



157th Edition

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RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

March 25

12:30—5:30

Sign up to make your critical donation by contacting Karl Sawicki.



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

President's Message



The winter chill will start to come to end this month, and so will the winter doldrums at the Avon Rotary Club! We are bursting with energy and enthusiasm as we dive headfirst into a jam-packed month of service,

fellowship, and fun. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make difference in our community and beyond!

We are kicking off our busy month with a friendly game of euchre with our neighboring Rush Henrietta Rotary club! It's a chance to test our card skills, share some laughs, and strengthen our connections. Expect some playful banter and maybe even a few "farmer's hands" thrown in for good measure.

Our Interact club is thrilled to host our annual Youth Exchange Weekend! Avon will be welcoming students from around the globe, providing them with a glimpse of our awesome community and of course the excitement of a little gambling at Casino night is always a sure bet. What a fantastic opportunity to foster international understanding and build lasting friendships.

We will roll up our sleeves with another food pantry service project, assembling dinner packages for those in need within our community. It is always a hit at the food pantry and greatly appreciated. This is a tangible way to address food insecurity and show our commitment to supporting our neighbors.

Then get ready to don your green and join us for the annual St. Patrick's Day parade! We'll be marching with pride, spreading cheer, and celebrating the spirit of our community. Another way to be out and about in our community to show our support and love of Avon.

Our commitment to saving lives continues with another blood drive! Partnering with the American red cross, we'll be providing a vital service to our community. Your generous donation can make a life-saving difference.

To cap off our action-packed month, we are proud to work alongside Sleep in Heavenly Peace on our district grant service project!! We'll be joining forces with volunteers to build beds for disadvantaged children in our neighboring communities. Every child deserves a safe and comfortable place to sleep, and we're dedicated to making that a reality. This project is a powerful testament to our Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

So Join the Action!

This month is a testament to the power of Rotary in action. We are engaging in a diverse range of activities, all aimed at making a positive impact. I encourage all members to participate in as many events as possible and bring along friends and family to experience the joy of service.

Yours In Rotary Service,
Karen Vanderbilt
President 2024-2025

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



AVON ROTARY MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Mon. Mar 3	Board of Directors Meeting 6pm at Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Mar 4	Euchre with Rush Henrietta at Baldwins Cabin at Lookup Park 6pm
Sat. Mar 8	Interact Casino Night at Village Hall 8pm — 11pm
Tues. Mar 11	Regular Meeting 6:00 at Avon Inn, Food Pantry Service Project & Corn Festival Meeting
Sat. Mar 15	St. Patrick's Parade—join the fun on the Avon Rotary Float
Tues. Mar 18	St. Patrick's Day Social 6:00 at Avon Inn, Linking Hands for Learning program
Tues. Mar 25	Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30-5:30, No Regular Meeting
Sat. Mar 29	Sleep In Heavenly Peace Service Project, 9am at 2060 O'Neil Rd Macedon
Mon. Mar 31	Board of Directors Meeting 6pm at Circleview Conference Room



Birthday

- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Ed Kime
- ⇒ Paul Warren
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner (H)

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Helen Zamboni 2005
- ⇒ Heather Ayers 2014
- ⇒ Jake Ayers 2014

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ No Anniversaries this month



WELCOME NEW MEMBER



February 4:

We are thrilled to welcome Jack Varner to our club! Jack is an Avon resident and has spent decades working alongside his brother Jim at Avon Lumber. He comes from a family with a rich Rotary history—his brother Jim is an active Avon Rotarian, and their father was a proud member of the Watkins Glen Rotary.



Jack is excited to continue serving the Avon community and we're grateful to have him join our efforts. We look forward to the impact he will make as part of our Rotary family!

Let's give Jack a warm welcome and look forward to all the good things we'll accomplish together!

Submitted by Mike Ford via social media



INTERACT DESSERT AUCTION



February 11:

Last night, the Avon Interact Club's annual dessert auction was a resounding success – and we couldn't be prouder! With record funds raised for their charitable efforts, the event showcased the incredible generosity and spirit of our community.

Every bid and every donation contributed to a night of delicious fun and impactful giving. Congratulations to the Avon Interact Club for leading the way in making a real difference. We look forward to seeing how these funds will continue to transform lives in our community and beyond.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a sweet triumph!

Submitted by Mike Ford via social media

AVON FREE LIBRARY



Mission Statement:

Enriching the community by promoting an environment for discovery, creativity, inclusivity, and lifelong learning.

February 18: Grace Frenzel, Director of the Avon Library provided an informative program including all the latest and greatest happenings. Her infectious enthusiasm made for an enjoyable presentation!



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

February 25: We had the privilege of hearing from Donna Ritchie, Co-President of the Rochester chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). She shared the powerful mission of SHP: ensuring that every child has a bed of their own.

Many people don't realize that Rochester has the highest child poverty rate in the nation, and right now, SHP has a waitlist of 400 children in need of a bed. Their volunteer-driven work is making a real difference, but they need support to keep up with the growing demand.

That's why on March 29, Avon Rotarians will join members of the Penfield and Rochester Southwest Rotary Clubs to participate in a bed build for SHP! Together, we'll help provide children in need with a safe and comfortable place to sleep.

