



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



December 9, 2025

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 Past District Governor Monica Gutierrez. She will be sharing with us her recent walk along the Camino de Santiago. The Camino de Santiago or the Way of St. James in English, is a network of pilgrims' ways or pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where tradition holds that the remains of the apostle are buried. Pilgrims follow its routes as a form of spiritual path or retreat for their spiritual growth. It is also popular with hikers, cyclists, and organized tour groups.



Monica joined Rotary in March 2004 and is a member of the San Antonio North Central Rotary Club. She served as her club's president in 2007-2008. Monica served as District 5840's Governor in 2023-2024. Monica currently serves as the District 5840 Chair for The Rotary Foundation.

Monica graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. She has been employed at H-E-B for 27 years and is currently working as an IT Program Manager for the Digital Manufacturing team.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 16th **Christine Hill, San Antonio Film Commission**
December 23rd **No meeting due to week of Christmas**
December 30th **No meeting due to week of New Year's**



Our Rotary club's Christmas party will be held **THIS SATURDAY, December 13th** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Kelly and Danny Carrzon. The address is 15522 Triple Creek, San Antonio, TX 78247. This will be a Pot Luck party. As in years past, we will play our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift worth approximately \$20.

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 \$963. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$481.50.

Club Treasurer Becky Robles has e-mailed the club dues invoice for the January - June 2026 time period. Please note that dues have increased to \$100 every six months (or \$200 per Rotary year). This adjustment reflects the increase in dues from Rotary International and 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.

Members who contribute to the Paul Harris Fund will benefit from a reduced weekly meeting cost of \$1.00 for the raffle, compared to the standard \$6.00 weekly. If you wish to continue donating to the Paul Harris Fund weekly, then your weekly cost would be \$4.00

Note: If you will not be continuing your membership with the club, please notify Dan Clark (danclark@ibc.com) and Rebecca Robles (rebeccarobles@ibc.com) no later than Monday, December 29, 2025.

Ensure members have the big picture of Rotary

by Scott Learned, District 5400 learning facilitator and former president of the Rotary Club of Boise, Idaho.

My parents, both Rotarians, brought me to my first Rotary meeting when I was 6 years old. I even assisted my dad with a presentation on how user-friendly and helpful computers could be. I was engaged even back then!



Scott Learned, left and his father, Kevin, also a Rotarian

But participant engagement is not a given. Like many clubs, the Rotary Club of Boise, Idaho, USA sometimes faced challenges retaining members.

In my role as a club leader, I'd look over exit interviews for clues on how to keep people engaged. It became clear that some exiting members hadn't been fully introduced to the big picture of Rotary. They didn't understand how they were part of something bigger and how their work could travel far beyond their club and impact lives in other communities and even other continents.

The familiarity I'd grown up with was missing. As my district's Rotary Action Plan champion, I saw that gap as an opportunity to support the plan's priority of enhancing participant engagement. I started by talking about engagement with our club members and other clubs in my district, rounding out what I'd learned from the exit interviews I'd conducted.

I learned that many other clubs faced the same situation, and several had started revamping their club's introductory and welcome tools. These ideas and materials formed the basis of Rotary 101, a program designed to ensure that all members have the baseline understanding of Rotary so they can find meaningful ways to be engaged.

Our goal is to educate and empower members. We want every Rotarian to understand the avenues available to them to make an impact locally and globally.

This Rotary introduction covers essential aspects of our global network, including local club dynamics, Rotary International's structure, and the work of The Rotary Foundation. By clarifying Rotary's structure and highlighting transformative projects, members get a deeper understanding of Rotary's global impact.

Newer members might discover that there's more to Rotary than what comes up at social events and in early conversations. And long-term members might find new ways to remain people of action for life.

A valuable component of the course is the participant survey. Through this survey, we can continue to refine course content to reflect member interest and needs. This is similar to Rotary's customizable Member Satisfaction Survey. By regularly asking members for feedback and responding to their input, clubs can identify what members like and dislike about their club experience and address concerns and preferences.

This "take a leap and make it your own" mentality is one of the key ideas our Rotary introduction seeks to spark and nurture. If there's a project or issue that interests you, it's very likely there's a Rotarian working on it, and you're within an introduction or two from meeting them and taking action. Rather than six degrees of separation, at Rotary it's only two or three degrees of separation, because our global network connects people all over the world with a common intent to do good. To me, that truly is the power of Rotary that I hope everyone sees.



Our meeting last week consisted of wrapping presents for four children attending Schertz Elementary School. Debbie Degollado identified the children working with the school. The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club allocated \$200 to purchase the major gift for each child. These presents include a bike, a weight bench, a kids Alexa, and a barbell. Club members donated the other presents for the children. Becky Goering took a test drive on the bike to make sure that it was in good working order.



