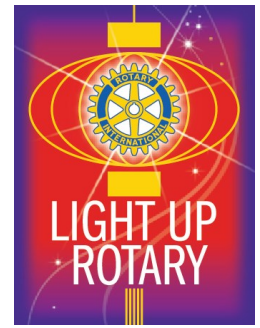




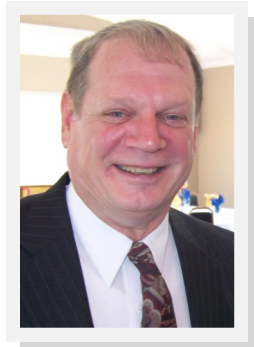
Avon Rotary News

June 2015



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President's Message

As I write my final President's letter for our award winning newsletter I wish to reflect on what has been a most enjoyable year that seems to have flown by. Congratulations to both **Laurie Vonglis** in winning a district award for her work on our newsletter and to **Kirk Vanderbilt** for his efforts in using the social media, a new category for District 7210, reflecting the current information age. We all had a wonderful time at the 2015 District Conference in Buffalo. Thanks to all who were able to attend. We were well represented and were able to see the revitalization efforts taking place in Buffalo. It's amazing what can be done with 7.5 Billion dollars.

Thanks again to all who participated in the Quad Cities Golf/Dinner/Meeting event at Farview & the Avon Inn. Congratulations go to the winners **Kelly, Tom, Scott, and Karl**. Tom, I am not sure it was a wise move to replace Laurie's name on the longest drive even if it truly was. Sometimes discretion is the better part of valor. Congratulations also go to **Hans Koomen** on his second ever round of golf. His first was at last year's Quad cities event.

It certainly has been a productive year. Great job as always by our Corn Festival

Committee and a great event. As we prepare for the 2015 version please be sure to sign up for the many tasks that make up a successful Corn Fest. I also wish to thank all those who have helped in numerous ways to make the 2014-2015 Rotary year enjoyable. Thank You to both **Dan and Marcia** who pitched in and ran the meeting when my voice left me for a few weeks. Thank you to **David Kilgore**, our club secretary. David, you performed admirably and I appreciate all your efforts. The job of club secretary is very important and requires a level of knowledge and dedication far above the pay grade. **Kelly**, thank you for keeping the books and keeping the BOD updated on our monthly finances. You perform a great service to the club and I appreciate all your time and dedication to the effort. I also wish to thank **Helen Zamboni**, our Member at Large on the Board of Directors. This is a one year term so Helen will be leaving the Board in July. Helen, we could always count on you to proof our meeting minutes and make all the corrections necessary including spelling corrections. Great attention to details and I appreciate your efforts and point of view brought to our board meetings. As far as spelling goes, I am of the belief that you cannot trust a person who can only spell a word one weigh.

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Board of Directors

Tim Dickinson, President
 Dan Jones, PE
 Scott Holmes, Sr. Director
 Tom Vonglis, Director
 Helen Zamboni, Member at Lg.
 Marcia Cameron Past Pres.
 David Kilgore, Secretary
 Kelly Cole, Treasurer

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Peppermints Restaurant

2015 District Conference

By: Dan Jones



Rotarians took over Buffalo May 15-17 as club representatives from across District 7120 converged on the Hyatt Hotel for the annual district conference. The conference began with an emphasis on youth and the importance of Interact and Rotoract Clubs and exchange student programs. Youth bring energy and life to clubs, keep clubs connected with emerging leaders and bring awareness of different cultures and ideas. One of the key reasons we are all a part of Rotary is the opportunity to exchange ideas. The youth of Rotary bring great ideas and innovative solutions to complex issues facing our world.

The main speaker, Mr. John T. Capps from Rotary International, exemplified the enthusiasm and energy of youth as he brought down the house each session. He encouraged every Rotarian to have a positive attitude and be enthusiastically about Rotary. Our clubs should be vibrant and the work we do should be relevant. With wit and a genuine spirit of joy John motivated us to become fully invested in the good work of changing lives through Rota-

ry. As he shared stories about a young man from a single parent family who could not afford a tie and jacket for RYLA and the mother and grandmother of children receiving Polio vaccines I was reminded of the significance of what we do at Rotary. We are not just getting together to fellowship and write checks, we are changing the future of individuals who will make the world a better place.

In between plenary sessions Rotarians enjoyed excellent seminars, the opportunity to participate or watch the first "Rotary Iron Chef" competition, tours of Buffalo and the silent auction. Our members helped raise the bids on several items and provided a beautiful ceramic piece for the auction. Fellowship opportunities with fellow club members and people across the district rounded out the event making for a great weekend.

Energized by the collective passion for doing good in the world and the insights of John T. Capps we returned home Sunday ready to be a gift to the world. Next year's conference will be in Hershey – "The Sweetest Place on Earth" April 29- May 1. Plan now to attend and enjoy the sweetness of Rotary fellowship and chocolate.



