



154th Edition

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President's Message



It's the most wonderful time of the year!! This is one of my favorite times, when a sense of warmth and anticipation fills the air. It's a time for reflection, gratitude, and connection. The hustle and bustle of everyday life often overshadows the simple joys of being together. Yet, it's precisely these moments of shared experiences that make this season truly special.

The holidays offer a unique opportunity to slow down, disconnect from the digital world, and reconnect with loved ones. Whether it's a cozy evening by the fireplace, a festive dinner gathering, or a simple phone call, these moments of togetherness can strengthen bonds and create lasting memories. Beyond the joy of companionship, the holiday season also inspires acts of kindness and service. Volunteering to ring the bell at your local grocery store, making delicious crepes to help raise money for gifts for local families, donating to charity, or simply help-

ing a neighbor can bring immense satisfaction. These acts of generosity not only benefit others but also enrich our own lives.

As we navigate the holiday season, let us prioritize the things that truly matter: love, compassion, and gratitude. By cherishing the time spent with loved ones and extending a helping hand to those in need, we can create a more meaningful and fulfilling holiday experience.

May this season bring you joy, peace, and the warmth of human connection. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Yours In Rotary Service,
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

**“Kindness is like snow.
It beautifies everything it covers.”**

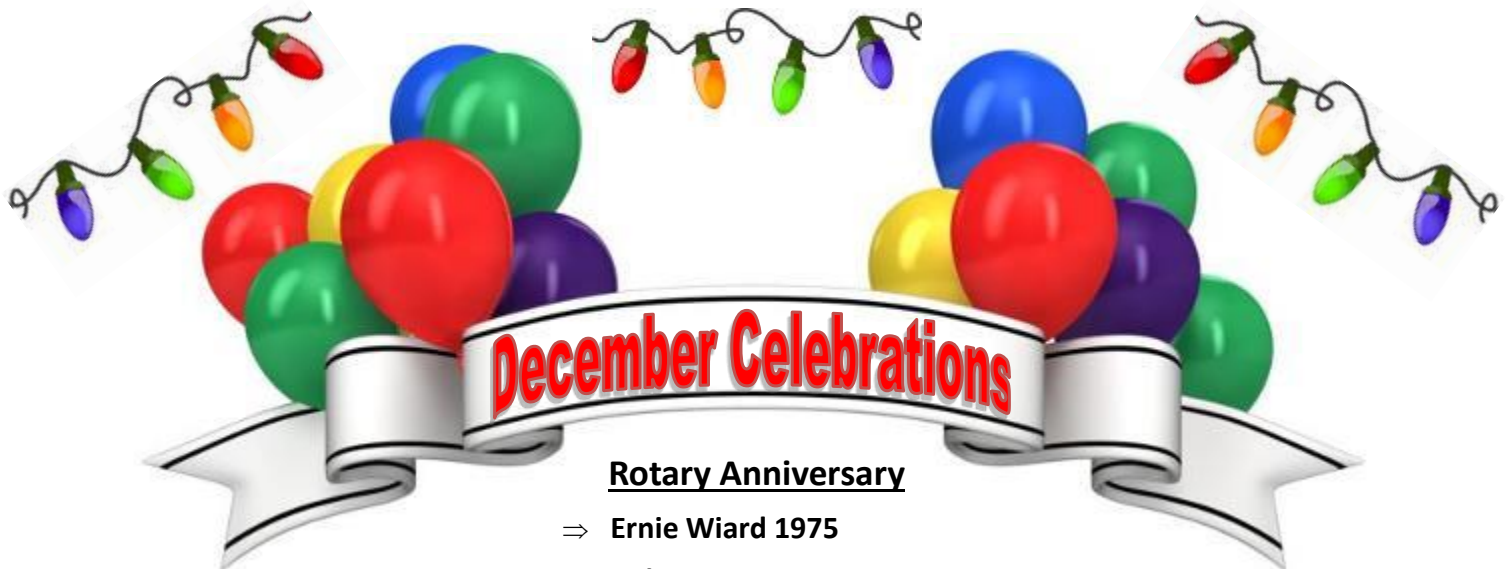
Kahlil Gibran



AVON ROTARY MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Mon. Dec 2	Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 at Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Dec 3	Interact Lead Meeting, 6:00. Food Pantry Christmas Cookie Service Project
Tues. Dec 10	Regular Meeting, 6:00. Program: Jack Klapper, President of the LivCo Farm Bureau
Sat. Dec 14	Holiday Celebration 6:00 at Avon Commons
Tues. Dec 17	Regular Meeting, 6:00. Program: Maureen Wheeler, Deputy Director of Economic Development for Livingston County
Tues. Dec 24	Christmas Eve, No Regular Meeting
Tues. Dec 31	New Years Eve, No Regular Meeting



Birthday

- ⇒ Jake Ayers
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel
- ⇒ Bob French
- ⇒ Tom Honan
- ⇒ Chris Masten
- ⇒ Ryan Pacatte
- ⇒ Shawn Rice
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Ernie Wiard 1975
- ⇒ Bob House 1987
- ⇒ David Kilgore 1987
- ⇒ Marcia Cameron 2005
- ⇒ Rodney George 2010
- ⇒ Jim Varner 2014
- ⇒ Jean Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Greg Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Karen Vanderbilt 2018
- ⇒ Jaime Lovullo 2021
- ⇒ Will McLaughlin 2021

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Bill Wall
- ⇒ Joe Yantachka

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY PLANNING



November 5: Avon Rotary Club had the pleasure of hosting Megan Crowe, the Director of Livingston County Planning, who provided an insightful presentation on the critical work her department is doing to support local municipalities across the county.

Megan shared how the county offers technical assistance in a variety of key areas, from land use regulations and economic development to environmental protection. One of the highlights was her discussion of the county's efforts in fostering agricultural and farm development, ensuring the sustainability of this vital industry.

She also provided valuable updates on the ongoing initiatives aimed at improving broadband internet access, which is essential for both rural communities and local businesses. Megan highlighted the importance of projects focused on the Conesus Lake watershed, where the county is actively working to protect and preserve this vital resource.

Additionally, Megan touched on the county's work in housing, transportation, and mapping—areas that have a direct impact on the everyday lives of residents. Her presentation underscored the collaborative efforts taking place to improve infrastructure, enhance livability, and support future growth across Livingston County.

Thank you, Megan, for taking the time to share your expertise with us. We look forward to seeing how these initiatives continue to shape a brighter future for our community! *Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

AVON ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS



On Tuesday November 12th, our club sponsored its 20th Red Cross blood drive.

It was held once again at the Inn from 12:30 until 5:30. I'm grateful that we have been able to continue this much-needed endeavor, and I thank Jen for her support for this project.

The Red Cross challenged us to collect 26 units of blood during the drive. We had a bit of a slow start, but the results were 35 units collected that can positively impact over 70 patients in need. Let's consider that a great win! Thank you to the nine Rotarians that

were able to contribute as well as all the others.

Every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illness or traumatic injuries. 29,000 units of blood are needed DAILY in the States. Care starts with one person taking time to make that generous, important donation.

Our next drive is scheduled for March 25th, at the same place and time. I hope you will join me.

YIRS,

Karl



**American
Red Cross**

CELEBRATING ROTARY FOUNDATION



November 19: Tonight's meeting was a powerful reminder of the impact Rotary International's Foundation has on the world—and the incredible generosity of our community.

November is Rotary Foundation Month, a time to celebrate and support the Foundation's work. The Rotary Foundation transforms donations into life-changing projects around the globe, focusing on areas such as providing clean water, fighting disease, promoting peace, and supporting education. With a four-star rating from Charity Navigator for over a decade, it ensures that our contributions make a lasting impact where they're needed most.

