

Avon Rotary News

June 2016



Be a gift to the world

President's Perspective

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www.avonrotary.org

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Dan Jones, President
Scott Holmes, PE
Tom Vonglis, Sr. Director
Heather Ayers, Director
Karl Sawicki, Member at Lg.
Tim Dickinson, Past Pres.
David Kilgore, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



By: Dan Jones, President

It is hard to imagine that this is my final President's perspective for the Avon Rotary Newsletter. What a great year this has been with fantastic results in so many areas. Our fund raising efforts all exceeded our budget goals. Corn Fest was awesome, the Auction was fun and successful, and the Blue Jean Ball was spectacular. All of you have stepped up in volunteer service from those working with our students in exchange and Interact programs, to our service projects locally, like literacy and internationally, like in Nicaragua. The various committee leaders and meeting helpers have ensured that everything ran smoothly. I cannot think of a better group of people to lead than you Rotarians. Thank you for making this a fun and productive year.

Our theme this year was to be a gift to the world. The amazing reality of becoming a gift to others is that we receive more than what we give. When I bless others, I am blessed. The proverb is true: "You reap what you sow: those who sow generously shall reap generously and those who sow sparingly will only reap sparingly." Talk to any of the group that went to Nicaragua and they will tell you that they re-

ceived more than what they gave. When Dom and I went to school 33 to listen to the children and staff express their appreciation for our gift of books I was encouraged by their passion for learning and hope for the future. Spending time with Nico, you quickly realize his gift to us exceeds what it costs us financially. Handing out scholarships, Paul Harris citations, building awards, Rotarian of the Year, and even the weekly 50/50 is inspiring because we get to be part of bringing joy to someone. In return, I am filled with joy. Doing good brings good back into our lives. Giving joy fills our lives with joy. We know this secret.

As we turn towards a new year I hope that we not only continue to do the great things we have done before but we enlarge our footprint of giving. Even more so, I hope that we teach the next generations the secret about giving. Through our example, the words we use and the attitudes we have when it comes time to write that check, or pick up the trash, or attend the committee meeting, or direct traffic at Corn Fest or....we can exhibit the truth of giving. I have high hopes and am confident you will all continue the excellent tradition of being a gift to the world and look forward to hearing how your gifts bring blessing to people far away and close by. Be blessed as you bless others.

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Peppermints Restaurant

Kickin' It Up For Hands That Help—1st Annual Blue Jean Ball



By: Jake Ayers

"Kicking It Up For Hands That Help" – that's exactly what we did the evening of Saturday, May 14th for the 1st annual Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball. Over a year ago, a handful of Rotarians were thinking of a way to have a new fundraiser that

would focus on a few specific charities and also be a fun event for our community. Through many conversations, we came up with the idea of having a country-themed event that would include country themed music, food and entertainment.

We were lucky enough to put a great group of Rotarians together to form our Blue Jean Ball Committee. The great thing about the committee was the diversity of members in the club that helped form our team. We had many new members (2 years or less in the club) take on leadership roles. Most of the members at this point in their Rotary life are still trying to find their place where they can make an impact. I am proud of these people for taking the initiative to be leaders in our club.

I also want to thank the veteran committee members who agreed to give up their time and energy for our event. Most of these members are already members of one, if not both, of our major fundraising events – the Avon Corn Festival and Rotary Auction. Their experience was invaluable to us as newer members embarking on our first attempt at organizing an event. Together as a committee, we pulled off a great night that had food, games, music, a

dance contest and an amazing array of raffle items that all helped to raise money for our charities.

The main reason we put this event on was to raise money for local charitable organizations. The three charities we chose were very worthwhile causes and have touched those in the community either directly or indirectly over the years. Teresa House, Honor Flight of Rochester, and Genesee Valley Rotary Camp were the three charities benefitted by the Blue Jean Ball. We were honored to have representatives from each of these charities at the Blue Jean Ball to speak about who they serve and how the funds raised would be utilized. The words they shared inspired people to give even more. I am happy to report that all three of these organizations will be receiving a substantial donation to continue to do great work that will serve our community for years to come.

