

Avon Rotary News

December 2016



President's Perspective

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,
Here we are in December. It is hard to believe that the Rotary year is half over. Time flies with all the fun we have had so far. We

had a successful Foundation month. I would like to thank the Foundation committee and Kirk for announcements at the meetings and also for helping Rotarians setup their Rotary Direct accounts.

I like the month of December for the atmosphere of Christmas coming. Everyone is smiling and is more pleasant. You can drive around the neighborhood and see all the Christmas displays. You just got to see family at Thanksgiving and you know you will get to see them in a few weeks for Christmas. We have our Christmas party coming up on December 10th at the Avon Commons. That is going to be

another great night of fellowship and fun.

I am very thankful for the Avon Rotary Club. We have accomplished some amazing things in only 6 months. We have added 9 new members to the club this Rotary year. We will be adding 2 more members in a few weeks. This is an amazing feat and every Rotarian should be proud. To me it shows how great a club we are and because of all our hard work we attract people to us. In this time we have also made a very tough transition from our old meeting place to the Avon Commons. Things are definitely coming together and meetings have been going very well.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year. I look forward to the next six months and what we can accomplish in 2017. Enjoy your time with family and safe travels.

Yours in Rotary, President Scott

www.avonrotary.org

Board of Directors

Scott Holmes, President
Tom Vonglis, PE
Heather Ayers, Sr. Director
Dom Lalisce, Director
David Henehan, Member at Lg.
Kirk Vanderbilt, Past Pres.
Shannon DiFranco, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Avon Commons Clubhouse

Avon Rotary Just Grew

On November 15th Avon Rotary inducted 5 new members. Bruce Amey conducted the ceremony while new members and their sponsors stood in front of our large crowd. Special guests, PDG Bill Gormont and DGN Mike Slovak attended and assisted with the pinning.



L-R: Sponsor Marcia Cameron, Janis McMindes, Sponsor Julie Carney, Cathy Kingston, Bob Mellen, Sponsor David Kilgore, Bruce Amey, Sponsor Kirk Vanderbilt, Jeff Herberger, Sponsor Rodney George, Shawn Rice, President Scott Holmes



L-R: DGN Mike Slovak, New Members; Bob Mellen, Janis McMindes, Jeff Herberger, Cathy Kingston, Shawn Rice, PDG Bill Gormont, and President Scott Holmes



A Little About Our New Members



Jeff Herberger

I moved to Avon in the winter of 1996. I am married to Beth and we live on route 39 just south of Fowlerville Road. We have a hobby farm, with a horse, chickens and a dog. Beth is a library aide at the Primary School. She is the 4-H leader for our group of kids and of course she keeps everyone in our house fed, clothed and straight when it comes to schedules. We have four children. Robbie is 16, Jeffrey is 15, Andrew is 13 and Thomas is 11.

I am a Senior Project Manager for LeChase Construction Services and newly appointed Corporate Scheduler. I have been with LeChase for twenty years. For the last twelve years I was mainly traveling to manage projects and start offices. I spent six years in New Jersey and then three in Maryland. My last assignment was managing the construction of a semiconductor plant in Saratoga Springs. As of July I am back in the Rochester Office and not planning on taking any out of town assignments.

I look forward to serving in Rotary and helping the community. I enjoy community projects and being part of the group.

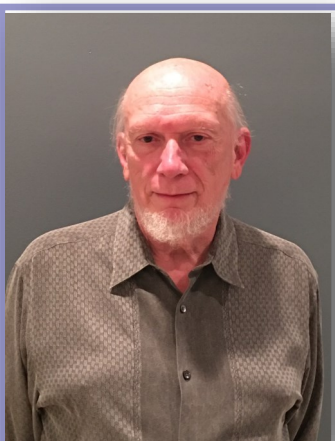


Janis McMindes

I moved to Avon in May 2000 not realizing I had roots here. My paternal grandmother grew up in Avon and attended St. Agnes school. I have come to the conclusion that it was fate that brought me here because a few short months later I met my soul mate, and now my husband, Jeff McMindes.

I have 2 children, KC who lives in Las Vegas and Dennis who lives in Victor. I also have one adorable granddaughter Trynity and another on the way.