We used this opportunity to honor the legacy of Avon Rotarian Ted Coyne, who we sadly lost earlier this year. Over his remarkable 69 years as a member of our club, Ted and his wife Dorothy were major donors to the Foundation, and he was a founding member of the Avon Ambulance, embodying Rotary's motto of Service Above Self.

We were privileged to be joined by Don Alhart, a name familiar to many for his 58-year world record-breaking career as a newscaster. Beyond his broadcasting achievements, Don is a dedicated Rotarian, having served in the Rochester Rotary Club for over four decades, and our own District 7120 as a past District Governor and Foundation Chair. Don shared how Foundation donations provide life-changing support to those in need, explained how these gifts can honor outstanding community service, and highlighted Avon Rotary's impressive Foundation contributions—just shy of \$350,000 to date!



A special moment of the evening was the presentation of the Paul Harris +7 pin to Avon Rotarian Laurie Vonglis, recognizing her incredible ongoing support for the Foundation.



In a fitting tribute to Ted Coyne's memory, our members came together to raise an additional \$3,800 for the Foundation. This is a true testament to the spirit of giving that defines Avon Rotary.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this meaningful evening and to all who contribute to making a difference through Rotary. Together, we continue Ted's legacy of compassion and generosity. *Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

A message from Don Alhart on Social Media:

11/20: Great to meet Rotary Exchange Student Paul Pago- from Germany. He is spending the school year in Avon through the Avon Rotary Club.



Also thanks to Avon Rotary President Karen Vanderbilt and Area Governor Kirk Vanderbilt for inviting me to speak at their weekly meeting.



Rambling On Rotary—December



By Bruce Amey

.As you read this, we are in December and just passed Thanksgiving; I hope your holiday was grateful. We were fortunate to have Ben and Madison's family with us. But now I have tons of things to do before Christmas.

I am thankful for our club's leadership team, President Karen has been planning social activities each month for us. Per our By-Laws, Past President Mike is coordinating elections and the forming of our club's Board of Directors for the 2025-26 Rotary Year. Thus far, in our club's leadership queue are President-Elect Rob Lupisella for 25-26, then Senior Director Katie DeGraff for 26-27, and Director Tom Honan for 27-28. For the ballot there is still the "next" director in the presidential queue to be announced, up to three "Directors at Large", a club secretary, and a club treasurer (although I believe current Treasurer Hans Koomen has agreed to stay on for 25-26).

I am thankful for Mike and Richelle Ford coordinating our local efforts to raise funds for the Salvation Army. I am proud for this opportunity to serve others directly in our community. Even though I was not able to attend the meeting, I am thankful for the leadership of AG Kirk planning the Foundation celebration in honor of Ted Coyne on November 19th.

We have upcoming on Saturday, December 7 the Avon Holiday Spectacular for which, I believe, we will be hosting our Crepe booth, even without Past President Dom. This event is a great opportunity for club members to attend visibly wearing Rotary attire to show our support for the community activity. We also have our club's Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 14 starting at 5:00 in the Avon Commons Center. Additionally, attending our regularly scheduled meeting offers a great opportunity to celebrate together on a weekly basis.

Our club and our service is part of The Magic of Rotary. As we await updates from our Board of Directors of future fundraising activities to support our club's goals and support for community activities.

For Avon Rotarians, I am thankful and proud that we give and serve throughout the year, not just during the season of giving. And the result of our giving is getting the rewards of knowing that Service Above Self creates an inner gift that cannot be purchased. I am thankful and proud to be among you as a friend and fellow Rotarian. My sincerest wish is as we enter the holiday season, we are guided to safe and joyous celebrations with family and friends. I wish you all Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year as friends and Rotarians together. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

