



145th Edition



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| It's Time | 1 |
| Club Schedule & Celebrations | 2 |
| Dessert Auction | 3 |
| New Member Induction | 3 |
| Welcome Richelle Ford | 4 |
| Rotary Lover's Feud | 4 |
| Rambling on Rotary | 5 |
| Give Blood | 6 |
| Polio Update & More | 7 |

President's Message



I trust this message finds you well. As I sat back and reflected on this past month of Rotary, I couldn't help but think of my wife Richelle joining the club and my daughter Quinn's involvement with

the Avon Interact Club. Rotary has always been more than a club; it's a family. Today, I want to emphasize the significance of involving your family in our Rotary endeavors.

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.

Including your family in Rotary activities not only strengthens our bonds but also creates a lasting legacy of service. It instills the values of compassion, empathy, and the joy of

giving back in the hearts of our children and loved ones. Whether it's participating in community projects, attending events, or simply sharing your Rotary experiences at home, every interaction matters.

In the spirit of togetherness, I encourage each member to extend a warm invitation to their family to join us in our upcoming projects and gatherings. Let's celebrate our Rotary journey as one united family, making a positive impact on our community and beyond.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Rotary, and I look forward to seeing our extended Rotary family grow stronger together.

Yours in Rotary,
Mike

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



It's Time! Time to show your Rotary pride. Time to join other Avon Rotarians and help make club history. How? Join us in Saratoga as we gather together and ensure a fun, memorable, amazing District Conference as only Avon Rotary can do. Many of the details are in place, but we still have much work to do behind the scenes that weekend. We have several volunteer opportunities and we can't do it without you. Many hands will make lighter work as they say. More importantly, show your support for Avon's very first District Governor and get reenergized in Rotary. So if you're contemplating what to do April 26-28, hesitate no more and register today, while room discounts are available. Attending alone? Consider a Rotary buddy to room with. To register go to:

[https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/district-conference-\(dc\)](https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/district-conference-(dc))

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

March Schedule

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Mon. March 4 | Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 pm, Circlevew Conference Rom |
| Tues. March 5 | Regular Meeting, Program: District Conference Committee |
| Tues. March 12 | Regular Meeting, Program: Collin Hayes– Town of Avon Comprehensive Plan |
| Tues. March 19 | Regular Meeting, St. Patrick's Day Festivities |
| Tues. March 26 | Regular Meeting, Program: TBD |

For more meeting details, go to avonrotary.org



Birthday

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

Rotary Anniversary

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

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.
 - Maya Angelou

SWEETHEARTS DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION



February 13, 2024

Avon Rotary graciously hosted Interact once again for our dessert auction. Interact members made desserts which were then auctioned off to all Rotarian's that night. We are very grateful for this opportunity that has allowed us to raise funds which will help us support all of our future causes. In total, Interact raised an approximate \$1600.

Submitted by: Avon Interact via social media



AVON ROTARY GREW TONIGHT!



February 27, 2024

We are thrilled to welcome a new member to our club, Richelle Ford! Richelle resides in Avon with her husband Mike and daughter Quinn, and brings a wealth of experience and dedication to service.

Having spent 7 years on the Avon PTA board, with 2 years as secretary and 5 years as president, Richelle has demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to our local education system. Her dedication doesn't stop there; she served an additional 7 years as a Girl Scout troop leader, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of young members in our community.

Currently serving as the District Registrar and Data Coordinator for the Geneseo Central School District, Richelle has chosen to extend her community service with the Avon Rotary Club. With her wealth of experience, we are confident she will be a valuable asset to our club, contributing to our mission of making a positive impact on Avon and beyond.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Richelle! We look forward to working together and creating lasting positive change in our beloved community and beyond.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



WELCOME NEW MEMBER RICHELLE FORD



For those who may not know me, I am Richelle Ford. I am originally from East Syracuse but moved to Avon in 2004. I met my husband Michael at St. Bonaventure University, and our daughter Quinn completed our family in 2008. I love being a wife and especially a mom, but something was missing. During my time here in Avon I took on various volunteering roles. The volunteering bug really started when I offered to help out in Quinn's 1st grade classroom. From there I was a part the Avon PTA board for 7 years, of which I was secretary and then president for 4 years. Still not satisfied volunteer wise, I decided to become a Girl Scout Leader for troop 51054. I was a leader for 7 years as well, ending this past August. Deciding that I missed working in a school setting, I left my retail job and started a new career change. I am the District Registrar and Data Coordinator at Geneseo Central School District.

Now that my time in the PTA and Girl Scouts are over, I started to get that itching feeling to volunteer again and started looking around. I saw how rewarding and enjoyable Rotary was for Mike and how much this organization does for our community and beyond. After attending several events, meetings, and gatherings I realized this is where I now belonged. It's time to make a difference once again. You may ask, what do I have to offer Avon Rotary? Simple, a deep desire to help whoever, wherever, and whenever I am needed. To make everyone feel accepted and loved no matter what. I love a challenge and I work hard. Avon Rotary is the perfect place for me to start a new journey.

