



President's Message

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A challenging month! March 2020 will be in our personal memories and the History books as a very different and challenging time. Everyone is being affected by the rapid and unexpected spread of what we have learnt to know as COVID-19.

Our month started with a great meeting where we heard from the Noyes Hospital team on the project to build a facility in Avon to support the needs in our area. Hopefully, the recent events will not impact the plan and the facility will open soon. A particularly exciting part of the plan for our Community was that the new facility will be named after Liz Green who holds a very special place in all the hearts and minds of our Club and Community.

After this great meeting and another opportunity to share our fellowship on March 10th, our World was turned upside down with the acceleration of the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the restrictions put on social activities for our protection. I know that many of you miss the social interaction of our meetings, but the restrictions are necessary to preserve our health and accelerate our successful fight against the virus.

Several key Rotary events have been cancelled or postponed: The District Training Assembly, the District Conference and the International Convention. I know several of you were planning to attend these events and you are certainly disappointed, but we will win

this fight and come back stronger! Our Blue Jean Ball Committee also made the decision to postpone the event so we will have a very busy Fall with amazing events. Thank you for supporting the Team!

Tragedy struck our Club very directly this month. With the passing of our friend and fellow Rotarian Steve Vanderbilt, our community has lost a pillar, a wonderfully dedicated man of service. A few years ago, I had the privilege of serving with Steve for the Red Kettle Campaign, so we had the opportunity to share some stories and it gave me a better perspective of the depth of his involvement in the community. Steve was always inspiring us to do more for others. He was involved in so many projects and organizations and kept a strong level of passion and dedication for every single one of them. I know that many of you will miss Steve's energy and presence.

Steve's legacy of service is being honored by the great response of our Club members and our Avon Community in these difficult times. I am so proud to see how our members are acting in the Community through the support of local businesses and other service projects. With many different acts of kindness and support, we can help our most vulnerable get through this difficult time.

If you can, please support our local restaurants by ordering for take-out. They have been working hard to offer great options and advertise them through social media. Lastly, we have a blood drive coming up on April 7th, please participate if you can!

**Avon Rotary Club meets
Tuesdays 6 pm at Avon Inn**

Board of Directors

Dom Lalisse, President
Julie Carney, President Elect
Janis McMIndes, Sr. Director
Steve Csapo, Director
David Kilgore, Member at Large
Heather Ayers, Past President
Shannon DiFranco, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



Rest In Peace Rotarian Steve



Unexpectedly on March 24th and on the 11th anniversary of his beloved wife's passing, at age 74, fellow Rotarian Steve Vanderbilt passed away.

Steve was known as a man of service to his family and community. A devoted husband and father, a Vietnam War Veteran, past member of the Van Zandt Hose Company, past member of the Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service, Troop 26 Scout leader and Committee Member, 30+ years member of Avon Lions Club, 9 year member of the Avon Rotary Club, 42 years as a devoted and accomplished Freemason, Session and Choir member and long-term treasurer for the Central Presbyterian Church, and most recently serving as the long-term treasurer to the Avon Interfaith Council and the Avon Food Pantry, a cause for which he had much passion. He is both a Robert J. Uplinger Award winner and a Paul Harris Fellow. He rarely said "no" and leaves a proud legacy to his family and friends.



Services and interment will be held at a later time and date to be announced. Interment at Avon Cemetery with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Avon Free Library, 143 Genesee St Avon, NY 14414, or the Avon Interfaith Council - Food Pantry 1761 Athena Drive Avon, NY 14414. (From the D&C Obituary)

Please keep Steve's family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We will all miss his friendly presence at our weekly meetings at the greeters table, his work on the Foundation Committee and leadership in support of the Food Pantry collections on behalf of our club.



President Elect Training



For those of you who are new to Rotary, or do not know all the acronyms (there are a lot of them), PETS stands for President Elect Training Seminar. Each year, the District personnel puts together multiple training sessions for the President Elects (PE's). The first of these trainings was held in Mt. Morris on October 12th. It was a great day to meet the other PE's and to collaborate and share our goals for the next Rotary year. The final training was held March 13th-14th at the Syracuse Hotel and Conference Center. The planning committee had a lot of wonderful presenters and breakout sessions. With the Coronavirus becoming more prevalent, some of the speakers, including the incoming Rotary International President Holger Knaack, were unable to present. However, the planning committee stepped up and made very quick and efficient changes to the program. Even with the changes, it proved to me, that in a time of unknowns and challenges, some of the best leadership comes forward.

I am proud to be in line to be the next President of Avon

Rotary. Our club has always been one of service and one of action. This has been demonstrated over the past few weeks in regards to donating to the Food Pantry, educating the students, getting food to the elderly or those shut in, putting Teddy Bears in windows for young children out walking, sidewalk art, supporting our local restaurants who donate to all of Rotary's events, and so much more. Thank you for all that you do!

