# Avon Rotary

# November 2024 Newsletter

#### 153rd 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



November is traditionally a time for reflection and appreciation. So, I would like to take a moment and reflect on this past month's activities and thank those responsible for making it successful.

We had to change things up a bit right at the start of the month when unfortunately, the timing didn't work out to visit with our guests from Sweden, who were visiting the district as part of Rotary's friendship exchange. But thanks to Cat's connections and adventures she put together a visit to Worm Power. It was a great turn out and it was remarkable to see how they have harnessed the power of the earthworm to optimize the conversion of feedstock into a valuable vermicompost liquid extract. Kirk and I were not able to attend because we were at the crosscountry meet celebrating senior night with Paul. I am thankful to the coach and fellow teammates for welcoming Paul to the team. They are headed to sectionals this Saturday. Go Hawks!

I am thankful for our Troops and our Heroes at Home. I was barely able to get through the letters of appreciation I read aloud at our meeting when Full Circle Home presented their efforts to bridge the gap between our troops and those that support them. I appreciate each one of you including some Interact members that helped us package and wrap approximately three hundred gifts that will hopefully make a deserving family member's holidays just a little bit brighter. I hope to make this a yearly tradition and I am most thankful to Charlene for putting this together for our club.

Oh, we are only getting started as October was a long month with five scheduled meetings. Our District Governor graced us with a visit at our next meeting. DG Dave Demers astonished us with the Magic of Rotary and his goals for this Rotary year. I am grateful for his efforts to keep a focus on mental health. Save the date, the District Conference will be in Corning May 2nd - 4th.

### **President's Message**

THE MAGIC

ROTARY

World Polio Day was celebrated two days early at our next meeting. The theme for World Polio Day 2024 was "A Global Mission to Reach Every Child". The day is a reminder that the fight to eradicate polio continues, especially in regions where the virus is still present. I am grateful to those that were able to help continue this effort by donating at least three dollars. Three dollars will pay for one child to receive the vaccine. And it seems there may have been some confusion and miscommunication surrounding this meeting. Unfortunately some things don't come out the way you planned no matter how hard you try. However, I am extremely grateful to Steve for stepping in and covering for me. We had an awesome vacation and I am recharged and ready to go!

And last but not least I am thankful that the weather held for our Halloween tailgate and hike. It was a beautiful evening with lots of treats and no tricks. Creepy, spooky stories were told as we strolled along to the Intersection with the Greenway trail where remnants of Halloweens past remain still. And thanks to Rachel Giso for I will never look at mayo the same again. I appreciate the opportunity to try a few new things and your positive feedback.

As you can see the success of this club belongs to not me but the collective effort of many. I am thankful for each and every one of you for helping me bring programs, projects and new ideas to our members and look forward to what the rest of year will bring.

May you have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and surround yourselves with all that brings you joy!!

Yours In Rotary Service, Karen



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



# AVON ROTARY MEETING SCHEDULE

For more meeting details, go to avonrotary.org

Mon. Nov. 4 Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 at Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Nov. 5 Avon Rotary Meeting 6:00 at Avon Inn, Program: Megan Crowe Livingston County Dept. of Planning
Tues. Nov. 12 Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30—5:30 at Avon Inn (no regular meeting)
Avon Rotary Meeting 6:00 at Avon Inn, Don Alhart Foundation Program
Tues. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Social at Avon Circleview Conference Room 5:00





# Edward "Ted" Coyne 1926-2024

Avon lost a true native son in Edward "Ted" Coyne who passed away September 5th at 98 years old. It's no exaggeration to say that Ted's deeds and actions to benefit his hometown were perhaps the most consequential of any resident to call Avon their home since the Town was founded in 1807. While a student at Avon High School, he and his fellow classmates dedicated a



monument on school grounds to honor those alumni killed in World War II. Ted organized this noble effort to honor those Avon Heroes, and today Avon continues this tradition during the annual Memorial Day commemorative services.

Ted Coyne was not a spectator, passively sitting on the sidelines. Instead, he was engaged and involved in many projects, causes, and efforts with the purpose of improving Avon. He was active in service to others, and the longevity of his service had no rival. He was the longest serving Volunteer Fireman in the 150+ year history of the Avon Fire Department. With the Avon Rotary, Ted's 50+ years of distinguished "Service Above Self" was appropriately recognized by the organization's highest honor, being named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Ted gave his time and talent to his friends, his church, the Chamber of Commerce, Little League, numerous public works projects, public safety initiatives, and several community-led events, such as Kiddies Day, that makes Avon welcoming to all. He got involved not for recognition or to gain popularity, neither of which concerned him in the least. He got involved for a simple reason: to ensure things were done right, with time and resources prudently managed to an outcome benefiting everyone, and not just one constituency.