A huge thank you to Donna for sharing her time and passion with us. If you'd like to support SHP by volunteering or donating, visit shpbeds.org/chapter/ny-rochester/ to learn more.

Submitted by Mike Ford via social media



L-R: Donna Ritchie, Avon Rotarian Collin Hayes (bed build project organizer), Avon Rotary President Karen Vanderbilt



ATTENTION:

HANDS ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

JOIN US & HELP COM- plete our DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT

Sign Up Today!



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!** **MARCH 29**
9 AM - 12 NOON

Join the Rotary Clubs of Avon, Penfield and Rochester SW as we partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace - Rochester to build beds for children in our community who are in need of a safe and comfortable place to sleep.

- + Registration link to follow
- + Volunteers must be at least 12 years old
- + Email Collin Hayes for more information: collinhayes0@gmail.com

 2060 O'Neill Road
Macedon, NY  Donate bedding to SHP:
bit.ly/SHP-NY-ROC-Amazon



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**



Rambling On Rotary—March



By Bruce Amey

When Katie and Kirk mentioned meeting at Six Sprouts Market on Friday mornings for coffee and engaging in some trivia contests, I thought it might be a time to test club members Rotary trivia.

When was Rotary founded? February 23, 1905 by Chicago attorney Paul Harris when he met with Gustava Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey as they gathered in Loehr's office for what would become known as the first Rotary Club meeting.

Why did Paul Harris found Rotary? The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905, with a vision so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, life-long friendships. Over time, Rotary's reach and vision extended to humanitarian service.

Have any presidents been Rotarians? Yes. Current President Donald Trump is a past president of the Rotary Club of New York 6. Presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and both Bush presidents were all members of Rotary, along with John Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Dwight Eisenhower, and FDR.

Who are some other famous persons who were/are members of Rotary? To name a few, Dianne Feinstein, Charles Mayo, J.C. Penney, Charles Walgreen, Orville Wright, Neil Armstrong, Walt Disney, Thomas Edison, and Sam Walton, Bill Gates is an honorary Rotarian.

When did Rotary begin its fight to eradicate polio? In 1978. Rotary was a pioneer in the fight against polio with a very ambitious goal to reach a polio-free world. Rotarians have upheld the mission over the most challenging times, including financial and political crises. Rotary has contributed more than \$2.6 billion to fight polio, including matching funds from the Gates Foundation, and countless volunteer hours since launching its PolioPlus program, in 1985. In 2007, The Gates Foundation announced its first major grant to polio eradication – a \$100 million challenge to Rotary, promising to match funds raised by Rotarians. In addition to its fight against polio, Rotary also supports many other service projects around the world. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Rotary Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

March is Rotary Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month. What projects can our club support in these areas which will add to the magic of Rotary? And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough, let's march forward together into March.

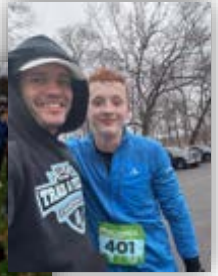


EXCHANGE SO FAR



My Exchange year already passed the half year mark and I still can't believe that I actually did it. The past months were incredible and I'm really thankful for all the support I received.

The year started off with exploring Avon and meeting great people. Then before school started we had our first Cross



Country

even started. A few American school systems. My schedule had been good grateful that I had been able to be part of an incredible team.

practice. It was a lot of fun and I made my first friends before school has days later I met all the teachers, the other students and got used to the tem. Then the first Cross Country meets came and I improved my time by a been school, XC, and then doing homework sometimes. In the end, my time enough, I qualified to run in sectionals. We took second place and I'm really

During the winter season (Partyman) Joe took me out hunting. I got my first two deer in my whole life and it was an experience I'll never forget. We also went ice fishing and got a fish. Thank you so much Joe! Also thank you to my host family, Karen and Kirk for supporting me. This winter brought a bunch of snow. I went skiing a few times and it was so much fun. One week ago I had been also able to go "North" (Inlet) again. We went XC skiing, snowshoeing, and had just a great week-



end together with my host family and the Vonglis's. Now I'm looking forward going to Hawaii in two weeks and then starting spring sport, I hope to see you at the home meets!



In the end I want to say thank you to all the people who helped me, gave me so many opportunities, talked to me, and made this year so far, really special for me. Thanks to the Club for sponsoring me, to the District, to Ed for taking care of me and looking after me, to my American family Karen and Kirk, Joe for taking me out hunting, Tom and Laurie for allowing me in the man



cave and taking me North, Josh and Deb for hosting me, all the members who ask me how I'm doing, and all the people I forgot to mention here; please don't be mad at me :)



Thank you so much Rotary!!!!

Paul Pago,

Germany Exchange Student 2024-2025





**END
POLIO
NOW**

2025 Wild Polio Case Counts as of February 28, 2025

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Afghanistan	6	25	0
Pakistan	6	73	3
Total	12	98	3



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



May your troubles be less and your
blessings be more, and nothing but
happiness come through your door.

- IRISH BLESSING

AVON FOOD PANTRY

- ⇒ Grocery items needed in March 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

