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President's Message



"There are no extraordinary human beings. There are only common, ordinary human beings, like you and me, who are able to do extraordinary things if we connect to love and to passion if we do things that are more important than ourselves."

Gustavo Zerbino

Rotarian, former Rugby players and survivor of the 1972 Andes plane crash.

A new year is always a time to reflect on the year behind us and what we want to accomplish in the year ahead. So how do you connect to love and to passion? As Rotarians, we can all identify with the idea of doing things more important than ourselves – that's the concept behind our moto of "service above self". But what is your passion? Are

you living your passion in Rotary the way you want? There are so many opportunities to help others and all it really takes is a little creativity and the willingness to sometimes step outside of your comfort zone. Pushing past the limits of what you thought was possible and turning our challenges as part of our unique story, like Gustavo has done, is not always easy but can be the best way to live, learn and share your life with others.

As we come into the 2nd half of our Rotary year and start 2019, what are the things that you still want to accomplish? Remember that no idea or passion is too big or too small. Whatever your resolution is for 2019, I hope you will join me in resolving to live your best life through Rotary in 2019.

Yours In Rotary Service,

Heather



Board of Directors

- Heather Ayers, President
- Dom Lalisce, President Elect
- Julie Carney, Director
- Karl Sawicki, Member at Large
- Tom Vonglis, Past President
- Laurie Vonglis, Secretary
- Kelly Cole, Treasurer

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Avon Inn

December Highlights



At the very end of November this trio enjoyed the company of other District 7120 members at the Foundation dinner at the Ventosa Winery in Geneva. We celebrated the support of Rotarians and Clubs, goals met and exceeded and the impact this has for the Rotary Foundation. Avon Rotary was recognized for our support to the Foundation AND PolioPlus. We help make a difference in the world!



On December 1st the community of Avon held the first Holiday Spectacular; a community wide day with activities, food, crafts, Santa, decorations, music and parade. Local organizers in cooperation with local businesses and the Village encouraged participation from many angles. Avon Rotary decided to participate and our efforts were led by PE Dom Lalissee. His team served 200 homemade crepes and toppings with all proceeds being donated to Avon Community Cares. Braving the cold and wind in front of Hurricane Technologies, the team sold out in no time, raising about \$540 for the cause.

Job well done!



On December 4th we held a blood drive for the American Red Cross. Many thanks to Rotarian Karl Sawicki for organizing this service project. We had many volunteers within the club as well as community members. Our next blood drive is scheduled for May 14.



On December 8th we enjoyed our annual Christmas party held at the Avon Commons. Our Rotary family played a variety of games throughout the evening including the ever-popular plastic wrap ball, 3's and Euchre. Thanks to all who attended and brought a dish to share. Many thanks to my party helpers—Tom, Heather & Jake.

More importantly this event marked the completion of our 'Giving Tree' service project for Focus on the Children. All gifts were picked up on Sunday, December 9th in time for sorting and delivery to Avon children for Christmas. The generosity of those Avon Rotarians participating in the project was truly impressive! FOTC coordinator, Betsy Sherwood will pay us a visit in January to provide a summary of our impact.



December Highlights continued...

The week of December 9th, many Avon Rotarians & family members volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. A long standing tradition for many of us. This year the scheduling in Avon was done by our very own, Mike Ford. Great job Mike! That's what we call Service Above Self. :)



On December 11th we included a service project into our meeting once again. We efficiently organized food supplies and packed weekend bags for students in need. All this, for Avon Central's Stones Community Resource Closet.



On December 18th we recognized three deserving Avon Rotarians and their continued support of the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to Kirk Vanderbilt on receiving his Paul Harris plus 1 pin, Bruce Amey on receiving his Paul Harris plus 3 pin and Jerry Dougherty on receiving his Paul Harris plus 4 pin.

Their generous contributions to the Foundation are an excellent example for all.



**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD**



Meet our New Member



Karen Vanderbilt, December 18.

Many of you already know me as Kirk's wife. However, you may not know that I am CEO, CFO and event planner for the Vanderbilt estate, a chauffeur for two beautiful princesses and chief poop picker upper and dog walker for a spoiled Vizsla named Odin. Along with these very important jobs I also work full time at the University of Rochester Medical Center in a very small lab that has a very important job. Ninety percent of the cases that come through the electron microscopy lab are to diagnose kidney disease, the other 10% is muscle, nerve and the

rare case where pathology has no idea what's going on and ask us to take a closer look.

Now that my two princesses, Ella and Maggie, are a little older I feel I have a little more time to give back. Ever since Kirk joined Rotary in 2003, I have always felt a part of the Avon Rotary family even though I was not a member and rarely could lend a hand. It is the members of this club that inspire me and make me want to become a better person. And there's no better way to start than joining the Avon Rotary Club.

