

May 13, 2013

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Reflections of a First-time Attendee

By: Rotarian Bruce Amey

**Rotary District 7120 District Conference
May 3-5, 2013
Lake Placid, NY**

I attended the District Conference in Lake Placid for a first time not really knowing what to expect; however, I found there so many new people and many experiences I will never forget. Around every corner there were people smiling and glad to know you came to the conference. The Pittsford club did a marvelous job trying to anticipate every need; they even arranged for magnificent weather when it had snowed in Lake Placid the week before. (I wonder what their connection is with the weather creator guy ...)

The Rotary 4-Way test was recited but was also visible all around the conference, especially "will it build goodwill and better friendships?" and "will it be beneficial to all concerned?". I learned a lot about the Rotary Foundation and how critical it is to the mission of Rotary; in fact, I learned that

everything that Rotary does nationally and internationally is technically done through the foundation. Everywhere you turned there were fundraising opportunities to support the Foundation, and the more you saw these opportunities and learned about the Rotary Foundation, the more important the fund raising efforts became. When Jim Tompsett talks about the value and importance of the Foundation, I now have a much better appreciation for it.

Thanks to the leadership and efforts of our President Laurie, our Board of Directors and our members, Avon Rotary received club awards from District Governor Gaven Hurley for our club newsletter (3rd place), New Generations Service (2nd place for our Pirate Toy Fund activity), our Rotary web page (1st place), and a Vocational Service Achievement Award for the Technology seminars we held recently. We also received a \$3,750 grant to assist us with the Avon Downs playground project,

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Avon Rotary Club
Meets Tuesdays at 6pm
Peppermints Restaurant

Board of Directors
Laurie Vonglis, President
Marcia Cameron, VP
Tim Dickinson, Sr. Director
Dan Jones, Director
Jerry Dougherty, Sr. Rep
Kirk Vanderbilt, Past Pres.
Diana Williams, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



In addition to the Rotary dining and plenary sessions we enjoyed relaxing, shopping, golfing, walking and camaraderie for the weekend.



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presented by DG-elect Ellen Hughes; that grant was part of the District Designation Fund coming back to the communities through the Foundation. I was proud to be a part of Avon Rotary.

Julie Carney did a tremendous job with the Interact kids from around the Rotary District. Seeing our current exchange student from Germany Marius Gappa there was a joy, but, as school superintendent, I was extremely proud to be there when Ashley Stappenbeck received her blazer as a District 7120 representative to the world as she prepares to be an “out-going” exchange student next year. All the student ambassadors presented themselves as responsible young adults who strive to represent the Rotary ideals.

The most moving, emotional portion of the weekend was the “Celebration of Life” where Rotarians who had died in the past year were honored. To hear of the Service way above and before Self of so many was incredible for me. I really miss Tom and Ben and Bert. Someone said, “When you serve yourself, it dies when you die. When you serve others, your service lives on through others long after you die.” Tom and Ben and Bert are living on because of their service to and for others.

We had some time to enjoy hospitality, thanks to President Laurie and Tom’s generosity. Their suite lost some of its privacy and we were able to convene there for conversation and camaraderie and even some “horsing around” ... after all, it was Derby weekend.

I cannot imagine the amount of planning it takes for a local club to put on a district convention, but Pittsford did a great job. If you have never attended, I would strongly encourage you to think about it; next year’s conference will be held in Burlington, VT May 2-4.

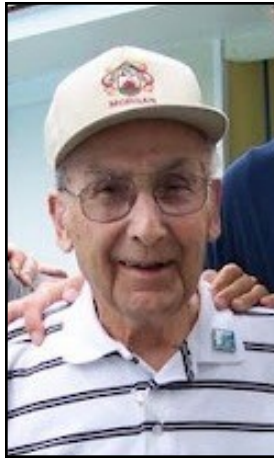
In our club, I have always felt a closeness of purpose and true friendship that makes me glad to be a part of the Avon community. Attending the conference reinforced the Rotary sense of family and community even more for me. Thanks to all who were able to attend and the support of the entire club in all that we are able to accomplish together in our community and the world. It was said by one of the speakers, “For Rotarians, nothing is impossible!” Together, I believe that, too. It was great to attend the conference; but it’s the best to say I belong to Avon Rotary!



