



Rotary Opens Opportunities



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
December Highlights	2
Blood Drive Review	3
Foundation Giving	3
Rambling on Rotary	4
A Word from RI President	5
January Club Schedule	6
January Celebrations	6
Polio Update	7
Food Pantry Needs	7

President's Message



Happy New Year Everyone!

This is that time of year that many set new goals and expectations for the new year or make resolutions for personal change or growth in the year ahead.

We have already gotten through so many challenges in the past year, and even though we are happy to close the door on 2020, I would like us to be mindful of our Rotary Year which does not end until June 30, 2021. Our current theme for our Rotary year is "Rotary Opens Opportunities" and, even though we all would like to put 2020 behind us, we must keep moving forward with our goals and expectations that have been set for our Club.

We really have accomplished so much in this past year that was filled with so many obstacles and unknowns. I am so proud to say I am a Rotarian when I look back on how our club accepted the opportunities presented to adapt, change, and invent fundraisers to continue to be able to provide the services of Rotary to those who need them during these most trying of times we currently find ourselves and the world in.

I am excited to continue what we have already put in place and to work on fulfilling the rest of the goals we have for our Rotary year. Amazingly, we have been able to induct new members and continue to grow our club. I

am very proud of this and I hope we can add to our Club in 2021! We also have always been great participants in the Foundation and Polio Plus, and we continue to be on track for this again. The places where our goals will be hard to meet are in the social area, as we are not able to have events like in the past. I do look forward to 2021 portion of our Rotary year and the potential for more fellowship. We also have not been able to out and about doing our Service Projects as much this year. I do hope that we will be able to assist with Gilda's Club again.

We do have several projects that will help keep Rotary visible to the community in the coming months. This April we will be placing the new bleachers that our Club is donating to the Avon Little League fields. We are also partnering with the Avon Lions Club and providing the Village of Avon a bicycle fixit station that will be installed on the island in front of the Fire Station. The station provides our community, and those traveling through it, a convenient spot for fixing their bike and just about any tool that would be needed for the repair.

Please keep focusing on the good of Rotary and all the opportunities that we can bring to 2021!

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





December Highlights



December 1:

Tonight, District Governor Linda Kohl joined us to update us on her year as Governor and how clubs have adapted to getting together with Covid influencing our daily lives. She also updated us on her current and future initiatives, including forming an environmental committee, focusing on diversity, equality, and inclusion, and focusing on club and district messaging through public image. Thanks for the visit Linda and good luck with the second half of your year! *By: Mike Ford*



December 1: At a recent meeting we were joined by Katherine Humphrey from All Western Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm. All Western is one of several tree farms nationwide that provides Christmas Trees to the Trees for Troops program. Trees for Troops is a 100% donation based charity that provides free Christmas Trees to military families living on bases throughout the entire country. Thanks for stopping by Katherine to supply our club with a little Christmas spirit and spunk. *By: Mike Ford*

Have You Heard About

TREES FOR TROOPS?

2005: AN IDEA WAS BORN

In 2005, the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation began as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to advance the spirit of Christmas and shed the kids, families and the environment. Plans were soon developed for a national Trees for Troops program, with FedEx providing the shipping and logistics for the Real Christmas Trees to be delivered to military bases across the U.S.

FEDEX CORPORATION

FedEx Freight provides the tractor-trailers, shipping and logistics for the trees to be picked up and delivered to military bases across the United States. FedEx Express provides air delivery of trees that go overseas.

FedEx has logged more than 500,000 U.S. miles for Trees for Troops since 2005.

243,956 MILITARY FAMILIES

Since 2005, Trees for Troops has touched the lives of 243,956 military families at more than 54 bases in the U.S. and overseas.



December 2:

Thank you Kolton and Kellan Montague for the \$100 donation to the Avon Rotary Club! Your dedication and service to the community is commendable! I've always said the youth are the future, and this proves that the future is bright! *By: Julie Carney*

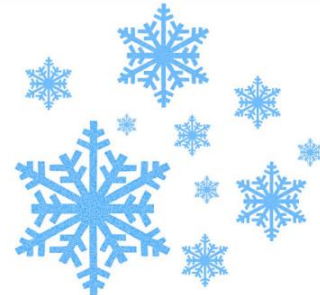
December 19:

Many thanks to the Avon Holiday Spectacular Committee for a wonderful community event! A few Avon Rotarians handed out treats to passersby! *By: Laurie Vonglis*



December 7-11:

This week Avon Rotarians continued their annual tradition of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Despite the restrictions of one ringer at a time due to Covid, we were still able to raise just shy of \$1,900 to help our neighbors in Avon in need. *By: Mike Ford*



Avon Rotary Blood Drive Review



On December 8th, our club conducted our 8th Red Cross Blood Drive and I'm happy to report that it was our most successful drive to date. In 4 hours, 36 units of blood were collected. As one unit of blood can assist up to three people in need, we helped up to 108 patients.

