



143rd Edition



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

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## President's Message



As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am filled with a sense of optimism and determination. The dawn of a new year brings with it the promise of new beginnings, fresh opportunities,

and the chance to make a profound impact on our world.

This year, the Rotary theme, "Create Hope in the World," resonates deeply with the essence of new beginnings. It calls upon us to be architects of hope, builders of a future where kindness, compassion, and service prevail. As we reflect on this theme, let us consider how our actions, both individually and collectively, can sow the seeds of hope in our communities and beyond.

The past year has presented its share of challenges, but it has also showcased the resilience and generosity within our Rotary family. In the face of adversity, we have come together, offering support, lending a helping hand, and embodying the true spirit of service above self.

As we step into this new chapter, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the bonds strengthened, and the hope ignited. Let us continue to innovate, collaborate, and initiate projects that uplift those in need, that empower the marginalized, and that create positive change.

Each one of us holds the power to make a difference, to be a beacon of hope in a world that sometimes feels uncertain. Whether it's through our local initiatives or global projects, every act of kindness, every gesture of support, contributes to the tapestry of hope we weave for a brighter future.

Let us harness the energy of this new year, channel it into our endeavors, and strive to create hope in every action we take. Together, as Rotarians, let us embrace the dawn of this new year as an opportunity to renew our commitment to service and to create a world where hope thrives.

Yours in service,  
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



**Rotary**

**JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICES MONTH**

*"TEAMWORK IS THE ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON VISION. THE ABILITY TO DIRECT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARD ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES. IT IS THE FUEL THAT ALLOWS COMMON PEOPLE TO ATTAIN UNCOMMON RESULTS."*

- ANDREW CARNEGIE



## Club Schedule

Tues. Jan. 2	Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 @ Avon Circleview Conference Room (NO REGULAR MTG)
Tues. Jan. 9	Regular Mtg. w/ Program: Howie Sexton
Tues. Jan. 16	Regular Mtg. w/ Program: Vocal Competition w/ Guest Judges
Tues. Jan. 23	Regular Mtg. w/ Program: Rich D'Asis, Rochester Rotary
Tues. Jan. 30	Regular Mtg. w/ Program: Ray Defendorf, Corning Rotary

*For more meeting details, go to [avonrotary.org](http://avonrotary.org)*



### Birthday

- ⇒ Greg Antkowiak
- ⇒ Julie Carney
- ⇒ Barbara Herman
- ⇒ Bob House
- ⇒ Jaime Lovullo

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Kirk Vanderbilt 2003
- ⇒ Jim Ryan 2010
- ⇒ Chris Masten 2011
- ⇒ Mike Ford 2017

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Helen Zamboni

happy new year

# GENESEE VALLEY ROTARY CAMP



**December 12:** We delved into the incredible world of the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp! GVRC is a week long camp for children with differing abilities supported by Rotary clubs in the southern part of the Genesee Valley.

We were joined by GVRC Board President Chris Wood from Cal-Mum Rotary, who shed light on how our collective support nurtures GVRC's mission. Financial aid and two dedicated club members sitting on the board, like Ernie Wiard (50+ years!) and Dave Henehan who recently stepped down after 48 years of service, and newest board member and youngest Avon Rotarian, Collin Hayes, who stepped up to the challenge, reflects our enduring commitment to the camp.

We were also joined by GVRC Camp Director Brian Bartolo, he gave us insights into the camp's operations during the eventful camp week. Brian shared the meticulous selection and training process for employees, emphasizing how they meet the campers' diverse needs—physically, medically, and emotionally in a rustic camp environment nestled into the woods of Pike, NY.



After the presentation, Avon Rotary Foundation Chair Kirk Vanderbilt, on behalf our club awarded Ernie and Dave (in absentia) Paul Harris Fellows Plus awards. These awards not only recognize and thank these great members for the years of service to the camp, but they also represent a \$1000 donation to the Rotary Foundation (the charitable wing of Rotary International).

Thank you to Chris Wood and Brian Bartolo for sharing their invaluable insights and dedication to the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp. Your passion and commitment inspire us all to continue supporting such a noble cause.

And heartfelt congratulations and immense gratitude to Ernie Wiard and Dave Henehan for their remarkable service and dedication to GVRC. Your unwavering commitment has truly made a profound difference in the lives of so many.

*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



**GVRC VOLUNTEERS**



The 2nd week of December, several Avon Rotarians rang the bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign at Tops Supermarket. Thanks to the dedication of our members, we raised nearly \$1800, all staying right here in Avon to support our community in need. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make a difference during the holiday season!



**Rotary** 

### New Year Rotary Resolutions

1. Have Fun!
2. Grow My Club Membership
3. Support The Rotary Foundation
4. Introduce a Friend to Rotary
5. Promote Rotary More!
6. Tell More People About the Good Work We Do!
7. Engage More With Rotary Alumni, eg Rotaract + Interact
8. Eradicate Polio!!
9. Connect More with Local and Global Communities
10. INSPIRE OTHERS!





# THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

## The Power of Attendance: Nurturing Community and Personal Growth

In the vibrant tapestry of our Rotary Club, each thread contributes to the strength and richness of our community. At the heart of this synergy lies a fundamental cornerstone: attendance at our meetings. It's not just about being present; it's about embracing the essence of fellowship, learning, and shared purpose.

