

Avon Rotary News

May 2016



President's Perspective

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www.avonrotary.org

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Tom Vonglis, Sr. Director
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By: Dan Jones, President

This past week I cut my grass for the first time. I love the smell of the newly cut lawn the first few times I mow. Preparing for the first mowing takes a bit of preparation; changing the oil, sharpening the blade, and making sure the gas can is full. Once everything is ready, a few pulls of the cord and the grass is in for a new haircut. Getting ready for that first mowing takes extra time and effort but it helps the mower work reliably every time the grass needs mowing.

Preparation is just as important in Rotary. As we prepare for a new Rotary year the board is working to prepare the new budget and help the new leaders get ready. Scott is working to set the social calendar, schedule the weekly meetings and special events and organize the budget for the coming year. The Corn Fest team is also working hard to prepare for the festival. All of the hard work we are doing now will have sweet rewards in the future.

Preparing for the new year begins by remembering what has happened in the

past. When I put the snow blower away and dug out the mower I remembered that it was cutting poorly last year and needed some blade work. As the board and Scott plan for the next year we are celebrating some great work this past year. Locally we have supported the library, drama club, Theresa House, GVRC, Boy Scouts, Little League, Chances and Changes, EARS program, the Food pantry, MDA, and Focus on the Children. Regionally we supported Honor Flight, the School 33 literacy project and the Bridges for Brain injuries. Internationally we sent out two shelter boxes,

Building Minds in Sudan, the Rotary Foundation, and the School in Nicaragua. We also set aside \$2,500 for a future community project and realized our goal of saving money for a new roof on the scout house

in the coming years. As the board prepares for the new year we will be selecting charities we want to support financially. If you have a favorite charity you would like to see us support send a note to one of the Board of Directors members.

The coming year promises to be a great time of fellowship and fund raising. I hope you take time to get involved in the preparations and anticipated celebrations. Together we will have a great year.



Be a gift to the world

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Peppermints Restaurant

Avon Rotary Interact Club Hosts Youth Exchange Weekend



By: Cathy Jo Murphy

The Avon Rotary Interact Club sponsored Exchange Week-

end 4/7-4/10/16. They were host to 19 exchange students from Rotary District 7120. The following countries were represented;

Thailand, Italy, France, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Switzerland, Argentina, Slovakia, Belgium, Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Chile and Poland.

The students had a full weekend. They arrived in Avon on Thursday evening where they were met by their host families for the weekend. After check in they went to Tom Wahl's for dinner and then home to get acquainted with their host families.

Friday began the whirl wind of activities. The students came to school with their host siblings and at 8:45 they left for RIT for the day. Peggy Tirrell put together a program for the students which included informative and entertaining presentations by professors, a tour of the campus and lunch. That evening they danced their hearts out at the Glow Dance at the high school.

Saturday started bright and early with Exchange students needing to attend a meeting from 8:50 to 11:30. The bus



Avon Rotary volunteers assisted with Casino Night

left at noon with 40 Interact and Exchange students for Altitude Trampoline Park. When we left there at 3:00 it was with a group of tired but happy students. They found Altitude to be a great time. After a couple hours to relax and spend time with their families it was off to the Village Hall for Casino Night. The Village Hall was transformed into a Casino with Rotarians filling the roles of dealers, bankers, and servers.

Sunday morning Ernie Wiard and Doug Hayes (sous chef) cooked up a pancake and sausage breakfast for the Exchange students, host families (from Avon and their host clubs) and Interact students. The Exchange and Interact students were each provided a t-shirt to commemorate the weekend and spent the remaining time autographing each other's shirts. When the weekend ended later that morning it was with fond memories, new friendships, promises to keep in touch, knowledge of another culture and exhaustion.



2016 Interact-Youth Exchange Students

Avon Rotary Welcomes Two New Members!



By: Aaron Johnson

As the newly appointed Superintendent of Avon Central Schools, I began working in education eighteen years ago as a biology and earth science teacher at the Gates Chili High School. After 10 years serving students in the classroom and through athletics, I became an assistant principal

for two years before moving to the Byron-Bergen Junior-Senior High School as building principal. As Superintendent of Avon, I have quickly grown a deep appreciation for the people and history of the community. Most impressive is the way that residents approach one another and the support they give. Our family is excited in becoming official residents of Avon this summer so that we can continue to strengthen our relationships within the community. Each time I attend an Avon school event I'm reminded of how proud I will be when our son is standing among those students.

