



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

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## President's Message



Wow what a busy first month of my presidency!

We saw some firsts for our club as Julie Carney became Avon's first ever District Governor. She's been busy spreading the initiatives of International

President Gordon McNally around the district and is reminding us all about the importance of mental health, inclusion, creating hope in the world, and getting that No Fine Button if you're going to take someone's phone.

We also saw the first time club members have participated in Rochester's Pride Parade. Avon Rotarians marched alongside members from all over District 7120 in support for the LGBTQ+ community. Thank you to Wanda Martinez-Johncox from Rochester Southwest Rotary and our own Cat Jensen for organizing this incredible event.

It was a big month for our support of youth programs as well. We awarded three scholarships. Congratulations to our Linda Kime Memorial Scholarship winner, Jacob Weslowski and our two Avon Rotary Vocational Scholarship winners Mia Hubbard and Thomas Herberger. We also awarded our two remarkable exchange students Maria and Benni with Paul Harris recognitions and welcomed back Jacob Davis from his year in Austria. Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to Maria and Benni, but later this month we will be welcoming Ludwig from Norway to Avon.

Speaking of Paul Harris recognitions, congratulations to Heather Ayers, Jim Ryan, and Ed Kime on their Paul Harris plus pins.

We also had compelling programs. We welcomed Dick Neth to tell us about a community project to bring back a 1926 Ahrens Fox pumper fire truck back to Avon for our fire

district's 100th birthday. Kathy Shrestha returned to Avon this month and gave a presentation on snake bite prevention in Nepal. Finally, Julie Chapus joined us to tell us about her mission to help the victims of the heinous and pervasive crime that is human sex trafficking by training cosmetologist to see its signs and getting victims into programs for help and once they are out of those programs, training these women to become cosmetologist themselves.

As we move into August it's all hands on deck for the Corn Fest, our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are also looking forward to our Summer blood drive and our annual visit to GVRC.

August is also Rotary International's Membership and New Club Development month. This initiative focuses on attracting new members. I challenge every member to reach out to potential recruits, speak to someone about our impactful service projects, invite them to a meeting, or even better, invite them to help out at this year's Corn Fest. Also let's not forget about those members we haven't seen in some time. Reach out to them as well, ask them how they are doing, and see how we can bring them back into the fold. It's only through expanding our reach that we can amplify our humanitarian efforts around the world.

Let's continue to Create Hope in the World.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
President Mike Ford

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

#### Board of Directors

- Mike Ford, President
- Karen Vanderbilt, President Elect
- Rob Lupisella, Senior Director
- Katie DeGraff, Director
- Rodney George, Member at Large
- Cat Jensen, Member at Large
- Nick Lovullo, Member at Large
- Steve Csapo, Past President
- Jaime Lovullo, Secretary
- Hans Koomen, Treasurer





# Club Schedule

Tues. Aug 1	Regular Meeting 6:00
Mon. Aug 7	Board of Directors Meeting 6 pm at Avon Circlevew Conference Room
Tues. Aug 8	Regular Meeting 6:00 - Final Corn Festival Meeting
Sat. Aug 12	CORN FESTIVAL - ALL HANDS ON DECK!
Sun. Aug 13	Corn Festival Celebration Family Picnic at Rodney & Donna George's home 1:00 pm
Tues. Aug 15	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - NO REGULAR MEETING
Tues. Aug 15	GENESEE VALLEY ROTARY CAMP VISIT
Tues. Aug 22	Regular Meeting 6:00 - Program: Bridgette Martin, Bivona Child Advocacy
Tues. Aug 29	Regular Meeting 6:00



### Birthday

- ⇒ Jeff Herberger
- ⇒ Bob Mellen
- ⇒ Bill Shaw (H)

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Jake & Heather Ayers
- ⇒ Bob House
- ⇒ Chris & Char Masten
- ⇒ Bob Mellen
- ⇒ Shawn Rice
- ⇒ Tom & Laurie Vonglis
- ⇒ Paul Warren
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner
- ⇒ Kevin Van Allen

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Katie DeGraff 2017
- ⇒ Char Masten 2017

## AVON'S DG JULIE



**July 11:** we had the pleasure to “host” our very own and Avon’s first District Governor Julie Ostrander Carney on her official visit to the club to deliver her hopes for the year ahead.

During this visit, Governor Julie encouraged us to be the beacons of hope in our community and beyond. She reminded us of the incredible potential we possess as Rotarians to effect positive change and uplift the spirits of those in need. We were invigorated by her words and inspired to continue our relentless pursuit of hope, compassion, and service.

With the theme of "Create Hope in the World" at the forefront of our minds, we delved into critical topics such as International President Gordon McInally’s focus on mental health awareness and how we can affect positive change at a personal level by not just asking how someone is doing, but by asking them “How are you REALLY doing?”

She also inspired us to continue Past Intentional President Jennifer Jones message diversity, equity, and inclusion.

With these initiatives in our minds we can explore ways to bring hope to individuals facing mental health challenges and create inclusive spaces where hope thrives.

Thanks for your “visit” Julie, we look forward to the year ahead! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



## ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE



**July 11:** The Avon Rotary Club has been a longtime supporter of Rotary’s Youth Exchange Program. This incredible initiative has allowed us to host two remarkable young women, Maria from Brazil and Benni from Italy. Their presence has enriched our community and opened our hearts to diverse perspectives and vibrant traditions. We were truly fortunate to have had them with us! We enjoyed having them so much this year, that on Tuesday night, an anonymous donor decided they wanted to award these two with Paul Harris Fellows. Congrats ladies!

Moreover, we are overjoyed to welcome back our own outbound exchange student, Jacob, who spent a life-changing year in Austria. Jacob's experiences and newfound knowledge will undoubtedly contribute to our club's growth and global understanding. We can't wait to hear his stories from his year abroad. Welcome home, Jacob!



As we celebrate the bonds we've formed, we also recognize the bittersweet nature of the program. On Thursday, July 13 it was time to bid farewell to Benni, who has become an integral part of our Avon Rotary family. Her energy, warmth, and beautiful Italian spirit will be sorely missed, we wish her all the best on her journey ahead and hope our paths cross again in the future!

The Youth Exchange Program remains an essential pillar of Avon Rotary Club's mission to foster international goodwill and promote cultural understanding among young individuals. We are committed to continuing this incredible journey and creating opportunities for young people to embrace diversity, broaden horizons, and make lifelong connections. If you are or know an Avon high school student interested in being part of this amazing program, or if you'd be interested in hosting a future student, please contact us and we can get you started on a journey of a lifetime. *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*

## ROCHESTER PRIDE PARADE



**July 15:** We are thrilled to announce that Rotary District 7120, representing several vibrant Rotary clubs, including Avon Rotary, took part in the Rochester Pride Parade for the first time ever! This monumental event marked a powerful moment of inclusivity and support for the LGBTQ+ community, showcasing Rotary's commitment to diversity and equality.

The Avon Rotarians were honored to march alongside our fellow Rotarians from Rotary Club of Rochester Southwest, Roc City Rotary, Canandaigua Rotary, Bloomfield Rotary Club #4761, Rochester Rotary, NY, as well as members from Rotex and Intetact. Together, we formed a colorful and spirited contingent that radiated unity and acceptance throughout the parade route.

This historic occasion was a testament to Rotary's core values of service above self, fostering goodwill, and advancing understanding among diverse communities. As a global organization, Rotary strives to create an inclusive environment that embraces people of all backgrounds and identities. Participating in the Rochester Pride Parade allowed us to tangibly demonstrate our unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Avon Rotary Club would like to express our deepest gratitude to Wanda Martinez-Johncox and Cat Jensen for getting us involved in this platform for celebration, acceptance, and advocacy. We are honored to have been part of this remarkable event and look forward to strengthening our ties with the LGBTQ+ community in the future. *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



## MORE YOUTH EXCITEMENT



**July 18:** It was another big week for Avon Rotary's youth programs!

First, We are immensely proud to announce that this year, the Linda Kime Memorial Scholarship was awarded to the talented and deserving Jacob Weslowski! His dedication, humility, and commitment to his studies have truly shone through, and we believe he has a bright future ahead. Jacob is attending Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio in the fall and will be part of their Air Force ROTC program. Congratulations, Jacob! Your achievements inspire us all!

Next, Jacob Davis shared some of his unforgettable experiences in Austria through the Rotary Youth Exchange program! Jacob's determination and enthusiasm for learning the German language earned him much admiration in his Rotary District because of the speed at which he learned the language. It's incredible to witness how quickly he mastered the language, even with no formal practice beforehand. Your accomplishments are a testament to the power of dedication and cultural exchange!

Finally, as we celebrated Jacob's return, we also had to bid a fond farewell to our wonderful exchange student, Maria, from Brazil on July 17. Maria's connection to Avon runs deep, as her mother and aunt were former exchange students here too! The friendships and connections made through the Rotary Youth Exchange program transcend borders and create lifelong bonds. Maria, you have left an indelible mark on our hearts, and we know that great things await you in your future endeavors!

Avon Rotary Club remains committed to supporting the dreams and aspirations of our youth. These heartwarming stories of growth, learning, and friendship inspire us to continue making a positive impact in the lives of young people in our community and beyond. Together, we can achieve incredible things! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



## REFLECTING ON INTERACT



Throughout the year, the Interact Club has made a lasting impact on our community. The Interact Club recently hosted their second annual Bravesman Talent show, which raised over \$500 to help send two girls in Tanzania to school. I personally believe volunteering is one of the most impactful ways a person can truly make a positive impact on society. I have been a member of multiple volunteer clubs for several years, and Interact stands out above them all. Interact has helped me grow as a person through engagement with the community. I've developed life skills such as leadership, communication, and teamwork from stepping outside of my comfort zone, with opportunities given to me through Interact. Interact has also provided me with a platform to create lifelong connections and friends. When you join Interact, you join a community of individuals that share a passion for making a difference in the world with you. The people you meet and the opportunities you are given broaden your horizons and encourage you to think with a more open mind. In conclusion, my time in Interact has made a profound impact on my life. From personal growth, new friendships, and making a true meaningful impact on our community, the Interact club has provided me

with invaluable experiences and skills that I will continue to impact my future interaction with the community I live in.

Jacob Weslowski, Avon High School Senior 22-23, Interact Secretary

Linda Kime Memorial Scholarship Recipient 2023

## MORE RED WINGS FUN



**July 19:** The fun continues as Avon Rotary volunteers spend time at the Red Wings Stadium selling anything from beer, pretzels, pizza or ice cream. The percentage of profit we make helps our club's bottom line and enables us to do even more to help others in need. If you haven't tried it, ask a fellow Rotarian who has and how easy and fun it is. *Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis*



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM



**June 25:** We were joined by Julie Chapus from Miss Julie's School of Beauty. Julie is a licensed social worker and cosmetologist and an expert in human sex trafficking.

Human trafficking is a heinous and pervasive crime that involves the exploitation of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for various purposes, such as forced labor, sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude. And it happens everywhere, it's in our own backyards not just in big cities.

Hollywood and popular culture often portray trafficking as kidnapping, but kidnappings only make up a small percentage of trafficking cases. In most trafficking cases the victim knows their trafficker. Traffickers deceive and manipulate victims by using false promises, misrepresentation, or fraudulent means to lure them into exploitative situations. Once they are trapped in this situation, traffickers use psychological or emotional manipulation to control victims and keep them trapped in exploitative situations.

The cycle of human trafficking can be difficult to break for victims due to the traumatic experiences they endure, the criminal charges they get due to their victimization, and the fear of retaliation from traffickers. Many victims suffer from physical and psychological trauma, and they often find themselves isolated and without access to help or support.

This is where Julie came up with a two-fold plan to help. Miss Julie's School of Beauty is the first of its kind in the nation. Julie trains cosmetologists to spot the signs of trafficking (branding tattoos behind the ear/hairline, bruising, ripped out hair, etc). She then gets these women into programs where they can receive help.

The second part of her plan is training the victims to become cosmetologists themselves. Human trafficking victims often have problems finding employment because of their psychological trauma, crimes they were charged with during their servitude, and lack of financial stability to learn job skills. Julie provides a service where victims can not only learn a useful skill, but they can turn it into gainful employment.

Thank you Julie for your mission to help survivors of human trafficking and the skills you provide them with for a beautiful future.

If you want to learn more on how you can help Julie expand her mission, please visit: <https://www.missjuliesschoolofbeauty.org/>

## VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED



Please join us in congratulating our 2023 Avon Rotary Vocational Scholarship winners, Mia Hubbard and Thomas Herberger.

Vocational fields form the backbone of our communities, contributing to the smooth functioning of our daily lives and driving economic growth.

Vocational education is increasingly vital in our ever-changing world. While traditional academics have their place, vocational training provides essential skills and specialized knowledge in fields like carpentry, healthcare, information technology, agriculture, cosmetology, culinary arts, and so much more. This hands-on approach ensures graduates are job-ready, addresses skill shortages, and fosters innovation. Embracing vocational education leads to a resilient, prosperous, and inclusive society where individuals can pursue fulfilling careers based on their pas-

sions and strengths, meeting the demands of the evolving job market with confidence.