Again I want to thank everyone in the community that purchased tickets, donated items, sponsored, volunteered their time and spread the word about the event. Without all of you this event could not have been nearly as successful as it was. To the Blue Jean Ball Committee, thanks for all your hard work, long nights, weekends, and meetings to get this event go off without a hitch. This event highlights again what a generous community we live in and how Rotary can facilitate events that benefit our community and beyond. I hope that everyone had a great time and I am hopeful that, given our success, we will be having this event for years to come. Hopefully we can get a warmer evening next year!



Success supporting Honor Flight, GVRC & Teresa House



Happy Co-Chairs, enjoying the party!

Quad Cities 2016—Fun, Sport & Lessons To Live By



By: Laurie Vonglis

What a gorgeous day it was! Warm, sunny and lots of Avon Rotarians. Avon made up 5 golf teams with Geneseo having 1 and Mt. Morris having 1. With a shot gun start we were off and playing for the comradery and tradition with the 4 clubs that make up

the quad.

Within moments of starting my phone rang with an urgent call from non-other than the rascal, Bill Wall. He alerted me to the fact that his golf team needed shovels to bury an already injured Bob House on the golf tee. He may have had a heart attack or something. I didn't know whether to believe him or not. Did he need an ambulance or a shovel? Was Bob indeed suffering from a heart attack or a twisted something or other? Gullible girl that I am at times, I had a moment of panic and then remembered who was on the other end of the call. Well, talk about the boy who cried wolf!

Anyway... our team went on to play fairly good golf. We came in 2nd place to the other Vonglis team made up of Board members. I'm sure we had more fun though!

Following 5 hours of golf, relaxing, and laughing we had a chance to visit with additional club members joining us for dinner.

The Caledonia Country Club prepared a delicious meal. We seated and for the most part intermingled our seating making sure to have multiple clubs at each table. My table didn't quite keep that tradition... shame on us.

The program for the evening was provided by Bulent Ozdemir who is Turkish, representing the Peace Islands Institute in Rochester. In an effort to capture the spirit of his message here is the mission statement of the PII:

Peace Islands Institute (PII) aspires to facilitate a forum of mutual respect and collaboration, both welcoming and accepting varied viewpoints and voices with the intent to develop original and alternative perspectives on vital issues that our society is facing, generate solutions to these issues, support successful practices, thus promoting education, friendship and harmony and acting as an island of peace for all peoples in a society of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

We learned about this organization working to make the world more compassionate and understanding of different cultures. A fitting topic for our international organization of Rotary.

Thank you to President Dan Cole of Caledonia Rotary for putting this event together!



Why Do I Love Rotary?



By: Dom Lalis

There is nothing more satisfying than giving back to the World for all the blessings we have received and continue to receive every day. In that sense, Rotary is a very effective and powerful way to give to our local Community but also the rest of the

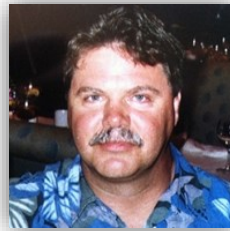
World through all the activities sponsored and organized by Rotary and the Rotary Foundation. Over the years, I have participated in many organizations but before I joined Rotary, I had never found that perfect balance between Community support, fellowship, Team work and friendship. Rotary is a gift to the World including all of its active members.

Rotary represents for me the essence of the traditional humanism with an absolute respect for all religious, political and philosophical differences. Rotary has also allowed me to meet the greatest individuals I am very proud to call friends both locally and around the World through the Rotary Youth Exchange.

Great Friends, Outstanding causes, Effective team work! What more can one ask to have the privilege to be a part of? I Love my Rotary Friends and Club!



A Fond Rotary Memory



By: Kelly Cole

I can't simply answer this in a straight forward manner, because truthfully, I don't have an answer. I could pull your leg and say that it was the Quad Cities dinner that was held in 2004 or 2005 at

Farview Country Club. It was hot, crowded, and the presentation on the effort to erect a statue of General Wadsworth went on for over an hour! That was a memorable occasion, but not my favorite!

