



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Club Schedule & Celebrations	2
RIP Jim Gaffney	2
Rambling on Rotary	3
April Highlights	4, 5, 6
Polio Update	6
District Conference	7, 8
Teen Recognition	9
Quad Cities	10
Food Pantry	10

## President's Message



Well, it certainly has been a great month of April for our club. Starting out with a very successful blood drive to the American Red Cross. A big thank you to Karl for organizing these drives and the volunteers who donated. With such a great need for blood it is

important that we hold these drives.

Many of our members attended the District Training Assembly in Honeoye this year. It was great to hear from these folks on how much they enjoyed it and were able to come away inspired and with more knowledge of Rotary.

We were able to enjoy a great presentation by President & CEO Deborah Hughes from the Susan B. Anthony House. Deborah gave a fantastic program talking about the history of woman's rights especially in our area and how far we have come. If you get the chance to visit the Susan B. Anthony House, please do so as the history of women's rights was certainly fought right here in our backyard. It's wonderful to know that Rotary will have its first ever female RI president as we welcome Jennifer Jones to this position on July 1st.

April was also the month for our bi-annual roadside cleanup. Thank you to Janet for coordinating this effort and to all that came out to help. As we did the roadside cleanup, we also included this project into the Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup. We were able to accomplish both of these tasks in a single outing and again many thanks for those who participated.

A highlight this month was our Program by Rob Lupisella, "Spirit of Nicaragua". Rob did a great job in showing our club all the good we do in supporting the school builds and what education to the people of Nicaragua means. To top it off Rob was able to surprise me with the slide show and narrative by my sister Diane that was extremely moving for many of us (lots of tears for me). Thank you, Rob, for this wonderful program. Our club is once again supporting the next school build with a donation of \$2500.00. Thank you to Avon Rotary for this generous donation.

To end the month, we traveled to Oswego for our District Conference. Our stay at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center was great. There were many inspirational speeches especially that of past RI President Richard King. For those who attended heard not only Richard's humor but such a great inspirational message that attests to why we are in Rotary and continue the mission of "Service above Self". It was great to spend time with other Rotarians from around our district as well as the fun with friends from our own club. I'm thankful for the opportunity to attend our conference once again and many thanks to DG Janet and her team for a job well done.

As we look forward to the month of May we will continue our very busy schedule. We will have our grant project on May 14th starting at 8:00. I'd like to thank the handful of folks who have already helped get all our lumber cut and ready for assembly. We will need many hands for this project. Please plan a full day working at the primary school on this project.

We also have the Special Olympics happening on the 7th of May. Please consider helping Greg with this project and another opportunity for Rotary to do good in our community.

Quad Cities golf and dinner will be held on May 23rd at Caledonia Country Club. We will not be meeting on Tuesday the 24th so it would be great to see as many of our members as possible attend this event. It is a great time to meet members from the Geneseo, Caledonia, and Mt. Morris clubs and hear what each are doing to support their communities and beyond. Also if you have not signed up for golf or dinner please consider this option as well for a fun time.

Again, I would like to say thank all of you for everything you do to support our community and beyond. We can all be proud to call ourselves Rotarians and continue to do the good work that helps to "change lives".

Yours In Rotary Service,

Tom Vonglis, President 2021-2022

**Avon Rotary Club meets  
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**

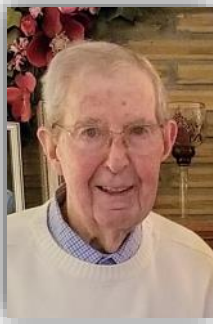
### Board of Directors

Tom Vonglis, President  
Steve Csapo, President Elect  
Mike Ford, Senior Director  
Karen Vanderbilt, Director  
Bruce Amey, Member at Large  
Julie Carney, Past President  
Laurie Vonglis, Secretary  
Katie DeGraff, Treasurer

