



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**



November 18, 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 club member Becky Goering. She will be telling us about her trip to South Korea and Japan earlier this year.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 25th **No meeting due to week of Thanksgiving**
December 2nd **To be announced**
December 9th **Monica Gutierrez, Camino de Santiago**
December 16th **Christine Hill, San Antonio Film Commission**
December 23rd **No meeting due to week of Christmas**
December 30th **No meeting due to week of New Year's**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 21st is a popular birth date for San Antonio Northeast Rotarians.

Debbie Degollado, Analyn Jimenez, and Thomas Brainard will all be celebrating their birthday on this date. Happy Birthday to one and all.

Anne DuBose, wife of Preston McKinney will be celebrating her birthday on November 22nd. Happy Birthday, Anne.

Snacks needed for Madison

The Family Specialist at Madison High School has reported that the school is currently is out of easy snack food to hand out, such as Cheez It crackers, granola bars, fruit cups, etc. If you would like to donate these items, please bring them with you to our meeting tonight.



At the start of tonight our Happy Bucks pot is up to \$911. That means if your ticket is drawn tonight and you pull the Joker out of the deck, you will leave with at least \$455.50.

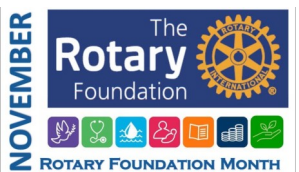


Our Rotary club's Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 13th at the home of Kelly and Danny Carrzon. The address is 15522 Triple Creek, San Antonio, TX 78247. This will be a Pot Luck party. As in years past, we will play our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a gift worth approximately \$20.



Our fundraiser with The Wash Tub wrapped up on November 12th. After all the figures were tallied, members of the San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club sold \$1,000 worth of Wash Tub gift cards. This means that our Rotary club will be receiving \$500 from The Wash Tub. Thanks go out to everyone that made this fundraiser a success.

November is Rotary Foundation Month, a time when Rotary clubs and districts worldwide focus on promoting the work of The Rotary Foundation and encouraging member contributions. During this month, clubs educate members about the Foundation's programs and its role in supporting global humanitarian and educational initiatives, such as disease prevention, providing clean water, and promoting peace.



Programs

All figures are as of 30 June 2024 and in U.S. dollars

PolioPlus

Since 1988, Rotary and our partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. As of June 2024, Rotary had committed more than \$2.6 billion to global polio eradication. We're still working to eliminate the wild poliovirus in the last two countries where it remains endemic and to ensure that it does not return elsewhere. In 2023-24, program awards, including PolioPlus Partners grants, totaled \$146.3 million.

Rotary Peace Centers

Each year, the Foundation supports the training of peace fellows at Rotary Peace Centers, where they earn master's degrees or professional development certificates. Since 2002-03, 1,800 fellows from more than 140 countries have participated. In 2023-24, 92 fellows from 42 countries began their studies at the Rotary Peace Centers, and program awards for the fellows and centers totaled \$4.4 million.

District grants

District grants support small-scale, short-term projects related to the Foundation's mission. In 2023-24, the Foundation approved 485 district grants, and program awards totaled \$29.2 million.

Global grants

Global grants fund large-scale international activities with sustainable, measurable results that support Rotary's areas of focus. Activities include humanitarian projects, scholarships, and vocational training teams. In 2023-24, the Foundation approved 1,287 global grants, and program awards totaled \$72.1 million.

Disaster response grants

Rotary's disaster response grants support relief and recovery efforts in areas that have been affected by natural disasters within the past six months. In 2023-24, the Foundation approved 106 disaster response grants, and program awards totaled \$3.8 million.

Programs of Scale grants

Programs of Scale grants empower Rotary members to work with experienced partners to implement large-scale, high-impact projects over three to five years to benefit a large number of people. Partners for Water Access and Better Harvest in India, which is designed to improve the livelihoods of over 60,000 rural farmers across four states in India through the implementation of sustainable agriculture and water management practices, was awarded the 2023-24 grant of \$2 million and was matched by \$4 million in funding from our partners.

James Madison
Interact
Club

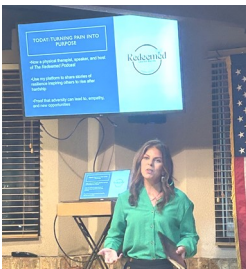


Madison Interact Club School Sponsor Janeen Downen and members of the Madison Interact Club attended the District

Interact Conference this past Saturday at the Winston School. An Interact Conference is an annual event for young leaders in Interact clubs to gather, celebrate their service, and develop leadership skills. District-level conferences like this feature presentations on community and global issues, showcases of club projects, leadership training, and opportunities to connect with other Interactors and Rotary members. They also include awards ceremonies to recognize achievements and activities designed to foster friendships and teamwork.



We were pleased to welcome Lauren Burns as our guest speaker last week. Lauren's topic was Overcoming Adversity through Community. Lauren, host of "The Redeemed Podcast," is no stranger to adversity. Kidnapped at the age of seven and taken to Jordan by her father, Lauren's journey of escape and survival became national news and was even adapted into a made-for-television movie. After her presentation, Lauren received a Speaker's Certificate of Appreciation along with a copy of the Rotary magazine from San Antonio Northeast Rotary Club President Trina Forcey.



With Becky Goering talking about her recent trip to South Korea and Japan this evening, we thought we would share with you the history of Rotary in Korea.

The first Rotary club in Korea was chartered in Seoul on 10 November 1927. Since then, Rotary members in Korea have maintained their commitment to fellowship, service, and leadership through difficult times — growing membership, leading our organization, offering hospitality to the Rotary world, and showing themselves to be people of action.

