

MARCH



"Life is a perspective and for me, if a human being has access to school, clean water, food, proper health care, that is the basis of human rights."
Gelila Bekele

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Be a People of Action



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rotary 
Club of Susitna Alaska

Club Meeting

Susitna
Meets at Everett's
Restaurant at the
Mat-Su Resort
1850 East Bogard
Road
Wasilla, AK 99654
Time: Wednesday at
06:00 PM

Speakers

April 02, 2025
[Leo Tsai, Youth
Exchange student](#)

April 16, 2025
[Erin-She
Victoria's Voice Vital
Signs](#)

April 23, 2025
[Club Assembly
followed by a board
meeting](#)

Events

No Events found

In This Issue

[Apr 2 Weekly
Meeting: Leo Tsai](#)

[Panamanian School
Renovation Project
Fundraiser](#)

Apr 2 Weekly Meeting: Leo Tsai

Presentation from Youth Exchange student, Leo Tsai



Wednesday, 6:00pm

Meet in Person at
[Everett's at The Mat-Su Resort](#)

Via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5415605940?pwd=ZFJWk1lZbnJSTHpaOGY1KzErbTlVdz09>

Panamanian School Renovation Project Fundraiser

The Rotary club of Boquete, Panama, seeks to raise \$2,500 to go toward the HATO. CHAME school renovation project. The school serves 1,200 students and their families in converted buildings that sorely need renovation. This project will help renovate buildings to make them livable. The water system, shower room, and common areas sorely need upgrades to help with safety and security.

You can help with this fundraiser by bidding on one of the 5-night stays at a luxury 3-bedroom condo in Orlando, Florida. One of the packages is over Halloween and the other is over New Year's. Have you ever been to Disney on either Halloween or New Year's Eve!? It's absolutely amazing, according to the

[Erin's Pageant Fundraiser for Wounded Warrior Project](#)

[Wakami in Guatemala is our International Service Project for 2025-26](#)

[April is Environment Month](#)

[Josh the Otter Visits Susitna Valley Schools](#)

[Josh the Otter 2024-2025](#)

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Club Leaders



[Aaron Coman](#)
President



[Kimberly W. Erickson](#)
President-Elect



[Samantha Shannon](#)
France
Secretary



[Erin Cruz](#)
Treasurer



[Rodger Cheadle](#)
Club
Director



[Christian M Hartley](#)
Club
Bulletin
Editor



[Kathleen M. Timm](#)
Attendance
Secretary



[Lanissa Grogan](#)
Membership
Chair



[Adam Rein](#)
Club
Service
Projects
Chair



[Josh Waisanen](#)
Club Rotary
Foundation
Chair
Cheryl L.

fundraiser's coordinator.

Please spread the word. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Nancy Dodge at 941-993-4335. Calls or text are acceptable for more information.



Erin's Pageant Fundraiser for Wounded Warrior Project

Erin Moore is looking for auction items for her pageant fundraiser. She is making baskets of all sorts, and needs items to go into baskets or already-filled gift baskets. Proceeds from the fundraiser go the [Wounded Warrior Project](#) here in Alaska. There is a silent auction before the pageant begins where these baskets will be available for bids. Every year there are amazing items to bid on. Let Erin know what you have, and she says that you can drop them by my studio or give her a call to arrange pickup.



Wakami in Guatemala is our International Service Project for 2025-26

District Governor Elect (DGE) Marty Metiva has made [wakami](#) in Guatemala his signature International Service Project for 2025-26. District 5010 Rotarians have an opportunity to participate next February 8th – 13th, but they must sign up by April 21st. The program is limited to 20 people.

**2025/26 District 5010 Governor's Project
Feb. 8-13th, 2026 - Guatemala**



- Encourage International Service & Work thru DG Marty Governor's Project. Request each club in D5010 give \$500 (minimum) District - GOAL to have all clubs participate at some level. Make pledge to jessgutzwiler@gmail.com
- 20 max capacity, sign up to participate April 21st!
- Cost \$2,300 pp Double & \$2,780 Single (does not include airfare or alcohol beverages)
- Work week will include manual labor for all levels of experience and visit to after school girls program