# May Club Schedule

Tues. May 3	Regular Meeting 6:30 Program: Avon Free Library, Maureen Wheeler
Sat. May 7	Special Olympics @ Avon Elementary School
Tues. May 10	Regular Meeting 6:30 Program: Letchworth State Park, Outdoor Educator-Conrad Baker
Sat. May 14	Garden Project 8:00 am behind Avon Elementary School
Mon. May 16	Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 @ Circleview Conference Room
Tues. May 17	Regular Meeting 6:30
Mon. May 23	Quad Cities Golf & Dinner - Caledonia Country Club
Tues. May 24	Board of Directors Work-Planning Session 5:30 @ Circleview Conference Room
Tues. May 31	Regular Meeting 6:30 Program: Mural Fest, Maureen Wheeler & Kelley Tonra





**Jim Gaffney**  
Rotarian since 1971

It is with sadness that I wanted to let all of you know that we lost Rotarian Jim Gaffney this morning, April 28. Although many of you did not know Jim he was a very active Rotarian back in the day and has continued as an Honorary member who enjoyed receiving the information about what the club continues to do.

Jim was a lifelong member and served as treasurer for 29 years. He received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award in 1989.

Please keep Jim's family in your thoughts and prayers.

President Tom

## May Celebrations

<p><b><u>Birthday</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Jean Antkowiak</li> <li>⇒ Marcia Cameron</li> <li>⇒ Leann Hill</li> <li>⇒ Rob Lupisella</li> <li>⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Rotary Anniversary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Bob Hayes 2002 (H)</li> <li>⇒ Ed Kime 2010</li> <li>⇒ C.A. Krenzer 2013 (H)</li> <li>⇒ David Kilgore 2013</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Wedding Anniversary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Marcia Cameron</li> <li>⇒ Kelly Cole</li> <li>⇒ Steve Csapo</li> <li>⇒ Charles Feller</li> <li>⇒ Tom Honan</li> </ul>
--	---	---

## Rambling On Rotary—May



By: Bruce Amey

Service Above Self. Just words and ideas? Not for Rotarians ... these are words of action, we are people of ACTION! We are each part of 1.4 million members and 46,000 clubs in more than 220 countries. When Rotarians decide to work together on common goals and projects, imagine what we can accomplish together. Polio

has been almost eradicated from the world thanks to the efforts of Rotary since it started on this project in the Philippines in 1979. Can the health network Rotary has created be used to serve to vaccinate persons against COVID, which has killed more than 6.2 million people worldwide? Putting that number into perspective, 6.2 million deaths is more than the entire population of Denmark or Finland or Norway. More locally, 6.2 million deaths is more than the entire populations of the States of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine COMBINED. Imagine the people in those States no longer existing because of a virus; imagine those countries being wiped from the earth due to COVID. Because of the efforts of Rotarians, nearly 3 billion children have been saved from the scourge of polio. Rotary is Action.

We cannot ignore the humanitarian crisis created in Ukraine due to the invasion of its neighbor Russia. Since February 24, according to estimates by the United Nations, more than 13,000 persons have been killed. What is Rotary doing to assist in this crisis? According to information on the RI website, on April 5, 2022, Rotary announced that it has raised more than \$7 million to support locally-led relief efforts underway by Rotary clubs in Ukraine and neighboring countries. "The need for immediate humanitarian aid is increasing with each passing day," said John Hewko, CEO of Rotary International, who is of Ukrainian descent and is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Kyiv. "Rotary clubs in Europe and around the world, including our 1,100 members in Ukraine, have stepped up their relief work, with some on the ground helping those displaced by the war." Funds raised by the Rotary Foundation – Rotary's charity arm, go directly to those in need through local Rotary clubs in Ukraine and other countries where substantial aid is needed for refugees. Rotary clubs are also coordinating with partners to explore effective solutions to increased humanitarian needs.

