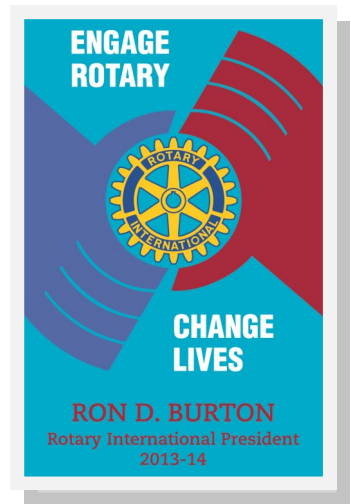


Avon Rotary News

February 4, 2014



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President's Message

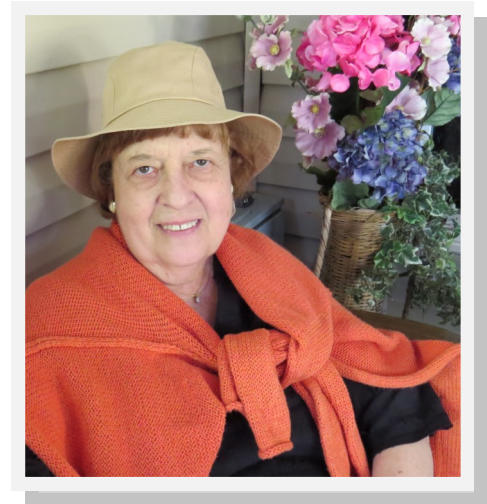


Hello my fellow Rotarians. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to another person from our Avon Rotary family. The passing of Gladys has left another hole in our hearts. Since I have joined Rotary in 2005 in the last few years our club has dealt with the losses of Linda Kime, Tom Ippolito, Ben Siragusa, Bert Croop, and now Gladys Iler. As you all know we are a family here at Rotary and when we lose a member of the club it is like losing a member of our family. I for one would like to express how much I have missed Gladys smiling face as I walk into the door each week for our weekly meeting and the pleasantries and conversation that we never really engaged in when we were sitting on opposite sides of the same church we have gone to together for many many years. Our meetings have not been the same without her at the piano playing songs that many of our newer Rotarians have never heard of. I didn't know them when I joined but I certainly know and almost love now. When you enter our meeting from now on look at the piano and fondly think of our member of the family who is now gone and look around the room and think about the others who have

gone before her. Then look around the room again and picture new faces and new people who can and will join our club and all of the new possibilities we can have if we invite others to be part of our club. We have had some interest of late with like minded people who want to give back to their communities and help their fellow men, women, and children around the world. I hope this year we can fill a few of the seats left behind by our missing family with new family.

For those of you who will be away from us traveling and such we hope you will be safe till we are together again.

Take care everyone.
Marcia, President/Queen



Gladys Iler, pictured here on June 18th 2013 at our summer kick off party.

Avon Rotary Club
Meets Tuesdays at 6pm
Peppermints Restaurant
Board of Directors
Marcia Cameron, President
Tim Dickinson, PE
Dan Jones, Director
Scott Holmes, Director
Bob House, Sr. Rep
Laurie Vonglis, Past Pres.
Cathy Murphy, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer

Avon Playground Update

By John Marks

A new playground for the children of Avon has gone from a pipe dream to a certainty. The Village of Avon Parks Commission has long considered the need for a new playground for Avon. There was an identified need for a more age appropriate playground with more emphasis on safety. A stroke of good fortune occurred when the Avon Rotary Club's President, Kirk Vanderbilt, made it known to the project committee that they were interested in doing a community project and would very much like it to be a playground. This was in the spring of 2012. With Rotary as one of our partners along with the Village of Avon and ACE (Ace Community Engaged) the committee then confidently moved forward with designing a play site, selecting a vendor, developing a budget and establishing a fundraising plan. The Avon Rotary Club committed \$7500 of club funds towards this project