Pictured Above: L-R Ed Kime, Kirk Vanderbilt, Jake Ayers, Marcia Cameron, Karen & Dan Jones, Tim & Kathy Dickinson, Helen Zamboni, Tom & Laurie Vonglis—All Avon Rotary District Conference Attendees. Missing—Terry Lemen, Pam Hayes, Julie & Jim Carney

Pictured Above Right: Mr. John T. Capps from Rotary International

Pictured Right: Laurie Vonglis, Kirk Vanderbilt and 1st time attendees, Jake Ayers & Doug Hayes



First Time Attendee Perspective



By: Jake Ayers

I had the pleasure of attending the recent Rotary District Conference last month in Buffalo for the first time. I didn't know what to expect out of the conference but I was pleasantly surprised by the content and presentation by all the speakers.

Two specific things stick out to me most from the conference. First was the many speeches by the Presidential Representative John. For those of you that didn't attend I will describe John as this, "a 70 year old version of Chris Farley with a southern accent." John was entertaining to say the least. What struck me most was John's passion and enthusiasm for Rotary. You couldn't help but feel inspired by him and I will carry that with me when thinking about why I joined Rotary!

The second was a presentation that many of us attended about a water project occurring in Malawi, Africa. This is a project started by a man who worked for Goulds Pumps in Seneca Falls and brought a simple technology to the people of Malawi. This simple technology is now being used to help a village sustain their entire village with fresh water. The passion of this husband and wife team was so impressive that you couldn't help but feel inspired to act! I would love to investigate a project like this to start and make that kind of impact on people throughout the world.

I would recommend anyone who hasn't attended a conference to do so. They are extremely inspiring, provide great fellowship and reinforce why we all joined Rotary in the first place! Hope to see more of you in Hershey next year!!

Winning Team.....



Pictured Above: Kirk Vanderbilt, Jake Ayers, Laurie Vonglis, Tom Vonglis

Thank you for participating in the Buffalo District Conference Golf Outing this year!

We hope that you will join us again next year at the Hershey District Conference.

Gary Reilly & Scott Healy

WINNING TEAM!

Avon Rotary Welcomes Two New Members



I grew up in Geneseo, N.Y. and moved to Avon in 1983. I have bought and sold 2 different houses. I met my wife Kris in 1987 and was married in 1989. We presently reside on Genesee St. where we have raised 2 boys. One has graduated from Worcester Poly-Tec in Worcester Massachusetts as an aero space engineer and

presently works in Massachusetts. My other son is presently a student at Mercy Hurst University in PA studying business intelligence. I was a Boy Scout leader, a assistant baseball coach, and a assistant football coach. I presently work for LeChase Construction as a project superintendent and responsible for all aspects of a project from start to finish.

I joined rotary because I would like to give back to this great community that means the world to me.

Thanks, **Greg Deragon**



I grew up in Holley, N.Y. and graduated in 1982. Following graduation, I enlisted in the United States Air Force until 1987. I met Nancy Bailor and we were married in 1988.

We have six children, Katie, Chris, Charlie, Brian, Sam, and Elizabeth. They all graduated from Avon Central School.

Nancy is a Registered Nurse and has worked at the University of Rochester for 28 years. I presently work at the Veteran's Administration as a Physical Therapist Assistant and the Safe Patient Handling Coordinator for the facility.

I enjoyed coaching baseball and basketball with all of my children and watching them at numerous plays and musical events.

I couldn't think of any other place to have raised my children. Avon is a wonderful community in which I have built many personal relationships.

With my last child graduating this year, it is time for me to give back to this generous and friendly community.

Thank you, **Jeff Passarell**



Rotary

Greg and Jeff were inducted on Tuesday, May 26th at our annual Quad Cities event. The Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo and Mt. Morris Club members were in attendance to welcome Avon's two newest members. Avon Rotarian Steve Stephenson sponsored Greg and Jake Ayers sponsored Jeff.

Welcome to Avon Rotary!

Avon and Honeoye Falls Mendon Rotarians Build Nicaraguan Schools



By: Rob Lupisella

Eight Interact students from the Avon and Honeoye Falls Mendon Rotary Clubs traveled to Nicaragua recently to assist in the construction of a one room schoolhouse and a preschool in the mountain community of El Sauce, Piedra de Agua, Nicaragua.

They joined two Rotarians who direct the organization, *Linking Hands for Learning*, and members of the *Enlace Project*, on a quest to build their fifth and sixth school. Generous contributions from both Rotary Clubs, numerous local businesses, friends and family, and multiple fund raising events supported the construction efforts. Additional funds were received through a Rotary District Simplified Grant to assist with the construction of a latrine for the school. Between two separate trips in February and April, a total of thirty-two individuals from Avon and Honeoye Falls - Lima made the journey.