Ted's deliberate prudence (some would say frugality or

even less flattering terms) was legendary, and very much appreciated by those benefiting from his service to public projects and community endeavors. His detractors would complain that he "was acting like he was spending his own money" on a project.

However, the opposite sentiment was held by the taxpayers and stakeholders (who were paying

the bills) who heard this critique and considered it the ultimate compliment, especially for a person entrusted with such responsibility. Although a lifelong Democrat, many Republicans observed that Ted was the most Conservative Democrat they had ever known when it came to spending public money.

Ted married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy Annis, and together they managed one of Avon's longest, continuously operating business on Genesee Street, Coyne Econ-O-Wash. Ted purchased the laundromat, then headed for bankruptcy, and established it as a clean, bright place used by many at all hours of th eday. He also was the founder of New Way Equipment Home and Pool Center in Avon, which continues under the management of his children and grandchildren.

Ted grew up in Avon in the 1930's, and was a mor player in th egrowth and expansion of the town from the 1950's into the 21st century. He and Dorothy cared deeply for the health and vibrancy of their hometown, and their impact left an indelible mark on Avon's history. Many of Ted and Dorothy's friends understood just hoe committed they were to Avon, and these same friends quietly acknowledge just how fortunate Avon was to claim them as their own.

Thank you, Ted, for all you did in a life of service! Written by Richard Burke for the Genesee Valley Penny Saver,





# Edward "Ted" Coyne 1926-2024

When Laurie asked Kelly and me to write about Ted, I started thinking in my head about all the times we spent with Ted and Dorothy. Kelly started to write. Nineteen pages. Kelly's parents were friends with Ted and Dorothy so Kelly knew the Coynes at a very young age. When Kelly got older, he kept asking Ted for a job. Finally at 15. Ted gave Kelly his first paying job. This began a long friendship filled with much learning, laughter, and love. Kelly was called upon for many emergencies but one of the most memorable ones was when Ted asked Kelly to help his father, Martin, with his TV. It was always something with Martins old TV that had a 'sloppy' tuner that needed adjusting. Ted did not want to, or have time to deal with the TV, so he asked Kelly to go over to his dads to fix it. Kelly feels that Ted's dad just wanted company and messed up his TV on purpose. Ted knew that his dad loved it when Kelly came, because not only did he get the TV working, but he was an audience for his many stories and views on the world!

Our favorite saying about Ted is that he was just as cheap with your money as he was with his. Kelly's mom, as Ted said, had the oldest living dryer in Avon. Ted came up countless times to repair her dryer and it was around 42 years old when she finally had to replace it. Ted hated spending money if he could fix it even if it was your money.

Ted and Dorothy had told us many times about their favor-

ite place to vacation, Ixtapa, Mexico. We finally decided to give it a try in 1997, and we fell in love with the place and it's people as well. We traveled there fourteen or fifteen



times over the years, several of which the Coynes chose to go with us. They wanted the company and assistance if needed.

Normally when we landed in Ixtapa we had to get a cab to the hotels. Every year it was more expensive, which irked Ted to no end. One time after we had booked our cab for \$26. We heard Ted mumble "Geeze, I didn't want to buy the damn cab, we just wanted a ride!"

One of the times we went to Mexico Kelly's passport had expired and could not go, so I went on alone. I knew that Ted and Dorothy were already there and would keep me company. We were in separate hotels, but every night we dined together. And Ted paid! He even ordered a bottle of wine. Ted is sometimes known for his cheapness and miserliness, something he was proud of, but he was very generous in so many ways. He never wanted to make a big deal out of his generosity. After Kelly made it down there, our children joined us. We had a wonderful time and have a picture of our family with Ted and Dorothy. It was a very special time. Our kids referred to Dorothy as "Aunt Dot".

For me personally, I met Ted and Dorothy when I married Kelly. They were family to us. Every time I saw Ted and he was sitting down; I kissed the top of his head. He would

say without looking "hello Jan". I considered myself the daughter Ted never had. We loved Ted very much and I know he loved us. He is missed.