Rotary's disaster response partner ShelterBox is collaborating with Rotary members in Eastern Europe to provide essential supplies and access to temporary housing for those who have left Ukraine, along with medical and

shelter supplies for communities in Ukraine. Items include mattresses for people living in schools and sports centers, shelter kits with tools and rope, hygiene kits, winter jackets, solar lights, and water carriers to help people survive as they are forced to live in damaged buildings.

"It's amazing what one Rotarian talking to another Rotarian can accomplish," says Marga Hewko, president of the Rotary Club of Chicago and the spouse of Rotary International General Secretary and CEO John Hewko. The Hewkos lived in Ukraine for five years during the 1990s.

Supplies are streaming into a warehouse operated by the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) near O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. Rotary clubs in the States of Nebraska and Iowa are collecting supplies to fill several large cargo trucks that will drive hundreds of miles to the warehouse in Chicago. Two cargo planes packed with tourniquets, blood-clotting gauze, blood pressure equipment, and other items have already been flown from the city of Chicago in the United States to Europe, where members help unload the supplies and get them to Ukraine. "In the middle of the war, when some of the targets of the Russian army are hospitals, the fact that we have volunteers in Ukraine driving supplies across their country — if that is not Service Above Self, I don't know what is," Marga Hewko says.

"It is Rotary doing what Rotary does best," says Pat Merryweather-Arges, a Rotary International director-elect and member of the Rotary Club of Naperville, Illinois, USA. "It networks, pulls people together, and gets the job done."

As Avon Rotarians, there is much we can do internationally to get the job done through our donations to the RI Foundation; there is much we can do locally to get the job done through our hands-on efforts. President Tom's District Grant project will provide educational opportunities for Avon students and fresh produce for the "back-pack" children. When our members pull together, this project will be completed on May 14. Every one of us joined Rotary to give back to our community and to serve others. Our membership expands throughout the world. Rotary has seven areas of focus for its service. I encourage each of us to visit the RI website frequently to better understand where we are serving and how we can serve better; the Learning Center on the RI website has many opportunities to grow. We are people of action. We serve and together we accomplish wonderful things. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

## April Highlights



**American  
Red Cross**

**April 5:** Our 12th blood drive is "in the books" and it was another very successful event. In four hours, 31 units of blood were collected including 7 Double Reds. This amount can positively impact up to 93 people.

I'd like to thank the 18 Avon Rotarians who either donated or wanted to donate but couldn't because the afternoon schedule was completely filled. Also, here's a special shout out to Dan Oswald who donated for the first time! (maybe the last, lol)

I'm hoping to schedule our next drive on the Tuesday following Corn Fest. Will advise as soon as the time is confirmed.

Yours In Rotary Service,  
Karl Sawicki, Project Coordinator



## Susan B. Anthony House

**April 14:** Avon Rotary was joined by Deborah Hughes the President & CEO of the Susan B. Anthony Museum & House. Deborah gave us a little history lesson about the house and Susan B. Anthony, an update on the museum's plan to expand just down the street from the house, and how Susan B. Anthony's service above self continues to inspire those who work for voting rights, women's rights, and equality for all. Avon Rotary was also proud to present a donation of \$100 to the museum to help with its mission of keeping the spirit and teachings of Susan B. Anthony alive. *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



Left—Right: Avon Rotarian Cat Jensen, very proudly introducing our guest speaker, Deborah Hughes.

Deborah provided a passionate, eloquent program explaining the history of Susan B. Anthony and the historical landmark.

A current photo of the Susan B. Anthony museum and house.

President Tom Vonglis, presenting a \$100 donation on behalf of the club, to Deborah Hughes for the Susan B. Anthony house.

## April Highlights *continued*

### Roadside Cleanup

Saturday, April 23

Avon Rotarians spent the morning picking up trash along a portion of Route 39 Saturday for our bi-annual Roadside Cleanup project. In an effort to support the Rotary multi-district 2nd Annual Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup movement, we took extra time cleaning the area around Conesus Creek near the Five Arch Bridge. Many thanks to these volunteers!

