



Rotary Opens Opportunities



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## President's Message



Well, it is hard to believe that this is my last letter to the Avon Rotary Club as President! It truly has been a privilege to lead this club through such a difficult year. I know that Dom was also affected by COVID

and his strong leadership made my transition much more cohesive. I remember starting the pandemic being responsible for 15 Inbound Students, 12 Outbound Students and 13 Preparing Outbounds. Trying to navigate all that was happening all around the world and having to make decisions for the students, the parents, the host families, and the Rotary volunteers was stressful. However, the decisions that had to be made helped prepare me for my year as president.

This month is focused on Rotary Fellowships. I knew coming into this year that things would be different. The last "in person" training that was held was PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) at the beginning of March 2020. This had me entering the Rotary year with many uncertainties. How would we fund-raise? How would we socialize? How would we meet? How would we attract new members? I can honestly tell you that the backbone of this club and the resiliency that was shown was humbling. The way that new members stepped up to help create the Road Rally and to have the more experienced members work to mentor and create such a great fundraiser. Watching how this Club pulled together made me confident that our year together would be a success. We not only had the Road Rally, but then we moved on to the Auction. Again, creativity and perseverance brought our club closer together,

while remaining distant. As difficult as I thought it would be during a pandemic, Avon Rotary was fortunate enough to welcome new members to our Club! While Rotary International and our district had a small loss of members, we managed to grow during the last year. We were also able to continue working with the American Red Cross and fill a need in our community. Thank you to Jen and Jim at the Avon Inn for all their flexibility in keeping us connected. Zoom was something that I was not extremely excited about, but it has proven to be a tool that will continue for years to come. The idea that we could have presenters from all over the world, that our members are able to attend even when out of town, in a parking lot waiting to pick up children or driving home from work, has kept our Club close.

So, since this is Rotary Fellowships month, I would like to thank everyone for the support, ideas, and motivation to keep moving forward! It has been a great year!

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



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is with a heavy heart that we have to cancel the Corn Festival for the 2nd year in a row. We will be back and better than ever next year!

Please join us for the Rally in the Valley event on September 18th!

We need your help! Contact Laurie to volunteer.



## Club Schedule

Tues. June 1	Regular Mtg Avon Inn @ 6:00
Tues. June 8	Regular Mtg Avon Inn @ 6:00
Mon. June 14	Board of Directors Mtg @ 7:00, Hurricane Conf Rm.
Tues. June 15	Regular Mtg Avon Inn @ 6:00
Tues. June 22	Regular Mtg Avon Inn @ 6:00
Tues. June 29	Avon Rotary Changeover Dinner 5:00—9:00 @ Avon Inn RSVP to attend
Thurs. July 1	District 7120 Changeover Dinner 5:30—8:30 @ Belhurst Castle RSVP to attend

### Birthday

- ⇒ **Bruce Amey**
- ⇒ **Kelly Cole**
- ⇒ **Dave Henehan**
- ⇒ **Rhonda Hirschler**
- ⇒ **Dom Lalisce**
- ⇒ **Dave LaFeber**
- ⇒ **Jim Ryan**
- ⇒ **Jim Tompsett**
- ⇒ **Marcie Williams**

## June Celebrations



### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Bob Hayes**
- ⇒ **Janis McMindes**
- ⇒ **Karl Sawicki**
- ⇒ **Steve Stephenson**
- ⇒ **Jim Tompsett**

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Laurie Vonglis 2004**
- ⇒ **Steve Csapo 2010**
- ⇒ **Doug Hayes 2012**
- ⇒ **Rob Lupisella 2012**
- ⇒ **Colin Bruckel 2014**
- ⇒ **Shannon DiFranco 2014**

# May Highlights



For the past few months, under the coordination efforts of Mt Morris Rotarians, several local Rotarians have volunteered at Livingston County Health Department Covid vaccination clinics. It was at these vaccination sites that our club President, Julie Carney, learned about the shortage of sharps disposal containers at these clinics. Under her coordination, she was able to secure donations from the Geneseo, Livonia, Lima, Cal-Mum, Avon, and Dansville Rotary clubs to provide 64 much needed sharps disposal containers to the Livingston County Health Department. Thank you to all these Livingston County clubs for their time and monetary donations to help these vaccination clinics. *Submitted by: Julie Carney*

Major props, congratulations, and a huge thank you to our Social Media Guru, Michael Ford. Avon Rotary was recognized for the 2nd best Facebook page in the entire Rotary District 7120 at the District Conference on May 8. Mike is super talented and dedicated to Avon Rotary's social media presence. Thank you Mike!  
*Submitted by: Kirk Vanderbilt*



Avon Rotary is proud to announce that with funding secured through a Rotary District 7120 simplified grant, we are able to donate new bleachers to the Avon Driving Park Little League & Softball fields. These new heavy duty aluminum bleachers will replace the well weathered bleachers that are being used currently at the park and benefit our community for many years to come.

