



President's Message



As we bid farewell to the warmth of summer and welcome the crisp air and the golden hues of fall our Rotary club is now shifting gears as well from the festivities of the Corn Fest to the exciting whirlwind of Auction season. The Auction is our second biggest fundraiser, so get out there and find exciting items and experiences that we can auction off. If you have any questions, be sure to reach out to new Auction chair Nick Lovullo.

September started out with an "invasion" from our friends at the Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club. Laughter and camaraderie echoed through the meeting as we shared a meal and fellowship with our Rotary friends. We learned a little about Louie's family and life in Norway and we were joined by past-president Kevin Tompsett and learned about his new life as an ultra-marathoner as well.

The next week we saw 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.

We also saw great collaborations this month with the long awaiting unveiling of a bike fix-it station that we teamed up on with the Lions Club. The fix-it station is a great addition to the village for our kids and the many recreational cyclists that pass through Avon every year.

Finally, we honored Basic Education and Literacy all month. We heard heartfelt testimonials from the educators in our club about the reasons they chose their vocations that led them down the path of shaping young minds. Additionally, we contributed to the Avon Free Library's brand new outdoor book return drop. Furthermore, we participated in a community values project that will play a pivotal role in Avon Central School's rebranding efforts.

October already has some great programs planned all leading up to our Halloween party at No BS Brewery on the 24th which should be a blast. I know I can't wait!

Yours in Rotary Service
President Mike Ford

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**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 Sc h e d u l e

Mon. Oct. 2	Board of Directors Mtg 6:00 Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Oct. 3	Regular Mtg 6:00 Program: Dick Fisher—Barns of Livingston County
Tues. Oct. 10	Regular Mtg 6:00 Program: Brock Thrasher-World Health Mental Health Day
Tues. Oct. 17	Regular Mtg 6:00 Program: Astronomer Anne Pellerin—Solar eclipse April 8, 2024
Tues. Oct. 24	Special Mtg: Halloween Party at NO BS BREWERY, wear costumes!
Tues. Oct. 31	Halloween... No Meeting



Birthday

- ⇒ Janis McMIndes
- ⇒ Josh Tonra
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis
- ⇒ Joe Yantachka
- ⇒ Helen Zamboni

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Kelly Cole 2002
- ⇒ Hans Koomen 2002
- ⇒ Tom Vonglis 2002
- ⇒ Tom Honan 2018
- ⇒ Nick Lovullo 2018
- ⇒ TJ Vonglis 2018
- ⇒ Mike Giso 2021
- ⇒ Kate Carbone 2022
- ⇒ Collin Hayes 2022

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella
- ⇒ Jim Varner

EVERY ACCOMPLISHMENT STARTS WITH THE DECISION TO TRY

RUSH HENRIETTA JOINS US

September 5: Avon Rotary Club had an unforgettable encounter with our friends from the Rush Henrietta Rotary Club led by their President Holly Evans! They invaded our turf for a night filled with laughter, fellowship, and insightful programs.



The Avon Inn was buzzing with energy as we welcomed our fellow Rotarians, and boy, did they bring the fun factor! We shared stories, ideas, and a whole lot of Rotary spirit.

But it wasn't all just fun and games! We also indulged in some great programs that left us inspired and motivated. It's amazing how Rotary brings people together and fuels our passion for making a positive impact on the world.

A big shoutout to our friends from the Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club for invading our space in the best way possible! We're already looking forward to our next rendezvous. Until then, let's keep the Rotary spirit alive and thriving!

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media

LUDVIG FROM NORWAY



September 5: Our Youth Exchange Student, Ludvig AKA Louie, gave an absolutely captivating presentation about his homeland, Norway!

Louie is 16 and an only child. He lives in the small city of Molde, nestled in the stunning fjords of Norway's west coast. His presentation featured his hobbies, Norwegian culture, and his goals this year as an exchange student.

And here's the real kicker – Louie's mastery of the English language is already better than some of our Rotarians in the room! We're so impressed, Louie!

We're incredibly fortunate to have Louie as part of our Avon Rotary family, and we can't wait to see what else he has in store during his exchange adventure! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*

CONGRATULATIONS DAVID & ERNIE!

The Avon Rotary Club is thrilled to honor two incredible individuals, Dave Henahan and Ernie Wiard, for their remarkable commitment to the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp - Official (GVRC) board of directors. Together, they have dedicated a staggering 100 years of service!

