

# Avon Rotary News

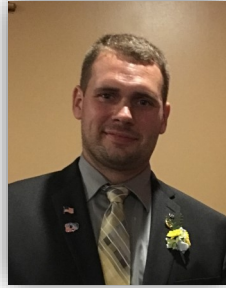
## February 2017



### President's Perspective

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January was a long month but went by quickly. We had our first Corn Festival meeting. We also enjoyed a great program from Hans about his backpacking and hiking adventures overseas and at home. This month, Rotary also celebrates its 111th Anniversary on the 23rd.

February is a short month but we have a lot going on as a club. On Valentine's Day we have a Sweethearts Dinner at the Avon Commons. It is going to be a great event with lots of fellowship. Also the Interact Club will be having their annual bake sale, which I look forward to every year. They always have a lot of excellent cakes, cookies, and other desserts. The proceeds go toward their Exchange Weekend coming up in March. We always look for volunteers to help out at the Exchange Weekend where the Interact Club hosts foreign exchange students from our district

with a Casino Night! Come join in on the fun as either a waiter/waitress or dealer at one of the many card tables.

We also have our 2nd Corn Festival steering committee meeting on February 21st. We had a great turn out at the first meeting of the year where we had some vacancies and new positions open up this year. Our new members stepped up and jumped at the opportunity to participate in these positions. This demonstrates what a strong club we have together. We are blessed to be a club with such active members. I am sure these new members will keep helping us to improve and refine the Corn Festival. I am looking forward to the Corn Festival this year as I do every year and cannot wait to share my enjoyment with our new members.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Regular Meetings this month and enjoying the Sweethearts Dinner on the 14th (feel free to bring your Sweetheart along to enjoy in the fellowship!).

See you all soon!

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



### February Club Schedule



Tues. Feb 7	Reg Mtg—Interact Pres. Sarah Carney runs the mtg
Mon. Feb 13	Board of Directors Mtg 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Feb 14	Special Mtg—Sweethearts Dinner 5:30
Tues. Feb 21	Reg Mtg—Corn Fest Mtg following
Tues. Feb 28	Reg Mtg—Rick Race, Avon Ambulance

## Meet Our Newest Member



**Mike Ford**

Hello fellow Rotarians, new member Michael Ford here. Let me begin by telling you all how honored I am to become a member of such a prestigious club. I haven't had the opportunity to formally meet all of you yet, so let me tell you a little about myself.

I was born April 7, 1980 in Rochester and grew up in nearby Livonia. Upon graduating from Livonia I attended St. Bonaventure University where I majored in History and minored in Biology. After graduating from St. Bonaventure, I enrolled in the Irish and English History Master's program at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

However, I never finished my masters degree because while attending college I worked several restaurant jobs to pay for my education. It was these jobs that guided me to my true passion, the culinary arts. I've worked in restaurants in some form or another ever since. Currently, I work at Minnehan's Restaurant and Fun Center in Lakeville, where I have been their head cook and restaurant manager for the last 10 years.

Attending St. Bonaventure also gave me the greatest gift of my life because it is where I met my wife Richelle. We moved to Avon together in 2004 and married April 8, 2009. Together we have one amazing daughter, Quinn, and two pets, a cat named Reilly and a Border Collie named Bonnie. It was my wife that really planted the community service seed in me with her work as a Girl Scout troop leader and President of the PTA.

Thank you all for welcoming me into your club, and I look forward to serving the Avon community and beyond with you all for many years to come.



### January 10, 2017

Left: Bruce Amey, conducting new member induction ceremony and pinning Mike

Right: Sponsor Josh Tonra with new member Mike Ford and President Scott Holmes





By: Kirk Vanderbilt

As they say with their polio eradication mission, we at Avon Rotary are “*This Close*” to meeting our goal with our

Foundation giving. Avon Rotary has many things of which to be proud, but our effort to support the Rotary Foundation this year is exceptional. I am very proud to report we are over 80% of the way to 100% participation in our Foundation giving goal. But even more impressive, I think, is the fact that we are currently the 5th highest Club in the District in terms of total giving, and 3rd overall in Polio Plus contributions. While of course this is not a contest, we at Avon Rotary can hold our heads high and know that we are doing our part to fulfill the Foundation’s mission—“*Doing Good in the World*”.

