



148th Edition



President's Message



As I sit down to write my final newsletter article as your president, I must admit that for the first time this year, I've encountered a significant case of writer's block. It's not for lack of things to say—quite the opposite, in fact. Reflecting on the past year, there's so much to celebrate and so many achievements to be proud of that I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude and admiration for each and every one of you.

From the outset, my goal was to embrace and live out the Rotary theme of "Create Hope in the World." I am overjoyed to say that you, the members of the Avon Rotary Club, have not only met this challenge but have far exceeded it. Together, we have initiated projects, fostered community spirit, and extended our hands to those in need, truly embodying the essence of Rotary's mission.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your unwavering dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work. Whether it was through local service projects, fundraising events, or international initiatives, your efforts have made a tangible difference. Each act of kindness and each moment of service has contributed to creating a ripple effect of hope and positivity in our community and beyond.

Whether it was bringing a canned good to give to the food pantry, donating to the Foundation, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, marching in the Pride parade, traveling thousands of miles to build a school in Nicaragua, and the many other things we accomplished this year, these acts both big and small are the countless ways you have brought hope to others.

As my term comes to a close, I am filled with immense pride for what we have accomplished together. But this is not an endpoint—rather, it is a stepping stone towards an even brighter future. I encourage each of you to continue living up to the theme of "Create Hope in the World." Let us carry forward the spirit of service and compassion that defines our club.

The work we do is more important than ever, and I have no doubt that with your continued passion and commitment, the Avon Rotary Club will keep making a profound impact. Together, we can build on the foundation we've laid this year and continue to be a beacon of hope for many more to come.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your president. It has been an incredible journey, and I am excited to see where we go next.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Mike Ford
President, Avon Rotary Club

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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



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



For more meeting details,
go to avonrotary.org

- Mon. June 3 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 @ Avon Circleview
- Tues. June 4 Regular Meeting 6:30 & Corn Festival Mtg
- Tues. June 11 Regular Meeting 6:30
- Tues. June 18 Regular Meeting 6:30
- Tues. June 25 Change of Officers Dinner—Special Event
- Thur. June 27 District Changeover Dinner—New DG Dave DeMers



Birthday

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Bob French 1979
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis 2004
- ⇒ Steve Csapo 2010
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella 2012
- ⇒ Paul Warren 2012
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel 2014

- ⇒ Bruce Amey
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Richelle Ford
- ⇒ Dave Henehan
- ⇒ Dave LeFeber
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Nick & Jaime Lovullo
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

RED WINGS BASEBALL

And just like that, it's baseball season! Here's one of our 1st crews, volunteering at a Wednesday night game. Looks like fun right? Why not join the list of volunteers and sign up to help? It's a great way for our club to increase our fundraising monies.

Contact Cat or Steve for details.



IN MEETING SERVICE PROJECT



May 7: As a nod to Cinco De Mayo May 5 we switched up our “Party in a Bag” theme and did a “Taco in a Bag” meal kit to donate to the Avon Food Pantry. Thanks to Karen Vanderbilt for leading this project from start to finish and those that assisted putting the kits together. I believe there were 20 Taco dinners delivered to the pantry for future distribution.

Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis



QUAD CITIES GOLF & DINNER

May 14: In typical fashion, Avon Rotary had good participation (on short notice) in the golf portion of our day with three teams competing for low scramble score. The Vonglis/Vanderbilt team came close but couldn't top the Geneseo guys. Of course its always hard to determine who had the most fun on the course which is the most important part.

The Woodlyn Hills Golf Course team prepared a fantastic steak dinner which we all enjoyed. Additional club members joined us for dinner, making it a wonderful evening of fellowship on the back patio with great weather. The Club Presidents, from Avon, Geneseo and Mt. Morris gave brief updates on club happenings to finish off the night.



A special thank you goes to Dan Santini of the Mt. Morris Club for putting this together!

Next year is our year again to plan this annual occasion. Tom & I will volunteer to organize and welcome suggestions!

Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis

SOCIAL MEETING AT NO BS

May 21: A fun time was had at our social meeting this evening at NO BS in Livonia. Many thanks to Cat Jensen for organizing the occasion. We were joined by other Rotarians from Lima, Bloomfield and Rochester Deaf Club. It was a beautiful night to socialize and enjoy the spring weather.



HIGHLIGHTING OUR DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 28: It was a special night hearing from District Conference Committee Chairman, Tom Homan as he shared the two year highlights of planning the 2024 conference. He praised the committee, the various impactful keynote speakers and service projects. Tom shared his enthusiasm about the entire process as it all came together and the pride of success for hosting Avon's first conference. "The experience was Amazing!"



THANK YOU TO OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR

At our May 28 meeting, President Mike shared the following message with Julie Carney on behalf of the club.

“Julie,

It is my honor to stand before you today as we gather to celebrate an exceptional leader and a cherished member of our Rotary family. You, our District Governor, have not only been a trailblazer as the first District Governor from the Avon Rotary Club but have also exemplified unwavering dedication and commitment to all the clubs within District 7120.

Your passion for service is evident in your tireless efforts across various domains. You have been a staunch advocate for youth service, inspiring and empowering the next generation of leaders. Your initiatives in diversity, equity, and inclusion have fostered a more welcoming and inclusive environment for all, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. Most notably, your relentless work in raising mental health awareness has made a profound impact, providing much-needed support and resources to our communities.

Your leadership shines even brighter when we consider the professional and personal challenges you have faced. Through every obstacle, you have demonstrated resilience, grace, and an unyielding commitment to Rotary's ideals. Your ability to lead with compassion and strength, even in the toughest times, is truly inspiring.

As we reflect on this year's Rotary theme, “Create Hope in the World,” it becomes clear that you have embodied this mission in every aspect of your work. You have not only created hope but have also been a beacon of it, lighting the way for others to follow.

Julie, we are immensely proud of you. Your achievements and your spirit have brought great honor to the Avon Rotary Club and have set a remarkable example for us all. You have shown us what it means to serve with heart and to lead with integrity.

On behalf of the Avon Rotary Club, I extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt congratulations. Thank you, Julie, for your extraordinary service and for creating a brighter, more hopeful world for us all.”



The keepsake message read,

JULIE CARNEY

District 7120 Governor

2023-2024

Thank you for your outstanding leadership, dedication & hard work. Your passion and commitment have made a significant impact. We appreciate your tireless efforts, especially in the area of mental health. You have been a truly great District Governor.”

Proudly,

Avon Rotary Club



Rambling On Rotary—June



June is Rotary Fellowships Month. Webster defines fellowship as “companionship, a community of interest, a company of equals or friends.” From my perspective, Rotary is a multitude of fellowships. RI President Gordon McInally in the April Rotary Magazine stated, “Rotary needs to work toward peace as aggressively as those who wish to wage war. It’s the spirit found in the [RI] vision statement: ‘Together, we see a world where people unite to take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.’ It is in times of crisis and despair that we need empathy most of all. Empathy is the most powerful toll of peace, and it is vital if we are to take the first brave, humble steps to Create Hope in the World.” We are a community of interest uniting to create lasting change. Our club’s vision statement is: The Rotary Club of Avon is an organization where service-minded individuals unite to provide resources, take action for those in need, and support lasting change in our world, our community, and in each other. Working towards peace within ourselves, our community and our world is our mission. Notice that within the word community is the word “unity”.

As we approach the conclusion of Mike’s presidential year, he has led our club tirelessly (along with our District Governor Julie) creating hope in our club, our community, and our world. In Mike’s presidential newsletter messages, he said In July: “it is through our collective efforts and unwavering commitment that we can truly make a difference and leave a lasting impact”. In August: “It’s only through expanding our reach that we can amplify our humanitarian efforts around the world.” As he encouraged each of us to invite others to join our club. In September Mike referenced our club’s “annual trip to GVRC. It’s truly impossible to put into words what this camp means to all the kids who

attend.” Our club’s support and service towards this camp is an example of our fellowship and a way our endeavors create hope in the world. In his October message he referenced “the return of one of our favorite in-meeting service projects as we made “Party in the Bag” kits for the Avon Food Pantry. These kits made it possible for 25 local kids to have the joy of celebrating their special day without placing unneeded financial burden on their parents.” In January, Mike stated, “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.” He continued, “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.” In March, Mike’s message of Rotary as family resonated with me, “Our Rotary Club thrives not only on the dedication of its members but also on the support and involvement of their families. We understand that behind every Rotarian is a network of loved ones who contribute to our shared mission of service and community betterment.” As our club president, Mike has continually encouraged each of us individually and as a collective to fellowship together and work together to serve others.

