



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



CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



August 18, 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 Brian Purcell, aka the Texas Highway Man. Brian has visited us several times over the years. Brian is San Antonio's de facto expert on our local highways. Just check out his exhaustive web site, TexasHighwayMan.com, to find answers to many of your questions about local highways. Even transportation planners refer to his site to find out what's going on.



Photo courtesy of Texas Public Radio

By day, Brian is a network manager for a local university. By night (and let's face it, all the time, really), he's a husband and father to two young sons. Somewhere in the middle, he leverages his bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning from Texas State University and plies an intense interest in transportation to stay on top of what's in store for commuters.

You will find Brian quietly milling around at public meetings. Sometimes his lucid comments surface in noisy online exchanges where he often tries to rope in wayward rhetoric about, usually, toll roads. But always, he has the latest road and traffic information on his web site.

Born overseas, Brian has lived in Germany for three years as well as Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Texas' four largest metros. He's traveled extensively in the United States and Europe and studied European transportation systems. He has called San Antonio home since the mid 1980s, and has closely followed transportation issues here ever since.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 25th Susannah Zani,
Luxury African Safaris
September 1st Kristy Benitez,
Teaching School in Rural Alaska
September 8th To be announced

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Since we did not have a Nor'easter published last week, we have several anniversaries and a birthday to get caught up on.

Belated anniversary wishes go out to Kelly Carreon and her husband Danny who celebrated their anniversary on August 12th.

Also on August 12th, Jan King's husband, Joe, celebrated his birthday.

And one more belated anniversary wish. Honorary Rotarian Kristine Gusman and her husband Randy celebrated their wedding anniversary on August 15th.

Last but not least, Honorary Rotarian Chelsea Torres will be celebrating her birthday on August 24th.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot stands at \$83. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$41.50.



As students across Texas head back to school, drivers are reminded to stay alert in school zones and use caution around school buses.

Drivers should always give young pedestrians extra room and assume students are not paying attention to vehicles.

Texas law states drivers must stop for a school bus with an extended stop sign or red flashing lights, even if you are driving in the opposite direction. Motorists should wait until the bus starts moving again, the flashing lights turn off or the bus driver signals that it is okay to pass.



August is Rotary Membership and Club Development Month

Courtesy of the ClubRunner Newsletter

August is membership and club development month, a time to focus on and appreciate your members, celebrate their devotion to the club and the impact they have made. It's also a time to think about developing strategies around growing your membership. The reason why Rotary is such a successful organization is because it is full of members that have one trait in common - the passion to make a difference in the world. All of us share this passion and it's what drives us to work together.

Today, a growing population of youth are not even aware of what the organization is or does while those that do are unable to join for a variety of reasons. Granted, we've made many changes to combat this challenge such as the introduction of eClubs, relaxed attendance requirements, more meeting time options, etc. but we still have ways to go. Members continue to leave and clubs continue to struggle to recruit.



This year, with members in mind, why not create a development and recruitment strategy by implementing methods your club hasn't tried before.

Membership development

1. Make sure every member has some role to play. Every member in your club joined to become part of something big, and if they aren't being given a chance to make a contribution to the club, slowly but surely, their satisfaction level will begin to decline. Consider giving each member some sort of responsibility at every meeting (ex: introduce/thank speaker, contribute jokes of the week for the club newsletter, etc.).

2. Focus on happiness: happy members are those that are motivated to do good for the club. There are many ways to keep members happy. Sometimes just being asked means a lot, so in your next meeting, have every member anonymously write changes that they would like to see in the club which would make them happy. Such a simple act shows your members that you care about their presence in the club.

3. Promote your open door policy everywhere you can - on your website, social media and even at your meeting location (example, at the entrance of the building, near the elevators, staircase, etc.)

4. Put up flyers welcoming visitors pointing them to where you meet, time, etc. The more signs prospective members see, the more you've alleviated their fear of trying something new.

Countries like Germany, India, Africa have all seen an increase in membership due to the emphasis they've put on personal connections. Rotarians here have been urging family members to join and have even created new clubs that meet in the evenings and have lower fees for the children of all members. This makes it easier for parents to balance family life with club service.

5. All of us know at least one person that might be a good fit for Rotary, whether that person be a colleague, family member or friend - all we have to do is ask.

6. Many Rotaractors tend to leave Rotary altogether. Team up with a local Rotaract club and speak more on the benefits of joining your club, so that you can create a smooth transition for them to join your club when they are ready.

7. Propose a 'trial' period - offer a 3 month membership plan where members can pay only for those months to get a better feel for what it means to be part of your club. This way, they don't have to worry about investing money/time for the entire year.

8. Host an open house and promote it via Facebook ads. You can set your own budget and reach a wider audience.

RECAP FROM OUR LAST MEETING

While San Antonio Northeast Rotarians did meet at Salsalito's last Tuesday, there was not a regular meeting. Instead, club members had a social, getting to know one another a little better, and even played a fun board game. We look forward to doing more of these type of socials in the future involving different events and locations.



Our 2026-2026 District Grant for the Madison Interact School's Food Pantry has been **approved!** The grant is for \$500, with an additional \$500 provided by our Rotary club. In part, the money raised from our annual bowling fundraiser is where our club obtains the \$500 for the Food Pantry. This is the perfect segway to.....



67 Days

That is how many days we have until 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 www.sanortheastrotary.com The forms are also shown below. Please contact Dan Clark at danclark@ibc.com or (210) 799-4474 if you have any questions.

16th Annual Halloween Bowling Fundraiser

Saturday, October 24, 2026 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at
Astro SuperBowl,
3203 Harry Wurzbach Rd. at Austin Highway
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 Food Pantry
Supporting other humanitarian causes that will help serve our community

We are asking folks to come out in the finest HALLOWEEN costumes.

***** There will also be a Silent Auction *****
with items for bowlers and non-bowlers to bid on.
Cost is \$25 per bowler
Bowling will consist of 3 games or 3 hours, whichever comes first.
Shoe rental is included with the cost.
* Please try to arrive by 11:45 a.m. to get your shoes and your lane assignment.*

For more information, please contact Dan Clark at danclark@ibc.com or (210) 799-4474

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Bowling Team Registration Form

Team Name: _____

Player 1 (Team Captain)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

Player 2

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

Player 3

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

Player 4

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

Player 5

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ e-mail address _____

Don't know how to bowl? Not to worry. Just let us know by marking the box below and we can have the bumpers set up for you so that your ball stays on the lane and does not go into the gutter.

Will any players need use of a bumper? Yes ☐ No ☐

16th Annual Halloween Bowling Fundraiser

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$500

- 2' X 3' SPONSOR BANNER WITH LOGO AND VERBIAGE
- ONE (1) FREE TEAM ENTRY
- SPECIAL PA ANNOUNCEMENT DURING FUNDRAISER
- LOGO ON EVERY WEBSITE
- RECOGNITION IN SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

LANE SPONSOR - \$300

- 2' X 3' SPONSOR BANNER WITH LOGO AND VERBIAGE
- LOGO ON EVERY WEBSITE
- SPECIAL PA ANNOUNCEMENT DURING FUNDRAISER

IN-KIND / SILENT AUCTION SPONSOR

SPECIAL PA ANNOUNCEMENT DURING FUNDRAISER

Rotary invitation becomes my life's turning point

By Rita-Stella Nwojiji, Rotary Club of Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

When I joined Rotary during the 2008-09 Rotary year, I had no idea that I was stepping into a world that would profoundly shape my life and redefine my understanding of service, friendship, leadership, and hope. At the time, I was a young widow. I had married outside my tribe and ethnicity, only to lose my husband in less than five years of marriage. I was left to raise three very young children, ages five, three, and one. Life seemed to have come to a standstill. I withdrew from social activities, became moody, and kept to myself. Although I worked as a secondary school teacher, I struggled to find joy and purpose beyond caring for my children.

Then, one ordinary day, a colleague approached me and invited me to a Rotary fellowship. That simple invitation became the turning point of my life. That same week, that Rotary club organized a service project to provide meals for inmates at the Abakaliki Correctional Centre. I participated, not knowing that the experience would change my outlook forever. As I interacted with the inmates, I realized that no matter how difficult my own circumstances appeared, there were countless others facing even greater challenges. More importantly, I discovered that despite my pain, I still had something valuable to offer.

That day, Rotary helped me shift my focus from my own struggles to the needs of others. In serving others, I gradually found healing for myself. I became actively involved in Rotary — one of the greatest blessings of my life. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in various capacities at both the club and district level. Every responsibility challenged me to grow, broadened my perspective, and strengthened my commitment to *Service Above Self*. One of the defining moments of my Rotary journey came three years later when I had the honor of serving as president of the Rotary Club of Abakaliki in 2011-12. That year, our club carried out several projects including the construction of toilet facilities and the provision of clean water to a school for the blind in a rural community in the Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. We also improved the living conditions by renovating a home for orphan babies.

These projects attracted the attention of the then First Lady of Ebonyi State, Chief (Mrs.) Josephine Elechi. She was deeply impressed that a young teacher could, through Rotary, mobilize resources to execute such life-changing projects. She remarked that if I could accomplish so much through voluntary service while earning only a modest teacher's salary, then I deserved greater opportunities to contribute even more to society. Through her support, I was offered employment at the National Obstetric Fistula Centre in Abakaliki, as the public relations officer, where I proudly work to this day. When you serve humanity sincerely and diligently, humanity has a remarkable way of rewarding you.

Another unforgettable privilege was serving as team leader of a Group Study Exchange to three African countries, Burkina Faso, Togo, and Benin Republic. The exchange gave me an opportunity to become an ambassador for my country. Before our arrival, many of our hosts admitted they were apprehensive about hosting a team from Nigeria. But by the conclusion of the trip, they didn't want us to leave. Through friendship, integrity, and genuine fellowship, we changed perceptions and built lasting relationships.

One of Rotary's greatest gifts to me has been family. Beyond meetings, projects, and conferences, I have gained brothers, sisters, mentors, and lifelong friends across continents. My Rotary family continues to grow, enriching my life in ways I never imagined possible. Sometimes I pause and wonder what life would have been like had that colleague never invited me to a Rotary fellowship. Today, my heart is filled with gratitude, and I remain inspired by Rotary's enduring motto: *Service Above Self*.

Becoming a Rotarian is not merely joining a club, it's becoming part of a global family committed to service, peace, goodwill, and positive change. Rotary will challenge you, inspire you, and open doors you never imagined possible. Most importantly, it will transform your life. Come join us. The world needs more people who are willing to put *Service Above Self*.

