

Avon Rotary News

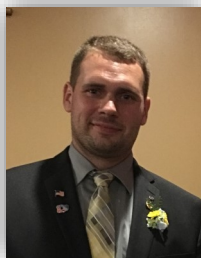
March 2017



President's Perspective

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Dear Fellow Rotarians,
 What a February we've had. We had really nice weather and some excellent programs. I want to thank Tom Vonglis, our President Elect. He stepped in for me while I was away for surgery and recovery.

We had an action packed February. We had many programs throughout the month. Our Interact group ran the meeting on the 7th. I heard it was a great meeting and Sarah Carney did an excellent job. Janet Tenriero from Canandaigua came to one of our meetings. She shared with us the District Conference location and everything that Erie, PA has to offer. It sounds like it will be a great time. Also Rick Race, the Chief of Operations from the Rotary-Lions Ambulance, gave us an update. Under his leadership we have been able to offer more services and stabilize operating costs. I want to thank every person on the Avon Ambulance Board. This is a great service for our community that Rotary and Lions help support.

We also had our Sweetheart's Dinner on

Valentine's Day. This was a great event and I want to thank Terry, Shannon, Laurie & Tom for organizing the event. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the meal was delicious. The Interact club was there selling desserts as their fundraiser. They sold many cakes and other treats. They raised \$650 that evening. These funds go toward the exchange weekend which is March 31st through April 2nd.

March is Literacy Month. Our club is very active in the support of Literacy. We participate in supplying books for School 33 in the City of Rochester. We also supply Dictionaries to our 3rd Graders in Avon Central and St. Agnes. Dom Lalissee has done an excellent job stepping in and taking over the clubs literacy projects. Previously Dan Jones was championed our Literacy program and Dom transitioned seamlessly. I am very thankful that he stepped into this role.

March is going to be busy as well. We have more great programs scheduled. I am especially looking forward to our St. Patrick's Day dinner/meeting on Tuesday the 14th. Corn Beef and Cabbage is one of my favorite meals. I look forward to seeing everyone throughout March.

President Scott

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

www.avonrotary.org

Board of Directors

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



March Club Schedule



Tues. March 7	Reg. Mtg. Program: Blue Jean Ball
Tues. March 14	St. Patrick's Dinner/Meeting Followed by Board of Directors Mtg
Tues. March 21	Reg. Mtg. Program: Fernando on Mexico Followed by Corn Fest Committee Mtg
Tues. March 28	Reg. Mtg. Program: Mary Reed from Gilda's Club Followed by Blue Jean Ball Committee Mtg

Blue Jean Ball 2017



The 2nd Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball is now 2 months away. The committee is hard at work getting all of the details together to make this years event more successful than last year. For those that weren't at the meeting last week, we announced that one of the benefiting charities this year

would be the **Avon Rotary Lions Ambulance**. We are excited to give funds to such an essential organization in our community.

This week myself and Julie Welch will be doing a short program regarding what members can do to assist us in our fundraising efforts and what you can do to assist during the event. For those that won't be able to make it next week here is a quick summation of the help we need.

1. We will be passing around a "wish list" for items we need to complete our raffle baskets. Julie has put together a comprehensive list of items that are needed. We are asking that every member assist with providing at least one item for our baskets. We are also looking for large raffle items that members can team up to purchase. Again, please refer to this list of items. We will be passing this around every week during meetings. Please do your part and get your name on the list.

2. Solicitation of corporate sponsors/donations. Do you have a business that you work for, have a connection, or know of

someone that would like to sponsor our event? This will be one avenue that will allow us to make more money this year. We do have quite a few expenses (catering, band) that need to be covered and this will help us cover these costs and give more money to our charities. I will have sponsorship letters with me on Tuesday, let me know if you need one to give a perspective donor.

3. The night of the event we will have many tasks that we will need help with. Please sign up and lend a hand. Most jobs are only for a short time during the night, and as most would tell you from last year, they are FUN! We will be passing the list around for the next few weeks at our meetings.

4. Buy your tickets! Again we will only have 200 tickets available so spread the word and direct people to our website to purchase www.avonrotarybluejeanball.com Tickets will also be available at the Avondale.

Again, the committee thanks you in advance for your help in making this years event successful. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to myself or any of the committee members.

Jake Ayers



**Blue Jean Ball Co-Chairs:
Jake Ayers & Laurie Vonglis**

Avon Century Barn

May 13th, 2017 5:00—11:00 PM



See You There



January 31, 2017

Esso non meglio cucina italiana a Avon Rotary. Mangia.

