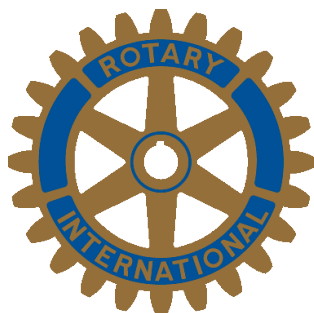


August 20, 2012

Laurie Vonglis, Editor



### Inside this issue:

*Tales from the Corn Booth* 1

*New Generations* 2

*Member Moment* 3

*Upcoming Events* 3

*Corn Festival Highlights* 4

Next Meeting: August 21

Program:

We visit GVRC!!!

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

## *Tales from the Corn Booth by Kelly Cole*

So what's it like behind the grills of the Corn Booth?

Each year, we seem to grow in the demand for Corn Fritters. I don't really know why, because I don't really eat them. They are very good, but I'd rather eat the corn that year after year is always the best you can buy. Yet every year more and more people are lining up for fritters.

Over the past few years, in an effort to reduce the clamor for space at the butter pan, we have tried to move towards having people serve the food to the servers so that it would help speed things along, and to reduce the number of people actually handling the food. The Corn servers pick the corn out of the metal cans, and dip the ear in a butter boat that sits inside the can staying warm. The server simply takes the plate and hands it to the customer. This year, we extended the tent out back, and got the grills further back from the serving area. Now we have people who take the fritters from the warming pan by the grills and put them on plates while another person, who is doing the same with the potatoes, puts butter on them, and gives them to the server. This seemed to work pretty well this year, but still we were backed up with fritter orders, and this is what I was hoping to avoid this year.

One of the problems was one grill that refused to stay lit. Thanks to the efforts of Rob Coyne, he found the problem, and replaced the knob connecting the gas tank. Even with two grills, we had a hard time keeping up. I became a royal pain in the neck to 'Master Mixers' Dave Henchan, Margo Harper, and Wayne Warriner, constantly asking for more batter. 'Tip-Over-Ted' Coyne was keeping the melted butter flowing, and we used an awful lot of it this year...150lbs, generously supplied by O-AT-KA, via Bob 'Butter-Boy' House.

Besides making sure that all the ingredients and serving supplies are on hand, there are the workers. Bruce Amey, Ed Kime and Paul Warren and others did a fantastic job of keeping the steamers going until everything we had to cook was gone. The Corn procurement team also went back to J&A Farm markets field to get another 50 dozen ears of corn, which was the first time that has ever been necessary. King Cole purchased the potatoes, and we had two pans left, even after cutting down the order this year.

Dan 'Padre' Jones worked his holy tail off on the grill, as did Doug 'hey, nobody told me I was going to have to work THIS hard' Hayes. Jerry 'the wanderer' Dougherty made a

cameo appearance, but was gone before anyone could hand him an apron!

My main job is to make everything run smoothly.... so keeping Helen 'bossypants' Zamboni from beating up the volunteers, is one of my TOP priorities!! I also help keep the grills cleaned loaded up with batter, fill butter supplies, and keep the outdoor fridge loaded with butter and fritter supplies. Unfortunately this year, we had 32 bowls of dry mix come up missing. Really odd, but we ran out of fritters at 2:30, and I don't have any clue why.

After the dishes are washed, and everything is loaded back into the trailer, I take the supplies back home, sort it, count up what we used, and put it all away in the storage shed for next year.

An awful lot of work goes into this Rotary booth, just as it does for the entire festival. Rotary doesn't make much money on the booth, and based on the efforts and the people who volunteer to make it all work, I sometimes wonder if it is worth it. But when I see people 6 or 7 deep at the stand, I think that this is a great draw for the corn festival, and I would hate to see us NOT provide this food service.

That's my story.

## NEW GENERATIONS *by Julie Carney*

As one of the Interact Advisors for our club, I would like to share some of the many things that our students are involved in. We are a group of four advisors and thirty-three students. The goal of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to work together in a world of fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding. We focus on this goal with every activity and project that we undertake. The students start the year out by having a picnic before school begins to reconnect and get energized for the new year. The students range from 13-18, so this may be the first time that some of them will have met and hung out. The picnic is also the first official meeting of our club. We go over sign-up, select officers for the year and start thinking about what we want to accomplish for the year. This year's picnic was held at the home of Rotarians Doug and Pam Hayes, parents of 3 of our Interactors.

Our first activity every year is the Corn Festival. In years past, we have just helped out by setting up tables and chairs and running errands. This year, we decided to have a bigger, more noticeable presence. By turning the grounds of the Avon Free Library into a Kids Zone, we were able to connect with the youth at the festival and also make a little money for our clubs projects throughout the upcoming year. We had a Bounce House, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Carnival Games, and much more, which helped us raise \$409!

Our next activity will be to volunteer for the afternoon at GVRC. We will be interacting with the campers and I am sure we will be learning a lot while sharing in this wonderful

camp. One of our own Interactors, Annaleci Lamantia, attends this camp as she has had multiple heart surgeries.

During the course of the year we also volunteer at the Special Olympics by working the booths at the event, coaching athletes who are warming up, making signs and cheering them on as they compete. We also raise money for Special Olympics by participating in the annual Polar Plunge at Lake Ontario. This event was made even more meaningful because two Avon athletes competed. Congratulations to Jenny and Morgan.

