



Rotary Opens Opportunities



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## President's Message



The Rotary Theme for March is Water Sanitation and Hygiene. Clean water is a basic human right that many are often denied. There are 2.5 billion people in the world that lack access to improved

sanitation and 748 million people that don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives. Our Avon Rotary Club was able to partner with the Victor Farmington Rotary Club and provide water to LaPalma, Nicaragua. This month let's celebrate our commitment to create healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Also, in March we celebrate World Rotaract Week from the 8th-14th. I am very excited to

say that the students at RIT have submitted their constitution into Rotary International and once they are approved, Avon will be the proud sponsor of this new Rotaract Club. Our club will be able to provide mentorship and guidance to these amazing young adults and help give a platform for their incredible service ideas.

Again, we keep looking forward as the vaccinations are increasing in distribution. Our Club has had the opportunity to register and help volunteer at the Livingston County Health Department. This is a great way for Rotary to show support for the importance of how vaccinations have changed the world and will continue to do so.

I am proud to be a member of such a giving and active club!

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 every club member

**WHY:** Enrich one's Rotary knowledge, develop leadership skills, get up-to-date Rotary information. Listen as DGE Janet shares her goals for the Rotary Year 2021-2022.

You are invited to attend the DTA for the reason(s) stated above. No travel required and it is free!!! Attend the Opening session to hear DGE Janet's goals and the 2021-2022 Rotary Theme and the message behind the theme.

Other details:

- Log In instructions will be published via email, district website, Grapevine
- Pre-registration not needed.
- It is FREE!

## February Highlights



**At the February 2** meeting we were joined via Zoom by Rajeev Wijesinghe. Rajeev is an aviation expert and a member of the Rotary Club of Mississauga West in Ontario, Canada. Rajeev gave a presentation entitled "Rise and Fall of the Boeing 737 Max." His talk highlighted how Boeing's conversion of its 737s to the Max series led to great cost savings, more efficient fuel use, and easier pilot training. However, negligence, unsafe practices, and poor pilot training led to disasters...most notably Lion Air Flight 610 & Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 which led to the grounding of the whole series. He finished up his talk by highlighting the corrections Boeing has made to ensure a safer product in the future. *By: Mike Ford*

**On February 9<sup>th</sup>** our club had the privilege of hearing from DGND Whitney Pangburn from District 7190. Whitney is a single mother of two daughters and has been trying to find a balance between family and Rotary. The idea of leaving her daughters with a babysitter so that she could go to a Rotary meeting just didn't fit in with her lifestyle. Whitney wanted to teach her daughters that service could be done as a family. Her Rotary Club opened up their meeting to her and her daughters. They were invited to be a part of all service activities. What better way to build the basis for doing well in the community than starting at the ground floor – her children!

Whitney has been involved in Rotary for a relatively short time, but has grown in leadership and ideas for how we, as Rotarians, may be more inclusive as well as creative in incorporating young families. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, she was one of the panelists for our Zones Membership Monday – Young People Speak. This was an opportunity for all Rotarians to hear from panelists on why they left, why they stay and how do we adapt. Ideas ranged from Family Memberships to family friendly service projects. Whitney is always available to discuss this topic. Her email is whitneyrotarydg@gmail, com

*By: Julie Carney*

**In February**— Mike Ford wrote, Basic education and literacy are a cornerstone area of focus for Rotary. Every year we donate dictionaries to every 3rd grade student at both St. Agnes School and Avon Elementary. Below is a note from St. Agnes.



**In February**—Dr. Jim Tompsett, Mark Evans and Barbara Herman enjoyed seeing Margo Harper and having a fine lunch at Leisure's in Lakeville. Although Margo is classified as "honorary" after many years of being an active member, she is always happy to get together with other Rotarians, having a chat and especially having a meal...she obviously enjoys the meals we share!

Mark stated, "we had a safe, masked, socially-distanced lunch. We whooped it up, but mildly. We are all doing well." *Submitted by: Barbara Herman*

*Photo: Barbara Herman, Jim Tompsett, Mark Evans, seated—Margo Harper*



Interact is kicking off a food campaign to help the Avon Food Pantry before the Easter holiday. Students will be working with the elementary, middle and high schools to bring awareness and collect food items.

Photo—Interact President, Ella Vanderbilt



Interact wrote notes in February for the residents at the Avon Nursing Home in hopes it brightens their day.

## 2021-22: Serve to Change Lives

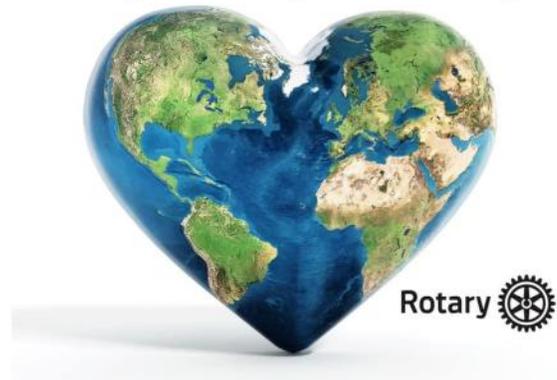


RI President-elect Shekhar Mehta is urging members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own.

