



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



July 15, 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 Clara Jones. Clara is dedicated to serving the Eastside community as a Community Engagement Specialist at VIA Metropolitan Transit, where she fosters collaboration and promotes public transit initiatives. She is an accomplished community engagement professional with over 35 years of experience in project management and stakeholder relations. A proud native San Antonian, Clara grew up on San Antonio's historic Eastside and is a product of the San Antonio Independent School District. Most recently, she served as a Senior Implementation Project Manager for T-Mobile Sprint, where she successfully managed high-impact domestic and international projects across national and enterprise accounts, consistently delivering results that exceeded client expectations.



With a strong commitment to her Christian faith, she is an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church. Clara has developed a strong reputation for building trust-based relationships with clients and partners alike, facilitating seamless implementations while enhancing operational efficiency. Her ability to create and lead training programs has equipped clients and team members with the knowledge to leverage technical services effectively.

In 2024, after a layoff from T-Mobile/Sprint, Clara embraced retirement, leveraging her extensive knowledge and expertise to engage in community service and personal growth. With a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Wayland Baptist University, Clara is passionate about public service and dedicated to promoting initiatives that enhance community welfare and engagement.

Clara's diverse skill set includes strategic communication, event coordination, and a deep understanding of stakeholder engagement, positioning her as a valuable asset in any organizational setting. Outside of her professional endeavors, Clara enjoys attending concerts at the Carver Cultural Community Center, volunteering, reading, bike riding, and swimming. She is a proud mother of three and grandmother of five, cherishing her family and community contributions.

Thanks go out to Trina Forcey for arranging for Clara to speak with us this evening. Thank you, Trina.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 22nd Becky Goering,
Presentation on the recent
Rotary International Convention held in
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
August 12th Andrea Jacobson, artist
August 19th District Governor Craig Hardy



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Honorary San Antonio Northeast Rotarian Mayra Rivero-Diaz celebrated her 10th Rotary Anniversary with our club on July 13th.
Russell Sturgeon will be celebrating his birthday on July 18th. Happy Birthday, Mr. Immediate Past President.



Rotary District 5840 Flood Relief Update

Thank you for your incredible compassion and support as we respond to the catastrophic flooding in Kerrville and surrounding communities. As you know, the damage is widespread, and the recovery process will be a long and ongoing effort. Rotary's strength lies in our unity and ability to act—and we're already seeing clubs across the District rise to the occasion.

Meet Our Disaster Relief Coordinator

We are pleased to share that Kyle Emmons has been appointed as our Disaster Relief Coordinator. Kyle will serve as the central point of contact for tracking physical donations, coordinating resource distribution, and for questions regarding contributions and logistics. His leadership ensures we stay organized and effective as we respond, recover, and rebuild.

For questions or coordination, you can reach Kyle at: kyleemmons1@gmail.com

Help Us Track Club Disaster Relief Efforts

To ensure we capture the full impact of our collective response, we've created a Disaster Relief Reporting Form for clubs to use. Whether your club is collecting donations, assembling supplies, or helping with cleanup, we ask that you please submit your efforts here:

<https://form.jotform.com/251896056988074>

This helps us tell the full story of how Rotary is showing up for our communities.

Partnering with Disaster Aid USA

Rotary District 5840 is now partnering with Disaster Aid USA, a Rotary-led disaster response organization, to coordinate volunteer efforts on the ground. As conditions stabilize and needs are assessed, Disaster Aid USA will help guide safe and effective volunteer opportunities, such as:

- Debris removal and cleanup
- Distribution of food and supplies

<https://stability.org/join/DisasterAidUSA>

- once you have created an account - search for the Rotary District 5840 team. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator is James Cox, Canyon Lake Rotary - jamescoxrotary@gmail.com on how to find volunteer opportunities for area.

How to Donate

As a reminder, our 501(c)(3) Foundation is accepting tax-deductible donations to directly support flood relief efforts:

Credit Card – <https://rotary5840.org/donate/district-5840-disaster-relief/>

Check – Payable to Rotary District 5840 Foundation, Memo: Disaster Relief
Mail to: Rotary District 5840 Foundation, P.O. Box 13, Boerne, TX 78006

Zelle Payment - Send to: D5840floodrelief2025@gmail.com

Let's continue to Unite for Good, serve with compassion, and show the strength of Rotary when it's needed most.

