



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

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President's Message



The month of August has certainly flown by. We have enjoyed a busy month with a couple of service projects along with our membership programs. I'll start by saying thank you to Rhonda for spearheading the "Party in a bag" project that helps to support the Avon Food Pantry and all the great needs they fulfill for our community. This is a project we can do multiple times per year and one that we can enjoy. I'll also thank Tom Honan for his help with supplies from Wegmans, very much appreciated. Our second service project was at the Avon Downs painting the playground and installing new mulch. We had over 30 people helping with this project. I am so proud of our club and all the great work we do together in our community. The Village of Avon is very happy that we were able to get this work done for them as they just did not have the resources to make it happen. I look forward to more projects like this one for our club to get together and work on.

August is Rotary membership month, and we were very fortunate to have District Co-Chairs from our membership committee join us and talk about ideas for growing club membership. Both John and Sarah gave such great insight and ideas on how we can grow our

club. With this being membership month our thanks to Josh Tonra for setting up our presentation from John and Sara along with our social night as a time to invite potential new members who are looking to find out more about what Rotary is all about. As we move forward it's always a good time to invite people to join us for a meeting and hear all the good things that Avon Rotary is doing both locally and around the world.

On September 18th we have our "Rally in the Valley" fundraiser. Please make sure you are signed up to help and get your tickets for the event. Our committee has worked so hard to put this event together. We all should be looking forward to a great time.

Lastly, I want to thank all our members who work so hard to raise funds that we use to help others. We were fortunate to be able to send \$1000.00 to shelter box to help the people of Haiti following the disaster in their country. Our impact both locally and around the world is something we can all be proud of.

See everyone at the Rally in the Valley.

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

Coming together is a **beginning**,
Staying together is **progress**,
And working together is **success**.

~Henry Ford



Club Schedule

Tues. Sept. 7	NO MEETING—Happy Labor Day!
Fri. Sept. 10	District Golf Tournament—11:00, Lima Country Club
Tues. Sept. 14	Regular Mtg 6:30—Program: TBD
Sat. Sept. 18	Rally in the Valley Fundraiser—12:00 pm—10:00 pm
Mon. Sept. 20	Board of Directors Mtg 6:30 Avon Circlevew Conference Room
Tues. Sept. 21	Regular Mtg 6:30—TBD
Tues. Sept. 28	Regular Mtg 6:30—DG Janet Tenriero visits



Birthday

- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco
- ⇒ Bill Wall

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Josh Tonra 2014
- ⇒ Leann Hill 2017



September Celebrations

Wedding Anniversary

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

August Highlights

August 3: Avon Rotary sponsored our 10th blood drive! Thirty three productive units of blood were collected in four hours that will assist up to 99 people in need! Thank you to all who donated and thank you Jennifer Krause for allowing us the use of the Avon Inn. Our next drive is already scheduled for Tuesday, November 30th from 2 to 6 pm. There is an appointment sign up sheet if you would like to pre-schedule your donation time. Let me know and I'll forward it to our drive coordinator.

YIRS, Karl Sawicki



August 3: Our club did our party in a bag service project. This is one of our favorite projects that we take part in every couple months. Our members and guests assembled party bags including cake, frosting, sprinkles, candles, balloons and party favors. These bags were donated to the Avon Food Pantry and will be available to members of the community that are in need. Funding for projects like these and the many other projects and donations we give to local, national, and international organizations are made possible by our annual fundraisers, like our upcoming Rally in the Valley.

Submitted by: Mike Ford



August 10: On this occasion, over 30 Avon Rotarians turned out to the Avon Community Playground at the Avon Driving Park to provide the village with some much needed man and woman power to give the playground some TLC. We stained both playground structures and spread mulch in the swing area. Many hands make light work and we were able to get through all the stain and mulch provided quickly and had fun while doing it! President Tom partnered with the Village of Avon's, Jim Fusco and our very own Kirk Vanderbilt, to coordinate resources. Thank you to Chris Masten for the use of his tractor for hauling mulch. Two hours of volunteer work and we accomplished this much needed service project. A great example of successful teamwork! *Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis*



August Highlights continued



August 17: We were joined by Past District Governor and Greece Rotary Club member Bill Gormont. Bill gave a presentation on Crutches 4 Africa, an organization that collects new and used mobility devices (crutches, walkers, canes, rollators and wheel-

chairs). They will be shipped to developing countries in Africa and distributed free-of-charge to people with physical mobility challenges (many of which have to drag themselves or be carried due to lack


of mobility devices), regardless of their race, gender, tribe, age, or religion. If you have any of these items that you are no longer in need of, physical donations can be made at the Ridge Road Fire Station #1, 1299 Long Pond Road, Rochester, NY 14626 any day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm until September 30 with a pick up day with helpers for larger donations on September 18. Or message us, and an Avon Rotarian will arrange to get the items from you.

