



160th Edition

President's Message

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As my Rotary presidential year draws to a close, I'm filled with a mix of emotions – pride, reflection, and immense gratitude. It's been a journey of significant personal growth and club experiences, marked

by both exhilarating highs and character-building lows.

This year certainly presented its share of hurdles. I still feel a little ill thinking about missing my very first meeting as president. Talk about starting with a stumble! We also faced the challenge of losing some active members and diminished participation for various reasons, which impacted our capacity. And despite our best efforts, I was disappointed that we couldn't organize a second fundraiser this year. Each of these moments tested my resolve and reminded me that leadership isn't always a smooth path. I've learned to navigate these bumps, to adapt, and to keep looking forward.

But oh, the ups! Getting out and about in our community has been a true highlight. From the educational visit to the Lakeville Sportsmen's Club to learning about sustainable practices at the worm farm, each outing deepened our connection to the area and its

people. Our social with the Rush Henrietta club was a fantastic opportunity for fellowship and idea exchange, and I thoroughly enjoyed those moments of camaraderie. These experiences weren't just fun; they were vital in strengthening our bonds and reminding us of the diverse fabric of our community.

Beyond the club's activities, this year has been a profound journey of personal growth. Navigating the presidency has brought emotional ups and downs, pushing me to develop resilience, empathy, and stronger leadership skills. I've learned more about myself, my capabilities, and the power of dedicated teamwork than I ever anticipated. Ultimately, what stands out most are the opportunities we've been given, the memories we've made, and the incredible people who value this club and this community just as much as I do. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering support are the true heartbeat of our Rotary club.

Thank you for an unforgettable year. I'm excited to see what we'll achieve together in the future!

Yours In Rotary Service,

Karen

Board of Directors

Karen Vanderbilt, President

Rob Lupisella, President Elect

Katie DeGraff, Senior Director

Tom Honan, Director

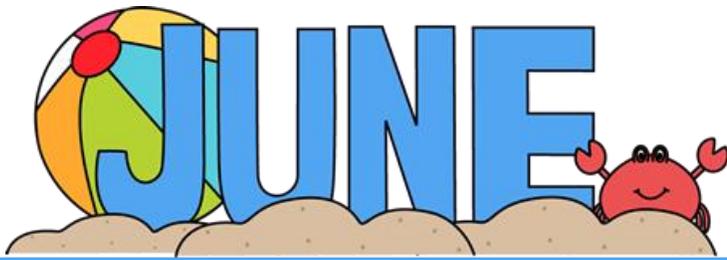
Collin Hayes, Member at Large

Mike Ford, Past President

Jaime Lovullo, Secretary

Hans Koomen, Treasurer

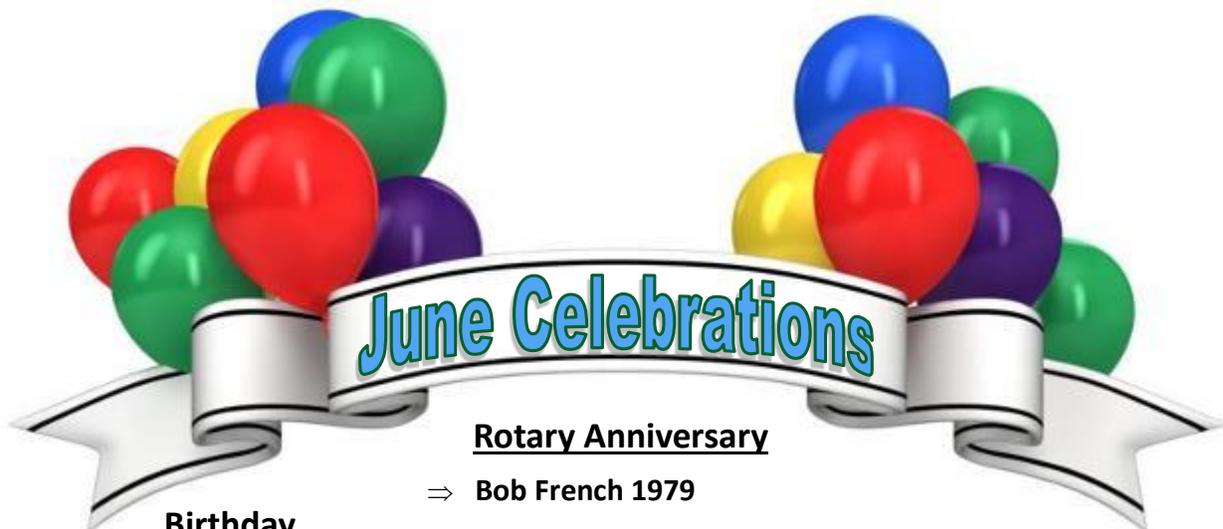




AVON ROTARY MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- Tues. June 3 Regular Mtg, 6:00 with Corn Festival Mtg to follow.
Jasmine's presentation as outbound to Japan
- Thurs. June 5 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 @ Circleview Conference Room
- Tues. June 10 Volunteer Night at Red Wings—NO Regular Meeting
- Tues. June 17 Special Mtg, 6:00 with Paul, inbound exchange runs meeting and gives final presentation on his year in Avon.
- June 21-26 Rotary International Convention, Calgary Canada
- Tues. June 24 Regular Mtg, 6:00



