



Rotary Opens Opportunities



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President's Message



Happy September!

Avon Rotary, you NEVER cease to amaze me and prove that joining Rotary was a great decision!

These past two months have proven to be a testa-

ment to the strength and resiliency of our Club. We are creative, adaptable, and resourceful and I could not be prouder. The challenge we faced of coming up with a fundraiser, to help keep our financials in check, brought about a lot of very different ideas and creativity from our newer members. The enthusiasm and energy were contagious, and it was wonderful to have a few of the more veteran Rotarians help mentor and guide their fellow Rotarians as they shaped the ideas, and with all of us working together the Road Rally was created.

The success of this event was, to put it mildly, a pleasant surprise. With only 5 weeks to plan, an event was created, planned, and executed, that profited \$10,305.14!!!! Amazing, right?

The District Grant project that our club has been approved for will be scheduled in early Spring. We have been approved for a grant that will provide new bleachers at the Avon Driving Park for use by the Avon Little League. Next Spring, when we are at the Downs for the installation, I would also like to work with Little League and do a clean-up of the park. It would also be great if we could get a group of Rotarians to work one evening (or more), during the season at the Concession Stand so that parents are able to watch their children play ball and not miss out on the fun.

Now, get ready for this one, it is big! The opportunity for meeting in person is about to

happen. The idea of being together and being able to share fellowship face (mask) to face (mask) is wonderful. Our September 1st meeting will be in person at the Avon Inn, you should have received a separate email with all the details surrounding the meeting and the steps we need to follow for our safety and the sake of the Avon Inn to comply with state regulations. We will be having Zoom set up at the Avon Inn so that those that are not able to join us in person can still fully participate. Again, this shows the resourcefulness of our Club to not be stifled during these times of Covid.

The Auction is yet another one of our big fundraisers not too far away and, again, the creativity and new vision is very inspiring. Thank you to Janis McMIndes and Tom Homan for taking on the job of co-chairs for our "new" Auction. Another change because of Covid, we will be having a virtual auction that will last between 7-14 days. The items that will be up for auction will be of quality and not quantity. Our co-chairs even have a way to keep our Interact Club involved, which is so vital to the growth of Rotary. By mentoring and guiding the youth, we will have a brighter future.

My task for all of us is to challenge ourselves to think outside of the box, remember that no idea is a bad idea and that together, we can accomplish anything! Again, I want to say Thank You to everyone involved in our Avon Rotary Club – I am so happy that you chose to give of your time, talent and treasure to make a difference in Avon and the world, you are all valued and appreciated!

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

Road Rally-Scavenger Hunt Highlights



August Highlights



August 8, 2020

Avon Rotary took a major hit to our fundraising abilities with the cancellation of both our Blue Jean Ball and Corn Festival this year. Our club gives tens of thousands of dollars each year to local, regional, and international causes with the monies raised from these events. With no end to the COVID 19 pandemic in site, how were we going to fill this fundraising gap so we could still support all the causes we do annually?

Never challenge a group of Rotarians. After throwing several ideas around, we came up with the idea of a road rally scavenger hunt to be held on the traditional date of our annual Corn Festival...The Cornantine Classic! A socially distant, family friendly, community event that took participants to wonderful local businesses and beautiful locations around Livingston County. Teams were asked to solve clues to take them from location to location while completing picture challenges and getting stamps from local businesses to accumulate points. We had an incredible 121 participants (38 cars) from all over Western NY and fun was had by all!

In addition to that road rally we teamed with the Avon Lions Club to serve their famous chicken BBQ with Avon Rotary Club's famous Corn Festival sides, sold tee shirts, held basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle. When all was over, we were able to raise \$10,395.14! Not bad for only 5 weeks of planning!

The event was such a success we're looking to add it to our fundraising schedule annually. So start getting your teams ready, and we'll see you in October 2021!

