



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

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President's Message



As we close out the month of February and look towards March, I must first start by remembering our club and communities' losses in February. Kim & Jerry Dougherty have been staples in our community and

our Rotary club for many years. Jerry was a very active member in our club since 1966 with many accolades to his credit. Rotary was a very important part of his life as he was an important part of Rotary. Jerry & Kim hosted many foreign exchange students over the years which they both enjoyed and was a big part of their lives. We will all miss them more than words can express and our meeting on the 21st had many special memories shared about Jerry.

Our sweetheart's dinner and Interact dessert auction was a highlight of February – I really hope Nick savored each piece of his “divorce cake”. It was a great fellowship evening with the not so Newlywed game along with the auction – Special thanks to Laurie, Katie and Jamie and everyone who participated in the auction or otherwise donated to Interact without getting a dessert that night which raised a record \$2,000.00 for the Interact club. Karen informed me she will be writing a check soon to Journey of Solutions to help with the education of Rheema, their Tanzanian student.

This month will begin the planning of the corn festival. There are numerous opportunities for members to join the committee or even oversee one of the many subcommittees as members move on to other avenues within the festival. I encourage all members to attend the meeting on the 14th.

Looking ahead I want to provide some district events you may wish to consider in the

coming months:

March is Water and Sanitation month with that it would be nice to participate in the Great Lakes watershed cleanup as we have in the past. It runs from March 1st until July 5th. I look forward to hearing ideas how we can contribute to this great opportunity to clean up our back yard and make a difference in our environment.

April 22nd – District Training Assembly at Bath Central School – 8:30 AM. There will be carpooling opportunities.

May 6th – District Conference in Bloomfield from 8:30 – 7:30

If anyone has a few hours to spare Ted Coyne would welcome a few visitors at a time at Alpine Manor in Lima. Please coordinate that with Ted or if you just want to talk with him please give him a call. He'd like to hear from us.

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

**LIFE MAY BE TOUGH
THINGS WILL GET ROUGH
THERE WILL BE BAD DAYS
IT MAY ALL SEEM LIKE A HAZE
BUT THROUGH IT ALL
ALWAYS, ALWAYS STAND TALL
GIVING UP IS NOT AN OPTION
NEVER TURN
YOUR BACK AND RUN
THROUGH
GOOD TIMES AND BAD
THROUGH
HAPPY TIMES AND SAD
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP MOVING
YOU'LL NEVER STOP GROWING...**



Club Schedule

Mon. March 6	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 @ Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. March 7	Regular Rotary Meeting
Tues. March 14	Special Meeting: CORN FESTIVAL PLANNING MEETING for All
Tues. March 21	Special Meeting: St. Patrick's Celebration More information to follow
Tues. March 28	Regular Rotary Meeting



***Irish Toast...** There are good ships, & there are wood ships,
the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships are friendships,
& may they always be.*

March Celebrations

Birthday

- ⇒ Ted Coyne (H)
- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ Cat Jensen
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Ed Kime
- ⇒ Paul Warren
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner (H)

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Heather Ayrs 2014
- ⇒ Jake Ayers 2014
- ⇒ Carmine Simone (H) 2010
- ⇒ Helen Zamboni 2005

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Kathy Shrestha
- ⇒ Dan Oswald

Looking Back in February

Sweethearts Dinner

February 7: Our annual event was held at the Avon Inn which included a wonderful buffet and the Interact dessert auction. We listened to Interact President Sydney Murray provide an update on the clubs activities. We were then entertained with the 'Not So Newlywed' game with host, Katie DeGraff and our two lovely couples, the Lupisella's and Giso's (both married 22 years so a nice even match). Once again very generous Rotarians bid high and had fun supporting the auction which raised \$2000.

Submitted by Laurie Vonglis



Interact President,
Sydney Murray



Not so Newlyweds: L-R Rachel Giso,
Jeanine & Rob Lupisella, Mike Giso

Remembering Jerry

February 21: Tonight's meeting was a very emotional one. Long time member Jerry Dougherty passed away February 20th after months of complications following his surgery in July. His death followed his beloved wife Kim's, just 19 days prior. Many members shared fond & sometimes funny memories of our dear friend. We've lost an extraordinary man, one we were all fortunate to call friend. Jerry was a mentor to many, sharing wisdom and setting the best Rotary example by living "Service Above Self". He was the ultimate social butterfly, enjoying the company of others and planning/hosting a variety of wonderful gatherings. Mostly Jerry was a faith-filled and devoted family man. He always had a kind word and was extremely generous. Our club has lost an exceptional, dedicated member.

Did you know...

Avon Rotary Club Member, 57 years (1966 – 2023)

Jerry was club President 1986-1987

He was Rotarian of the Year 1982

Named a Paul Harris Fellow in 1991, was a PHF +5 and a Foundation Sustaining Member

He was awarded the Avenues of Service Citation in the Rotary Year 2001-2002

He was a founding member of the Avon Rotary Corn Festival Committee

He was a tireless Volunteer – Fundraising, Social Committee & Community Champion

Jerry has been an important and vibrant member of our club and greater community for many years and will be dearly missed.

The family shared the following poem:

Don't grieve for me, for now, I'm free! I follow the plan God laid for me. I saw His face, I heard His call, I took His hand and left it all...

I could not stay another day, to love, to laugh, to work or play; tasks left undone must stay that way. And if my parting has left a void, then fill it with Remembered Joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss... Ah yes, these things I, too, shall miss. My life's been full. I've savored much, good times, good friends, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief—don't shorten yours with undue grief. Be not burdened with tears of sorrow. Enjoy the sunshine of the 'morrow.

Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis



Looking Back in February *continued*

Climate Solutions Program



February 28: This evening we were joined by Brady Fergusson from Climate Solutions Accelerator. He presented the Genesee-Finger Lakes Climate Action Strategy launched last year and ways for individuals and organizations to get involved - including through participation in the Color Your Community Green network.

We are seeing the effects of climate change right here in our community. Algal blooms have increased across all 11 Finger Lakes, tick-borne Lyme disease cases are rising, extreme heat warnings were issued across the Finger Lakes region in 2018 and 2019. There are actions we can start taking to support Rotary International's new area of focus, supporting and protecting the environment. Brady shared with us their mission to create a healthier, more equitable and environmentally sustainable community by catalyzing local efforts to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and address the effects of climate change. We can all take action by educating ourselves, working together to implement solutions, advocating for systemic changes to make climate action more affordable, accessible and equitable and last but not least adopting behaviors, like walking or biking to the Rotary meeting, avoiding single use items or composting foods. Take the pledge to support the Genesee-FLX Climate Action Strategy. To learn more visit climategfl.org Submitted by: Karen Vanderbilt

Interact Club News



As the school year progresses, the Avon Interact Club continues to make a difference in the community. One of the club's recent achievements was the successful bake auction that raised \$2,000. The baked goods were made and donated by the Interact club members and included items such as brownies, cupcakes, and cookies. The auction was held at the Avon Inn where Rotarians bid very generous amounts of money for the donated homemade treats. The money raised will be used to cover the full tuition for a student to attend school in Tanzania. Interact members would like to take this opportunity to also formally thank the Rotarians. The support from the Rotarians makes many of the projects more successful. In addition to the bake auction,



Interact is also gearing up for the annual Bravesman talent show, which is set to take place in the spring. The Bravesman talent show is a fairly new and exciting event, which was held by Interact last spring for the first time. The event showcases the talent of the school's students, with acts ranging from singing and dancing to beauty pageant-type interviews. Interact volunteers are working diligently to organize the event, including stage set up, performance coordination, and ticket sales. The money earned from this event will be used to sponsor another student to attend school in Tanzania. In addition to the aforementioned events, Interact also is hosting a student exchange weekend on March 24-25, 2023. Over this weekend, exchange students from all over the world will be able to immerse themselves in our culture. One popular place to stop by is our own Tom Wahls where they can try our famous burger and fries, and meet our community. Other events they will participate in while here include a day at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT,) attend a casino night, and enjoy a pancake breakfast before going back home. Overall, the Interact club continues to make a positive impact within the community. The members of Interact would love to see your support at all of our upcoming events and activities.

Submitted by: Jacob Weslowski



Exchange Students, Benni & Maria, baking for the auction

Rambling On Rotary— March



By: Bruce Amey

Paul Harris met with a few local businessmen in Chicago on February 23, 1905 to found Rotary, so that professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. As such, Rotary just celebrated its 118 year this year.

And we continue to grow older, thank goodness. Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six of the seven continents. Our members now span the globe, working to solve some of our world's most challenging problems. Rotarians are not afraid to dream big and set bold goals. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, polio remains endemic in

only two countries — down from 125 in 1988. Paul Harris stated, "Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves."

RI's theme for the month of March is Water & Sanitation. Over its 118 years, Rotary membership has grown from 7 men to over 1.4 million men and women. Each year, a goal that is suggested for incoming club presidents is to grow their club's membership. However, in my opinion, increasing the number of members is not as important as increasing the quality and involvement of existing and new members. Whereas quantity is good, we must strive for quality. By that, I mean, we need to attract and retain

persons who are committed to serving and working with others for the betterment of our community and our world. We need creative thinkers. We also need members willing to be involved in all our fundraisers and projects. Our club has lost two long-time dedicated members in this past month. We need to attract others with which to exchange ideas and to form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Whereas raising funds, at times, creates the sour grapes none of us like to think of, however, it is necessary for our club to be able to afford to support various projects and organizations. And that involves more than our members, such as inviting neighbors and family to join us in these activities. I would suggest the more we excitingly share our experiences through Rotary the more likely

Rotary will grow with members ready to serve the world. The better the grapes we nurture, the better the wine will be. I believe we also need to revisit some "absent" members with similar enthusiasm to help them return to Rotary. Growing numbers of

members is no more important that retaining current members. All members want to feel and believe they are working to serve others. Are there communities in our area that need assistance with purifying their water or sanitation that might encourage new or retain our members?

I encourage each of us to reach out to President Steve and President-elect Mike with ideas you may have for fund-raisers and service projects on which we can embark the remainder of this Rotary year and into the next. And as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

WATER & SANITATION MONTH

Rotary 

MARCH IS

\$24 is all it takes to provide a child with safe water

23 million people now have safe water because of Rotary

21 million people have access to sanitation and hygiene thanks to Rotary projects



Clean water and sanitation is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives.





**END
POLIO
NOW**

2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of February 28, 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	0	September 2022
Total	5	30	0	



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



American Red Cross

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

April 4, 2023

August 15, 2023

December 12, 2023

All dates allow double red donations.
Plan ahead and thank you in advance.

KEEP CALM

- ⇒ **TIME TO START PLANNING
CORN FESTIVAL 2023**
- ⇒ **JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**
- ⇒ **SEE YOU MARCH 14TH...
ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

Avon Food Pantry

Grocery Items Needed in March are:

Canned Fruit

Jam/Jelly

Cake Mix

Pancake Syrup

Pasta Sauce

Tea/Coffee

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

