



159th Edition

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President's Message



From the focused energy of a district conference to the global tapestry of the international convention, Rotary gatherings serve as powerful catalysts for opportunity, connection, and personal and professional growth. Just today as I was on a zoom call about the International Conference in Calgary while preparing for our District Conference in Corning it became quite clear the amazing potential these Rotary events offer.

District conferences provide a vital platform to connect with fellow Rotarians within our region. These close-knit settings offer opportunities for collaboration on local projects, the sharing of best practices between clubs, and the forging of friendships that strengthen our Rotary network. We can discover new avenues for service within our community and gain inspiration from the innovative work being done by our neighbors.

Stepping onto the international stage, as the Calgary conference promises, expands this horizon exponentially. Here, we can connect with Rotarians from around the globe, each bringing unique perspectives, experiences, and a shared passion for service. This exposure opens doors to understanding different cultures, identifying potential international

partnerships, and broadening our understanding of global challenges and the impactful solutions Rotary is championing.

Beyond the invaluable networking, both district and international conferences provide opportunities for personal and professional growth. Engaging in workshops, listening to inspiring speakers, and participating in discussions on diverse topics can spark new ideas, enhance leadership skills, and reignite your commitment to Rotary's mission. These events offer a chance to step outside your daily routine, learn from others, and return to your club and community with renewed energy and vision.

I hope at some point every Rotarian can attend a district conference or set their sights on an international convention, and embrace the opportunities that await. The connections you can make, the knowledge you can gain, and the inspiration you absorb will undoubtedly contribute to your personal growth and amplify your impact within the Rotary world and beyond. These conferences are more than just meetings; they are vibrant hubs of connection and growth, empowering us to be even better agents of positive change.

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



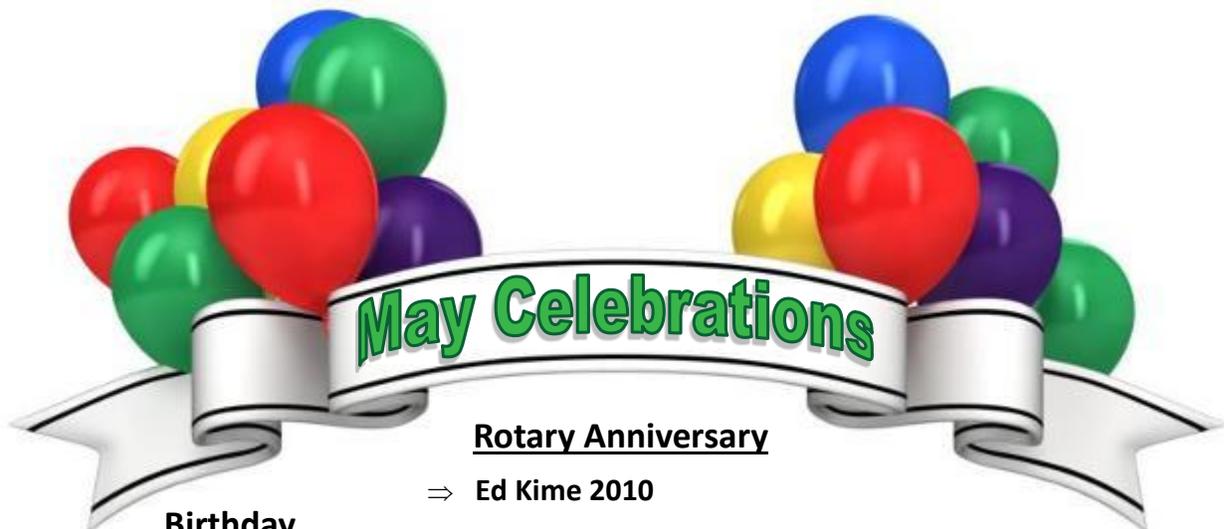
Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



