



Rotary Opens Opportunities



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
District Training Assembly	1
Schedule/Celebrations	2
March Highlights	3, 4
Rambling on Rotary	5
Foundation Information	6
2021 Corn Festival	6
School Builds	7
Interact News	8
Guidance Manual	8
District Conference	8
Earth Day	9
Four Way Test	10
Polio Update	11
Food Pantry & More	11

President's Message



Welcome Spring!

This season brings extended daylight, rising temperatures, and the rebirth/renewal of our environment. Spring is the time when hibernating animals, bees and birds emerge to start over. Spring has been celebrated throughout human history as a time of organic and spiritual rebirth following the "dying of the year" in winter. I for one, am excited to start this new season and embrace the changes, even though slow, in our communities and lives. This is also the time of year that most people "Spring Clean". I would like to ask each and everyone of you to think about what this means in regard to your Rotary life. With our District Training Assembly approaching on April 10th, I ask you each to take a look at the opportunities available throughout our Rotary District and think about trying something new or honing in on your current areas of interest. The Learning Center at myrotary.org is also a valuable place to learn more and energize yourself with new ideas!

April is also Maternal and Child Health Month throughout the Rotary world. It was wonderful having a presentation regarding the efforts put forth by Rotarians and the Casa Materna community in Nicaragua. The continual care of expectant mothers in the rural/mountainous region around El Sauce is making a difference in the health and wellness of mothers as well as their babies. Our Club was able to donate a refrigerator to the facility so that fresh food and medicine can be stored safely. I hope that someday soon I will be able to accompany Dr. Maitlin to Casa Materna and work, firsthand, with the women in the community.

Thank you to everyone in the Club for your continued energy and support of all the activities, fundraisers and community visibility! I am confident that as Spring brings new life, we too, will be successful in getting re-energized and growing Rotary!

Yours In Rotary Service,

Julie Carney, President 2020-2021

Avon Rotary Club meets

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Board of Directors

Julie Carney, President
Tom Vonglis, President Elect
Steve Csapo, Senior Director
Mike Ford, Director
Bruce Amey, Member at Large
Marcia Cameron, Past President
Leann Hill, Secretary
Katie DeGraff, Treasurer

Rotary  **District Training Assembly**
District 7120

Saturday, April 10, 2021, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

WHERE: VIRTUAL

WHO: Club leaders and club members

WHY: Enrich one's Rotary knowledge, develop leadership skills, get up-to-date Rotary information.

You are invited to attend the DTA. No travel required and it is free!!!

Attend the opening session to hear DGE Janet's goals, the 2021-2022 Rotary Theme and the message behind the theme.

Register now for the virtual meeting information and view a list of breakout sessions.

All Rotarians in District 7120 are encouraged to participate.

Register at [https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/district-training-assembly-\(dta\)](https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/district-training-assembly-(dta))



Club Schedule

Tues. April 6	Rotary Meeting 6:30 @ Avon Inn
Sat. April 10	District Training Assembly 9 am—12:30 pm
Mon. April 12	Board of Directors Meeting at Hurricane Conference Room 6:30 pm
Tues. April 13	Rotary Meeting 6:30 @ Avon Inn
Tues. April 20	Rotary Meeting 6:30 @ Avon Inn
Tues. April 27	Rotary Meeting 6:30 @ Avon Inn



TIME is precious...
Waste it wisely
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April Celebrations

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ *Bill Wall 2000*
- ⇒ *Kevin Van Allen 2019*
- ⇒ *Brock Thrasher 2020*

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ *Mike Ford*



Birthday

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

March Highlights

At our March 16th virtual meeting we were joined by Project Manager Magda Lanuza and Financier Dr. Arnie Matlin from La Casa Martera Arlen Siu in El Sauce, Nicaragua. Casa Materna, or Mother House in English, is a facility that hosts expectant mothers in their 3rd trimester until the time they give birth. In Nicaragua, many people live in rural mountainous areas that are very inaccessible to ambulances and other typical forms of transportation. Casa Materna provides a home to expectant mothers where they can get medical attention by a staff of doctors and nurses, proper nutrition, ultrasounds, prenatal vitamins, counseling, family planning, and learn trades to make money once the baby is born. Casa Maternas throughout Nicaragua have led to the country having one of the biggest turnarounds in infant mortality in the entire world. Avon Rotary is proud to have recently donated a new refrigerator to the facility in El Sauce so the nutritional and medical needs of these expectant mothers can still be met. *Submitted by: Mike Ford*



Ed Kime PHF +1

At our March 23rd meeting, our club was able to award two members with Paul Harris Plus pins for their continued contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Ed Kime was awarded his Paul Harris Plus 1 pin and Bruce Amey was awarded his Paul Harris Plus 8 pin. The Rotary Foundation is a non-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs.

