



President's Message



The busy month of August has come to an end, headlined by a very successful Corn Fest. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and for reaching out to our community for volunteers.

We dodged the threat of rain all day and the turnout was great. The final numbers are still being figured out, but it looks like our profit is going to be our best since 2015.

On the 15th of August, our second triannual Red Cross Blood Drive took place. Heartfelt thanks to all those who generously donated, and a special acknowledgment to Karl for his ongoing commitment to organizing this event year after year. Remember to mark your calendars for the final blood drive of the year on December 5th.

The same evening, several of us made our annual trip to GVRC. It's truly impossible to put into words what this camp means to all the kids who attend. The love and acceptance the campers experience during the week from the staff, visitors, and fellow campers is truly incredible. Thank you to Dave Henehan who served many years on the camp's board and stepped down this past year. Thank you to Ernie for his 50 plus years of service on the camp's board, and to the camp's newest board member, Collin Hayes as well.

On August 18th, we welcomed our foreign exchange student for the year, Ludvig AKA Louie, from Norway. Thank you to Kelly and Jan Cole for opening up their home to him and we look forward to the year ahead. And make sure you get to a football game this year to cheer Louie on as he tries a sport not available to him back home.

On August 22, we were joined by Bridget Martin from Bivona Child Advocacy Center. Our club has long supported Bivona and their mission to protect our community's most vulnerable members.

Finally, on the 29th, we took a field trip to Six Sprouts Farm Market. We got to hear from owners Betsy and Jordan about their inspiration to

start the business, the grants that they got from the county to make their dream possible, and their plans for the future. After the meeting, we all enjoyed some fellowship, headlined by their amazing ice cream.

As we turn the page to September, our focus shifts to the upcoming Avon Rotary Auction, a significant fundraising event for our club. Let's unite in supporting the new auction chair, Nick Lovullo, as he embarks on this new endeavor.

Speaking of noteworthy events, our Eclipse committee, led by Bob Mellen, is already in full swing, planning for the total eclipse on April 8th. There is still an opportunity to join the committee and contribute your ideas. For more information, feel free to contact Bob.

September is also Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month. Katie got the ball rolling early in the month by organizing a school supply collection for Stone's Closet. In more literacy news, our club no longer gives dictionaries to our 3rd grade students. Every Avon student now receives Chromebooks from the school and have a dictionary at their fingertips at all times. We still want to support the cause of basic education and literacy, so if you have any ideas how we can evolve our mission to support our Avon and St. Agnes students, please reach out to our Literacy Chair Rob Lupisella.

Finally, you heard it here first, September marks the beginning of the Bills Super Bowl run.

Yours in Service (and Go Bills)-

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 Schedule

SEPTEMBER

Tues. Sept 5	Regular Meeting 6:00
Tues. Sept 12	Regular Meeting 6:00
Mon. Sept 18	Board of Directors Meeting @ 6:00 pm—Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Sept 19	Regular Meeting 6:00
Tues. Sept 26	Regular Meeting 6:00



Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Katie DeGraff
- ⇒ Hans Koomen

Birthday

- ⇒ Will McLaughlin
- ⇒ Bill Wall

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Josh Tonra 2014
- ⇒ Leann Hill 2017

Let's strive to be better in September!

Lawrence Clark Powell

In the Spotlight

Cheers, High Five, Big Hug, Round of Applause.... For our Leader Mike Ford!

Not only is Mike our current club President, but he also led the 2023 Corn Festival Committee and Food Vendor sub-committee. On top of those mighty responsibilities, he does an outstanding job with our social media. The piece below is a recent post which can be used for membership recruitment. Thank you Mike for all you do for Avon Rotary.

“Are you passionate about making a positive impact, raising public awareness, and connecting with like-minded individuals? Then the Avon Rotary Club invites YOU to an upcoming Rotary meeting!

Join us Tuesday nights at the Avon Inn at 6:00pm for an evening of camaraderie, meaningful discussions, and opportunities to get involved in local projects that make a difference.

Discover how you can be part of public awareness campaigns, build strong friendships, and create lasting change through community and global service. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a young aspiring leader, Rotary welcomes all who share the spirit of service.

So whether you want to spread the message of and create awareness of Rotary at the Rochester Puerto Rican Festival, enjoy a day of golf with Rotary friends at the Tom Moran Memorial Golf tournament, or help neighboring Lima Rotary raise funds for meaningful community projects, Rotary enables you with plenty of opportunities to serve. We hope to see you soon.”