P R O G R A M M S



February 7, 2017

Sarah Carney, President of the Interact Club was in charge and ran the Avon Rotary meeting. She and other Interactors gave the program explaining what Interact is up to. These future leaders did a great job.

Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance



By: Helen Zamboni

On February 28, Rick Race, Chief Paramedic and Director of Operations at Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service, Inc., gave a program to the club. Rick gave an overview of ARLAS' operations. In 2016, ARLAS covered

all of its primary calls, and missed only a few second and third calls due to ambulance maintenance or the fact that ARLAS has two, not three, ambulances. The average response time on calls in the Town of Avon in 2016 was 9 minutes. This is the best in Livingston County. ARLAS is able to do this because there is at least a paramedic on duty around the clock, and because EMTs are actually at the base on Lake Road during their shifts, even the volunteers. This means they can get an ambulance on the road right away, instead of first having to drive from their homes to the base.

When Rick started with ARLAS, morale was low and it was difficult to get volunteers. Now, many calls are staffed by volunteer EMTs, which has helped ARLAS' financials significantly. ARLAS is able now to cover its operating expenses but medical equipment, such as power

gurneys and defibrillators, are very expensive (almost \$20,000 each). ARLAS is planning to replace the fly car in less than five years, and will need to replace its older ambulance "Big Blue" in less than ten years. The organization has ongoing discussions with the Village and Town about how those two government bodies could provide assistance when the time comes. Members of the Village Board of Trustees and Town Board are invited to ARLAS board of directors meetings as observers and receive copies of meeting minutes once they have been approved.

ARLAS was founded by Avon Rotary and Avon Lions, and our own Ted Coyne has been instrumental since its inception. The two service clubs are the "members" of ARLAS and as such, each appoint three members of the board of directors. The Rotary representatives are Ted Coyne, Jim Ryan and Helen Zamboni (Vice President and Secretary). The Lions representatives are Dave Calabro, Jim Carney and Kevin Patrick. There are three community members of the board as well, Janis Cole (President), Howard Forsythe (Treasurer) and Tom O'May.



Reflecting on Sweethearts



Heather & Jake Ayers

February 14: As always, our annual tradition of hosting a sweethearts dinner for Valentine's Day did not disappoint. We had an excellent meal with dinner catered by Party Man Catering and an-over-the-top sundae bar set up by our own Shannon DiFranco and Terry Lemen. Although, it was hard to save room for dessert after the Interact club's dessert auction. The auction was spirited and the kids were able to raise \$650 from their wonderful creations. We also had a great evening of entertainment with a quiz on famous couples from past and present, and, the highlight of the night, our own version of the Newlywed Game. The Tonra's, Kilgore's and Varner's (who are all not so newlywed) were all brave enough to compete for top prize, which ultimately the Varner's came away with a perfect score and the win. Overall, the evening filled our hearts with joy from sharing and creating memories with friends old and new.

Heather Ayers



Ed Kime

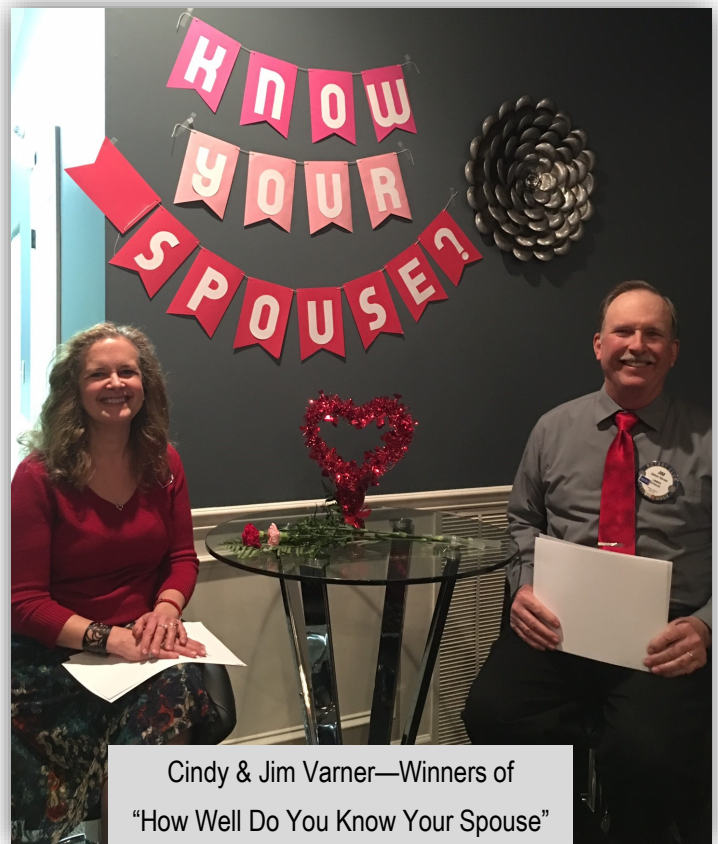
Thank you for attending and supporting the Avon Interact Club.