I know that even though we are not able to meet in person right now, that everyone is doing their part to take care of themselves and the community around them. I am working on a virtual meeting for our Club and I hope that you will join in when the email invite is sent out. It will be nice to see faces and friends that we have not been able to get together with. It will also be a way to keep our Rotary family involved and up to date on everything currently going here, around the country and around the world.

Please stay safe and healthy!

PE Julie Carney

March Highlights

March 3:

At tonight's meeting, Mary Sue Dehm and Lynette Greene from Noyes Health spoke to the club about the Elizabeth S. Green Mental Health and Wellness Center about to break ground on Tec Drive in Avon. This facility will treat everything from Anxiety and Grief to Suicide Prevention and Addiction in an area that has traditionally seen a poor mental health worker to patient ratio and at a time where the need for mental health care has increased.



Thank You ...

Ernie Wiard for updating the club history plaques! They are proudly displayed in the Hurricane Conference Room where Rotarians gather for fellowship on Tuesdays.

March 31:

On this night Avon Rotary conducted its first ever Zoom video meeting. Members were able to get updates on what's going on in our club and in District 7120 while maintaining a safe distance from each other during the COVID 19 outbreak. It was good to see each other! Many thanks to President Elect, Julie Carney for taking this initiative.



Rambling On Rotary—April



By: Bruce Amey

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” I read this and thought of Rotary and, specifically our Avon Rotary.

We are a social group who truly enjoy serving others and enjoy it best when we are serving together. Some service opportunities are not very conducive to maintaining a 6’ distance among us. However, DG Dave encouraged us to assist with meal deliveries and with contacting those within our community who may feel isolated or lonely. Our own Mike Ford immediately sent an offer to pick up donations for our Avon Food Bank. PP Marcia suggested we support local eateries by ordering take-out from them to help them keep their heads above water as they had to lay-off their staffs. Serving our community even though we were restricting our contact with others.

March was Rotary’s Water and Sanitation Month. April is Rotary’s Maternity and Child Health Month. Sanitation ... Health. Given the scourge of coronavirus and how rapidly it has spread throughout the world amplifies the need for proper sanitation at all times and we should all be always be concerned about the health of others and ourselves. As Rotarians our service to others must include doing what we can to improve the water sanitation and health for those near us and those away from us while we also must make sure we care for ourselves, too.

Whereas I am disappointed our Youth Exchange weekend was canceled as it is always such a joy to see all the exchange students together and this year Ed asked me to help chaperone the RIT trip. I was very disappointed our meetings were canceled; my Tuesdays have felt quite empty. I miss my friends.

And speaking of missing friends, while I was author-

ing this article, I received Kirk’s email sharing that his dad, our fellow Rotarian Steve, died. Remembering when my dad died, my heart aches for Kirk, Karen and their girls as I know how close they were to their grandfather. I could count on Steve to bid high during our Sweetheart’s Dinner Rotary Interact Dessert Auction for Ella’s dessert. Steve exemplified service above self through his activities in Rotary, Lions and Masons. It was his heart that brought our monthly donations to the Avon food bank and he always kept us informed as to the current needs for the Food Bank. And on another note, he and I are both devoted Clive Cussler fans, should I say fanatics; it was great to share that with him. If we were able to meet March 31, it would be a somber tribute to Steve to not have him sitting at the registration table selling the 50/50 tickets but that would quickly move to a celebration for his life, which I know he would want us to do. I know I speak for the entire club membership in recognizing a life well lived in service for his family and for our community and for the world.

President Barack Obama said, “The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don’t wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope.” This was Steve Vanderbilt. Not waiting for good things to happen to him but making good things happen for others and filling our world with hope.

The coronavirus has imposed restrictions on us but the service of Rotarians must continue to shine as a light to the world that we are here for you, to make your lives and our lives better through our service, to care for our world. When I think of our club and of Rotary International, I never feel hopeless ... I am inspired to serve.

Steve, thank you for inspiring me and all of us. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



A Word From Our Exchange Student



My name is Julia Pinheiro Leandro, I'm 18 years old and Rotary's Exchange Student from Brazil. This month, the Avon High School is closed and I'm at home with my host family, safe and healthy. Despite the unexpected virus and all the "bad" surprises, I feel very happy here. During my exchange I'm taking my time to study for my tests in Brazil, talk to my host family and learn new things like yoga and kickboxing. I don't have anything to complain about. This year is being the best, I'm growing a lot and I thank all the Rotarians and host families that help me in this journey.

