



## President's Message

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

### Board of Directors

Dom Lalisce, 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



A very active December!

I want to start my monthly message with special thoughts and prayers for Jill. We wish her a speedy recovery. Thank you for supporting Bill with your thoughts and help.

2019 is already coming to an end. Time really flies when you are blessed with a great group of friends keeping you active and engaged. Due to the holidays, we only had 3 meetings in December, but we complemented it with social activities and volunteer opportunities to make it a very active month.

In December, the by-laws Committee led by Helen Zamboni completed its work with recommendations for changes to our by-laws. The new by-laws will be put up for a club vote in January. The key proposed changes focused on the areas suggested by the members in the survey completed in the summer. Some key proposed amendments include:

- Formal recognition of the needs for the creation of policies to govern the club
- Formal details around the election of the Board and term limits
- Capability to extend the number of Member-at-Large on the board at the discretion of the Board.

We started the month with a Red Cross Blood Drive organized by Karl Sawicki. With your donations, the club was able to support the needs of our local Blood needs. Our donations make a huge difference and save lives in the community.

We continued the month with our participation to the Holiday Spectacular. With this event, we have started a new tradition for our Club to raise funds for Avon Community Care with our crepes and cider station. We raised almost \$500 for ACC which will help them support families in need in our Community. It is also a great fun time

for the club volunteers and an opportunity to share our passion and community involvement. I also noticed this year that less and less Avon residents referring to crepes as "French pancakes" so our community educational efforts in the art of French cuisine are starting to pay off!

A critical annual event of our club in November is the Annual Auction which is a major Fundraiser and supports many of the donations we make during the year. At a December meeting, we had the opportunity to prepare Thank you notes for our donors and sponsors through an in-meeting service project. Thank you to Janis, Tom and Leann for organizing the project! It is critical for our club to be grateful to our Donors who enable our annual auction.

Our last Regular meeting of 2019 was a Club Assembly on 12/17. At the assembly, the club elected our new slate of officers for 2020-2021. We are very fortunate to have some great new talent stepping up: Mike Ford as Director; Katie DeGraff as Treasurer; Leann Hill as Secretary and Bruce Amey as Member at large. Julie Carney, Janis McMIndes, Steve Csapo will also join me on the overall slate of officers for the year 2020-2021. Thank you for your great support of the team with your presence and vote at the Assembly!

On 12/17, we also had a very moving moment for several members as we hosted Honor Flight. Honor Flight is such a special organization in our area. We are proud and honored to support their work with our annual donations.

We ended our Rotary year with a great fellowship event at our annual Christmas party hosted at the home of Charlene and Chris Masten.

I wish you all a wonderful, active and successful 2020! The District conference will be held at Niagara Falls this year, I hope many of you can join us there!

# December Highlights



## December 3

Fellow Rotarians,

Once again, thanks to all of you that donated their blood yesterday.

Our goal was 23 donations. That is exactly what we contributed. 10 units were whole blood, and 13 units were double reds. That made our account manager very pleased because this assists up to 69 lives. Well done ! (we had 5 donors that for various reasons could not donate yesterday and two no-shows)

For planning purposes, our next drive is now scheduled for **April 7, 2020** starting at 1:30 and going until 6:00 pm.

Yours in Rotary Service, Karl Sawicki



# American Red Cross

## December 3

Past President Kirk ran the brief meeting following our blood drive. Bruce Amey presented a new stand up banner as a gift to the club which includes our mission statement.

*"The Rotary Club of Avon is an organization where service-minded individuals unite to provide resources, take action for those in need, and support lasting change in our world, our community, and in each other."*

Thank you Bruce for your thoughtful, generous gift! - Laurie Vonglis



L-R Rotarians Mike Ford, Mark Evans, Jean Antkowiak

## December 4

Avon Rotarians joined members from the Brighton and Rush-Henrietta clubs to celebrate the John James Audubon School No.33 Principal's Book of the Month Club. Avon teams with these partner Rotary Clubs to buy books for these elementary school children to learn important life skills and to learn to enjoy reading.—Mike Ford

## December 10

Our Giving Tree was a great success! Due to the generosity of many of our club members, we collected gifts for 40 children in our community. Betsy Sherwood from Focus on the Children said we have made a significant impact this holiday season for the children in our community and sincerely appreciates our generosity.