Take Note: Karen's contact info.
kkvanderbilt@gmail.com
585-370-0380



Literacy Program Update

Each year we donate funds to John James Audubon School #33 in Rochester for their Principal's Book of the Month Club. This is a joint venture with the Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club as they donate money too. With the funds, the school's librarian chooses books the students will be interested in reading, and buys several copies of each book. The Principal displays posters announcing each month's book at the main entrance for all to see. Students read the books and talk about what they enjoyed in each story.

The Rotary Clubs were invited to the school on December 12 for a program to thank us for our generosity. The program featured a Christmas skit performed by a group of 4th and 5th grade students. The students were dressed in Christmas costumes, and there was even a Santa Claus! The Principal spoke and thanked us for the donations. At the end of the program we all sang a Christmas Carol and enjoyed refreshments.

Once again, another proud moment for our Avon Rotary Club and the good work we do to promote literacy in our community. I was so happy to be able to attend with Barb, Mark and Tom. If we are able to donate again next year, and there is a program, consider joining us and helping to celebrate literacy and the holidays. Oh, and if you didn't already know...Barb attended this school years ago when it was originally School #11.

Submitted by:
Jean Antkowiak
Literacy Co-Chair



Interact News



With a very busy December Interactors are "being the inspiration." We wrote and decorated letters to cancer patients to give them some hope and happiness during the holidays. With Nora Hayes heading this project we collected food and toys for the pantry to pass along to families in need. On two different Saturdays, we rang the bell at Tops for the Salvation Army. We helped at the Avon holiday weekend with Santa and the little kids making crafts. Scheduling and making sure the kids understand why we do all this is not always easy. So I am thankful that this group helps me with my job and are always willing to find time to help and give back. There are many times I need fill ins or extra help, with one phone call it is usually covered. Now they can enjoy some down time. Happy holidays from Avon Interact!

Submitted by: Shannon DiFranco



JANUARY IS



VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

"Vocational service gives Rotarians the opportunity to help others escape poverty and gain a measure of self-respect. As business and professional leaders, we have a duty to lead and encourage good ethics through vocation."
Carlos Frum, PDG D6440



www.rotary.org

**Learn More
Visit
www.rotary.org**



January Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ **Greg Antkowiak**
- ⇒ **Julie Carney**
- ⇒ **Jerry Dougherty**
- ⇒ **Charles Feller**
- ⇒ **James Gaffney (H)**
- ⇒ **Doug Hayes**
- ⇒ **Barbara Herman**
- ⇒ **Bob House**

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Kirk Vanderbilt 2003**
- ⇒ **Bob French 2009**
- ⇒ **Jim Ryan 2010**
- ⇒ **Chris Masten 2011**
- ⇒ **Mike Ford 2017**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Helen Zamboni**



January Club Schedule



Tues. Jan. 1	Happy New Year! No Meeting
Tues. Jan. 8	Regular Mtg. Induction of Paul Phillips and Foundation Committee Mtg following
Mon. Jan. 14	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm at Hurricane Conference Room
Tues. Jan. 15	Regular Mtg. Program: CASA Trinity and Blue Jean Ball Mtg following
Tues. Jan. 22	Regular Mtg. ACS Backpack Project
Tues. Jan. 29	Regular Mtg. Program: Betsy Sherwood, Focus on the Children

Rambling On Rotary—January



By: Bruce Amey

So far this Rotary year we have had three Rotary Induction ceremonies and there is one more to be announced, whenever we can get Paul Phillips in town long enough to do so. We have had six (6) new members join our club: Chris Ferra, Rhonda Hirschler, Tom Honan, Nick Lovullo, Karen Vanderbilt and TJ Vonglis. As I reflect on our new members, I recall President Heather’s comments on December 18 from the January 2019 issue of the Rotarian as she read from the article “Survive the unimaginable”. “There are no extraordinary human beings. There are only common, ordinary human beings, like you and me, who are able to do extraordinary things if we connect to love and to passion, if we do things that are more important than ourselves.”

Elsewhere in the same issue, RI President Rassin commented, “Rotary emphasizes the dignity of every vocation and the worth of every calling. Remember that the four founding members included no doctors or peacemakers – just an attorney, a mining engineer, a coal dealer, and a printer. From the beginning, the diversity of those vocations gave Rotary a special strength.”

The diversity of vocations within our club is very interesting. We have educators, psychologists, counselors, occupational therapists, attorneys, food servers and cooks, electricians, bankers, those in construction, apparel designers, funeral directors (folks are just dying to meet them), boat captain, physicians, land surveyors, financial planners, farmers, clergy, journalists, business consultants, caregivers, etc.

My comments during the induction ceremony, which you may know for memory by now, reminds us all of the com-

munity of Rotary of which we are a part. Over 1.2 million members, over 35,000 clubs in almost every country of the world. Another article in the Rotarian spoke of a Rotarian visiting Rotary clubs in 22 countries. The induction comments talk about being welcomed as a Rotarian all over the world; that we are all part of the world at large. Rotary is one family and visiting other clubs strengthens our family.