which represented support not only from Past President Kirk but Past President Laurie Vonglis and current President Marcia Cameron as well. The Club went the extra step by applying for a Rotary District 7120 Grant which they were awarded May 2013 in the amount of \$3750. So with their total commitment of \$11,250 plus our other partners the fund raising effort was off to a good start. The first official fundraiser by the committee was opening day of Little League, April 2013 and the latest event was January 25th 2014. Because of all the support from the community we are at \$69,000 or 86% of our goal. This level of attainment will allow us to complete the project with the installation of equipment in the spring-summer 2014. The equipment for the playground will be manufactured locally by Bears Equipment of Lima. They were selected because they are local and their product made from white cedar is of high



quality and will blend with the historical Avon Diving Park where it will be installed. Besides the Bears Equipment, the committee will include a natural play site adjacent to the Bears equipment with the objective of connecting play to nature. It is the mission of the Avon Community Playground Project to support the development of the children of Avon in a healthy, natural environment through unstructured play. On their behalf the project committee and its three partners are acting to aid the children's physical, cognitive, intellectual and social growth.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success. Henry Ford

FEBRUARY CLUB SCHEDULE

Tues. Feb 4	Regular Meeting, Water & Global Grants Program
Mon. Feb 10	Board of Directors Meeting 7pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Feb 11	Sweethearts Dinner & Interact Dessert Auction
Tues. Feb 18	Regular Meeting, Corn Fest Mtg following
Tues. Feb. 25	Regular Meeting, District Conference Program

Milt Mathews Hospitality Program

By: Jim Tompsett

Waiting for the delayed flight Friday pm January 3rd Sally and I reflected on this new year and a new experience. The only Tompsetts we know are immediate family, we have never met others. Well, waiting for Rowley and Denise Tompsett's arrival at the Rochester airport also involved other Rotarians, Peter Schwartz, Brighton Rotary and director of the District 7120 Milt Matthews Hospitality Program, (named for the person originating our district hosting incoming DGEs from all over the world, Milt Mathews aka. "Uncle Miltie.") This district program is over 40 years old. Peter was accompanied by staff to welcome the incoming DGEs. Also present were our cohosts Glenn and Diana Balch, (he is a past DG from Orange County, CA. now in the Scottsville Rotary Club. Our guests arrived only one hour late through Chicago (O'Hare) in inclement weather.

Rowley and Denise are from Canberra, Australia in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and he is a member of the Hall Club and will be DG in District 9710 7/1/14 thru 6/30/15. That evening we had a wonderful feast at our favorite local restaurant, Ember Fire & Grill in Livonia. We were joined by Bob & Ginny House, Barb Herman, Kim & Jerry Dougherty and Kevin & Sue Tompsett. We discovered early on that Rowley is dedicated to Rotary service travelling worldwide to help with new districts and clubs organizing. Denise is an accomplished conversationalist. Good time was had by all. Saturday, Sally and I took Rowley and Denise for a sunny scenic drive around Finger Lakes, Conesus and Hemlock, then on to Eastview Mall and shopping. They enjoyed that very much and made some "bargain" purchases. The even-

ing was spent, fireside, relaxing at our home with Sally's gourmet dinner, pasta and Mediterranean salad. Sunday the



four of us were escorted by Julie Carney to the District Milt Matthews Hospitality Luncheon at Belhurst Castle in Geneva. We met many other DGEs from India, Argentina, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and Egypt, and many inbound exchange students. Then we returned to our festive club meeting at White Oak B & B and hostess with the mostest - Barb Herman. This was delicious - most popular was Lawyer's Bread prepared by Helen Zamboni. Rowley gave an informative presentation. Thanks to all who attended.

Monday was another adventure as Julie Carney drove and we were accompanied by Martina to travel to Corning Museum of Glass, CMOG. The Aussies expected to see a charming display of "Corning Ware" unfamiliar with all the other specialty glass created there from TV screens, to telescope lenses and Gorilla glass for techno screens. Also the historical glass displays and art glass were fascinating. Following our guided tour and glass blowing demonstration we enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant. We then traveled up the west side of Seneca Lake stopping at Glenora and Ventosa wineries for beautiful lake views and tastings. Our guests love wine. Upon arrival in Avon we encountered numbing wind chill so we stayed in and had my favorite "left overs" for dinner. Then we were entertained by Granddaughter Bella with three enchanting "impression

dances" to Katy Perry and Cold Play music.