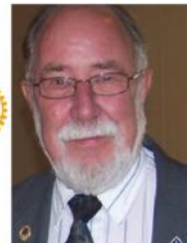


Bruce Amey PHF +8

The Rotary Foundation is also consistently ranked as one of the world's top charitable organizations year after year. Congratulations Ed and Bruce! *Submitted by: Mike Ford*

March 24, 2021—A year ago today, Avon Rotary lost a valued member and dear friend, Steve Vanderbilt. Steve embodied Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" in both our club and the Avon community. Steve was also one of our club champions for the Rotary Foundation...Rotary International's charitable wing that allows our clubs to do good works in our communities and the world as a whole. In celebration of Steve's life, Avon Rotarians participated in the "Perfect 10" campaign, giving donations in \$10 increments to the Rotary Foundation. Through the generosity of our members, we were able to raise \$1785 in memory of Steve, our "Perfect 10." *Submitted by: Mike Ford*

The Perfect 10



March Highlights *continued*



At our March 30th meeting:

The return to in person meetings means the return of in meeting service projects for Avon Rotary. This is one of our favorites that we do a few times every year. Rotarians and family gathered to put together "Birthday Party in a Bag" kits for the Avon Food Pantry. Our members and guests assembled party bags that include cake, frosting, sprinkles, candles, balloons and party favors. These bags were donated to the Avon Food Pantry and will be available to members of the community that are in need. Many thanks to Rhonda Hirschler for coordinating this project.

Submitted by: Mike Ford



Interact President Ella Vanderbilt, donating blood for the 1st time!



American Red Cross

On March 31st, Avon Rotary partnered with the Avon Inn to host a Red Cross Blood Drive. Rotarians volunteered at the check in table and with promotion of the drive. Donations by Rotarians and community members led to 31 units of blood being donated; 26 whole blood units and 5 double reds. Thank you to all who helped give the gift of life!

Many thanks to Rotarian, Karl Sawicki for organizing this event and Jen & Jim Krause for the use of the Inn.

Submitted by: Mike Ford



Volunteers: Kirk, Laurie & Ella



Rambling On Rotary—April



By: Bruce Amey

The RI theme for April is Maternal and Child Health; could there have been a more appropriate program for our club than that which we had on March 16? Thanks to President Julie and Rob Lupisella for arranging for our program on Casa Materna, meaning Maternal House. Hearing from Magda Lanuza and Drs. Arnie Matlin and Dan Yawman was truly inspiring and raised the specter of what we as a club and as individuals can do to serve others. Our club recently donated funds towards the purchase of new refrigerator for Casa Materna to help keep supplies and medicines refrigerated for women using the facility.

Expectant mothers are offered pre-natal care at Casa Materna but their babies are delivered in a hospital. Casa Materna assists expectant mothers with a healthy pregnancy. Magda shared that in 1990, there were 160 deaths per 100,000 live births (0.16%) while in 2016 that rate had dropped to 41 deaths out of 100,000 births (0.04%). She shared that “neonatal mortality is the main contributor to childhood mortality in the developing world, accounting for approximately 45% of deaths of children un 5 years-of-age in 2015.” By providing expectant mothers with a healthful pregnancy has made a huge difference.

What is truly inspiring to me is how Casa Materna came to be. Dr. Arnie, from Geneseo, has been going to Nicaragua for 33 years. During his early visits he became inspired to help create care for pregnant women and continues to provide money and materials. Dr. Dan had been an intern under Dr. Arnie. Dr. Dan is a pediatrician who has been involved with building homes in Nicaragua and has assisted in mother and child health issues. Seeing their passion for

service to mothers and children’s health in Nicaragua calls to my mind the quote attributed to Steve Jobs: “If you are working on something that you really care about, you don’t have to be pushed. The vision pulls you.” It is clear to me they have been pulled to continue to work on this project.

