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President's Message



We are ever so close to spring time. The month of March brought us more snow and cold weather but now as we move into April we can look forward to the blossoming of flowers and the trees to begin to take on their summer look. March was also another great month for

Avon Rotary. We have all been working very hard on our committees for the BJB, DTA, and Corn Festival. I couldn't be more appreciative for all the hard work and dedication that each of you have put into these efforts. The District Training Assembly is right around the corner and we are going to need all the help we can get from our members. The committee chairs will be reaching out to fill slots where they need help as we approach the 14th of April. It is also very important that each of us register for the assembly. Go to the following site to register: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50098/sitepage/district-training-assembly>

For those of us that were able to attend the Barilla tour we are very fortunate as Carmine and his crew did such a great job showing us the plant and all that goes on there. I have seen this plant in operation for many years now and yet I am still so impressed at the operation each time I tour it. We owe a big thanks to Barilla and all those who helped set up this tour. It was a great experience and one we won't soon forget.

As everyone knows I have accepted the position of Assistant Governor starting in July 2019. With the new position I had the opportunity to attend the PETS training in Syracuse with Heather. This turned out to be a very good learning experience that will help me when the time comes for our AG

Dan Cole to turn the reins over to me. PETS also provided a good time to meet with incoming presidents and talk to many of the District leaders. The spirit of Rotary and all the good going on in our district and around the world shines through as so many like-minded people join for this week-end of training. I know that our future in Avon Rotary is bright as we look forward to Heather as our President and all the energy she will bring to this position.

Lastly, I'd like to give a huge thanks to Ed and Shannon for all their hard work and effort for a successful Exchange weekend. I know these two had many other helpers and we are truly grateful for all their efforts as well. Ed and Shannon however led this weekend and made it a special time for all the students that attended. On Saturday night we enjoyed the casino event that included many Rotarians that helped make this a fun time for everyone attending. Breakfast Sunday morning was delicious thanks to Ernie and his crew of assistants. Avon Rotary once again shines through as we host all exchange students from District 7120 and welcome them into our community and our homes. I'm especially thankful and excited to have Veerle now living with Laurie and I. She is such a wonderful young lady and I'm really looking forward to getting to know her better over the coming months.

As I write this, we are two days away from our trip to Nicaragua and all the hard work we will do on the school build in El Papalon. I look forward to sharing our stories upon our return.

Enjoy the sunshine that spring has brought us.

Yours In Service, President Tom



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Board of Directors

Tom Vonglis, President
Heather Ayers, President Elect
Dom Lalisce, Senior Director
Terry Lemen, Director
Bill Wall, Member at Large
Scott Holmes, Past President
Laurie Vonglis, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer

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



April Club Schedule

Tues. April 3	Reg. Mtg. followed by Corn Fest Mtg.
Tues. April 10	Reg. Mtg. followed by DTA Mtg.
Sat. April 14	District Training Assembly @ ACS
Sun. April 15	Tree Planting @ Ayers Acres 10:30 am
Mon. April 16	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. April 17	Reg. Mtg.
Tues. April 30	Reg. Mtg. followed by BJB Mtg

April Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ **Bruce Burritt**
- ⇒ **Mark Evans**
- ⇒ **Mike Ford**
- ⇒ **Bob Hayes**
- ⇒ **Scott Holmes**
- ⇒ **CA Krenzer**

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Bruce Burritt 1995**
- ⇒ **Aaron Johnson 2016**
- ⇒ **Sue O'Hearn 2007**
- ⇒ **James Tompsett 1979**
- ⇒ **Bill Wall 2000**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Bruce Burritt**
- ⇒ **Mike Ford**



April Meeting Set-Up

#1

#2

- Tues. April 3: Jean & Greg Antkowiak
- Tues. April 10: Karl Sawicki & Tim Dickinson
- Tues. April 17: Katie DeGraff & Karl Sawicki
- Tues. April 24: Hans Koomen & Karl Sawicki



Rambling On Rotary— April



By: Bruce Amey

Rotary International President Ian Riseley started his year challenging 1.2 million Rotarians to plant at least one tree each. As he stated in his letter in the April issue of *The Rotarian*, "It is my hope that by planting trees, Rotarians will renew their interest in, and attention to, an issue that we must put back on the Rotary agenda: the state of our planet." Early in his term, our President Tom pledged that he would like to see Avon Rotary meet this challenge. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 15 (the day after we host the District Training Assembly) for this project to take place at Ayers Acres when we will be planting approximately 120 trees. That will yield, on average, two trees per Avon Rotarian. It is hard to argue with a mission that will improve the quality of life on our earth. This is what we do as Rotarians every day.

I tend to look for metaphorical meaning in many things. Diane has told me I am a sap for looking for hidden meanings; I just figure I can always branch out. That being said, I believe there is another meaning to consider with the challenge to plant trees. Author Joyce Meyer said, "Consider a tree for a moment. As beautiful as trees are to look at, we don't see what goes on underground - as they grow roots. Trees must develop deep roots in order to grow strong and produce their beauty. But we don't see the roots. We just see and enjoy the beauty. In much the same way, what goes on inside of us is like the roots of a tree." What goes on in Rota-

ry and Avon Rotarians is like the roots of the tree. We have grown deep in our beliefs to serve others before and above serving ourselves.

Consider our accomplishments this past year. We have several Avon Rotarians leaving in the next few days to serve a community in Nicaragua. We have Avon Rotarians supporting special needs children by helping sponsor the area Special Olympics. Avon Rotarians are finalizing plans to host a district-wide event while planning for our 3rd annual Blue Jean Ball. Look at our roots where our club has grown stronger and expanded our branches and our shade far and wide over our 90 years of service to the Avon community and our world. Our roots grow deep. However, there are many times that our community does not see or recognize how deep our roots are in this community while they enjoy the view of our foliage as we contribute to many well-intentioned projects.