Tuesday was "transfer" day so after a relaxing am we met the Balchs for lunch at Peppermints, after which Rowley and Denise left to stay with Glenn and Diana. Tuesday evening was Scottsville Rotary meeting. Then a visit to the Eastman House Thursday, Friday was a Mormon history tour in Palmyra as Rowley's son married a Mormon and they were entranced by the Mormon history here. Saturday lunch was at the Dinosaur BBQ, then we said "Good Bye" at Bugaboo Creek for a scrumptious meal and more gifts for our grandkids - stuffed toy Koala Bears and Baby Kangaroos (Joeys)!

Genealogy (skip if not interested). Rowley researched and wrote a 70 page book on our family name origin and history. He has been in contact with Tompsett families around the world and all trace their ancestors to a 20 sq. mile area in southwest England. His grandfather Percy emigrated from Wadhurst to Australia in 1914, my great great grandfather, Richard I, emigrated from Cranbrook to America in 1870. These two towns are 5 miles apart. Rowley was impressed with documents I have from the Chronicles of England that show our "purported" ancestor, Capt. Guillaume Tom'a'Sett (a Norman French) who fought with William the Conqueror in the Battle of Hastings (the Norman Conquest) in 1066 and the original family crest.

In conclusion it was an interesting and uplifting experience. I wish to thank those club members who loaned warm clothes and boots to our guests: Diana Williams, Terry Lemen, David Kilgore and Bob House and of course Barb Herman and Julie Carney. PEem Jim

A Look At The Ambulance

By Helen Zamboni

Newer members of the Club may not know the history of the Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service, Inc. (ARLAS). Its origins were in the mid 1950's, when the Rotary and Lions Clubs came together to fulfill a need within the Town and Village of Avon. Ted Coyne was instrumental in its founding. The first ambulance was a hearse donated by the Stephenson-Dougherty Funeral Home!

In 1987, the organization was incorporated as a Not-for-Profit Corporation and has 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. ARLAS provides Basic Life Support (Emergency Medical Technicians) and Advanced Life Support (Paramedic Technicians) 7/24.

ARLAS is managed by a nine member board of directors. Three directors are appointed by each of the Rotary and Lions Clubs. The current appointees from Rotary are Ted Coyne, Jim Ryan and me. I serve as Vice President. Our President is Janis Cole, Rotarian Kelly Cole's wife. The Lions appointees are Don Mastin, a former mayor of the Village of Avon, Kevin Patrick and Jim Gerace. We have three directors from the community, of whom Janis Cole is one. Howard Forsythe, another community board member, is our Treasurer. Tom O'May is our third community director. Laurie O'Donoghue, who is not a voting member of the board, is our Secretary.

2013 was another year of transition for ARLAS. On April 23, Tom Bartolini, who had served as Business Manager and Chief Operations Officer for a number of years, left on medical leave and subsequently resigned. The board appointed Rick Race, our chief paramedic, to become our operations manager. In May, we put a new ambulance into service to replace one that was ten years old and had been experiencing regular and expensive-to-fix breakdowns. The active involvement of Ted Coyne and Tom O'May with Rick in this process resulted in a net cost for the new ambulance of about \$90,000, a far cry from our last ambulance purchase, which cost well over \$150,000.

We also hired a part-time bookkeeper and restructured the staff to assure efficiency in administration and the delivery of emergency medical services.

We have been in discussion with the Town and Village Boards about getting some taxpayer support. ARLAS has none at present, unlike ambulance companies in most of our neighboring towns which do. We were regularly running operating losses and needed to be able to plan for future capital needs, as well as continue to meet New York State's increasingly demanding regulatory requirements. We projected in early 2013 that we would exhaust our reserves by the end of 2015 at the latest. Our budget for 2013 projected an operating loss of over \$18,000.

Tom Bartolini's departure and the new ambulance reduced our 2013 operating expenses, and between that and Rick's ability to control costs, ARLAS finished 2013 with an operating surplus of almost \$30,000! This does not include the purchase of the ambulance, of course, as that was a capital investment and was paid for out of our reserves.

