

Avon Rotary News

March 3, 2014



President's Message

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Important Reminders	1
Polar Plunge 2014	2
March Club Schedule	2
Three Words About Nicaragua	3
Remembering Gladys Iler	4
2016-2017 DG Announced	5
District Grant Status	5
District Schedule	5
February Photo Highlights	6
Bivona Child Advocacy	6



Hello everyone welcome to March. Hopefully the weather will start cooperating soon and the temperatures will rise. For those of us not lucky enough to have gone to warmer places we really need it to warm up. First I would like to congratulate and thank Rob Lupisella, Jim Tompsett, and Kirk Vanderbilt, and all the students who went to Nicaragua to help build a school. We are all so very proud of you. We can't wait to hear all about your selfless trip. I would also like to thank everyone who participated in our sweethearts dinner and supported the Interact Club with their dessert auction. There was so many wonderful and deli-

cious desserts there and we helped them to raise almost \$700.00 I believe. We should definitely be proud of our club and our members. Our next social event is going to be held on March 18th for St. Patrick's day. This will be held at the Avondale Pub with a delicious buffet and wonderful social gathering. I certainly hope everyone will sign up at our next meeting and please bring a guest. The more the merrier. Also happening in March is the Youth exchange weekend so be sure to help with this enjoyable weekend when Julie asks, you won't regret it. Also President elect Tim will be attending PETS training which stands for President Elect Training Session. So wish him luck in preparing to be the next President of our club. Well that's all I have for now. Be safe and will see you at our next meeting. President/Queen Marcia

Important Reminders

By Laurie Vonglis

Your attendance at our weekly meetings is very important. If you've missed more than the expected 50%, please make every effort to get back on track. Re-commit to Avon Rotary for the good of the club—fellowship and most importantly the good work that we do!

Last spring we made great strides in increasing our dinner orders at Pepper-

mints. Let us not forget the importance of supporting our meeting place.

Lastly—please keep your dues current. All past and current dues should be paid at this time.

Should you have any questions, concerns or comments you may contact any board member to discuss.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

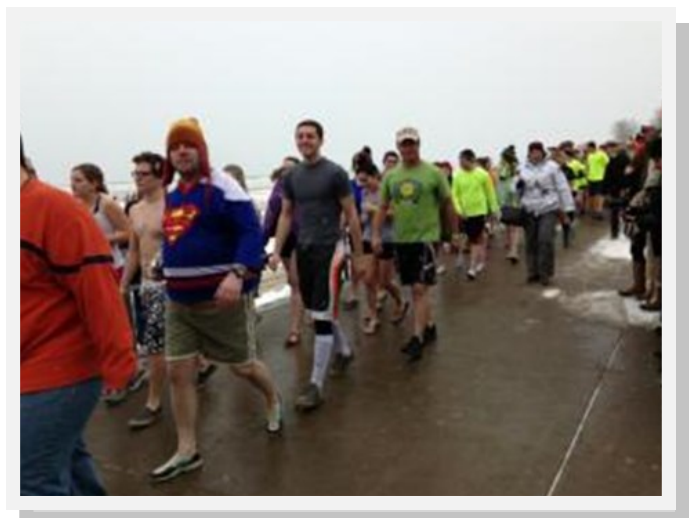
Avon Rotary Club
 Meets Tuesdays at 6pm
 Peppermints Restaurant

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

Polar Plunge 2014

By Pam Hayes

On Sunday, February 9th one Avon Rotarian, Doug Hayes and two Avon Interact Club members, Charlie Lemen and Jimmy Jadlos, braved the icy cold waters of Lake Ontario for the 2014 Polar Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics. Between the 3 they raised \$350 to support this very worthy cause. To give a grand show of support were Avon Rotarians Pam Hayes and Terry Lemen and Interact Club member Emily Hayes. There were over 2,000 participants and a total of \$250,000 was raised for our Special Olympics athletes in NY State. New York State supports 62,000 Special Olympics athletes. The Avon Rotary Club is proud to show their support of this very worthy cause. This is the second event Pam Hayes has coordinated this 2013/2014 year. The first was the Run Dead event in the fall of 2013 at Darien Lake where 12 Interact Club members raised \$700. Pam states she only hopes to continue to support and grow involvement with the Avon Rotary and Interact Clubs in future years with Special Olympics. The Special Olympics fundraisers are very well organized events that are fun, create great bonding times for our club members and fit the Rotary club goals to benefit others in greater need.