*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



### Spirit of Nicaragua

**April 26:** At our Tuesday night meeting, Avon Rotarian, Rob Lupisella gave us an update on Linking Hands For Learning and the Enlace Project's most recent school build in Los Jobitos, Nicaragua. Rob and his wife, Honeoye Falls-Mendon Rotarian Jeanine, began Linking Hands For Learning in 2011 and have participated and funded a dozen school builds in the last ten years. We were reminded how this whole journey began for Rob, Jeanine and their family. We watched a Thank You video from a community member from the most recent school build, heard stories in what it's like to participate as a volunteer in a school build, and watched an incredibly moving video from former school build volunteer Diane Vonglis Parnell (the link to this video is below). We also gave Linking Hands For Learning a donation of \$2,500 to continue the school building efforts. Thank you to Rob and your family, for what Linking Hands For Learning's motto couldn't explain any better...Building Schools to Empower through Education to Promote Peace and Literacy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rGjQRBnitw&t=82s>

*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



Avon Rotary President Tom Vonglis presents a \$2,500 check to Rob to support Linking Hands For Learning's efforts in Nicaragua.



Linking Hands school build alumni:  
L-R Heather & Jake Ayers, Jim  
Tompsett, Kirk Vanderbilt, Laurie &  
Tom Vonglis, Rob Lupisella.

## April Highlights *continued*

### Garden Project Prep

April 20 & 27

President Tom gathered a few volunteers to do some preparation prior to the May 14 Garden Project at the Elementary School. There are about 5 hours of measuring and cutting lumber which has been purchased and delivered from Avon Lumber and stored at Vonglis Enterprise in Peter's big heated work shop. This gives us a bit of a jump start on the project and should ensure we can accomplish our goal of finishing the work on 14th.

Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis



Volunteers: Steve Csapo, Rob Lupisella, Ed Kime, Joe Yantachka, Jesse Cole, Ernie Wiard, Kirk Vanderbilt, Laurie Vonglis, Tom Vonglis, Peter Vonglis

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

Please contact the club  
Sunshine Liaison Agent

**Barbara Herman** 226-6735



### 2022 Wild Polio Case Counts as of April 30, 2022

<u>Country</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Malawi	0	0	1	Feb 2022
Afghanistan	56	4	1	Jan 2022
Pakistan	84	1	1	April 2022
<b>Total</b>	140	5	<b>3</b>	



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

# District 7120 Conference Reflections



RECONNECT in OSWEGO District Conference April 29 – May 1 was just that, a chance to reconnect with fellow Rotarians from District 7120 after not having been able to do so since 2019. It was a great experience starting with the golf match on Friday, which Avon team of Tom, Laurie and Cat won with a 4 under score; Bruce and Jim came in at 1 over. It was a cold and windy day, but it was fun.

Friday evening had the Parade of Flags for the Youth Exchange Program, which is always impressive. Since there were no inbound students this year, the only flags presented were those of the countries for the upcoming outbound students. Our Jacob Davis (of Livonia) led the parade and was the first to receive his Youth Exchange blazer, as well. Our keynote speaker for the evening was Terri Hall on the topic of Women In Rotary. Ms. Hall joined us from Anchorage, Alaska. But as has been said in the past, Rotary is a reconnected network of people serving others that helps the world come together. Ms. Hall became a Rotarian in 1989 when she joined the Canandaigua Club and then served as the first female 7120 District Governor in 2003-2004.

Saturday offered opportunities for learning during two breakout session. Then there were opportunities to learn more about our host city where some attendees went on a bicycle tour, others toured the history of Fort Ontario while others participated in a Poker Run visiting various establishments within the city. Many attendees participated in 2 or 3 of these opportunities.



