



President's Message



Adapting to a new normal!
With the 'stay at home' and other restrictions on our ability to run our regularly scheduled club meetings; April 2020 is challenging us to find a new normal for our club life. Following suggestions from members and the leadership of the District,

we have been able to meet multiple times using the Zoom technology!

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 COVID-19 virus. Statistical data shows that the policies we have adopted throughout the State and the Nation have helped limit the spread of this deadly disease. There is now talk of progressive return to 'normality' starting mid-May. It is certainly too soon to make plans for a return of our meetings, but it is a positive sign.

The Blue Jean Ball Committee has made the decision to cancel the event due to the uncertainty of the next few months. The Board of Directors also made the decision to postpone any significant outlay for the Club, so we were not able to support some of the great projects we support every year. We will review the financial outlooks at our next meetings in May and June. It was a difficult decision, but we had to respond to the decrease in funds raised by our activities.

The Corn Festival planning continues. We are receiving funds from vendors booking space for the event. Stay tuned for more news and plans as we progress towards August. Rodney is still confident that we could have a Corn Festival on our planned date. Fingers crossed!!! The year 2020 would not be the same without the Avon Corn Festival!

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, we were able to continue 2 great traditions of the Club this month. Karl Sawicki organized a very successful blood Drive on April 7th. Karl has created a very powerful program which could not be defeated by

COVID-19! It was the 6th consecutive event organized by our Club! We also thank the Avon Inn which opened its doors to host the event. In the 4.5 hours of the Event, 31 units of Blood were collected potentially saving 93 lives!

We also held our traditional Spring Roadside clean up. Special Thanks to Julie, Bill, Bruce, Kirk, Karen, Maggie, Rhonda, Leann, Hunter and Brock for continuing the tradition even in these difficult times.

We also had our Fireside Chat and induction for Brock Thrasher. In his short time with us, Brock has already made significant contributions to our Club and the Community. He is an incredible addition to our Club. I am glad we were able to add him to the Club using remote technologies. Several of you have attended the Zoom meetings. I know they are not as fun as our regularly scheduled meetings, but I thank you for your patience and willingness to try the technology. We had some growth pains with the invitations and the technology, but I think this has enabled us to stay in touch in these difficult times.

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.

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**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

**ROTARY
ISN'T
CANCELLED**

*Its just
different*

Rotary

@rotarianinavonburdell

Red Cross Blood Drive



Submitted by: Robert Mellen

In the grip of a worldwide killer disease people might feel there is little they can do besides sequester and sanitize. But dozens of people in Avon found a constructive way to help fight the battle of COVID-19. By donating their blood to bolster the shrinking Red Cross blood banks, in their own way they became a sort of volunteer soldier in the war.



"The blood drive supply has been hit extremely hard and until recently it was at the lowest ever," said Brian Musto, supervisor of a Rotary-sponsored blood drive March 31 at the Avon Inn. He said people are more reluctant to give "but the Red Cross is working hard to educate. So the supply "is starting to ease and the blood is safer than ever,"

It paid off when scores of people donated enough blood to potentially assist 93 patients, drive organizer Karl Sawicki said. "When asked about donating, everyone knew that there was a critical need right now. Some commented that they are out of work and felt this was a great opportunity to help."

Despite "or perhaps because of Covid 19, our appointment sheet was completely filled. The result was a very successful blood drive, our best one yet" Sawicki said. "With the aid of our donors, 5 Red Cross phlebotomists, our blood drive coordinator and Rotarians, Karl and Kirk, thirty-one units of blood were collected in just the 4½ hours."

One of the donors was Julie Welch, who "felt the need to give was important enough" despite the risk. "When you look at health care workers on the front line every single day exposing themselves, I felt that donating was minimal in comparison to what they're doing and what they're able to sacrifice."

Donor Bruce Amey said he didn't think donating blood was a risk because the Red Cross is usually well prepared. He said he too is being careful by wearing a mask when he goes out and respecting social distancing, as have people he has seen around Avon. He noted that stores and restaurants also have taken steps to limit contact. Although he is staying home more than usual he says he is supporting local restaurants by getting frequent take-out meals.