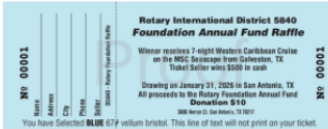
Our Rotarian friend from Honduras, Oscar Hawit, paid us a visit last week. Oscar is a member of the Rotary Club San Pedro Sula. He brought each of us a scarlet macaw themed bottle opener. Ah yes, Oscar knows our club well.



Gracias, Oscar.



Rotary District 5840 Rotary Foundation Raffle Instructions



Each member will receive one book (10 tickets at \$10 each) to sell and raise funds for our Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

Each member can send \$100 directly to Rotary Foundation Annual Fund or your Club Foundation Chair can collect money from members and use the Multiple Contribution form with one check to Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

Winner receives a \$5000 voucher for a 7-night Western Caribbean Cruise on the MSC Seascapes from Galveston, TX to be taken anytime in 2026.



Seller of winning ticket receives \$500 in cash.



Club Foundation Chair to mail ticket stubs (no staples) and deposit sheet to the following address by **January 15, 2026**:
Monica Gutierrez
3606 Herron Ct. San Antonio, TX 78217



Raffle Drawing will be held at RLI on January 31, 2026 at the Northwest Vista College campus in San Antonio, TX at 12PM.

Note: Raffle tickets per club were distributed at DG installation; contact your Assistant Governor if your club has not received them.



Even though the Walk to End Alzheimer's has already taken place, you can still donate to the Rotarians District 5840 United for Good Team through the end of 2025. As of this morning, our Rotary Team has raised \$12,541. The funds raised will help fight Alzheimer's disease through vital research, advocacy efforts and essential support programs and services in your communities. Your team donations will play an important role in improving the lives of people living with Alzheimer's, their families, and caregivers. You can use the QR to the right to make your donation.



Join San Antonio's Rotary Team Today!



Team Rotarians Unite For Good



December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month on the Rotary International calendar, highlighting their global focus on tackling diseases, from polio eradication to chronic illnesses like diabetes and mental health, through education, vaccinations, clean water, and supporting health services. Rotarians promote healthier communities by funding health fairs, hygiene initiatives, and medical training, working to reduce poverty and build a brighter future worldwide.

A Whirlwind Start: How Roary's New President is Embracing a Global Mission

Most leaders spend years preparing for their turn at the helm. For Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, the transition to leadership happened in just two weeks. When the prior president resigned unexpectedly, Francesco was appointed and immediately thrust into one of the most demanding leadership roles in the world, overseeing 1.2 million members in 45,000 clubs globally.

While the circumstances of his appointment were extraordinary, Francesco's lifelong commitment to Rotary has prepared him for the challenges ahead. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "I was appointed on Saturday evening, and on Tuesday, very early in the morning, I was on a plane to Calgary to begin this new adventure. Everything was so quick, so fast that I didn't have any time to realize what was happening."

Francesco's Rotary story began 36 years ago when he joined the club in his hometown after returning from university. At first, he attended meetings but didn't fully grasp the depth of Rotary's mission. Everything changed when he began working on a project to provide hot meals for people in need. "Rotary is not to have a meeting to attend every one or two weeks," he explained. "Rotary is something that involves all your life... You can do a lot for others, not only in your community but through Rotary all over the world."

One of Rotary's most significant efforts, which Francesco calls its most inspiring, is the eradication of polio. Over 35 years, Rotary has partnered with organizations like the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to reduce annual polio cases from over 300,000 to just 35 in 2023. Francesco noted, "It is so rewarding to know that because of us, a lot of people are healthy and free from polio."

Francesco's leadership journey is a testament to the power of service and adaptability. His story reminds us that even when life takes unexpected turns, embracing the opportunity to serve can create extraordinary impact.

“Rotary is not to have a meeting to attend every one or two weeks. Rotary is something that involves all your life... You can do a lot for others, not only in your community but through Rotary all over the world.”

— Francesco Arezzo
Rotary International



Rotary projects from January 2023

With Monica speaking to us this evening about her walk on the Camino de Santiago, we thought it would be interesting to place in today's Nor'easter a Rotary story back from January 2023.

Charity walks are a staple of Rotary fundraising, but the Rotary Club of Silves stepped up the effort. Its members tackled a 75-mile portion of the Way of St. James (the Caminho de Santiago in Portuguese) during a six-day journey along the route from Valença, Portugal, to the grand Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The club used social media for fundraising and sharing dispatches from the route as seven Rotarians and three of their friends set off on September 23, 2022.

By the end of the trek, the group had raised about \$14,000 to help fund a sensory room and garden for children with autism or Down syndrome at the Silves Sul school in Armação de Pêra. The schoolchildren tracked the pilgrims' progress online. They also gave the walkers toys for "constant encouragement" and to serve as school mascots they could cheer for, says Pam Winn, one of the walkers.