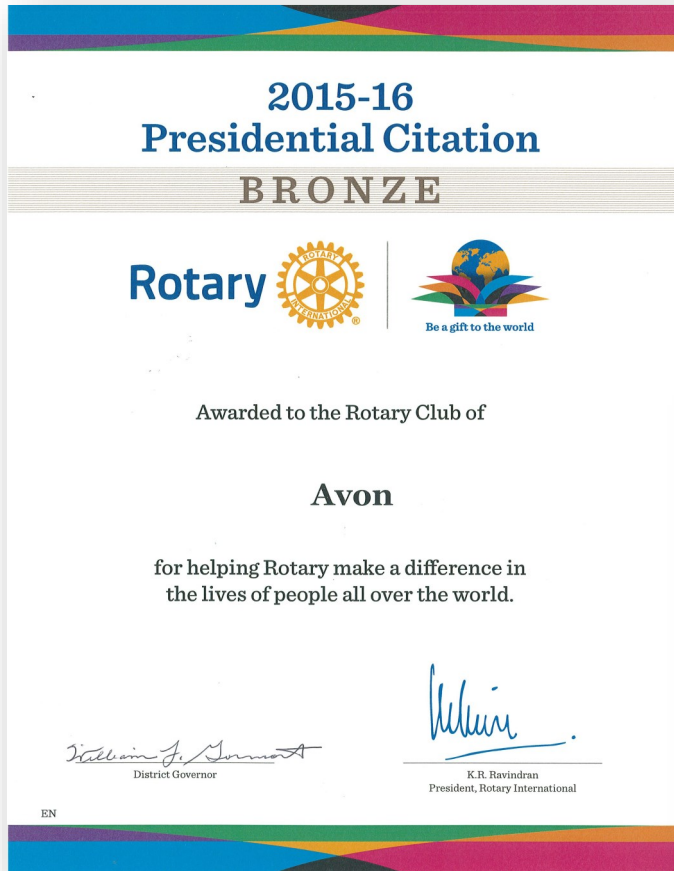
Some may say that it was when they received their Rotarian of the Year or their Paul Harris Award, but although those were very nice times, they were not the best.

Maybe it was when I finally joined Rotary (?) Ted Coyne and Jerry Dougherty had asked me to join for about 10 years, and I kept thinking that I could not make a weekly meeting. When I finally made the commitment, I felt very welcomed to this group of people that I mostly knew. Both my grandfathers had been Rotarians and past presidents. My father and Uncle had also been Rotarians, as well as my older brother in Kansas City. My friend, sometimes boss, and mentor, Ted Coyne had been a Rotarian since Jesus was just a little fella. I had worked with Ted on building the dunking booth, and erecting the stage at the very first corn festival. I worked with my dad at the early auctions, and helped out with the old Minstrel shows.

So after reflecting on this, I would have to say that my favorite memory of Rotary is in times of reflection, thinking back to all the good people that have been, and are, Rotarians. The group of people and friends that were sown as club members, quickly grew to become FAMILY. This family, with all the relationships that were born from working hard together for a common good, is what my favorite memory of Rotary is.