However, he was critical of the federal government for dithering and denying at the onset of the virus. "Had things been set up sooner," he said, "I think we wouldn't have quite as many deaths as we've had in this country. We had ample opportunity, over a month, to get prepared, to be moving along."

Avon Rotary thanks Jen Krause, owner of the Avon Inn, for opening up the inn for the drive.

There are many opportunities coming up for those who want to give blood. Avon Rotary's next scheduled drive will be Tuesday July 28th from 1:30 until 6:00 pm at the Avon Inn. It will be the 7th Avon Rotary Club sponsored blood drive. More can be found by going to redcross.org. Click on "Give blood," then "Find a blood drive" and enter your ZIP code.



A Red Cross associate draws blood from a donor at the Avon Inn.

Blood drive supervisor Brian Musto screens a potential volunteer at the Avon Inn.



More April Highlights

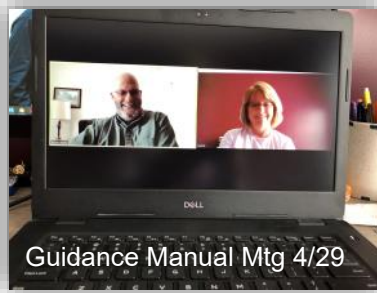
April 25: Roadside Clean up

Many thanks to our volunteers who help keep Avon beautiful!

PE Julie Carney, Foreman Bill Wall, Maggie Vanderbilt, Kirk Vanderbilt, Karen Vanderbilt, Rhonda Hirschler, Leann Hill, Hunter Hill, Brock Thrasher and Bruce Amey (taking the picture).



ZOOM MEETINGS Our new 'normal'



Welcome New Member

On **Tuesday, April 28** Avon Rotary inducted new member, Brock Thrasher. This was the 1st time an induction was done virtually for the club. Please join me in welcoming Brock!

For contact purposes here is his information to add to your membership directory.

Brock Thrasher
3282 North Rd. Geneseo, NY 14454
585-317-7430
thrasherb42@gmail.com



About Me: I was born and raised in Rochester, NY. Passion for sports growing up playing football, martial arts, wrestling and hockey mainly. I have worked in the Greater Rochester YMCA, specializing in youth, teen, family programs, and also professional fundraising.

Later in life I spent time throughout the world in Navy Special Forces (Navy SEAL). I am now truly a family man, my beautiful intelligent wife and two amazing children, my daughter Maddy 13 and my son Ryatt 4. I enjoy spending my time with my family and doing many different community outreach activities. I founded Local Hero in 2016, a charitable organization that supports area veterans, first responders and more. With my life experiences, I found that I enjoy helping non-profit organizations. Still today I have passions for sports and music, as I am a musician as well. My family and I moved to Geneseo in the beginning of 2019 and we highly enjoy the Livingston County area. I love to do whatever I can to help serve the community. It is my pure form of therapy, to help others in need and guidance.

I was approached by Leann Hill to come to a Rotary meeting to do a presentation on Local Hero and I fell in love right away with the sense of fellowship and community Rotary offers it's members and community. I believe in "Action" and Rotary truly exemplifies what that is. I am very excited and honored to help further the growth of action with Rotary, giving back to the community together.

Thank you,
 Brock Thrasher



Brock getting pinned by his wife

Avon Rotary Interact



It is very sad to be unable to finish out the year and miss our exchange weekend. Interact was suppose to give a presentation this past Tuesday. We still hope to once this all settles. I am in the process of collecting the Linda Kime Memorial Scholarship applications because we are still going to award this.

Many Interact students have volunteered for numerous projects throughout the year. Some of their efforts can be seen with the amount of contributions they give out.

The kids decided on dividing up the donations to...

Respite Program \$650.

Avon Food Pantry \$650.

Wounded Warrior \$650.

Avon Community Cares \$650.

Joining Hearts and Hands \$500.

Our last student aged out so now we sponsor **Clifford**, a freshman, to attend school in Kenya. We have joined forces with Avon Library Club as they were looking to donate some of their

funds. We will continue to get pictures and updated letters from Clifford which is pretty cool for the kids to be able to follow him.