With Sadness We Say Goodbye

Reverend Bert Croop died peacefully on April 21, 2013 at the age of 90. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Betty and son Edward and daughter Julie (Stephan), a brother, sister, 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Bert joined Avon Rotary club in 2006. He was an active member in Rush Henrietta from 1986-1988 then Perry 1988-2006. Bert was a past president and Paul Harris Fellow. His gentle, quiet spirit will be missed.



District Conference—Avon Rotary

Avon Rotary received

- District Grant = \$3750. Largest in district!
- Presidential Citation
- New Generations Presidential Citation
- Division 1, 1st place = Website
- Division 1, 1st place = Vocational Project
“Technology Seminars”
- Division 1, 2nd place = New Generations Project
“Pirate Toy Fund Drive”
- Division 1, 3rd place = Newsletter

Congratulations Avon Rotary for a job well done—a year of dedication and hard work for the greater good of our community.



Weather Didn't Stop Us

Saturday April 20th twelve Avon Rotarians joined forces to complete our bi-annual roadside cleanup on route 39. We met early morning at the storage building and put on our safety gear and gloves. We set out in the cold, drizzly rain which quickly turned to snow—see evidence in the bottom left picture (hair indicators). Within an hour the roadside from Linden Street to Fowlerville Road was free of litter. This is a good example of “many hands make light work”.

Thanks to all who participated especially Bill Wall for heading up this task each April and October.

Rotary / Lions Joint Meeting

On Tuesday April 16th 32 Rotarians and 33 Lions enjoyed an evening of fellowship and dinner together. Carney's Catering did a great job with our steak dinner. We had quite an impressive number of attendees who all said the pledge together and sang in honor of our great country. We spent some time sharing celebrations and all monies collected (\$64) went to help the Avon Food Pantry.



District 7120 Assembly

Avon Rotary traveled to Red Jacket on Saturday April 13th for the annual district assembly. All eleven of us made good use of our morning participating in various breakout sessions covering a variety of topics. Leaders Kirk, Scott and Julie led sessions on organized fund raising and youth activities. Cheers to all of these attendees for furthering their Rotary interests.

If you've never attended or it's been a while, look for this event on next year's calendar. Join these leaders to strengthen Avon Rotary's mission.



Are You Ready?

Quad Cities is Monday May 20th. Avon is entering 5 foursomes for golf and a total of 29+ attending dinner. Together with Caledonia, Geneseo and Mt. Morris we are sure to have a special day. Avon plans to induct 2 new members, CA Krenzer and Dave Kilgore who both recently moved to Avon and were members of other clubs. Another highlight will be the guest speakers—Don Alhart and DG Gaven Hurley. Each President will take a turn providing club highlights. This President is planning to honor our dear departed Rotarian golfers—Tom Ippolito and Ben Siragusa.

Dust of those clubs friends and get your game on. The 20th is sure to be another highlight of the 12-13 Rotary year.

Attendance... Cheeks in seats

- 4/02/13 30
- 4/09/13 36
- 4/16/13 33 + Lions
- 4/23/13 48
- 4/30/13 36

Thank you to all those attending meetings.

What does Rotary mean to Doug Hayes...
The ability to make a difference for people in need and have fun doing it! The opportunity to meet new people with the same interests.

What does Rotary mean to Scott Holmes...
Rotary is a way to give back to the community that I grew up in. It's also great for networking and fellowship with great people and citizens of the Avon community.

CLUB SCHEDULE

Tues May 14	Reg Mtg / Corn Fest Steering Mtg
Mon May 20	Quad City Golf & Dinner
Tues May 28	Reg Mtg / program by John McCaffery
Tues June 4	Special Mtg—Ethics Presentation & Panel Discussion
Tues June 11	Reg Mtg / Corn Fest Steering Mtg