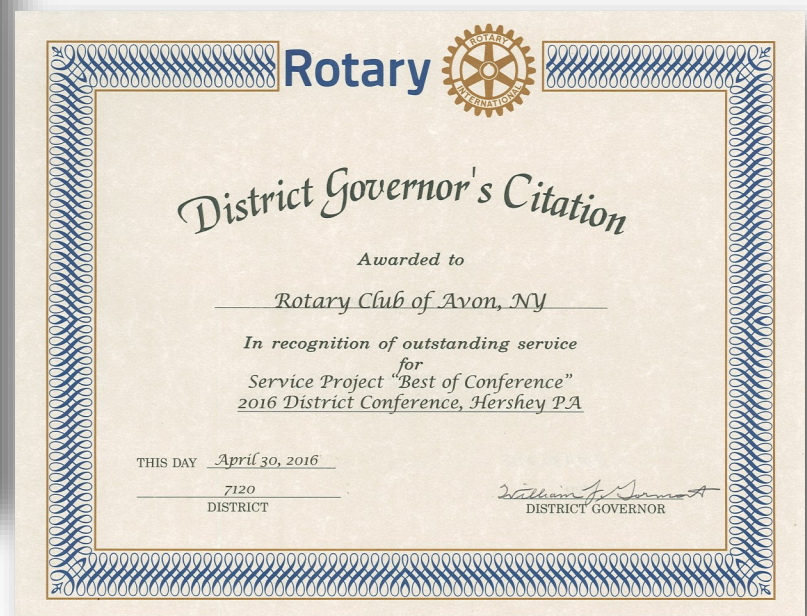


Governor Bill Visits & Delivers



Avon Rotary was presented with a Bronze Presidential Citation at the May 31st meeting during Governor Bill's visit. He also brought and presented a Governor's Citation for our Best of Conference Service Project Display. For this the club will receive 1000 Paul Harris credits.

Kudo's to President Dan for his leadership this year and all the hard work the club members did to make things happen!



June Club Schedule

Tues. June 7	Reg Mtg. Program: Rick French—Pack Paddle & Ski
Mon. June 13	Board of Directors Mtg 7 PM
Tues. June 14	NO MEETING
Wed. June 15	Rotary-Lions Picnic 6 PM
Tues. June 21	Reg Mtg. Program: Dom L—Jr. Achievement & BEA
Tues. June 28	Change of Officers Dinner 5:30 PM



Avon Rotarian Recognized For Service, *but that's about it.*



By: Cub Reporter Jimmy Olsen, 31 May 2016-

In what may become known as the ultimate act of Service Above Self for any Rotarian, Anywhere, at Anytime, Bruce Amey has hit this one out of the proverbial park. In anticipation of his new neighbor, and sure-to-be best new buddy Dr. Aaron Johnson, Bruce thought he would get a head start on the excavation for the Johnsons' new home.

"Well, being retired and all, I sorta didn't have nuthin' else to do," stated Amey as he wiped a little sweat from his seemingly endless forehead. "I had bought this new shovel, I wanted to help, and Diane (Amey's wife) had told me I couldn't come back in the house 'til the street lights came on. So I just started digging."

The rest of the neighbors stared in awe as the pile of dirt steadily grew, and Dave, the site-work contractor took an extra day off.

"I'm happy to discount the price to the customer", said Dave as he cracked a cold beer, "this Bruce guy is an animal."

When asked about the help from Amey, Dr. Johnson responded "What?, wait a second, Who?"

In a written statement to us, Dr. Johnson refused to comment on the miraculous effort referencing an on-going le-



gal battle with the party from whom he had purchased the property. Johnson reports a major disclosure issue with purchase of the property as it pertains to owners of adjacent parcels. We can only guess what he means by that.....

As for Amey, he reports the numbness in his lower back and legs to be improving, and Diane let him come inside early over the last few days on account of the rain.

"Tomorrow, I'm gonna start digging a path between our houses," Amey states with a smile, "I don't want to be trackin' mud over there every day once they move in. I'm sure the Johnsons will love my puns, and my new hobby, playin' the bagpipes"

We're certain they will Bruce, great work.

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Colin Bruckel 2014
- ⇒ Steve Csapo 2010
- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco 2014
- ⇒ Doug Hayes 2012
- ⇒ Dan Jones 2009
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella 2012
- ⇒ Dick Stanton (H) 1959
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis 2004
- ⇒ Paul Warren 2012
- ⇒ Diana Williams 2006

June Member Celebrations

Wedding Anniversary

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

Birthdays

- ⇒ Bruce Amey
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Dave Henahan
- ⇒ Dominique Lalisce
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett



POLIO

GLOBAL ERADICATION INITIATIVE

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 May 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	11	26 April 16
Afghanistan	28	20	5	4 April 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	16	

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.

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?

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

Avon Service Clubs Gather For A Picnic

Rotary/Lions Invited

Wednesday, June 15th at 6 PM

Avon Driving Park

BBQ Ribs & Chicken

\$20 per person BYOB

RSVP to Laurie or sign up