We purchased a new banner for Interact that will be great displaying!

We finished the year with 70 Interact Students. 86% were active and engaged! It has been great seeing the growth and involvement of students and the awareness of community need. It has been refreshing to see the guys in the club step up to help and lead. We worked with the yearbook club to have Interact be part of the year book which is exciting because it promotes our club.



It's always very sad to see the seniors leave. I always depend on their leadership! I wish them the very best and thank them for being part of our club.

Abby Decillis, Senior:

Thank you Rotary for all the experiences you have given me these past four years, I am so grateful that I decided to join Interact. I have learned so many different ways to be a leader, and have had so much fun along the way.



Henry VanRy, Senior:

Interact has been a great experience the last few years, and I'm glad I joined, even though we didn't get to some of the activities at the end of the school year. I know everyone was looking forward to exchange weekend and a lot of planning goes into it, but these were some crazy circumstances. Despite the loss of exchange weekend, it was a great year in Interact. We had a lot of great events starting in the summer at the Corn Festival and had a lot of fun making desserts for the auctions. I'd like to say thank you to Rotary, Ed Kime, and Shannon DiFranco for all the time they volunteer for the club and helping the community. It always feels good to be getting involved in helping the community in any way, and Interact has provided so many great opportunities to do this for me and my classmates.

The 2020 Teen Recognition Awards Banquet has been cancelled. Interact had two students recognized, Abby Decillis, Senior and Henry VanRy, Senior. They will have mailed an award package that will include official award certificates from the legislature, a Livingston County Teen Recognition pin, lanyard, and the event booklet containing the individual summary they authored.

Please join me in congratulating our Interact Seniors!

Submitted by: Shannon DiFranco



May is Youth Services month

Rambling On Rotary—May



By: Bruce Amey

I heard it said that, “We do not find ourselves, our life, by pursuing it. We find it by losing it to something or someone greater than ourselves.” These past several weeks have offered me the opportunity to reflect on many things, the least of which was a mirror (I did not want to look in the mirror).

As I write this Rambling, I realize our world has changed dramatically. Many say they want life to go back to normal but I’m not sure what that ever was and I’m not sure we can or should ever do that. I think our lives will be very different when we emerge on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Schools have changed how they do business and that might be a good thing. From my perspective of 41 years as a public educator nothing will ever take the place of an outstanding teacher with a group of children to stimulate, encourage and support their desire to learn. But I believe the current circumstance has provided an opportunity for all educators to learn new ways to inspire and realize that tremendous learning occurs outside of their classrooms. Outstanding teachers are truly excellent guides for student learning. I have always felt that our libraries are our life-long school houses where learning continues for a lifetime. Many think that with the internet, libraries are passé. But without proper instruction and guidance, we all know the internet can be very dangerous. What will the new normal for public education become now?

Going to the grocery or hardware store or the pharmacy is different. (Does anyone have any extra toilet paper?? Inquiring minds want to know.) When I arrive at an establishment to pick up a meal or my prescription or other necessity, before I get out of my truck, I put on a facemask. Will facemasks become our new normal? I understand the reasons why, but I miss seeing the smiling faces on those around me. When they open again, I’m still concerned about walking into the bank with a facemask on and I’m pretty sure the bank tellers are, as well.

This virus has had an impact on all of our lives. As I am writing this article in mid-April, there have been more than 2 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide with almost 700,000 in the U.S. Almost 150,000 people have died worldwide from the virus; 35,000 in the U.S. The number of persons who have died from corona virus worldwide is greater than the population of the city of Syracuse. Millions of people in our country are out of work. The world’s and our nation’s economies are struggling. We would all like to get back to work but without rapid, reliable testing for the virus and a vaccine (neither of which appear to be on the near horizon) will that “one step forward” of opening the economy just put us back twenty steps? Where does Rotary fit in with these circumstances?