DGE Don Milton & Ruth



DG Tom Rogers



Cindy & Jim Varner—Winners of "How Well Do You Know Your Spouse"

Rambling On Rotary



By: Bruce Amey

So here is March. It has come in like a lamb which suggests it might leave like a lion?

Well how about us ... lambs or lions? I suppose it depends on the issue or the cause.

In the March issue of *The Rotarian*, there was a message entitled "Your gift transforms

lives" from Rotary Foundation Chair Kalyan Banerjee. He indicated that March has been designated Water and Sanitation Month, which aligned very nicely with the efforts of several Rotary clubs who are working to clean Lake Erie for its drinking water ... the cover story of the March issue. As you read the article, clearly these clubs are ferocious in their zeal to help fix the problem. In the "Watershed Moment" article regarding Lake Erie, there were several comments that exemplify what I have learned about Rotary and Rotarians.

"Rotary solves problems." "What we do really well is collaborate. And we attack problems that other people can't or won't. We bring a nonpolitical, nonpartisan environment, where the only agenda is to do the right thing." [emphasis added] "That's what Rotary does – we bring everyone together for a common cause, and we try to find a solution that works for everybody." "What may be Rotarians most crucial role: advocacy." "When Rotarians walk into a Rotary meeting, we set aside our personal [and political] differences and unite under the ideal of Service Above Self." If you have ever had a doubt what it means to be a Rotarian and what is expected of each of us as Rotarians, I found many of those statements to hit home. Again, as a reminder, if you have not done so already, please give to the Foundation. It does tremendous work around our country and around the world. Water and Sanitation are not just problems elsewhere ... they are in our own backyard. Our club needs to approach our Foundation giving like lions. Lions live in prides; I would be very proud if our club was a 100% club every year. If you have not made a commitment with a pledge of any amount to the Foundation, as yet, please do so today!

We had a wonderful Valentine Celebration on the 14th that concluded with our annual Interact dessert auction. Dave Coyne served as our auctioneer and Ed did a great job of bidding up the prices. DG Tom Rogers even joined in the fun, along with DGE Don Milton (acronym DGE = District Governor Elect). Big thanks to the dinner organizers and

decorators. Now I would deem that gathering more lamb-like than lion-like, while no one appeared too sheepish during the evening.

In February we also roared into planning for the Corn Fest. Past chairperson and President-Elect Tom Vonglis got things rolling in January while February's meeting, led by this year's chairperson Rodney George covered a lot of status. It is amazing how much coordination and collaboration is already underway regarding publicity, lining up food, entertainment and craft vendors, and, of course, making sure the corn will be ready. Rumor has it there may be some sampling of some corn dog tasting trials this Spring at the Kelly Cole mansion to see if he wants to add them to the Corn Booth menu. We are approaching this endeavor with lion-like skill; it just might take lion-like fortitude to stomach Kelly's corn dog attempts.

We have a St. Patrick's celebration planned for our March 14th meeting. And, our Blue Jean Ball is fast approaching. Be sure to mark your calendars for May 13. Jake assures me it will be a bit warmer than last year. We will need to make sure every member sells tickets to the event along with helping, as needed, behind the scenes. Even though the planning for the night takes lions, the evening with its entertainment, dining and dancing can be for lambs ... although you may need your woolies.

Lions or lambs? As long as we march together through March (and the entire year) we will continue to accomplish great things for our community and the world. We have much to be proud of in our club. Let's celebrate all we are accomplishing together. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

Avon
Rotary




The Rotary Foundation

Doing Good In The World



Avon Rotary is doing good in the world! For the 2016-2017 Rotary year our club set a goal to contribute \$1500 to PolioPlus. We have far exceeded that goal thanks to your generosity. To date we have contributed \$3566 to the Foundation PolioPlus fund. As of March 1 the club's total giving to the

Foundation which includes the Annual Fund is \$10,300. I'm not aware of the complete history of our giving but this must be a record year. Avon Rotary is very fortunate with strong fund raisers allowing strong support to the Foundation. In addition, we have committed members who are very generous with their gifts.