MARCH CLUB SCHEDULE



Tues. March 4	6 pm Reg Mtg—Dan Jones, Literacy
Sat. March 8	8:30 am Special Board of Directors Planning Mtg @ Peppermints
Tues. March 11	6 pm Reg Mtg, Corn Fest Mtg following
Tues. March 18	6 pm St. Patricks Special Mtg—Avondale Pub
March 20-23	Youth Exchange Weekend
Tues. March 21	6 pm Reg Mtg, Dom Genova, Auto Scams

Three Words About Nicaragua

By Kirk Vanderbilt

As many of you are probably aware, I've just recently returned from a 12 day trip to Nicaragua. Along with my daughter Ella, fellow Avon Rotarians Jim Tompsett and Rob Lupisella, Ella's best friend Olivia Montesano, and 15 others, we travelled to a developing area in Nicaragua called El Sauce to carry-out a school building project. The project was planned and partially funded by a group of Avon Central Seniors called *Avon for Nicaragua*. Avon Rotary, HF-L Rotary, and several others helped as well.

For the purposes of this article, I decided to streamline my account of the trip with 3 words: *Hard, Beauty, and Inspired.*

It was hard to leave our family and loved ones for 2 weeks. It was hard to get Ella through the motion sickness of her very first airplane ride. It was hard to find ourselves in a foreign country where we couldn't speak the language. It was hard to see the abject poverty which quickly became apparent. It was hard to adjust to accommodations that were far from that to which we are accustomed. It was hard to communicate with our hosts sometimes. It was hard to adjust to the food. It was hard to deal with the 90 degree heat while working. It was hard to hand dig the footers for the new school in rock-hard earth. It was hard to mix by hand the several yards of concrete and mortar needed for the construction. It was hard to carry the thousands of bricks to



the construction site from the site where they were made. It was hard to sleep at night due to round-the-clock roosters and dogs. It was hard to know that we couldn't provide everything these people needed. And most of all, it was hard to say goodbye to all our new friends we had made along the way.

There was beauty in the banana, palm, and mango trees. There was beauty in the centuries-old architecture. There was beauty in the undeveloped countryside. There was beauty in the seemingly countless number of volcanoes that lined the landscape. There was beauty in seeing children play soccer (futbol) in the street without fear. There was beauty in the terraced mountainside planted with corn, wheat, sugarcane, and coffee. There was beauty in the near-impassible mountain road. There was beauty in a community gathering to eat, play games, sing and dance around a bonfire. There was beauty in the mountain-top sunset we saw 2 nights in a row. There was beauty in the young parents and small children sitting in their new school at La Flor. There was beauty in a young

blind boy receiving the gift of a new guitar. And most of all there was beauty in the smiles and fist-bumps that replaced the need for words.

I was inspired by Ella's adaptability. I was inspired by the pride in a country with so few resources. I was inspired by young men driving oxen down the roadside with home-made carts. I was inspired by resourcefulness of the farmers. I was inspired by simplicity of their lifestyle. I was inspired by subsistence farming and providing for one's self. I was inspired by the high school student who walks 4 hours each way to school once a week. Similarly, I was inspired by the young English teacher who walked four hours up the mountain to teach an English class to anyone in the community who chose to attend. I was inspired by cooperation with which they are trying to improve the lives of their children. And most of all I was inspired by the girls of *Avon for Nicaragua*, the Lupisellas, the Enlace Project, and everyone else who chose to help make a difference for these beautiful people.

Remembering Gladys Iler

By Karl Sawicki (as seen in the February District Newsletter)

Our Avon Rotary Club lost a very special and talented member with the passing of Gladys Iler. Gladys died on Saturday, January 25, 2014 after becoming seriously ill with cancer.

