



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Club Schedule & Celebrations	2
In Loving Memory	3
St. Patrick's Parade	3
Shelterbox	4
Lifetime of Adventures	4
Exchange Weekend 2023	5
Rambling on Rotary	6
Polio Update	7
Spotlight on Partyman	7
Food Pantry Needs	7

## President's Message



As we move on from March a few highlights this month were the St. Patrick's day parade and float, although a bit cold the boat float was unique and well received. Thank you to all who helped decorate the boat and partici-

pated in the parade. Thank you for the truck & boat Kat!

The presentation by Richard Comins from Shelter box was informative. It is great that our club supports this very important program. Thanks to Katie for arranging the game on this night too, it was our St. Patrick's themed dinner.

I regrettably missed Steve Stephenson's presentation but heard good things about it - Thank you Steve! Also thank you to DGE Julie for stepping up to run the meeting while I was away.

Thank you to Ed, Karen, the host families and all who helped with the casino night! Thank you Doug & Terry Hayes, Kirk and Mike Ford for preparing breakfast Sunday morning for the students and families. It is so nice that we were able to do this after the covid pause.

I'd also like to thank Joe for his P is for Partyman event he held where he donated all proceeds to Stones Closet. That is a great ex-

ample of service above self!

Looking to April the blood drive is on the 4th, and there are openings available. If you can signup on line that would be great or let Karl Sawicki know and he will get you on the list. Thank you for taking the lead on this Karl! We will not have a meeting as a result of the blood drive.

Don Collins will present to us on the 18th regarding the upcoming district conference in Bloomfield on the 6th of May. This is a one day event that runs from 9:30 - 7:30 with a cost of \$50.00 per adult.

We will have a presentation from the Avon Library on the 25th. Thanks to Cat for being on top of the programs this year!

We are looking for ideas for in meeting service projects like party in the bag, veterans outreach, community service events around the watershed- environment months which were March & April. Are you passionate about a community organization that needs help? Take the lead and make a service project happen.

Our district grant project needs volunteers to assemble the pergola at the mental health facility in East Avon on either the 15th or 22nd of April, weather dependent. Please let me know if you are willing to help out.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
President, Steve Csapo

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

### Board of Directors

Steve Csapo, President  
Mike Ford, President Elect  
Karen Vanderbilt, Senior Director  
Rob Lupisella, Director  
Bruce Amey, Member at Large  
Jeff Herberger, Member at Large  
Tom Vonglis, Past President  
Charlene Masten, Secretary  
Katie DeGraff, Treasurer





# Club Schedule

Mon. April 3	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 at Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. April 4	Red Cross Blood Drive—No Regular Meeting
Tues. April 11	Regular Meeting 6:30
Tues. April 18	Regular Meeting 6:30 Program: Don Collins, District Conference News
Sat. April 22	District Training Assembly, Bath Haverling High School 8:00—1:00
Tues. April 25	Regular Meeting 6:30 Program: Avon Free Library



**American Red Cross**

Blood Drive times are currently set at 12:30 to 5:30pm.

**Sign up to donate blood on April 4 drive!**

No meeting April 4

## April Celebrations

Balance is not something you find. It's something you create.



### Birthday

- ⇒ Mike Ford
- ⇒ Mike Giso
- ⇒ Colin Hayes
- ⇒ CA Krenzer
- ⇒ Kevin Van Allen
- ⇒ TJ Vonglis

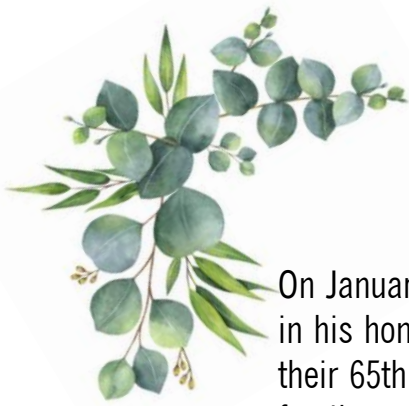
### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Jim Tompsett 1979 (H)
- ⇒ Bill Wall 2000
- ⇒ Kevin Van Allen 2019

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Mike Ford





# IN LOVING Memory



On January 13th, Rotarian Robert B. Hayes, MD passed away in his home at the age of 91. Doc & Polly had celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary months prior surrounded by family and friends. Doc practiced family medicine in Avon for nearly 50 years. He joined Avon Rotary in 2005 and was an active member most of his 18 years. He was also a Board of Directors member from 2009-2011. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow in 2010. Doc treasured his children and grandchildren and in turn will be deeply missed. Sadly, his beloved wife passed just 13 days later, leaving a huge void in the Hayes family. Avon Rotarians who knew him, will also truly miss this humble, quiet, giant of a man.

## The St. Paddy's Day Parade is back and Rotary was there!

After a brief hiatus, the parade returned to downtown Avon Saturday, March 18. A bone-chilling afternoon, but a strong showing of hardy souls turned out and your Rotary club was there. Our entry in the parade was a boat bedazzled with Irish decorations.

The bedazzling took place at honorary leprechaun Cat Jensen's house with an adult beverage... or two... both for inspiration and fortification. A goodly number of Rotarians rode the float with their children, tossing candy and green beaded necklaces to onlookers along the route, so much fun!

Mucho thanks to STAR HEADLIGHT for their donation of the green lights that made the magic on our float. And, Rotarian Spouse, Larry Tetamore photographed his way through the afternoon, capturing the event with many outstanding pics.

The St. Paddy's Day Parade was a fun and easy way for Rotary to be seen in the community, participating in the parade demonstrated our spirit and doubled as a free advertisement. Additional parades loom on the horizon. Specifically, please mark Saturday, July 15, on your calendars for the PRIDE parade in Rochester. *Submitted by: Cat Jensen*

*(Photo Credits to Larry Tetamore from Tetamore Photographic)*





## SHELTERBOX



**March 21:** At tonight's meeting we were joined by Webster Rotarian Rich Comins. Rich is a representative for ShelterBox USA. ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that provides much needed shelter,

tools, aid, water purification, etc. to those who have lost their homes to natural disasters and war...all in a durable plastic storage box. Avon Rotary has proudly supported this organization for nearly a decade and tonight we donated \$1000.

To learn more on how you can help ShelterBox, visit [www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org).

*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



## Lifetime of Adventures



**At our March 28th meeting,** we were lucky to have a program from our very own Steve Stephenson. Steve regaled us of his decades-long dedication to outdoor adventure and travel with 3 of his best friends. After cultivating their friendship and love for outdoor adventure as adult leaders of their sons' Boy Scout Troop, Steve and his 3 buddies continued their adventures every year with a week or 2 of travel to places far and near, a tradition that lasted nearly 50 years. Whether it was afoot, or afloat, or by bicycle, they sought out places too difficult to get to by the masses and often went weeks without seeing people. He told tales of highway landings in bush planes, foraging for antiquities in the American West, and trying to "avoid" skinny-dipping coeds. Building on a theme, Steve said his favorite trips were usually the backpacking trips,

because of the amazing scenery and the fact that he could get to be in places where very few people had ever been. Alaska, Quebec, Utah, Florida, or Alberta to name a few, they've made their way around most of the continent, spending literally hundreds of nights out in the wilderness. While he framed his story as one about adventure, I suspect the true underlying theme is more about friendship though. Spending a couple weeks with your best buddies with a very healthy dose of razzing each other and belly-laughing has kept these guys young at heart all these years, and I can't imagine a nicer way to spend your golden years. Thanks for the inspiration Steve!! *Submitted by: Kirk Vanderbilt*

## EXCHANGE WEEKEND 2023



Foreign exchange students from all over our district descended on Avon for a long weekend in March.

They arrived on a Thursday

night and met with Interactors and Rotarians who graciously opened their homes to these students from all over the world. Festivities began that night with an introduction to Tom Wahls famous cheeseburger. It gave the students and families an opportunity to get to know each other and hang out in a casual setting. On Friday, the students began and ended their day at Avon High School with donuts in the cafeteria and loading up the school bus for a trip to RIT. RIT provided a great day of thought provoking speakers, a delicious lunch and a tour of the campus. Back in Avon the students enjoyed some downtime with families before dancing the night away back at the high school thanks to the Student Council. Saturday's late start brought them to Channel 13 TV studios with a tour and a chat with broadcasting legend and devoted Rotarian Don Alhart, who shared stories and pins he has collected during his many travels and experiences. These pins make a special addition to the blazers the exchange students wear during their own travels. The afternoon was free for the students to either catch a basketball game, take a nap or visit more with their host families before dressing up in their finest and heading to the casino. The Village hall turned into a betting hall where Rotarians volunteered to teach these kids to become degenerate gamblers. Just kidding ;) Interact and Exchange students had a blast spinning the Rotary wheel, playing black jack, roulette and poker all while devouring all the different kinds of goodies that could be dipped in a flowing chocolate fountain. Not wanting the night to end, after the cards and poker chips were put away, the lights were turned down and the music turned up to dance. Recovery from a long night and weekend calls for a good hearty breakfast. Interact, exchange students, host families and volunteers finished off the weekend with a delicious breakfast on Sunday.