Club members should be aware that while the Rotary and Lions Clubs have lent their names to ARLAS, appoint 2/3 of the board and make meaningful annual contributions, the clubs are not obligated to and do not fund ARLAS' operations.

We still believe that taxpayer support will be required because of ongoing capital needs. We've improved our collections, but reimbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid patients, who generate a large portion of our revenue, are under significant pressure and the growth in high deductible plans in the private health insurance arena means that our operating income is also increasingly risky. We are projecting to break even in 2014, though we have already incurred about \$35,000 in capital items (a new security system, provided by Hurricane Technologies, and a new EKG monitor).

A few operating statistics:

Call Volumes	01/01/2013 – 12/31/2013	01/01/2012 – 12/31/2012
Total Calls	928	885
ALS Transports	361	294
BLS Transports	123	165
ALS Intercepts	74	76
Total Transports	558	535
Sign offs	94	112

A Look At The Ambulance... continued

Only transports may be billed to insurance companies, and though we bill for sign offs (where the patient refuses transport or transport is determined by us not to be medically necessary), patients rarely pay for them.

Missed Calls	01/01/2013 – 12/31/2013	01/01/2012 – 12/31/2012
Primary Calls	3	13
Second Calls	53	40
Third Calls	5	5

We are measured by how many of our primary calls we meet. As can be seen, there was a significant improvement on this metric in 2013 over 2012. Most of our second call misses were due to not having a second ambulance available in the early months of the year while our old one was not in service and before we were able to put the new one into service.

We have also focused on response times, and on average in 2013, had an ambulance on location in under ten minutes from time of dispatch, an improvement over 2012 of about 10%.

ARLAS is dedicated to providing a professional, high quality emergency medical service to the community. We thank the Rotary Club for its support over the years and also Rotarians who have personally responded to our recent annual fundraising appeal.

SPECIAL MEETING

Sweethearts Dinner

Tuesday, February 11th

Peppermints @ 6 PM

**Featuring: Interact Dessert
Auction**

Sign up in Advance

Club Programs

Is it your turn to plan a program?

Do you have something interesting to share?

If so, please contact **Helen**.

Open Dates:

April 15, May 6, 20 & 27 and June 3

District Calendar

Feb. 8	District Foundation Grant Seminar review
Feb. 15	District Foundation Grant Seminar review @ Clifton Springs Hospital
Mar. 14-15	Multi District PETS in East Syracuse
April 5	District Leadership Assembly @ Geneseo High School
May 2-4	District Conference in Burlington, VT.
June 1-5	Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia

Ashley's Update From Poland

By Ashley Stappenbeck



Dear Avon Rotarians,

First of all, I would like to apologize for sending my update so late, I have been getting busier and busier on exchange and had forgotten about doing this until now. December was my favorite month so far on exchange, the best part was the holidays. It was very strange for me to be away from my family for Christmas but thankfully I kept very busy here and experienced many new traditions! The Christmas market here in Gdańsk opened at the beginning of December and stayed open all the way until Christmas Eve. It was in the main part of the city with traditional food vendors and local craftsmen selling their products. Even without snow it put me in the Christmas mood! There was snow here in the beginning of December but it melted quickly and we didn't have any more until only a few days ago, it's nothing like the winter I hear you are having! December 6th was Saint Nicholas Day and children leave their shoes out for St. Nicholas to fill with candy, I even got some in my shoes!

The middle of December was very busy for me, I went and visited the nearby Oliwa Cathedral in my city, it was built in the 12th century and has a famous organ with over 5,000 pipes, it was absolutely beautiful! I was able to go with another exchange student and

her host family to Berlin, Germany! It is only 2 hours away from her house so we were able to go and tour the city. We were only able to go for a day, however, because we had to fit it in between school and a Rotary get-together. It was a whirlwind tour but worth it for sure, I was able to see things like the Brandenburg Gate and Berlin Cathedral! The day after we went to Berlin, I went to Wroclaw, a city located in the south of Poland. I went with all of the other exchange students and we met Rotarians for a large Christmas celebration. It was wonderful to see all of the exchange students and spend time with them! After that I had a Christmas party with my Rotary Club in Gdańsk. I was able to meet many Rotarians and one of them showed me every traditional Christmas dish and I was able to try them all. It was very interesting, there is a lot of fish served as well as many things with poppy seeds, very different from our food but still very good.

