



149th Edition

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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

President's Message



Happy New Year!!

Last Tuesday evening was a wonderful way to kick off the new Rotary year. Celebrating Mike's year full of success and three incredible members, Cat, Mike and

Collin, that make the magic happen for Avon Rotary.

I am honored and humbled to be your President for the 2024-25 Rotary Year. We, your board, and a few dedicated Rotarians have already started planning for a meaningful, engaging, and FUN year. "True life is lived when tiny changes occur." Leo Tolstoy. One of my goals is to mix things up a little, try different locations whether it be visiting a different club, working on a service project in our community, or social events that bring us closer as a Rotary family and to invite

friends, and neighbors to experience what Avon Rotary is all about. Many hands make light work, the more we engage with our community, the more we invite the community to help with service projects and our upcoming Corn Festival the more they will understand what Rotary is all about. The more they will realize they do have the time, energy and ideas to help out not only in our community but they will understand the reach we have beyond our idyllic little town. What a magical year it will be as we sprinkle our talents and efforts all over Avon and beyond.

I hope everyone has a safe, happy and spectacular first week of July and we will all be together again on July 9th at the Avon Inn to get this party started.

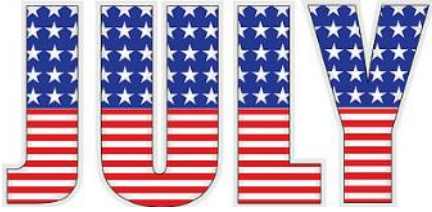
Best Regards,
 Karen

The Magic of Rotary

By working together, Rotarians can perform "magic" in their communities, bringing hope and joy to those in need.



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



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

- Tues. July 2 No Meeting—Happy Independence Day
- Mon. July 8 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm at Circleview Conf room
- Tues. July 9 Happy Birthday Party! Program: Louie's year in review
- Tues. July 16 Meeting held at Avon Driving Park, Program: Wanda Martinez Johncox, - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Activity: tie dye t-shirts
- Tues. July 16 Red Cross Blood Drive @ Avon Inn 12:30-5:30
- Tues. July 23 Regular Meeting, Program: Maggie Ressig presents on her coming outbound exchange. Scholarship presentations
- Tues. July 30 Social at the Wells Estate (formerly, Avon Century Barn) 5:00



Birthday

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Ted Coyne 1955
- ⇒ Steve Stevenson 1963
- ⇒ Julie Carney 2009

- ⇒ Joe Callahan (H)
- ⇒ Charlene Masten
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Greg & Jean Antkowiak
- ⇒ Mike Giso
- ⇒ Will McLaughlin
- ⇒ Ryan Pacatte
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard

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



LITTLE LEAGUE



June 4: Avon Rotary Club members and Interact students came together to create vibrant and supportive signs for the Avon Cubs coach pitch little league team that we proudly sponsor. It was a wonderful team effort, filled with creativity and community spirit!

Two days later, Avon Rotarians and Interact students gathered to cheer on the Avon Cubs at their game. Our enthusiastic support helped to fuel their energy on the field, and it was great to see the community come together for such a fun event.



To top off a fantastic night, we handed out popsicles to all four coach pitch teams after the game, spreading smiles with a cool treat on a warm day.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our young athletes!

Go Avon Cubs!

Submitted by Mike Ford via social media



HUMANE SOCIETY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY



June 11: We were delighted to welcome Charlene Sinclair from the Humane Society of Livingston County to our latest meeting! Charlene shared inspiring insights into their vital work, focusing on three key areas:

- Adoption Program: Helping countless cats and kittens find their forever homes.
- Spay and Neuter Programs: Addressing the feral cat population in our community through proactive measures.
- Cat/Kitten Fostering: Offering a loving, temporary home to cats and kittens in need.



Our club was proud to support the Humane Society of Livingston County with a donation towards their incredible mission.

Want to get involved? Whether it's donating, becoming a member, or opening your home to a feline friend as a foster parent, every bit of help makes a difference!