The Governor's Ball on Saturday evening included the winner of the student District Oratorical Contest Thomas Yu. His speech, delivered totally without any notes, was a reflection on the meaning of the 4-way test. For me, the highlight of the conference, however, was the presence of the RI President's Representative Richard King,

Mr. King spoke briefly on Friday and again on Sunday morning; just ask any attendee about a bedroom trampoline for reasons of fitness and how PDG Tom Rogers tried to emulate Mr. King. Mr. King, joining us from the Rotary Club of Niles-Fremont, CA, is a past world president of RI. His experiences are vast as an attorney, a distinguished graduate of the University of California and having served as a captain in the US Military Intelligence. However, each time he spoke his humor and his message were inspiring. He mentioned a quote by John Adams, (I paraphrase) there are only two creatures of value on the face of the earth: those with conviction and those with the commitment to follow through with that conviction. And Mr. King said, "As Rotarians we need to be both." He reminded us that Rotary Brings Peace through our service to others. He shared an experience with a man from Budapest who he encountered in Evanston, IL, RI's world home office. The man said he needed to visit the site where the idea of serving others was born. The man described how he became a Rotarian before WWII, but how his club needed to go "underground" for four years during the Nazi occupation. Then they were able to re-establish their club after the war ended, only to be forced to go underground again, this time for 40 years, as the Communists occupied his country until the falling of the Berlin Wall, after which they re-established their club. The man implied that his experiences made him something less than a real Rotarian. Based on his conviction and commitment to the ideals of Rotary, with tears in his voice as he recollected the experience, Mr. King assured the man he and his fellow members were the essence of Rotary. Mr. King stated that "nothing can compensate us if we fail in the business of humankind." He went on to say, we belong to an organization that gives more to us than we give to others because in giving to others, we always get more in return from the act of our service. "Conviction and commitment direct us to Serve Others to Change Lives. Following his comments, there many moist eyes.

Sunday's Celebration of Life Memorial Service is always a memorable portion of the District Conference for me. Since we have not been able to hold this event for three years, more than 80 Rotarians were honored, including our members who have passed: Mark Evans, Margo Harper, and Steve Vanderbilt.

**Remembering The Remarkable Rotarians We Have Lost During The Past Three Years**

**Mark Evans**

- Passed away on October 21, 2021
- Avon Rotarian 1994 - 2021
- Club President, 1999 - 2000
- Paul Harris Fellow

Avon Rotary Club

**Margo Harper**

- Passed away on October 30, 2021
- Avon Rotarian 1999 - 2021
- Paul Harris Fellow
- Volunteered for Avon Ambulance
- Avid Michigan State Spartan fan
- Card player and bingo enthusiast

Avon Rotary Club

**Steve Vanderbilt**

- Passed away on March 24, 2020
- Avon Rotarian 2011 - 2020
- Paul Harris Fellow
- A Vietnam War Veteran
- Past member of the Van Zandt Hose Company and the Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service
- Known as a man of service to his family and community

Avon Rotary Club

# District 7120 Conference Reflections *continued*

During the closing session it was announced that the Rotary Auction raised \$4,720 for the Foundation, including one bottle of bourbon that garnered \$250. DGE Ralph Brandt announced that District Conference 2023 will be a one-day event held in Bloomfield Saturday, May 6.

For me, the opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians for the first time, to laugh, to exchange ideas for service, and to renew friendships with other Rotarians is inspiring and rejuvenating. It was a great weekend and an “almost finale” to a very successful year for DG Janet. The Canandaigua Conference Committee did an excellent job planning and executing the conference; they approached the task with conviction and commitment. And now, guess what Avon Rotarians, the task falls to us for in 2024, our PP Julie will be hosting the District Conference at the conclusion of her DG year as she is our club's first DG. Keep your ears and hearts open, keep your hands and feet ready as a successful District Conference will take the conviction and commitment of each of us. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough ... oops, wrong article. *Submitted by: Bruce Amey, Conference Participant*



Avon Rotary received 1st place for the 2022 Vocational Service Award in recognition of our Veterans Outreach Project.