Gladys, like her Mother Harriett, was a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. Her love for music, both teaching voice and playing the piano was a huge part of her life. Gladys taught music in Rochester at School # 39 for 37 years, retiring in 1995. She sang and played the keyboards at the United Methodist Church. She continued to teach students at her home until her illness progressed and prohibited her from doing what she always loved.

A Paul Harris recipient, Gladys loved her Avon Rotary friends. She was completely devoted to attending the meetings, arriving early to be sure all would hear her playing the piano while they arrived. In 2008, Gladys convinced me to become a member.

Gladys was an avid RPO ticketholder as well as the Geva Theatre. She loved the finer things in life, like her clothes, books and her favorite restaurant, Roonies. She knew English history, especially the monarch's and their families and had a thorough

knowledge of her family ancestry. Gladys lived all her life on Main Street in the home her grandfather built in 1909. Don't forget her New York Yankees! She'd watch every game possible year after year.

Rest in peace, Rotarian Gladys. We will all miss your charm, wit, and of course your music.

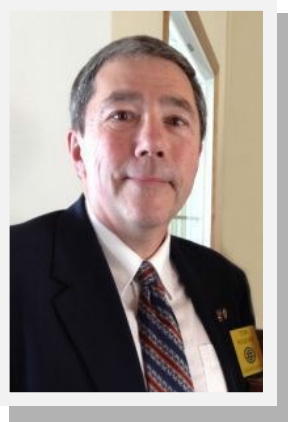


Youth Exchange Weekend

March 20th—23rd Save the date!

Sign up to volunteer—Contact Julie Carney

2016-2017 District Governor Announced



Congratulations Rotarian Tom Rogers of the Canandaigua Rotary Club. The nomination committee met on January 26th, 2014 and selected Tom Rogers to be District 7120's District Governor for the Rotary year 2016-2017.

For Avon Rotary, Scott Holmes is in line to be our club President that year.

May the road to leadership be very fulfilling!



Do Something Wonderful, People May Imitate It... *Albert Schweitzer*

District Grant Status

Congratulations to the Avon Rotary Club for the completion of their DSG for playground equipment at the Avon Driving Park and a pleasure to have a DSG award check for three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750) in recognition of their Rotary DSG project.

Doris March
DSG Chairperson

Congratulations and a huge thank you Avon Rotary for all your efforts to make this grant for the playground possible. Brett Schrader especially thanks to you for getting the paperwork completed so promptly.

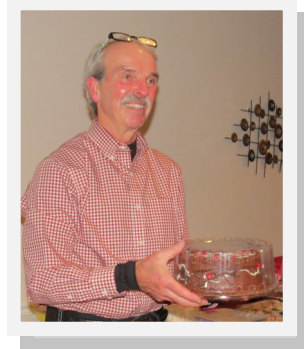
John Marks
Avon Playground Project Chairperson



<i>District Schedule</i>	
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

February Photo Highlights

Avon Rotary had a special 'Sweethearts' gathering February 11th at Peppermints. We enjoyed the company of many spouses and Interact club members. Guest Auctioneer, David Coyne did a great job as usual. He led the Interactors with a very successful dessert auction, raising over \$600!



Bivona Child Advocacy

A letter of thanks... (excerpts)

Dear Avon Rotary,
My name is Jessie Keating, I'm the Director of Development at Bivona Child Advocacy Center. We received your Avon Rotary gift of \$500 today and wanted to reach out and personally thank all of you! We are so honored that the club actually included us in its budget this year! What a wonderful surprise and if there's anything we can do – come and speak, or invite any and all of your members for a personally guid-

ed tour – please let me know.

Please know that a gift this size carries tremendous impact on a small agency like ours. In fact, \$500 covers the cost of one child receiving the full array of services and treatment here at Bivona! On behalf of that child, and all child victims of sexual abuse, we thank you.

Warmest Regards,

Jessie Keating

Director of Development