Birthday

- ⇒ Bruce Amey
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Richelle Ford
- ⇒ Dave Henehan
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Bob French 1979
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis 2004
- ⇒ Steve Csapo 2010
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella 2012
- ⇒ Paul Warren 2012
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel 2014

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Nick & Jaime Lovullo
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

DISTRICT CONFERENCE



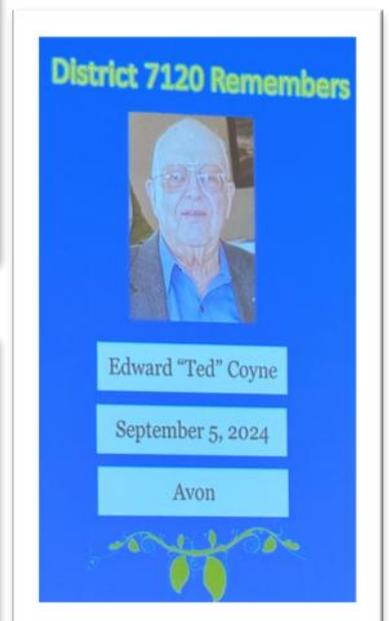
2025 District Conference Attendees:
 (Front) Jaime Lovullo, Marcia Cameron, Mary Kilgore, David Kilgore, Tom Vonglis.
 (Back) Jim Varner, Karen Vanderbilt, Kirk Vanderbilt, Laurie Vonglis, Cindy Varner, Ed Kime. (Missing) Bruce & Diane Amey, Helen Zamboni, Steve Rosen



May 2-4 in Corning NY, Rotarians across the district gathered for an inspiring conference full of great guest speakers, club recognitions and focus on our youth. With time to relax and explore, friends roamed Market Street, visited Corning Glass or strolled the river path. It was a very well done conference!



In Memory of



District Awards



EASTERN CITIES FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



May 13: The Rochester Rotary Club held the 99th Eastern Cities Fellowship Event at the Comedy at the Carlson. The keynote speaker was past Rotary International Director Drew Kessler. Drew spoke about Rotary networking & family, giving examples of how the true meaning of Rotary networking has had a profound effect on Drew and his family. Other speakers included Paul Gugliamo, Rochester Rotary President & Don Alhart, Past District Governor.



Following the luncheon, a few of us visited and toured the Rochester Sunshine Camp along side Don & Drew.

To cap off this Rotary filled day, as a personal favor to our President, Karen, Drew joined our meeting and shared his inspirational story with us. Keep an eye open for this guy, he could be a Rotary International President someday.

Submitted by Laurie Vonglis



JULY IN-MEETING SERVICE PROJECT

100% COTTON

80% COTTON
20% POLYESTER



President-Elect Rob has chosen **July 29** as the date for his first in-meeting service project for his Rotary year. The Avon club will be making washable menstrual pads to be distributed by medical clinics in and around El Sauce, Nicaragua. The work we will do that day involves tracing patterns for the various layers of these items onto fabric and cutting them out. For the "soaker" layers inside the pads, we will be upcycling absorbent cotton material. The best garments for these layers are old 100% (or at least 80%) cotton T-shirts and flannel pajamas, and many people have way more T-shirts than they need. So, please dig through your drawers for these garments (and any others made from similar fabric), check the labels for content, wash and fold them neatly to bring to an upcoming club meeting. There will be a collection box at each meeting to drop your cotton item in.

If you have any questions, please contact Helen Zamboni.



UPDATE

Good wishes and a "thinking of you" greetings were sent to Doc Warriner as he welcomed DeeDee home from a hospital stay recently. DeeDee gets to enjoy Doc's culinary skills. Hope to see him back at a club meeting soon.

And another "welcome back from the hospital" for Kelly Cole. It was great to see him at our recent Tuesday meeting and hear of his most recent hospital escapades.

Barbara Herman

TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Kudo's to Collin Hayes for his work on the Town Comprehensive Planning Committee. At a recent club meeting, he shared results of the community survey. Interesting information. For

more details or questions, contact Collin.

MIGHTIES..... TACO

At a recent club meeting we doubled down with service. First, completing 15 taco meals for the Avon Food Pantry. Second, our Interact Students created posters to support the Mighties ball team when we visit an upcoming game. All are encouraged to attend and cheer on this special group of kids.