I joined Rotary because I wanted to give back to the community I call home. I have been very blessed in my life and would like to help those who may be less fortunate. I am not sure yet how I will contribute as I still have a lot to learn about the different programs Avon Rotary has, but I am confident that I will be able to apply my time and talent in many areas.



Bob Mellen

Born and raised in a small eastern Pennsylvania town much like Avon, I went to Purdue University hoping to become an engineer. It became apparent that wasn't going to happen so I switched to journalism. I met Ruth in my senior year and after we married she began teaching at the University of Alabama, so I continued my graduate studies there.

We decided the deep South wasn't for us so we moved to a vastly different place — Massachusetts — where I began my career as a newspaper journalist in New Bedford and Ruth found a job as a high school teacher.

Over the years I tried to travel a lot, became a fan of the Celtics and Patriots, and developed interests including photography and computing. (I was an early adopter.) A love of Alaskan malamutes led us to join Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England where I produced their news magazine and we adopted several dogs.

After retirement I flirted with the snowbird lifestyle but we decided that Florida was not for us and moved instead to Avon, joining Ruth's sister's family here. Both of us are retired and lack the usual connections to meet people so we decided that volunteering is a great way to integrate into the town and to help our new community as well. Ruth is assisting at the library and food bank and Rotary was an obvious choice for me.

A Little About Our New Members, continued



Cathy Kingston

I was born and raised here in Avon and moved back to the community when my children started school. I am the mother of two girls, that were both active with Interact when they were in school. I am a nurse in a Primary Care Office and love caring for my patients.

I have been an active member of the community by volunteering over 10 years with EAFD and the Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance. I am looking forward to being an active member of Rotary and finding my niche as to where I can succeed.



Shawn Rice

I grew up in York N.Y. where I attended York Central School. After graduation I attended Monroe Community College where I earned my associates degree. Soon after graduating from college I started working at Eastman Kodak Company where I was employed for 9 ½ years. In February 2006 I was accepted into the police academy for the Rochester Police Department where I am still currently employed. While working at Kodak I moved to Avon and have been here ever since. I live with my wife Cari and my son Gavin and daughter Payton who attend Avon Schools.

While living in Avon I have had the opportunity to meet some great people and see how many people in this community want to give back. I also had the opportunity to meet Rotarians in the community and learn what giving back to the community really means. I am honored to now call myself a Rotarian and hope to become more involved in the community and give back in whatever way I can.

Start with Rotary
and good things happen.



Rotary. Humanity in motion.

rotary.org

Congratulations Avon Rotarians!



On November 17th Avon Rotarian Heather Ayers received the RBJ Forty Under 40 Award. Congratulations Heather!



On November 19th Avon Rotarian Colin Bruckel married Amie Carr. Congratulations to the happy couple!

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

- Calvin Coolidge
© quotes.snydle.com



Congratulations to Avon Rotarian Jim Ryan on his recent retirement!

 Find us on Facebook ...

Avon Rotary Club

Rotary—Lions Thanksgiving Meeting



On November 22nd Avon Rotary hosted a special joint dinner meeting with the Avon Lions Club. We had a full house and enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Viggy.

Comradery between Avon's two great service clubs at it's best.



Many thanks to the evenings greeters and the meal we shared. Pictured: Rodney George & Steve Csapo



**Avon Rotary
Holiday Party**

*Saturday, December 10, 2016
6:00 PM ~ Avon Commons*

- *Guests Welcome*
- *Bring a Dish To Pass*
- *Holiday Attire is Encouraged*
- *Beverages Provided*

- *Ugly Sweater Contest*
- *Games (bring your quarters)*
- *Chinese Gift Exchange—optional
(New item \$15-\$20)*

*RSVP by December 7
Laurie—lvonglis@hurritech.com
Or sign up at a club meeting*

**fighting
hunger
together**

**Reminder... Food
Pantry Collections
3rd Tuesday Of The
Month**

**This months list of
needs:**

Canned fruits

Mixed vegetables

Jam

Mayonnaise

Syrup

Tis The Season Of Giving....

Please sign up to ring the bell
& assist the Salvation Army to help
those in need in Livingston County



*Contact Jerry Dougherty
for more information*



Rambling On Rotary



By: Bruce Amey

I have to thank Tim Dickinson and the entire Auction Planning Committee for a very successful auction. It was a busy day but could not have happened without the determination and persistence of Tim and the committee.