If you would like to donate to this cause checks can be sent to 99 Stratford Lane, Rochester NY 14612 made payable to the "Greece Rotary Foundation" with "Crutches 4 Africa" in the memo field. The Greece Rotary Foundation and Crutches 4 Africa both are registered 501(c)(3) charitable organizations. *Submitted by: Mike Ford*

MISSION: Collect used, new & surplus Mobility Devices, ship them to developing countries in Africa and distribute them "free of charge" to people with physical mobility challenges

Crutches 4 Africa



Imagine for a moment that you cannot walk ...



you need help



Donate new or used mobility devices to change a life.

www.greecerotary.org
www.facebook.com/greecerotaryclub/

Help us collect

- Crutches
- Walkers
- Canes
- Rollators
- Wheelchairs

August 1st
thru
September 30th
Every day
8am to 6pm

Or

MAIN COLLECTION DAY

Sat September 18th
9am to 5pm

Drop-off location:
Ridge Road Fire Station #1
1299 Long Pond Rd
Rochester 14626

Sponsored by:
Greece Rotary Club
Greece Lions Club
Ridge Road Fire District

For More Information: 585-802-6999 bill@MotivationalVision.com

August 24: We were joined by District 7120 Membership Committee Co-Chairs Sara Visingard from Victor-Farmington Rotary and John French from Naples Rotary. They gave a presentation on how to creatively grow Rotary at the club and district level, how to be inclusive to community members, and how to retain members. *Submitted by: Mike Ford*



August 31: We enjoyed a special membership spotlight meeting thanks to Josh Tonra, Membership Chairman. We heard a variety of stories from Katie, Mike, Laurie, Bruce, & Jerry touching on why they joined, why they stay, how it has changed their life and what has changed over the years. A common message was the enjoyment of serving the community and the benefit of the friendships made. Many thanks to all who participated as well as brought interested community members. *Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis*



HAPPY Labor Day

Rambling On Rotary—September



By: Bruce Amey

As we approach September, summer is winding down, schools are getting ready to open and I am reflecting on where I was and what I was doing twenty years ago on September 11th, 2001. I was a high school principal on that day. I was heading into an administrative meeting on that Tuesday morning; the meeting was scheduled to start at 9:00. I recall a student entering the high school main office, signing in late for the day, and him stating that a plane crashed into the World Trade Center. My secretary and I thought it was a small private plane which had occurred previously; I went into my meeting. By 9:15, while in our meeting, we had heard that another plane had crashed into the second tower of the World Trade Center and our admin team meeting broke up and we returned to our buildings to begin some crisis management and assist our students and staff deal with our national tragedy. Where were you that morning? What were you doing? What did you stop doing?

During the challenge of COVID last year, RIPP Holger Knapp stated, "Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth." Clearly, for our country, the 9/11 attack offered our country tremendous challenges and opportunities for renewal and growth ... and service. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001, Congress designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day" and Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance." Even a small act of service is a giant act of patriotism. As Rotarians, we have an opportunity to lead our community and our world forward to serve in a remarkable spirit of unity, honor, and compassion ... and service. September 11, 2001 not only united our country but united the world. September is Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy month. RI President Shekhar Mehta stated, "Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health, and promoting peace. Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians." Club President Tom's district grant for this Rotary year involves constructing some raised garden beds to be used by students in the Avon school district to grow vegetables and other food items. "The project will start a community garden to educate students in need regarding composting and growing foodstuffs that will then supplement the back pack program with a goal of teaching the students how to help support their diets while improving our environment."

These are skills needed around the world to feed the world to help "reduce poverty, improve health, and promote peace".

On this 20th anniversary of the attack that caused our world to pause and reflect, let us remember all those who serve every day above and beyond that which is "their job". On this Remembrance Day let us pause and reflect to honor those first responders killed and injured twenty years ago and the countless others who serve to defend the nation's freedom at home and around the world.

I recall the Alan Jackson song (don't ask me to sing it, Katie), "Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning". Some of the lyrics are:

"Where were you when the world stopped turnin' that September day?

Were you in the yard with your wife and children or workin' on some stage in L.A.?

Did you stand there in shock at the sight of that black smoke risin' against that blue sky?

Did you shout out in anger, in fear for your neighbor, or did you just sit down and cry?

Did you weep for the children, they lost their dear loved ones Pray for the ones who don't know?

Did you rejoice for the people who walked from the rubble and sob for the ones left below?

Did you burst out with pride for the red, white, and blue and the heroes who died just doin' what they do?

Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer and look at yourself and what really matters?

I'm just a singer of simple songs, I'm not a real political man I watch CNN, but I'm not sure I can tell you the difference in Iraq and Iran.

But I know Jesus and I talk to God and I remember this from when I was young.


Faith, hope, and love are some good things He gave us and the greatest is love."

President Joe Biden said, "Service is a fitting way to start to heal, unite, and rebuild this country we love." Our community and our world have many needs requiring our service and commitment to address. Patriot Day can be a day to pause, reflect, and remember. However, how we use those reflections every day moving forward in service to others is how we assure a better community and world for all children. We Rotarians have this commitment and obligation to keep our world turning together, to "reduce poverty, improve health, and promote peace". And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2021 Wild Polio Case Counts as of August 30, 2021

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



GPEI Statement on Afghanistan

August 19

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is closely monitoring developments in Afghanistan. GPEI partners and staff are currently assessing immediate disruptions to polio eradication efforts and the delivery of other essential health services, to ensure continuity of surveillance and immunization activities while prioritizing the safety and security of staff and frontline health workers in the country.

The polio programme in Afghanistan has operated for many years amid insecurity and conflict, and will continue working with all actors, agencies and organizations who enable delivery of immunization as well as deliver humanitarian assistance to populations in need across the country. The GPEI remains steadfastly committed to protecting all children from polio and supporting the provision of other essential immunizations and health services.

We strongly believe that the delivery of health care – including polio vaccination – is essential to prevent diseases and safeguard communities. Together with our partners, the people of Afghanistan, national and provincial authorities, we will do everything in our power to continue this critical work.

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



Last call for sign ups...

~ District Golf Tournament—Sept. 10

Contact Tom to sign up—tvonglis@gmail.com

~ Avon Rotary Rally in the Valley—Sept. 18

<https://rallyinthevalley2021.itemorder.com/sale>

***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 September are:

*Ranch dressing, Mayonnaise, Ketchup,
Sauce, Paper goods, Pet food, Baby
food, Diapers*

Questions—ask Rhonda. Thank you!

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