Pictured standing in the latrine hole, are Interact members (left to right) Amy Faville, McKenzie Ward, Jack McKeown, Caroline Christiano, and Lauren Rodriguez.



Volunteers are pictured with students in front of the old school in Piedra de Agua which was made of adobe, was over twenty years old, and needed to be replaced.

The Piedra de Agua community, located at the top of a mountain, has twenty-two homes in which one hundred-twenty people live. The school structure pictured left, served over twenty children yet was in a dilapidated state. Students expressed their gratitude for replacing their school, which they repeatedly said was dangerous. The demolition of the school was not difficult, as the walls were made from sand, clay, water, and organic material. Once the roof and support beams were removed, volunteers easily pushed the walls over with a slight nudge. A preschool was put in its place, while a larger, school was built for elementary grades on the same property shaded by mango trees.

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Avon and Honeoye Falls Mendon Rotarians Build Nicaraguan Schools - continued



The community links hands with volunteers in a demonstration of solidarity, and the desire to provide education for all.

As with each project, the community members worked side-by-side with the volunteers. This included the difficult job of digging the latrine hole to the required six foot depth that resulted in four days of labor for both volunteers and community members. The inability to bring heavy machinery or power tools to the remote construction site, dictated that only hand tools could be used for this arduous task as well as building the two schools.

In April, a celebration was held to open the new school named, *Los Hermanos de Nuevo York*, by the community in honor of the volunteer efforts and support. During the event an outpouring of appreciation, gratitude, brotherhood and love was shared. Reflections from the priest, the community leader, volunteers, students, and their mothers caused tears of happiness to roll. The power of love and education brought together an untouchable bond between people from two distant communities to create a new beginning for the children, ultimately impacting the development of this mountain community and the future economy of El Sauce. As one student said, "The school is a dream come true."

**Help Others Achieve Their
Dreams And You Will
Achieve Yours. *Les Brown***



President's Letter—continued

Thanks also for coordinating our programs for the year. The club membership performed well finding or providing programs for our meetings.

Thanks also go to all those who sit at the back table each week, collecting meal money (**Steve Csapo**, and all his able bodied assistants), **Steve Vanderbilt** for our 50/50. Thank you to our song leaders **Bruce Burritt**, **Bruce Amey** (I hear you singing even if you won't admit to leading) and **Dan Jones** too, same goes for you. I believe we actually have the makings of an Avon Rotary Men's Quartet if we ever wanted to take a shot at that. We have all the parts covered. Thank you also goes to one of our newer members, **Jim Varner**, our piano player. We seem to sound much better with the piano playing along and also sing in more manageable keys when not left to my selec-

tion of a starting note.

In closing I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to be your club president. I hope you found the year to be enjoyable and beneficial. Thank You to the entire Board of Directors for enduring my timed agendas. I hope they saved you a few minutes that you could spend at more enjoyable tasks than attending a board meeting. It has been an honor to serve with you all. Thanks for the opportunity. Lastly, look for an opportunity where someone needs or could use help. Provide it quietly or even anonymously and know that you have improved someone's view of life even if just for a moment. Be a Rotarian!!

Thanks as we welcome President Dan on June 30!

Prez Tim

Avon Rotary

Change of Officers Celebration

Please join Avon Rotary Club as we celebrate the 2014-15 Rotary year, welcome in the 2015-16 Board of Directors and honor fellow Rotarians for their outstanding service in our club.

It's always a very memorable evening!

Seated Dinner Options:

- #1: Chicken (\$25.)
- #2: Portobella Mushroom (\$25.)
- #3: Salmon (\$26.50)



Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Big Tree Inn, Geneseo

5:30 Social Hour

7:00 Seated Dinner

Musical Entertainment, Awards & Honors

\$25-26.50 Per Person ~ Guests Welcome

RSVP by June 10 ~ Ivonglis@hurritech.com

A Fond Memory

By: Laurie Vonglis

Being a Rotarian has been a journey of growth for me. This June marks 11 years as an Avon Rotarian. The friends I've made are remarkable people wanting to make a difference, near or far. I have quite a few 'fond memories' and my year as president certainly ranks up there as #1. The one I'd like to share is fairly simple but I believe has made an impact.

My first year on the board, PE **Kevin Tompsett** was about to begin his final preparation for PETS. I proposed to the board of directors that we take some time away for a 'board retreat' and plan our short & long range goals together. It worked out and we had the 1st Avon board retreat in Inlet, NY at the Vonglis cabin. We talked Rotary all the way there (3 hours) and delved into the planning guide throughout the weekend including hot topics we were facing. The benefit of this was a great team building opportunity as well as planning together for the benefit of our club. For as long as I was on the board (6 years) we con-

tinued to plan some sort of annual retreat for the purpose of planning for the year/s ahead.

