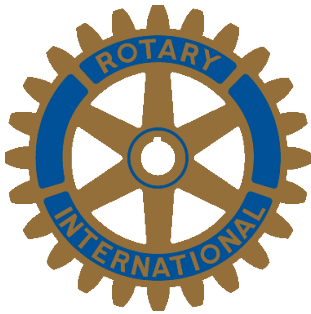


August 6, 2012

Laurie Vonglis, Editor



# Avon Rotary News



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Next Meeting: August 7th

Visitors: AG Walt Springer & Eric Schmidt

Program: Membership with Kirk Vanderbilt & Tom Vonglis presenting

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

## *What is Your Rotary Story?*

At our July 24th meeting our program was provided by Ashley Stappenbeck, Interact President this year. She explained her experience with RYLA, how it impacted her and will make her a better leader. Perhaps this is the 'beginning' of her Rotary Story.

On page two of this newsletter you will find exchange student Erika's highlights of her first six months here. I bet this is the beginning of her Rotary Story.

DG Gaven Hurley asks all of us to reflect on our own Rotary

Story. Be prepared to share this with other Rotarians and potential members. When he visits September 11th don't be surprised if he calls on you to tell your beginning and why you are still a member.

For me, once invited, I saw it as a night out with my husband once a week and an opportunity to not only network but get involved now that the kids were grown and no longer 'needed me'. Over the last eight years, I have found my 'nitch' (several

actually) and through leadership opportunities gained a lot of personal growth. There are countless ways to give back and the feeling is powerful.

My hope is that new members find this as rewarding an experience. For members with longevity please share your stories and rich history with the club. Stay engaged and find a new 'nitch' for your benefit and the club's.

Article By: Laurie Vonglis, President

## *July 31 Meeting Review—Marcia at the Helm*

*While President Laurie was away...* PE Marcia presided. Pam Hayes lead the pledge and Tim in the Star Spangled Banner.

Dan Jones offered the blessing and asked that Marcia be guided in mercy in fining.

We then sang "Ain't She Sweet" and one verse – second verse – of the Rotary song.

Only one guest, our presenter, John Dancy from Southampton, England, of the Ordnance Survey, introduced by me.

Pam Hayes celebrated that two of her three kids were in the recent performance of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, and the Hayes's hosted the cast party after the last performance. She said it was awesome.

Doc Hayes celebrated Polly's return home from the hospital and rehab after a month.

Kirk celebrated a week's vacation in the Adirondacks with his family, camping at Long Lake and then visiting the Vonglis's in Inlet.

Barb McCormick celebrated her father-in-law's life and thanked the club for support. She also said that he had been raising hibiscus plants and trying to get them to bloom for years, and just yesterday she saw that three of them were covered with flowers.

There was a lot of the "normal" bantering/picking on Steve Stephenson for tennis, but this time initiated by Bruce Amey. Dan Jones chimed in, too.

Joe Callahan complained about how three Rotarians (two of whom were present, Ernie being the other and not) only gave conditional responses to references he asked them for. It was on some form to go to the Sheriff (not disclosed, maybe a pistol permit application? I'm just guessing). Jim Tompsett apparently responded that so far as he knew, Joe didn't suffer from a mental illness. Jerry piped

up that he considered having many copies of the form made and asking others to submit them with a "yes" to this question. And it turns out Joe had bought them all lunch, too!

Then someone ratted on Joe that his daughter is still waiting for him to power wash her house. Joe defended himself by saying that he hadn't done his house yet and when he does, that will be when he does hers. He isn't sure when that will be, though.

Kirk confessed that he was still so much in vacation mode that he forgot to bring the sign-up sheets for upcoming events to the meeting. He also confessed that when he tried to buy lunch for everyone at the Avondale (which included his father to make up for Marcia's having swiped Steve's card for the lunch Kirk had with our former exchange students a few weeks ago), he failed – Steve didn't eat lunch that day!

Bob House then ratted on Jim Tompsett about how Jim left Bones' on Sunday without paying, and how Bob paid for him, Sally and grandchildren with them. Jim offered a lame excuse about how he had to deal with Bella and Sally went out for a smoke, and then paid Bob.

Marcia levied no fines, so Dan's prayer must have been effective!

John Dancy then gave his presentation about the Ordnance Survey's history. Its roots were laid by Major William Roy, who realized that the two incursions/rebellions from Scotland in 1715 and 1745 (the first led by Bonnie Prince Charlie) meant that the English military were seriously unprepared – they had no maps, so when fighting against the rebels had no idea where they were or what the terrain was like. Later, threats from the revolutionaries in France followed by Napoleon meant that the south coast of England needed to be mapped. Official beginning of the Ordnance

Survey was 1790. The country has been mapped in various scale series – "one inch" (one inch to one mile), "six inch", and up.

