



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**



September 1, 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 Kristy Benitez. Kristy spent 12 years teaching elementary students in Alaska's Bering Strait region, including one of the most remote schools in America. Her experiences gave her a unique perspective on education, rural Alaska, and life in isolated Alaskan Native communities.



Last year, Kristy and her family traded Alaska for San Antonio, Texas, where she now homeschools her children and is still learning how to survive the Texas heat! She is also in the beginning stages of launching an online private literacy practice and developing an Alaska-themed educational YouTube channel dedicated to her former students and the communities she served in Alaska.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 8th **NO REGULAR MEETING ***

*** Instead of our weekly meeting, we will hold a service project at the Alzheimer's Association main office on Wednesday, September 9th. See additional details below.**

San Antonio Northeast Rotarians will be volunteering at the San Antonio and South Texas Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association on Wednesday, September 9th, from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers will be calling those that have participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's before and remind them that this year's walk will take place on Saturday, November 7th, 2026 at Six Flags Fiesta Texas. The Alzheimer's Association is located at 1100 Northwest Loop 410, Suite 302. Alzheimer's Association Walk Manager Anna Schragin at the Alzheimer's Association will be providing dinner for all volunteers. Please contact Russell Sturgeon if you have any questions.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Becky Goering will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow.

Honorary club member Mayra Rivero-Diaz will be celebrating her birthday on September 6th.

DeDe Johnson's husband Robert will be celebrating his birthday on September 11th.

Honorary club member Kristine Gusman's husband Randy will be celebrating his birthday on September 13th.



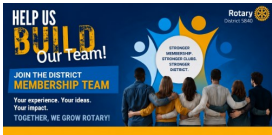
At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot stands at \$155. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$77.50.

Rotary District 5840 is looking for Rotarians from across the District who are passionate about helping Rotary grow and thrive! You don't have to be a Membership Chair or an expert—if you have ideas, experience, enthusiasm, or simply a desire to help strengthen our clubs, we want YOU on the team!

- Share your experience
- Bring your ideas
- Connect & collaborate
- Help strengthen our clubs and our District

Together, we can build stronger membership, stronger clubs, and a stronger Rotary!

Interested in joining the District Membership Team? Contact [Caroline Goddard](#) to learn more and get involved.



September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

The Power of Basic Education and Literacy: How Rotary is Paving the Way. Basic education and literacy: more than just words. They're the tools Rotary clubs worldwide are using to shape brighter futures. Curious about their global mission and your potential role in it? Dive in.



The Power of Basic Education and Literacy: How Rotary is Paving the Way

September resonates with a theme that is close to many hearts – Basic Education and Literacy, a cornerstone initiative of Rotary International. In a rapidly evolving world, the significance of education and literacy cannot be overstated. The ripple effects of these fundamentals not only empower individuals but also uplift entire communities.

Why Are Basic Education and Literacy Pivotal?

Imagine equipping individuals with the tools to craft a brighter future for themselves and their loved ones. This is the transformative power of education and literacy. Their importance can be underlined by a few key points:

- 1. Economic Empowerment:** As per a study by the World Bank, with every additional year of schooling, an individual's earnings potentially shoot up by 10% source. That's a significant increment in an individual's lifetime!
- 2. Promotion of Health and Wellness:** An educated individual is more equipped to make informed health decisions. This encompasses a better understanding of healthcare, preventive care measures, and ensuring the well-being of their children.
- 3. Cultivating Peace and Tolerance:** Education doesn't just bestow knowledge; it instills values. Educated individuals tend to exhibit higher tolerance towards diverse cultures and beliefs. This paves the way for peaceful coexistence and conflict resolutions without aggression.

Rotary's Noble Endeavors in the Realm of Education

Rotary clubs globally have been steadfast in their mission to bolster basic education and literacy. Their commendable projects span:

- Infrastructure development like building and renovating schools.
 - Scholarships and monetary aids to nurture budding talents.
 - Donations in the form of books and educational resources.
- Extensive teacher training programs to ensure quality education.
- Propagating adult literacy programs, ensuring learning knows no age bounds.

Lending Your Hand to the Cause

Want to be a beacon of change? There are ample avenues to contribute to Rotary's mission:

- Make a difference with your donations to The Rotary Foundation, furthering global projects.
- Invest your time and expertise in local Rotary club endeavors.
- Advocate for the significance of education and literacy within your community, sparking a wider conversation.