November saw our club increase its membership by five new members. Again, welcome to Jeff, Cathy, Janis, Bob and Shawn. And we have two more prospective members in the wings, i.e., Jean and Greg Antcowiak, being sponsored by Shannon DiFranco. New ideas to inspire us; new hands to help lift us, new faces to brighten our gatherings. Avon Rotary is growing!!

By the time this newsletter is published, Rotary's Foundation Month will have passed BUT if you still have not made a contribution, make it your Christmas present to the world. The Rotary Foundation serves all over the world, including our own backyards. Again, our donations came back to us to help build the Community Playground and might help with the community building in the driving park. Joining millions of Rotarians makes lifting the world a bit easier.

In the December Rotarian, I was inspired by the Water Wars article where Rotarian Jim Root helped bring "warring" parties together utilizing a Rotarian mediation template he had "witnessed in England." [Serves as a reminder that when we see learning opportunities sponsored in our locale that we should take advantage of them.] The process described in the article brought together landholders and Na-

tive Americans who both had claims on the water rights. The article made me think of divisions that exist currently in our country and the role we might play as Rotarians and American citizens to bring our country together with a focus on civility and understanding that our founding fathers foresaw.

Also in the current issue of the Rotarian there was a story of 25 year old Rotarian Nicholas Domingo spreads positive messages to children through his alter ego as Captain Encouragement. You might not know this but Avon Primary School has its super hero, as well; he is Bravesman. Avon's Bravesman is supported quite strongly by Avon Rotarian Rob Lupisella. Bravesman encourages Avon Primary School students to treat each other respectfully, to practice good safety habits, and to continue good learning strategies (especially over the summer). Bravesman is Avon's own superhero promoting Rotary's principles to our youngest citizens.

Well, as usual, I have rambled on long enough. As I have said before, there is no lasting success without the contributions of many. I am thankful and proud to be a part of Avon Rotary. I hope you all will have had a wonderful Thanksgiving for, even when we feel down, we all have much to be thankful for. As we enter the holiday season, may we be guided to safe and joyous celebrations with family and friends. Here's to wishing all Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year as friends and Rotarians together.

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Marcia Cameron 2005
- ⇒ Rodney George 2010
- ⇒ Bob House 1987
- ⇒ Dom Lalissee 2014
- ⇒ Terry Lemen 2012
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy 2011
- ⇒ Jim Varner 2014
- ⇒ Julie Welch 2015
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard 1975

December Member Celebrations



Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Bill Wall
- ⇒ Julie Welch
- ⇒ Diana Williams

Birthdays

- ⇒ Jake Ayers
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel
- ⇒ Bob French
- ⇒ Margo Harper
- ⇒ Chris Masten
- ⇒ Shawn Rice
- ⇒ Julie Welch
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard

The PE Journey Has Begun

By: Tom Vonglis

I've started the road to becoming president of the Avon Rotary club. It began on October 15th with a pre-PETS training session in Mt. Morris. We listened to many of the district leaders discuss our upcoming year and all that will be involved. Something very striking is the fact that I'll have the opportunity to set goals for our club with regard to foundation giving, service, and membership. I'm looking forward to all the challenges that come with this position and the opportunity to succeed as a club. Avon has always displayed itself as such a great



caring and giving club and I know we will have a very successful year for 2017/2018.

My next step was a fireside chat with DGE Don Milton on November 16th. This was a small group of people that met with Don and discussed the upcoming year. We were informed about information that is needed by the district and the timeframes in which to turn this in. Don shared his goals for the upcoming year and let us all know that he is here to help in any way possible. With all the support at both the district and local level I'm confident my year as president will go smoothly and be extremely rewarding. Thanks to all of my fellow Rotarians for all your help and support.