Metiva
Club
Service
Chair



Lynn Mitchell
Club Youth
Services
Chair



Robert Allan Grogan
iPast
President



Samantha Jo Waisanen
Club
Fundraising
Chair



Jack W. Timm
Past
Presidents
Chair

Birthdays

- Robert Hall
April 5th
- Marty T. Metiva
April 7th
- Jessica Mount
April 11th
- Eddie Ezelle
April 11th
- Wendy Gaynor Cucullu
April 19th
- Matthew J Beck
April 23rd
- David Stratton
April 23rd
- Kathleen M. Timm
April 29th

Wedding Anniversaries

- Tonya Gamble
April 16th
- Bradley J Gamble
April 16th

April is Environment Month

April 2025: Celebrating Rotary's Environment Month

April marks Rotary Club International's Environment Month, a time dedicated to our commitment to environmental sustainability and taking meaningful action to protect our planet. This initiative aligns with Rotary's seventh area of focus—supporting the environment—which was officially added in 2020.

Our Environmental Commitment

Rotary International is deeply committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment.

Over the past five years, The Rotary Foundation has allocated an impressive \$18.4 million USD to environment-related causes, demonstrating our organization's serious dedication to this critical area.

How You Can Celebrate Environment Month

- As individual Rotarians, there are countless ways you can contribute to environmental conservation this April:
- Plant trees in your neighborhood or community spaces
 - Organize or take part in local cleanup campaigns
 - Adopt more sustainable practices in your daily life
 - Support sustainable agriculture initiatives
 - Take steps to reduce your carbon footprint
 - Advocate for environmental justice in your community

Even small actions can make a significant difference! Consider reducing food waste in your home. Education is also crucial—take time to learn about environmental issues and share this knowledge with friends, family, and fellow Rotarians.

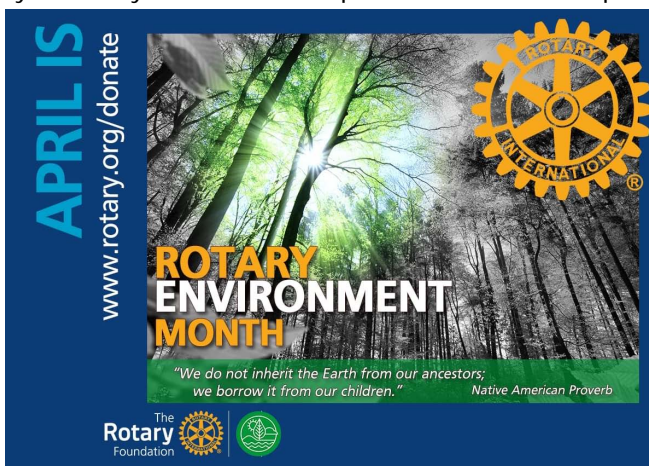
Houston Community Cleanup Days: A Club Opportunity

This year presents an excellent opportunity for collective action! The City of Houston has scheduled its Community Cleanup Days for April 23-27, 2025, aligning with our Environment Month celebrations.

This collaborative effort aligns perfectly with Rotary's focus on using our connections to find creative solutions and take action to safeguard vital resources. We'll be joining countless other Rotary clubs

worldwide who engage in similar activities, from tree planting events to cleanup campaigns in parks, beaches, and other natural areas.

Please let Christian Hartley know if you'd like to take part in the club cleanup team on Saturday, April 26.



Josh the Otter Visits Susitna Valley Schools


Josh the Otter provided presentations to the Susitna Valley Schools (Willow, Trapper Creek, Talkeetna) yesterday.



Rotarians pictured at Talkeetna Elementary: Kim Erickson, Elin Hanley (Josh the Otter), Karla Barkman. Eric Hanley is not pictured but also volunteered with these three at Willow Elementary.

Josh the Otter 2024-2025

Sign up today! [Josh the Otter Classroom Presentations 2024-2025](#)