I am excited by the opportunity to be a Rotarian. As an educator, I believe service above self is a foundational element to shaping healthy and successful students, families, and communities. To be your best you must discover the lessons that can be learned by putting others first and the joy that comes from selflessly serving others. I am humbled to have been accepted into this honorable brother and sisterhood.



My name is Jason Shetler and I am a lifelong resident of Avon, New York.

When my wonderful wife Marsha and I were looking for a place to start a family we looked all over the area. Eventually we determined that Avon was the perfect place for us. Marsha and I are so glad that we made the decision to raise our son Michael in a community where

the residents share our values and commitment to family.

My professional career began in The Rush-Henrietta Central School District where I taught Social Studies and coached football and Track and Field. During my last few years at Rush-Henrietta I served in a variety of administrative roles as a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA). After 13 years at Rush-Henrietta I accepted my first administrative position as an Assistant Principal in the Spencerport Central School District where I served for 3 years. This past spring I had the incredible opportunity to return to my alma mater to serve as Avon's High School Principal. I am honored each day to work with the children of Avon who can best be described as hard working individuals of exceptionally high character.

For many years I have watched the work of the Avon Rotary from afar. Although the organization is probably most known for bringing joy to the region by organizing the annual Avon Corn Festival, it is the daily commitment to service above self that makes Rotary special. I am looking forward to many years of serving the Avon community as a Rotarian.



Tuesday, April 19 Avon Rotary inducted Avon Central's new Superintendent and High School Principal.

L-R: President Dan Jones, New Rotarian Jason Shetler, Sponsor Jim Ryan, New Rotarian Aaron Johnson, Sponsor Rodney George

District Training Assembly—April 23rd



By: Shannon DiFranco

My first district assembly training was a nice experience. The program started in a unique way with God Bless America and continued to embody areas of Rotary. It was a great way to see people from other clubs in our district and start placing faces to names. The training assembly is a great way to ask questions and gain knowledge not just from the presenter but other clubs. I was a little leery of this experience thinking I was giving up my Saturday but as usual, every Rotary experience is always positive. I ended the last session with Tom, Laurie and Kirk presenting, "Creating Membership Enthusiasm", to a large group of Rotarians. Many questions were fielded about group participation, comradery and the struggles they face. All of this was a conformation of why Avon Rotary is such a great club to be in!

Enjoying some lunch after a busy morning at District Training Assembly.

L-R: Tom Vonglis, Julie Carney, Kirk Vanderbilt, Shannon DiFranco, David Kilgore and Laurie Vonglis



Henry Lemen Outbound for Finland



By: Terry Lemen

Terve! Ma olen Henry. Mina olen nenos-sa Suomi! Kiitos, rotarylle tasta muhloluudesta. So started the presentation by Henry Lemen who will be spending next year living in Haapajavi, Finland in Rotary District 1400 as our Rotary Youth Ambassador. Henry began by

apologizing for any mispronunciation he might have made while speaking Finnish. Then he rightly concluded that it didn't really matter because none of us could probably tell!!! He led us though the process of becoming a youth ambassador and why he chose to become one. He shared with us his already impressive knowledge of Finland and its culture while informing us of what his life might be like next year. Henry is very excited to be able to experience this year abroad and is looking forward to exemplifying what a true American teenager is like and not the stereotypical teens often portrayed in the movies.

Henry will be leaving for Finland August 7th and will spend the first week of his exchange in a language "boot camp" where he will be placed with every other exchange

student from around the world going to Finland. This is a great opportunity for him not only to learn the language, but make friends with others facing the same challenges he will encounter.

Henry concluded his talk by thanking Rotary for providing him with this wonderful opportunity. It is a chance very few get to experience. As his mother, I can honestly say that Henry will make a wonderful Youth Ambassador. He is a kind, courteous, polite young man eager to meet new people and embrace new cultures. He will make this Rotary Club very proud!!



**Henry Lemen
Youth Ambassador 2016-17**

Why Do I Love Rotary?



By: Josh Tonra

I want to tell you about the moment I knew I would love being a Rotarian. I was inducted as a member in September 2014. After attending meetings throughout the summer, helping out at Corn Fest, meeting as many members as I could, celebrating at meetings, playing 50/50, I was excited to join.

During that time people talked about the good that Rotary did in our community and around the world. Here in Avon we supported literacy programs and the boy scouts, our donations spent internationally to fund the fight against polio, and to help provide clean drinking water in Africa. It makes you feel great to be part of an organization doing such great things, but these great things were still abstract, in a way. Intangible because I had yet to experience the good Rotary does first hand.

So, on a Tuesday night in September I came to a meeting and Ashley Stappenbeck made the presentation. Ashley went to Poland in 2013-14 and was there to tell us about it. I guess I expected her to talk about her time there and present a slideshow, both of which she did. What I did not expect was to be so moved by her presentation.