(Julia is now living with her 3rd host family, Bill & Patty Christiano)



April Celebrations

Birthday

- ⇒ **Mike Ford**
- ⇒ **Bob Hayes**
- ⇒ **Scott Holmes**
- ⇒ **C.A. Krenzer**
- ⇒ **Kevin Van Allen**
- ⇒ **TJ Vonglis**



Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Bill Wall 2000**
- ⇒ **Kevin Van Allen 2019**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Mike Ford**



Club Schedule

Tues. April 7	Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30—6:00 pm @ Avon Inn
Tues. April 14	Honors Program—POSTPONED
Tues. April 14	Zoom Video Meeting 6:30—7:00 Julie to send link
Sat. April 18	Roadside Cleanup—8:00—9:00 am Meet at storage building
Tues. April 21	Zoom Video Meeting 6:30—7:00 Julie to send link
Tues. April 28	Zoom Video Meeting 6:30—7:00 Julie to send link

Polio Eradication in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Summary of urgent country and regional recommendations from the Polio Oversight Board meeting of March 24, 2020. *Information found on: polioeradication.org*


The COVID-19 pandemic response requires worldwide solidarity and an urgent global effort. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), with thousands of polio workers, and an extensive laboratory and surveillance network, is positioned and ready to ensure that our resources are used by countries in their preparedness and response. The COVID-19 emergency means that many aspects of the polio eradication program will be—and in some areas are already-- substantially affected.

In light of these considerations, the Polio Oversight Board (POB) of GPEI recommends:

1. All polio eradication country programs prioritize support for the response to COVID-19. Specifically, for the next 4-6 months, GPEI assets (technical expertise, surveillance and community networks, and logistics capacity) at all levels (global, regional, national, and local levels) should be made available to support the global response to COVID-19. GPEI staff supporting COVID-19 front line activities, must be provided with the necessary training, materials, equipment and logistics to do so safely. Additionally, if required, GPEI financial management systems could be used to support the channeling of COVID-19 funding for the pandemic response.
2. Critical functions related to Polio Acute Flaccid Paralysis and Environmental Surveillance should remain a priority and governments should do all they can to ensure they continue, to closely monitor the circulation of wild and vaccine-derived polioviruses. As much as possible, these surveillance activities should be paired with COVID-19 surveillance and data systems upgraded to support this expanded portfolio of work. To facilitate this work, the provision of personal protective equipment for surveillance officers should be prioritized.
3. All polio activities which come in contradiction to global guidance on physical distancing, such as house-to-house or other immunization activities using oral or injectable vaccines¹, should be suspended to avoid placing communities and frontline workers at unnecessary risk, and facilitate rapid and effective COVID-19 response in countries. Specifically,
 - a. All preventive polio campaigns should be postponed until the second half of 2020.
 - b. Endemic countries, and non-endemic countries planning to conduct outbreak responses campaigns, should postpone all campaigns (mOPV2, bOPV) until June 1, 2020 and then reevaluate based on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Any country wishing to proceed with polio vaccination campaigns should only implement such campaigns after a thorough assessment of risk of COVID-19 transmission among frontline workers and communities and potential impact on immunization programs. Vaccines currently approved for preventative SIAs and outbreak response will be shipped, unless a country has decided to postpone that campaign. New vaccine requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
4. Efforts to obtain an Emergency Use Listing recommendation for novel Oral Polio Vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), must continue at full speed. The preparation for nOPV2 roll-out, across the range of technical, communications, policy and manufacturing activities should also continue. Engagement with countries around initial use of nOPV2 will continue, as appropriate to their specific COVID-19 situation, with the goal of deploying nOPV2 for outbreak response during the second half of 2020.
5. While halting important polio eradication activities is necessary, it will result in increased spread of disease and number of children paralyzed by wild and circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses. This will require a scale up of polio eradication efforts once the COVID-19 situation has stabilized. Without compromising support to the COVID-19 response, country programs should take the opportunity during the pause in vaccination campaigns to improve other elements of the program such as strategic planning and performance management processes. Finally, GPEI and country programs must develop a comprehensive set of context-specific strategies and a plan for resumption of operations.

This guidance and the timelines will be reviewed by the Strategy Committee on a bi-weekly schedule given the rapidly changing situation with COVID-19.

2020 Wild Polio Case Counts as of March 30, 2020

<u>Country</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	21	28	2	Jan 21, 2020
Pakistan	8	135	32	March 2, 2020
Total	29	163	34	





Avon Rotary's next drive is: **Tuesday, April 7**



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?
Please let the club President know and Sunshine Liaison Agent—Barbara Herman

Avon Food Pantry

Collections are the 3rd Tuesday of the Month

Pantry critical needs in April are:

Canned Meat—corn beef, ham, spam, sausages, tuna, etc.

Thank you, Jennifer Palmer

Welcome Rhonda as our new liaison to the food pantry!



2019-2020 Avon Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, April 14, 2020	Rotary Honors Program 6:00 POSTPONED!
Friday, May 1– 3, 2020	District Conference—Niagara Falls, NY CANCELLED!
Saturday, May 30, 2020	Blue Jean Ball— POSTPONED!
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	Quad Cities Golf—Caledonia
Tuesday, June 23, 2020	Change of Officers Banquet—5:30