Dave, who recently stepped down after an astounding 48 years on the board, leaves behind an enduring legacy of compassion and dedication. Ernie, on the other hand, recently passed the torch of board treasurer, but continues to contribute on the board with his 52 years of invaluable expertise.

Fellow board member Chris Wood from Cal-Mum Rotary Club, presented both Dave and Ernie with well-deserved plaques commemorating their immense contributions to the board. And kudos to our newest and youngest member, Collin Hayes, who has taken on the role of board secretary! Only five decades to go Collin!

GVRC holds a special place in our hearts as it provides a nurturing environment for children with differing abilities. It's heartening to see how Rotary Clubs in Livingston, Steuben, Wyoming, and Allegany counties come together to support this meaningful cause.

Let's all raise a toast to Dave, Ernie, Collin, and the entire Genesee Valley Rotary Camp community as they continue to make a positive impact on the lives of these remarkable children! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



PAST PRESIDENT KEVIN



September 5: We had the privilege of hearing from former Avon Rotarian and Past-President, Kevin Tompsett, as he shared his remarkable journey through the world of ultra-marathons.

Kevin's stories of endurance, determination, and the power of the human spirit left us all in awe. It's incredible to see a member of our community achieve such incredible feats.

We learned about his training, the mental focus, nutrition, and support staff needed to complete these races over 50 kilometers. And how all these helped him win his first 100 mile race earlier this year.

A big thank you to Kevin for inspiring us with his adventures, and to everyone who attended and made the evening a success!

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 8: Avon Rotarians had an amazing time at the District 7120 golf tournament held at Lima Golf & Country Club! Several of our dedicated members played and volunteered to support a wonderful cause.

All the funds raised during this tournament are going to a cause close to our hearts - Miss Julie's School of Beauty. This remarkable institution not only trains future stylists but equips them to recognize the signs of human trafficking and provide survivors with the help they need. They also empower survivors with vocational skills to break free from the cycle of trafficking.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated Avon Rotarians Tom Vonglis, Laurie Vonglis, and Kirk Vanderbilt, who have tirelessly organized this golf tournament for the past four years. Your commitment and dedication have made a significant impact on our community!

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



PARTY IN A BAG



September 12: Avon Rotarians teamed up to create "Party in the Bag" kits for the Avon Food Pantry, and they were filled with all the essentials for a fantastic birthday celebration!

Each bag contained cake mix, frosting, and party favors needed to throw a memorable party, making sure no one misses out on the joy of celebrating their special day.

We couldn't have done this without our amazing Rotary Club members, who volunteered their time and resources to make it happen. Together, we spread happiness and made a difference in our community by completing 25 bags!

A big thank you to all who contributed, and if you'd like to join us in future projects or support our initiatives, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



Bike Repair Station



Members of Avon Rotary, Avon Lions, the Village and Town Boards, and Avon Parks Commission.

We are thrilled to announce a fantastic collaboration with the Avon Lions Club that's been in the works for three years, all thanks to Lion member Jim Carney and Rotarian Julie Carney! They envisioned a top-notch Dero bike repair station for our wonderful town of Avon after spotting a similar one along the Erie Canal bike path.

Now, we're delighted to present Avon's very own bike repair station! You can easily locate it on an online map, guiding cyclists to a safe spot across from the Avon Fire De-

partment in the Burke Island triangle park off the circle.

Inside, you'll find all the essential tools to keep your bike in tip-top shape and a handy QR code that links to YouTube videos demonstrating how to make those essential repairs.

The unveiling took part during National Community Service Week (September 11-17). During the week, Rotary and Rotaract clubs worldwide team up with their local Kiwanis, Lions, and Optimist clubs on service projects. These projects address topics such as health and wellness, food insecurity and hunger, education and literacy, and the environment.



Avon Lions President Joe Cope and Avon Rotary President Mike Ford officially dedicate the new bike repair station.

We extend our gratitude to the Village of Avon, the Town of Avon, and the Village Parks Commission for their unwavering support in making this project a reality. Your commitment to a more cycling-friendly Avon is greatly appreciated!



Rochester Red Wings Games

As the summer sun sets on another incredible season of giving back, we're thrilled to share the news that our time volunteering at Rochester Red Wings baseball games has come to an end for this year.

We are beyond proud to announce that through your unwavering support and our dedicated Rotarians, families, and friends, we raised THOUSANDS of dollars to benefit local community organizations!

A special shoutout to the amazing Rotarian Cat Jensen for her outstanding organization of this event! Cat, your hard work and commitment are truly inspiring.

We want you all to know that this is just the beginning! Avon Rotary Club will be back next year, bigger and better than ever. So, keep your eyes peeled because we'll be out there making a difference once again.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



AVON FREE LIBRARY

Yesterday was a day of celebration as we joined community members at the Avon Free Library's Grand Opening for its newly renovated entrance and front yard!

At this event, Avon Rotary members proudly donated \$500 towards the library's brand-new book return drop box.

And there's no better time to emphasize the importance of literacy and education than in September, which we recognize as Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy month.

We believe in the power of books and learning to transform lives, and we're thrilled to support the Avon Free Library in their mission to provide access to knowledge for all.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Grand Opening and helped us make this donation possible. Let's continue to work together for a brighter, more educated future!

Submitted by Mike Ford via social media



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December 16

A Very Merry Avon Rotary
Holiday Celebration

Kindred Ground
THE FARMHOUSE
2393 Pole Bride Rd. Avon

Rambling On Rotary—October



By: Bruce Amey
Our club's nominating committee will be starting to formulate a slate of prospective officers for our club for Rotary year 2024-25. The September Rotary Magazine had a great article on "The University of Rotary", encouraging all members to build their leadership skills through Rotary. We already have our

"leadership tract" in place for next year: President-elect Karen Vanderbilt, Senior Director Rob Lupisella, and Junior Director Katie DeGraff. The nominating committee will be seeking the next Junior Director, which is a five-year commitment, that is three years leading to a club presidential year and then a year as immediate past-president.

The nominating committee will also be looking to nominate club officer positions of treasurer and secretary, positions currently held by Hans Koomen and Jamie Lovullo, respectively. Our club bylaws allow for the treasurer and secretary to serve up to three consecutive years. The bylaws also allow for up to three persons to be elected to serve as Board Members at Large and, they can hold those positions for up to three consecutive years. Each of these "time-limit" positions, per our club bylaws, may serve in the same capacity given that they have "vacated the position" for a minimum of one year. Our current Board Members At Large are Rodney George, Cat Jensen, and Nick Lovullo.

Each of these current Members At Large or officers may express their interest to continue serving in that capacity for next year to Past President Steve Csapo who per our club bylaws is the chair of the nominating committee. I would like to encourage club members to consider finding out more about our club's leadership roles, especially that position of getting into the presidential tract as a Junior Director. Again, per our club bylaws, a proposed slate of nominees must be presented to club members during November and the election must be held at a meeting in December. This allows for newly elected Board members to gain training and insight from current members or through District and RI training opportunities.

Per RI President Gordon McNally, "It is not enough, as people of action, to avoid simply making war. If we are to Create Hope In The World, we must aggressively wage peace." What a concept. I have never thought of peace as something that is waged. He goes on to talk about learning from other cultures, for which Rotary offers many opportunities. He

says, "The importance of communicating with and learning from another culture cannot be overstated." I will take that further to say even within our own country. We currently have significant political divisions within our country driving us apart. The answer to resolving differences is listening respectfully to alternate opinions and positions and learning from them.

World Polio Day is October 24th. Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. The virus spreads from person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can then attack the nervous system. NYS had a case in the lower Hudson valley just a year ago. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for almost 45 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep all countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year. Vaccinations help prevent diseases.


The average cost to fully vaccinate a child from polio is \$3. In 2017 alone, 430 million children were vaccinated in 39 countries. However, it still costs \$100 million to conduct polio surveillance worldwide to ensure that polio doesn't re-emerge. A location is deemed polio-free when no new cases have been detected for three consecutive years but it is truly only a plane flight away.

The Rotary Foundation Polio fund works to fund this project of a world without polio. November is usually considered Foundation month and members are encouraged to give to the Annual Fund because then after three years of investment, a portion of that money donated is returned to the District and then a portion of that is distributed to district clubs in the form of District Grants to assist in the completion of local projects. However, I encourage all club members to remember to donate to the Foundation Polio Fund and October is a great time to do so. Let's wage peace against polio together. Wage peace together serving others. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of September 30, 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	2	July 2023
Total	5	30	7	



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...

- ◆ Sign up to help with our annual Rotary Auction
- ◆ Assist at a weekly meeting as a greeter or 50/50 sales.
- ◆ Look for community service projects and join a team to help.

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 October are:

**Salad Dressing, Cereal, Spaghetti,
Canned Corn and Coffee**

Collection is the 3rd Tuesday each month.
Place in bin at our meeting. For questions
contact Cat Jenson or David Kilgore.