MEATBALLS AND SUCH

November 26: While taking a break from a regularly scheduled meeting for the Thanksgiving Holiday, some of us die-hard (read: nothing else to do) Rotarians gathered in the damp basement area of the local sweatshop to share in some pre-holiday merry making and cheer. With no formal agenda, we were left to gossip and chat, mostly about the public flogging Ryan, Rodney and Prez Karen were subjecting themselves to at the Middle School Library. Otherwise, food and drink were the main focus of our time together. The highlight of the evening was a fine batch of meatballs, lovingly prepared by Janice in her favorite slow-cooker. Seems she used an old stand-by recipe (grape jelly etc), but to add flair, and test some of our less adventurous attendees, added a half a quart of Sriracha sauce. Turns out, the concoction wasn't too spicy, even for some of our more delicate palates, and there was a consensus that Janice should win the "dish-of-the-night" contest. Barb reminded us that there was no such contest (or prize for that matter!) so we were pleased to give her a standing ovation instead. Mostly, we simply enjoyed each other's company, and warmed up our gullets for a full holiday season of debauchery and over-indulgence. Special thanks of course to Steve, for the use of his cellar, even though he was galivanting in the Sunshine State somewhere, also thanks to Ernie for providing the 48 pounds of ice which we used for our 4 cocktails and 1 bourbon on the rocks. Happy Holidays everybody!!

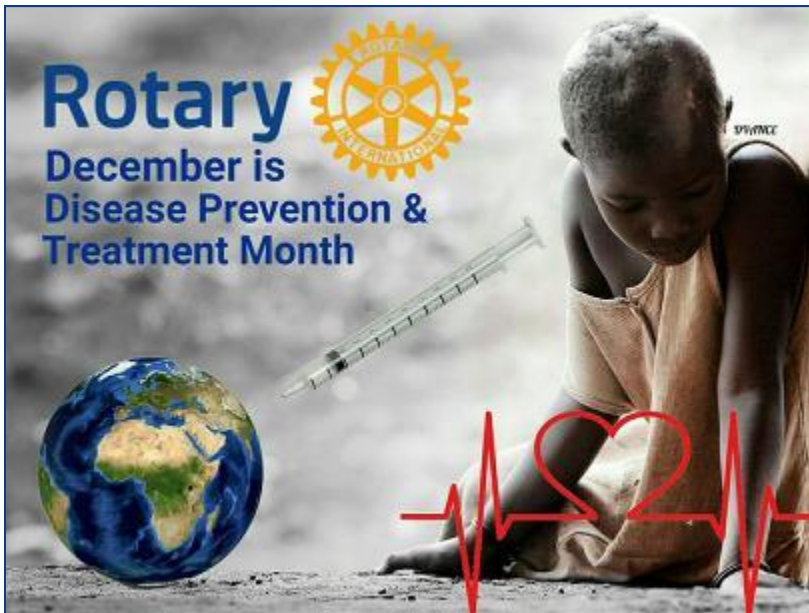


FULL CIRCLE HOME—part 2



YIRS, Laurie

Full Circle Home, an organization honoring, celebrating & connecting our troops and their heroes at home, came to visit our club in October. We learned about this group and helped make over 400 boxed gifts for the holidays. Recently, President Karen put out a call for volunteers to help them complete this seasons gifts. So, on Monday, November 18, Char Masten, Tom Vonglis and myself lent a hand for an hour and a half. We worked along side others, led by Vickie Durfee and mass produced another 400 boxed gifts. It was fun, easy and felt good doing it. Personally, I appreciate Char introducing the club to this organization. I look forward to supporting Full Circle Home in the future.



PEACE LOVE JOY


Wishing you a world of happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year





**END
POLIO
NOW**

2024 Wild Polio Case Counts as of November 30, 2024

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	6	23	September 2024
Pakistan	6	55	November 2024
Total	12	78	



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



**RESTORE HOPE
TRANSFORM LIVES**

December gives us an opportunity to ring the bell for Salvation Army. If you would like to volunteer, contact Mike or Richelle Ford. Please feel free to share this with your friends, family, work colleagues, places of worship, service organizations, etc. All the funds stay right here in Avon to help your neighbors in need. Thanks and I hope to see you ringing!

Grocery items needed in December 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 Local Hunger Together



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

**Barbara Herman
226-6735**