Happy 116th birthday Rotary International! On this day in 1905, Paul P. Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Sivester Schiele, and Hiram E. Shorey gathered in Loehr's office in Chicago, Illinois for what would be come known as the first Rotary club meeting.

### World Rotary Day 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Time to get involved & give back something...





## Rambling On Rotary—March

By: Bruce Amey

Who is with me a little sick and tired of COVID (or maybe even a lot), social distancing, zoom meetings and reduced in-person opportunities? I have said before that this virus has

opened our eyes to new opportunities and new ways to experience things, but I miss being with our club members and missing the social activities of Rotary and friends and family. It was March 16th last year that schools in our region shut down, we missed our Foundation “Give us your Green” drive, and public events came to a halt. Our Blue Jean Ball and Corn Festivals were canceled. So, I am wondering how we, as Rotarians, can continue to serve our community and our world through the end of this Rotary year. What is certain is that I know we must.

During our January 19th meeting this year, President Julie arranged for Melody St. John to join us from the Hollywood, California Rotary Club. She shared how her club has conducted various projects in needy communities for more than 17 years. What stuck with me was her statement, “Helping one community might not change the world, but it can change the world for that community.” So, what will we, Avon Rotarians, do to change one or more communities even during the COVID pandemic? Are there ways for us to continue our service even during this difficult time?

Rob Lupisella reported how our club supported the Linking Hands for Learning school-build project last year ... even though our members could not go to help with the build. Since travel is still restricted, this year our club has donated some funds to Casa Materna, a women’s clinic in Nicaragua while Linking Hands for Learning will be trying to build another school, as well.



At our February 16th meeting, Assistant Governor Tom Vonglis, reminded us of ways to serve others through the Rotary Foundation as he reported that District Foundation Chairperson Tom Rogers is asking every Rotarian to “generate” \$50 in donations to the Foundation. “Generate” means trying to secure donations from non-Rotarians by informing them of all the good the Foundation provides around the world. Donations to the Foundation support projects around the globe but Rotary’s major project has been the eradication of Polio which is supported by your donations to the Polio Plus fund of the Foundation. President Julie shared that PDG Dave Hannan shared that thus far this year there has been only one new case of polio in the world. But as this year has amplified, any virus is only a plane ride or a sneeze away and our mission is to eradicate polio from the world. We must continue our efforts to do so by “generating” donations to the Foundation.

AG Tom also reminded our members of the April 24th Rotary Great Lakes/Watershed Cleanup; the date tied to Earth Day. March is Rotary’s Water and Sanitation Month so plan on supporting this area of focus by joining activities on April 24th. Tom shared that we can also prepare ourselves to better serve others by attending the District Training Assembly on April 10th. This year the DTA is free to attend virtually and there will be sessions from which to learn during the morning. And the other great news to inspire us moving forward, while we continue to open opportunities in this COVID year, we can look forward to the next year’s Rotary theme, “Serve to Change Lives”. We will also be completing President Julie’s grant project of installing Little League bleachers at the Downs and begin to change lives within our community.

As we continue to navigate through our Rotary year, let us endeavor to continue to seek opportunities to serve even if they are remote or socially distanced or masked over. Our community and our world need Rotarians to continue our Service Above Self. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

**MARCH IS**

**WATER AND SANITATION MONTH**

"Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone, must become available to all people now."  
Jean-Michel Cousteau

Rotary  

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



# March

## Club Schedule

Mon. March 1	Corn Festival Meeting 6:30 pm at Hurricane conference room
Tues. March 2	Rotary Meeting via Zoom 6:30 Program: David Hannan on Polio Plus
Mon. March 8	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 pm
Tues. March 9	Rotary Meeting— program suggestions—send to Julie
Tues. March 16	Rotary Meeting— program suggestions—send to Julie
Tues. March 23	Rotary Meeting— program suggestions—send to Julie
Tues. March 30	Rotary Meeting— program suggestions—send to Julie

### An Old Irish Blessing

*May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.  
 May good and faithful friends be yours where ever you may roam.  
 May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.  
 May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!*



## March Celebrations



### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Mark Evans 1994
- ⇒ Helen Zamboni 2005
- ⇒ Carmine Simone 2010 (H)
- ⇒ Jake Ayers 2014
- ⇒ Heather Ayers 2014



### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Kathy Shrestha

### Birthday

- ⇒ Ted Coyne
- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Ed Kime
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner (H)



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2021 Wild Polio Case Counts as of February 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	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 March are:

**Bag rice, canned fruit, cereal**

Please drop off at the 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

