

Avon Rotary News

December 2015



President's Perspective

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By: Dan Jones, President
Violence! Hatred! Retaliation! Fear! From the newspaper headlines to dinner conversations there is genuine concern, anxiety, and frustration about the increasing violence in our world. In the midst of fear and violence we enter a time of year during which we intentionally focus on peace, love and giving. Advertisers will do their best to redirect our attention away from the alarming news stories with clever invitations to buy peace and goodwill. Sports games and parades will help cover up our anxieties and frustrations but neither will make the source of them go away.

participating in opportunities to be a gift to the world. In the face of violence we sponsor ambassadors for peace through Rotary Peace Fellowships. In the face of fear Rotarians confidently offer hope and assurance that we stand with those who are in need. When others retreat into homogeneous groups we bridge cultural differences and ethnic divisions as an international organization. Rotarians embody the spirit of the season promoting peace, hope and service.

This holiday season each of us can make a difference by becoming gifts to the world. Together we stand courageously against the violence and hatred so prevalent around us bringing goodwill to all people. Thank you for making a difference for good in Avon and around the world. Merry Christmas.

We cannot cover up or wish away the difficult realities of our world. We can help change the future by partici-

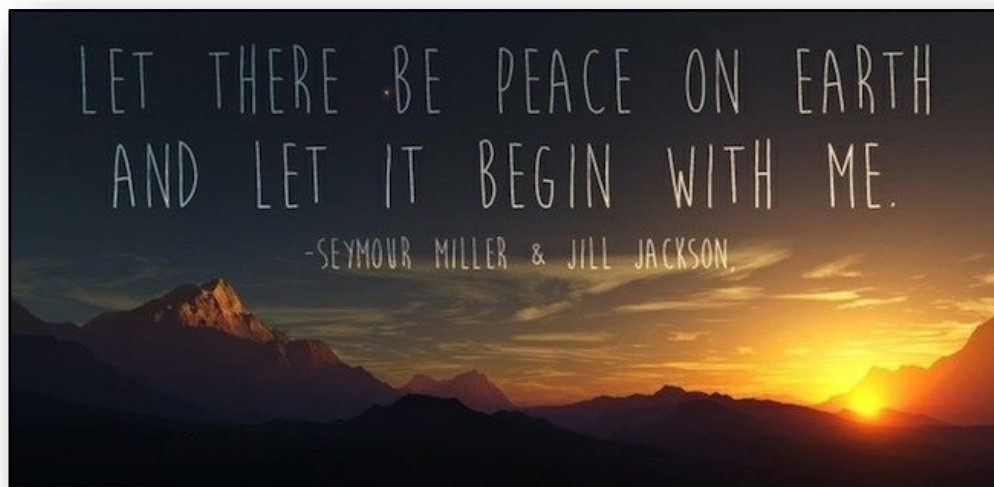


Be a gift to the world

www.avonrotary.org

Board of Directors

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



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Peppermints Restaurant

RLI



By: Heather Ayers

I recently decided to take advantage of the opportunity to attend our district's Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). As Rotarians, it is incumbent upon us to identify the ways in which we can contribute and make a difference. To me,

that means getting a full understanding of not only the contributions our Avon club makes, but also the contributions of both the District and Rotary International. This is important to me so that I can better communicate Rotary's mission when asked by friends and colleagues, and also better identify my niche within the Rotary community.

For those that haven't attended RLI, it is truly a wonderful experience. You are placed into small groups with Rotarians of all tenures. My group consisted of first-time RLI attendees. We had a gentlemen who had been in his local club for 25+ years, current club Presidents – two who had only been in Rotary for less than a year and one who had been a Rotarian for over 5 years, a young woman who had just joined Rotary the Tuesday before, and everything in between. I had the opportunity to get to know these Rotar-

ians and learn from their perspectives. The agenda for the day allowed me to interact with my classmates in a real way and also get the insights from our instructors who were all PDG's.