Jan Cole







# Edward "Ted" Coyne 1926-2024

Edward "Ted" Coyne (alias Teddy Bear) was the first distinguished and unique person I met when I moved to Avon in 1978. We had not moved into our Avon home but I stopped by to check on some things and there were "New Way" workers installing new water lines to the carriage house (horse barn) at West Winds. They were being supervised by a somewhat cantankerous middle aged man. He introduced himself to me. It was Ted Coyne, the business owner directing each laborer precisely how and what to do. I was certain that this person was to be respected and avoided when possible.



Then I settled in Avon, joined Rotary and found out quickly through meetings, social events and Rotary trips what a caring, astute and charitable man he was, with an incredible ability to focus and get done what needed to be done for the community and everyone.

Bless his magnificent soul. Amen. Jim Tompsett



8/8/15 In more recent year's you could find Ted, in position, tending the butter during Corn Festival

2/14/17

Ted was a generous guy and often supported the youth at our annual Sweethearts dinner dessert auction.





#### 7/7/15

Ted enjoyed and was famous for hosting weekly 'prayer' meetings, poolside. You could set your watch to it, 5:00-6:00 and all were welcome.

#### 7/27/21

End of summer Rotary picnic at Ted's house, poolside.

One of many over the years, but our final one.



#### WORMING OUR WAY TO SUSTAINABILITY: AVON ROTARY CLUB TOURS WORM POWER



On **October 1**, members of the Avon Rotary Club had the opportunity to visit Worm Power, an innovative agribusiness located on Jenks Road in East Avon. The tour was led by Director of Operations Ted Miller, who provided an insightful look into one of the largest controlled environment vermicomposting facilities in the world.

Founded in 2003, Worm Power boasts over 80,000

square feet of covered indoor space dedicated to the sustainable transformation of agricultural waste into high-quality, organic fertilizers. Worm Power is an industry leader and its impressive facilities showcase a model for sustainability in agribusiness.

Worm Power is a controlled environment vermicomposting facility, meaning that they carefully monitor the moisture, temperature and inputs throughout the process. This sets Worm Power apart from other producers, such as bait farms, which may sell worm casings but cannot offer such a carefully formulated, organic fertilizer.

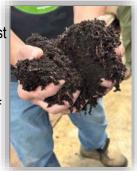
Miller emphasized the importance of quality control and attention to detail throughout the process, which ensures that the end product meets high standards for agricultural and landscaping uses. Worm Power follows a four-phase process for converting manure into a nutrient-rich "tea":

Feedstock sourcing and mixing. Manure is collected from Coyne Farms' dairy herd and separated into liquids and solids. The liquids are used by Coyne Farms for spread, and the solids are combined with spoiled silage in a precisely weighted mixture to ensure the proper carbon and nitrogen ratios for the worm food.

Thermophilic composting. The raw materials are stored in aerated and naturally climate-controlled bins for 30 days to undergo the process of aerobic restoration, which kills off any pathogens. The compost is then transferred to a different bay for an additional 30 days.



Vermicomposting. While the aerobic digestion of feedstock produces a serviceable compost, the process of vermicomposting turns this compost into a high-quality and nutrient-rich fertilizer. The composted material is transferred to the vermicomposting building, which contains seven 160-foot long and two-foot deep worm digester beds, each home to over 2,000,000 red wiggler worms. A layer of feedstock is added to the top of the feedbed and, over the course of 12 weeks, the worms eat through the compost and excrete casings which are rich in nutrients and mi-



crobes. The digester beds are carefully monitored for temperature and moisture content to ensure that the worms are productive.

Screening and extract production. The solid worm casings are scraped from the bottom of the digester beds and passed through a series of screens to remove any large chunks. The vermicompost is then loaded into filter bags and inserted into extract tanks with carbon-filtered water. The resulting "tea" is then packaged and shipped to customers across the globe.

Miller cleverly illustrated the process with his concept of the "cycle of poop." He explained how the cycle begins with cow manure being fed to worms, which then produce a microbe-rich fertilizer. When the fertilizer, the microbes in the fertilizer digest the soil and "poop" out nutrients like nitrogen which enable crops to thrive. The crops grown using Worm Power are eventually fed back to the cows, thus continuing the cycle.

Avon Rotary thanks Worm Power and Ted Miller for allowing us this opportunity to "dig deep" into the process of vermicomposting and to gain a better understanding of the intersection between environmental stewardship and sustainability in agriculture.

Submitted by Collin Hayes

# **CLUB ASSISTS FULL CIRCLE HOME IN ACHIEVING MISSION**



**October 8:** At a recent club gathering, Rotarians assisted the organization Full Circle Home in a gift wrapping event for service members. The in-meeting service project was preceded by a short presentation from the group about their mission of caring and kindness.