There are four months left in this Rotary year. There is still time to make your contribution to PolioPlus. Join others in making history as we get closer to eradication.

Sincerely,

Laurie Vonglis

District 7120 Foundation Polio Chair

DG Tom Rogers announces PDG Carl Chinery as this year's President Representative at the 2017 District Conference.

"PDG Carl's resume includes serving District 6040 as Governor in 2002-2003, delegate to the 2010 Council on Legislation, a Major Paul Harris Donor as well as being a polio survivor himself. Carl's message to us will be personal and moving."



Update as of March 1 2017			Wild Polio Case Counts	
<u>Country</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Pakistan	54	20	1	28 Jan 17
Afghanistan	20	13	2	21 Jan 17
Nigeria	0	4	0	20 Aug 16
Total	74	37	3	

Youth Exchange Weekend: March 30—April 2



By: Ed Kime

Our annual youth exchange weekend is fast approaching. The District inbound students arrive in Avon, Thursday March 30th at the Village Hall from 5—7 pm. Host families will pick up their student at that time. Friday morning they go to Avon Central to check in and then off to

R.I.T from 8:30—2:30. Their day there is full of many activities. Friday night they are invited to a glow dance at the high school from 8—10:30 pm. Saturday at noon they will meet at the high school and then off to bowling in Honeoye Falls until 3 pm. Casino night begins at 7 pm and all Rotarians are invited to visit and lend a hand. The evening ends at 11 pm. Sunday there is a pancake breakfast from 9—10:30 am at the Village Hall. Again all Rotarians are invited to join, mingle and visit with the 20 exchange students from around the district.

It's a busy itinerary and a great time for the kids to bond and have fun together. It's usually one of their highlights of the year. Many thanks to the 15 Avon host families. We couldn't do it without them. Also a huge thanks to Cathy Jo Murphy who organized the majority of the weekend behind the scenes. Ernie Wiard has volunteered to cook breakfast once again and his service above self is duly noted.

This weekend is made possible by the Avon Rotary Interact Club who fundraises for the event throughout the year. These students spend time together throughout the weekend with the inbound students, making lifelong friendships. Our future Rotarians, leaders, making connections around the world.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important weekend for the kids.



To Build A School

In February, I had the opportunity to return to Nicaragua for my second school build with Linking Hands for Learning and Enlace. I have always wanted to visit and learn about other cultures and wanted my boys to have the same opportunity. So, two years ago my husband; Dave, my two sons; Jackson and Carson, and I all went to help build a school in the mountain community of piedra de agua. In just a matter of days I felt such a connection to the people that I could not imagine never seeing them again. We had such a celebration when the school was finished and the people were so appreciative of the work we had done together. There was no doubt that I would return.

So this year, no matter what, I was going back. This time, my colleague from work joined me on the trip. I told her it is hard work, but the most rewarding work you will ever do. That certainly proved to be true. We experienced no running water, outhouses, large insects, dusty road trips in the back of a pick-up, and some extreme heat. However, it is all part of the experience. There is no better feeling than working together to build a school for these appreciative, happy, and welcoming people. Despite the language barrier



er there is a kind of kindred spirit amongst everyone. We are all there for the children and to provide their community with a safe place for their children to be educated.

It sounds cliché to say, "it is a trip that changes your life," but for me it is true. My husband and I in the past two years have down-sized and continue to do so, we have had two people live with us; one from Nicaragua and a student from Mexico, we are learning the language, and are planning for more trips in the future. If you have thought at all about a trip of a lifetime, please consider joining us on the next school build. You will not be disappointed!

Marcie Williams-Altemus

March Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ Ted Coyne
- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Ed Kime
- ⇒ Dick Stanton
- ⇒ Paul Warren
- ⇒ Wayne Wrriner



Rotary Anniversary

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

**Avon
Rotary**



Serving the community since 1927

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... 3/21**

This months list of needs:

**pancake syrup, spaghetti sauce and
macaroni and cheese**

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

2017 Rotary District 7120 Conference - Erie, PA



Join the fun and be part of the District celebration

<http://www.districtconference.org>

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

2016-2017 Avon Rotary Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 14, 2017:

St. Patrick's Dinner/Meeting

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



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Avon Rotary Club