



150th Edition

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President's Message



What is your favorite summer memory or tradition?

Is it the parades that brighten our streets with vibrant colors and good vibes? Is it the festivals or theme parks with the aroma of delicious

food, the thrill of rides and the magic of live performances? Or the electric energy of concerts where music unites people under a starlit sky? Or possibly it's the simple things, the smell of fresh cut grass, ice-cold lemonade, leisurely mornings or endless days of soaking up the sun.

Amidst the excitement, summer offers a precious opportunity to reconnect with loved ones. Backyard barbeques, laughter-filled conversations, and creating lasting memories with family are the heart of this season. And this season wouldn't be complete without the Avon Rotary Corn Festival!! An excellent platform to connect family, friends and neighbors with great music, mouthwatering food and rousing entertainment. Interactions that foster camaraderie, shared experiences and a deeper sense of community.

I applaud everyone's efforts to make this fes-

tival a truly magical experience for everyone. The countless hours of dedication, hard work and selfless contributions are often overlooked but the impact is truly immeasurable. You are not only creating a memorable event but building a stronger, more connected community.

And remember when those extended daylight hours start to wane, when the vendors pack up and the music fades, when the booths, signs and tables and chairs are put to rest in the storage building, take the time to slow down, breathe deeply and recharge. It's the perfect moment for inner reflection. Summer invites us to relax, regroup, and refocus. It's a chance to recharge our batteries, pursue passions, and dream big for the future. So let's embrace this beautiful season, soak up every moment, and let summer's magic fill our hearts

Best Regards,

Karen

Board of Directors

Karen Vanderbilt, President
 Rob Lupisella, President Elect
 Katie DeGraff, Senior Director
 Tom Honan, Director
 Collin Hayes, Member at Large
 Cat Jensen, Member at Large
 Mike Ford, Past President
 Jaime Lovullo, Secretary
 Hans Koomen, Treasurer



CORN FESTIVAL IS COMING

Sign up to Volunteer

WE NEED YOU!

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



SCHEDULE

*For more meeting details,
go to avonrotary.org*

- Mon. Aug 5 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm at Circleview Conf room
- Tues. Aug 6 Regular Meeting, 6:00 pm Member Spotlight & All Hands on Deck for Corn Festival Meeting
- Sat. Aug 10 CORN FESTIVAL DAY!
- Sun. Aug 11 Corn Festival Celebration Picnic & Pool Party @ George's 2:00
- Tues. Aug 13 Special Outing to Genesee Valley Rotary Camp
- Tues. Aug 20 Meeting at Lakeville Sportsman's Club
- Tues. Aug 27 Service Project—TBD



Birthday

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Katie DeGraff 2017
- ⇒ Charlene Masten 2017

- ⇒ Jeff Herberger
- ⇒ Bob Mellen
- ⇒ Bill Shaw (H)

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Kevin Van Allen
- ⇒ Jake & Heather Ayers
- ⇒ Bob House
- ⇒ Chris & Charlene Masten
- ⇒ Bob Mellen
- ⇒ Shawn Rice
- ⇒ Tom & Laurie Vonglis
- ⇒ Paul Warren
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner

District 7120 Calendar of Events

Save the Date

Friday, September 6, 2024
Reservoir Creek Golf Course
8613 State Route 21
Naples, NY
Cost-\$90/golfer
Registration- 11-11:45;
tee at 12 noon

Go to rotary7120.org to register

Service Above Self

GOODBYE LOUIE!



July 9: We celebrated our amazing exchange student, Louie, as he wrapped up his unforgettable year here in Avon! Louie has truly experienced the best of what the U.S. has to offer, from local traditions to national adventures. His charisma and character have left a lasting impact on everyone he's met. We can't wait to see what incredible things are in store for his future!

Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, we're thrilled to welcome not one, but TWO exchange students to our community! We'll be hosting a boy from Germany and a girl from Brazil. This is an incredible opportunity for cultural exchange and personal growth, both for the students and for our community. Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience that brings a wealth of new perspectives and lifelong friendships. If you're interested in becoming a host family and making a difference in a young person's life, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us to learn more about this rewarding experience. Let's make this another fantastic year of cultural exchange and community bonding! *Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

July 9: When Louie finished the review of his exchange year, a big birthday party for everyone in the club began. The first of it's kind organized by Collin Hayes, we sat with our birthday month friends and spent time asking 'ice breaker' questions to each other with a purpose of getting to know our Rotary family better. As for the desserts, there were many and each one as good as the next! (except for Helen's chocolate cake... that was pretty epic). Thanks for organizing something fun & different Collin! *Submitted by Laurie*



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



On Tuesday July 16th, our club hosted its 19th blood drive held at the Inn. Once again, thank you to Jen Krause for allowing us to use her ballroom.

Summertime blood drives can be a challenge with everyone's busy schedules but our numbers were very respectable. In total, 21 units of blood were collected including 4 double-reds. Thank you to all who participated including seven Avon Rotarians

Avon Rotary blood drive # 20 is scheduled for November 12th once again at the Inn from 12:30 to 5:30. Believe it or not, every two seconds someone in the United States is needing blood! I hope you will consider scheduling your donation.

Yours In Rotary Service, Karl Sawicki



**American
Red Cross**



WANDA'S INSPIRING STORY



July 16: We had the honor of being joined by Wanda Martinez-Johncox, the chair of our Rotary District 7120's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Wanda shared her inspiring story about coming out in her native country of Puerto Rico and how she was sent to the U.S. for conversion therapy. She bravely recounted her battles with mental illness and homelessness and how she overcame these immense challenges. Her resilience and dedication to advocacy moved us all.

Following Wanda's powerful presentation, our members channeled their creativity into making tie-dyed shirts in preparation for the Rochester Pride Parade.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



ROCHESTER PRIDE PARADE



July 20: We are thrilled to announce that several of our Avon Rotary Club members proudly participated in the Rochester Pride Parade alongside fellow Rotarians from neighboring clubs. This vibrant event celebrated diversity, inclusion, and unity within our community.

Marching together, we demonstrated our commitment to equality and the Rotary principle of "Service Above Self." It was a day filled with joy, colorful displays, and a shared sense of purpose.

We thank all our members who joined us and extend our gratitude to the Rochester community for such a warm welcome. Let's continue working together to make a positive impact in every corner of our society! *Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



Maggie

July 23: Our meeting was both inspiring and heartwarming! We had the pleasure of hearing from our outgoing exchange student, Maggie R., who presented in Dutch about her life and hometown. Maggie is preparing to share this presentation with her host club in the Netherlands, and it was a wonderful preview of her journey abroad.

We also had the honor of awarding two scholarships to recent Avon graduates:

Kaitlyn G., a recipient of the Avon Rotary Vocational Scholarship, will be attending SUNY Geneseo. She plans to major in Secondary Education with a focus in Biology. Lena A., the recipient of the Linda Kime Memorial Scholarship, will attend St. John Fisher University. Lena is set to major in Nursing and has aspirations to become a pediatric oncology nurse.



Kaitlyn



Lena

Congratulations to both Kaitlyn and Lena! We are incredibly proud of these young women and excited to see the positive impact they will make in their respective fields.

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media

SUMMER PICNIC



July 30: Well that was super fun! 35 Rotarians and family members gathered together at the Wells Estate for a summer cookout, yard games and lots of visiting, (what we like to call fellowship). We dined inside on LOTS of various dishes to pass and perfectly cooked burgers and dogs by grill master Tom. I believe it's safe to say that everyone had a good time. We even had a few games of 'corn hole', with a variety of skill levels. For the spectators, you're welcome for the entertainment.

A big, sincere thank you to Joe Yantachka, fondly referred to as Partyman Joe, for the invitation to have the picnic at his new establishment. The opportunity allowed guests to tour the house, grounds and Wells Barn. In his short time as owner, he's made tremendous improvements with plenty more in store.