The topics that were covered were relevant for all Rotarians. I think when people here "Leadership Institute", they think that it will only be pertinent for those that are on the "leadership track". It is my belief that we are all leaders. Whether you contribute on a sub-committee for a fundraiser, provide details on a speaker for our meetings, or are new to Rotary, we all joined Rotary to be leaders in our community. RLI does a great job at linking the leadership you contribute in your day-to-day lives with the leadership opportunities in Rotary. I highly recommend attending RLI to anyone who is looking to continue exploring their relationship and contribution to Rotary.



Below: RLI 2015 'Graduates'



48th Annual Avon Rotary Auction



By: Tim Dickinson

Well, the 2015 auction is on the books and we can all celebrate an excellent effort with a very successful result. First of all, Thank You to all who participated in any way with the auction. This club is amazing. Everyone pulls together creating success where we serve. This year was no exception.

Your efforts will produce about \$17,500 for the club which means we can continue with our generosity to local students with scholarships. We can continue our generosity to places like Teresa House. We can continue our generosity to programs like Honor Flight. We can continue the fight against polio that has us ever so close to winning. All from an event that started at 9:00am on Saturday November 14, 2015 and was concluded and cleaned up by 3:30pm. That amounts to just under \$2,700 an hour for our efforts. That would be true if the event hours were the only time spent by Rotarians in this effort. We all know that isn't the case.

I am going to take a big risk here and mention some people by name who I know spent more than just 6 and a half hours on Saturday making this happen. I apologize now if I fail to recognize some, which I know I will. Your role in making the 2015 auction happen, whether it was small or large, time consuming or not, was important. Whether it involved large sums of money or not, made a difference. Whether it required countless calls, visits, conversations with potential donors or not, contributed to our success as a club. Your collective efforts produced a tremendous result.

I liken it to an orchestra playing a most beautiful piece of music. It takes all the players, all the different instruments, and a director to make it happen and produce a wonderful

sound. A director can't play the instruments. The players can't all play the same instrument. Too many trumpets or too few violins can change the sound and the final result. It's all a matter of balance, timing, and a team effort that produces the music. The same is true of the auction. This year the team consisted of 105 non-Rotarian bidders, 60 Rotarians (yes we have 60), 174 donors of items, a dozen or so scouts, and 32 Interact students all worked together to achieve success. I am sure our top solicitors Jim Ryan, Helen Zamboni, Jim Tompsett, Karl Sawicki, and Wayne Warriner each spent more time than the 6 and a half hours on Saturday. Together, these Rotarians solicited 134 donations with a value of \$10,071. That was 38% of the total items collected and 32% of the total value of auction items collected. I know for a fact that Hans Koomen spent more than 6 and a half hours managing our Auction database and recording the 352 items that were collected for the 48th Annual Avon Rotary Auction. I know Helen and Colin spent far more than 6 and a half hours editing all the descriptions of items entered into the database.

As you can see, not everyone played the same role but collectively, we shared the work load and found success. A special Thank You to the Steering Committee members who diligently pressed on to reach our goal. Thank you to everyone who contributed to that success. Your efforts produced a result that will enable another year of Rotary generosity to the community, the area, and the world as we continue our work.

Your 2015 Auction Steering Committee members were: Colin Bruckel, Kelly Cole, Tim Dickinson, Shannon DiFranco, Mark Evans, Dan Jones, David Kilgore, Hans Koomen, Terry Lemen, Jim Ryan, Kirk Vanderbilt, and Helen Zamboni.

Thank You For All Of Your Hard Work!



The Rotary Foundation



Doing Good In The World



We Done Good



By: Kirk Vanderbilt

Well, November has somehow passed us by already for another year, and we in the Rotary Universe go to “Family Month” from “Foundation Month”. I’m sure many of you were thanking your lucky stars that Foundation Month is gone, bringing an end to my pestering you for money. Well, I’m back to follow up, update, raise one more important issue that I failed to cover, and remind everyone we really should be mindful of the Foundation all year long, not just November.