We definitely do not all always agree on everything; sometimes we may not agree on anything. But we are part of the same family. We are quite diverse in our vocations, our backgrounds, and our opinions; however we are connected by our commitment to Rotary’s Four-Way Test and its Code of Conduct. It is because of our diversity that we can accomplish great things. None of us are extraordinary (Diane tells me that all the time). We are all ordinary human beings. But what makes each of us special is we have chosen to accomplish extraordinary things by being people of action TOGETHER. Together we accomplish so much more than each of us could do individually. Our strength is multiplied when we come together with the clear focus of serving others above ourselves. When we “connect to love and passion ... doing things that are more important than ourselves.”

“Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind...”, let’s put things behind us that have risen between us and, as the Rotary family of Avon, embrace the new year together. Let’s celebrate our diversity, let’s continue to learn from each other, let’s embrace with love and passion our responsibility to serve our community, our country, and our world. I’ll raise a glass to toast to that. Happy New Year!! And ... I’ve rambled on long enough.

2018 Wild Polio Case Counts as of January 2

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	21	6 Nov 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	8	7 Oct 18
Total	37	22	29	



Funding is as important as ever so consider making a donation to the PolioPlus fund and the Gates Foundation will match 2:1.

The children of the world thank you!



Notes of Thanks....

Avon Rotary Club,

Thank you again for choosing Chances & Changes as a recipient from the Blue Jean Ball. It was a great event—my husband & I had a BLAST!! More importantly, personally I would like to thank the Avon Rotary for recognizing the work we do at C & C and your loyalty year after year. Generous gifts from donators like you help C & C to make a positive difference in the lives of those we work with. I have enclosed 3 ornaments to donate to your auction.

Thank you again,
Jenn, Chances & Changes

Avon Rotary Club,

Thank you so much for taking the time to prepare holiday cards for us to give to Veterans that we serve. They will love receiving these thoughtful cards. Thank you!

Warmly,
Your Friends at Veterans Outreach Center

Avon Rotary Club,

Thank you very much for your support of Honor Flight. We just learned of your sponsorship.

My husband Richard—U.S. Navy and I, Katharine—Women's Army Corps, both served during the Korean War. We were the first married couple to go.

The Davidsons

Dear Rotary Club of Avon,

Thank you for your generous donation to support the life-saving work of ShelterBox in the Philippines. Your contribution truly enables families made homeless in disaster or conflict to receive essential shelter and supplies.

With gratitude,
Keon

Contact the Sunshine Liaison Agent



to report any members or extended family that may need a card or some cheer.

Barbara Herman: 226-6735
or barbara1901@twc.com

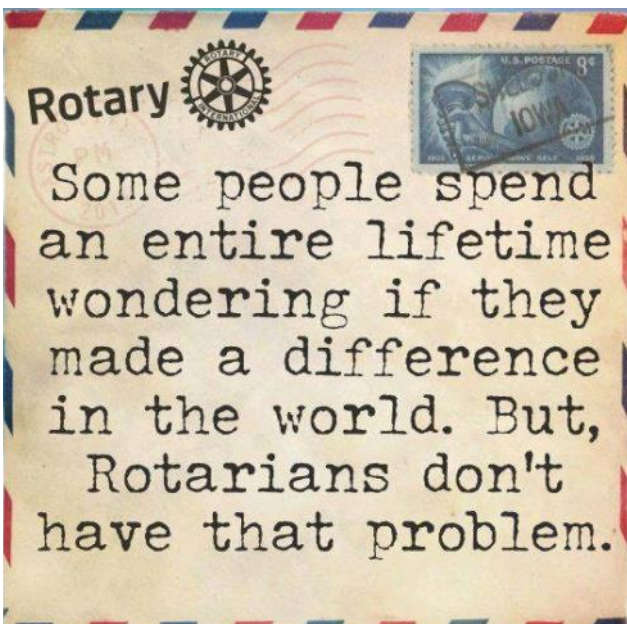
Avon Food Pantry

Collections are the
3rd Tuesday Of The Month

Items needed in January
are:

Pancake mix

Syrup





Save The Date

2018-2019 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, February 12, 2019	Sweethearts Dinner 6:00
Tuesday, March 12, 2019	St. Patrick's Dinner 6:00
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	Lions/Rotary Picnic Meeting 6:00
Friday, May 3– May 5, 2019	District Conference, Mt. Pocono, PA
Saturday, May 18, 2019	Blue Jean Ball, Oak Knolls Manor 6 pm
Tuesday, June 4, 2019	Quad Cities Golf—Avon
Tuesday, June 25, 2019	Change of Officers, Avon Inn



2019 Rotary District 7120 Conference

This Year's Theme is "Family Fun"

May 3, 2019 thru May 5, 2019

Room Check-in Begins at 4:00 PM

BUT Access to the Waterpark Starts at Noon

Don't Miss this Opportunity!

Check Conference Literature for Detail



Kalahari Resort & Convention Center

250 Kalahari Blvd., Pocono Manor, PA 18349

Go to District 7120 website and register today!