Craig Hardy
District Governor 2025-2026



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$409. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$204.50

We were pleased to welcome Bob Kelley from the Rotary Club of Guam as a visiting Rotarian to our first meeting of the new Rotary year. Club President Trina Forcey presented Bob our club banner. Becky Goering gave us an update on the Rotary International Convention that she recently attended in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Becky showed off her Calgary 2025 Rotary pin. DeDe Johnson’s raffle ticket was pulled, but unfortunately, she did not pull the joker.

Our guest speaker was Brian Purcell, the Texas Highway Man. He gave us a very interesting presentation on how the local roads on the northeast side of San Antonio have changed over the past 100 years. He also gave us an updated on the massive I-35 project. Brian has spoken to our club in the past and always gives a very interesting presentation.

There were a lot of questions from those in attendance. After his presentation Trina presented Brian with a speaker’s Certificate of Appreciation and a copy of the *Rotary* magazine.



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.

PROUD NATIONAL TEAM

Why We Walk: We are Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors that have extensive leadership experience around Alzheimer's including Alzheimer's education, patient care. prevention management, research for a cure and strategic partnership. We have chosen to band together as a Rotary Action Group to meld our passion and energies and direct them to supporting this wonderful effort. This is why we are proud to support the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's, the world's largest fundraising event for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. We share a vision of a world without Alzheimer's and we are inviting all Rotarians to walk with us in solidarity in more than 600 communities across the country. 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.

Join San Antonio's Rotary Team Today!

Team Rotarians Unite For Good

Final day of 2025 Rotary International Convention highlighted current and future Rotary leaders

By Etelka Lehockzy

The 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada, concluded in a spirit of fellowship and rejuvenation. Addressing the event's closing general session, Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick urged members to recognize the power of their relationships.

"Rotary's most powerful asset has always been you, our members. But we are only as strong as the people who stand beside us," she said. "We talk a lot about goals and strategy. But without friendship, without encouragement, none of it takes hold. Rotary works because we belong here. ... This is our community, and it matters."

The session also featured Rotary's future leaders. President-elect Francesco Arezzo described his commitment to the 2025-26 presidential message, Unite for Good. "[It] means involving all members, but not only members, in our service. It means involving [partner] organizations ... local administrations, other voluntary associations. In short, it means 'expand our reach,'" said Arezzo, who was selected earlier this month as the next president. "Let us create one great shared dream that unites us, that excites us, that changes the world and changes our lives, too."

Attendees spent the morning exploring various ways to maximize their impact. One breakout session, The Amazing Peace Race, explored how clubs can incorporate the eight Pillars of Positive Peace into their projects. The session Literacy Alive focused on the success of an initiative to build early reading skills in children in Belize.

A particularly crowded session was hosted by the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery, which fights human trafficking around the world. Earlier in the week, the action group had unveiled a permanent peace pole in downtown Calgary. The breakout session featured Cheryl Perera, founder and president of the Canadian nonprofit OneChild and a nominee for the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. She told how she — seeking a way to fight child trafficking while still a teenager — served as a decoy for a government sting operation in Sri Lanka.

"I wanted to get an insider's look into the child sex trade," she said. "I contacted [someone in] the government branch that was tasked with protecting children and asked if there was any way I could watch an undercover operation happen. He said, 'Yes, actually, you can play the decoy.'"

Perera aided in the capture and arrest of a perpetrator. The experience cemented her commitment to the issue and was part of what led her to found OneChild, which mobilizes children and teens to raise awareness about child trafficking.

In the House of Friendship exhibition hall, it was impossible to miss a 20-foot-tall tipi sponsored by Rotary District 5360 (parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada). The tipi was equipped with numerous learning tools to inform visitors about the concerns of Indigenous peoples.

"We're very proud as a district to sponsor this exhibit, but we also don't want it to be the last," said Rotary member Cam Stewart, a 2023 Rotary People of Action honoree. "We [want] to help Rotarians around the world do more work with their Indigenous populations."

As the convention's final day drew to a close, Bryn Styles, chair of the 2025 Calgary Convention Committee, reflected on the success of the event.

"Everybody has told me how much they like the venue," Styles said. "This building is just beautiful — warm and welcoming. And people love Calgary. I've just gotten rave reviews."

Many attendees were already looking forward to upcoming gatherings. The chair of the 2026 Taipei Convention Committee, Andreas von Möller, enthusiastically invited attendees to the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan.

"The 34,000 Rotary members of Taiwan invite you to explore and truly experience the culture, impressive countryside, National Theater, and beautiful temples throughout the city," he said. "The 2026 convention will provide an experience that will remain with you for the rest of your life."