarian in Austin before moving to San Antonio. Tony's luck was with him because his raffle ticket was picked, but unfortunately he did not pull the joker. Our happy bucks pot continues to grow. Tony said that he enjoyed himself at our meeting and would be attending again.

We were shown a great presentation last week by Matt Carr, Director of Cave Development of Natural Bridge Caverns. After his very informative presentation, Club Secretary Dan Clark presented Matt a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the Rotary magazine.



16th Annual Halloween Bowling Fundraiser

The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's 16th Annual Bowling and Silent Auction Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at Astro SuperBowl starting at 12:00 noon. As in years past, funds raised from this event will go to awarding a scholarship to a graduating senior at James Madison High School, supporting the James Madison Interact Club's Food Pantry, and sending two students to Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA).

Cost is \$25 per bowler, consisting of 3 games or 3 hours, whichever comes first. In addition to bowlers, we are also looking for silent auction items. Club members are encouraged to reach out to local businesses and request an item for our auction. Finally, we are also looking for sponsors for our fundraiser. There are multiple levels of sponsorship. For forms and additional information, please check out the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's

website at sanortheastrotary.com Please contact Dan Clark at danclark@ibc.com or (210) 799-4474 if you have any questions.

Rotary International Convention in Taipei concludes with inspiration and a call to action

From powerful performances and speakers to global service commitments, more than 38,000 people celebrate Rotary's global spirit by Wen Huang Photos by Monika Lozinska and Kristen Wei. Gundula Miethke also contributed to this story

The Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, ended on a high note as singer Leona Lewis brought thousands of attendees to their feet with a stirring performance that included the resilience anthem "Fire Under My Feet" during the closing ceremony on 17 June.

Taipei's warm hospitality was on full display as hundreds of Rotary volunteers formed a human corridor outside the venue, greeting departing attendees with cheers and celebratory gestures. Many people stopped to take selfies and exchange farewells before heading home.

The four-day event attracted more than 38,000 people from 140 countries and regions, making it one of Rotary's largest conventions in recent years.



2025-2026 Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo

"This year, I spoke often about uniting for good," said Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy. "These past days, we have seen what that means. Rotary is a meeting place — where strangers become friends, friendship becomes trust, where trust becomes action."

The convention featured impressive speakers, led by Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate and a leading advocate for girls' education. Yousafzai, whose father was a Rotary member, began advocating for education in Pakistan before she was a teenager. At age 15, she survived a Taliban attack aimed at silencing her activism. Following months of surgery and rehabilitation in the United Kingdom, she co-founded the Malala Fund to continue her campaign for girls' education worldwide. In 2014, at age 17, she received the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her efforts to advance education and equality. She graduated from Oxford University in 2020 with a degree in philosophy, politics, and economics.

"I started my campaign for education at 11 years old," Yousafzai said during the second general session on June 16th. "At first, it was just me and my father speaking out for girls' right to go to school. But it is the people who have come alongside us, our collective work, that gives me hope." While acknowledging progress, she noted that about

120 million girls worldwide remain out of school, and she urged attendees to support girls as leaders. "Girls understand the problems best, and they understand the solutions best," Yousafzai said.

She also encouraged Rotary members to help ensure that every girl has access to quality education. "Over the years, I've learned that one person cannot change the world alone, that every movement in history was built by many hands," Yousafzai said. "When you go home, look for girls in your community who are at risk of dropping out. Ask teachers what you can do to support their work. We need your bold and ambitious vision to build a better future for girls."

Yousafzai also received a warm response when discussing mental health and her recovery from the attack. "I initially focused only on physical recovery, but later I realized the importance of mental health," she said. "Therapy helped me recognize that asking for help is strength, not weakness. I chose to be open about my struggles because young people around the world need to know they are not alone."

Another challenge for the future came in the closing session from Salome Agbaroji, the 2023-24 National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States, who performed her poem "HOPE." "When you change hope from an attitude into an action, we get much closer to building the world we aspire to," she said after performing the poem. "You, Rotary members, are the scientists and engineers of the small social revolutions that achieve great and measurable good."

Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Holger Knaack highlighted the global reach of Rotary's humanitarian work and introduced the newest Programs of Scale grant recipient: Collaboration for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Systems in Haiti. The initiative, led by Haitian Rotarians, builds on work with Haitian organizations and the national water agency. It aims to reduce waterborne disease by strengthening local capacity and by training community leaders, water operators, and municipal officials. "It answers a question that matters to every Rotarian in this room: Can we deliver lasting change in places where change is hardest?" Knaack said. "This program is going to prove we can." Knaack also announced an expansion of the Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge to add Papua New Guinea. The program will train an additional 2,100 community volunteers in more than 1,000 villages, aiming to cut malaria deaths in half.

Michael K. McGovern and Valarie Wafer of the International PolioPlus Committee highlighted both the progress and challenges in Rotary's effort to eradicate polio. Although Afghanistan and Pakistan remain the only countries with ongoing transmission of wild poliovirus, variant outbreaks continue to be a challenge in parts of Africa, including Nigeria. Supported annually by US\$50 million from The Rotary Foundation and US\$100 million from the Gates Foundation, Rotary and its partners continue to integrate polio vaccination campaigns with broader health initiatives that strengthen health systems and improve community well-being.

The House of Friendship featured more than 200 exhibits from Rotary and Rotaract clubs, districts, and vendors around the world. A highlight was the Taipei Village, sponsored by the Host Organization Committee, which recreated a section of Taipei's historic old town. Visitors immersed themselves in Taiwanese culture through Chinese calligraphy, tea ceremonies, Indigenous traditions, and other participatory experiences. "It is thrilling to see the internationality of our organization in one place," says Brenda Waugh, a district governor-elect from Scotland, a member of the Rotary Club of Annan & District, and a first-time convention attendee. "I enjoyed the fun and fellowship, and I'm proud to be part of this massive international organization."

The convention's opening and closing ceremonies dazzled audiences with large-scale productions combining traditional Taiwanese dance, drumming, and acrobatics with contemporary staging. Italian singers and musicians also captivated attendees with spectacular operatic arias and beloved classics, including "Caruso." With large Rotary promotional billboards at Taoyuan airport and in Taipei's subway stations, short TV clips in taxis, and extensive daily media coverage, the convention has enabled Rotary to raise awareness of its global and local impact in Taiwan, where membership has grown exponentially.

The convention also set up Rotary's annual leadership transition. On July 1, 2026 Olayinka H. Babalola will begin his term as Rotary International president for 2026-27, while Larry A. Lunsford will serve as president-elect. Nearing the end of his year of service, Arezzo emphasized the importance of continuity in Rotary leadership. "I like the image of a relay race," he said. "No runner owns the race. The most important moment is not the running — it is the passing. Rotary is a relay. We receive. We carry forward. We pass it on. And every generation of Rotarians must leave the organization stronger, kinder, and more hopeful for the generation that follows."



Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate, speaks about girls' education and peace at the second general session of the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan