



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

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President's Message



I want to kick off this newsletter by extending my heartfelt congratulations to Nick Lovullo and Tom Honan for steering us through another immensely successful online auction. Your dedication and leadership truly made it a remarkable event!

Our recent Interact Club takeover meeting was a testament to the bright future of service in our community. President Ella showcased remarkable leadership, and I commend the enthusiastic participation of our youth—their involvement truly lights the path ahead.

Avon Rotarians had the pleasure of attending the Eastern Cities Dinner, an event that fostered wonderful fellowship among Rotarians from across our District. Notably, Rotary President-elect Stephanie Urchick shared invaluable insights on membership, the Rotary Action Plan, and our pursuit of global peace. And who can forget the games, personally I was taken back to my preteen years of hitting the arcade with a pocket full of quarters trying to put up high scores on Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Street Fighter.

The Hillside Special Santa program, led by Diana Traugot and “Rotary adjacent spouse” Kelley Tonra, infused us with the holiday spirit. There's still an opportunity to contribute to this project by bringing unwrapped gifts to our upcoming December 12th meeting.

The update on the Nicaragua school build from Rob Lupisella and Mr. Jake revealed the incredible impact of this ongoing project. Their expansion to aid children with special needs reflects the meaningful endeavors we're honored to support.

As Foundation Month concluded, PDG Dave Hannan delivered an enlightening presentation. Congratulations to Marcia Cameron, Jake Ayers, and Julie Carney on receiving their Paul Harris plus pins! I also encourage each Avon Rotarian to contribute at least \$25 to the Foundation—we aim to proudly display the Every Rotarian, Every Year banner next year.

In closing, I wish each member of our club a joyous holiday season. May it overflow with cherished moments among family and friends, delicious food, and an abundance of laughter and joy.

Warm regards, President Mike

**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

**“Kindness is like snow.
It beautifies everything it covers.”**

Kahlil Gibran

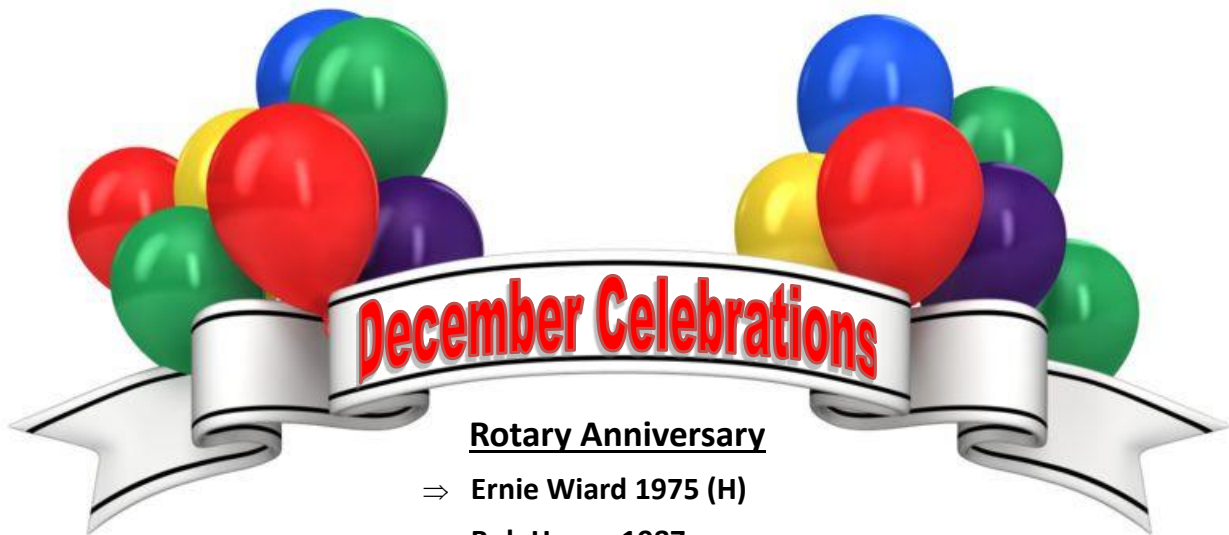




DECEMBER

Club Schedule

Mon. Dec. 4	Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 @ Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Dec. 5	NO REGULAR MEETING, Red Cross Blood Drive at Wesleyan Church 12:30—5:30
Tues. Dec. 12	Regular Meeting, Program: GVRC with Brian Bartalo
Sat. Dec. 16	AVON ROTARY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 6:00 @ Kindred Ground
Tues. Dec. 19	Regular Meeting
Tues. Dec. 26	NO MEETING, Happy Holidays



Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Ernie Wiard 1975 (H)
- ⇒ Bob House 1987
- ⇒ David Kilgore 1987
- ⇒ Marcia Cameron 2005
- ⇒ Rodney Geroge 2010
- ⇒ Jim Varner 2014
- ⇒ Jean Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Greg Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Karen Vanderbilt 2018
- ⇒ Jaime Lovullo 2021
- ⇒ Will McLaughlin 2021
- ⇒ Cat Jensen 2021

Birthday

- ⇒ Jake Ayers
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel
- ⇒ Bob French
- ⇒ Tom Honan
- ⇒ Chris Masten
- ⇒ Ryan Pacatte
- ⇒ Shawn Rice
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Marcea Tetamore
- ⇒ Bill Wall
- ⇒ Joe Yantachka

AVON INTERACT CLUB



November 7: Our meeting was taken over by the Avon Interact Club, and what an extraordinary evening it was!

For those of you who might not know, the Avon Interact Club is a dynamic group of young leaders from Avon High School who are sponsored by Avon Rotary to make a positive impact in our community. It's all about fostering leadership, service, and

friendship – and they're doing an incredible job!

A massive shoutout to Interact President Ella for her fantastic leadership in running our meeting. Ella, you truly rocked it! Her enthusiasm and charisma shone through, making it a night to remember.

Ella also shared her inspiring experiences at RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards), an event that empowers young leaders to make a difference. She walked us through her journey and the valuable lessons learned.

But that's not all! Ella also led us in a fun and engaging team-building exercise that had us all working together like a well-oiled machine.

The future of our community is undeniably bright, with a group of youth like the Avon Interact Club who are wholeheartedly committed to serving not only our local community but the world at large. Their passion for making a difference is contagious, and we're honored to support them on this incredible journey.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via Social Media



EASTERN CITIES DINNER



November 14: Several Avon Rotary Club members had an incredible time at the 97th Eastern Cities Dinner hosted by the Rochester Rotary, NY at the Strong Museum of Play!

Our members enjoyed an evening filled with fantastic food, wonderful fellowship, and engaging discussions with Rotarians from across District 7120.

Next we attended a riveting Rotary discussion panel moderated by Rochester Rotarian, Don Alhart. We were honored to hear from two remarkable panelists, Rotary International President-Elect Stephanie Urchick, soon to be the first American woman in this prestigious role, and Drew Kessler, the youngest person ever to serve on the Rotary International Board of Directors. Their insights into Rotary's vision for promoting peace, international understanding, our action plan, membership growth, and the future of Rotary were truly inspiring.

And what's more, our members had a blast exploring the Strong Video Game Hall of Fame, indulging in desserts, and playing some of the most influential video games of all time!

Thank you to the Rochester Rotary Club for hosting tonight's event. It was an evening filled with camaraderie, learning, and fun – a true testament to the spirit of Rotary! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*

HILLSIDE SPECIAL SANTA PROGRAM



November 21: We had the privilege of hosting Diana Traugot and Kelley Tonra from Hillside Rochester, who shared the heartwarming and crucial services their organization provides for kids throughout Western and Central NY. They also gave us some insight into their yearly Special Santa program which provides thousands of gifts for children in need during the holidays. Their dedication to bringing joy to children during the holidays is truly inspiring.

Last year, Special Santa provided a whopping 7,770 gifts for children of all ages across the Rochester region and surrounding areas. From toddlers to teens, these gifts made the season brighter for countless families.

Several Avon Rotarians made generous gift donations, embodying the spirit of giving within our club. Additionally, our club contributed by donating two Visa gift cards to Hillside. This allows them to purchase even more gifts for those in need, ensuring a broader reach of joy and happiness this holiday season.

If you'd like to help make this year just as special, there will be a collection box at the meeting on December 12 or we'll arrange for a Rotarian to pick up your unwrapped gift donation. Your support matters. Together, let's ensure every child in need experiences the magic of the holidays.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media

A ROTARY MOMENT

I'm glad PDG Dave was able to come and share with our Club a good, and well-rounded overview of the Rotary Foundation. He covered a lot of information and gave us a historical look at our Clubs participation with our donations to the Foundation. In many ways, he truly was preaching to the choir, in fact while he and I chatted over dinner, I had 3 separate \$100 dollar checks handed to me. What I hope was that he may have reached one or more of the very few of our members who have chosen for whatever reason to not participate in making contributions to the Foundation. I know that it took me a few years in the Club before I had any real meaningful relationship with the Foundation. I made a donation or two here and there, but I never really had a passion for what the Foundation can do until I had my "Rotary Moment". My Rotary Moment happened by luck while I was in Nicaragua with Linking Hands for Learning. The Victor-Farmington Club had just completed a Global Grant Project through the Foundation to install a water system in a small community near where we were building a school, and they were planning a small "Grand-Opening" or Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the project and no one from the Victor-Farmington Club was able to be there. Avon Rotary had made a donation toward the project, and someone suggested that I should go see (and help evaluate) the results, and represent our District as a Rotary Member.