STUDENT SERVICE AWARD



What a delight to have Laura Krasinski at our recent Tuesday meeting. She's an active Interact-er and has just been selected by the Avon Chamber of Commerce as the 2025 winner of the Chuck McFadden Student Service Award. The Chamber committee was impressed with her essay and her volunteer contributions to this community. She'll receive her award at the ACS awards in June.

However, the Chamber will recognize her "in absentia" at the Citizen of the Year Dinner in the autumn, because she will be in Belgium, for her year as our club's Youth Exchange program representative.

Barbara Herman

No matter
what people tell you,
words and ideas
can
change the world.

~ Robin Williams *



IT'S TIME!

Corn Festival is 11 weeks away!

Time to get your gear ordered!

Time to volunteer to help!

Check your email for sign up genius or sign up at a meeting.



Corn Festival Gear

Available at: <https://cf2025.itemorder.com/>



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

Avon Rotary Change of Officers

Tuesday, July 1

Avon Inn

5:00—6:30 Cocktails

6:30—9:30 Buffet dinner & Awards

\$40 per person

- ◆ Cocktail Attire
- ◆ RSVP: Laurie by June 22 (text or email)
- ◆ OR Sign Up at a meeting
- ◆ Payment in advance required

Featured Menu: Chicken French, Salmon, Pasta with Meatballs,
Rice or Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Garden Salad,
Dinner Rolls, Coffee, Tea, Brownie Sundae

Rambling On Rotary—June



By Bruce Amey

June is Rotary's Fellowship Month. Our speaker Drew Kessler at our May 12 meeting exemplified this message when he said, "Give the gift of Rotary to someone else, networking for serving others is success." I would add that is the Magic of Rotary. He continued, "My success is that I can pass Rotary on to my family." His final slide pictured his family all in Rotary attire. He talked about a momentous event for him that was pinning his son when his son joined Rotary.

I think of future club president Katie DeGraff engaging her son Madden in service activities, along with Mike Giso inviting his son Jake to join us. Club PE Rob Lupisella has engaged his wife and daughters and his stepsons in service to others, I can envision them taking a family photo like Drew Kessler's family in the very near future, Tom and Laurie Vonglis' son TJ is a Rotarian in our club, as well.

I have seen various Rotary posts recently that are inspirational to me. "Rotary isn't a club to join, but rather an invitation to endless opportunities." "Don't choose (club) members, attract them with purpose." It was stated at the recent Rotary District Conference, "Let's build the kind of Rotary that people want to be a part of." We need to invite others to join the endless opportunities of Rotary through our club. As you might have new neighbors move into your neighborhood, inform them that "the fastest way to get involved in a community is to join Rotary." As our club seeks a District Grant each year from the foundation to support a project in our community. I would encourage our club to "Adopt a project, and to not just DO a project."

implies sustainability for the project, that is, how we will continue to work on the project to serve our community. Doing a project suggests you get something done, versus an ongoing commitment.

As I said last month, I am proud of our club's support for activities engaging youth, these are ways I believe we have ADOPTED projects to continue our commitment; another is adopting our support for Linking Hands For Learning and Stone's Community Resources. I am not sure how we would do this, but I was very impressed with Drew Kessler's youngest son Max's project to start an Early Act program in his elementary school. Early Act is a school-based service club for elementary school students 5-13. Possibly this could be a club project we adopt much as we have with teens in Interact.

But, as I started, June is fellowship month and, in my opinion, a strength of our club is our fellowship; per the Oxford dictionary, "fellowship essentially means shared participation or connection within a group, often emphasizing a bond of friendship, community, or shared interest." I think this is the essence of our Rotary Club. As June brings a close to President Karen's Rotary year, I want to celebrate her leadership, the various programs she has initiated for us and how we have enjoyed fellowship throughout the year. As I have shared many times, this club is my family of which I need to be a part, as I have shared with my physicians, my Rotary family and my church are my therapies to guide me through every day. Thank you ALL. Together, "We can be the change we want to be." Looking forward to a new Rotary year with club PE Rob. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

 Rotary

JUNE ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

"The foundation upon which Rotary is built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood"

Paul Harris





2025 Wild Polio Case Counts as of May 31, 2025

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Afghanistan	6	25	2
Pakistan	6	73	10
Total	12	98	12



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



WE NEED YOU!

Be a volunteer at an upcoming

Red Wings Game

June 10, June 25, July 13, July 22

Sign up on SignUp Genius
or contact President Karen

AVON FOOD PANTRY

- ⇒ Grocery items needed in June will be sent to us soon.
- ⇒ Watch for an email from David Kilgore.
- ⇒ Place in the bin at our meeting.
- ⇒ Thank you!



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman
226-6735