The Ordnance Survey produces maps for sale, and it is known that in 1938 a German spy bought every map of the country. These were incredibly helpful to the Germans during WWII.

The Ordnance Survey surveys and stores data about every feature of the landscape that you can trip over or walk into – curbs, utility poles, walls, hedgerows, etc.

Today, the Ordnance Survey, which is still part of the UK government, but makes an annual profit of \$50M from sales of data and maps, uses the most advanced digital techniques to collect data, and enters 9,000 changes to the database daily.

John brought a number of large maps with him to give away – maps of all of the UK showing the counties, and a two map set of Roman Britain, and more – which were snapped up quickly.

Marcia gave John a mug for his presentation and after the meeting, several people came up to talk to him.

The 50/50 was \$80 and Rodney George won – again!

We then sang The Whiffenpoof Song and Marcia closed the meeting.

Article By: Helen Zamboni

## Exchange Student News: Erika's First Six Months

I have been in the United States for just over 6 months now, and it has been such an amazing adventure!

Coming to the States on exchange was the best decision I could have made, and even though I was a little scared to come to a small town like Avon at first, I couldn't imagine having gone any where else. Avon is just the best town ever! It is nice and friendly and safe, and I can't help but feel at home here.

One of the most important things though is the people that I have met so far. All of my host families have been so good to me, and they made me feel at home right away. They all make me feel like I am family. Which I am now. I am family. I get along so well with all my host siblings, and I couldn't have asked for better host parents. I definitely lucked out when I came to Avon!

I have also done so many things here! I have been to New York City, the Outer Banks, Baltimore, Annapolis and Cleveland to mention a few. I have been snow boarding (a completely new and painful experience). I met great exchange students from all over the world, many of which I will never forget! I got involved in Avon's theater program and I played softball. I went on senior trip, helped with the senior prank, and I graduated! I jumped into a semi-frozen lake in the dead of winter, I went sledding, had a snowball fight and made snow angels (instead of the usual sand angel that I was used to). I saw Niagara falls, and drove with my host sister all the way to Nunda to get a pair of cowboy boots.

That's just a little bit of what I have done in the past 6 months and a half months!

This summer, I got

involved in the Avon community theater program, we did Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. It was such a fun show to do and it was really great being on stage with my new, American friends. I also participated in a field hockey camp that took place at Nazareth college. That was the first time I had actually worked out properly the whole time I have been here. So although it was tough to get into, it was really fun being able to play again. I will also be going to Boston and Cape Cod with my current host family and the exchange student from Australia at the end of August. I will be meeting the incoming exchange students, who start arriving pretty soon, I'm sure.

This year is going by so quickly, too quickly if you ask me. Everybody always tells me that your last six months are way better than the first, and if that's the case, these

next couple of months are going to be out of this world! It will be tough to out do the amazing times that I have already had.

Regards, Erika van Rooyen



*Erika van Rooyen from South Africa—Avon Rotary Exchange Student*



Tomorrow night is our final Corn Festival Steering Committee meeting. Committee members, please plan on attending so we are all on board with our preparation, work schedule and clean up.

Pray for good weather!

Have you volunteered yet? It's not too late to sign up and there are plenty of options

### Avon Corn Festival Days Away!

left. Friends and family are most welcome to help too.

Pray for good weather!

Following our full day Saturday, everyone is encouraged to lend a hand to clean up and put everything back into storage. Our celebration picnic starts at 2:00 at Rodney George's house. Sign up and we will see you there.

Have a great week!

Article By: Laurie Vonglis

### RYLA Program—Recap July 24th

RYLA 2012 was a week that I will never forget. I arrived at RIT without knowing what to expect. It was a week jam-packed with learning and fun. Our mentor, Ted, taught us invaluable leadership skills through games and discussions. Not only did we learn new skills but we learned how to apply them to real life situations. Along with learning how to be better leaders, we were also challenged on personal levels, which I believe has improved me individually. The relationships that I made there

are equally as special to me. I was able to meet other kids from all over the district and we grew extremely close in only a week. The mentors and guardians continue to give me advice and guidance. The skills I have learned and the people I met have taught me so many new things and I am so thankful that the Avon Rotary Club gave me this priceless opportunity and I know that I will value this experience forever.

Article By: Ashley Stappenbeck

## Date To Remember—Mark Your Calendar

### Eastern Cities Dinner: Sunday November 4th