Learn more at humanesocietylivco-ny.org

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media

TRIVIA NIGHT

June 18: To celebrate President Mike's final regular meeting, he organized a trivia game for everyone in attendance to play. Each question was based on something from Mike's year and oh boy, did the man take notes! With each participant starting with 3 balloons, as questions and answers were shared, balloons popped and in the end the persons with the most balloons squared off for one final question. Congratulations to Jim Tompsett, the winner of a \$35 contribution to a charity of his choice... the Livingston County Humane Society. WELL DONE MIKE!!!



A NOTE OF THANKS



I just wanted to send a note of thanks to the club, and Jeff Herberger for allowing me to borrow the clubs tables and chairs for a celebration we had for my Aunt Kay on June 8th. It was a great day to celebrate her. We had over 100 people there. She unfortunately has terminal brain cancer (glioblastoma). My Aunt has always been the leader of our family making sure we always get together for family reunions and holidays. One of her last wishes was to have a party with family and friends. On behalf of my Aunt Kay, Uncle Joe and my cousins Jess, Katy and Carrie, thanks to the club for playing a role in making a great day for all of us that we will always remember!
Jake Ayers



PRESIDENT MIKE'S REFLECTIONS



Change of Officers, Tuesday, June 25, 2024

This won't be your typical speech about this year's theme of "Create Hope in the World" because I covered that in my most recent newsletter article. It also won't be a year in review speech because last week's trivia game covered that quite thoroughly. Instead, I'd like to reflect on a theme that is near and dear to my heart, one that I discussed in my March newsletter article: how Rotary is family. When I think of Rotary, I don't just see a service organization. I see a community bound by a shared purpose and a commitment to making the world a better place. Much like a family, we support each other, celebrate each other's successes, and stand together in the face of challenges.

In our Rotary family, we find camaraderie and a sense of belonging that transcends our individual differences. We come from diverse backgrounds, professions, and walks of life, yet we are united by a common goal. This diversity is our strength, and it's what makes our family so special. Each of you brings something unique to our club, enriching our collective experience and broadening our perspectives.

Throughout this year, I've seen firsthand the power of this family. Whether it was coming together to execute a service project, supporting each other through personal challenges, or simply sharing a laugh at our meetings, the spirit of Rotary has shone brightly. It's these moments of connection and unity that have made my tenure as President so rewarding.

Our Rotary family extends beyond our local club. It's a global network of individuals dedicated to service above self. This global family has shown us that, no matter where we are in the world, we are never alone in our mission. We are part of something larger, a movement that brings hope and positive change to communities everywhere.

As I step down from my role as President, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to have led such an incredible group of people. Each of you has contributed to our successes this year, and it has been an honor to serve alongside you. While my role may be changing, my commitment to this Rotary family remains unwavering.

Now, it is my privilege to pass the gavel to our next President, Karen. Karen, you have shown tremendous dedication and leadership, and I am confident that you will guide our club with the same passion and commitment that has defined your service thus far. I look forward to supporting you and witnessing the great things our Rotary family will achieve under your leadership.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your support, your dedication, and your friendship. It's been a remarkable journey, and I look forward to continuing our work together in new and exciting ways.

Remember, we are more than just members of a club; we are family. And as family, there is no limit to what we can achieve together. I love you, and thank you.

President Mike Ford was presented with a Presidential plaque for his year of leadership and dedication to the Avon Rotary Club 2023-2024.

Presented by Karen Vanderbilt.

Congratulations Mike!



PRESIDENT KAREN'S YEAR AHEAD



Change of Officers, Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Thank you all for being here tonight. I want to start off by telling you about one of my first exposures to Rotary. Twenty one years ago, January of 2003, Kirk joined this club. It was in April of 2003 that we were expecting our first child and I remember in just those few short months Kirk came home from a meeting with an envelope full of cash. I don't even remember the amount. I want to say it was like \$400 but that doesn't even matter. It could have been 20 bucks. The point was people that I didn't even really know because I'm not from Avon, passed the hat around during a meeting and threw whatever cash in that they could to give to a family that was just starting out. I remember thinking, who does that? Who are these people? They are, you are, good people. My Rotary family, my dearest Friends, who I consider family and of course my beautiful family, I offer my deepest gratitude. It is because of your love and support that

helped shape the person I am today.