One area that I didn’t really cover was your opportunity to leave a legacy gift to the Rotary Foundation after your passing. Let’s face it, you can’t take it with you, so if you (and your family) are able, why not include the Foundation in your estate planning. There are several options for planned giving; the most basic is becoming a “Benefactor”. Being a Benefactor simply means you have included the Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund in your estate plan. A “Bequest Society” member is a member who has provided for at least \$10,000 for the Rotary Foundation in their estate plan. If anyone is interested in these or any other planned giving arrangements, please

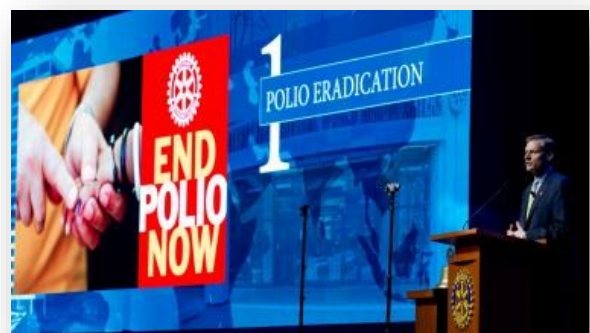
contact me for more information.

As an update for our ‘Give Me 5’ campaign, we are just 13 members shy of being a 100% EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) Club. My plan is to accomplish this goal before the end of the year, so if you know that you are a member who has neither donated through me or through Rotary Direct, please consider doing so ASAP and let me know.

I am also pleased to announce that we are up to 22 sustaining members in our club. I believe that number will rise when everyone has had the chance to sign up for their Rotary Direct accounts.

Our Club has a long proud history of Foundation giving, and we should be proud of our commitment, both as individual members and at the Club level. It is through this commitment that the Foundation remains strong and able to continue its mission of “Doing Good in the World”.

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/your-rotary-legacy-doing-good-world-beyond-your-lifetime>



The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

Rotary-Lions Thanksgiving



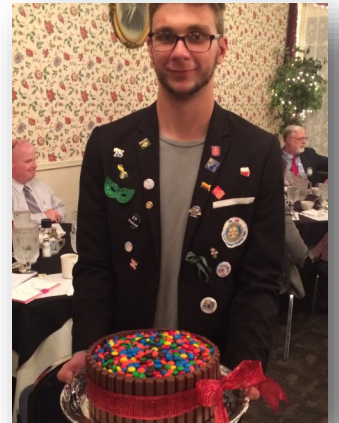
By: Julie Carney

Thanksgiving arrived a little early for the Rotarians and Lions in Avon. On November 18th, we joined the Lions Club at their meeting at the Avon Inn and enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving feast along with great fellowship. Their meeting, run by President Gary Necaster, included their tail twisting conducted by Tail Twister Frank "Bones" Matusak and Rotarians were not immune to the fining for various offenses like vacationing, getting a new vehicle or even being a proud grandparent.

The evening also included the Interact Club's annual dessert auction. Having just held the Rotary Auction several days earlier, the room was packed with many competitive and experienced bidders who bid high and bid often, helping the Interact Club raise over \$800.00. Two motto's; "Service Above Self" and "We Serve", two motto's whose core value is Service. We had much to be thankful for, two strong organizations that provide exceptional service to Avon and beyond, exceptional fellowship between both groups and the fun we have providing service with a smile.



Thank you to all who participated in the Interact dessert auction. The club made \$820.00. Also thank you for supporting their concession sales at the Rotary Auction. They made about \$300 in sales.
Cathy Jo Murphy



Exchange student Nico carefully displays one of the prettiest desserts of the night!



Bob House bid high and won the Minion Cake. Way to go Bob!

Vonglis Family representing Rotary & Lions Clubs quite well. Laurie, Andrew, Tom, Peter



Why Do I Love Rotary?



By: Terry Lemen

When I moved to Avon in the early 90's as a newlywed, I became the 6th generation of my family to live here. With the birth of my two sons, the 7th generation arrived and Avon became something much more. It became my son's hometown; the place that will be a part of all their childhood memories. They have always had their niche, their place of belonging and sense of community. It wasn't until I joined Rotary that I truly felt that I had become a member of the Avon community. Rotary has afforded me the opportunity to become actively involved in this wonderful town. I have been given so many chances to interact with the people and to make an impact by volunteering for so many worthy causes. Being a member of Rotary means being a member of a wonderful, diverse family. The fellowship, friendship and comradery I have been shown since joining Rotary has warmed my heart and finally made me feel that I am a true Avonite. So, THANK YOU Rotary!! This is why I love being part of this amazing organization.