Submitted by: Mike Ford

On Tuesday, August 11 our club had a presentation put on by Shawn Dunwoody. Shawn was hired by the Village of Avon who received a grant from the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts along with the Livingston County First Impressions program.

Shawn will be painting a mural on the west side of the Avon fire hall. To see Shawn's artistry please view <https://www.instagram.com/shawndunwoody/>

(Message from Julie Carney 8/13)



Rookie of the Year!



At our Tuesday, August 18 club Zoom meeting, Tom Honan was awarded our 2019-2020 Rookie of the Year award. The Rookie of the Year is presented to a new member who has become very involved in club activities and who, otherwise, has made a significant impact in supporting and strengthening the club. Tom has been the type of Rotarian that will say yes to anything he is asked with a smile on his face.

His impact on our club was also immediate with his cake and frosting donations for our party in a bag service projects. He also played a pivotal roll on 2 Blue Jean Ball committees and then went on to Co-chair our 2019 Auction with some risky changes that led to great success. Congratulations to Tom, we look forward to all that you will bring to our club in the future.

Submitted by: Mike Ford (18-19 Rookie)



Interact News



It's that time of year again...

coupon books are now for sale by the Interact Club.

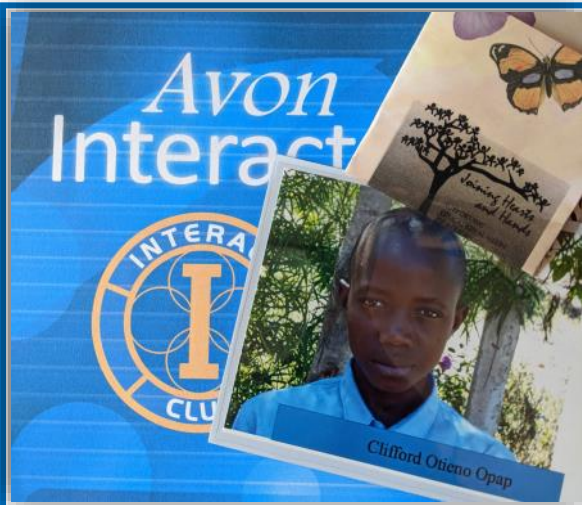
Interact members ask you to please, please buy from them as they have missed fundraising opportunities and may miss more this upcoming school year.

- ⇒ Email Shannon at customappareltee@gmail.com
- ⇒ \$25.00 per book with many savings
- ⇒ OR buy direct from any Interact student
- ⇒ If you use two coupons you have paid for the book!

Interact is on social media... Please follow us!