Ashley spoke through tears about the connections she made, the lifelong friendships she would have; the relationships across borders that Rotary had made possible for her. And while she thanked us over and over for this opportunity, I realized that sending such an amazing young woman as an ambassador of our Club, our village, was just as beneficial to us. That night, I began to see what I had not before, the opportunities to bring positive change to the world as part of our Club as something right in front of my eyes.

Corn Fest, the Auction, the Blue Jean Ball. These events take on new significance when you have a deeper understanding of why we have them. When I sold 50/50 tickets for Corn Fest in 2014, I thought about how lucky the winner would be. When I sold them a year later, I thought about how the money would be helping to fund a school in Nicaragua, provide clean water in Uganda, or send an Avon Brave to represent our Club and spread goodwill globally. I love Rotary, and this Club, because of the change that it has brought to my perspective.

I have come to love Rotary not because of the good Rotary does on a global scale, although it is certainly a sense of pride, but the things that we do locally, among ourselves, within this community, that touch a person, community, or country on the other side of the world.

I'm hooked. I love Rotary.

August 2014 Ashley Stappenbeck provided an informative program on life as an exchange student in Poland. She was forever grateful for the opportunity Avon Rotary provided her.

A Fond Rotary Memory



By: Kirk Vanderbilt

When the publisher of the number 1 newsletter in Rotary District 7120 asks you to contribute to her monthly bulletin, you simply do what all Rotarians tend to do - say yes. I've been asked to share a fond memory from my time as a Rotarian. This proves to be quite a difficult task, not because of a lack of fond memories, but rather the opposite. There are too many to make an easy choice. What follows is my best effort.

As Rotarians we have all heard of, or read about some truly amazing projects throughout the world and they all inspire us. However, hearing about a project could not compare to experiencing one of these projects first-hand. Last month I had the pleasure of visiting a rural community in Nicaragua called Salales. Salales was recently able to bring on line a new water system that was the result of a Rotary International Global Grant. The Victor-Farmington Rotary Club partnered with Rotary Club of Estelí in Nicaragua to design, build, and operate a new water system which now serves 140 homes. Several of these homes have not had a safe water source for 15 years. Family members (women and children) were forced to walk over 1 mile to a neighboring community to fetch water. While there I was able to visit a school and a home in the neighborhood where the water had very recently



been turned on, ending their 15 year "drought". The teacher of the school described it as a miracle, and explained that the children now were able to spend more time in the classroom, and were less distracted. A 70 year-old woman at the home I visited thanked me and bragged about

the new water system and promised to take good care of it. Words fall short of describing the pride I felt as a Rotarian, knowing that these people's lives had been dramatically changed. Avon Rotary had not been partners in that project directly, and I was even embarrassed a bit to receive thanks from community members. However, we can all feel great pride in this and indeed all Rotary International Projects. By donating to the Rotary Foundation both individually and as a Club, we all make miracles happen, and help create FOND MEMORIES.





You are cordially invited to attend the annual Quad Cities event. This year Caledonia Rotary has set the occasion for Tuesday May 24th. Golf & dinner will be at the Caledonia Country Club. Please mark your calendars for golf and/or dinner. We hope to get a great turn out this year to enjoy fellowship among the four clubs, idea sharing and lots of fun. See you then!

Golf:

12:00 Registration
12:30 Shotgun Start
18 holes, Cart & Lunch = \$50



- 1. Put your foursome together**
- 2. Sign up your group**
- 3. Pay for your golf at the course**

Dinner:

6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Buffet Dinner
\$20. per person
Pay in advance



Awards, President's Update
Guest Speaker: TBD

Our RSVP's are due to
Dan Cole, Caledonia President by May 14th

**As you walk down the fairway of
life you must smell the roses, for
you only get to play one round.**

-Ben Hogan

Mr. Jake's New Role



Social media has become the new way for people to communicate and provide information to a large group of people in a relatively simple way. Through written word and pictures you are able to portray things that would otherwise require older more expensive methods such as mail and newspaper articles. While attending the district conference in Hershey, we were reminded just how important it is to have a strong social media presence about your club.

Through talking with others in our club, I have decided to take on a leadership role with our social media coverage and content.

Don't think the power of social media is real? Look no further than the group picture I posted just prior to the Presidents Ball Saturday night. Facebook tracks how many people a post has reached, we are now up to almost 1800 people that have seen this post! That is how you get word to spread about your club. This can be a great tool to find new perspective members out in our community. Also, it can be used to make the community more aware of the great things we do as a club. Talking with some of our longtime members this weekend, they told me that when

we had a local paper in town Rotary had a large presence in that print media. I feel that social media could have that same power in our community.