And today I am President of this awesome Rotary club! Together, my team, your board and a few incredibly dedicated Rotarians have already started planning an exciting year ahead. We're committed to creating a calendar filled with engaging meetings, meaningful social events, and impactful service projects. We're confident you'll find something to love in every get together. But remember, this is your club – your feedback is invaluable. So, if there is ever an event or activity that doesn't quite resonate, please share your thoughts with kindness and support. We're always looking for ways to improve and make the club even better for everyone.

What a year it would be if we all come to the table, all share thoughts, idea and dreams of what this club could be. One analogy that has stuck with me and I believe it started with DG Julie, in the beginning of her year, it was the idea of the puzzle and everyone putting the pieces together. Imagine that puzzle and it's pieces scattered all over a table. There will be Rotarians that have the time and devotion to be able to put all the outside edges together, the framework. There will be some Rotarians that can fill a whole corner, some that may be able to do five to ten pieces and others who can only do a piece or two, whether it's because of family or work commitments or just life in general. But we need to have everyone at the table to help plan, discuss and build a complete puzzle. Each piece is just as important as the one next to it. Just as each Rotarian is needed just as much as the one next to you and each brings their own unique strengths. Some may excel at seeing the big picture, like those who assemble the edges. Others might have a knack for tackling complex details, fitting intricate corners into place. Regardless of how many pieces someone contributes, their individual talent helps us complete the puzzle. We are a team, we are a family and together, our diverse skills and experiences allow us to achieve great things.

We are all volunteers trying to do our best, and together, even the smallest contributions can create something truly remarkable. Imagine the finished puzzle – a vibrant picture of our community, made stronger by the combined efforts of each and every one of us.

WELCOME 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Left to Right— Immediate Past District Governor Julie Carney

Board Members—Sr. Director Katie DeGraff, Past President Mike Ford, Member at large Cat Jensen, President Karen Vanderbilt, Secretary Jaime Lovullo, President Elect Rob Lupisella, Director Tom Honan, Member at large Collin Hayes. Missing, Treasurer Hans Koomen
Sergeant at Arms Steve Csapo



CHANGE OF OFFICERS CELEBRATION

June 25: We celebrated our Change of Officers Dinner, and it was a truly memorable evening. We had the pleasure of honoring some incredible members of our Rotary family. Congratulations to Rotarians Mike Giso, Collin Hayes, and Cat Jensen, who were all awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Your dedication and service are truly inspiring! A special shoutout to Collin Hayes, who was also named our Rookie of the Year, and to Cat Jensen, who was awarded our Rotarian of the Year. Your hard work and commitment to our community do not go unnoticed. Outgoing President Mike Ford wrapped up his amazing year with a heartfelt message on how Rotary is like a family. Thank you, Mike, for your leadership and dedication! We also welcomed our Incoming President Karen Vanderbilt, who inspired us with her vision for the future. She beautifully expressed how every Rotarian is like a piece of a puzzle, and only together can we complete the whole picture. Here's to another fantastic year of service, fellowship, and making a difference in our community! *Mike Ford*

ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR



Cat Jensen



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Collin Hayes

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS



Mike Giso



Cat Jensen



Collin Hayes

Rambling On Rotary—July



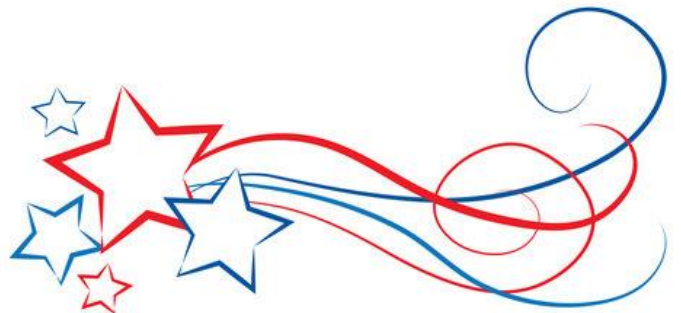
At our June 25 meeting we celebrated the start of a new year with our Change of Officers dinner. It was very nice and the start of the year with RI President Stephanie Urchick's theme the Magic of Rotary. I am looking forward to Avon Rotary President Karen Vanderbilt's year. Her message at the Change Of Officer celebration was inspiring and challenged each club member to recognize their importance and participation in the club and in Rotary, in general, as important and special pieces of a larger puzzle that we will work putting together all together.

