



## 151st Edition

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## President's Message



Dear Rotarians,

Time flies when you are having fun!! I can't believe we are starting the third month of my presidency already. I have enjoyed every minute of it and I hope you have too.

We have had a busy fun-filled month. We had a beautiful summer day for our Corn Festival this year and a huge success for Avon Rotary. Congratulations to Collin Hayes for his first year as chair. He is already taking notes and working on improvements for next year. We will take a short break before revving up for our next fundraiser which Tom Honan has graciously agreed to chair again.

Our two exchange students arrived shortly after cornfest and have settled in quite well already. Paul, from Germany and Clara from Brazil have received their schedules from school and



our choosing activities in which they would like to participate. Paul is excited to join the trap/skeet team which if you saw him take a few shots at our recent meeting at the Conesus sportsman club, I think he will fit right in. They will be giving their presenta-

tions on their home countries at an upcoming meeting but in the meantime feel free to strike up a conversation at a meeting or if you see them out and about town. All rotarians are encouraged to get involved with our exchange students and ensure they have the best year possible while staying with us in Avon. We are still in need of a third host family for each during the winter months.

Thank you to all that helped out with our flood relief service project. Karen and Gerard Iglesia, along with their new found friends, Mandra and Shawna, were overwhelmed with the generous donations they were given and were truly appreciative of our help. Many hands made quick work of the piles of donations at the Avon Inn. Thank you to those that contributed to the effort with donations of much needed items and monetary support. They delivered the supplies last Thursday and the communities were extremely grateful. These communities still have a ways to go, they are still cleaning up and rebuilding but the weight of the disaster got a little lighter with the love and support of their neighbors to the north.

I hope you have enjoyed the long Labor Day weekend. Happy first day of school to our kiddos!! And I will see you at our social on Sept. 10th for more fun and fellowship.

YIRS, Karen

### 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



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



## SCHEDULE

- Tues. Sept 3 No Meeting, Happy Labor Day
- Mon. Sept 9 Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm at Circleview Conf room
- Tues. Sept 10 Social: Fall Picnic & Clam bake at Avon Commons 5:30
- Tues. Sept 17 Regular Mtg & Program: Exchange Students; Past & Present
- Tues. Sept 24 Regular Mtg & Program: Tentative- Club Health & Membership

*For more meeting details, go to [avonrotary.org](http://avonrotary.org)*



### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Leann Hill 2017
- ⇒ Josh Tonra 2014

### Birthday

- ⇒ Will McLaughlin
- ⇒ Bill Wall

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Katie DeGraff
- ⇒ Hans Koomen

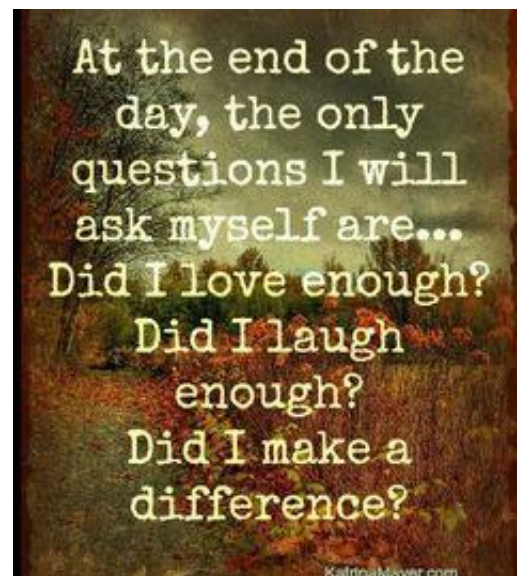
### District 7120 Calendar of Events

**Sign Up Today**

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](http://rotary7120.org) to register

**Service Above Self**





# 2024 CORN FESTIVAL



As someone who has been attending the Corn Festival my entire life, serving as this year's General Chair was a very special "full circle" experience for me.

As a child, I still remember eagerly awaiting the Corn Festival all summer long, honing my corn-eating skills in practice competitions against my siblings in anticipation of the big event and, on the day of the Festival, running back and forth to my grandparent's house between dips in the pool and visits to the food court. As a teen, the Corn Festival was one last hurrah before the start of the school year, and my friends and I might have gotten a little rowdy at the Skycoasters concert during those years. Now, the Corn Festival is a day to reconnect with old friends and family from out of town and to celebrate the impactful work of our Club and the special community that we call home.