Full Circle Home honors male and female deployed troops, injured and healing warriors at Walter Reed Medical Center, and the men and women at home who are their source of support. Over the past seventeen years, over 36,000 gift sets carrying

the service members' handwritten notes of gratitude and appreciation have been sent to their loved ones across the world at home. Those receiving gift baskets and notes include parents, spouses, siblings, grandparents, best friends and more.

Full Circle Home Executive Director, Vickie Durfee, said, "We do this because compared to military families, we have it easy. We do this because while it may be a simple gesture, it has an impact that echoes. We do this because we should."

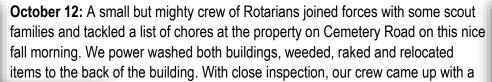


The organization and its efforts have been featured on Good Morning America, the Today Show, Fox News and more. This holiday season they will be sending out close to 1,500 gift sets and it's nice to know that Avon Rotary had a hand in making that happen.

Submitted by Rob Lupisella



### **SCOUT HOUSE CLEAN UP**





much needed future project list. Stay tuned for this.

Many thanks to President Karen for the refreshments and our crew of volunteers for getting the job done. The curb appeal improvement will be appreciated by the neighbors.

Submitted by Laurie Vonglis



# **FRESH AIR AND A HIKE**

**October 29:** At last Tuesday's meeting, we shared good conversation and pizza by the Solo Stove fire, then went on a spooky nighttime walk along the Erie-Attica Trail. When I say spooky what I really mean is Katie was spooked and the rest of us had a nice walk. Getting out and getting active was a nice change of pace for a meeting. Thank you President Vanderbilt for organizing such a fun excursion!

Submitted by Nick Lovullo



Fellow Avon Rotarians:

On Tuesday November 12th, our club will sponsor its 20th Red Cross blood drive. What a nice accomplishment!

It will be held once again at the Inn from 12:30 until 5:30 in the ballroom. I want you to contact me if you need assistance scheduling your donation.

What blood type are you?

Do you crave neatness, order and self control? = A

Are you rational and sensible? = AB

Are you candid, absentminded but a great cook? = B

Or do you crave power and leadership? = O

Let us have a productive and much needed successful drive. Remember, there is NO substitute for human blood.

YIRS, Karl



Avon Rotary Friendsgiving Tuesday, November 26 beginning at 5:00 Gather for Food & Fellowship At the Circleview Conference Room 53 Genesee Street in the back Bring a snack to share & BYOB





We've entered November, which most of you may know is The Rotary Foundation Month. As your Foundation Chair, I am always humbled by the generous support our Club shows when it comes to both Club AND individual contributions. To date, we have 19 Avon Rotarians who have already made donations this Rotary Year and we have 24 that are signed up for Rotary Direct. My math says that leaves 27 Rotarians with an opportunity to put their skin in the game still this year. At our meeting on Nov 19th we are planning a Foundation Program with special guest and inspirational speaker Don Alhart. The Foundation Committee will be holding a fund drive in memory of Ted Coyne and his many contributions of both time and treasure to our community and the Foundation. With a combined years of service to the Fire Dept., the Ambulance, and to Rotary of 170 years, and by today's standards, he and Dorothy being Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation, I hope we can all find a little inspiration to do what we can to make our community and planet a little better. For that evening we will have an "ask" and a "challenge". The "ask" is that every member makes at least a \$25 dollar donation to the Annual Fund of the Foundation (unless you have already donated through Rotary Direct) BUT my challenge will be \$1 per year for every year that Ted was a Rotarian (that was 69!!). Remember that these donations come back to our Club in the form of Grants in addition to all the other amazing "Magic" things that the Foundation does around the world - So be part of it, let's honor Ted and Dorothy with a great night and a big check to send back with PDG Don.

Submitted by Kirk Vanderbilt







Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever. As a founding partner of the <u>Global Polio Eradication Initiative</u>, we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

A polio-free world is possible, but we can achieve it only by taking action together. Give to the Rotary Foundation.

### Rambling On Rotary—November



By Bruce Amey

November is Rotary Foundation Month. Our club's Foundation Chairperson Kirk Vanderbilt has announced that at our November 19 meeting Rochester Rotarian Don Alhart will be present to make a special Foundation presentation. We would like to see every club member donate to the

Foundation this year and every year. To have Every Rotarian donate to the Foundation Every Year would be a very proud moment for me; I think there is no secret within our club regarding my feelings towards the Rotary Foundation and the work that it does around the world.