Avon Rotary also received 3rd place for the 2022 International Service Award in recognition of our Nicaraguan School Project.

Many thanks to Jake Ayers & Rob Lupisella for their leadership with these vital service projects!



Avon Rotary received 3rd place in the Service Project Display Competition. Many thanks to Karen Vanderbilt for preparing this for the club which highlighted our many in-meeting service projects this year.



President Tom accepted the 2020-2021 Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the club for our financial support of the End Polio Now campaign.



# 2022 Livingston County Youth Bureau Teen Recognition Award



Josephine VanRy steps up to the challenges. For the Avon Interact Club it has been a rebuilding year. Now in our second year of Covid, fundraising opportunities have still been limited and membership dwindling but Josephine (Jojo, as she is affectionately known) has enthusiastically led the club as president. As a new advisor for the club this year I appreciate the experience and leadership Jojo brings to the club.



Even before school started, she helped organize a fundraiser alongside the Rotary Club of Avon. She solicited our local bakers to donate cookies to go along with the lunch that the Interact Club was selling the day of the event. She recruited help from members that would be needed as we had not yet had our first meeting. She confidently runs each of the meetings and participated in World Interact week by running the meeting at our Rotary Club of Avon. Many members approached me after the meeting and complimented her organization and presentation of what Interact has done and the club's future plans. She braved the cold for the Holiday Spectacular where she helped spread the spirit of Christmas by handing out goodie bags and helping children write their letters to Santa. She spread even more good cheer by showing up to greet teachers and staff at school with posters of encouragement and thanks for all they have done during these difficult times.

She not only continues to lead the Interact club through areas of service but also participated in United Way's Day of Caring as a member of the National Honor Society. She is Avon's Class of 2022 treasurer and has been a member of the Student Council and the Superintendent's Advisory Council for several years. Although she shines as a leader, she has no problem not being in the spotlight as she assists in set building, costuming and running the sound boards for the local community theater and Avon Centrals own drama club.

Josephine is a very accomplished young lady with significant academic achievements, a myriad of extracurricular activities and community involvement, all while also working a part-time job. She has a quiet confidence and love of her community. It is my pleasure to work with her this year and I will miss her as president of the Interact Club but she is bound for great things.

*Submitted by: Karen Vanderbilt*



May is Rotary Youth Service Month. Youth Service Month acknowledges the positive change implemented by youth and young adults involved in leadership development activities, community and international service, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

These programs include:

- 1.) Interact-a service club for high school students
- 2.) Rotaract-a service club for college students
- 3.) Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)-Camps for youth that enhance personal development, leadership skills and good citizenship
- 4.) Rotary Youth Exchange-an international youth exchange program that give youth an opportunity to experience new cultures and expand their cultural awareness.



# QUAD CITIES - May 23, 2022

## Rotary Clubs of Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo, Mt. Morris

**Golf:** Caledonia Country Club

- ◆ **11:30** Registration
- ◆ **12:00** Shotgun Start
- ◆ **\$35** 18 Holes, Cart & Lunch
- ◆ Pay at the course



**Dinner:** Caledonia Country Club

- ◆ **\$25**—Pay in advance
- ◆ **5:00** Social Hour    **6:00** Dinner
- ◆ **Buffet:** Roast beef, lemon pepper chicken, ziti with marinara sauce, parsley baby potatoes, vegetable, garden salad, bread & rolls, coffee & tea

RSVP's are due for golf & dinner by May 13

Contact Laurie at [lvonglis@hurritech.com](mailto:lvonglis@hurritech.com)

The biggest difference  
between money and time:  
You always know how  
much money you have  
but you never know how  
much time you have.  
**Enjoy every moment of  
your life!**

**Rotary**



## Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in May are:

**Cereals**

**Dish Detergent**

**Condiments**

Collection is the 3rd Tuesday each month.  
Place in bin at our meeting. For questions  
contact Cat Jenson or David Kilgore.