SHENANIGANS

At the August 1 meeting, we were joined by former Rush-Henrietta Rotarian and District Simplified Grant Chairman Eric Schmidt and his wife Jodi. Eric presented a gift to the club to be auctioned off in support of the Rotary Foundation. The “Gift” was a large poster of professional golfer, Jordan Spieth! Eric is a clever guy. He knew the Jordan fan base and so did Kirk Vanderbilt. Kirk did a good job driving the bidding up in support of the foundation. In the end Tom Vonglis won out and provided his wife a “special” anniversary gift which will hang in the ever popular mancave.

Submitted by: The Wife



ROTARY CITATION



At the August 8 meeting, we were joined by Immediate Past District Governor Ralph Brandt. Ralph was there to present our Immediate Past President Steve Csapo with the 2022-2023 Rotary Citation.

The Rotary Citation recognizes the hard work clubs do throughout the year. Working to achieve the citation goals helps clubs engage their members, stay relevant in their communities, and run more efficiently. A welcoming and engaging club not only fosters a positive experience for its members, but also reflects the values of Rotary. When clubs achieve citation goals, they contribute to the overall health and culture of Rotary for generations to come.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media

GVRC



August 15: Avon Rotarians braved the rain and made their yearly visit to Genesee Valley Rotary Camp - Official (GVRC), a camp that provides a nurturing space for children with differing abilities and is supported by Rotary Clubs in Livingston, Steuben, Wyoming, and Allegany counties.

While there we had the opportunity to see an exotic animal show put on by Seth from Prehistoric World Reptile Zoo in Perry for the campers. The smiles and laughter we witnessed were truly heart-warming. Our time spent connecting with

these amazing kids reminded us of the power of inclusion and the joy of shared experiences.

Thank you, GVRC, for opening your doors and hearts to us. We're inspired to continue supporting initiatives that create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



WELCOME LOUIE!



Louie with his host parents,
Jan & Kelly Cole

August 18: Avon Rotarians gathered at the Rochester International Airport to give a warm welcome to our exchange student for this year, Ludvig (Louie), all the way from Norway!

The spirit of international friendship and cultural exchange is at the core of Rotary, and we couldn't be happier to open our arms and our hearts to Louie as he embarks on this incredible journey.

Louie, we hope your time here in Avon will be filled with unforgettable experiences, lifelong friendships, and meaningful connections. We're excited to learn from you and share our community's warmth and hospitality.

Welcome Louie!!! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



BIVONA CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER



August 22: We had the privilege to host Bridget Martin from Bivona Child Advocacy Center at our meeting. Bivona Child Advocacy Center focuses on child abuse response, healing and prevention through collaborative service, awareness, education and leadership. By teaming with local law enforcement, district attorneys, therapists, psychologists, doctors, and schools, Bivona helps children and families through the healing process, the investigation, evaluation, and if appropriate, the possible trial.

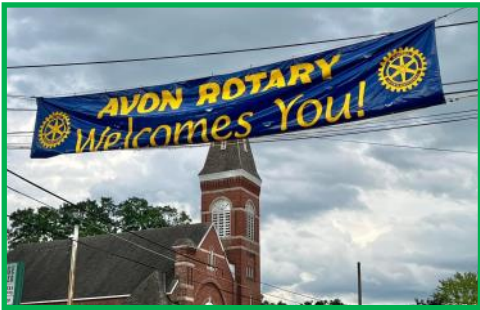
Avon Rotary has been a long time supporter of Bivona and its mission to protect our community's most vulnerable members. We proudly made a donation to their cause last night and look forward to carrying on with our partnership in the future.

If you suspect a child is the victim of abuse, want to be a part of their fundraising efforts, or if you want to learn more about the services Bivona provides, please visit their website at: <https://www.bivonacac.org/>

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media

CORN FESTIVAL

What an incredible day it was! We dodged the weather bullet and couldn't have been more thrilled with the results of the 2023 Avon Rotary Corn Festival. A heartfelt thank you went out to all our amazing volunteers, the Avon town and village, the Avon PD, the Avon FD, the Avon DPW, our craft and food vendors, our sponsors, and everyone who showed up. Without all of them, we couldn't have raised the funds we needed to make our town, nation, and world a better place. Next year's festival will be Saturday, August 10, 2024! Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



RED WINGS GRAND SLAM



I couldn't be more enthusiastic to report our success with the Red Wings concession stands so far! After four games we have deposited over \$1556-which include tips and commissions. With four remaining games, we are on a strong path headed toward -fingers crossed- a fund raising total of \$3000 by the end of the season. I think this is amazing and I am very pleased with the results!

I want to thank all the Avon Rotarians, their family, and our friends who have volunteered at the concession stands! The fellowship aspect is extremely obvious to those who have participated. It's fun and easy! And you might even get to know another member better while becoming friends! That's a win!