WELCOME
to the club

ROTARY LOVER'S FEUD



Postponed from our Sweethearts Dinner evening, our Rotary style 'Family Feud' was played at our February 27 meeting. Many thanks to our Game Show Host, Katie and her assistant, Joe, for putting together the entertainment portion of the night. It was Ford vs. Vonglis with the Vonglis pair winning the first two rounds. In the double or nothing third round, Ford's had it for the win.

Ford's fell short in the lighting round with just under 200 points but participation gifts were provided to all. Again, thanks Katie & Joe for putting it all together for some laughs. Stay tuned for what they have in store for the St. Patrick's meeting.

Submitted by Laurie Vonglis



Rambling On Rotary—March



This article snuck up on me in late February as I was out of town for almost two weeks. I want to thank Steve Csapo for filling in for me for my Sargent at Arms responsibilities during my absence and Josh Tonra for performing the induction for Richelle. Service above self, thanks to both of them.

March is Rotary's Water and Sanitation month. Our club is very fortunate to have the Village Water Supervisor Kirk Vanderbilt in our club; his knowledge and commitment for our community has enlightened our understanding of the need for clean water in our communities. His expertise and service through Rotary has heightened our awareness for water projects in the world. We are fortunate to have good water in our village but there are many in our country and the world who are not as fortunate.

March is also Women's History month. I am thankful for the women in our club and community, past presidents Marnie, Barbara, Laurie, Marcia, Heather, Julie, next year's president Karen and president elect-elect Katie. The dedicated efforts of other women in our club, as well, Cat, Helen and Jaime to name a few. I reflect to when my dad would bring home his check which my mom cashed and then had a purse in her dresser with several envelopes in which she

divided the cash for the month to have for various upcoming bills and expenses. It wasn't until the 1960s that women in the US were even allowed to open bank accounts in their own names and not until 1974 they could open a credit card account in their own name. Yet I know my mom managed the house and the home finances. I think of women nationally and internationally in roles of leadership and responsibility. Shirley Chisolm, who was the first black woman, elected to the US Congress where she served seven terms; Sandra Day O'Connor who was the first woman selected to serve on the US Supreme Court, which she did for 25 years. Clearly Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton who were instrumental in working to secure rights for women in our country. Sally Ride who was the first American women in space. Marie Curie who was the first woman to win a Nobel prize for her work with radioactivity as a chemist and physicist. Margaret Thatcher who served as British Prima Minister for 21 years. Angela Merkel who was the first woman to serve as German Chancellor, the position she held for 16 years. And then, Jennifer Jones, the first female president of Rotary International last year.

This month, we need to remember and celebrate the work of Rotary in the world, especially as it relates to water and sanitation. But we also need to celebrate the women in our lives and in our club. 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

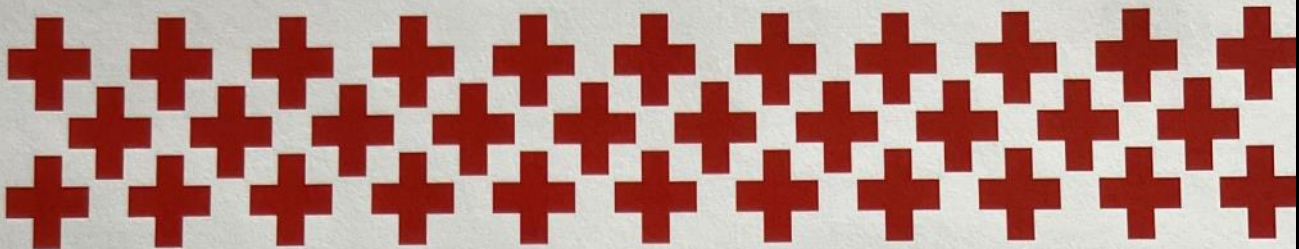
21 million people have access to sanitation and hygiene thanks to Rotary projects



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.



Give blood. Help save lives.



**Avon Rotary
Blood Drive
Held at
Avon Inn**

**Ballroom
55 E Main St
Avon, NY 14414**

**Tuesday, March 26, 2024
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: avonrotary to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPa to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of , February 28, 2024

| <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 |
| Total | 5 | 30 | 12 | |



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.
- ◆ Join a club committee
- ◆ Organize an in-meeting service project
- ◆ Plan a meeting program
- ◆ Volunteer for the Solar Eclipse

KEEP CALM

- ⇒ **TIME TO START PLANNING CORN FESTIVAL 2024**
- ⇒ **JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
- ⇒ **SEE YOU IN MARCH...**
- ⇒ **ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

Avon Food Pantry

- ⇒ Grocery items needed in March:
Jello, Side Dishes, Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Cooking Oil, Relish, Mayonnaise, Spaghetti Sauce
- ⇒ Collection will be March 19.
- ⇒ Place in the bin at our meeting.



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
226-6735