In the July issue of the Rotary Magazine, RI President Urchick's message "Toward a greater Vision" stated "Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs ... that belonging is "The Magic of Rotary" itself. President Karen's reference to a puzzle wherein we are each essential to the picture being constructed reflects the "sense of inclusion and belonging" RI President Urchick speaks of.

Our Change of Officers evening also recognized Collin Hayes as the Rookie of the Year for last year and Cat Jensen as our club's Rotarian of the Year, along with naming new Paul Harris Fellows Mike Giso, Cat Jensen, and Collin Hayes. This year's chairperson of the Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees, past RI President Mark Maloney, made the reference of the Foundation being like the engine in a luxury car; the Foundation is the engine that moves Rotary forward. He said, "...as a member of Rotary, you are part of a worldwide movement that implements global grants to build sustainable systems for clean water and sanitation where there are none. You help train peace-builders in a world plagued by unrest. And through supporting the Foundation, you help people rebuild their lives after natural disasters. This is the magic of the Rotary Foundation." As you are aware, our club has supported directly to the sustainable project of building schools in Nicaragua, through Linking Hands For Learning. As our Foundation chair Kirk has shared, our club would like to see every member making donations to the Foundation every year, to have every member have some "skin in the game" of fueling the engine that drives Rotary forward.

A focus this year for RI President Urchick is pursuing the Rotary Action Plan (rotary.org/actionplan); one of the tenets of that plan is encouraging each club to increase their ability to adapt. We need to adapt to the changing

needs of our members and community and world. "Organizations that don't adapt eventually disappear." We all know that change can be difficult and "adapting" is about some change. "Have conversations within your club about who you are and who you want to be." I again believe this fits into club President Karen's desire to have all members being a part of the puzzle. In the July Rotary magazine, on page 56 there is an article about "Our Clubs" by Michele Berg, deputy secretary for RI, stating "There is no single way to do Rotary. Regional diversity is what makes Rotary unique and notes that adaptability is the fourth priority of Rotary's Strategic Action Plan." Our district 7120 has been promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the past several years. Looking to adapt to needs of members and prospective members may require us to consider adapting some new models for meetings and membership? Should we have a varying dues structure for some members, such as those under 30 years old to help support younger persons joining our club? Should we support a satellite club which might meet at a different time and place to better accommodate some members work and family structures. Personally, I look forward to all our members convening on Tuesday evenings, however, we have noticed that some members find that meeting time difficult for their schedules. I think a single meeting time enhances our camaraderie, however, as past member Marcia Tetamore commented at a meeting last year, "I've been a member of this club for [two] years and have yet to see some members attend a meeting." Do we know why that is so? Is it meeting time? Is it personal issues that are unknown? We need to ask the questions and be willing to adapt if our club is to grow to better serve our community and our world. It is a new Rotary year with new opportunities to serve and grow together ,, and to experience and make the Magic of Rotary. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.
Yours In Rotary Service, Bruce Amey



More Fun at the Red Wings Game



KUDOS to Ed Kime for knocking it out of the ball park on his first volunteer shift! Serving up pizza and smiles with his teammates wasn't hard at all.



District Changeover Dinner

June 27: Several Avon Rotarians joined our outgoing District Governor, Julie, for the district's changeover dinner. Julie shared her thoughts on this year's message and hopes the focus on mental health awareness continues to grow. President Mike passed the Governor's home club banner to the Spencerport club and we all shared a good meal and fellowship with other Rotarians in the district. Avon has much to be proud of and the job Julie did leading our district.



A MESSAGE FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Greetings Rotary Family!

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Rotary year where we will share The Magic of Rotary.

It is with great pleasure that I thank Drew and Vicki Kessler for their years of service as Rotary International director and partner for the past two years. Thank you Drew and Vicki for your leadership in supporting our members throughout Zones 28 and 32; and thank you for your hard work, dedication and inspiration in moving our organization forward. Thank you for all you do and all you have done for Rotary!