The 2024 Corn Festival was one of our biggest on record, and I could not be prouder of the work of our Club and the Steering Committee in making the event a success. This year's Festival attracted over 6,100 visitors to downtown Avon throughout the day and raised over \$20,000 to support our Club's mission of service. We hosted 170 vendors at this year's Festival and added new attractions, including the world-famous Oscar Meyer WienerMobile, a model WWII-era Corsair and a popular corn crawl in the Kid's Zone. We debuted our new website, [avoncornfest.com](http://avoncornfest.com), to serve as a one-stop repository for all things Corn Fest and to improve the experience of our vendors and festivalgoers alike. I am very excited to see how our Club will continue to build upon our efforts and grow the Corn Festival in years to come.



I am truly in awe of the collaboration, communication and commitment displayed by the Steering Committee in planning this year's Corn Festival over many months. In addition to organizing our Club's largest fundraiser, we provide a great service to our community in hosting this event, and we should be proud to of our accomplishments. This year's planning process took place on an abbreviated timeline, and our Committee displayed great flexibility in expanding the scope of the Festival to accommodate new vendors and adapting to some last-minute curveballs, like the addition of the WienerMobile just a week before the event.

I received many compliments on this year's Corn Festival, and I was quick to point out that the planning process was a team effort. I relied heavily on their years of experience of our Committee members in my first year as Chair, and I could not have done it without them.

I'd like to give a special shout-out to our Vendor Committee, Hans Koomen, Karl Sawicki and Josh Tonra, for their patience with and attentiveness to the many emails I forwarded them over the past months; to Mike Ford, for his support and guidance as past Chair; to Helen Zamboni, for her years of service as Secretary; to Laurie Vonglis, for her attention to detail and planning; and to our Security Committee, Rodney George, Jim Ryan and Shawn Rice, for their assistance in developing an emergency plan. Of course, the Festival would not have been possible without the many Rotarians and their families and friends who volunteered throughout the day.



I am tremendously grateful for being entrusted with the planning of this event by our Club, and I am honored to serve as your Colonel Kernel.

YIRS, Collin Hayes



"We remember the joy of small-town festivals, and we hope to create lasting memories for everyone who attends."

- Karen Vanderbilt

Avon Rotary Club president

## GVRC



**August 13:** Avon Rotary Club members had an incredible time during our annual visit to the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp - Official (GVRC)!

This camp holds a special place in our hearts as it provides an amazing experience for differently-abled campers. It was truly inspiring to see the joy, resilience, and camaraderie among everyone there.

We're proud to support a camp that creates lifelong memories and opportunities for these incredible campers. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this camp such a special place!

*Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

### Celebrating 61 Years of Love: A Look Back at GVRC's 2024 Camp Week

From August 11 through August 17, GVRC welcomed 90 campers to rustic Camp Sam Wood in Pike, NY. This year marked the 61st annual Camp Week for GVRC, which has hosted children and young adults with various disabilities for a week of joy and transformative outdoor experiences since 1963.

This year, campers were immersed in our state's rich cultural and natural heritage, as GVRC embraced the theme "I Love New York." The theme provided a vibrant backdrop for new experiences; campers learned about the blue bird, New York State's official bird, and delved into the history of the Iroquois people. The physical education class featured a New York-themed obstacle course, guiding campers through various state regions and imparting interesting facts about each.

Campers were divided into "Upstate" and "Downstate" tribes, sparking friendly competition for "Super Merits," awarded daily for exceptional participation in activities, which included music, drama, arts and crafts, riflery, archery, fishing, and swimming. The campers were supported throughout the week by 79 full-time staff and many more volunteers.

Midweek, the Board of Directors, comprised of Rotarians from GVRC's 13 Member Clubs, gathered at Camp Sam Wood to celebrate the impact of GVRC. "We all owe a great deal of gratitude to the Rotary Clubs of the Genesee Valley for providing our community the opportunity to have this amazing Camp," noted Camp Director Brian Bartalo.