So what would I like from you as members to make this successful for our club? First, please make me aware of anything our club is working on, helping with in our community or going to be completing in the future. Is there a great program planned for the week ahead? Let me know and I can advertise it to the community. Second, please provide pictures. Pictures are very important to putting a story together, and putting a face/object with the content to which we are writing about.

I think this is going to be a great way for us to showcase our talents and bring understanding to the community. If you have any questions or suggestions that may assist me, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Mr. Jake



Find us on
Facebook ...

Avon Rotary Club

May Member Celebrations

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Greg Deragon 2015
- ⇒ Bob Hayes 2005
- ⇒ Greg Johnson 2009
- ⇒ David Kilgore 2013
- ⇒ Ed Kime 2010
- ⇒ C. A. Krenzer 2013
- ⇒ Jeff Passarell 2015

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Marcia Cameron
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Steve Csapo
- ⇒ Charles Feller
- ⇒ Doug Hayes
- ⇒ Greg Johnson
- ⇒ Jeff Passarell

Birthdays

- ⇒ Marcia Cameron
- ⇒ Tim Dickinson
- ⇒ Dan Jones
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy
- ⇒ Sue O'Hearn
- ⇒ Jeff Passarell





Avon Rotary Club proudly supports the fight to end Polio.

How are you doing individually?

Be part of history and join in the battle.

PolioPlus Update as of April 30th, 2016

Wild Polio Case Counts

<u>Country</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Pakistan	306	54	8	22 Mar 16
Afghanistan	28	20	3	27 Mar 16
Somalia	5	0	0	11 Aug 14
Nigeria	6	0	0	24 July 14
Cameroon	5	0	0	9 July 14
Equatorial Guinea	5	0	0	3 May 14
Iraq	2	0	0	7 April 14
Syria	1	0	0	21 Jan 14
Ethiopia	1	0	0	5 Jan 14
Total	359	74	11	

Fundraising Goals: Clubs are encouraged to set a minimum goal of US\$2,650 toward PolioPlus for the 2016-17 Rotary Year to qualify to receive the Presidential Citation, in addition to their Annual Fund goal.

Happy
Mother's
Day

Sunday, May 8th



District 7120 Conference Highlights

The Experience



By: Heather Ayers

In reflecting on the events of this past weekend and all of the work that has been done in the past year through the efforts of our fellow Rotarians, Hershey, Pennsylvania was the perfect location to host this year's District Conference. It has so many parallels to Rotary's mission and culture – there is a strong focus on youth through the work of the Milton Hershey School, many businesses in the area exist to support the Milton Hershey School, there is a strong philanthropic culture, and the passion and pride for their town comes through at every turn. It set the stage for our purpose this weekend and contributed to the excitement of being there to support the great work that we have accomplished this past year.

Hearing the reflections of both DG Bill Gormont and the Representative for the President of RI truly allows you to feel that the work we do in our individual communities is making a greater impact.

The conference provided many opportunities to learn and explore the work done within our district this past year, and I was particularly inspired by walking down Service Avenue. This was a wonderful way to experience the many unique ways that each club has given back to their community and the communities of others.

The breakout sessions also allowed us to dive deeper into many areas of interest. There was definitely something for everyone and provided you the opportunity to "choose your own adventure" and maximize the benefit that you would get from the weekend's events.

Lastly, I was inspired by the talent and creativity of the youth that Rotary supports through the exchange program and the oratorical and vocal contests. Our club's exchange student, Nico, was one of these talents and brought down the house with his extraordinary classic guitar skills. I am hard pressed to put into words how amazing it was to witness these kids handle themselves with such passion, grace and intelligence – it truly was remarkable.

Between the education, celebration and the fellowship, I came away with a renewed sense of passion for the work we are doing and am looking forward to see what we can accomplish in the year ahead.

The Recognition



By: President Dan

Avon Rotarians filled three tables at Hershey Lodge at the 7120 District Conference. Throughout the conference we celebrated the past year's accomplishments and enjoyed fellowship with Rotarians from across the district. Rob Lupisella led a presentation on the "Linking Hands for Learning" along with Kirk, Laurie, and Tom and our display describing the project in Nicaragua took "Best of Conference". Avon received numerous awards and call outs including recognition for our work in literacy, Nicaragua, and giving towards the eradication of Polio. Our newsletter was recognized as the best in our club's category – Thanks to Laurie and all the great contributions submitted this year. We received the bronze level Presidential citation recognizing our significant work in the community and internationally. We helped the district see an increase in overall club membership by adding new members this year and we had numerous call outs from Governor Bill Gormont and the representative from Rotary International. At one point I had counted 12 different times that Avon was mentioned from the podium. We have much to be proud of here at Avon and the district leadership is taking notice that we are an exemplary club for others to follow. In addition to all the awards – we all enjoyed the opportunity to eat some great food and chocolate and socialize together. If you missed this year's conference be sure to sign up next year.



