



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 22, 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 Angelica 'Angel' Pilato, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.), Ph.D. While serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Pilato was stationed at Udorn Air Base, Thailand, near the Laotian border. She was the first Air Force woman officer assigned to manage an Officers' Club and the first to manage one on a fighter pilot base in Southeast Asia—a groundbreaking role that gave her a rare, firsthand perspective on the war and its human cost.



She wrote a memoir, *Angel's Truck Stop: A Woman's Love, Laughter, and Loss during the Vietnam War* that retells the challenges, conflicts and choices she confronted. While researching her book, she became aware of the devastating and ongoing impact of unexploded ordnance in Laos. She began donating 10% of her book sales to UXO removal efforts.



In 2023 she launched the NO MORE UXO in LAOS Project in partnership with MAG (Mines Advisory Group), an international nonprofit dedicated to clearing landmines and unexploded bombs in post-conflict countries around the world. She committed to raise \$50,000, enough to clear an area the size of 25 football fields! And, has exceeded the goal every year since raising more than \$150,000 to date.

Dr. Pilato served five and a half years on active duty in the U.S., Europe and Southeast Asia. After Angel returned to civilian life, she transitioned to the Air Force Reserve as a training specialist and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Born in Rochester, New York, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Food Management from the Rochester Institute of Technology and her doctorate from Oregon State University on a Federal Fellowship. She's held management positions in Hi-Tech corporations, at Tektronix, in Higher Ed, at University of Washington's Business School and a Non-Profit at Meals on Wheels. She was an Assistant Professor at Portland State University and Willamette University.

Angel is a long-time Rotarian, is a five-time Paul Harris Fellow, a Life Member several Veterans Groups and is the General Secretary for Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Assoc. (The River Rats). She has a private pilot license. After several years in the Northwest is returned to her hometown of Rochester, New York to be near family. She holds favorite aunt status with her nieces and nephews.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 6th Jeff Jubela
October 13th Darren Dunn,
General Manager of KWED Radio

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Russell Sturgeon and his wife Ana are celebrating their wedding anniversary today. Happy Anniversary, Russell and Ana.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot stands at \$231. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$115.50.



September Rotary Theme - Basic Education & Literacy



Supporting Education

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population.

Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

Our impact on education

The Rotary Foundation supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world.

Rotary members make amazing things happen, like:

Opening schools: In Afghanistan, Rotary members opened a girls' school to break the cycle of poverty and social imbalance.

Teaching adults to read: Rotary members in the United States partnered with ProLiteracy Detroit to recruit and train tutors after a study showed that more than half of the local adult population was functionally illiterate.

New teaching methods: The SOUNDS program in South Africa, Puerto Rico and the United States teaches educators how to improve literacy by teaching children to recognize letters by sounds instead of names.

Making schools healthy: Rotarians are providing clean, fresh water to every public school in Lebanon so students can be healthier and get a better education.

Enhancing educational systems: In Kenya, Rotary clubs are working with the Global Partnership for Education and local and national governments to advance life-long learning opportunities for poor and marginalized children.



The San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club will once again be pairing up with the Alamo Heights Rotary Club for a Pints for Polio event on Tuesday, October 20th from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Wetmore Beach House, 12329

Wetmore Road, and raise a glass - and raise lifesaving funds for the eradication of polio. **Please note that this fundraiser will take the place of our regular weekly meeting.** Tickets are \$20 per person and will include one free beer and access to the event. Join us for Pints for Polio, a fun community night where every pint helps Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio. Mark your calendars. More details to follow.

Rotary Tradition of Exchanging Club Banners



Club member Dan Clark recently enjoyed lunch with Rotarian Dr. Adel Sadek from the Rotary Club of Cairo SKY in Egypt. Dr. Sadek and his wife were in San Antonio for a short time before traveling to Dallas for a conference. While at lunch the two Rotarians got to exchange Rotary club banners, and also club newsletters. Dr. Sadek told Dan that his club is approximately seven years old and has around 30 members. As it states on the club's social media page, "the sky is the limit".

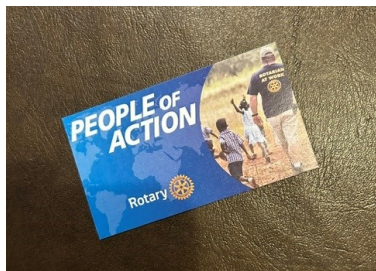


RECAP FROM OUR LAST MEETING

Jan King distributed People of Action cards to all those in attendance that she purchased from Russell-Hampton. On the back of the card is an invitation for a non-Rotarian to attend our meeting. Jan encouraged club member to use this card to invite someone to one of our future meetings. Club President Dan Hernandez's ticket was drawn, but unfortunately he did not pull the joker, so our happy bucks pot continues to grow.

Our program was a group discussion for our club's upcoming bowling and silent auction fundraiser. We are just a little over one month away from our fundraiser and we need everyone's participation to make this event successful. Our event 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 only \$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

Chance meeting a Rotary convention leads to global service opportunity

by Paula Santiago, past president of the Rotary Club of Champaign West, Illinois, as told to Gene Wurth.

In late May 2024, while standing in line for coffee at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore, I overheard a conversation about another Rotary club's upcoming presentation describing some of their projects. Most people would have had no idea what was being discussed, because the conversation was in Tagalog, the language of Manila and much of the central Philippines. But, as serendipity would have it, I was born and raised in Manila and am fluent in Tagalog.

I introduced myself in that language and met enthusiastic representatives from the Rotary Club of Makati McKinley, Philippines. I learned about their Happy Schools Project, one of the many that their club has undertaken to improve a rural community in Samar province. While at the convention, I had been thinking of ways I could get my club involved internationally while also continuing our local efforts. I sensed that supporting this project in some way could be an avenue for my club to expand its support globally.

I learned that the Happy Schools Project goal was to provide school shoes, bags, and supplies for hundreds of elementary students across seven of the most remote schools in Northern Samar province – officially recognized as among the 10 poorest provinces in the Philippines. But due to budget constraints, the entire project could not be completed as planned.

I have a personal attachment to Samar province: it is where my grandparents were born and raised before they moved to metro Manila in search of a better life for their family. Supporting the Happy School Project would not only allow my club to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children in Northern Samar, but also bring a sense of fulfillment to me, knowing that we were helping a community in which I have deep roots. It's possible that some of the children who benefit from our support may even be distant relatives of mine.

I was born in Quezon City and grew up on my mother's side of the family. At the age of 19, I worked at a U.S. contact center and met a lot of people from the U.S., India, and China. I didn't have many plans, but I went along with life, working and enjoying meeting people from all over the world in Makati, where many expats lived. By chance, I met my husband there, and at the age of 25, he brought me to the U.S. He tragically died early at the age of 39, but I remarried in 2017 (and now have a son).

My first job in the U.S. was in Danville, Illinois, as an administrative assistant for an economic development organization. After a couple of years, I ended up in the Champaign-Urbana area, working in development for what was then Provena Hospital. It was there my involvement with Rotary began. I had heard of Rotary in the Philippines through a friend active in her club, but in Champaign, I attended a networking event where I learned more about the organization. I was later invited to a meeting and then asked to join. Eager to expand my network, I enthusiastically said yes.

After joining the Rotary Club of Champaign West in 2019, I became involved in committees, was on the board, and served as president in 2024-25. It was not until meeting Rotary Foundation Trustee Larry Lunsford at a district conference that my interest in international projects grew. After hearing my background, he encouraged me to think about supporting a project in my native country through a district or global grant.

Upon returning from the Singapore Convention, I proposed to my club that we try and secure funding to help the Rotary Club of Makati McKinley achieve their goal. Supporting children and youth and setting them up for success has long been one of our club's priorities.

With our board's blessing, we worked to get funding and prepared an application for a district grant. We didn't get the grant, but our board approved allowing our charities committee to make a sizable donation, which allowed the Makati McKinley club to expand their project.

Together, our two clubs have been able to make a tremendous difference in the lives of children in North Samar, upholding Rotary's mission to serve communities in need around the world. And it all stemmed from an encounter at a Rotary convention.



Paula Santiago, right, with members of the Makati McKinley Rotary Club at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

Experience global connection in Barcelona

Connect with people of action from around the world at the 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain.

Share innovative projects, exchange ideas, and form connections that open new perspectives. Through interactive breakout sessions, influential speakers, and meaningful exchanges with fellow changemakers, you'll explore fresh ways to Create Lasting Impact in your community and beyond.

In Barcelona, Rotary's global family will come together for an exceptional experience focused on learning, collaboration, and discovery. From the energy of the convention floor to the Host Organization Committee's Signature Events, the city itself becomes a convention feature, offering iconic architecture, rich artistic culture, and the relaxed charm of the Mediterranean coast.

Join us in Barcelona, Spain, June 26-30, and be part of a shared experience that drives lasting change – in the world and within yourself! Please follow the link below to register for the 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain

https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/?cid=mkt_IC27_20260831_eml_ad_mem_register_all%20member%20email_na

