

Avon Rotary News

March 2016



President's Perspective

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By: Dan Jones, President

I always enjoy the friendly banter that takes place in our weekly meetings. The stories and one-liners are fun and make the meeting

something I look forward to each week. Stretching the truth as far as one acceptably can is often what makes the story funny. Exaggeration and hyperbole make us laugh because we recognize the truth is not on the edge of the story but somewhere in the middle disguised by the colorful language shared around it.

Stretching the truth, disguising the truth, or blatantly avoiding the truth can be funny in our times of confession and fines, but it is not funny when we encounter it in real time and space. Unfortunately, much of what passes as political speech stretches the truth beyond what even we would feel comfortable with in our tale twisting. Extreme rhetoric deftly builds an argument from a kernel of truth which is then so masqueraded by vitriol the truth ceases to be visible. This type of speech is currently being paraded by leading politicians of both parties. The end result is that civility and the opportunity for honest discourse concerning real problems is squandered in favor of sound bites and finger pointing.

Those of us in Rotary should courageously stand against this type of behavior. While we may not be able to influ-

ence the national media's fascination for the extreme, we can create pockets of civility. We can make a difference in simple ways such as: thinking about what we "like" on Facebook; the comments we make on social media and in personal conversation; the types of articles we forward in emails or subscribe to in print media; becoming part of the solution to problems instead of just whining. As Rotarians, we have agreed to live by the 4 way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all? Does it build goodwill and better friendships? Is it beneficial to all concerned? If every Rotarian began promoting this ethic through our small decisions it would have a national impact. When we communicate in ways that reflect the code of ethics we agreed to live by when we became Rotarians we make the world a better place. Individually we might not be able to change the climate of national conversations, but together we can. Together we are a powerful group who can influence the national dialogue around difficult issues. When we practice what we confess we position ourselves to call others to join us in restoring civility and honor to how we speak. I believe this could be one of our greatest gifts 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



Be a gift to the world

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Peppermints Restaurant

A Little Mardi Gras Fun



By: Laurie Vonglis

While President Dan Jones was away, PE Scott Holmes took charge for a fun evening celebrating Mardi Gras on February 9th. Peppermints served us a traditional Mardi Gras menu which was delicious. Scott led us through our typical celebrations, fines and confessions. We then had our 'holiday' awareness tested with a couple of trivia challenges. Pride not prize was awarded to the smarty pants in the group. Our night was topped off with festive music by DJ Kirky and those in "costume". Kudos to David Kilgore for his fashion flair for the occasion.

Another example of Avon Rotary fun!



David Kilgore sporting his classic Mardi Gras costume!



PE Scott Holmes with his guest—his wife Jill Holmes. A quiet moment before the shenanigans begin.

**Who's the man behind the mask?
Rotarian Bruce Amey and his bride—Diane.
Such a quiet version of the man tonight.
No idea why.... LOL**



Happy Birthday Steve!



Happy Birthday to Avon Rotary's
Tennis playin'
Practical jokin'
Fun lovin'
House sellin'
Steve Stephenson!
Happy 80th—you make it look so good!!!!



Shout Out For Doug!

One of the joys of being a Rotarian are the friendships you make. This motley crew has a love of snowmobiling in common. Recent history has them together in the Adirondacks when the weather cooperates, enjoying riding over the snowflakes. This season... not so much. So Mr. Doug & Mr. Jake arranged for this group of 5 to sled locally on February 18 and make the most of the recent snow storm.

Service above self... yes! Work hard, play hard... yes!

Thanks so much for hooking us up with sleds Doug! You're a heck of a guy.



Rotarians: Tom Vonglis, Heather Ayers, Laurie Vonglis, Doug Hayes & Jake Ayers. Enjoying nibbles at the Yard of Ale.

We All Remember Our First One



By: Dom Lalisie

We put in practice our yearly "Gift to the World" theme in February with our Dictionary giving events to all 3rd graders in Avon.

As part of our Literacy activities, the Avon Rotary Club donates a dictionary to all 3rd Graders in Avon. The dictionaries are given to the students of St Agnes Catholic School and Avon Elementary School. The dictionaries were given to students in February at 2 separate events attended by our President Pastor Dan Jones.

At both events, we engaged the students on their knowledge of Rotary and our main activities. Most students are familiar with the Corn Festival (30TH this year!!) but few really knew that events such as the Corn Festival enable

us to serve our community with the funds we raise.

We gave the students a chance to look for their first word in their brand new dictionaries: "polio" and it gave us an opportunity to explain our winning fight to eradicate the disease around the World.

