

# Avon Rotary News

## January 2017



### President's Perspective

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Dear Fellow Rotarians, Welcome to year 2017! We are half way through our Rotary year together. I hope everyone had a great Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year.

We have a lot to look forward to the next 6 months. Blue Jean Ball is coming up in May. Corn Festival Steering committee will have its first meeting this month. Also this is a great time to start soliciting for the Rotary Auction. January begins a new fiscal year for a lot of companies and now is the time to ask for donations. If you wait their budget for donations can dry up quickly.

The Rotary Calendar starts to pick up these next six months. District Assembly will be in April and District Conference in May. Also the Rotary International Conference is in Atlanta during the month of June. Now is the time to start planning on what events you would like to attend.

These events are beneficial to all Rotari-

ans and I encourage everyone in the club to attend.

January is Vocational Service month. Vocational Service calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society. The great thing about our club is that we have a pretty diverse group of Vocations. Sure we have a lot of lawyers and educators but excluding those we do have a nice spread. Take time this month and think about how your vocation could help our club further serving Humanity. It doesn't have to be an earth shattering idea. Little things can add up to a lot and make a difference in our community and anywhere our Club reaches.

Coming up on the 17th of January is our Club Assembly. I like these meetings for several reasons. The most important reason is that it allows our membership to know what the club is doing in all the different avenues of service.

President Scott

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

[www.avonrotary.org](http://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 Just Grew... Again



Jean Antkowiak

### December 13:

I am Greg Antkowiak and I live in Avon with my wife (and fellow Rotarian) Jean and our children Lena (grade 05) and Nick (grade 07). We moved to Avon almost 20 years ago to be in the middle of our commutes: Jean to Wayland-Cohocton CSD (where she's a school counselor) and me to Greece CSD (where I'm a school psychologist). We are really pleased with our decision to live in the village and raise our family in Avon. The schools are great, the community is great, and the opportunities are wonderful for people of all ages.

Jean and I have always been involved with service and volunteering, but these were scattered across many organizations and efforts. Among all these experiences, the Rotary organization worldwide and locally in Avon stand out as being very impressive. Jean and I intend to become better and more effective global and local citizens through our involvement with Rotary.



Greg Antkowiak



Left: Bruce Amey, conducting new member induction ceremony.  
Right: Sponsor Shannon DiFranco with new members Jean & Greg Antkowiak and President Scott Holmes

## Rotary Youth Exchange—Erica Steele



Erica with a brilliant emotion filled smile as she watched her slideshow at the December 20 Meeting.

The opportunity that Rotary Youth Exchange provides is more than just a trip abroad. When I had initially left for my experience, I wasn't sure what was in store. I just knew that I had stayed in one place for much too long and that I was ready to experience the world and to learn about the different people that exist within it. In many ways I did just that, but I also went beyond that, as did each of the exchange students that I have had the privilege of knowing.

As an exchange student, one is pushed out of their comfort zone and extends their limits in ways they might have once thought unimaginable. We learn to make friends with people whom we don't even share a language with initially. My roommate during introductory weekend with the other exchange students in my district was an Argentinian girl. We initially struggled to communicate, but that was how the truest of friendships had begun. We danced, sang, and explored together as we learned to communicate. By the end of the year, this girl was my best friend in the entire world. There is a certain magic about exchange and the effects it can have on people.

I spent one year as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in Metz, France, which is a city in the northeast just south of Luxembourg and a couple hours west of the German border. Having lived in a small town all my life, life in the city



alone was absolutely fascinating for me. I learned to navigate the bus routes, the trains, and the winding streets of my city. I went to French high school where the school day can last up until 6PM for some students. I had three amazing host families: the Coulombs, the Vignerons, and the Patés to whom I am eternally grateful for having poured so much time and energy into making my exchange year the experience of a lifetime. I traveled all across France and also into Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland. Some of my most amazing memories include taking a hot air balloon ride over my city, riding in a gondola in Venice, bathing in the sunlight and beautiful deep blue waters of the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas, watching the Eiffel Tower light up with it's bright lights twinkling as it turned midnight, snowshoeing at night in the Vosges Mountains, visiting each city's cathedral with their beautiful gothic or Romanesque architecture, passing through the art exhibits in Centre Pompidou, and the countless hours I spent bonding with exchange students during our bus trip around Europe.