My class at school had a Christmas Eve party and we did a Secret Santa gift exchange. I was the Secret Santa for my teacher and I gave her many gifts from Avon and New York so I guess it wasn't much of a secret. There was a concert in my city that was filmed and broadcast on television on Christmas Eve and I was able to go in person and watch it! It was in the main square and many different acts performed, I didn't know many but it was still wonderful to see and then later be able to watch it on television! Christmas Eve in Poland is known as "Wigilia" and every family has a big feast with 12 different dishes. It was only my host parents, host brother and I but we still had 12 dishes (and leftovers for a week!). Just like at the Rotary party, many of them were fish, there was herring, salmon, fried fish, fish in tomato sauce, and even fish in Jell-O. If you don't like seafood you should

definitely avoid Poland around Christmastime. There was also Barszcz, a beet soup with dumplings, and pierogies, it was all delicious! Christmas Eve is also when they open presents in Poland which was another thing that was different about the holidays here. It was strange for me to wake up on Christmas morning because there were no presents to race to open. Christmas Day is really just like a normal day here, the Polish celebrate mostly on Christmas Eve. Several days after Christmas I received a package from home, in it were things from my family and a few Avon presents for my host family, which they loved. I included a picture of them in all of their gear!

The first picture is the Christmas market in my city. The second is of Oliwa Cathedral. The third is of me in Berlin in front of the Brandenburg Gate. The fourth is all of the exchange students at our Christmas meeting in Wroclaw with our Rotary blazers on. The fifth is a picture of the concert that was held in my city's main square. The sixth picture is my host family in all of their Avon apparel, my host mom, Kasia, in a new jacket, my host dad, Jerzy, with a new gym bag, and my host brother, Wojtek, with his Avon sweatshirt, which he now wears daily.

I am becoming increasingly comfortable in Poland and my language abilities are progressing as well. I am now able to understand most things that are said to me but my speaking ability is not quite as good. School is going well and I have just finished the first semester. My exchange is nearly half over and I can hardly believe it! It is flying by and I really wish it would slow down. I will continue trying to make the most of it and keep you all updated on my time here. Thank you again for all of your continuous support!



Congratulations Avon Rotarian Margo Harper!

Margo is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow recipient. On Tuesday January 21 she received recognition and another multiple stone pin. Her generosity & support for the foundation is inspiring.

Exchange of Flags

January 5: President Marcia exchanged Avon Rotary Club flag with DGE Rowley Tompsett from Australia, District 9710. Our gathering was held at the Avon B & B by hostess Barbara Herman. Our annual Milt Matthews participation has become a wonderful tradition. Thanks to all those that make this happen.



Treasurer's Report: Avon Rotary Club donations for 2013-2014 year-to-date

By Kelly Cole

Community Support –

The Avon Rotary Club sponsored the 27th annual Corn Festival, which is a celebration of the areas agricultural heritage. Thousands of people come from near and far to attend this annual festival to taste the unique foods, listen to the free music and celebrate with friends and family alike.

The club also sponsored the first Avon Honor's program where 4 deserving members of the community were presented with Paul Harris Fellowship Awards.

Avon Rotary has been one of the principal supporters of the new Playground that will be located in the Avon Driving Park. The club has donated \$2,500 this year as well as in each of the past 2 years. Rotarians were successful in obtaining a \$3,750 district simplified grant from District 7120. The total donation from Rotary for this project is \$11,250.

The Avon Rotary Club is the chartering

organization for the Avon Boy Scouts. The club owns and pays all operating costs for the Scout House.

The club continued its annual sponsorship of Teresa House, which is a hospice care home for the terminally ill in Geneseo NY.

The Rotary Club also continued its annual support of the following community projects and causes –

- School 33 Literacy Project in Rochester NY, which provides books to under-privileged students.
- The Dictionary Project which supplies all 3rd graders with their own dictionaries.
- The Avon Central School Drama Club with support for its annual productions.
- The Avon Central School Senior Bash
- Vocal Contest for ACS student to travel to compete.
- Vocational School Scholarship which is intended to help a student who is not attending a traditional

college.