Many thanks to all that attended. Look for details for our next picnic in September.

Submitted by Laurie

Rambling On Rotary—August



August is RI's Membership and New Club development Month. We are a few meetings into President Karen's new year. Her first meeting on July 16 at the downs, as a prelude to the District 7120 Pride Day parade on July 20, we made tie-died apparel, and I am authoring this article that same evening. We also had the pleasure of a

presentation by District DEI Co-Chair Wanda Martinez Johncox, please note that our member Cat Jensen (and last year's Rotarian of the Year) is also a co-chair of this committee. Wanda's comments regarding her background as a member of the LGBTQ community growing up in Puerto Rico and the Catholic church were very inspirational. Wanda's service to others locally and around the world for Rotary and the Red Cross resound with last year's RI president's motto to Create Hope in the World. Rotary International's Diversity Equity and Inclusion message is for all clubs and Rotarians to "use respectful language, be supportive, foster a welcoming and inclusive environment and to CELEBRATE diversity" [emphasis added].

In the July edition of the Rotary Magazine, 2024-25 RI President Stephanie Urchick, in her message, stated "Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact ... that belonging is the Magic of Rotary itself. With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective." She went on to say that "our clubs can't afford to stand still." We must always be looking to invite new members to join in our opportunities for service to others. And when they attend, we must help them

feel that Rotary and our club are an irresistible place to be and to be a part of. As President Urchick stated, "Committing ourselves to each other's well-being is the first step to explaining our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times."

As I reflect on these comments from our RI President and the message of District 7120 DEI Co-Chair Wanda, I am inspired to do more to make myself and our club attractive to others. As Wanda mentioned it is essential for each of us to reach out to our friends and members to make sure they are safe and okay, asking them as DG Julie implored for us all to do last year, asking "How are you REALLY", we have missed you, are you okay?

At our District 7120 District Conference in Saratoga, Wanda received the Rotary International Service Above Self award, one of only 86 persons so recognized this past year around the world. Our job as Rotarians and a Rotary Club in District 7120 is to make certain that every day we fulfill the Rotary Code of Conduct and Four-Way Test (see the Rotary Magazine page 58) and increase our membership with like-minded, service-minded persons wanting to serve others. We must make Rotary and our club irresistible to others. Wanda commented how she has enjoyed visiting our club; do others say and feel the same? As President Urchick stated, "let us change the world by embracing the Magic of Rotary." During this membership month, let us invite others to join us and let us strive to make those visits irresistible. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.


Yours In Rotary Service, Bruce Amey





**END
POLIO
NOW**

2024 Wild Polio Case Counts as of August 31 2024

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	6	9	June 2024
Pakistan	6	9	June 2024
Total	12	18	



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



I want to thank & give a big hug to all the folks who participated in the PRIDE parade in Rochester! It was a beautiful sunny day with a record number of floats & record number of crowds watching. I read the number of people watching & enjoying the parade has been estimated at 25,000+. Just imagine the VISIBILITY & positive message Rotary effectively shared with the on-lookers! The District also

had a record number of participants including clubs like Roc City, Penfield, Pittsford, Rochester SW, Exchange students, Rotaract, and of course, Avon.

I am completely energized & also simultaneously overwhelmed with all the positive energy that surrounded us! We accomplished an amazing thing as Rotary marched in its second PRIDE parade!

So many people cheered as the Rotary float passed by, yelling, "Yes Rotary! Yay Rotary!" We got our message out regarding diversity, equality, and inclusion with a super fun platform.

I look forward to hearing the impressions & thoughts of the members who joined in on the fun!

Thanks again to our super stellar ☆ Rotary family! Cat Jensen



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
226-6735



Grocery items needed in August will be announced via email by David Kilgore.



If you would like to donate please place in the bin at our meeting. Thank you!

Fighting Hunger Together