District 7120 Conference Highlights

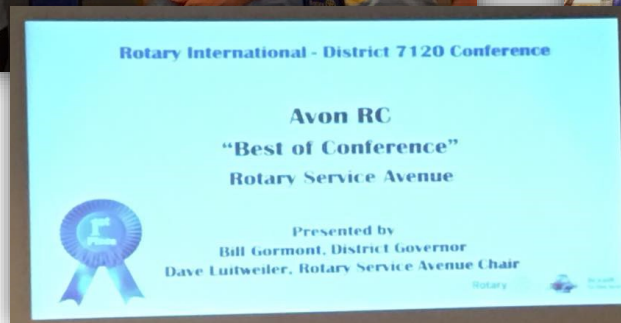


Avon Rotary Club Attendees & Guests:

Bottom to top...

Laurie Vonglis, Margo Harper, Kirk Vanderbilt, Henry Lemen, Marcia Cameron, Diane Amey, Karen Jones, Terry Lemen, Ed Kime, Bruce Amey, Dan Jones, Scott Holmes, Jill Holmes, Jim Carney, Julie Carney, Jim Varner, Cindy Varner, Helen Zamboni, Steve Rosen, Heather Ayers, Jerry Dougherty, Jeanine Lupisella, Rob Lupisella, Tom Vonglis, Jake Ayers

We laughed, we were inspired, we celebrated, we reenergized, we felt pride, we were entertained, we shared stories with fellow Rotarians and were amazed by the youth. We were all clearly reminded we are members of a very unique, wonderful club... our Avon Rotary Family!



We told our story of the clubs support of the "Linking Hands For Learning" international project, founded by Rob & Jeanine Lupisella. This story was heard by many in a breakout session, providing an example of hands on service in an international setting. Our display won 'Best of Conference' and we were awarded a Paul Harris for the club to utilize for a deserving individual.



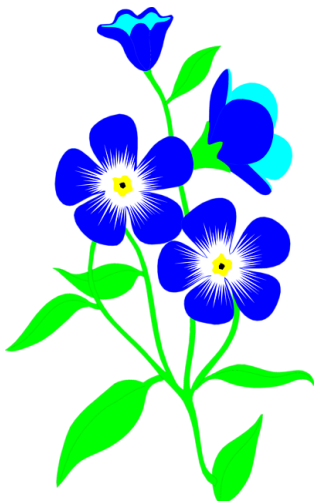
Avon Rotary Veterans



4Way TEST

For Rotary, The **Four-Way Test** is the cornerstone of all action. It has been for years, and it will be in the future. Of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



May Club Schedule

Tues. May 3	Reg Mtg. Program: Aaron Johnson—ACSD 16-17 Budget
Mon. May 9	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm @ Hurricane Conf Room
Tues. May 10	Reg. Mtg. Blue Jean Ball Mtg to follow
Sat. May 14	BLUE JEAN BALL—5 pm—11 pm
Tues. May 17	Reg. Mtg. Program: Nicaragua Corn Fest Mtg to follow
Tues. May 24	Special Mtg. Quad Cities Golf & Dinner Noon & 6 pm
Tues. May 31	Reg. Mtg. Program: Tim D with Valley Sand & Gravel



Avon Rotary 

*Please join us as we celebrate our 2015-16 Rotary year, welcome in the new Board of Directors and honor fellow Rotarians for their outstanding service for our club.
It's always a very memorable evening!*

 **ROTARY
SERVING
HUMANITY**

Change of Officers Celebration

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

BW's Banquet Facility
11070 Perry Road
Pavilion, NY 14525

5:30 Social Hour
7:00 Buffet Dinner & Dessert
Awards & Honors

\$27 Per Person ~ Guests Welcome
RSVP by June 10 ~ lvonglis@hurritech.com



Rotary 

District 7120 Conference
See You in Erie, PA
May 18 - 20, 2017

Presented by: Rotary Club of Canandaigua

Splash Lagoon	Camaraderie
Casino Night	2 Hotels
Golf	Just 3.5 Hours West