Thank you to Jen for the use of her beautiful Inn, the Red Cross staff, the eight Avon Rotarians who donated that day and to Rotarian Kirk who once again was my temperature checking technician and worked the entire drive with me.

Here are some facts associated with blood donations:

- ◆ Donating blood saves approximately 4.5 million lives each year in the United States. Although the blood donation process is very safe and only takes about 15 minutes, only one person out of ten in the U.S. donate.
- ◆ Your body holds between 8 and 12 units of blood. When you donate a unit (1 pint) your body will replenish the blood entirely in 56 days.
- ◆ Blood donation has minimal side effects. In a recent survey of 5,000 donors, only 1% experienced a side effect which typically involved the area of the needle intrusion or some weakness. Being hydrated and having a full stomach helps reduce any feelings of weakness.
- ◆ There are different types of blood patients need. A single unit of blood can be divided into whole blood, plasma and platelets which explains how a single unit of blood can assist up to three people in need.
- ◆ Blood shortages are a reality. A lot of blood is required each year.
- ◆ Car accidents killed over 30,000 people last year and injured over 4,000,000. Fifty or more units of blood can be required for the injured accident patient.
- ◆ Organ transplants can require up to 50 units and the same amount is needed for trauma patients.
- ◆ Bone marrow transplants can require 45 units and burn victims up to 20.



As you can see, it takes 50 people donating to provide enough blood for any major accident or trauma patient. The need is ever present. We'll do it again on March 30th, same time – same place.

Yours In Rotary Service, Karl Sawicki



Foundation Giving Continues



At the December 15th meeting our club was able to award two members with Paul Harris plus pins for their continued contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Helen Zamboni was awarded her Paul Harris Plus 2 pin via Zoom and Bruce Amey was awarded his Paul Harris Plus 7 pin in person. 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. The Rotary Foundation is also consistently ranked as one of the world's top charitable organizations year after year. Congratulations Helen and Bruce! *By: Mike Ford*





Rambling On Rotary—January

By: Bruce Amey

This New Year we can truly say that hindsight is 2020. And thank goodness. Since our hindsight is 20-20, what can we see and what have we learned this past year and

how will it inform our actions in 2021? We all know our lives and our world were affected due to the COVID-19 virus. Worldwide almost 1.8 million persons have died due to the virus. Almost 350,000 US citizens have died in 10 months; in the 4 years of the Civil War about 620,000 Americans died. That is, in less than one year, more than half of those who died in 4 years of war have died due to COVID in our country. At this time, 1 out of every 1,000 US citizens is dying from COVID-19. One of RI's Areas of Focus is "Disease Prevention and Treatment". Our lives were changed in 2020. But with the knowledge from the hindsight, as Rotarians we need to have clear foresight.

March 10th was our last in-person meeting until the July 14th Change of Officers dinner. However, in 2020 we learned how to continue our service through other means. Our first virtual Zoom meeting was held on March 31 and these continued through August. Karl Sawicki was able to arrange for our club to continue to sponsor Red Cross Blood Drives. We still served our community with our Roadside Cleanup. For the first time in 34 years, our annual Corn Festival was canceled BUT, we helped our community come out for a safe activity while raising some funds to support our service through our first-ever Road Rally.

COVID-19 caused the re-design of many Rotary activities. The International Convention scheduled to be held in Hawaii became a virtual convention. District training activities have gone to virtual sessions, which may have created positive opportunities going forward. We missed our annual Quad-Cities golf outing with Cal-Mum, Geneseo and Mt. Morris Rotary Clubs but Tom, Kirk and Laurie were able to pull off a much-needed safe, social gathering for the District 7120 Golf Tournament in September. September 1 began our in-person/hybrid zoom club meetings on Tuesday evenings keeping our members engaged and together. Thanks to Rhonda's efforts, we have continued our support for the Avon Food Bank. Tom Honan and Janis McMIndes stepped forward to allow our Annual Auction to be held this year ... virtually; by all accounts, it was a tremendous success. Committed to serving others, Rotarians find ways to serve together.