<p>WE WANT YOU</p> <p>To be safe in and around the water!</p> <p>DROWNING is the #1 cause of accidental death in the US for children 1-4 years of age and in ALASKA DROWNING surpasses all other causes of death to children age 14 and under.</p> <p>Our goal is to educate children with a fun and simple message: TO STAY AWAY FROM WATER UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT</p> <p>As part of Susitna Rotary Club's commitment to eliminate drowning, we present our water safety education class to over 1500 children in the Valley annually. We have also built and maintain Kids Don't Float Kiosks at several Lakes in the Valley with life jackets that can be borrowed for use on the water. Get your FREE coloring book from Josh the Otter at the Alaska State Fair!</p> <p>Susitna Rotary Club</p>  <p>ROTARY MAKING A DIFFERENCE! WWW.SUSITNAROTARY.ORG</p>	<p>Susitna Rotary is promoting Water Safety for Alaska Children 2025</p> <p>Susitna Rotary will be holding a training session to prepare participants to be able to teach our "In Classroom" Josh the Baby Otter Water Safety Program. Come learn how to save lives, one kindergarten student at a time.</p> <p>Please join us!</p> <p>Our mission is to educate children and adults in Alaska about water safety through the utilization of drowning prevention campaigns & early childhood water safety training</p> <p>Thursday February 27th The Curtis Menard Center 1001 S Clapp St, Wasilla Meeting Rooms 2 & 3 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm</p> <p>Contact Rob Grogan @ 907-355-4394</p>
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JOSH THE OTTER SCHOOL SIGNUPS

Josh the Otter School Presentation Sign Up for the 2024 -2025 School Year. Use your cell phone to read the QR code or click or copy the following link to sign up for individual Schools!!
<https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=7784438>



Show & Tell

Susitna Rotarians and friends are involved in many community activities.

If you have a community event you would like to promote, please email Erin Cruz and Kim Erickson so that we can publicize it in the weekly slideshow (Erin) and weekly bulletin (Kim).

Date	Event	Location	Contact for more info:
Apr 12, 2025	Big Lake's Bougie Breakup Dinner Auction	Big Lake Lions Rec Center	Hally Marshall at 507-271-1660
Apr 19, 2025	Miss Alaska for American Pageant	Wendy Williams Auditorium	Erin Cruz
Apr 20, 2025	Houston Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt	Mile 57 Parks Hwy Houston	Christian Hartley at 907-355-8494
June 6, 2025	Little Susitna Classic River Cleanup	Little Su Rotary Park	Christian Hartley at 907-355-8794 Jack Timm at 907-715-7671



REINTRODUCING

JOINT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Susitna Alaska
Rotary
Club



BIG LAKE'S BOUGIE BREAKUP DINNER AUCTION

PARTNERED
WITH



Buy Tickets

\$80 INDIVIDUAL OR \$150 COUPLE
 \$1,000 TABLE FOR 10
 \$1,200 TABLE FOR 12
 \$1,400 TABLE FOR 14
 (TABLE PURCHASE INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS PER SEAT)

21+
EVENT

COME FOR THE PRIME RIB,
STAY FOR THE FELLOWSHIP!



APRIL 12TH, 2025
DOORS OPEN @ 6P



BIG LAKE LIONS REC
2942 S LIONS CIRCLE
BIG LAKE, AK



TICKETS & INFO CALL
HALLY MARSHALL
(507)271-1660

APRIL
19th

DISCO
Nights




2025 King & Miss
Alaska for America Pageant

WENDY WILLIAMSON AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY | 4:30PM



Join Us for the 2025
LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER
CLASSIC CLEANUP

Meet at the pavilion for a ride to boat launch.
 Life jackets required.

	JUNE 7, 2025 FROM 10AM TO 3PM	
	LITTLE SUSITNA ROTARY PARK MILE 57 PARKS HIGHWAY	No RSVP needed. Just show up & join.

Join us for an appreciation barbecue at the pavilion afterward, and enjoy a reading trail for the kids.

www.susitnarotary.org

Save the Dates!

Susitna Rotarians have lots of opportunities in the upcoming months to serve the community and have some fun. Mark your calendars and stay tuned each week for more details as the various events unfold.

Mar 27-30	Fri-Sun	RYLA	Ketchikan	Yes - volunteer to chaperon Chair: Beth Trowbridge
Apr 12	Sat	Big Lake Bougie Fundraiser	Big Lake Lions Rec Center	Yes - Call Hally
May 1	Thu	District Assembly	Juneau	Yes - register through DACdb
May 2-4	Fri-Sun	District Conference	Juneau	Yes - register through DACdb
May 21	Wed	Big Lake Library Cleanup	Big Lake Library	No ... bring family and friends
Jun 7	Sat	Lil Su Classic River Cleanup	Lil Su Rotary Park	No ... bring family and friends
Jun 18	Wed	Passing of the Gavel	TBD	TBD
Jun 21-25	Sat-Wed	Rotary International Convention	Calgary, Canada	Yes - register in advance

**Save
 the
 Date**