I can not thank Rotary enough for this experience. If it wasn't for Rotary's help and support, this experience wouldn't have been nearly as successful for me. Rotary gave me the freedom to grow into myself and helped me to feel prepared and safe throughout it all. I will be forever grateful and proud to have been a part of such a wonderful organization.



Erica & President Scott proudly displaying France & US flags.

# Rotary Literacy at Work!!



By: Dom Lalisce

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 through the Corn Festival, the Auction or the Blue Jean Ball. Being able to make a positive change for our neighbors in need makes it all so worth it!

On Wednesday December 21, our club had the opportunity to be part of a very special day for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Class of School #33. Every year, the Avon and Rush-Henrietta 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. For De-

ember, the selected book was "Stickman" which told the story of a wood stick which gets into many adventures after it gets blown away from its "home tree". After several misfortunes carrying the stick on land, air and sea, Stickman returned safe to its home and family.

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

After the show, the Principal, Doctor Ellison shared how much he appreciated the efforts of Rotary in expanding the access of students to new and exciting books.

The event ended with a promise to renew the event next year!



December 21 Avon Rotary & Rush-Henrietta donated books to Rochester City School #33

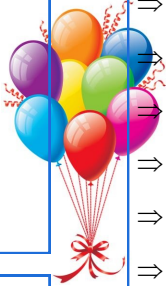
## January Member Celebrations

### Rotary Anniversary

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

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Helen Zamboni



### Birthdays

- ⇒ Greg Antkowiak
- ⇒ Julie Carney
- ⇒ Jerry Dougherty
- ⇒ Charles Feller
- ⇒ James Gaffney
- ⇒ Doug Hayes
- ⇒ Barbara Herman
- ⇒ Bob House
- ⇒ Jason Shetler
- ⇒ Diana Williams

## January Club Schedule

Tues. Jan 3	Reg. Mtg.—Program: Julie Carney, Youth Exchange
Tues. Jan 10	Reg. Mtg.—Program: Hans Koomen, Travel
Tues. Jan 10	Board of Directors Mtg 7:30
Tues. Jan 17	Club Assembly
Tues. Jan 24	Reg. Mtg.— followed by Corn Festival Committee Mtg
Tues. Jan 31	Reg. Mtg.— Program: TBD



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

**This months list of needs:**

**Pancake syrup & mix**

**Peanut butter**

**Jam**

**Apple juice**



It was a very Merry Christmas for those who remember Martina Egli. She surprised her previous host family, the Carney's by showing up on their doorstep for Christmas. Evidently Ed Kime had been in on the plan since the summer. He's a sly one that Ed.

Martina was our exchange student from Switzerland in 2013-14. She attended our December 27 meeting and it was a delight to see her.

## Rambling On Rotary



By: Bruce Amey

Happy New Year 2017!! I found this past year to be somewhat difficult; a negative political campaign was depressing for me. However, now that the election is behind and a new administration will be starting in a few days, I must look forward with hope for our

country and our world. Whatever side you may sit on, as Americans we must all pull together for the good of our country and the world. And that is what Rotary is about, as well.

Rarely will we all agree on every issue. We are all different and we approach issues from different perspectives. But Rotarians have a common purpose and focus as identified in The Four-Way Test and the Rotarian Code of Conduct. We are all entitled to our opinions but we must work through them to be able to work together for the good of our community, our country, and our world.

On January 10, we will be having our fourth induction ceremony for a new member to our club during President Scott's term of office. Mike Ford, sponsored by Josh Tonra, will be officially inducted that evening. Mike's induction will make nine (9) new members during Scott's term ... so far. The more good members who join our club the more good we can do for our community and the world.

In case you missed the article in the December 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Livingston County News*, our own Diana Williams was recognized for serving the Tompkins Bank of Castile for 35 years ... she must have started working there when she was 5. She is currently the assistant vice president of the Avon branch and we are so proud and pleased that she dedicates her time to be a part of our club. Congratulations, Diana!