The number of Avon members having worked at least one game is: 19.
Friends and family members involved total: 14. There are several members who have volunteered at multiple games. That's service above self!



This volunteer commitment is about 4 hours per game. We simply show up and sell copious amounts of snacks and drinks. The best part, we don't have to ask any business in our small community for a donation! If you haven't volunteered yet, PLEASE consider giving this a try. You might like it!

Submitted by: Cat Jensen



SIX SPROUTS FARM MARKET



August 29: Avon Rotary took a field trip to Six Sprouts Farm Market LLC and got to know owners, Betsy and Jordan. Their passion for agriculture and dedication to promoting locally sourced products truly shines through in their beautiful market.

Their success story is a testament to hard work and determination. Through grants secured as winners of the LivCo Dream-O-Vate contest, and two years of dedicated effort, Six Sprouts Farm Market opened its doors earlier this summer.

Betsy and Jordan's journey began with a deep-rooted connection to farming, cultivated through their upbringing. They were also inspired by the vibrant farm market

culture they experienced in the Catskills and Northern New Jersey. Today, their dream has become a reality as they provide our community with top-quality, locally sourced dairy products, meats, fresh veggies, and more. And their plans for the future are exciting and we can't wait to see how they continue to innovate and evolve.

Following our meeting, Avon Rotarians had an ice cream social featuring small-batch, hand-crafted ice cream made by Yummies Ice Cream in Warsaw. It was a sweet ending to a wonderful night of learning about, and supporting a new local businesses.

A big thank you to Six Sprouts Farm Market for hosting us and giving us a glimpse into their journey! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



Rambling On Rotary—September



By: Bruce Amey

September is Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, which for me joins the beginning of our public school year in New York State. As you may recall, I was a public school educator in NYS for 41 years prior to my retirement.

The beginning of the school year was always exciting for me, the new beginning with new students arriving. As superintendent, watching the children at the Avon elementary school was especially exciting. Seeing the kids so happy to see their teachers from previous years and those same teachers ecstatic to see their former students. I really loved how the Avon PTA started the "boo-hoo breakfast" for parents, especially those of the new kindergartners. Basic Education and Literacy Month is very special for me.

Now, as a Rotarian, this Rotary month makes me think of Rob and Jeanine Lupisella's Linking Hands For Learning projects in Nicaragua. I still recall sitting in Rob's office when he told me about their first school build project; he told me this was a one-time trip. In this country I feel we oftentimes take public education for granted, even though we get our school tax bills in September. I always felt privileged to be in Avon because of the teachers we have and all they do for the children of our community along with the education and lay leaders who provide and support and direction for the teachers and children. Linking Hands For Learning has become our club's reach into international projects. Per Tom Vonglis' celebration a few meetings ago, the LH team will be leaving to build another school on or about January 28 to build another school,

and, in addition to our club's financial support, individual member's support is encouraged and appreciated. The Linking Hands For Learning projects "improve access to education by building schools, promoting literacy and fostering community relationships to allow children to learn and thrive." For me, that should be the definition of a Rotary Global Grant Project in this area of focus; however Rotary International does not allow global grant projects to support the construction of buildings.

Another outstanding project our club supports with our fundraising efforts is the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp (GVRC). Our club's visit on August 15 to the camp to meet with some of the campers and counselors was amazing. I feel that project not only brings us together as a club but serves our GLOW community tremendously. As Mike posted, these projects are some of the reasons we work so hard on our fundraising efforts like the Corn Fest and the upcoming Auction (thank you Nick and Tom); thank you to Cat for coordinating the fund raising efforts at Red Wings games. The funds we work together to raise go to support many worthwhile projects.

I recall our district doing some fundraising to support the Rotary clubs in Kentucky after the significant flooding a few years ago. And the Rotary Foundation has worked with the Rotary clubs in Ukraine to support the people of Ukraine because of the invasion of Russia into Ukraine. I have been asking what is our district doing to help the victims and to assist the Rotary club in Maui, I have not had any feedback regarding these requests. Service Above Self implies service where service is needed. I would like to encourage all club members to support the Rotary Foundation in any way that you are able and for our club to be making a connection with Rotary clubs in Hawaii to provide assistance to Maui. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

Rotary 

SEPTEMBER BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY

"Education is the most powerful weapon with which you can change the world"

Nelson Mandela





Fellow Rotarians.

Here are the results of our 16th Red Cross Blood Drive on August 15th. We had 30 donors all together come to give and we collected 34 units on our goal of 26! Thank you to all who donated, especially our numerous club members.

Considering it was a summertime drive, I feel the results are excellent.