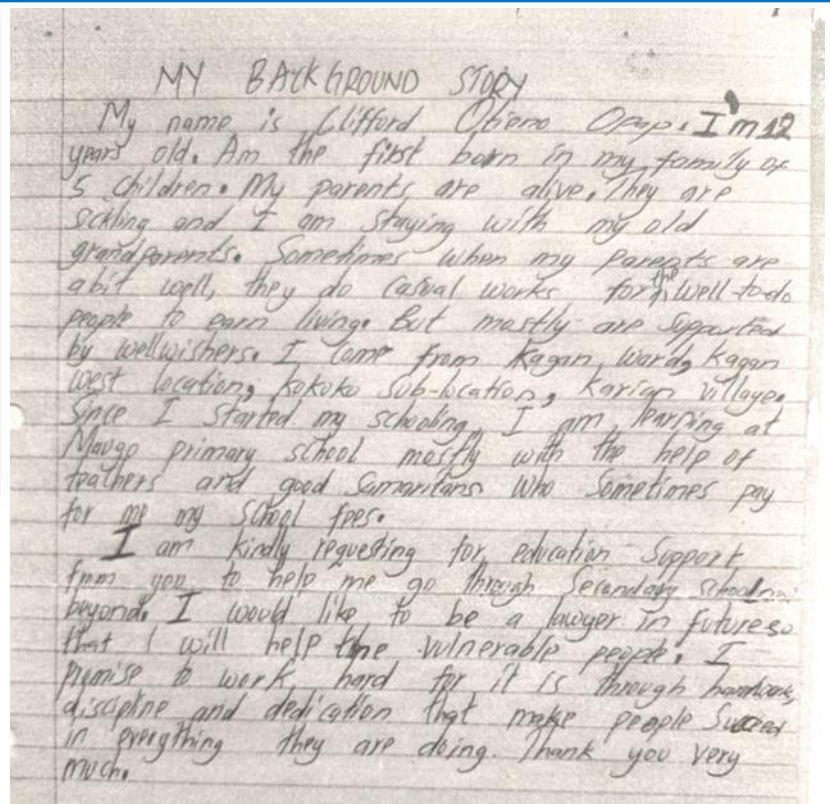


Twitter: @avonnyinteract
Instagram: avonnyinteract



As our International project, Interact works with "Joining Hearts and Hands". Clifford is our new scholarship student from Kenya. He is a freshman this year and we hope to follow him all the way through to graduation.

We are happy to have the Avon High School Library Club help us sponsor this student. The library club was looking to donate some of their funds and a great group, like us, to partner with. We will both be in communication throughout the year and look forward to his progress. Submitted by: Shannon DiFranco



Rambling On Rotary—September



By: Bruce Amey

These past few weeks have been hectic for me so, for a few moments, it gives me pause to sit and write my article for this month's club newsletter. I have been busy assisting a neighboring school district to get ready to open for students in this COVID environment while being concerned about two of my grandchildren entering kindergarten. We are on the roller coaster of the next few months of political conventions, debates, commercials all leading to the November elections. So thinking about our club and Rotary International gives me a sigh and a smile.

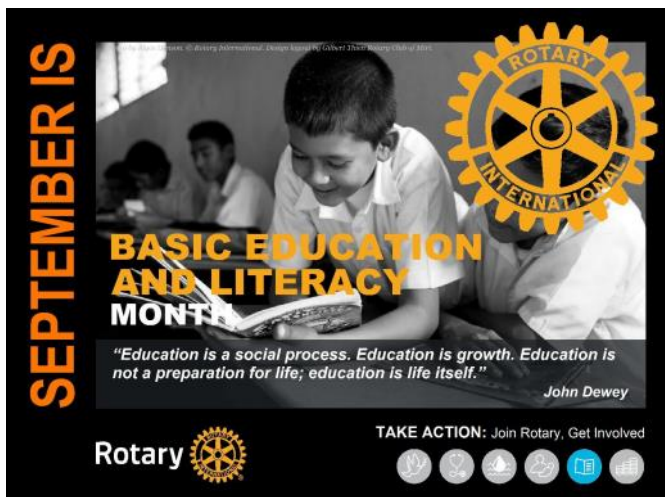
September is RI's Basic Education and Literacy Month. As an educator for my entire adult life, this feels so appropriate for September. Here in Avon we are so fortunate to be able to be provided opportunities for our children that go far beyond "basic" education and literacy. Our children are fortunate to have the support of their families in their learning. We have an outstanding Board of Education guiding the district, incredible administrators leading our district, and excellent teachers and support staff providing the learning opportunities for our community's children. But what about children and adults who don't have these; who don't even have access to "basic" education and literacy?

This month's theme makes me think of the leadership of Rob and Jeannine Lupisella with the Linking Hands For Learning Project in Nicaragua. You talk about "basic". With our club's help both monetarily and "in service" with love labor, Linking Hands for Learning has built numerous schools in Nicaragua to bring communities together for their

children's educational opportunities. We have heard our members who have accompanied the team talk about how their experience of Service Above Self has changed them. Ask Jim Tompsett, Laurie and Tom Vonglis, Kirk and Karen Vanderbilt, Jake and Heather Ayers, Hans Koomen. Isn't that what we as Rotarians are all about? Service Above Self. This is the heart of Rotary.