I have never been able to participate in this weekend before, even when we were hosting, but I know I wouldn't want to miss it again. It was a fantastic weekend sharing what Avon and the area have to offer and the opportunity to build friendships to last a lifetime. Thank you to all who made this weekend possible. If you want to continue building worldwide relationships and working with our youth, Ed and I would love to have you on our team! *Submitted by: Karen Vanderbilt*





## Rambling On Rotary— April



By: Bruce Amey

April is RI's Maternal and Child health month. From the March Rotary Magazine interview with incoming RI President Gordon McInally, he stated, "He would like his year ... to spotlight mental health." Avon Club President Steve's District grant project will need to be erected shortly at the UR Medicine

Noyes Mental Health and Wellness Facility in East Avon, which has been dedicated in honor of Liz Griswold Greene. Liz was a social worker who worked with children and family in the school district and Livingston County. When the school district founded Stone's Closet, following the death of first grader Stone Steger in a tragic accident, Liz was instrumental in making the donations "work" for needy students and their families. The initial intent was to offer back packs with school supplies for students at the start of the school year. Liz helped the program grow to provide food and clothing for children throughout the school year. During Club Past-President Heather's year, her goal was to support the closet; that year, all proceeds from the Blue Jean Ball went to support Stone's Closet. On March 18, club member Joe Yantacka's company Partyman Catering provided a fun gathering fund-raiser where all the proceeds went to support Stone's Closet. It was also great to see former club member and Stone's father Chris Steger at the event. Mental health is a real issue in our community.

Good health has always been a focus of mine; family and friend's health are a constant prayer for me. Given my health experiences at the end of 2022, when I was told the cost of my medications to assist with my blood infection episode, I "blew a gasket". My daughter Madison, who was with us at the time, said to me, "What would your reaction be if it was mom who needed that cost for medications?" As the saying goes, "From the mouths of babes", and I think my daughter is a babe, she put things into perspective for me. If I did not take care of myself then I would not be able to take care of my wife Diane, so I conceded and did what was necessary to afford the many weeks of medications. As I have shared in the past, the medications resolved the blood infection after 8 weeks and I am now "cleared" of the infection. We are blessed in this community to have excellent health facilities nearby. However, are all the services available to all residents? That is, can they afford them and get to them?

In the Rotary magazine interview RI President-elect went on to say, "My core value ... is caring. ...If the world was a more caring place, a kinder place, then it would be a much happier place and much more peaceful place. Peace is one of the issues that I particularly want to see us [Rotary] move forward." My recollections of our friends and club members Jerry Dougherty and Doc Hayes were that they were always demonstrating CARE for others. Mr. McInally went on to say, "It all comes down to the service. We are a membership organization and a service organization. It's not either/or. We need to be out there doing service, because not only will we enjoy that more, we will also see more people want to come and join us because they can see us."

He asked, "How can we reignite members of Rotary who appear to have lost their spark? I think the way to reignite the lost spark in certain members of Rotary is to make sure that the Rotary experience is as good as it can be and suits everybody." When we share at meetings and elsewhere, we need to be caring and concerned about each of our members' perspectives and backgrounds. We are a very diverse organization charged with accepting ALL members and the varied backgrounds make us all better. At times, our attempts at humor may be very off-setting to other members. Each year, I hear organization leaders talk about increasing membership where, from my perspective, I think we need to continue to inspire and "ignite" the members we have. Doing that will have the effect of more persons wanting to join Rotary.

If you have not had the chance to read the Rotary magazine when it arrives, I would encourage you to do so each month. The magazine offers much about what RI is doing around the world and reminds us where and what dues and donations support. Quoting PE McInally, "I'm a great believer that everything starts with hope." Me too! Where would you like to see our club go or do? Please speak up to President Steve or PE Mike or any other Board member. As you speak up, don't forget to also listen. We have two ears and one mouth for a reason. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

Rotary



**APRIL IS  
MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH  
MONTH**

"LIFE DOESN'T COME WITH A MANUAL, IT COMES WITH A MOTHER."

- ANON



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of March 31, 2023

<u>Country</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	4	2	0	August 2022
Malawi	1	0	0	Nov 2021
Mozambique	0	8	0	November 2022
Pakistan	1	20	1	February 2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	



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

### Partyman sends us “Back to School”

Following a cold but fun parade, a host of Rotarians made their way to Partyman Catering for “P” is for Partyman, an event to benefit Stones Closet. Upon entering we were greeted with an upgraded take on a school schedule (map and events), lunchable and boozy Capri Sun.

As you made your way through the halls different stations highlighted the cafeteria like experience. Homemade pizzas, grilled cheese and tomato soup, fried chicken sandwiches on tie dyed bread, poutine, crème brulé and cotton candy were just a few of the incredible options available. While everyone was filling up, there was a magician roaming around impressing all with card tricks and balloon poodles. Rotarian and Partyman owner, Joe Yantachka, was able to bring everyone out for a fun night and creative theme, but more importantly, his vision was integral in raising nearly 10 thousand dollars for Stones Closet!

GREAT JOB JOE & TEAM! *Submitted by: Katie DeGraff*



## Avon Food Pantry

**Grocery Items Needed in April are:**

**Coffee**

**Tea**

**Canned Fruit**

**Cereal**

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



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

Please contact the club Sunshine Liaison

**Barbara Herman 245-2637**