RI President Stephanie Urchick has been trying to rally clubs around the Rotary International Action Plan. RI has a Vision statement stating "Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe in our communities and in ourselves." The Rotary International Action Plan has four (4) priorities:

Priority 1—IMPACT: People of Action are problem solvers.

Priority 2 – REACH: People of Action activate and inspire one another.

Priority 3 – ENGAGEMENT: People of Action strive to understand the needs of others.

Priority 4 – ADOPT: People of Action are inventive, entrepreneurial, and resilient.

Our own club's Vision Statement is: The Rotary Club of Avon is an organization where service-minded individuals unite to provide resources and take action for those in need and support lasting change in our world, in our community, and in each other. At our October 22 meeting past president Mike brought a guest, Lisl, to the meeting; she offered some background on her life in South Africa and volunteer efforts she organized fundraising for various charities with "strong man competitions". Lisl lives on Conesus Lake. How can we make our club attractive for her and others so they will want to join our club and become engaged in our service projects and join our camaraderie. Later in that meeting, as the request of President Karen we also had a collection of \$3 from each person present to allow for polio vaccinations to continue to be given around the world; it was an enjoyable time for those present even though there was no Inn personnel present. As Tom Honan was not able to be present at the 10/22 meeting, I am looking forward to receiving the results of the club survey that was conducted during September and October.

As we begin to look ahead for club leaders for the 25-26 Rotary year, I am hopeful the Board of Directors will use the survey results to help our club plan for its impact, reach, engagement and to adopt plans to proceed. We ARE a club of service-minded individuals who are anxious to take action; and we need all members engaged to bring their time and talents to do so. Like PP Mike did with Lisl, let us reach out for new members to join us in Rotary's Vision. TOGETHER. Also, as we progress through this month of November, I remember how thankful I am to be a member of our Rotary club. I am thankful for my immediate family and my Rotary family every day. My hope is for each of you to have a very happy Thanksgiving on November 28th. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



#### 

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has" Margaret Mead





# **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

The Avon Chamber of Commerce has named Livingston County Board Chair and Avon Town Supervisor David LeFeber as its 2024 Citizen of the Year.

The chamber presented LeFeber with the award during its 37th Annual Citizen of the Year Dinner on Oct. 5, 2024 at The Avon Inn. The award acknowledges and celebrates individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to the Avon community. LeFeber was

nominated by his nephew, Collin Hayes, who cited the lifelong Avon resident's dedication to public service in his recommendation to chamber members.

LeFeber stands with New York State Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes (R-Caledonia) (left) displaying a proclamation from New York State Senator Pamela Helming recognizing his many years of public service. Photo courtesy of the Avon Chamber of Commerce.



"I was inspired to nominate him because he should be celebrated for his years of service to the community, although he is happy to perform this public service knowing that it of-

ten goes without recognition," explained Hayes. "Not many people understand the work that goes into farming and the efforts he has invested in making our small family farm an efficient and productive operation. The fact that he is able to give back to the community on top of that, and has for so many years, is truly admirable. As his nephew, I'm grateful to have him as a role model, and as an Avonite, I'm grateful to have him as a leader in our community."

LeFeber was first elected as Avon's town supervisor in 2002 and has served as chair of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors since 2018. He owns and operates LeFeber Farms, a third generation dairy farm comprising 1,400 acres in southern Avon.

"It's a great honor to be recognized like this and I'm very thankful to the Avon Chamber of Commerce," said LeFeber. "I feel like this award belongs to everyone I work alongside. Everything I do is truly a collaborative effort of friends and neighbors helping each other to achieve positive change for our community. The great people of Avon and Livingston County have helped me out in so many ways throughout my career and I wouldn't be where I am without their incredible support."

LeFeber is also a member of the Avon Rotary and generously supports numerous community causes.

Article by: Gvpennysaver.com

WHAM Bright Spot: Honoring Decades of Dedication

October 15th 2024 David LeFeber was featured on the WHAM Bright Spot, shining on an outstanding citizen.

"The Avon Chamber of Commerce has named David LeFeber as its 2024 Citizen of the Year."

The award acknowledges those who have demonstrated exceptional service and dedication to the Avon community.

David, From your Rotary Family...





2024 Wild Polio Case Counts as of	October 31, 202	24
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<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	2024	Date of last case
Afghanistan	6	23	September 2024
Pakistan	6	39	September 2024
Total	12	62	



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



Grocery items needed in November will be announced via email by David Kilgore and collected on Tuesday, November 19.



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