One of our International goals is completed by hosting the March/April Exchange Weekend. On exchange weekend, all the exchange students from District 7120 gather on Thursday evening in Avon and stay until Sunday. The weekend is full of activities sponsored by the Interact Club. There is a tour of a local college, a dance, bowling, casino night, and a pancake breakfast. During this weekend there are friendships made that will last a lifetime! We will keep you updated as our other International projects develop. It is important to know that the Interact Club is, by Rotary rules, sponsored by Avon Rotary club, which provides support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting.

Cathy Murphy, Scott Holmes, Ed Kime and I are the Interact Club's Advisors as well as the Youth Exchange Officers and the Counselors for the Rotary exchange students that come to Avon. We are responsible for all of the paperwork, and there is a lot! We each have to go through background checks yearly, be certified yearly from the U.S. Department of State

and also attend annual training sessions. We find and interview prospective host families, who also have to go through the background checks and the training. While the student is here, we have to take photos of the host families homes, meet monthly with the student, complete a report and submit them, along with other paperwork to district via Wessex, which is a site set up for administration purposes. This site keeps track of all of the students in the Exchange Program.

As for me, as of July, I was appointed by the Governor as the District 7120 Interact Chair, and will be working with the district Interact committee to organize new Interact clubs in the district, increase communication among existing clubs, and plan district wide training for club officers. I also will be working with advisers, and regularly communicating with them and overseeing and advising all the District Interact Clubs. In addition to Interact, there is also the District Youth Exchange Program. As a member of the District Youth Committee, I am the Country Officer for Argentina and Bolivia. I am responsible for all inbound and outbound students from these countries. This year we have one outbound to Argentina, Amelia Rothfuss from the North Rose-Wolcott Club and two inbounds, Juan Tolosa and Ivan Pompolo. Juan will be with the Watkins Glen-Montour Falls Club and Ivan with the Elmira Heights Club. This job entails coordinating with my counterparts in Argentina and Bolivia, and working with them to make sure that all of the paperwork is in order so that the proper Visas and paperwork are done. While Amelia is away, I will be in contact with her about every two weeks to see how she is doing and making sure that her experience is a good one. As far

as the two inbounds, I will have to meet with them monthly, file reports and make sure that their experience is a good one as well.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, I attended the District's welcome home dinner at Finger Lakes Community College for the 22 returning 2011-2012 outbound exchange students. It was an exciting night where each of the returning students shared some of their favorite or most memorable stories of their exchange experience and there were plenty of laughs throughout the evening. I was joined by President Laurie Vonglis, Interact President Ashley Stappenbeck and her parents, Interact VP Hannah Carney, Ed Kime and our current exchange student, Erika van Rooyen. The whole process for becoming an exchange student begins in November when all of the potential outbounds attend Interview Weekend. This is a weekend where the students come with their parents to start the year and a half long exchange experience. As part of the Interview Committee process, we put the students through a lot of formal interview questions along with a weekend full of no sleep and awkward situations to see if the students will be able to withstand the rigors of the Exchange Program. The parents only stay for the first few hours of the formal interview process and then they leave their child with us for the rest of the weekend.

As you can see, the Youth Programs in Avon Rotary are very active and will only continue to grow in the coming years. The youth program was the "niche" that I found as one of the compelling reasons for joining Rotary. What's your niche or special interest that drives you in Rotary? Have you found it yet and if so, have you shared that with any potential Rotarians? Now get out there and spread the word about what Rotary means to you!

# 2012 INTERACT CLUB



## *Member Moments...*

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROTARY MEMORY?**

Happy Rotary anniversary to Scott Holmes and Steve Vanderbilt. Both Rotarians joined the Avon Club in August of 2011.

When asked what his most memorable Rotary moment has been this past

year, Steve said without a doubt, witnessing his son's induction as Rotary President. Kirk was Avon's commander in chief for 2011-2012.

Scott reflected and later told me that by far his

most meaningful memory was his first visit to the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp last August. He plans on returning to camp with the club on August 21st.

Article By: Laurie Vonglis

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- District golf tournament on Sept. 14th at the Lima Country Club
- Avon Rotary wine tour on Sept 16th at Seneca Lake
- The Magic of Rotary—special program on Oct 23rd at Avon Commons
- Eastern Cities Dinner on Nov 4th at Rochester Convention Center
- District Conference on May 3-5 at Lake Placid



## Corn Festival Highlights by Laurie Vonglis

This husband and wife team is very happy and pleased with the commitment Avon Rotary makes to the Avon Community each year. Our annual Corn Festival is a widely known, fun, successful event which enables local organizations to raise awareness and/or raise funds. This day long festival provides entertainment, food & games, arts & crafts for visitors from all around us. Our club is hard working and dedicated to holding this event, making it better each year. As President this year I'm thrilled with our results and excited to be able to fulfill our goals, giving back to our community the Rotary way. Hats off to my husband Tom, chairman of the festival. He and his committee worked hard the past eight months planning all the details necessary. With almost 100% club participation, it is a perfect example of "Service Above Self".

Avon Rotary President, Laurie Vonglis, Avon Corn Festival Chairman, Tom Vonglis

## Corn Festival Highlights At A Glance