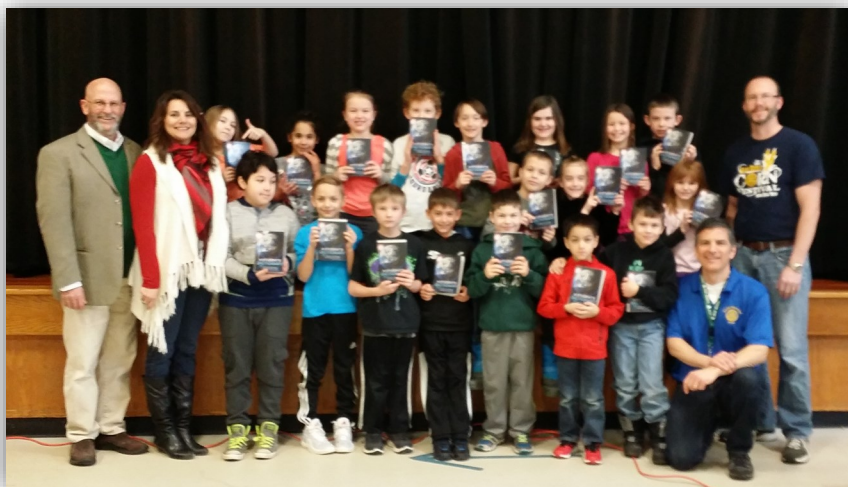
Very few life moments are as rewarding as the opportunity to empower a child with a new tool to be a better communicator, all the Rotary members and School administrators had the privilege of one of those cherished moments. I want to relay a Big Thank you to all the volunteers in the fundraising events which make such great moments possible.



Above: St. Agnes 3rd Graders received their dictionaries 2/9/16

Below: Avon Central Elementary 3rd Graders received their dictionaries 2/26/16

An investment in
KNOWLEDGE
always pays the
best interest.
Benjamin Franklin

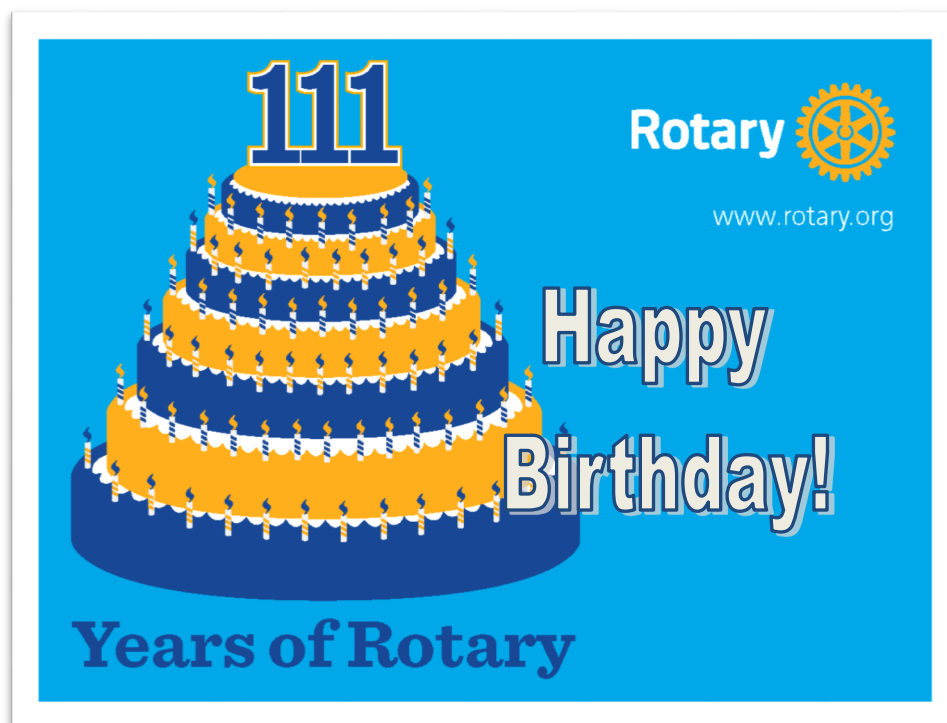


PETS: President Elect Training Seminar



Friday—Saturday, March 18-19, 2016 in Syracuse our very own Scott Holmes, President Elect will be attending the multi district training to prepare for his role as club president.

Wish him well!



Avon Rotary Social Events 2015—2016

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

WWII Soldier

Tuesday February 23, Avon Rotary had the honor of Captain Richard Updaw as our guest. He provided an exceptional program which told his moving story as a USMC Marine Vietnam Veteran who made it his mission to learn about a forgotten nineteen year old Marine, Corporal Robert F. Hodes, killed at the battle of Iwo Jima near the end of World War II. His research uncovered an incredible maze of accounts and had us all on the edge of our seats close to tears. Inspiring determination to say the least. Pictured right is the WWII Wooden Soldier depicting Cpl Hodes located in Rush on Route 15.



Avon Rotary Servicemen: L-R, Steve Vanderbilt, Jeff Passerall, Rodney George, Bill Wall, Ernie Wiard, Guest—Captain Richard Updaw, CA Crenzer. So very proud!!!



Why Do I Love Rotary?