December Club Schedule

Tues. Dec. 1	Club Assembly, BJB MTG
Sat. Dec. 5	Avon Rotary Christmas Party 6 pm
Tues. Dec. 8	Reg. Mtg., Focus On The Children-Beth Sears
Mon. Dec. 14	7 pm Board of Directors
Tues. Dec. 15	Reg. Mtg., Lukun Yu re Shen Yun Performances
Tues. Dec. 22	NO MEETING!
Tues. Dec. 29	Reg. Mtg.



December Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ Jake Ayers
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel
- ⇒ Bob French
- ⇒ Margo Harper
- ⇒ Chris Masten
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Dan Jones
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Bill Wall
- ⇒ Diana Williams



Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Marcia Cameron 2005
- ⇒ Rodney George 2010
- ⇒ Bob House 1987
- ⇒ Dominique Lalissee 2014
- ⇒ Terry Lemen 2012
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy 2011
- ⇒ Jim Varner 2014
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard 1975

Dream Delivery At The Rotary Sunshine Camp!



The Avon Rotary Youth Exchange Team: Ed Kime, Cathy Jo Murphy, Julie Carney, Dom Lalisie

By: Dom Lalisie

The Holiday season brings us early sunsets and snow falls. It also comes with uplifting feelings of new dreams, generosity and passion. In accordance with that Holiday Spirit, the 7120 District held its annual Rotary Youth Exchange interview Weekend on November 20th, 21st and 22nd. The event was organized by key members of the RYE Committee including Julie Carney from the Avon Club.

The weekend started on Friday evening with an opportunity for all the Committee members to “meet and greet” and get us prepared for the next day’s interviews. Country Officers prepared and shared a dish from their respective countries which gave us the opportunity to taste foods from 23 different countries! Our District was looking at potential exchanges with the following countries for 2016-2017: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. The process for RYE weekend starts long before the actual weekend event. Clubs have to preselect their candidates so they can submit their applications to the Vice Chair of Outbound by October 15th. Pre-Accepted students must then submit a full application package which will be the basis for the Interview weekend.



The interviews were held at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush, NY. Just a stones throw from our Avon base camp! The event requires the students and both parents to go through a series of interviews for the student alone, the parents alone or the family together. The interviews are conducted around 5 themes on 5 different tables: Parents & Students, Parent, Attitude & Appearance, Ambassadorial, and Adaptability. Country officers, RYE Leaders and Returning Students (ROTEX) conduct the interviews design to identify any potential issues and find the best country match for each student. The interviews are also an opportunity for the students and parents to ask any questions. The interviews run from 8 AM to 5 PM with a break for lunch so it is a full day for everyone!

Upon completion of the interviews, the students spent the rest of the evening with the ROTEX students. It is another opportunity for the Selection Committee to observe the applicants in a group setting to ensure the best country matching possible. The Saturday activities ended late into the evening hours. Governor Bill Gormont joined us for a very inspirational speech after diner.

Sunday morning started with a 7 AM Breakfast and more group activities including the creation of a song by the Students. It is also an opportunity for the applicants to make final changes to their top 3 country choices. At 11 AM, the parents arrived and they had the opportunity to meet the RYE Team, ask questions and see their students perform the group song.

With the parents and students gone, the Selection Committee shared a lunch before starting the “Draft Process” or process of final selection and country allocation to the Applicants. The process was smooth and efficient allowing the Team to find a proposed country for every one of the 22 Applicants in this year’s event. With this outcome, Country Officers were given the privilege to deliver the phone call every student was hoping for and expecting to let him or her know that they would be able to live their dream of living a year abroad. We are looking forward to their success and the success of our incoming students!

Key Leaders of the event and the Program are Anne Morrell (District Chair), Nancy Loughlin (Outbound Chair/Student Protection Officer), Julie Carney (Inbound Chair).