- The Pirate Toy Fund which is a Rochester NY area collection of toys for under-privileged children.
- Avon Boy Scout Troop 26 Eagle Scout project.
- Support for in-bound foreign exchange student.

International Support –

Year-to-date, the Avon Rotary Club has provided support for the following International causes –

- Two Shelterboxes for disaster relief in the Philippines.
- Support for the building of a school in Nicaragua. (financial and manpower)
- Support for equipment and supplies for a school in Sudan.
- Funds for Rotary International's Polio Plus Program whose objective is to eradicate Polio from the world.
- Funds to the Rotary Foundation for their charitable work.

2014-2015 Rotary Theme



Gary C.K. Huang
President,
Rotary International,
2014-15

From RI Website:

Rotary is an organization that has something for everyone. All over the world, in cities and towns, for well over a century, Rotarians have come together to serve. And in the years since Rotary was founded, countless Rotarians and others have discovered the joys of Rotary service, through Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Community Corps, Youth Exchange, and many other programs.

All of us are part of the family of Rotary. And we have all gained so much from our Rotary service. We've made friends, helped our communities, and made the world a better, safer, and healthier place. We've become part of a truly international network of volunteers, and we've learned how much we can achieve when we put our differences aside and work together.

Many of the ideas and values that we cherish in Rotary are not unique to Rotary. Perhaps the reason Rotary resonates so deeply with me is that I find

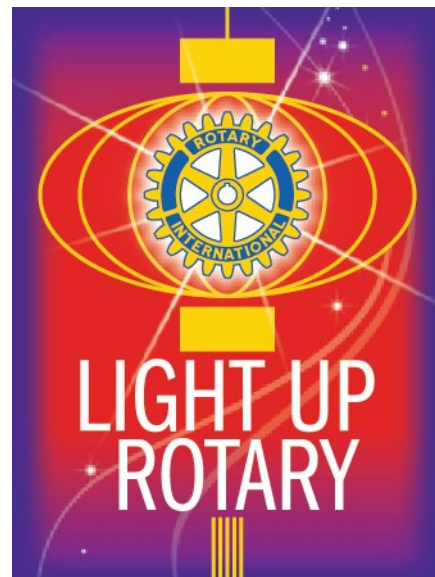
many traditional Chinese values reflected in Rotary: values of service and responsibility, of respect for family and for others.

It is not surprising, then, that the ideas of Confucius so often guide me in my Rotary service. To me, Confucius was the original Rotarian. More than two thousand years before Paul Harris was born, he said: To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first set our hearts right.

In Rotary, we set our hearts right by putting Service Above Self. And we recognize that in order to be ambitious in our service, we must first care for our own organization and expand our family of Rotary.

In 2014-15, I will ask all of you to Light Up Rotary — by sharing our service, strengthening our clubs, and letting our light shine in our communities.

In this Rotary year, we will Light Up Rotary by reaching our goal of 1.3 million Rotarians, bringing in new members while working to keep the members we have. To do this, we'll need to approach membership in new ways, and try new ideas. Hold a Rotary Day to give your community a chance to learn



more about Rotary. Remember that Rotary is a family and is for the family: Encourage your spouse and other family members to consider joining, and reach out to Youth Exchange and Foundation alumni. Focus on your own club, and look realistically at why members stay, and why they leave. What can you do to make being a Rotarian an appealing and attractive opportunity for busy professionals and those with young families?

We will also Light Up Rotary — and make history — by eradicating polio. Polio eradication within the next few years is absolutely realistic — if we keep up our momentum. So tell your friends, associates, and elected officials how critical it is that we End Polio Now. Donate to the PolioPlus Fund and encourage others to do so as well. By meeting the newest challenge issued by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we can make our money work three times as hard. Be an active part of the greatest public-private health partnership in the history of the world, and share in the pride when the job is finished.

In 2014-15, as we strengthen our clubs and Light Up Rotary in more than 34,000 communities, our commitment and our service will light up the world.