Many thanks for the gifts, supplies and cash donations that made this all happen.—Laurie Vonglis



Betsy with a car full of gifts purchased by Avon Rotarians



# December Highlights *continued*



## December 7

On this cold December day, Rotarians braved the weather to participate in the 2nd annual Avon Holiday Spectacular. Led by President Dom and his amazing crepe making skills, the team cooked and served delicious 'dessert' crepes to local Spectacular participants. At the end of the day, they raised \$478 which will benefit Avon Community Cares. Great job Dom and team! Next year we've got to make sure Dom has the proper gear to keep warm.  
- Laurie Vonglis



## December 10

History quiz for 21st century joined club members.

#1 What year did Avon Rotary form? 1927.

#2 What Rotary Club was our sponsor? Perry.

This bell is theirs that we borrowed, now to be rung by our long-standing member, Ted Coyne, who joined in 1955. And, by the way, worked as a youngster for our first club president, Roy Allison.

- Jim Tompsett



## December 17

At tonight's meeting, Steve Wendell from Honor Flight Rochester visited our club to give a presentation about what Honor Flight does for the local vets and its guardian program. If you are, or know a WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, or Cold War Vet, visit [honorflightrochester.org](http://honorflightrochester.org) to learn more about this organization that Avon Rotary is proud to help support. We presented a \$1000 donation to help further their mission.  
-Mike Ford

## Salvation Army Bell Ringing Week— Thank you to all the Volunteers!





# Holiday Celebrations



## December 20

Many thanks to the Host and Hostess with the 'mostest', of our 2019 Christmas Party—Chris & Charlene Masten. Great Time!



## Holiday Open House hosted by Natalie & Josh Harter, December 26



What a treat! 26 club members & guests enjoyed a special gathering at the home of Natalie & Josh Harter—the former home of Vicki Rose and the Annis (Dairy) Family. We all enjoyed a tour and learned of all the renovation updates made to this beautiful old home. We sang Christmas carols with Jim Varner on the piano and Natalie leading us in song. Thank you Bill Wall, Jerry Dougherty, Board Members & Tom Vonglis for making this happen.



## Rambling On Rotary—January



By: Bruce Amey

I am writing this missive in December a few days after the passing of a friend's father in our community. It caused me to reflect on the passing of my own father five years ago in December, not that I need to be reminded.

This friend's father died five years after his wife had died; the exact same timeframe between my parents' deaths. I felt a strong sense of empathy for my friend and his family as I know from now on, this season of joy and hope will also bring recollections of a passing.

I am also writing this a few days before Christmas but the day after we celebrated our family Christmas. Since our kids will be elsewhere on December 25th, we were able to be together December 21. On Friday night 12/20, before he went to bed, Johnathan and I sprinkled some "magic dust" on the front porch so Santa would know where to leave gifts ahead of his normal delivery schedule. Johnathan walked into our bedroom at 7:00AM on Saturday saying "Merry Christmas". I let Diane take care of him for awhile while I took care of our dog's morning needs. Johnathan then woke up his mom, Madison, since we would not allow him to go downstairs until his mom could be with him. Madison came into his room wearing a shirt that said, "I am not a morning person ... except on Christmas Day." As I smiled at the shirt, she said, "It's not true. I'm not a morning person even on Christmas Day." Well as Ben and Krisi came downstairs along with Madison, Johnathan and Nathan, we had a great day. Johnathan was amazed at all the gifts and seeing the excitement in his eyes was a joy for all the adults in the room. The best gift Diane and I received was just having our kids with us for even a brief amount of time.

In a quiet moment during the holiday season, I still have sadness when I think of my dad's passing at this time of year and I know my friend will as well. I have chosen to remember the fond memories together throughout all the years "growing up" and the new memories made around my family today; I'm sure my friend will be able to balance this, too.