RI President McInally continued, “That to bring about change in the world, we need to [first] foster change within. It is up to us to model peacebuilding behavior among each other.” As we look forward to the coming Rotary year, supporting club president Karen Vanderbilt let us recall incoming RI President Urchick’s theme for the coming Rotary year of Rotary creating magic in the world. Working together in fellowship, we can definitely create magic as Rotarians. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

Yours in Rotary Service, Bruce Amey



The
Rotary
Foundation

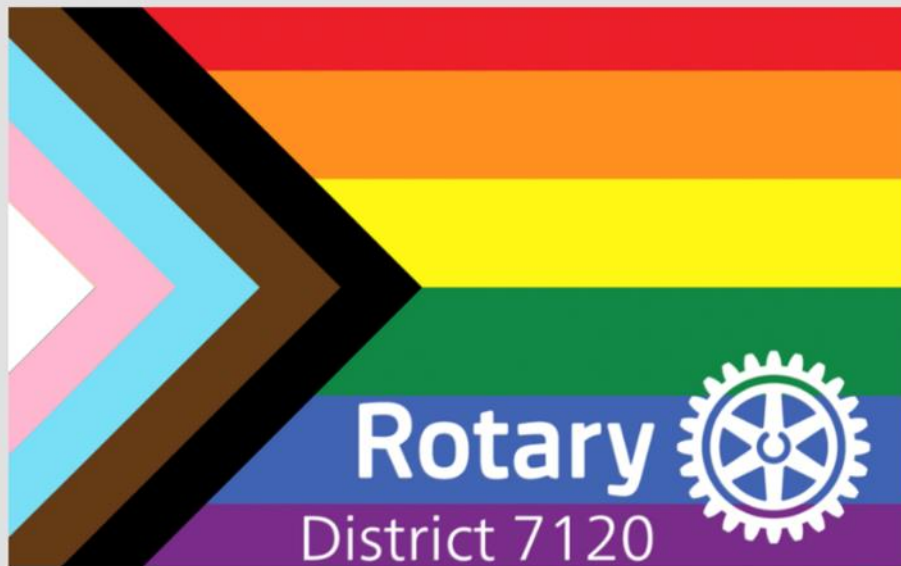


EVERY
 ROTARIAN
 EVERY
 YEAR

Do you have your “skin in the game” yet this Rotary year? If not, there’s still time. Give to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund and help make a difference!



MARCH WITH OUR ROTARY DISTRICT AT THE ROCHESTER PRIDE PARADE




**SOUTH AVE TO HIGHLAND PARK
JULY 20, 2024
11:00 A.M.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ROTARY7120.ORG**



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2024 Wild Polio Case Counts as of June 31, 2024

| <u>Country</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>Date of last case</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Afghanistan | 6 | 3 | April 2024 |
| Pakistan | 6 | 3 | April 2024 |
| Total | 12 | 6 |  |



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



EVERY GREAT DREAM BEGINS WITH
A DREAMER. ALWAYS REMEMBER,
YOU HAVE WITHIN YOU THE
STRENGTH, THE PATIENCE, AND THE
P A S S I O N
TO REACH FOR THE STARS TO
CHANGE THE WORLD.

HARRIET TUBMAN

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.
- ◆ Sign up to work at Corn Festival.
- ◆ Sign up to work at a Red Wings Game.

Grocery items
needed in June:

Cereal, Pasta,
Crackers, Canned
Chicken, Canned
Corn, Pineapple & Mixed Fruit



Collection will be June 18 .

Place in the bin at our meeting. Thank you!

Fighting Hunger Together

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

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
226-6735