Since 2020 threw us some knuckle and curve balls, what lies ahead of us in 2021? January is Rotary's Vocational Service Month. In what way can our club direct our

efforts to address and support vocational service in our community and projects around the world? Are there ways we can support those in medical vocations who have been wrought with trying to keep us healthy through this virus? And then, are there ways we as Rotarians can assist with the monumental efforts to safely have vaccines distributed within our community and around the world. Rotarians have been working for decades to rid the world of polio and we have continually said the need to rid the world of polio is "it is only a plane (or jet) flight away". We know the same is true regarding COVID-19. Rotarians have created the systems and the network to allow the vaccine distribution to be done effectively.

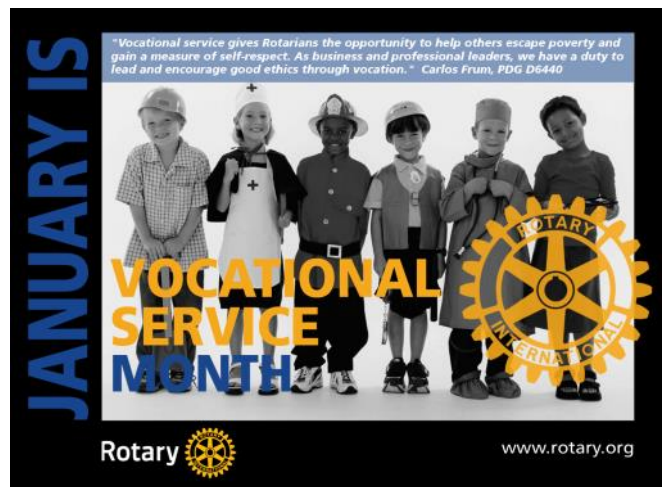
As we celebrate the passing from year to the next, we know the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" played every year at midnight on December 31. That phrase came from a 1788 Scots poem by Robert Burns, but what does it mean? The phrase "auld lang syne" literally translates to "old long since," and basically means, "days gone by." We all recognize the tune, but how many of us really know the words? Well, inquisitive minds might want to know.

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?

Should old acquaintance be forgot, and old lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.

As we enter 2021, I think we all can agree that 2020 is "days gone by" and we need to "take a cup of kindness (together) for auld land syne." As Rotarians we have much to continue to do together in the new year. Let us do so. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



A Word from Rotary International President Holger Knaack

“Rotary has a big enough heart. If we open our door wider, we might find a lot of interesting people with new voices and new perspectives.”

Holger Knaack



Rotary

WHO IS A ROTARIAN

A Rotarian is a person who...

Digs wells from which he/she will never drink ;

Vaccinates Children he/she will never meet;

Restores eyesight for those he/she will never see;

Builds housing he/she will never live in;

Educates Children he/she will never know;

Plants trees he/she will never sit under;

Makes crawlers into walkers halfway around the world;

Knows real happiness that "Can Only Be Found By Helping Others"



Club Schedule

Tues. Jan 5	Rotary Meeting via Zoom 6:15 pm — Program: Lynn Malooly "Water for South Sudan"
Mon. Jan 11	Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 6:00 pm
Tues. Jan 12	Rotary Meeting TBD 6:30—Josh Tonra/Darlene "Livingston County Treatment Court"
Tues. Jan 19	Rotary Meeting TBD 6:30
Tues. Jan 26	Rotary Meeting TBD 6:30—In meeting service project

There is nothing more beautiful than someone who goes out of their way to make life beautiful for others. Mandy Hale

January Celebrations

Birthday

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



Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Helen Zamboni

Rotary Anniversary

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

2020 Wild Polio Case Counts as of December 30, 2020

Country	2018	2019	2020	Date of last case
Afghanistan	21	28	56	Nov, 2020
Pakistan	8	135	83	Dec, 2020
Total	29	163	139	



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

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



Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in January are:

**Cereal, Canned Fruit, Pasta,
Pasta Sauce, Paper Goods**

Please bring to a Rotary meeting OR drop off at food pantry.
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