For me, Rotary helps me find my purpose, my life. Now more than ever, Rotarians need to show our service for others in

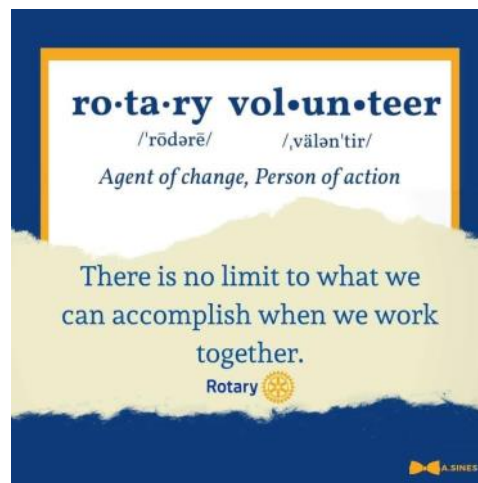


our communities, our country and our world. Our gifts to the Rotary Foundation provide water sanitation projects, education, maternal and child health opportunities, and assists with conflict resolution in various areas around the world. Have you made your donation to the Rotary Foundation?

May is Youth Service Month. Beginning to help and support the service opportunities for our young people can continue even while we are under a “stay at home” order. Interactors and Rotaractors are the lifeblood of Rotary if it is to continue in its mission to serve and we “vintage” Rotarians need to encourage and support them. We need to continue to support each other and our club leaders and officers. We need to “Be the inspiration.” We need to “Connect the World.” We need to make sure that “Rotary Opens Opportunities” today and tomorrow.

April 19th was Rotary Founder Paul Harris’ birthday; he would have been 152 years old in 2020. He founded Rotary in 1905 when Teddy Roosevelt was the U.S. President. Since 1905, Rotary has had millions of club members find themselves as they became lost in its mission and purpose. Today Rotary has more than 33,000 clubs in 200 countries and more than 1.2 million members. Together we can accomplish tremendous things.

Today’s pandemic is an opportunity for Rotarians to turn the wheel of service for the good of our community, our nation, and our world. The wheel was said to illustrate “Civilization, Movement and Service work in action.” Rotarians are people of action. We are called in different ways but we are all called into the action of Service Above Self. Rotary is something greater than ourselves and being a Rotarian has helped me find my purpose, my life. I hope the same is true for each of you. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



may Club Schedule

Tuesday, May 5	Regular Meeting—ZOOM
Monday, May 11	Board of Directors Meeting—ZOOM
Tuesday, May 12	Regular Meeting—ZOOM
Tuesday, May 19	Regular Meeting—ZOOM
Tuesday, May 26	Regular Meeting—ZOOM



Fun Fact...

This edition of our club newsletter marks #100 published by yours truly, Laurie Vonglis. It's an honor serving this club!

May Celebrations

Birthday

- ⇒ Jean Antkowiak
- ⇒ Marcia Cameron
- ⇒ Leann Hill
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy
- ⇒ Jeff Passarell
- ⇒ Paul Phillips

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Marcia Cameron
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Steve Csapo
- ⇒ Charles Feller
- ⇒ Tom Honan
- ⇒ Jeff Passarell

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Bob Hayes 2005 (H)
- ⇒ Ed Kime 2010
- ⇒ CA Krenzer 2013 (H)
- ⇒ David Kilgore 2013
- ⇒ Jeff Passarell 2015
- ⇒ Greg Deragon 2015

More Help for the Food Pantry



In cooperation with Rochester Northwest Rotary Club, Avon Rotary donated a carton of 100 face masks to the Avon Food Pantry. There are more than 45 volunteers who give their time each month -- and with the restrictions for coronavirus distancing, there continues to be a need to assemble food cartons for the families in need, and to deliver to their homes. The 100 face masks allow volunteers to discard masks they have used and to have fresh safe new masks when they next work.



Thank you to all who helped coordinate this effort!

Submitted by: Barbara Herman

In Case You Missed It, A Foundation Message



Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all doing ok during this very strange and trying time. During last week's Zoom meeting I made a pitch to the membership about the Rotary Foundation. As a Club, we have been a strong and generous supporter of the RF and this year is no different. My goal to have everyone contribute in some way may need to change and that is understandable of course. Our 1-day drive to "Show me your Green" on St. Patrick's Day was unfortunately our first cancelled meeting.