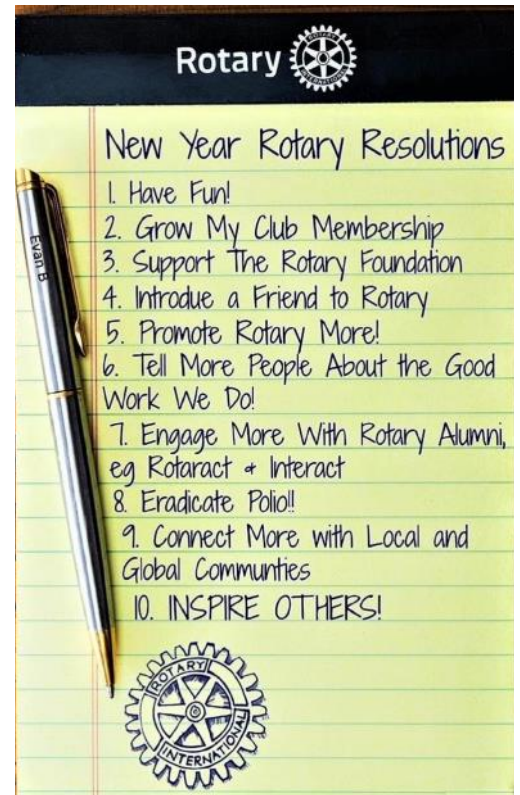
As we embark on this new Rotary year, our Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick has chosen the theme "The Magic of Rotary." While introducing our theme at the Rotary International Assembly in January, President Stephanie shared that she saw the magic of Rotary on display when she was helping install water filters in the Dominican Republic. Two young boys were watching as dirty water entered the filter and ran out clean at the other end. One of the boys grabbed her sleeve and said, "Show me the magic again." Obviously, the water filter wasn't magic but those two young boys knew that access to clean water would change their lives. We all have the opportunity to share the magic of Rotary by working together to grow our organization and increase our impact in our communities and around the world. And we can do that by embracing the four strategic priorities of our Rotary Action Plan. You will hear me share often about our Rotary Action Plan throughout the year, but in the meantime, I encourage you to learn more: <https://my.rotary.org/en/who-we-are/about-rotary/action-plan>.

Thank you for being a member of our great organization and thank you for your service. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your Rotary International director; and I look forward to working together as we take action, create lasting change and share the Magic of Rotary.

Written by: Rotary International Director Chris Etienne



RI President, Stephanie Urchick





American Red Cross



Blood Drive Avon Rotary

Avon Inn

55 E. Main St.

Avon, NY 14414

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

12:30—5:30 pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter avonrotary

to schedule an appointment

Be part of something big. Make an appointment today.





CORN FESTIVAL IS COMING SOON.
Order your t-shirt today!
<https://cornfest24.itemorder.com/>



**MARCH WITH OUR ROTARY
DISTRICT AT THE
ROCHESTER PRIDE PARADE**




**SOUTH AVE TO HIGHLAND PARK
JULY 20, 2024
11:00 A.M.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ROTARY7120.ORG**



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2024 Wild Polio Case Counts as of June 31, 2024

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	6	6	May 2024
Pakistan	6	5	May 2024
Total	12	11	



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

Happy Rotary New Year



2024-2025

July 1st marks the new year on the Rotary calendar. As we transition from the inspiring theme of "Create Hope in the World" to the enchanting "The Magic of Rotary," we celebrate a year of achievements and look forward to new possibilities! A heartfelt congratulations to our outgoing President, Mike Ford, for his incredible leadership and dedication throughout the past year. Your hard work and passion have truly created hope in our community and beyond. We also extend our warmest wishes and full support to our incoming President, Karen Vanderbilt, as she takes the helm. We're excited to see the magic unfold under your guidance, Karen! A special shoutout to Julie Carney, who has made history as the first District Governor from the Avon Rotary Club. Congratulations on completing your term, Julie! Your groundbreaking leadership has inspired us all and left an indelible mark on our district. Here's to another year of service, fellowship, and making a positive impact together. Let's continue to create hope and spread the magic of Rotary! *Mike Ford*

Grocery items needed in July:

Crackers, Canned Chicken Breast, Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato Soup, Bake Beans, Cereal, Relish, Salad Dressings, Canned Corn, Mandarin Oranges, Canned Peaches, Canned Pears, Canned Pineapple, Canned Mix Fruit, Peanut Butter, Tea Bags, Instant Coffee



Place in the bin at our meeting. Thank you!

Fighting Hunger Together

Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
226-6735