Yours In Rotary Service, Karl Sawicki

Your Blood Program *Impact*

The lifesaving chain from blood donor to a patient in need depends on the commitment of our partners to host drives regularly throughout the year. Here's a snapshot of your recent lifesaving impact:



August 15, 2023 blood drive



34 units collected



130.8% efficiency



**12 power red units
(6 procedures)**



2 pre-signs for next drive



Next Drive:

December 5, 2023

12:30-5:30 pm

Thank you for your lifesaving impact-your support proves to be an invaluable resource to the patients whose lives depend on it.

Behind all the numbers, there are real people, real families and real hope!

Blaze Eppinger was born with sickle cell disease. As a child, Blaze would receive blood transfusions at least once a month.

Today at 28, he needs blood transfusions nine to ten time a year. Each time he requires transfusions, he receives at least three units of blood. He has type A positive blood, but when his blood type is not available he receives types O.

"When blood is not available for me, I would have to stay in the hospital longer, basically fighting a sickle cell crisis." Blaze explained that a sickle cell crisis is very painful. The pain starts at one part of his body and migrates throughout his entire body. The hospital gives him pain medicine, but the crises often continue until he receives at least three units of blood.

"When I receive the blood donations that I need and my numbers go up, I feel like I'm back to myself," said Blaze. "I don't feel the pain. I don't feel drained. It's like putting gas in the car or batteries in your remote. I'm energized!"

Blaze is grateful for the American Red Cross and its volunteer blood donors.

"I feel like they give life more than they know," said Blaze. "Blood donors may not think about where the blood goes to at the time of their donations, but I consider them as silent heroes. It's just a task to them, an hour of their time, but that task helps save lives. If it wasn't for generous blood donors, I wouldn't be alive."



GVRC CELEBRATES 60 YEARS AT CAMP WITH A GROOVE

On August 13, Camp Sam Wood in Pike, NY, welcomed over 90 campers to its annual meeting of the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp (GVRC). Since 1963, GVRC has hosted campers with differing abilities from Livingston, Steuben, Wyoming, and Allegany County.



GVRC has met at Camp Sam Wood in every year since its inception, except 2020, making 2023 its 60th Anniversary. Fittingly, the theme chosen for this year's camp was "Sam Woodstock," with each tribe at the camp creating their own groovy name and banner. But even absent the 1960s theme, free love is in no short supply at GVRC, as their motto proclaims: "Here is Love."

Over 90 campers attended GVRC this year. They spent the week sleeping in tents, exploring nature, swimming, attending classes, tie-dying shirts, doing arts and crafts, performing skits, and making lifelong friends. GVRC hired 77 staff (nearly all volunteers) to provide a wholesome and enriching camp experience to all attendees despite their differing abilities. Many have been volunteering at GVRC for decades, and several former campers have returned to join the staff.

The camp would not be possible without the love and dedication of its staff, and to celebrate this, GVRC's affiliate clubs awarded four Paul Harris Fellows to camp staffers who have each been volunteering at the camp for over 30 years.

Melissa Fiorentino, Joe Martin, Meghan Woods Glieco and Clare van Durme received a Paul Harris Fellow for their service to GVRC.

Dr. Joan E. Flender, of Stony Brook Pediatrics, who was unable to attend, was also awarded a Paul Harris Fellow.

GVRC is a community service project of the Rotarians in Avon, Belmont, Caledonia-Mumford, Dansville, Friendship, Geneseo, Lima, Livonia, Mt. Morris, Nunda, Perry, Wayland and Wellsville. Our Avon Rotary Club contributes to this project by nominating two of its members to serve on the GVRC Board and through the donation of goods and services to the Camp.

This year marks the first time in several decades that our Club has nominated a new member to the GVRC Board. David Henehan, who served on the Board for multiple decades in various capacities, was replaced as Board member and Secretary by Collin T Hayes. Ernie Wiard was replaced as Board Treasurer by Betsy O'Mara, but he continues to serve as a Board Member.



Ernie was presented with a plaque in honor of his many years of service as a GVRC Board Member.

David Henehan, who was unable to attend, was also acknowledged with a plaque in honor of his many years of service as a GVRC Board Member.


GVRC would not be possible without the efforts of Camp Director Brian Bartalo, Assistant Director Sarah Warner, and Health Director Janet Green.

Submitted by: Collin Hayes



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of August 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/>

VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES...

- ◆ Sign up to volunteer at a Red Wings game.
- ◆ Assist at a weekly meeting as a greeter or 50/50 sales.
- ◆ Look for community service projects and join a team to help.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, December 16

A Very Merry

Avon Rotary Holiday

Celebration

More Details to Follow... stay tuned

Avon Food Pantry

Grocery Items Needed in September are:

Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Soup, Jello, Pudding

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



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
245-2637