Since I joined Rotary, my family has grown and that makes me more joy-filled not only at this time but throughout the year. As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, we have much to accomplish and celebrate in our Rotary family working together. During this season of giving, please remember the Rotary Foundation. A donation to the Annual Fund helps build sustainable communities around the world. A donation to the PolioPlus Fund can help Rotary complete its mission of polio eradication in the world. When performing service through Rotary, we each can be a part of the child-like excitement seen in the eyes of the recipients of our endeavors.

One of my favorite Christmas songs is "The Secret of Christmas". Some of the lyrics state, "So may I suggest that the secret of Christmas is not the things you do at Christmas time ... but the Christmas things you do all year through." Being part of the Rotary family, we can do "Christmas things" every day. As we start a new year together, let us pledge to love and serve in the family of Rotary where we know we can accomplish great things. Happy New Year! And again, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



### 2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of December 31, 2019

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	14	21	24	Nov 14, 2019
Pakistan	8	8	101	Nov 23, 2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>125</b>	



Dear Polio Eradication Supporter,

As the year comes to a close, the polio program is taking a moment to reflect on lessons learned in 2019. The eradication effort faced significant challenges this year, including increasing vaccine-derived polio outbreaks and rising wild polio cases in the virus' last hiding places. In response, the GPEI, country governments and key stakeholders are working rapidly to develop and implement innovative strategies and tools to overcome the virus in 2020. Amidst challenges, we were encouraged by several key milestones—from Nigeria marking three years wild polio-free to the eradication of wild polio type 3 and generous commitments at our successful pledging event—showing the world that our ultimate goal can be achieved.





## A Word From Our Exchange Student

My name is Julia Leandro, I'm 18 years old and from Brazil. This past month has been very exciting and fun. I changed host families and now I have a bigger family.

I went to my first professional football game with my first host family, and it was a huge incredible experience!

I had the chance of having a weekend with other exchange students on the NYC trip and make new friendships, and I also had a amazing Christmas!

I'm very happy and I thank Rotary for making this the best year of my life!



Interact rang the bell at Tops on two different Saturdays in December. Some kids teamed up to share shifts.

Almost 5 Years ago, how time flies...we hosted Nico from Italy for 4 months. It was a great experience and we were so glad to have that opportunity! We were able to meet his family and learn about his culture. His parents came to visit and I had a great experience cooking with his mom. I also took her grocery shopping and she did not speak any English! She had cooked a seven course meal for 20 people we hosted at our house. It has been nice to remain in contact with Nico over the years. Nico is completing a college exchange program for the semester here in the states at Princeton University. This was his last break in the US and he was able to have his girlfriend, Giuseppina, come and visit. They toured NYC first and then came to Avon. He stayed with Ed for the week which I personally know he loved. We were able to catch up over the holidays and my family was able to spend time with him and his girlfriend, who I just love. We had a nice time cooking a favorite meal his mom makes at home, catching up, chatting and playing games. No shocker that he has majored in political economics. Smart boy! It is still on my list to visit with him and his family in Italy! - Shannon DiFranco





# JANUARY

## Club Schedule



<b>Mon. Jan 6</b>	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm @ Hurricane
<b>Tues. Jan 7</b>	Regular Mtg, Strategic Planning Committee following
<b>Tues. Jan 14</b>	Regular Mtg.
<b>Tues. Jan 21</b>	Regular Mtg, Presidential Citation Presentation, BJB Committee following
<b>Tues. Jan 28</b>	Regular Mtg, Program by Jen Moore

## January Celebrations

### Rotary Anniversary

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

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ *Helen Zamboni*



### Birthday

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

Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth, and your heart for love.

**JANUARY IS**

"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](http://www.rotary.org)





## 2019-2020 Avon Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, February 11, 2020:	Sweethearts Dinner—6:00	
Tuesday, March 17, 2020:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00	
Friday, May 1– May 3, 2020	District Conference—Niagara Falls, NY	
Saturday, May 30, 2020	Blue Jean Ball—6:00 @ Oak Knolls Manor	
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	Quad Cities Golf—Caledonia	
Tuesday, June 30, 2020	Change of Officers Banquet—5:30	

## Avon Food Pantry

*Collections are the 3rd Tuesday  
of the Month*

Pantry critical needs in January are:

- ⇒ Pasta
- ⇒ Pasta sauce

Thank you,  
Jennifer



***Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?***

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