Well, that was my Rotary Moment. It was when I gained my full appreciation for the power of Rotary to make very real and very positive change in peoples' lives. I was able to experience first-hand, what my \$10 per month donation help to achieve. Children in school all day, rather than making 5km trips to help haul water. A single mom able to stay home with her toddler, an elderly couple able to stay in their home near their grandchildren, rather than moving to be closer to water. These were real people, with real improvements to their lives. Of course it wasn't my \$10 specifically that made it possible, but the collective power of Rotary, and leveraging our donations with the Rotary Foundation that made this life-altering project possible.

What will be your Rotary moment?

Submitted by: Kirk Vanderbilt



Thank you to everyone who supported the Avon Rotary online auction! Your generous donations, bids, and shares helped us raise over \$8,800. Your support enables us to make a positive impact on both local and global charitable causes. We're grateful for your commitment to helping us make a difference!

FOUNDATION NIGHT NOVEMBER 28



November 28:
District Foundation Chair (and PDG) David Hannan joined our meeting and provided a thorough overview of the Rotary Foundation including the generous history of giving by our club and members.



Our District Leaders, DG Julie Carney & DFC David Hannan presented Past President Steve Csapo a certificate for the club's generous giving during the 2022-23 Rotary year to the Polio Plus Fund.



Club Foundation Chairman, Kirk Vanderbilt presented Paul Harris Plus Pins to Julie Carney, Jake Ayers, and Marcea Cameron. Your continued generosity to the Foundation is greatly appreciated!



Rotarian Rob Lupisella thanked the club for our continuous support of Linking Hands for Learning for ongoing school builds and updated us about their next school. He also told us about a project which was partially funded through a District Grant supplied by Rochester Rotary. Rob and Jeanine's vision and dedication are inspiring Rotarians all over the District.



Rambling On Rotary—December



By: Bruce Amey

As we leave November, the family celebration of Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Family, friends and good food. Family, friends, good food, and service are what I love about Rotary, as well.

As we enter December, my thoughts shift to again celebrating with family and friends. One of the many aspects of Rotary that I enjoy and admire is the fact that all persons are welcome, and no religion is excluded. December has many celebrations for various faiths. The one many of us think of in December for Christians is Christmas, celebrated on December 25. Judaism celebrates Hanukkah this year from December 7 through December 15, Hanukkah is a lesser Jewish festival, lasting eight days from the 25th day of Kislev (in December) and commemorating the rededication of the Temple in 165 BC by the Maccabees after its desecration by the Syrians. It is marked by the successive kindling of eight lights; on December 22, Judaism also celebrates Asara B'Tevet which is observed as a day of fasting, mourning and repentance.

Hinduism has two holidays in December, this year both occur on December 22. They are Dhanu Sankranti and Geeta Jayanti which refers to the transmigration of the sun from one zodiac to

another in Indian astronomy and a Hindu holiday that's celebrated when the sun heads over to the House of Sagittarius, respectively. Wicca (Paganism) celebrates the Yule Winter Solstice beginning on December 21; Yule is a festival that coincides with the Winter Solstice, the shortest day and longest night of the year in the northern hemisphere; it is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. Kwanzaa is also celebrated this year for 7 days beginning on December 26. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday but rather a celebration honoring African culture and tradition which affirms African family and social values. As we celebrate each of these holidays during the month, it is one reason why some people refrain from saying Merry Christmas but rather say Happy Holidays.

December is Rotary Disease Prevention and Treatment month. As you consider some possible year-end charitable giving, in addition to the Rotary Foundation there are many opportunities to give which support disease prevention and treatment, such as American Cancer Society, polio, Alzheimer's, etc. Also, supporting the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Veterans Outreach Center all provide treatment for various persons within our communities.

It is December; we have our club holiday gathering scheduled for December 16. Let's try to come together to celebrate each other and all that we, as a club, have accomplished in 2023. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

Interact News

Hello Rotarians!

The Avon Interact club has started its journey with meetings spanning over the past three months that were filled with presentations, service, and discussion. We were graciously visited by Sarah Carney during our October meeting where she described her experiences as an exchange student through thoughtful presentations. In our most recent meeting, our club created packages for the Holiday Spectacular filled with goodies for kids who write



letters to Santa at our booth. Our future brings more service where we will be bell ringing at Tops Friendly Market in order to raise money for the Salvation Army. We hope to continue to raise money, deliberate, and provide service to our community. Make sure to visit our "Letters to Santa" booth at the Holiday Spectacular on December 2nd. Have a happy holiday and we hope to see you soon.