AVON ROTARY MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- May 2-4 District Conference, Corning NY
- Mon. May 5 Board of Directors Mtg. 6:00 at Circleview Conference Room
- Tues. May 6 School Budget & Construction Tour; 6:00 @ Middle School Library
- Tues. May 13 Regular Mtg. 6:00, Program: Drew Kesler Past RI Director
- Tues. May 20 Quad Cities Golf & Dinner; Sign up today
- Tues. May 27 Regular Mtg. 6:00, In Meeting Service Project



Rotary Anniversary

⇒ Ed Kime 2010

Birthday

- ⇒ Jean Antkowiak
- ⇒ Marcia Cameron
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Marcia Cameron
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Steve Csapo
- ⇒ Tom Honan

POLAR PLUNGE WITH A PURPOSE

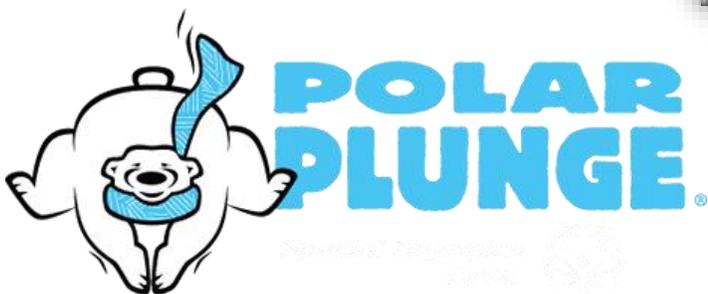


On Sunday, April 6, about 20 brave (and possibly slightly unhinged) Avon Rotarians and family members took part in the Polar Bear Plunge at Conesus Lake—because what better way to show your commitment to service than by jumping into an ice cold lake?

We're thrilled to report that Avon Rotary raised nearly \$2,700, helping Rotary District 7120 raise nearly \$30,000 overall! The money goes to support five amazing children's camps in our district that serve youth who are differently abled. So yes, we froze—but it was totally worth it.

Big thanks to everyone who donated, encouraged us, or just laughed at our frosty misfortune. And no, we still can't feel our toes.

Submitted by Mike Ford via social media



Air Temp: 40 degrees
Water Temp: 43 degrees

THE MOVING WALL



April 7: John Snyder Shares His Story and Efforts to Bring "The Moving Wall" to Geneseo. At a recent meeting of our Avon Rotary Club, John Snyder, an Avon graduate, Vietnam War veteran, and passionate advocate for fellow veterans, spoke about his experiences as a soldier and the impactful efforts he's currently undertaking to bring "The Moving Wall" to the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo. The wall, a half-sized replica of the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC, will be on display in Geneseo from September 25-29, 2025. Viewing the wall will be free and open 24 hours each day.

He captivated the club with his powerful recounting of his time in Vietnam and the lasting effects the war had on him and his fellow soldiers. His presentation was a heartfelt reflection on the sacrifices made by countless veterans, many of whom continue to carry the emotional and physical scars of their service.

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The focal point of his talk was his recent endeavor to bring "The Moving Wall" to Geneseo. This remarkable traveling memorial, which has been displayed across the United States, allows communities to honor the 58,313 soldiers who died or were declared missing in action during the Vietnam War. For many veterans, the wall provides a space for reflection, healing, and remembrance.

Snyder emphasized the importance of providing a local space for veterans and their families to visit the memorial. "Having the Wall here in Geneseo will give so many local veterans and families a chance to pay tribute to those we lost, 22 from Livingston County, and to reflect on the sacrifices of those who served," he said.

The exhibit is expected to draw many visitors from both near and far, providing a meaningful opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the Vietnam War and honor the lives of those who served.

Submitted by Rob Lupisella



FOUNDATION MOMENT

At our April 8 meeting, Foundation Chairman, Kirk Vanderbilt presented a Paul Harris Fellow plus pin to Rotarian Wayne Warriner. Sincere thanks for his continued generosity and congratulations was shared.

Support of the Rotary Foundation allows our club to complete important projects with grant money like our recent project; Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Thanks Wayne!