## Supporting Our Local Club

Regular attendance isn't merely a formality; it's a demonstration of commitment to our club's vision and mission. Your presence at meetings symbolizes solidarity, showing that you stand alongside your fellow members in supporting and uplifting our local community. Through active participation, you reinforce the very foundation upon which our club stands: unity, service, and dedication to making a positive difference.

## Unlocking the Full Benefits of Membership

Imagine our meetings as vibrant hubs of opportunity, where ideas spark, collaborations form, and knowledge blooms. Attending these gatherings is not just a ritual; it's a pathway to personal and professional enrichment. Every session is an opportunity to glean insights, share experiences, and broaden horizons.

## Fellowship and Networking

In the warm embrace of our meetings, fellowship blossoms. Engaging with fellow members creates a sense of belonging, strengthens friendships, and cultivates a supportive network. Through these connections, we foster a community that extends beyond our gatherings, resonating throughout our lives and endeavors.

## Continuous Learning and Growth

Each meeting is a trove of knowledge waiting to be explored. The discussions, presentations, and exchanges hold the potential to expand our perspectives, deepen our understanding, and nurture personal growth. By consistently attending, you're investing in your *own development, gaining insights that can elevate both your professional and personal spheres.*

## Conclusion

In essence, the importance of attendance at our meetings transcends mere presence; it embodies our collective commitment to a shared vision and the individual quest for growth. Your active participation is the lifeblood of our club, igniting the flames of camaraderie and enlightenment.

Let us continue to come together, to share, to learn, and to contribute. By doing so, we not only fortify our Avon Rotary Club but also embark on a journey of self-improvement and community betterment.

Submitted by: Mike Ford



## Rambling On Rotary—January



By: Bruce Amey

The November Issue of the Rotary Magazine had some great articles on helping others with health issues: “Hope in Grief” Rotary members determined to stop suicides, “Against All Odds” writer Greg O’Brien himself struggling with Alzheimer’s, “Be an Ally” handbook with suggestions how we can support the mental health and well-being for others identifying things to strive to do and things to avoid doing. All these things create hope in the world by actively serving and engaging others. We “Create Hope in the World: When we nurture peace, opportunities, and one another, we help heal the world and create lasting change.” Thanks to President Mike and his wife “prospective member” Richelle for coordinating Avon’s Salvation Army drive again this year; this organization does much to create hope in the world and our community.

Speaking of “engaging others”, at our Club Assembly meeting on December 19, there were comments made about missing some members who have not been attending club meetings or activities; Rotary International no longer has an attendance requirement, however, all members should try their best to attend meetings as often as possible, even if it is just one meeting per month. Our club is at its best when we are serving together and

being together getting to know each other better. I am very thankful for our club and its members and that has become more evident to me over the past 16 months, since my heart surgery procedure and the progression of Diane’s Alzheimer’s disease during that time. As I have shared with many club members, along with mine and Diane’s doctors, for me attending meetings is my therapy. Being with you even one night a week is what I need for me to keep well to care for Diane. I am very appreciative for the programs that Cat has been arranging for our meetings showing us how we are and can serve others. I love it when Josh even brings his daughters to meetings so he has time with them, and they can see this aspect of their dad’s life. As a New Year’s resolution, I am hopeful to see some members that I have missed seeing at some future meetings and I know I need to resolve to contact some of them and invite them to attend. Last year we lost two families of members in January and February and I regret not having reached out to them more before they were no longer with us. We learn more when we make the opportunities to engage together.

January is Rotary’s Vocational Service Month. I know that I do not understand nor know what every club member’s job is and what it entails. Conversations at meetings allow for more opportunities to get to know each other better. Let us resolve in this new year to create hope in the world by creating hope in our community and our club. Let us strive to engage with each other. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

### Welcome 2024-2025 Board of Directors

President – Karen Vanderbilt

Secretary – Jaime Lovullo

Treasurer – Hans Koomen

President Elect – Rob Lupisella

Senior Director – Katie DeGraff

Director – Tom Honan

Members at Large - Cat Jensen, Collin Hayes

Past President – Mike Ford

# Rotary Holiday Party

**December 16:** Many thanks to the Board of Directors, Marcea Tetamore, Katie DeGraff, Joe Yantachka (Partyman Catering), Tom Vonglis and those that helped with set up/clean up for our holiday party. Our event was held at the lovely Kindred Ground Farmhouse. The food and games were great, but especially our fellowship to celebrate the season and our Rotary family. Enjoy the highlights! *Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis*



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**HELP WANTED**

**ARE YOU interested in helping the club raise funds?**

**ARE YOU ready to become a leader?**

**WE HAVE a position for you...**

- ⇒ **Corn Fest Chair**
- ⇒ **Corn Fest Guide Book Chair**
- ⇒ **Red Wings Games Co-Chair**

**Take your pick!**

**CONTACT Mike Ford if you are interested**

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**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of December 31, 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	6	Oct 2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>	



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

That is all I would ask everybody to do, is do a random act of kindness with no expectation of return.

### 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.
- ◆ Join a club committee
- ◆ Organize an in-meeting service project
- ◆ Plan a meeting program

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

Please contact the club  
Sunshine Liaison

**Barbara Herman**  
**226-6735**



### Avon Food Pantry

- ⇒ Grocery items needed in January will be sent to us soon.
- ⇒ Watch for an email from David Kilgore.
- ⇒ Collection will be January 16th.
- ⇒ Place in the bin at our meeting.