And that is the passion I see in Rob and Jeanine Lupisella with the Nicaragua school builds. Their vision had led them to El Sauce and the continuing desire to serve the children in those communities led them to create Linking Hands For Learning to assist with the on-going projects. And as we know, one person’s passion for service can truly inspire others to help it become their passion. For me, our Rotary Foundation has become a passion of mine once I learned of the good it does for people in our neighborhoods and our world. At our meeting on March 16 President Julie spoke about several avenues available for funding projects and serving others made possible through the Foundation. How we serve in our community and educate our neighbors of the powerful potential of Rotary is our charge; supporting the Foundation so it can continue to serve others around the world on our behalf is our responsibility. As Rotarians, let us each find our niche for service, that niche that is something we really care about. Then we will not need to be pushed to action. That vision and passion will pull us ... just like it has Dr. Arnie, Dr. Dan, Rob and Jeanine, and each of us in different ways. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



APRIL IS
MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
MONTH

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver"
Mahatma Gandhi

Rotary   www.rotary.org



Foundation Information

Two Things:

1. - Thank you all so much for your generosity on our "Perfect 10" drive to raise money for the foundation in my Dad's memory. We raised \$1785 and that's just plain awesome. He would be so pleased to know that we had chosen the Foundation as a way to remember him. For many of you, this was an additional donation beyond your recurring giving, and that fact doesn't go unnoticed, so thank you.

2. - After awarding some "plus pins" at the meeting on the 23rd and a discussion I had at our table, I became aware that I should clarify some terms that I use and maybe how Paul Harris Recognitions happen. The main term I should define is Recognition Points or just Points for short. Every dollar that is donated by a Club or a member to the Annual Fund or Polio Plus is recognized with a Point. When someone accumulates 1000 points, they are recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF). Points may be transferred to people as well. In fact this is how we, as a Club, recognize members or community members as PHF. Similarly, members with 1000 available points may choose to recognize someone as a Paul Harris Fellow. As an example, I received my first PHF from the Club in 2008, then when I accumulated 1000 points through my own donations, I received my "Plus 1" Pin and I then chose to "transfer" those points and name my friend Tom Moran as a PHF for his many years of service to the Avon Community. So.....boring I know, but if you have a Plus Pin, you probably have the points to name a Paul Harris Fellow. A family member perhaps, or a special friend or mentor, or a deserving community member. While there are no rules to whom you may name, we trust that it would be done for the right reasons. And of course, there is no requirement to use your points to name a PHF, but the option is there. So if you have questions about how many points you have available, or want to talk about naming a PHF, feel free to contact me anytime.

YIRS, Kirk Vanderbilt, Foundation Chairman



2021 Corn Festival



Last year, it was with a heavy heart that our club had to make the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Corn Festival. Planning for the 2021 Corn Festival on August 14th is now underway, and while Covid still affects all of our daily lives, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel. Several vaccines are now available and more and more crowd restrictions are being lifted every day. It is with these factors in mind that we have decided to move forward, safely and responsibly, so we can enjoy and celebrate our community and raise the much needed funds to take action for those in



need, support lasting change in our world, in our community and in each other. I personally am excited to take on the role of this year's Corn Festival Chairperson and look forward to working with the committee to make this year's festival one of our best ever. If you are interested in joining our committee we meet the first Monday of the month, 6:30 pm at the Hurricane Technologies conference room and via Zoom. Thank you and YIRS, Mike Ford

COVID-19 Can't Stop Rotary

From Building Schools in Nicaragua



Rob & Jeanine Lupisella, 2016
School Build in Nicaragua

The trip was set, the plane tickets purchased, and the accommodations arranged. A group of eager volunteers were ready to embark on another adventure together to the country of Nicaragua to build a school. Like the construction projects that came before, the school was to be located in a remote mountainous region, a place which would be difficult to travel to, and difficult to build there. Despite these challenges and obstacles, a far greater adversary was looming, unbeknownst to the volunteers when they purchased their tickets, COVID-19 was making its way across the Atlantic.

The 2020 trip never occurred but the money raised, all \$15,310 was sent, and construction went forward as planned and a beautiful new school was built for the children of the community of El Chote. The school may not have been constructed through back breaking work by Rotarians this time, but the cost was shouldered by generous donations which began with a hefty \$2,000 from our Avon club, and continued support from the Rochester Rotary Charitable Foundation. A large bulk of the donations for the El Chote



school were received through individual donations of eight Avon Rotarians which amounted to \$5,600. Significant contributions were also received

from members of the Honeoye Falls-Mendon club. While life was in lockdown here in the states this past summer, the residents of El Chote were gathering together to celebrate the completion of their new school for the children. The before and after images, beautifully illustrates the impact that these efforts are making.



Fast forward to today, and even though we have been living under COVID-19 for over a year, the necessary funds to construct in the community of Los Jobitos have been raised (almost entirely.) Rotarian efforts with the Cornatine Road Rally and the on-line auction enabled the club to once again donate to the effort. Individual members have once again contributed mightily. Approximately thirty families live in the community of Los Jobitos, which has no electric energy or potable water. There are presently two buildings at the school site, however this is not nearly enough space for the students who attend. Roughly seventy children go to school there, many coming from the surrounding communities of La Chocoya and La Orqueta. Students in grades pre-K through fourth grade utilize the two structures, while eighteen students in grades 5-6 have a tent, which is neither comfortable or safe for them. Anyone interested in contributing to the effort, please go to www.linkinghandsforlearning.com and click on the donate button. Any donation large or small, makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.



It is in the surrounding area of the town of El Sauce, located in the municipality of Leon, where the schools have been constructed. The community has received a tremendous level of support from the greater Rochester region over the years. The people living there have expressed their gratitude and appreciation for how our Avon club has supported them. From school construction, to the latest donation supporting the Casa Materna, Avon Rotary continues to make a difference in the lives of others throughout the world. By these service efforts Rotary opens opportunities and change lives in the process. Although we have been unable to travel there over the past three years, your fellow Rotarians who have traveled there, have witnessed first-hand the difference these efforts are making. YIRS, Rob Lupisella



In order for us to still give back to our community during the pandemic, the Rotary Interact Club held a Food Pantry fundraiser in the elementary, middle, and high school throughout the month of March. We started collecting donations after February break and the boxes were brought to the Food Pantry on March 19th, in time for Easter. We were also able to get two large boxes of masks and sanitizers donated to us. These will make great Easter basket presents. It was very successful and we thank all who participated!

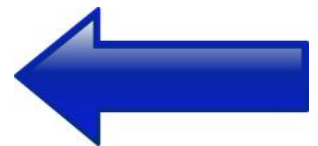


Submitted by: Interact President, Ella Vanderbilt

Guidelines Manual

Please remember that our club has a Guidelines Manual on our club's homepage at avonrotary.org. Once there, click on the tab About Us, then Private Documents and the Guidelines manual will be there (you will need to log in with your club log in to access the Manual). Review the various topics in the Manual; see if there is something you would like to learn. Tom Honan is updating the section about our digital auction, which will occur again this year. Will we plan to do another Road Rally ... why not? Want to help with our Literacy Program—Jean Antkowiak provided some guidance and suggestions.

Look what has been done in the past and see where you might help. If you engage in some activity, please write it up and send it to me so I can incorporate it in the manual for other club members to benefit from. We are doing great things. We can learn from how they have been done in the past and we can always improve to allow us to do better moving forward. Avon Rotary Rocks!! *Submitted by: Bruce Amey*

Save the Date - Earth Day Project - 4/24/2021

The upcoming multi-district Great Lakes Watershed cleanup project is scheduled for April 24th.

The current plan is to join up with the Caledonia Club to clean up the Avon River Boat Launch site. This is the area located near the bridge on 5&20 headed towards Caledonia. Then we will head to Vitale Park to clean up the waterfront area there. It will be a lot like the roadside cleanup project which has been done in the past.

There will be more specifics to follow but we are hoping to have as large of a turnout as possible. So please save the date. In order to get an idea who is able to help please shoot me an email so I can start building a list of volunteers.

Submitted by: Kevin VanAllen, March 19

Here is some additional information about the project:

The Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup initiative is an effort to focus attention to the Great Lakes and to all the great work that is being done to cleanup our lakes, streams, and waterways. Through the coordination of many associated clean up events, to be held around the week of Earth Day, our goal is to make this the single largest series of linked clean up events ever planned and held during this one period of time on the Great Lakes.

That being said, in District 7120, the service project is for clean up of all the waterways in our District, such as the Finger Lakes, the Erie Canal and the Genesee River watershed.

Trash, plastics and other littered items plague oceans, lakes, and rivers. This trash poses a threat to terrestrial and aquatic life, often becomes microplastics and harmful toxins, and pollutes one of the most precious and limited natural resources.

According to a report from the Rochester Institute of Technology, more than 22 million pounds of trash and plastic pollution ends up in the Great Lakes each year. Globally, each Earth Day over a billion people worldwide work together in their communities. The Great Lakes contains almost 20% of the world's freshwater and the Great Lakes System is arguably the largest source of fresh water on the planet.

Each spring, numerous cleanup events occur in the US and Canada throughout the Great Lakes watersheds to remove accumulated debris and waste that has collected. Shopping carts, tires, furniture, trash, numerous foam cups, plastic containers and aluminum cans can be found along our waterways and greenways. These cleanup events remove thousands of pounds of garbage from the environment each year. Unfortunately, after each cleanup, this debris continues to accumulate through on-going littering and illegal dumping.

Cleanups from numerous NGOs, community groups and individual volunteers are critical to reducing the amount of garbage that collects in our watersheds each year. In order to track our success, the second goal of this effort will be to tabulate the amount of debris collected from each of the individual clean up events. And the final and most important goal of this event will be to educate the public to the importance of protecting our waterways, to instill a sense of stewardship toward our Great Lakes.

The individual Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup events will be planned to be held between Saturday April 17th and Saturday April 24th, to coincide with the celebration of Earth Day which falls on April 22nd.



The Four-Way Test isn't a tool to judge others



By Martin "Marty" Postic Jr., past governor of District 5750 and a member of the Rotary Club of OKC Sunrise, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA Posted on **January 29, 2020**

In our contentious society, I see friends who are members of Rotary use The Four-Way Test to support opposing political and social arguments and to criticize the thoughts, statements, and actions of others. I see members with completely opposing viewpoints use the same Four-Way Test to both support their argument and demean others. Rotarians and others are using all forms of social media to share their opinions about perceived violations of The Four-Way Test, causing others to pile on additional comments and insults, all with little thought to how this affects our public image.

Which leads me to this basic premise:

The Four-Way Test is a mirror, not a window

Rotary members should not use The Four-Way Test to look at others but rather to look at themselves in considering the ramifications of a thought, statement, or action. It should not be a window through which we look to judge others. It is a mirror at which we look to judge ourselves.

The argument I've heard Rotarians make is that if they determine some thought, statement, or action violates any part of the test, it is their duty to declare that thought, statement, or action wrong. I have heard The Four-Way Test used to support any number of topics, some which readers would find hard to support. Yet through the Internet, one can cobble together any sort of argument to back any thought or concept with a plethora of "facts."

I do not believe that is what The Four-Way Test is about. I believe the test is more about how we treat each other than how we measure ideas.

Of course, it is a challenging standard. It's difficult to keep from thinking something. But what is more important is how you act on that thought. If you think to yourself, "I don't like this person," it becomes a matter of what you do with that thought. You can try to dispel it as well as any urge to take some negative action to satisfy your dislike of the person. You can also decide whether you say something to that person or tell others what you think.

This is where social media distorts things, because society now seems to embrace negative, vitriolic, or fake comments – as long as the comments agree with our own views. Posting such comments even in the name of The Four-Way Test is certainly not FAIR to all concerned and definitely does not build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS.

This brings me to the realization that using The Four-Way Test to argue political and social issues is in itself contrary to the test. We must never use the test to support a position while opposing or berating someone else's position. We should not use The Four-Way Test to support or oppose contentious "hot button" issues, to comment on political discord, or to respond to another's comment.

We need to teach The Four-Way Test to all of our friends. We don't need to preach it. Rotary takes pride that it is a non-political, non-religious organization. That has allowed us to make inroads in parts of the world where governments and religious organizations can't. Let's not sully Rotary's reputation by using these 24 words of ethical and moral thought to tear each other down.

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2021 Wild Polio Case Counts as of March 31, 2021

<u>Country</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	29	56	1	Feb, 2021
Pakistan	147	84	1	Feb, 2021
Total	176	140	2	



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison Agent—
Barbara Herman
226-6735




CHARITY NAVIGATOR
RECOGNIZES
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION
AS A 4-STAR RATED CHARITY



The
Rotary
Foundation 



Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in April are:

**Can fruit, can chicken, jello, cereal, pudding,
crackers, macaroni & cheese, dry potatoes, rice,
shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper**

**Please drop off at the food pantry or bring to a meeting.
Questions—ask Rhonda. Thank you!**



Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus

- Peace & Conflict Resolution
- Disease Prevention & Treatment
- Water & Sanitation
- Maternal & Child Health
- Basic Education & Literacy
- Economic & Community Development
- Supporting the Environment