There is much to know and learn about the Rotary Foundation. As your Foundation Chairman, I’m only scratching the surface of all the great programs the RF has to offer, and all the other ways we can further support those programs. To that end, I’m encouraging everyone who has the opportunity to attend the Foundation Brunch March 26th, District Training Assembly on April 8th, and/or the District Conference in Erie PA in May. All of these events offer many opportunities to learn more about the RF and also hear first-hand accounts of the RF in action. It can be very inspiring.

So thanks again for your contributions. For those of you that haven’t had a chance to make your donation, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Also, another plug for signing up for Rotary Direct—an automatic monthly, quarterly, or annual payment to the Foundation, so you can ignore me when I start jabbering about it!!!



## OPPORTUNITY AWAITS YOU...

Everyone, especially new members, are encouraged to attend:

### 1. 2017 Rotary Foundation Brunch

March 26, 2017 Noon—3

Ravenwood Golf Club, Lynaugh Rd. Victor

\$30 per person.

### 2. 2017 District Training Assembly (DTA)

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Newark High School 625 Peirson Ave. Newark, NY

Lots of ‘break-out’ sessions to learn more about Rotary.

Check out the District 7120 website for more information

## February Member Celebrations

### Birthdays

- ⇒ Cathy Kingston
- ⇒ Hans Koomen
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Julie Carney
- ⇒ Mark Evans



### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Joe Callahan 1987
- ⇒ Margo Harper 1999
- ⇒ Barb Herman 1999
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki 2007
- ⇒ Bill Shaw 1971



## Congratulations Rotarian Diana Williams



**Diana Williams**

In case you didn't know, Diana Williams was recently honored for **35** years in the banking business. She is Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager at Avon's Tompkins Bank of Castile. Her career began as a part-time teller at the American Express branch in Augsburg, Germany.

When she moved to the U.S., she stayed with the financial service industry and began working for Chase at the East Avon branch, which was purchased by The Bank of Castile in 1994.

Diana and her husband, Richard, live in Livonia. They have three children and four grandchildren. She has been an active member of our club since 2006.

Diana's club resume is an impressive one. She was the Board of Directors secretary multiple years. She has played a key role on our Corn Festival Committee as the corporate chair since she joined the club. For a number of years she has helped coordinate building awards that our club bestows on deserving businesses. Diana helped plan the first Blue Jean Ball last year. She also has assisted the treasurer with duties as needed. I'm sure there is more on this list.

Diana has always been a steady, calm, humble, dependable Rotarian. Her many years of service has helped strengthen this club in many ways.

At this time, Diana is transferring to the Bank of Castile in Retsof. She is planning on seeking community involvement in a fashion yet to be determined, which means her time spent with Avon Rotary may be coming to an end. Anyone that knows her, will miss her. Please join me in wishing Diana well on her new journey. Diana please know that you are welcome back at any time!

Sincerely,

Laurie Vonglis



***Did you know that on May 10th***

***Avon Rotary turns 90?***

***Sounds like we need to plan a celebration...***

***Contact Laurie with your inspiring ideas***



***Reminder... Food Pantry  
Collections 3rd Tuesday Of The  
Month... 2/21***

***This months list of needs:***

Spaghetti sauce

Canned fruit

## Rambling On Rotary



By: Bruce Amey

In February 2017 issue of *The Rotarian*, there was an interesting article entitled "Why We Cheer" by Steve Almond. In the article, Mr. Almond stated that he has "come to see my fandom as a place of refuge, one that distracts me from my anxieties." He goes on

to say, "More broadly, I worry that our global obsession with sports has distracted us from traditional sources of connection – to our families, our civic duties, even our religious devotion." Elsewhere in the article he commented "almost as many Americans watch the Super Bowl as vote in presidential elections" and that the "athletic-industrial complex has become one of the largest most profitable sectors of our economy." [Speaking of the Super Bowl, the sure bet for this year is that the Bills won't win it.]

I got to thinking, how can we as Rotarians create a fandom atmosphere and experience around Rotary? Mr. Almond commented, "Fandom provides us an instant source of social legitimacy, a way of plugging into a shared narrative that is unscripted, thrilling to watch, and most of all, convenient." Our Rotary meetings provide an escape from our daily activities for many of us. What better source of instant social legitimacy than doing good in our community, our country and our world. To provide the financial support to cure polio, to provide financial support and hands to build schools, to provide financial support to provide shelter boxes in areas where natural disasters cause devastation ... what better examples of social legitimacy is there? But how do we get others to rally around these missions? How can we use social networking to inform others of what we are doing so they will become fans of our "sport"? How do we even get all fellow Rotarians (all fellow AVON Rotarians) to become members of the fan-base to cheer on and get involved? [It is still not too late for those members who have not yet contributed to the Rotary Foundation. Go to [myRotary.org](http://myRotary.org), create an account and log in. It is easy!]