In recent years, the Board has honored 21 GVRC staff and supporters with the Paul Harris Fellowship. This year, the Board recognized two long-time staff members, Bonnie Frank and Sarah Zacharias, as Paul Harris Fellows, celebrating their contributions and dedication to GVRC over the past 27 years. Frank, who has been with GVRC since 1997, operates the "Zen Den," helping campers to learn healthy strategies to manage stress and anxiety. Zacharias, also with GVRC since 1997, works in the kitchen at Camp and has been instrumental in creating healthy meal options for campers.

Also at the Wednesday gathering, several GVRC staff and supporters presented the Board with donations of funds raised in the past year totaling over \$25,000. Among these was a \$5,000 check from the "Booty Bikers," a group of Camp staff who cycled 66 miles from Hamlin Beach to Camp Sam Wood on August 8 to fundraise for GVRC.

As GVRC wraps up another successful year, the Camp continues to embody its values of inclusivity, compassion, empowerment, community, collaboration, and gratitude. The experience not only enriches the lives of the campers but also reinforces the GVRC's commitment to celebrating every individual's potential and fostering a supportive, loving community. Here's to many more years of making memories, fostering growth, and spreading joy at the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp.

YIRS, Collin Hayes



## CONESUS LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

**August 20:** Our Avon Rotary Club had a fantastic field trip to the Conesus Lake Sportsmen's Club, where we proudly awarded one of our Avon Rotary Vocational Scholarships to Alissa Kauffman! Alissa will be heading to MCC to study Fire Protection and American Sign Language. Not only is she an outstanding student, but she is also a member of the East Avon Fire Department, an EMT, and was also a member of the Avon Trap Shooting team and clinched the State Championship this past season!



Alissa's mother, Sandy, who also happens to be the coach of the Avon Trap Shooting team, gave us an insightful presentation. She shared the rich history and various disciplines of the sport, highlighted how it opens doors for students who might not excel in traditional high school sports, and emphasized the importance of firearm safety and marksmanship. It's clear that the trap shooting team creates a fun and inclusive environment for all students involved.



After Sandy's program, we were thrilled to watch Alissa in action at the shooting range. We even had some hands-on fun as Sandy and Alissa coached our President, Karen, who took her shot at the clay pigeons! And, we can't forget about our new exchange student, Paul from Germany, who is eager to join the Avon Trap Team this year. He wowed us all with his skills at the range!



It was a memorable evening filled with learning, excitement, and community spirit.

Congratulations again, Alissa, on your scholarship and all your achievements! And thank you to the Conesus Lake Sportsman's Club for hosting us! *Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

## PRIMETIME585

**August 27:** Our club came together with a remarkable sense of community and purpose. We were inspired by Primetime585 (Primetime Ballers), an organization known for its amazing coverage of Section V high school sports and dedicated to empowering student-athletes and bridging gaps through service and action. Their incredible social media reach brought to light the urgent needs of families in the Jasper-Troopsburg, Addison, and Canisteo-Greenwood school districts, devastated by flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Debby. Flooding that left the Jasper-Troopsburg high school underwater and left nearly 30 families without homes.



Thanks to the efforts of Primetime585 and their extensive network, our President, Karen, learned about the dire situation and reached out to Karen Iglesia to see how Avon Rotary could help. We are thrilled to share that tonight's meeting was a tremendous success. We collected over 100 bags and boxes of clothes, bedding, toiletries, and school supplies from across Section V. A huge thank you to the Gananda community for their generous contribution!

We sorted and prepared these items that will be delivered to our neighbors in need on Thursday. Special thanks to Karen Iglesia for bringing this cause to our attention, and to her husband Gerard and friends Mandra and Shawna for their hard work. Together, we're making a difference and supporting those affected by this disaster. *Submitted by Mike Ford via social media*

## Rambling On Rotary—September



September is Rotary International's Basic Education and Literacy Month. Our club just finished working hard for months with our Corn Fest. Thanks to chairperson Collin Hayes on his first outing in this role; but we all recognize that the festival is successful due to the efforts of all the workers and leadership of many members. However, now, the planning for our Auction Fundraiser must proceed in earnest, which is scheduled for early November.