While reading the January edition of *The Rotarian*, I came across an interesting letter entitled "Faith Restored". The letter was authored by the wife of a Rotarian who attended the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea last year (BTW, as a reminder, this year's RI Convention is in Atlanta, GA June 10-14 ... there is still time to register!!). While attending the RI convention in Seoul, her husband had a medical emergency; he was found to have an "arterial bleed from a burst diverticulum in his small intestine – a rare but serious situation." He required immediate surgery; however the surgeon noted that the Rotarian's blood type (A-) was very rare in that part of the world and they likely would not have the supply they needed for the procedure. Among

the Rotarians attending the convention, they secured 7 pints of blood donations to provide for the safe procedure; what a blessing. As I read the story, however, I was disappointed with the letter's heading of "Faith Restored". I'm not sure what faith the wife of this Rotarian needed to be restored. If we were someplace and the call came for the need, which ones of us wouldn't offer to help, if we were able to? I'm thinking of the procedures Margo has undergone recently, of President Scott's upcoming procedure ... if they required our assistance, wouldn't we be there for them? The story did make me think, however, how would we know who to contact? Wouldn't it be nice to already have a registry of blood types that could be easily referenced to marshal the resources quickly? It might be interesting for our club to start a blood-type registry for reference in the event of specific needs; just a thought. Maybe we could plant a seed for other clubs in our district that could then move beyond that.

I don't need my faith restored in fellow Rotarians. I have seen you step forward to assist our friends but even more impressively those we don't even know when the call for assistance is heard. A reward I have in being an Avon Rotarian is knowing that the friendship and support is always there from you and for you. As we enter 2017, let us continue to commit ourselves to our promise of Service Above (and before) Self. Even with differences, let us continue to work to serve our community, our country, and our world ... TOGETHER.

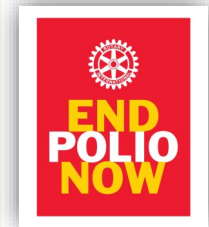
Well, again, I know I have rambled on long enough. Happy January.





In 2016 35 children have been paralyzed due to wild poliovirus, **fewer than in any preceding year**. However, eradication requires reaching zero. Poliovirus survives in a limited number of places, with decreasing genetic diversity; the eradication program continues to intensify its efforts to reach every child.

Update as of December 28, 2016		Wild Polio Case Counts		
Country	2014	2015	2016	Date of last case
Pakistan	306	54	19	2 Nov 16
Afghanistan	28	20	12	11 Oct 16
Nigeria	6	0	4	20 Aug 16
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>35</b>	



**Thank you for your contributions in 2016 to help end Polio**

## Exchange Corner



By: Terry Lemen

Liver casserole, ham, carrot and sweet potato casseroles, traditional music, presents on Christmas Eve rather than Christmas day, these are all customs that Henry was able to experience this holiday season. In Finland Santa Claus also visits the houses and meets the children rather than sneaking in while they are asleep to leave the presents under the tree. The Finns also have a tradition of placing candles on the graves of grandparents in order to honor them at this time. Henry thoroughly enjoyed his Finnish Christmas, enthusiastically extolling all of the fun he had with his host family baking cookies, decorating the tree, exchanging presents while his poor mother was at home pining away... No, actually, although it was strange not having Henry with us for Christmas, I was very happy that he was with a family that truly cared for him and showed him so much love. His



favorite gift from his host family was a Finnish hockey jersey with his name across the back.

Two days after Christmas Henry moved to his new host family. He is now living on a dairy farm about a half an hour bus ride out of town in a family with 10 children, 5 of whom still live at home. This will be quite an adjustment for him as he has really never had to share anything before. I am eager to hear of his experiences and will be sure to share them all with you.





*To the Avon Rotary Board of Directors for the Christmas party on December 27*

AS WE  
LOSE OURSELVES  
IN THE  
*services*  
OF OTHERS  
WE DISCOVER  
*our own lives*  
AND OUR  
OWN  
*happiness*

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

This past holiday season, many volunteers rang the bell for Salvation Army. Over \$16,000 was raised at the Avon Tops location! Many thanks for giving the gift of your time!





## 2016-2017 Avon Rotary Calendar of Events

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

# Rotary



### 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



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# Avon Rotary Club