Be the change you wish to see in the world

60 Years of Ambulance Service Reflections



By: Edward "Ted" Coyne

During my first year in Avon Rotary which was 1955, the president, Gene Todd realized the need for a ambulance service in Avon. He purchased the old hearse from Stephenson Funeral Home and had it painted white with a red cross painted on the door.

Rotary tried to give it to both fire departments and the American Legion and the V.F.W. or any other group that would start an ambulance service in Avon. After several weeks of negotiations it was evident that no one would take it.

The funeral home announced that it was no longer going to provide ambulance service in Avon. They informed us at a Rotary meeting that no one would take the ambulance that we purchased. After a few minutes deliberation with George Cullinan we thought we couldn't do a much worse job than nobody and we offered to give it a shot if Rotary wanted us to. They said, go for it and we were off and running.

Caledonia was the only other town for miles around or in Livingston County that had an ambulance. We went to them for assistance in getting started. They were very helpful and we talked to a lead ambulance guy who agreed to hold a Red Cross first aid course in Avon which turned out to be totally slanted toward running an ambulance service.

Our first call was to the Zion Church. Ira Brown and I took that call. Our response time was a little slow because we had to blow up a flat tire first. We successfully transported the man to Strong hospital and we were off and running.

After many calls that year we decided that, yes, we could do it but we needed a better vehicle.

Ambulance service in those days was very primitive and mostly just transportation. We were mostly called by Avon's three doctors and the police department. No one was transported without the consent of a doctor and many times they might ride to the hospital with the patient. Those day's are gone forever.

Caledonia bought a newer ambulance and offered us their old Cadillac which was better than the old one we had. They sold it to us for \$235.00 We only had about \$100.00 in our account but the bank (Hoyt Mason) said they would lend us the other \$135.00 if I would sign the note for it. Well we got it and the prestige and morale of the Avon Rotary Ambulance Service went up a bit. We were gaining volunteer drivers and attendants slowly but surely.

After three or four years it became evident that an ambulance service was a necessity and we needed a new ambulance to take the place of Caledonia's old Cadillac that was pretty well shot by this time.

We needed about \$5,000.00 which of course we didn't have. Rotary Club and our lawyer decided we needed to be organized and incorporated and insured with a board of directors and bi-laws, etc.

I can't remember how we got this all in place but Rotary Club and Lion's Club came up with \$2,000.00 each. The two fire departments and the Legion and V.F.W each gave \$250.00. At that time we formed the Avon Rotary Lions Ambulance Service with three people from Rotary and three from Lions forming the board of directors. Bob Clark got us a new Oldsmobile ambulance at cost from Clark Chevrolet.

In the early years there was always a problem finding a garage to keep it in and keep it warm especially in the winter time. It was kept in the Cullinan garage which was in back of what is now Community Bank as well as Brown's garage on East Main Street. This worked pretty good but as we gained more equipment and supplies, security became a problem. Gene Todd leased us some land on South Avenue next to the road to the parking lot behind the stores. We decided to build our own ambulance building on South Avenue, and with the help of Frank Csapo and Sterling Homex, the lumber showed up. The water, sewer and concrete floor went in at very little cost. It all went together with volunteers from Rotary and Lions clubs and many others.

This building served us well for many years. In the late 1970's it became evident that we needed two ambulances. We had two serious accidents that put ours out of service for several weeks. We had to borrow and rent ambulances until repairs were made to ours.

The Village Board was designing a new fire house and village office. We were fortunate enough to get two large bays and a small office into the design for the building. The Town Board donated \$30,000.00 to help the village pay for the ambulance addition. This was built in 1980 just in time to accommodate the new big box vehicles that were the best type to have for rural ambulance services. This was our home for thirty years.

Many changes were taking place in ambulance service. Training of medical emergency technicians, driver training and basic training of everybody involved became more and more necessary to meet county and state ambulance regulations.

60 Years of Ambulance Service Reflections

Avon had the first E.M.T.'s in Livingston County. More and more training was required and volunteers were becoming harder to find and response to calls for help were being delayed or not answered. Money from health insurance programs was becoming available. We started paying certified E.M.T.'s and paramedics' a stipend in order to fill our duty schedule. We began competing for help from other towns which meant that we needed over night faculties, a crew area to wait for calls and a kitchen area, etc.

