



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

UNITE
FOR
GOOD



the Nor'easter



Rotary
Club of San Antonio
Northeast



December 16, 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 Christine Hill, Film Commissioner & Music Program Manager for the San Antonio Film Commission and the City of San Antonio's Department of Arts & Culture. A San Antonio native, she began with the Film Commission in 2021 and has since coordinated hundreds of productions, managed permitting for over 250 City-owned locations, facilitated government liaising, and developed deep hands-on expertise in administering the city's local film incentive program.



Promoted to Film Commissioner in 2025, Christine now leads efforts to attract and support film, television, commercial, and digital media projects while advancing San Antonio's creative industries. When not at work, she plays bass in a local band, Kitten Mitten, and proudly serves as a personal assistant to her dog, Scotty.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 23rd **No meeting due to week of Christmas**
December 30th **No meeting due to week of New Year's**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Trina's Forcey's husband, Tye will be celebrating his birthday tomorrow. Happy Birthday, Tye.

Mayra Rivero-Diaz's husband, Antonio will be celebrating his birthday on December 23rd. Have a great birthday, Antonio.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$1,001. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$500.50.

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 (danc Clark@ibc.com) and Rebecca Robles (rebecca Robles@ibc.com) no later than Monday, December 29, 2025.

A great time was had by all for our club's Christmas party this past Saturday night. Thanks go out to Kelly and Danny Carreon hosting the party at their home. Games were played including our annual White Elephant gift exchange.



DECEMBER IS ROTARY DISEASE AND TREATMENT MONTH

How Rotary service can sustain us in our darkest hour
by Jessica Bailey Weiss, president of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, California.

My dad, John Weiss, was relentless about Rotary, even when he was forced to do his service work or attend club meetings virtually from his hospital bed.



John Weiss, during his year as president of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, California

Throughout various treatments for a rare type of cancer, he didn't want to miss out on being there for our club and for other clubs that he helped as a past district governor.

Even in his final months this summer, he joined me on a trash cleanup on the Embarcadero (boardwalk area) along Morro Bay in California, as I was encouraging our Rotary club to do more hands-on projects. My year as president of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay comes right after my dad served his second stint as our club president, in 2024-25.

My dad died of the cancer on September 4th at age 66. But the extraordinary story of how he reacted to the disease shows how Rotary can inspire hope and resilience, and how one Rotarian can inspire others. His experience speaks to how service, community, and purpose can sustain us even in our darkest moments.

Doctors found a tumor in 2017 just ahead of his term as governor of District 5240, eventually diagnosing the specific type of cancer, adrenocortical carcinoma, which gave him a low chance of surviving even five years. The disease starts in the adrenal glands, which are above the kidneys and make hormones to regulate various body processes.

My father chose to fulfill his year as district governor, working through surgeries and many hardships. Rotary motivated him to continue and gave his life purpose. Through hospital stays for nine surgeries and other treatments (including for several bouts of sepsis), he attended countless Rotary meetings from his hospital room by video calls.

He traveled to important events when he was able and always enjoyed calling Rotary members. He was notorious for dialing up people to encourage them to join Rotary, and many did as he brought in about 75 members throughout our district.

When my dad took on a task, he stepped up to accomplish more than was expected, a quality that led him to help start a Rotaract club and an Interact club locally; create our club's Public Heroes honors for residents; and run the group's golf tournament 10 times over the years. In our club and our district, he held numerous leadership roles for Rotary youth programs and membership.

Rotary members who have shared memories and comforting messages with my family have called my dad a super-Rotarian and a friend who became more like family through his frequent checks on people's well-being and his welcoming personality.

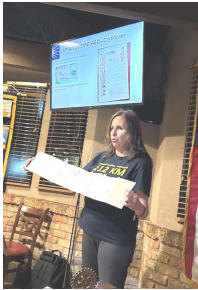
Denise Vivero, of the Rotary Club of Conejo Valley, says that my dad always seemed to teach with "such calm and knowing grace" at district conferences. "It gave me a sense of peace and confidence to know that he was there to ask questions to and rely on for guidance," she says.

I'm grateful for the timing of my presidential year with the Morro Bay club because it gave us so much extra valuable time together. We worked closely through my year as president-elect, and he was always there with advice, which I asked for almost every day. In the months before my term, I started taking over his presidential duties in February as he went through chemotherapy.

It was difficult for our club's board to cancel the golf tournament that he'd started planning ahead of his last trip to the hospital, hoping to run one more. He was our club's expert in organizing the event, and no one wanted to do it without him.

Though he felt a high level of pain many days, he was willing to sacrifice his own comfort to do more for our club and our community. That's because Rotary kept him going. It's what gave him the hope and inspiration to keep serving through all the cancer treatments and complications. He knew it was for a higher purpose than himself.

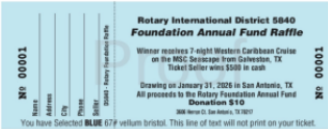
We were pleased to welcome Past District Governor Monica Gutierrez as our guest speaker last week. Monica spoke about her recent journey along the Camino de Santiago. The Camino de Santiago or the Way of St. James in English, is a network of pilgrims' ways or pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the 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.