Mr. Almond reports that "the fan mindset has profoundly shaped our popular culture. Americans, in particular, have turned virtually everything into a sport: singing, dancing, cooking, even courtship." We need to transform Rotary into a sport. We need to advertise our activities. We need to build our fan-base to increase our fandom. Even if community members choose not to join Rotary, we need them to

cheer us on from the couch by supporting that which we do. At our January 17 meeting, Jake talked about his role as social-media chair and mentioned how we are not "tweeting" yet. I am not a techno-aficionado but it is clear that social media can make anything happen; the recent presidential election has made that clear. We need to build our fan base by inspiring others with what we can and are accomplishing.

Thanks to President Scott for the Club Assembly meeting on Jan 17. It was great to hear the goings on of the group. I appreciate the leadership of our Executive Board and also the chairs of the sub-committees.

Later this month, Avon Rotarians Rob Lupisella, Tom Vonglis and Marcie Williams will be accompanying a team from Linking Hands for Learning for 11 days as they go on a mission to build their 8th school for impoverished children in the community of Taquezal in the region of Salales, Nicaragua. Additional information on LHfL and its projects can be found at [www.linkinghandsforlearning.com](http://www.linkinghandsforlearning.com); donations are also accepted at the site. We wish our fellow Rotarians and the entire team god speed in this Service Above Self endeavor.

As usual, I have rambled on long enough. But we have much to be proud of in our club. Let's celebrate all we are accomplishing together. Let's build our fandom!





## Polio Front and Center at Annual Meeting of Global Public Health Leaders

### WWW News Story

27 January 2017, Geneva, Switzerland – Ministries of health gathering at this week’s Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) reviewed the latest global poliovirus epidemiology and concluded that the world has never had a better chance to complete the job. Amid discussions on Ebola, Zika and pre-elections for the new WHO Director-General, delegates stressed the urgent need to secure a lasting polio-free world, by fully implementing the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Polio Eradication Endgame Strategic Plan.

Endemic polio is now restricted to a handful of areas of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria, all of which are implementing regionally-coordinated emergency plans to reach and vaccinate the remaining pockets of under-immunized children.

Despite more children being reached in these traditional ‘reservoir’ areas for the virus, delegates cautioned that risks remained, as underscored by the detection of polio cases in Borno state of Nigeria, the first in two years anywhere in Africa. Countries are now focusing on making sure there are no surveillance gaps at a subnational level so that virus cannot circulate undetected, while working to increase population immunity levels.

Delegates commended the successful global switch from trivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV) to bivalent OPV in 2016, and emphasized that strong surveillance to detect any type 2 poliovirus from any source is now critical. A global stockpile of monovalent OPV type 2 (mOPV2) remains on hand for potential response as needed. A critical global supply shortage of inactivated polio vaccine


(IPV) continues to pose a risk, but is being managed by prioritizing available supply to high-risk areas and implementing new measures to stretch available supply, notably use of fractional IPV, as recommended by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE).

At the same time, countries expressed appreciation at the ongoing efforts to fully implement global laboratory containment activities. They also encouraged plans to transition the infrastructure of the GPEI for the long-term, to ensure the assets and infrastructure established to eradicate polio will continue to benefit broader public health efforts even after the disease is gone. At the World Health Assembly in May, the GPEI will present a strategic roadmap towards polio transition and the development of a post-certification strategy.

With all technical and programmatic building blocks in place to achieve success, ministries urged all stakeholders to ensure that the necessary financial resources to fully implement the Endgame Plan are rapidly mobilized.

Closing the discussion, partners from civil society addressed the ministries through Rotary International with a clear call to action: “We must protect hard won gains by sustaining immunity levels and careful monitoring of virus transmission. An additional US\$1.3 billion is needed through 2019 to reach more than 400 million children in up to 60 countries and to ensure high quality surveillance. The eradication of polio will be a monumental achievement by a global partnership. Such achievements exemplify what we can do when united for a common purpose. Together we can end polio and forever build a better future for all children.”