In conclusion, basic education and literacy aren't just buzzwords; they're foundational pillars that can elevate the quality of life. Rotary clubs worldwide have made it their mandate to ensure these basics reach every nook and cranny. Whether it's through a donation, volunteering, or merely raising awareness, every effort inches us closer to a brighter, educated future.

RECAP FROM OUR LAST MEETING

We had a great meeting last week. We discussed our upcoming call night at the Alzheimer's Association and our annual bowling fundraiser in October. Preston McKinney's ticket was drawn for our raffle but he did not pull the joker. He was so distraught that Becky Robles had to hold the card for Preston.

At the invitation of Anne DuBose, we were pleased to welcome Susannah Zani as our guest speaker. Susannah told us about her experiences in South Africa when she was a Rotary Youth Exchange student as a senior year in high school. She fell in love with Africa and has spent the last 29 years with African Travel, Inc. spanning customer service, training and development, sales, and product planning. She is currently the Regional Sales Manager—South with African Travel, Inc.

After her very informative presentation, Susannah received a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation, and a copy of the Rotary magazine from Club President Dan Hernandez. Susannah, Dan, and Anne posed for a photo at the end of our meeting.



We are less than two months away from the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club's 16th Annual Bowling and Silent Auction Fundraiser which 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 Please contact Dan Clark at danclark@ibc.com or (210) 799-4474 if you have any questions.



16th Annual Halloween Bowling Fundraiser

Talking reading and Rotary with Dolly Parton

The entertainer and philanthropist Dolly Parton died August 25, 2026. This Q&A was originally published in the March 2010 issue of The Rotarian (now Rotary) magazine. Later that year, she spoke at the Rotary International Convention in Montreal, Canada.

Growing up in the mountains of Tennessee, Dolly Parton had little time for reading. Before and after school, she and her 11 siblings had chores: fetching water from the well, cooking over the wood-burning stove, and tending the vegetable plot. Her father, a tobacco farmer, never learned to read.

Parton's impoverished childhood and her father's illiteracy inspired the country music legend to launch a children's book program in 1996. She started in her native Sevier County. Now home to about 80,000 people, the county had a population of 60 during her youth — "and 36 of them were Partons," she says.

The Dollywood Foundation's Imagination Library provides a new book every month to children from birth to age five, starting with The Little Engine That Could. To date, the program has delivered more than 23 million books to preschoolers in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. A year ago, Parton's organization and Rotary International teamed up to further the effort, which costs US\$28 per child annually. More than 140 Rotary clubs participate.

An actress, songwriter, and singer, Parton has won seven Grammy awards and was named to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1999. Her Broadway musical, 9 to 5, based on the movie, will be touring later this year. This month also marks the 25th anniversary of her Dollywood theme park, in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Most philanthropies help only the poor. The Imagination Library took income out of the equation, offering books to all children, regardless of family finances. Why is that? I never wanted a child or family to feel they were getting books because someone decided they must be poor or underprivileged. I want kids to feel that the reason they are getting a book is because they are under five and their community loves them. And I do have a practical side: If we had to take on the burden of deciding who qualified and who didn't, we would spend more time and money on qualifying people than we would on books.

How has Rotary supported your work? Rotary has been a wonderful partner. It has helped us in all kinds of ways — getting the word out, funding the effort, and finding others to help fund it, and also registering lots of kids. It won't be long till we are mailing to 600,000 kids a month.

What is your impression of the Rotarians you have met? I never really pay much attention to what people are; I focus on who they are. Everyone I have met has been warm, loving, caring — and pretty darn funny!

Do you own a Kindle? No. I love everything about a book — the way it feels and the way it smells. I think there will always be books, and I think the world is plenty big enough to have both books and Kindles.

What do you envision for the future of the Imagination Library? My hope is simple: that no child will ever have to grow up without books. Our partnership with Rotary is just beginning, so I am sure as we grow closer, our dreams will grow.

What books do you have on your nightstand? I read all the time, but the one book that is always on or near my nightstand is the Bible.

Does anyone read to you? For me, reading is a solitary adventure. I get up real early every morning. I call it my 'God time' — it's so quiet, and I can read, pray, write, create. It is a very special time for me.

How have your philanthropic efforts inspired your music? Everything I do somehow makes it to my music. However, I know that as I mature (I don't get older — I just keep on growing and maturing), I want to do more with kids, entertain them, have fun with them, and maybe even inspire a few along the way. I am just a big kid myself, so I have been enjoying writing music for kids. One day down the road, I will release my first children's collection, so stay tuned!



Photo courtesy of Rotary International