This Pandemic has affected us all, but I fear that it will take a much harder toll on our friends in developing countries in the long term. I'm confident that the RF will be one of the best ways that we can assist them. Also, please consider that the money we contribute to the Annual Fund can come back to us in the form of District Grants that we could use to support projects locally.

So for everyone who is able, I would ask that you please consider the following idea:

Account for the amount of money you may have saved by not attending meetings for the last 7 weeks (drinks, food, celebrations, 50/50) and consider making that a donation to the RF. Or another idea would be to donate half that money to the RF and use the other half to buy a Gift Certificate to the Avon Inn!!

Donations can be made online through your MyRotary account, or checks to the "Rotary Foundation" could be mailed to me at 235 Linden St. or to PO Box 1. If you have any questions, you can of course contact me directly.

Thanks in advance for any and all support.

Avon Rotary Rocks!!

Kirk Vanderbilt, Foundation Chairman

2020 Wild Polio Case Counts as of April 22, 2020

<u>Country</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	21	28	5	Feb 28, 2020
Pakistan	8	135	41	March 31, 2020
Total	29	163	46	



A Final Word From Julia



Hello everybody!
I'm going back home on April 27th (in fact, I'm inside the airport right now, ready to go). I'm not gonna lie, this Corona Virus really turned my life upside down here in Avon, so because of that, I spent a lot of time with my third host family: Patty and Bill Christiano. Awesome host parents, so kind and fun. I'm very happy to have the opportunity

be part of their family, and sad my time there was so short.

My exchange year was the best thing that ever happened to me, for sure. I learned how to be a real adult with responsibilities and dealing with different people and culture. I made incredible friends and I'm part of a big family. Now I have more parents than I thought was possible. My first host family was Laurie and Tom Vonglis and the ones who saw us together can see how much we love each other, they are definitely my mom and dad, I love them so so so much and I will miss them a lot! My second host family were the Hayes, awesome people, very crazy family and made me learn a lot. In that family I had host siblings and had much fun with them. I will never forget Christmas with them, it was a lot of fun, much more than I expected. They are so kind and patient. And the last but not least, Patty and Bill Christiano, very fun couple. I met Caroline, the youngest child, a very funny and kind girl. We had some fun in quarantine together. I loved each second with each of these families and I will never forget.



It is with heavy hearts we said good-bye to our 19-20 Exchange Student, Julia Leandro from Brazil. Due to the pandemic, Julia and her family made the difficult decision to cut her time here short and travel home. She shared that she was very grateful for her experience here despite the unusual circumstances. She will be missed and hold a place in our hearts forever.

Submitted by her host mom,
Laurie Vonglis



School was a very important chapter in this experience too. I met incredible, kind people that made my exchange even better. I had a lot of fun at volleyball practice and some bonding after school. Teachers were very supportive too and I thank all of them for worrying every time I was homesick or had any kind of problems. They are all very important to me.

Rotary and the exchange students changed my life too, for sure. This family is inside my heart forever. I love them very much, and I would like to thank especially Ed, Karen and Julie and all the Rotarians that made my exchange year so marvelous.

I couldn't really say goodbye to everyone or have the prom and all the other experiences I was supposed to, but I don't regret anything. Not even choosing this year to come to Avon. It was a great experience, each second of it! Thank you all for being there for me. I'll be back as soon as possible to give a hug to each of you I couldn't. Stay safe and healthy, see you soon!!!

With Love,
Julia



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers....

Jill & Bill Wall—Jill's brother passed away recently

*Kelly Cole—still fighting for better health and in the hospital
as of this writing*



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please let the club President know and
Sunshine Liaison Agent—Barbara Herman



Avon Food Pantry

Drop off at Food Pantry or Contact Rhonda

Pantry critical needs in May are:

**Canned pasta such as SpaghettiO, Beef Ravioli, Beefaroni
and such...**

Thank you, Jennifer Palmer



2019-2020 Avon Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Friday, May 1– 3, 2020	District Conference—Niagara Falls, NY CANCELLED!
Saturday, May 30, 2020	Blue Jean Ball— CANCELLED!
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	Quad Cities Golf—Caledonia— UNSURE
Tuesday, June 23, 2020	Change of Officers Banquet—5:30