Some of our Board of Directors began looking at our nearby ambulance facilities. Honeoye Falls spent two million on theirs. Lima was 960 thousand and many fire departments were adding much better ambulance service areas to their fire houses all at tax payer expense. We discovered that we were competing for medical personnel against these million dollar facilities.

We were fortunate that we were able to get paid by insurance companies a few years early because of our non taxpayer funded status. We had a reserve fund to buy new ambulances and equipment and to pay E.M.T.'s and Paramedics, but we lacked 3/4 of a million dollars of being able to build a new facility similar to our neighboring ambulance services. We knew that Rotary and Lions Clubs would never be able to come up with that much money.

The good Lord was looking after us the day that someone called us and said that there was a 5,000 square foot building for sale that was an abandoned church that had been for sale for two years. They were going to sell it at a reasonable price. Upon inspection it had three acres of land with a large parking lot, a 50'x 50' church sanctuary and 50' x 50' kitchen, bedroom with tub and shower, men's room, ladies room, laundry room—all extremely well built with electric heat and well insulated. We purchased it for \$110,000.00 dollars and appropriated about \$60,000.00 to remove the alter, carpets and add three overhead doors in the west end of the room. We made room for 2 big box ambulances, a fly car, oxygen tanks, and a floor drain for washing vehicles. Volunteers were a huge help in this whole

project. We decided electric heat was not the way to go and we put in two gas furnaces and air conditioning for the area where the officers and crew quarters are located.

This building has been a great help in being able to perform all the steps necessary to have an ambulance service with highly trained people who are providing excellent response times from the first 911 call until contact with the patient.

The Avon Rotary Lions Ambulance service is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors who receive no compensation. We also have local people who mow the grass every week and plow the snow in the winter. During 2015 10-12 local people put a 6,000 square foot roof on the building saving thousands of dollars.

Most medical personnel are paid or partially paid for their hours on the job. Ambulance and medical supplies are extremely expensive. Insurance and vehicle cost and maintenance is a big factor. The cost of operations in 1955 was probably \$200-\$300 per year. The cost for 2015 will be well over \$350,000.00 I believe that we are the only two service clubs in the United States that operate an ambulance service.

I am very proud to have been able to take an active part in this service for the entire 60 years I have been in Avon Rotary Club.





Avon Rotary Christmas Party
 Saturday, December 5, 2015 6PM
 At The Home Of:
 Bill & Jill Wall
 111 River Street, Avon

Need to Know:

- Guests Welcome
- ◆ Party Begins at 6:00
- ◆ There will be games
- ◆ Bring a Dish To Pass
- ◆ Holiday Attire is Recommended
- ◆ There will be an "Ugly Sweater" contest (optional)
- ◆ "White Elephant" - "Re-Gift" gift exchange (optional)

RSVP: Ivonglis@hurritech.com
 Or sign up at the next meeting

Tickets Available At:
 Bank of Castile
 Hurricane Technologies
Or Contact:
 Terry Lemen
 414-4250



Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball
Kickin' It Up For Hands That Help

Tickets \$35 On Sale Now

Saturday, May 14th 2016
Proceeds To Benefit
 GVRC ~ Honor Flight Rochester ~ Teresa House



Avon Rotary Social Events 2015—2016

Saturday, December 5, 2015:	Christmas Party @ Wall's
Thursday, January 14, 2016:	Rotary Social
Saturday, TBD:	Short Track for Pancakes
Tuesday, February 9, 2016:	Mardi Gras @ Peppermints
Tuesday, March 15, 2016:	St. Patrick's Day Party @ Peppermints
Saturday, April 2016:	NYC Spring Break—TBD
Fri. April 29—Sun May1, 2016:	District Conference @ Hershey Lodge PA
Saturday, May 14, 2016:	Blue Jean Ball
May or June, 2016:	Quad Cities Golf & Dinner
Tuesday, June 28, 2016:	Change of Officers Dinner

december: |dē-'sem-bər| -n.

a month of lights, snow and feasts; time to make amends and tie loose ends; finish off what you started and hope your wishes come true