Early years

Rotary members expressed interest in starting a club in Korea as early as 1922, but action was deferred while Rotary focused on expanding in countries that already had clubs. The idea was reignited in 1926 when two clubs in the United States contacted Rotary leaders about Americans living in Korea who could organize a club. A club in the state of Kansas suggested an honorary member who was doing missionary work for the Presbyterian church. From Iowa came the recommendation of a man who was working for the YMCA.

James Davidson, who organized the first Rotary clubs in Australia and New Zealand, and other leaders who were guiding Rotary's efforts to establish clubs in new countries hesitated to change course quickly. They also had reservations about giving this responsibility to people with little Rotary experience. Instead, work began in earnest in 1927, when members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo, Japan, advocated founding a club in Seoul. Hachisaburo Hirao of the Rotary Club of Osaka, Rotary's special commissioner for Japan, oversaw its organization. At the time, Korea was under Japanese rule, and the new club included both Japanese and Korean members.



Members of the Rotary Club of Seoul with James Davidson of the Rotary Club of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, circa 1931.

The Seoul club received visitors from near and far. It joyfully reported an occasion in 1931 when Rotarians from the United States attended a club meeting when their cruise ship docked nearby at Incheon. The club also hosted annual family outings; 1934's took place on the grounds of the Chosun Beer Company, where guests hunted for chestnuts and enjoyed food from different cultures.

The Rotary Club of Seoul was the only club in Korea until Rotary chartered clubs in Busan in May 1935, Pyongyang in July 1937, and Daegu in June 1938. This growth was short-lived. All clubs in Korea disbanded in 1940 as Japan adopted a strong nationalist stance opposed to Westernization and entered World War II. The clubs' membership in RI officially ended in December of that year.

Rotary returns to Korea

The Rotary Club of Seoul was formally re-established on 15 March 1949 with 25 members. When Seoul was occupied by the North Korean Army in 1950, club members were among those forced to flee. Some went to Busan, about 325 km (200 miles) southeast of Seoul, where they began helping other refugees and holding meetings that echoed their former Rotary club meetings. As a result of their efforts to make connections and serve the community, the Rotary Club of Busan was officially re-established on 3 January 1952.

In January 1961, Rotary International placed the 10 clubs in the country in an administrative group known as a Rotary district. Although it was unusual for a district to have so few clubs, Rotary leaders believed that the organization's growth in Korea would be more successful using this approach than it would if clubs were grouped with clubs in other Asian countries. Indeed, by Rotary's centennial in 2005, Korea boasted more than 1,200 Rotary clubs and 48,900 members. Twenty years later, it had more than 1,600 Rotary clubs and 64,000 members.

Rotary presidents

It is a great honor to be elected to lead Rotary International, and members from Korea have twice been selected to serve as president of the global organization. Dong Kurn "D.K." Lee of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang was president in 2008-09. Reflecting at the start of his term on Rotary's growth in Korea, he noted that the country was very poor during and after the Korean War of 1950-53. "Many international organizations and governments helped build the economy back up. Now our economy is booming, and all Koreans want to give back some of what was given."

SangKoo Yun of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Seoul, was chosen to serve as president for 2026-27. Yun, a consummate Rotary leader and businessman, died in September 2025 before taking office.

Host to the Rotary world

Building on the tradition begun by the first club in Seoul, Korean members continue to host visitors from around the world. They welcome guests, participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, and host large-scale events. Rotary's 1979 Asia Regional Conference in Seoul drew nearly three times more participants than any other regional Rotary conference at the time. The opening ceremony had to be split into two sessions because the audience was so large. James L. Bomar Jr., the 1979-80 RI president, called the occasion "a significant tribute, providing great visibility to the growth of Rotary" in Asia and Korea.

The 1989 Rotary International Convention was held at Olympic Park in Seoul, the site of the 1988 Summer Olympics. Prime Minister Kang Young-hoon gave the welcome address. At the time, it was the second-largest convention in Rotary history, with 38,000 participants. The 2016 convention in Seoul attracted 44,600 participants, becoming the new second-largest convention.



People of action

Korean members have shown themselves to be people of action over the decades. In a country that once primarily benefitted from service projects initiated by clubs in other countries, today's Rotary members are proud to lead positive change in their own country and beyond.

In 1963, nearly all 600 Rotary members in Korea led a reforestation effort in the mountainous region west of Seoul. The area was heavily deforested during World War II when trees were used for fuel because of electricity and coal shortages, and more were damaged during the Korean War. The project protected the few trees that remained and planted more, in hopes that the seedlings would "grow as high as the sky."

Environmental concerns were again a priority in 2008, when members in Korea and Mongolia used a grant from The Rotary Foundation to counter desertification and erosion in the Gobi Desert. People involved in the multiyear initiative planted trees, built infrastructure, and worked with farmers to find solutions to overgrazing by livestock.

In 1989, members of the Rotary Club of Seoul purchased winter clothes, shoes, and medicine to support Vietnamese refugees in Busan. One club member donated new clothing from his textile company. The project helped almost 300 refugees endure the winter in a climate they were unaccustomed to.

Rotary clubs in South Korea have long supported North Korean defectors by building schools, offering scholarships, and providing health screenings. The Rotary Club of Ulsan Freedom, started by immigrants in 2016, combines personal experience and the Rotary network to help immigrants from the North who don't have family or friends nearby adapt to an unfamiliar economic system and culture. Members also seek to help people outside Korea. The Rotary Club of Yeongju Moran and District 3630 in Korea collaborate with U.S. Rotary members on a job training program near Chicago, Illinois, USA, for Korean, Asian American, and Pacific Islander people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Rotary Korea, one of Rotary's official regional magazines, has featured Rotary members' work in Korea since 1963.