By: David Kilgore

As most of you know this is the second Rotary Club I have joined. So I either love Rotary or am a glutton for punishment. This is why it's the former.

1 Connecting with people. Both times that I came to Rotary I was new in town. I knew that by joining I would quickly get to know a diverse group of people in my new community. They would represent a variety of occupations, interests, and viewpoints. The first time I joined a Rotary club I was a new pastor in town. Rotary helped me become acquainted with and work alongside people that were not necessarily part of my church. Then, when I came to Avon I was a total stranger to this town. I knew that joining the Rotary club would put me on a fast track toward getting to know a new bunch of people that I would call friends. And what an amazing, interesting group you are!

2 Service in my community. If I am going to be part of a community, I want to do it right – including being of service in that community. Through both church involvement and the Rotary Club I have been able to invest in communities I didn't grow up in but have adopted. Thanks to Tim Dickinson, who asked me to be the club secretary, I found out a lot about this community and how Rotary was serving it. I don't know that having a newbie as secretary was good for the club, but it sure helped me get to know more of what was going on.

3 International connections. We also live in a world community, and through Rotary we get to meet others and be of service to the world beyond our local community. For me that is both fun and fulfilling. I'm glad to be part of this club that has helped to build schools in Nicaragua, invests in Rotary Youth Exchange, and supports Rotary International.

#4 Peacemaking. International connections brings me to peacemaking. As a person of faith, I believe that peacemaking is part of the believer's calling. We are asked to believe in a world – and work for a world – where people can live, not in fear of each other, but in friendship and community. The Club I love has a particular strategy for this: through international friendships. In Hornell I chaired two events where we hosted Group Study Exchange teams. And that's why I was quick to give Kate Hill a hand when the incoming DG from India came to visit. It's part of peacemaking.

#5 The four way test. We all live by some kind of moral code that, at least most of the time, governs our daily lives. Rotary's four way test of the things we think, say, or do is really pretty good as moral guides go. I'm glad that my club promotes a particular ethical stance. And, hey, it's shorter than the Ten Commandments!





Avon Rotary Snowbirds... We Miss You!

March Club Schedule

Tues. March 1	Reg. Mtg—Program; Nico on Italy. BJB Mtg following
Tues. March 8	Reg. Mtg—Corn Fest Mtg
Mon. March 14	Board of Directors 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. March 15	St. Patrick's Dinner Mtg @ Peppermints
Tues. March 22	Reg. Mtg— Saly Cramer, MDA
Tues. March 29	Reg. Mtg—Program; Benjamin Lawrance Global Grants

Rotary Youth Exchange Weekend: Thursday, April 7— Sunday, April 10

Casino Night: Saturday, April 9 7:30—10:30 pm

Still looking for dealers... call Cathy Jo to volunteer—330-7891

March Member Celebrations

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Jake Ayers 2014
- ⇒ Heather Ayers 2014
- ⇒ Tim Dickinson 2005
- ⇒ Mark Evans 1994
- ⇒ Carmine Simone 2010
- ⇒ Helen Zamboni 2005



Birthdays

- ⇒ Ted Coyne
- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Ed Kime
- ⇒ Paul Warren
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner



Rotary District 7120 Conference
April 29 - May 1, 2016
Hershey Lodge ~ Hershey, PA

Fun is name of the game at this year's District Conference in Hershey, PA. There's so much to explore and do for the entire family that there's no way you can do it all on Saturday afternoon. So pack your clothes, load the family into the car and bring them all along to mix the District Conference with a vacation. "Come on Down to Chocolate Town" 2 days before and stay 2 days after to enjoy the sights and sounds of central PA, all at the discounted conference rate. What a deal!

And guess what ... Hershey park opens for the season on our conference weekend with thirteen thrilling roller coasters and more than fifty other rides and attractions to include an Aerial Tramway, Monorail, and even the Dry Gulch Railroad (DG Bill LOVES railroads!) Hey, who doesn't like a world class theme park designed for the entire family ages 4 to 104!

All that and more awaits you in Hershey, PA at the 2016 District Conference. Hershey Lodge rooms are being booked daily and Conference Registrations are flying off the shelf.

Don't delay ... Register Today at www.7120DistrictConference.com

District Save The Dates:

Sunday, March 6th—Rush-Henrietta Rotary Pasta Dinner Noon—6pm RH High School

Saturday, March 12th—Geneseo Rotary March Music Madness 7:30—10:30 Riviera Theater

Saturday, April 16—Mt. Morris Rotary Oldies But Goodies Dance 8-12 Genesee River Restaurant

Saturday, April 23— District Training Assembly at Penn Yan Academy 7:30 am—1 pm

Rotary



February PolioPlus Update

Wild Polio Case Counts (as of 22 February 2016)

<u>Country</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Pakistan	306	54	1	17 Jan 16
Afghanistan	28	20	0	20 Dec 15
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	1	

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.





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