Last year, PP Dom had a project focused on adult literacy as he worked with Rob to provide English Language education for parents of some of our migrant children. I know it was very much appreciated by the parents. As we look at September's theme, how else can we move this theme forward, even in a COVID world? We cannot stop as education is the greatest gift to serve others as they can then learn to serve others, too.

Speaking of the heart of Rotary, the heart of our club, and serving others, I would also like to remind us (and me) to keep all our members in our hearts and thoughts. Clearly since March we have had member Kelly in our thoughts and prayers. But we have many other members who need our support, especially since we have been locked away. Some have spouses who have devastating health issues that can consume our members, as well. Some have moved away (anyone hear from Kathy Shrestha?) who might love to hear from a friend. I just want to encourage each of us to maybe take the time to drop a card in the mail to a club member to say we miss you, we are thinking of you, and we care about you. You will be amazed of the impact on the heart of that simple gesture, for the receiver as well as the sender. We are Rotary. We live to serve others. We are Avon Rotary! And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Give more life. *Donate blood.*



On Tuesday, August 18 we held our 7th Avon Rotary Blood Drive. Once again, thank you Jennifer Krause of the Avon Inn for hosting our service project. Her willingness to support our club and the Red Cross is greatly appreciated.

All appointment slots were reserved. The Red Cross set a collection target for 28 units of blood.

In four hours and with the help of prepared and knowledgeable donors and additional Red Cross staff that arrived, we collected 35 units!


Those 35 units of blood have the potential of helping up to 105 people in need! What a good feeling!

Many thanks to all the blood donors.

Submitted by Karl Sawicki



Save
the
Date



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

**TUESDAY, December 8, 2020
2PM—6PM AT THE AVON INN**



Club Schedule

Tues. Sept. 1	Club Meeting, 6:30 @ Avon Inn, Strategic Planning Committee Mtg following
Tues. Sept. 8	Club Meeting, 6:30 @ Avon Inn
Fri. Sept. 11	District 7120 Golf Tournament 11:00 registration, 12:00 golf
Mon. Sept. 14	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 at Hurricane
Tues. Sept. 15	Club Meeting, 6:30 @ Avon Inn
Tues. Sept. 22	Club Meeting, 6:30 @ Avon Inn
Tues. Sept. 29	Club Meeting, 6:30 @ Avon Inn



Birthday

- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco
- ⇒ Bill Wall

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Josh Tonra 2014
- ⇒ Marcie Williams 2016
- ⇒ Leann Hill 2017

September Celebrations

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Katie DeGraff
- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco
- ⇒ Jerry Dougherty
- ⇒ Jim Gaffney
- ⇒ Scott Holmes
- ⇒ Hans Koomen

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





On 25 August 2020, the Africa Regional Certification Commission certified that wild polio has been eradicated from the African region. More than twenty years since Nelson Mandela launched the 'Kick Polio Out of Africa' campaign, the concerted efforts of Governments, health workers and communities have succeeded.

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

2020 Wild Polio Case Counts as of August 29, 2020

Country	2018	2019	2020	Date of last case
Afghanistan	21	28	37	July 20, 2020
Pakistan	8	135	65	July 24, 2020
Total	29	163	102	



Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in September are:

All non-perishable food items!

For pick up, contact Rhonda at 919-9719 or drop off at Julie Carney's house, in box on porch.



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

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



A Message from Dick Stanton

I had a long chat with Dick Stanton recently, and he wanted to pass along some information about Mary Liz. I told him the club has been unable to meet in person, but we do gather via Zoom. He suggested I tell the club about Mary Liz's death, but probably the newsletter is a better choice, since so many more folks see the newsletter than meet via Zoom. Her death was due to Stage 4 lung cancer, and the family was so grateful for the good Hospice care she received.

Dick is very proud, of course, of having been an active member of Avon Rotary for 50 years, and for an honorary member for ten years.

Submitted by: Barbara Herman