Lily Ruter, Secretary





American
Red Cross

GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something

GIVE BLOOD

Avon Rotary Blood Drive **Held at the Avon Wesleyan Church**

12/5/23

12:30pm – 5:30pm

Avon Wesleyan Church

300 Genesee St, Avon, NY 14414

Come give for a *\$10 Amazon.com Gift Card* by email. Plus, thanks to Prime Video & their new film *CANDY CANE LANE*, you'll get a chance to win a *\$1K Amazon.com Gift Card & 65-inch Amazon Fire TV!* There will be 12 winners!

Terms: rcblood.org/Amazon.

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
and search keyword: **AvonRotary**

Or call **1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

You Are Invited

To A Very Merry Avon Rotary Holiday Celebration

Saturday, December 16

Kindred Ground

THE FARMHOUSE

2393 Pole Bride Rd. Avon

- *Party begins at 6:00*
- *Holiday attire is suggested*
- *Please bring an appetizer to share*
- *Holiday games may occur*
- *For questions contact Laurie Vonglis*
- *Email your RSVP or sign up at a meeting by
December 10*

Booze for Bricks

A Linking Hands for Learning Fundraiser



Enter to win a utility cart filled with at **LEAST 30** bottles of high end liquor and wine perfect for the holiday season!

MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD TO CLAIM THE PRIZE

All proceeds raised will be used towards our 2024 school build in the community of El Borbollón, Nicaragua. Currently, the community uses a 25 person classroom to accommodate 58 first, second, and third grade students. Linking Hands for Learning will be building an additional classroom.



Purchase tickets one of three ways:

VENMO



Pay with app @LinkingHandsForLearning. Please include your name and contact information in the comment box.

EVENTBRITE

To pay with a **credit card**, use the attached link and follow the step by step instructions.

<https://lhfl.eventbrite.com/>

PAYPAL



Pay with app @LinkingHands. Please include your name and contact information in the comment box.

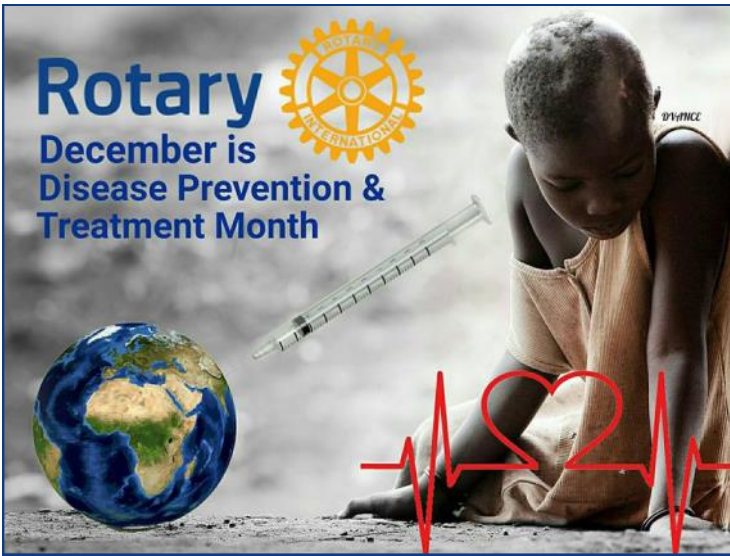
Winner will be drawn and contacted 12/13/23!



TICKET PRICES

- 2 for \$25
- 3 for \$35
- 10 for \$100





**RESTORE HOPE
TRANSFORM LIVES**

There is a link on Facebook to sign up for Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Tops. OR contact Mike Ford. Please feel free to share this with your friends, family, work colleagues, places of worship, service organizations, etc. All these funds stay right here in Avon to help your neighbors in need. Thanks and I hope to see you ringing!



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of November 30, 2023

<u>Country</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	4	2	6	Sept 2023
Malawi	1	0	0	Nov 2021
Mozambique	0	8	0	November 2022
Pakistan	1	20	5	Oct 2023
Total	5	30	11	



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



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...

- ◆ Assist at a weekly meeting as a greeter or 50/50 sales.
- ◆ Look for community service projects and join a team to help.
- ◆ Sign up to work at the Rotary booth at the Holiday Spectacular

Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
245-2637



Avon Food Pantry

- ⇒ Grocery items needed in December will be sent to us soon.
- ⇒ Watch for an email from David Kilgore.
- ⇒ Collection will be December 19th.
- ⇒ Place in the bin at our meeting.