Update as of February 1, 2017			Wild Polio Case Counts	
Country	2015	2016	2017	Date of last case
Pakistan	54	20	0	21 Dec 16
Afghanistan	20	13	0	15 Dec 16
Nigeria	0	4	0	20 Aug 16
<b>Total</b>	74	37	<b>0</b>	



## Blue Jean Ball 2017



By: Jake Ayers

Though it's hard to believe, we are closing in on the 2nd Annual Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball May 13th. The committee had our kick off meeting last week and preparations have already begun. We are looking forward to another successful event this year with live music, dinner, dancing, games and raffles! We have had many members ask what they can do to help. Here's what you can do;

- ⇒ Know of a business or individual that would like to sponsor our event—let us know.
- ⇒ Team up with a few other Rotarians to create a great raffle item.
- ⇒ BUY TICKETS and come to the event!!

As we work hard to prepare a successful fundraiser we will keep you updated on our progress. Coming soon will be our raffle item wish list, work schedules for the event and where to purchase tickets. Thanks again to the club for all the support!



## Exchange Corner



By: Terry Lemen

Here is the latest news from Finland! Henry's stay is actually over halfway done. Whereas I am eagerly counting down the days, he feels quite the opposite.

Hi this is Henry again. Now I live in a new family right in the center of town. It's a short walk to the shops and to see my friends. It's a family of five and I make 6. My host mom works at the bank and my host dad is a business man. My host siblings are 11, 9, and 4. I very much enjoy being here. I've been spending a lot more time with friends and exploring my town. Next week I have Wanhojen Tanssit, basically the Finnish prom. I hope you all look forward to seeing some great pictures of my handsome face all dressed up with my Finnish friends! Kiitos ja hei hei!



## 17-18 Rotary International Theme Announced



### ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rotary International President-elect Ian H.S. Riseley made the case on Monday that protecting the environment and curbing climate change are essential to Rotary's goal of sustainable service.

Riseley, a member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia, unveiled the 2017-18 presidential theme, Rotary: Making a Difference, to incoming district governors at Rotary's International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Environmental degradation is one of the major threats listed by the UN's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change. Riseley added, "The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as not Rotary's concern. It is, and must be, everyone's concern." The president-elect challenged every Rotary club to make a difference by planting a tree for each of its members between the start of the Rotary year on 1 July and Earth Day on 22 April 2018. Trees remove carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the air, which slows global warming. "It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 mil-

lion new trees will bring," Riseley said. "I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognizes our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."

In his address to the 2017-18 class of district governors, Riseley also urged clubs to improve their gender balance and lower the average age of their members. Only 22 percent of Rotary's members are women, up from 13 percent 10 years ago. At that rate, Riseley said, it will take another three decades for Rotary to achieve gender parity. "Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now," he said. Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said they are the type of women we need in Rotary, "leaders who will help Rotary connect with, and represent, and better serve, all of the members of all our communities." Riseley also believes it is imperative that clubs find ways to attract and engage younger members. Today only 5 percent of reported members are under 40, and a majority of members are over 60, Riseley told the audience. "Consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don't get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members," Riseley said. Clubs will make a difference this year through their own decisions, said Riseley, but it will take teamwork on a global scale to move Rotary forward and secure its future. "We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone," he told incoming governors. "I ask you to keep that spirit of teamwork and cooperation always in your minds and to take it back with you to your districts."

By Ryan Hyland- Rotary Weekly

## Four Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOOD WILL**  
and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?





## 2017 Rotary District 7120 Conference



**WHEN:** Friday May 19, 2017 1:00 p.m. to Sunday May 21, 2017 1:00 pm

**WHERE:** Ambassador Center 7794 Peach St. Erie, Pa. 16509

**REGISTER** online to attend the conference—\$175 through 3/31

**HOTEL:** \$149/night

For reservations at the Courtyard by Marriott, call 814-860-8300

For reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn, call 814-866-1390

**ACTIVITIES:** Auction, Golf, Breakout Sessions, Casino Night, Picnic, Lunch Cruise, Bike Tour



May 2016 Hershey PA  
Avon represented quite well at the District Conference with 25 Rotarians & Guests.  
Can we top that this year?





***Avon Rotary Sweethearts Dinner***

**Please join us at the Avon Commons  
& bring your Sweetheart**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
5:30 Cocktail Hour ~ 6:30 Buffet Dinner**

**Catered by: Partyman Catering  
\$20 per person**

**Herb Crusted Chicken, Baked Potato Bar,  
Vegetable Medley, Rolls, Salad  
Ice Cream Sundae Bar  
Open Bar**

**Interact Dessert Auction at 8:00**

**RSVP: Sign up by 2/7,  
Email [lvonglis@hurritech.com](mailto:lvonglis@hurritech.com) or  
Call 739-1042**

**2016-2017 Avon Rotary Calendar of Events**

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