Monica's presentation was both informative and passionate, and very well received. There were many questions presented by those in attendance. Normally we present our speaker a certificate of appreciation after they give their presentation, but Monica has spoken to our club many times over the years so we wanted to give her something unique for this visit. Club President Trina Forcey presented Monica a photo of the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral lit up with the End Polio Now logo back on February 23, 2010 as part of Rotary International's 105th anniversary celebration when landmarks all around the world were illuminated to promote polio eradication.



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 Seascaper 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 **\$12,721**. 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

A message from Anna Schragin, San Antonio Walk Manager:

We Did It, San Antonio! \$700,000 Raised!
Let's Keep Going!

The San Antonio Walk to End Alzheimer's has officially reached \$700,000!

But we're not done yet. Our community goal is **\$765,000**, and we have until **December 31st** to close the gap. If you haven't had a chance to give or would like to make an additional year-end gift, there's still time to make an impact.

Every dollar brings us closer to advancing research, supporting local families, and strengthening the services **so many rely on**.

Thank you for walking with us, giving with heart, and continuing the fight.

With our speaker this evening being Christine Hill from the San Antonio Film Commission, we thought we would share with you how Rotary has been represented in the media over the years, including cinema. The article below comes from PDG Ian Campell, Senior Historian Basil Lewis, Webmaster Jack Selway, and others from the Rotary Global History Fellowship.

ROTARY IN THE MEDIA

Rotary's most outspoken critics in the 1920s and 1930s included Sinclair Lewis, H.L. Mencken Clarence Darrow, George Bernard Shaw and G. K. Chesterton, who eventually recognized Rotary's contribution to the community. A fuller account of this period is stated at pages 109-111 of "A Century of Service – The Story of Rotary International. The topic is also dealt with more extensively on the pages of RGHF at www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/headings/world.htm under the title "What the world thinks". Since those early days Rotary has been represented in the various media forms such as radio, television, cinema and the written word, mainly in a benevolent manner but occasionally in a less flattering manner. For the enjoyment of our readers we now present a selection of such items.

Television

Rotary is quite often mentioned in British television programs. British television viewers may have noticed that Detective Chief Inspector Barnaby (played by John Nettles) in "Midsomer Murders" often wore a Rotary Badge. According to Costume Designer at Bentley Productions, the badge was to signify the character's membership of the Rotary Club in the mythical town of Causton. The idea, which came from the actor, was that it would be very appropriate for Barnaby and his family to be involved in the local Rotary Club.

In the detective series "A Touch of Frost", Detective Inspector Frost's (played by David Jason) chief, Superintendent Mullett (played by Bruce Alexander) is often going to or coming from a Rotary meeting or dinner. A 2002 episode of the series of "Heartbeat" has Celia Beresford (played by Clare Clifford) in charge of the Ashfordly Rotary Club's annual Old Folks Outing to Whitby. The Christmas 1974 episode of long standing comedy series "Dad's Army" entitled "Turkey Dinner" had staunch Rotarian Captain Mainwaring (played by Arthur Lowe) preparing to be the guest speaker at his local Rotary Club. In a 1984 episode of the popular series "Minder", Arthur Daley (played by George Cole) is the invited speaker at the Rotary Club where Terry McCann (played by Dennis Waterman) [provides the security (at a Rotary Club!!)

Rotary has also been mentioned in television programs from other countries. In the long running and very popular Australian series "Neighbours", Rotary has featured in at least four episodes, twice in 1990 (where Harold Bishop (played by Ian Smith) is rehearsing his speech to Rotary and also where Madge (various surnames) (played by Anne Charleson) has to make a speech to a Rotary Club and once in each of a 2004 episode (where Stuart Parker (played by Blair McDonough) is presented with an award at a Rotary Club ceremony and in 2007 (where Paul Robinson (played by Stefan Dennis) is offered a job to manage a project at a Rotary Convention (sic).

A 2002 episode of the Netherlands series "Westenwind", with a shipping background, has a minor Rotarian character called Judge van Ostaijen. The long running Belgium series "De Kotmadam" had a 2007 episode "Mantelzorg" with a story line involving Rotary.

In a 2001 episode of the long running hit United States program "West Wing" various uncomplimentary remarks were made by a character about Rotary. This enraged Rotarians, who complained to the NBC Network to such an extent that the network issued a retraction and a public apology.

Film

The film "Catch Me If You Can" was the story of confidence trickster Frank Abagnale Jr (played by Leonardo di Caprio). His father Frank Abagnale Sr (played by Christopher Walken) was a member of the Rotary Club of New Rochelle, NY. (a real Rotary Club) One scene showed a real meeting of the New Rochelle Rotary Club when Frank Abagnale Sr. was named as "Rotarian of the Year"

At the end of the film "The Bodyguard" Frank Farmer (played by Kevin Costner) acts as a bodyguard to a speaker at the fictional Rotary Club of Iowa Rapids. The President of the Rotary Club is played by Bert Remsen. An interesting boob was made at the meeting when the clergyman was asked to give the benediction at the beginning of the meeting instead of at the end. The prayer offered at the beginning should have been the invocation.

In the 1990 French film "Un week-end sur deux" (Every Other Weekend) Camille Valmont (played by Nathalie Baye) an actress fallen on hard times has been booked by her agent to MC a Rotary Club Dinner but this clashes with the (every other) weekend that she sees her children as she is estranged from her husband. Confusion follows. The 2007 Australian comedic documentary "Big Dreamers" stars Ron Hunt as a Rotarian.