*Submitted by: Mike Ford*



*Many thanks to everyone involved from start to finish!*

**May 11:** At last night's meeting, Avon Rotarian Josh Tonra gave the club a presentation on New York's new Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. Josh is a Livingston County Assistant District Attorney and gave a legal perspective on New York's cannabis reform. His presentation focused on:

- 1.) Penal law and how the role of police will change, how cannabis offenses will be charged, and how those charged under old laws will be treated under the new law.
- 2.) Personal use and cultivation, how much one may possess, cannabis business, agriculture, and licensing.
- 3.) And finally taxation and how municipalities can choose to enforce cannabis laws.

Thank you for your informative presentation, Josh, on this revolutionary new law and the changes it makes.

*Submitted by: Mike Ford*



## May Highlights *continued*



**May 18:** At this week's meeting, we were joined by Wendy Chapman. Wendy is a Livingston County Hospice Nurse and part of a team of nurses, social workers, pharmacists, aides, and volunteers that help local people who are in need of end of life care. Wendy's presentation was about how one makes the transition from palliative care to hospice care, how home healthcare is provided for those who wish to end life's journey, and how the patient and their families are prepared for the end of their own or a loved one's life.

To learn more about this part of life that will touch us all some day, please visit Livingston County's Hospice Care website: <https://www.livingstoncounty.us/179/Hospice>

*Submitted by: Mike Ford*



*Avon Rotary Public Image Chair Michael Ford accepts our Facebook award on behalf of the club.*

**May 25:** We were joined by District 7120 Governor, Linda Kohl, who was there to present our club with a certificate celebrating our club's 2nd place finish in the District's Facebook contest. Linda also acknowledged our President-Elect Tom Vonglis with a plaque celebrating his 3 years of service as the Area 8 Assistant Governor overlooking the Avon, Cal-Mum, Livonia, and Rush-Henrietta clubs.



*District 7120 Governor Linda Kohl presents Area 8 Assistant District Governor Tom Vonglis with a plaque commemorating his years of service in that role.*

### POWER OF ONE

African Outbound-Only Exchanges  
Making Dreams a Reality



*Turkish Rotarian Serdar Kelahmet, Swiss Rotarian Maxine Texier, and Brazilian Rotarian Jany Hatanaka give their Zoom presentation "Power of One."*

Our club also was joined via Zoom by Serdar Kelahmet from Turkey, Martine Texier from Switzerland, and Jany Hatanaka from Brazil for their presentation "The Power of One." This presentation focused on their efforts to promote youth exchange on the continent of Africa, a continent with the 2nd largest population, yet only accounts for 2% of youths involved in Rotary's Youth Exchange Program. Thank you for your presentation and we look forward to the success of your efforts and hope to host an African student as a club in the future.

*Submitted by: Mike Ford*

### May 26:

Thank you Livingston County Health Department and Avon Central School for providing a Pop Up Vaccination Clinic!

Another fun day of volunteering.

*Submitted by: Julie Carney*



## Rambling On Rotary—June



By: Bruce Amey

Well, another Rotary year has come and gone ... and what a year it has been. Past-President Dom finished his year in the COVID quarantine in June 2020 and President Julie's year began. We had our Change of Officers meeting on July 14th when we could be together outside, socially-distanced in the Avon Inn yard. The

RI theme for this Rotary year from RI President Holger Knaack was Rotary Opens Opportunities; during her club presidential year Julie definitely did that.

We had meetings via zoom all year and when we could, we had meetings in person in a hybrid format to afford ALL of our members the opportunity to participate. Julie opened opportunities for us by doing a phenomenal job arranging for speakers and programs who could zoom into our meetings. Our district and Rotary International did likewise opening opportunities to attend trainings and participate at little or no cost. Whereas I miss the opportunity to interact face-to-face with fellow Rotarians, I am appreciative that District 7120 and RI have opened those opportunities.