Fortunately this tradition has continued and the concept was shared with the district at the April district training assembly. It seems others are now inspired to try this.

Our original weekend will always be a favorite memory for me as we brainstormed sitting in the warm cabin



Kevin Tompsett, Laurie Vonglis

as well as snowshoeing up Rocky Mountain. Of course the funny part was 'someone' getting their mini van stuck in the parking lot and requiring me to stand by the road to 'flag down' help. Had to be the snowsuit! Is that how it went??

Program Recaps



By: Helen Zamboni

This May, we only had two programs at regular club meetings. On May 5, our own **Bruce Amey** made a presentation about the school budget, propositions and candidates running for election to the School Board. As always, Bruce was clear, thorough and passionate. He of course urged all Rotarians to vote for

the budget and propositions, noting that Avon Central School District's budget was within the spending caps. The budget and all propositions were approved by the voters on May 19, and our own **Jim Ryan** will be joining **Rodney George** on the School Board, having been elected to fill the position vacated by Bill LaBine. By special request, Bruce also talked about Common Core learning standards. In Bruce's opinion, these learning stand-

ards were the "right" thing to implement and are indeed effective at getting kids to learn by analysis rather than by rote. He takes issue, however, with the use of student test results as a material element in teacher performance evaluation.

Our other program this month was given by members of the Rochester Deaf Rotary Club. This club was chartered just over ten years ago, and was paired by the District with a club from Turkey seeking funds for early hearing assessments and hearing aids for those children found to need them and for whom hearing aids could be useful. The Rochester Deaf Rotary Club ran a successful campaign in 2009, and are now seeking funds for a second campaign. Our club has been asked to help, and this request will be taken up by the Board of Directors at its June meeting.

Annual Quad Cities May 26, 2015

By: Laurie Vonglis



What is a quad cities event you might ask if you are new to the club. This is an annual get together that began many years ago that includes 4 area clubs. Currently, these clubs are Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo and Mt. Morris. The object is to spend time together and share the

'goings-on' of each of the clubs. Sharing fellowship is a great benefit between us whether it's on the golf course in the afternoon or during dinner—the highlight of the event. As with most occasions, it has evolved and changes from year to year. The program really depends on which club is organizing it, as we take turns in alphabetical order. This year our club organized a round of golf at Farview then dinner at the Avon Inn. We had 7 teams of golfers and 61 people for dinner. Just for fun we acknowledged a few special accomplishments on the golf course then moved on to learn about what our neighboring clubs have been up to this year.

Our guest speaker was Livingston County DA, Greg McCaffrey. He provided a very informative program giving us great insight to the work his office is doing in conjunction with the Sherriff's office.

The occasion was highlighted with the induction of our two newest members, **Greg Deragon & Jeff Passarell**. See page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

Next year Caledonia Rotary will organize the Quad Cities and I hope our club will once again represent well!



Winning team: Avon Rotarians—Tom Vonglis, Kelly Cole, Scott Holmes & Karl Sawicki



Avon Rotarians—Ernie Wiard, Bill Wall, Bob House, Jerry Dougherty



Left: Induction ceremony led by Dan Jones

Right: DA Greg McCaffrey





Why Do I Love Rotary?

By: Bob House



Rotary... friendships, goodwill, laughter, great programs, foreign exchange students, camaraderie, young energetic new members, parties, golf tournaments, loyalty, corn festivals, auctions, canoeing, dictionaries, Interact students, and most of all service above self!!!! These are many of the reasons why I have loved Rotary for 29 years.

June Club Schedule

Tues. June 2	Reg Mtg. Program: Tabata Re: Ecuador
Mon. June 8	Board of Directors Mtg 7 pm
Tues. June 9	Reg. Mtg. & Corn Festival Steering Comm.
Tues. June 16	Reg. Mtg. Program: Rob L 2015 Nicaragua Trip
Tues. June 23	Reg. Mtg. Program: Henry Lemen Re: Civil Air Patrol
Mon. June 29	District Change Over at Ventosa
Tues. June 30	Avon Rotary Change of Officers at Big Tree

"Sometimes Me Think,
'What is Friend?' and
then me say,
'Friend is someone to
share the last cookie
with.'"
-Cookie Monster

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Colin Bruckel 2014
- ⇒ Steve Csapo 2010
- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco 2014
- ⇒ Doug Hayes 2012
- ⇒ Pam Hayes 2012
- ⇒ Dan Jones 2009
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella 2012
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis 2004
- ⇒ Paul Warren 2012
- ⇒ Diana Williams 2006

June Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ Bruce Amey
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Dave Henehan
- ⇒ Dom Lalisce
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Bob Hayes
- ⇒ Greg Deragon
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett