

Avon Rotary News

January 2016



President's Perspective

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By: Dan Jones, President

A new year awakens our hopes for a better future as we anticipate the possibilities of the coming months. Could this be the year polio is finally eradicated around the world? Is this the year peace will triumph over violence, cooperation over partisanship, and love over hate? It is easy to become pessimistic and believe these hopes are fantastical illusions. However, to do so guarantees failure. Despite the overwhelming odds our hopes and dreams may face, our refusal to quit pursuing them keeps them alive.

Some of you know that I have been in the process of remodeling Karen's and my kitchen. When the kitchen was completed to a "functional level" I slowed down on the

work. It was not that I wanted the kitchen to always remain unfinished; it was simply that I had grown tired of the work, it was functional and other things were allowed to take a higher priority. Sometimes our attentiveness to things like polio and peace flounders under the same conditions.

Ambitious hopes require full participation. We are not allowed to "retire" from doing good in the world. All Rotarians are responsible for the success of our hopes and dreams for the world. As we begin another year it is critical that we hold onto the energetic hopes that inspire us on New Year's



Be a gift to the world

Eve. Let's not fall into despair and give up the good work in which we have engaged. This year let's push forward with even more commitment to the ideals that define Rotary. The result will be that some of our dreams will come true this year and others will move one step closer to the goal.

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

Welcome New Rotarian Julie Welch



I am honored to be a new member of the Avon Rotary Club. I am Julie Welch and I have lived in the Avon community with my husband Dan Welch for the past 15 years. Dan and I have been married 24 years and we have 4 children all who either have attended Avon Central schools or are enrolled there currently. I have decided to join Rotary for

several reasons. The community of Avon is a wonderful place to raise a family and the sense of community stands out to me. I want to give back and serve others. I love people and working with Rotary will enable me to do so. It will be nice to be a part of the Rotary family. I realize what an amazing group of people the Rotarians are and hope to add to the group. I look forward to serving on the different committees and contributing where I can to help the greater good of the organization. I want to thank each of you for

making me feel part of the group. Your kindness and support have been wonderful. Thank you also to Pam Hayes for sponsoring me and bringing me into Avon Rotary.

Sincerely, Julie Welch



Dan Jones, Julie Welch, Pam Hayes
Julie's Induction—December 1, 2015

WHY DOES POLIO ERADICATION MATTER?

REDUCED BY
99%

Polio has been reduced by 99% and we are closer than ever to ending it.



No child anywhere in the world will have to suffer from this crippling disease.



Reaching all children with the polio vaccine leads the way to reaching them with other life-saving resources.



Until polio is stopped, children everywhere are at risk.



Achieving a polio-free world will prove what's possible when the global community comes together to improve children's lives.

JOIN IN. Share your voice and donate. Let's make history together. Endpolionow.org



Rotarians Celebrate Christmas

By: Laurie Vonglis

We gathered together to celebrate the holidays at Bill & Jill Wall's on Saturday, December 5. Each Rotarian brought a dish to pass and we feasted on a delicious variety of food. Visiting and game playing highlighted the evening in typical Avon Rotary fashion. While definitely exceeding local noise ordinances with laughter, hooting and hollering, friendly competitions went on all night playing our favorite game of "Threes".

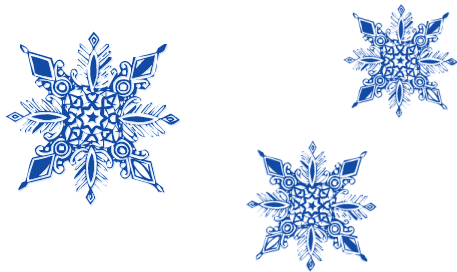
Our tradition of recognizing the favorite holiday apparel was an easy choice with Mr. Jake parading around in his jaw dropping snowflake suit. A whole new level of fashion has been brought to the table! A classic runner up was Sally Tompsett with her soon to be retired, Christmas sweater. Definitely a potential auction item to raise



Party perfect apparel winners, Jake & Sally



Proud Rotarian Tom Vonglis with Kodak clock and contribution to Polio Plus



Belly laughter all night long playing our favorite club game—"Threes"



enormous funds for the club. Congratulations to our winners.

Speaking of auction, Bill auctioned off a special 'vintage' clock with a Kodak logo on it. Rotarian Tom Vonglis, former Kodak employee, bid high, wiping out any chance of competition. A donation of \$100 will be made to the Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus.

A funny take away from the evening, there were so many, was the pleasant sing-a-long reindeer when we visited the 'powder room'. How enjoyable was that to be 'laughing all the way' while taking care of business! Ahh—only at Bill Wall's house would you find such a decoration!

Another evening with good friends and good times for the memory books. Thank you so much to our gracious hosts Bill & Jill.

Focus On The Children

With Beth Sears

On December 8 our program for the evening was Focus on the Children. The agency has been serving the children of Livingston County since 1993. Their mission is to serve the needs of children in Livingston County, NY that cannot be met by any other agency or program.

Beth gave an informative overview of this wonderful organization. If you'd like more information visit their website www.focuschild.org.

President Dan presented a check for \$500 on behalf of Avon Rotary to help support their mission. Just one more reason to be a proud Rotarian.



President Dan Jones and Beth Sears from Focus On The Children

Bell Ringing For Salvation Army



Avon Rotarians just about filled a whole week in December, placing volunteers at Avon Tops to ring the bells for Salvation Army.

Each two hour slot allowed each of us time to witness the generosity of so many shoppers. Many repeating their contributions every time they came by the store. It's a good feeling to volunteer for this organization especially knowing these donations stay in Livingston County assisting those in need.

Thank you Jerry Dougherty for organizing the Rotary volunteers!



Featured Left: Jim Varner & Marcia Cameron

Thank You For All That You Do!

Rotary At Work



Pres. Dan Jones at School #33

By: Dom Lalisie

Literacy Project -- Avon Rotary and Partners support School # 33 in Rochester

Last month, I had the great privilege to participate to one of these actions we all work hard for like the Corn Festival and the Auction. Being

able to make a positive change for our neighbors in need makes it all so wonderful!

On Thursday December 17, our club had the privilege to be part of a very special day for the 4th grade Class of School #33. President Dan Jones represented us for the event. Every year, The Avon, Rush-Henrietta and Scottsville clubs join their efforts to acquire enough books for the School to support the Principal's Book of the Month program. Through this program, students will be able to take home a copy of the same book for an entire month. The program requires the purchase of multiple copies of the same book to support all of the students' needs.

The students prepared a special show for the teachers, the Library Team, the School principal and the Rotary attendees. The show featured an animated presentation of each book, which gave us the opportunity to witness and discover the expressive talent of the students. They also closed the event with a very dynamic dance which had all the attendees feel the Christmas groove!

After the show, the Principal shared how much he appreciated the efforts of Rotary in expanding the student's ability to access new and exciting books. He also shared that the school's partnership with private organizations such as Rotary was one of the high marks he emphasized with independent auditors of the School.

The event ended with a promise to continue the tradition next year!



School #33 Students with their new books

Polio Update—Dec. 23, 2015

Afghanistan Two new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week; one in Chapa Dara district of Kunar and one in Nahr-E-Saraj district of Hilmand, both of which are newly infected districts for 2015. The most recent case had onset of paralysis in Kunar on 19 November. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2015 is now **19**, compared to 26 by this time in 2014.

Pakistan: Two new wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported in the past week; one in Khyber agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and one in the newly infected district of Karachi Gulshan Iqbal in Sindh province. The most recent case had onset of paralysis on 21 November in Sindh province. The total number of WPV1 cases for 2015 is now **51**, compared to 290 by this time in 2014.

The battle continues...



Why Do I Love Rotary?



By: Karl Sawicki

I was first approached to become an Avon Rotarian in the mid 1980's by former club President Al Burke Sr. I was again asked to join the club by Rotarian Gladys Iler and I finally did so in March of 2007. It took me a long time to join but I was immediately impressed with

the vibrant spirit the club has. During my first year, I became even more impressed with the serious nature the club takes when there is work to be done. I believe the Avon community and beyond respects our club and its commitment to aiding and assisting many local organizations—now reaching beyond to building schools in Nicaragua. This is truly impressive! I am also impressed that our club recognizes the need and importance of new members and what contributions and strengths they bring.

I've enjoyed getting involved in several projects, such as being on the Corn Fest steering committee, and now being a board member. I am glad I finally joined the Avon Rotary and I hope to make further contributions.



A Fond Rotary Memory

By: Dan Jones

My first encounter with Rotary was as a cast member of the annual musicals the Hornell Rotary Club sponsored. The fond memories created during those summer experiences helped me realize Rotary was not just about raising money for humanitarian work around the world, it was about creating opportunities for people. I joined Rotary with the anticipation that I could help create opportunities for people here in Avon and around the world. I have not been disappointed.

Rotary has proven to be an organization that provided me with opportunities as well as where I have been privileged to provide opportunities to others. I have found great friends in Rotary who willingly share their possessions and time with me. I have called on fellow Rotarians in times of need and never been disappointed. I love watching children receive their dictionaries or graduates receive a scholarship. I enjoy the laughter at our meetings, the genuine joy that pervades our social events and the teamwork

at our fundraisers.

Serving as your President this year has validated my expectations of what Rotary is all about. This is the best club in the district and I am blessed to be a member. Thank you for making Rotary more about opportunity than obligation for me.

Another Notable Memory

June 25, 2013

Dan Jones was presented the Avenues Of Service Citation—recognizing efforts in all 5 areas of service.



Great Friends, Good Time and Fierce Battle

By: Kirk Vanderbilt

On the Tuesday before Christmas, a group of Rotarians and friends decided to reduce their holiday stress by shooting each other, several times in some circumstances. In keeping with Avon Rotary's theory that good fellowship builds stronger clubs, Cruise Director Laurie Vonglis organized a fun night of Laser Tag, food, and drinks. For the uninitiated, Laser Tag is simply a fun activity where you are equipped with a laser "gun", and a special vest with sensors. Competitors move through a dark obstacle-type course and shoot opposing players with their lasers and the vests register the "kills". When shot, you are "dead" for a few short moments where you are unable to shoot, and you have time to find cover. Players are split into teams and the team with the most "kills" wins.

After a safe and expertly-driven bus ride, and varying amounts of food and drinks, these brave Rotarians were randomly split into teams, (along with several other non-Rotarian competitors). It was Red vs. Green and the battles raged (there were actually four 6-minute battles). Ultimately the Green team was victorious, winning 3 out of the 4 battles, but Red fought with honor (mostly). [The author has decided not to editorialize on the obvious flaws with the drawing of the teams, and the more-than-



L-R Tom Vonglis, Marcia Cameron, Pam Hayes, Josh Tonra, Doug Hayes, Kirk Vanderbilt, Terry Lemen, Charlene Masten, Bill Wall, Laurie Vonglis, Jill Wall, Chris Masten

likely inferior laser gear that was appropriated to the Red team; but we should all probably agree that the Red team got the short end of the stick that night.]

Complete and utter unfairness notwithstanding, it was a great evening of fun and fellowship. I've long prided myself on the Avon Rotary Club and the spirit of fun and adventure we get to share. Whether it is an impromptu moonlight snowshoe, a lazy Sunday paddle on Hemlock Lake, or a vicious laser battle to the death, this Club knows how to have fun. While these activities are not "official" Rotary gatherings, all members are encouraged to participate. These outings help build friendships and teamwork, and ultimately lend to the over-all health of the Club. It is also a great way to introduce potential new members to the club, and/or invite friends or family. So next time you hear about one of these "outings" please consider joining in, or better yet organize your own – you know I'm game!



Avon Rotary Continues Support of Basic Education in Rural Nicaragua



By: Rob Lupisella

There is no better time of the year than now to be talking about gifts. It is during the past month that many of us rushed to the stores to purchase gifts for loved ones. Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran chose *Be a Gift to the World* as

his theme. He urged Rotary members throughout the world to give gifts of time, talent, and knowledge to improve lives in communities across the globe. He said, "Through Rotary, we can take these gifts and make a genuine difference in the lives of others and in our world."

One of Rotary's six areas of focus is supporting basic education and literacy. Worldwide, sixty-seven million children do not have access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. One of Rotary's goals is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. The Avon Rotary Club has been supporting this goal since its inception, and over the past four years has been "a gift" to numerous communities in rural Nicaragua.



This school in Las Mercedes will be replaced.

During that time, the Avon Rotary Club has donated \$4,000 to the organization *Linking Hands for Learning* to help support the construction of six schools. Just recently the Board of Directors committed an additional \$2,000 to support the 2016 project in the community of Las Mercedes. All the money donated will be used to hire masons, purchase building materials, school equipment, and supplies for children. The community of Las Mercedes has forty students in their pre-school and elementary grades. The elementary students attend school in a dilapidated structure, which has a failing roof (pictured above.) No preschool building currently exists and these children are receiving their instruction in a private home. This project, like the previous projects, is a collaborative effort with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education (MINED.) They will pay the salaries of the teachers and for the construction and installation of the roof. MINED representative Johana Gámez has asked Linking Hands for Learning to build a two-room school for Las Mercedes, a room for the elementary students and a second room for the pre-school students.

Rotarians Laurie and Tom Vonglis to join school builders in Nicaragua for the first time.

Over the past four years, fifty volunteers from the Rochester area have traveled to this mountainous region in Nicaragua as members of Linking Hands for Learning, including numerous Avon Rotarians and Interactors. They have been instrumental in the school construction efforts. Rotary recognizes that our members are our most important asset. Rotarians are the force that allows Rotary to carry out its many humanitarian efforts and achieve its mission. This coming Spring, Avon Rotarians Laurie and Tom Vonglis, Kirk Vanderbilt, and Rob Lupisella will be heading to Nicaragua to build the Las Mercedes school. Kirk and Rob will be returning and bringing their entire families as well. Laure Vonglis said recently, "It's very exciting to finally join this group and make a difference internationally, working side by side with fellow Rotarians and the people of Nicaragua."

Avon Rotary Continues Support of Basic Education in Rural Nicaragua

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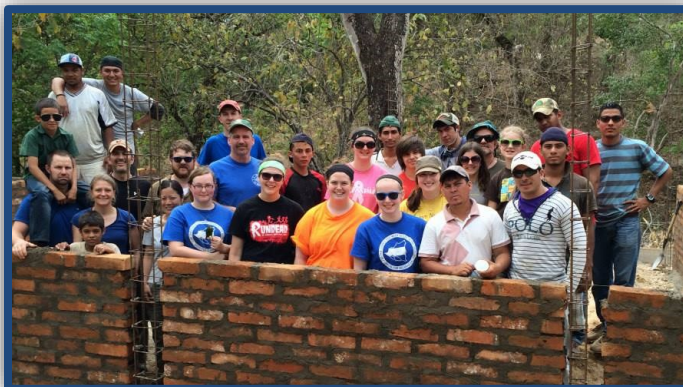
The gift you receive in return for your service is priceless.

Spreading goodwill and building friendship is an important component of the Rotary Four-Way Test. As each school project comes to fruition, there is a realization that the construction may have ended, but the goodwill and the relationships developed will endure forever. Working side-by-side with community members, as you toil together in the hot sun, builds a lasting bond and an appreciation for the way of life in this remote area of the world. During the last school dedication ceremony in Piedra de Agua, the community matriarch spoke of how the new school was a dream come true. Through her flowing tears she expressed her gratitude to the many volunteers who gave their time and talents to help construct the school. She said, "I never believed that a school like this could be built in my lifetime. It is a dream come true, thanks to all of you." Her emotional remarks brought tears to the eyes of volunteers. The simple gift of the words, "Thank you" was all it took to fill hearts with joy and satisfaction of a job well done. The work being accomplished in this impoverished area of Nicaragua is having a

Students sang several songs at the Piedra de Agua school dedication ceremony. 2015



profound impact on the quality of life for families and children living here. Avon Rotary is making a difference. Supporting this community as they strive to improve basic education and enhance literacy.



Pictured Left & Above: 2014 Buena Vista school built with the help of Avon Rotarians



Pictured right: Providing a program for Avon Rotary Rotarians Kirk Vanderbilt, Rob Lupisella, Jim Tompsett, Ella Vanderbilt and Olivia Montesano



This Year



BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

EAT MORE REAL FOOD

START EACH DAY WITH GOALS

DRINK WATER

BUY GOOD BOOKS AND MAKE TIME TO READ THEM

SHOP FOR QUALITY NOT QUANTITY

**EXERCISE DAILY EVEN WHEN IT SOUNDS LIKE A
TERRIBLE IDEA**

HUG THE ONES I LOVE

**PURGE THE UNNECESSARY AND DECREASE
CLUTTER**

FIND THE BEST IN OTHERS

SHOW OTHERS THE BEST IN ME

January Club Schedule

Tues. Jan 5	Reg Mtg—Kristy Coffey; Foster & Respite Parenting Needs. BJB Mtg to follow
Mon. Jan 11	Board of Directors 7 pm
Tues. Jan 12	Reg Mtg—Membership Social TBD
Tues. Jan 19	Reg Mtg—Corn Fest Orientation & Kick Off
Tues. Jan 26	Reg. Mtg.— TBD
Tues. Feb 2	Reg. Mtg.—What You Need To Know About The BJB

January Member Celebrations

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Bob French 2009
- ⇒ Chris Masten 2011
- ⇒ Jim Ryan 2010
- ⇒ Kirk Vanderbilt 2003

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Helen Zamboni



Birthdays

- ⇒ Julie Carney
- ⇒ Jerry Dougherty
- ⇒ Charles Feller
- ⇒ Jim Gaffney
- ⇒ Doug Hayes
- ⇒ Barbara Herman
- ⇒ Bob House
- ⇒ Diana Williams



Rotary District 7120 Conference

April 29—May 1, 2016

Hershey Lodge ~ Hershey, PA



From the District December Newsletter:

The 2016 District Conference promises to be an ultra-fantastic experience for everyone, whether you're a long time Rotarian or one of our newest Rotary members. We'll have something for everyone including your spouse or partner. In fact, Hershey Park opens for the season that weekend, so bring along the family and make a mini-vacation of it. Arrive a couple days early or stay a couple days after the conference at the beautiful Hershey Lodge, all at the special discounted conference rate.

Fun: You'll enjoy the traditional Friday morning Golf Outing, cocktail receptions both evenings with live musical entertainment, hospitality suites, an unbelievable performance of the Milton Hershey School's musical group New Horizons, the always entertaining Rotary Youth Exchange Talent Show, Saturday afternoon's opportunity to explore all the wonderful entertainment attractions in Hershey, Saturday evening's Governor's Ball, Sunday morning's always popular Foundation Breakfast and so much more!

Fellowship: You'll renew friendships and make new friends as you visit the House of Friendship, stroll down Rotary Service Avenue, shop the Rotary merchandise vendor, mingle and network with more than 400 like-minded Rotarians from the 69 clubs around our district. And don't forget the famous Silent Auction where the proceeds of your generous purchases benefit The Rotary Foundation.

Celebration: We'll honor and recognize individual Rotarians and clubs for their accomplishments and service in many categories; some for their work over the last year and some for their years of dedication over their lifetime.

Learning and Inspiration: Keynote speakers will inspire with messages reflecting the ideals and principles of Rotary. Breakout sessions will inform and educate with an eclectic mix of general interest and Rotary themed topics.

Memorial Celebration: At the Sunday morning multi-denominational Memorial Service, you'll enjoy our Memorial Choir and be touched by readings of reflection as we honor the memory of those dear friends whom we lost over this past year.

Business: The annual business meeting for the District kicks off the conference at 4:00 PM on Friday afternoon.

Mark your calendars now and get ready for registration which opens in January. The conference committee has been hard at work planning an exceptional experience just for you at the 2016 District Conference. So "Come On Down to Chocolate Town", where we'll welcome everyone as friends. Trust me, it truly is The Sweetest Place on Earth! **DG Bill**

Pictured Right: **Hershey Lodge**





AVON ROTARY BLUE JEAN BALL

Kickin' It Up For Hands That Help

Saturday, May 14th, 2016 @ 5:00 PM

Avon Century Barn ~ 1177 W. Henrietta Rd., Avon

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

GENESEE VALLEY ROTARY CAMP

HONOR FLIGHT ROCHESTER

TERESA HOUSE

Live Music By Flint Creek

BBQ By Partyman Catering
County Casino Games & Prizes
50/50 Raffle & Auction

Tickets \$35 Per Person

Available at: Avon Bank of Castile
Hurricane Technologies
Rotarian Terry Lemen—414-4250

Purchase Tickets Online: <http://www.avonrotary.org/bluejeanball.php>



Avonrotarybluejeanball or www.avonrotarybluejeanball.com

Serving The Community Since 1927



Avon Rotary Social Events 2015—2016

Tuesday, January 12, 2016:	Rotary Membership Social
Tuesday, February 9, 2016:	Mardi Gras @ Peppermints
Tuesday, March 15, 2016:	St. Patrick's Day Party @ Peppermints
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