Recently I had the opportunity to virtually attend a session on the Rotary Foundation which was offered to all Paul Harris Society members in a multi-zone region covering the northeast. Past-RI President Barry Rassin, whose Rotary year theme was "Be The Inspiration", inspired all attendees to continue supporting the Foundation and its work around the world. I know you all know I am a Foundation-Fanatic but, after the session, I told the organizers they were "preaching to the proverbial choir" and the presentation would have been beneficial for all Rotarians to have been a part of.

On May 10, Past-RI President Rassin was part of another virtual session entitled "Shaping Rotary's Future". I was occupied that night so I did not see it live, but the YouTube video link is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM9t1vFscws>. The recording is 1.75 hours long, but it was a very interesting presentation and interaction with some Rotarians from around the world. Things are still in the "concept" stages with a pilot planned for 2024 but the notion is to make Rotary more relevant for its clubs by regionalizing Rotary. The Board of Directors knows there is a disconnect between RI in Evanston, IL and the Rotary clubs around the world. By "regionalizing" the belief is RI can better recognize and serve its clubs and members based on their geography, their culture, their language, their needs and focus while improving efficiencies. Over the last ten

years, Rotary has lost 1,387,575 members; that is more than our current world-wide membership of 1.2 million members. At times, club membership feels like a revolving door where the greatest number of Rotarians that leave a club do so in their first 2 years of membership. Why? Because Rotary is not meeting their needs; we are not engaging them. PP Rassin said, "we need to enhance participation engagement. ... We must be able to adapt in order to thrive." I encourage you to take the time to watch the video to learn about the conceptual direction for the future of Rotary and consider how it might relate to and affect our club.

This year an opportunity was opened for our club as it became the sponsor of the RIT Rotaract Club. Rotaract clubs are now officially part of Rotary. What are we going to do to Interact with our Rotaract; how will we engage them and encourage them to inspire them to continue their service to become Rotarians ... and how will they inspire us? We can learn tons from our younger Rotarians and Rotaractors while continuing to learn and grow and serve. This year we learned to better utilize technology to stay in touch and to serve; we learned to better adapt to what our world threw at us. When I look at the ROC City Rotary and what they have accomplished and how they have created an environment that engages its members all the time and see how its membership has multiplied, I am inspired for our Avon club to continue to grow and adapt and engage with others and our community. And to also continue to serve here and around the world.

This year has opened opportunities for our club and I thank President Julie for her diligence, commitment and leadership guiding us through it. I am looking forward to shaping our club's Rotary future under the leadership with President-elect Tom as we will continually "Serve To Change Lives". "Service Above Self" are not just words to say, they are words to live by. Let's reinvigorate our engagement opportunities and become wedded to each other in our service to others. Thank you, President Julie; best of service to President-elect Tom. And as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**



## SAVE THE DATE SAVE A LIFE

Our next blood drive will be our 10th!  
August 3rd from 2 pm to 6 pm  
At the Avon Inn

Our March blood drive was very successful as we collected 31 units of blood which had the potential of assisting 99 people in need!



June is Rotary International's Fellowship Month. When a group of people with similar interests and goals get together and enjoy each other's company, the ways you can serve others become endless.

Avon Rotary exemplifies this with our unofficial motto: "We are a social club with a service problem."


Submitted by: Mike Ford





**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2021 Wild Polio Case Counts as of May 30, 2021

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



For more information go to: <https://polioeradication.org/>

### *Avon Rotary Club*

Please join us as we celebrate our

### *Change Of Officers*

**Tuesday, June 29, 2021  
5:00 P.M.**

### *Avon Inn*

**55 East Main Street  
Avon, NY 14414**



Semi-Formal  
Entertainment, Cash Bar & Buffet Dinner \$25

RSVP Laurie—lvonglis@hurritech.com before June 14  
Sign up & payment in advance is required!



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

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



*Never give up on things  
that make you smile.*



**JUNE 20**

## Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in June are:

Cereal, paper products, pasta, sauce,  
canned goods, pet food

Please drop off at the food pantry or bring to a  
meeting.

Questions—ask Rhonda. Thank you!