EARTH DAY



On Tuesday, April 22nd the Avon Rotary Club celebrated Earth Day by giving some extra love to the Avon Driving Park!

Armed with gloves, trash bags, and plenty of community spirit, our members spent the afternoon cleaning up litter, raking, and sprucing up the park grounds to help keep this cherished space looking its best.



A huge thank you to all the Rotarians and volunteers who came out to help—we're proud to be people of action, working together for a cleaner, greener Avon!

Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media



RED WINGS VOLUNTEERS



The baseball season has begun which means our club has the opportunity to volunteer on several occasions, working concessions at a Red Wings Baseball game. President Karen has sent out the schedule of dates our club is responsible for working at and asked club members to sign up via 'sign up genius'. We have two games under our belt, one on Easter Sunday and the other just this past Tuesday. It's not difficult and a nice opportunity for a bit of fellowship, plus the club makes tips and a percentage of the revenue from the concessions. So if you haven't yet, sign up, have fun and play ball!

Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis



QUAD CITIES - May 20, 2025



Rotary Clubs of Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo, Mt. Morris

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Quad Cities event.
This year Avon Rotary has set the occasion for
Tuesday, May 20th. Golf & dinner will be at
Farview Golf Course.
Please sign up and join in the fun!

Golf:

- ◆ \$29 18 Holes with a cart
- ◆ 10:30 am Registration
- ◆ 11:00 Tee off begins
- ◆ Send your foursome to Tom by May 5
tvonglis@gmail.com or 739-1043
- ◆ Pay at the course club house

Dinner by Partyman Catering:

- ◆ \$25 Buffet Dinner
- ◆ 5:00 Social Hour 6:00 Dinner
- ◆ RSVP to Tom by May 5
- ◆ Pay at dinner

JOIN US FOR A
DAY OF FELLOWSHIP,
ON AND OFF
THE TURF



Rambling On Rotary—May



By Bruce Amey

May is Rotary's Youth Service Month. I have thoroughly enjoyed the participation of our Interact students attending our meetings and participating in projects. For example, they were the first plungers from our club in the Polar Plunge. Nine year old Madden DeGraff and teen Jake Giso both worked at our Sleep in Heavenly Peace project; thanks to their parents for encouraging this participation. For me, seeing these young persons engaged in serving others has been great and is birthing the next generation of Rotarians.

I look forward each month to receiving the Rotary Magazine. This month's Message from RI President Urchick had a youth focus. She stated, "We all benefit from the energy and fresh perspectives of our young leaders." As such, she allowed Vitor Jovenito, a young leader with the Rotaract Club of Penapolis, Brazil. He talks about participating in a RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) event. I am proud that our club supports a young person's participation in our local RYLA event every year. As Vitor learned from his participation, "Society works the same way -- challenges will come but instead of leaving people behind, we must find ways to include everyone." He continues, "Interact empowers young people to create service projects with real and

lasting impact. Youth exchange builds global citizens who return home with broader perspectives and stronger leadership skills. These programs are the heart of Rotary's ability to grow and adapt in a changing world." As I read these words, I heard our past club president and district Governor Julie Carney advocating for support of our youth and youth activities, including Youth Exchange. Her words are echoed still by our club Interact advisers Ed Kime and Karen Vanderbilt.

The success of the youth programs "requires Rotary members who believe in their potential." Vitor continued, "Your involvement multiplies their impact and ensures that young leaders are not just beneficiaries of Rotary but active contributors." As I began, I am inspired seeing the active contributions of our young citizens in service activities and I am proud of our club's active contributions and support for Rotary youth programs and youth in our community. As we continue to move forward and grow as Rotarians, may we always live by the four-way test: supporting our youth will build goodwill and better friendships and will be beneficial to all concerned. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.





**END
POLIO
NOW**

2025 Wild Polio Case Counts as of April 30, 2025

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Afghanistan	6	25	2
Pakistan	6	73	7
Total	12	98	9



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 May 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