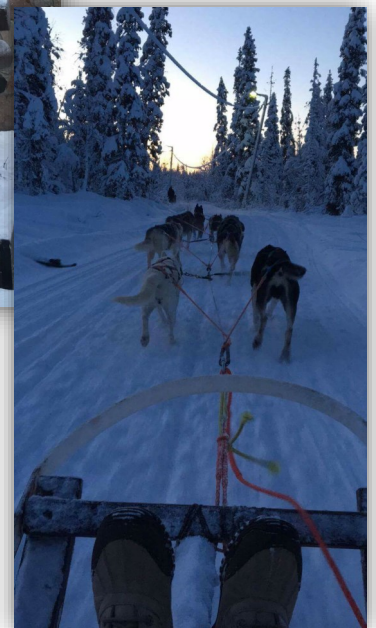
Exchange Corner



By: Terry Lemen

Henry had the opportunity to spend 4 incredible days in Lapland in Northern Finland this November. This is an account of his experiences in his own words.

My weekend started Saturday morning at 3:45 am when I got on a bus full of Rotary exchange student. As you can imagine, even at 4 in the morning exchange students are loud and crazy. This bus took us to the town of Muonio in the Finnish Lapland. Here we took a dog sled ride, a reindeer sleigh ride, went snowshoeing, then visited a reindeer farm and a nature center. The next day we went skiing on a mountain and the views were beyond words. Later this day we had a presentation by a Sami man. The Sami are the original people to Lapland and they have a very interesting and unique culture and language. Then Tuesday morning we went to the border of Sweden and Finland and I got to stand in both countries at once. And finally it was off to Rovaniemi for a visit to Santa's village. Here I got to see a real Finnish Christmas and the real Joulupukki (santa clause). Fun fact: the Finns don't view Santa the same way we do. To them he is just a normal guy whose job is to bring presents to kids. All in all it was an amazing trip full of fun and new experiences.



Happy 100th Anniversary Rotary Foundation!



On November 27th

- ◇ Avon Rotary celebrated the Foundation's anniversary with cake, song, fun & education.
- ◇ Club Foundation Chair Kirk Vanderbilt thanked members who have contributed so far, helping us with our club giving goals.
- ◇ 2016-17 sustaining members stickers were distributed.
- ◇ Exchange student Fernando taught us about polio eradication in Mexico.
- ◇ And just for fun, our members did a "mannequin challenge" Rotary style.
- ◇ All this in an effort to bring awareness of the Foundation to members and achieve squares in the District's Foundation challenge.

December Club Schedule

Tues. Dec. 6	Eastern Cities Dinner, 5 PM Rochester Convention Center
Sat. Dec. 10	Avon Rotary Holiday Party, 6 PM Avon Commons
Tues. Dec. 13	Regular Mtg. Program: PDG Bill Gormont-International Service
Tues. Dec. 13	Board of Directors Mtg. (following regular mtg.)
Tues. Dec. 20	Regular Mtg. Program: Erica Steele's Year Abroad
Tues. Dec. 27	Board of Directors Christmas Party Meeting



*Thank you for your contributions
to help end Polio*



Update as of November 30, 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	18	2 Nov 16
Afghanistan	28	20	12	11 Oct 16
Nigeria	6	0	4	20 Aug 16
Total	359	74	34	

Eastern Cities Dinner



By Shannon DiFranco

What a great night. My first Eastern Cities dinner was filled with great fellowship and special speeches. I was impressed with the number of women at the head table which led into some interesting conversations with others ladies attending the dinner. The old adage of 'you learn something new everyday' is true.

We enjoyed a delicious dinner and live choir which made the night even more enjoyable.

Serendipitous was master of ceremony, PDG Don Alhart's theme for the night. We celebrated anniversaries, lost treasures found again and so much more.

John Germ put into perspective how we as Rotarians can touch peoples lives. He spoke of many things but most importantly the Foundation and all the great things Rotarians can accomplish because of it.

Once again, Avon represented extremely well with 28 people in attendance. Surely this night will be a highlight of this Rotary year.



President Scott with RI President John Germ



ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:

1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians



2016-2017 Avon Rotary Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 10, 2016:	Christmas Party
Tuesday, January 17, 2017:	Membership Event
Tuesday, February 14, 2017:	Sweethearts Dinner
Tuesday, March 14, 2017:	St. Patrick's Dinner
Saturday, April 29, 2017:	Silver Lake Drive-in
Saturday, May 13, 2017	Blue Jean Ball
May 19-21, 2017:	District Conference—Erie PA
Tuesday, May 30, 2017	Quad Cities Golf—Geneseo
June 10-14, 2017	International Conference, Atlanta
Tuesday, June 27, 2017	Change of Officers Dinner—Lima Country Club