Mia plans to use her scholarship towards a career in cosmetology. She will be participating in the Scott Miller Protégé Apprentices Program starting in the fall.

Thomas will be attending SUNY Cobleskill in the fall where he will study Diesel Mechanics and be part of their John Deere Technologies program.

Congrats Mia and Thomas! *Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

## Rambling On Rotary—August



By: Bruce Amey

So, per DG Julie, “How are you .... REALLY?” August is Rotary’s Membership and New Club Development Month.

The July Rotary Magazine had a great article about new RI President Gordon McNally and one of his Presidential Initiatives

prioritizing mental health; advocating for removal of the stigma of talking about mental health, helping people to find better quality care, and also supporting them through their journey to recovery. AS I wrote in last month’s Rambling, I believe we must always be reaching out for and retaining new members who might be different than we are. DEI: diversity, equity, inclusion. Our community does not have a large diverse population of minorities, unless we consider some of the migrant workers on our local farms. Who are other members of diverse backgrounds who we should be reaching out to?

At our July 18 meeting I was very impressed to hear of our club and district members who participated in the Rochester Pride Parade and some spectators’ reactions to seeing Rotarians in the parade. As has been said, we are no longer a club of old white men (although I am an old white man). Inviting and engaging those who are different from us will allow us to be of greater service to others but only if our invitation is sincere and we are open and willing to listen to them and their ideas. Being retired, I have limited opportunities to meet and engage with others but we must ALL reach out to others, especially those who may be different from others of us.

RI President McNally challenged each of us by reminding us that “building peace is the essence of Rotary.” To build peace, we need to engage beyond ourselves and we must listen to each other. He also challenged us with,

“Let us create belonging and imagine the future of Rotary afresh. Let us work together joyously and create hope in the world.” As the Avon Rotary club, do we create belonging? I believe we have fun and work hard together but do others feel like they “belong” when they visit us; do they want to join us, do they want to serve others with us? As President McNally said, “We’re here to DO Rotary, not talk Rotary.” Let us DO Rotary TOGETHER. And while doing that, remember to listen, especially when you ask others, “How are you doing ... REALLY!” And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



## FOUNDATION MOMENT



**July 25:** Avon Rotary was proud to present three Paul Harris Fellow plus pins to members for their generous contributions to the Rotary Foundation.



Heather Ayers received her Paul Harris +1, Ed Kime received his Paul Harris +3, and Jim Ryan received his Paul Harris +2.



Thank you all for your service to our community and continued support to the Rotary Foundation.

*Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis*



## ARE YOU A STAR?

As most of you know Avon will be exactly in the middle of a total eclipse next April and that is a siren call to people all over the country. Believe it or not, our little town probably will be overrun with hordes of eclipse fans, from casual observers to professionals of many types. So what can Rotary do to help?

That's where you come in. I have been charged with forming a team to explore the possibilities. The eclipse is only a one-day event but there are plans afoot countywide that cover the week leading up to totality and more.

Is Avon prepared for an influx of a half million people to the area? Is the town even aware of the magnitude of what's coming. Do they need help? Are merchants, the motel industry, police, fire departments and any other related groups prepared? What are other civic organizations, such as the Lions, planning? Can we work with them? How much does Rotary want to do? On what budget? Maybe we can make a bit of money, but how?

I'm putting together a team to formulate a plan of operation to answer these questions and more. If you want to be a part of this rare event we should get started ASAP, which means getting under way shortly after corn fest. Tell me if you are interested in joining this core group contact me. It's a big task but I think it can be a fun job.

What are you waiting for?


-Bob Mellen





**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

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

<u>Country</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	4	2	5	May 2023
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>6</b>	



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

### VOLUNTEER

### OPPORTUNITIES...

- ◆ Sign up to volunteer at a Red Wings game.
- ◆ Sign up to volunteer for our annual Corn Festival.
- ◆ Assist at a weekly meeting as a greeter or 50/50 sales.
- ◆ Look for community service projects and join a team to help.

## SAVE THE DATE

# Saturday, December 16

## A Very Merry

## Avon Rotary Holiday

## Celebration

*More Details to Follow... stay tuned*

## Avon Food Pantry

### Grocery Items Needed in August are:

Cereal, Ketchup, Relish, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Cake Mix, Frosting, Tea, Coffee, Paper Towels, Canned Fruits, Jello, Pudding

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**