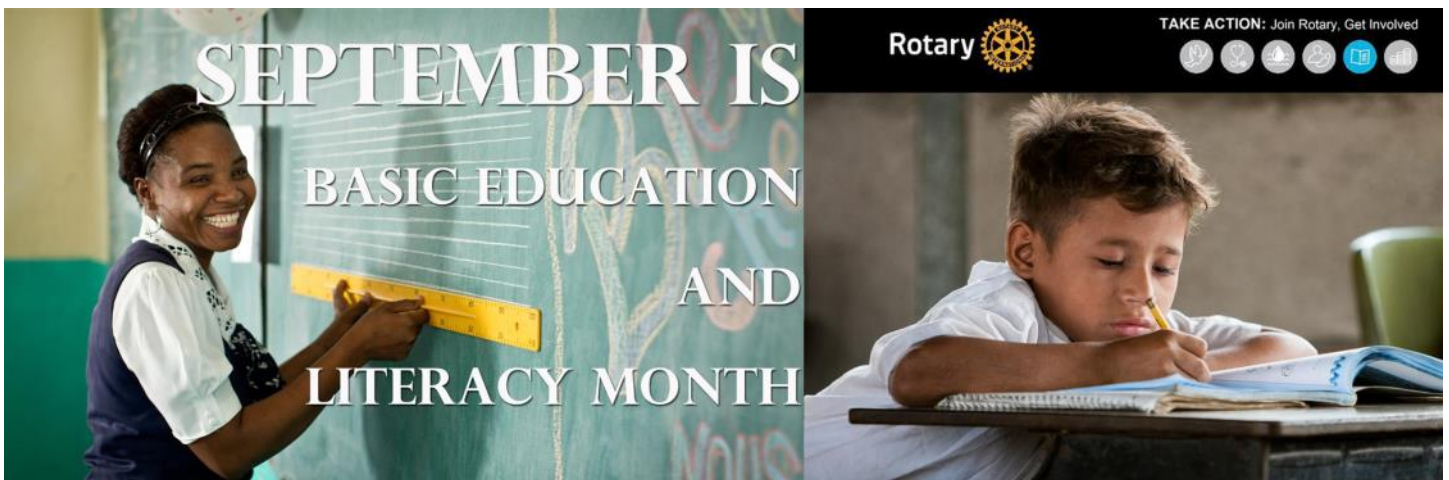
In the August edition of the Rotary Magazine, RI President Urchick stressed the need to increase every club's membership, she said, "it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs.... Belonging is the spark that ignites the Magic of Rotary." Each one of us must extend the hand of welcome and belonging to others if our club is to grow and prosper beyond our centennial celebration. We need to show guests our desire to serve others in our community and our world. And it is essential to show new members how much we need them by quickly encouraging them to become involved as a greeter or in some other role and helping them succeed.

Another article in the August Rotary Magazine, in fact the cover story, Living Legacy jumped out at me. The story was about organ donations and Anil Srivatsa who was our club meeting guest presenter on August 11, 2022.

Anil is from Bangaba, India and his mission is the gift of life adventure as he tours the world promoting organ donations. His presentation to our club specifically focused on kidney donations; he donated one of his kidneys to save his brother's life. We have a club member who is awaiting a kidney donation to make his life whole again. I recall learning from Anil's presentation that I need only one functioning kidney to survive, so I could be an organ donor in life. His presentation to our club was inspiring, as is the article.

"Rotary members contribute to a movement to educate people about how important the gift of their organs and tissues can be – whether after death or in life with a kidney or part of a liver', for me, in that context, Service Above Self takes on increased importance and meaning. As we seek to welcome new members and expand our service, as past RI President and current Foundation Trustee Chairperson Mark Maloney stated, "gradually new members realize their club is part of a powerful organization that is making lasting change in the world." Do we strive to make all the people attending our meetings or activities feel like they belong in our club? Do we invite them back? Each one of us is the Magic that is Rotary. Thank you for being the Magic for me. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

Yours In Rotary Service, Bruce Amey








**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2024 Wild Polio Case Counts as of August 30, 2024

<u>Country</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	6	17	August 2024
Pakistan	6	16	August 2024
<b>Total</b>	12	33	



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

## AVON ROTARY PICNIC

Chicken BBQ & Clam Bake

Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30-9:00

Avon Commons, 597 Collins St. Avon

**RSVP to Laurie by September 4**

Order Chicken Breast-\$3 and/or Clams by the dozen-\$6

Pay at the door

Please bring a dish to pass & your own drink



Grocery items needed in September will be announced via email by David Kilgore.



If you would like to donate please 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**