Some of us have a lot of bark while we serve our community; but something none of us can do is to leaf it alone when we see the need. Oftentimes, our activities are the seeds from which great oaks are grown. Abraham Lincoln said, "Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." Avon Rotarians ... we are the real thing. We are the spirit of Service Above Self. It is time to show our roots while we let others enjoy the beauty of the forests we have created. The character of Rotary is in each of us and we are ,, the real thing! Don't forget our tree planting project on April 15 at Ayers Acres. Branch out; don't be a sap! And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



March 23: Had a very nice visit with Past President Scott today. He is in good spirits and on the mend. Keep those positive thoughts and prayers going his way. We all wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to having him back to our meetings. ~ Tom



PETS Training—March 17, 2018



There's something to be said for being in a room full of people who are preparing for the same experience that you are about to embark on yourself. I had that benefit this month through attending this year's Multi-District President Elect Training Seminar (referred to as PETS). Going into it, I knew that I would meet new people, gain new ideas and insights, and hopefully be inspired. I can say that I was able to come away with some wonderful new Rotary friends, new ideas and a lot of inspiration not only to enhance our member experience and club engagement but to further our club's community impact.

leadership, taking action and the tools and resources to help our clubs run smoothly. The breakout sessions dove further into these topics with a focus on: membership, the foundation, people of action, and public relations. These sessions not only provided great content from the speakers, but also a way for PE's to engage with and learn from each other.

I can say that after my weekend at PETS, I have never been more excited to jump into my role as club President. We are already doing so many great things and I look forward to continuing the work that Tom, all of the past Presidents and every member of our fine club has already done.

Sincerely,
President Elect Heather

The 2 day training consisted of general sessions that had amazing speakers talking about important topics such as



BE THE INSPIRATION

2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of 3/20/18

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	5	19 Feb 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	0	15 Nov 17
Total	37	22	5	



How close will we get to zero this year?

Funding is as important as ever so consider making a donation to the PolioPlus fund and the Gates Foundation will match 2:1.

The children of the world thank you!

Barilla Tour—March 20, 2018



By: Katie DeGraff

It's not everyday you get to have a customized tour of Avon's little Italy! But that's exactly what Lima and Avon Rotary got when Barilla agreed to have us for the afternoon. Walking in felt like something out of Willy Wonka! It was so sterile and white going

through the entry doors. It was clear, through the introduction, quality control is of the utmost importance. There were ear plugs and jackets along with hair and beard nets that we were all required to wear. Very comforting-given this is the pasta my family buys every week! A quick detour from the other group and we found out how the veggie pasta was made (my family's personal favorite) through a purée that's added with the flour, which is a unique process compared to other brands.

Once we entered the production floor, you could feel the heat and see tiny spirals shooting out of steel funnels, being cut, rapidly and so precise. It was mesmerizing. Every part of the process is meticulously measured through computers and robotics. I looked around for employees, wondering where everyone was, but besides from our tour guides, there were only a few; checking computers and handling quality control. It was eye opening how much is done through technology.

Weaving in and out of machines, every part of my OCD was thriving. The bins and buckets and lines of spaghetti, it was all so neat, so perfect.

As we were being shown each and every step, you could feel how proud the Barilla staff is of their product. I couldn't believe the lack of waste! When I asked, they explained, if something hadn't touched the floor, it was back to the beginning phase of production-grounded back into flour and apart of another batch. They even provide feed for area farms. They are always innovating and looking to keep their production and quality about 90%. After packaging it's immediately moved to their warehouse where it's shipped out.

Finishing the tour, it was fascinating to see how from start to finish-it all comes together. The flour from the railway to the milling and creating, packaging to freight. All of it done right here! Everything seemed to align perfectly for this company to come to our wonderful community and add just a bit more culture and quite of few jobs. And I even learned our wonderful President Tom had a big hand in making sure they chose us! It was a great afternoon to spend with my fellow Rotarians.



Interact Exchange Weekend—March 22-25

My favorite weekend of the year is now just a memory. Avon's Rotary Interact weekend came to a close Sunday during the pancake breakfast, and I am devastated it was my last. This year I hosted three Rotary exchange students, Yuka and Nichika from Japan, and Melody from Taiwan. Not to mention my friend Toko, here with AFS from Japan, and my close friends Ally and Kya. You could say my house was pretty packed. This weekend is always the best, we start off with a field trip to R.I.T on Friday



and have the glow dance later that night. Saturday is my favorite day because I love bowling and winning big from playing blackjack at Casino Night! From sophomore year to senior year Interact weekend was the highlight of my year! I loved meeting people from all over the world, and now I am so happy to say that I have new friends in Japan and Taiwan! Overall I am incredibly thankful for being a part of my school's Rotary Interact Club, it changed my life!

-Molly Carrick, Interact

Molly summed the weekend up well. It is always nice to have a successful weekend and see the kids have a great time especially when you put so much work into this long weekend. In talking with some of the exchange kids about their experience in the U.S. and the activities over this past weekend, you realize many things. You realize how lucky and fortunate you are living in the states. You realize how lucky you are to make new friends from all over the world and get a glimpse of their culture. We are glad we can, even for a small period of time, let these kids make international ties and see a bigger picture outside of this small community. We are grateful for every person that helped make this a successful weekend, thank you.

-Shannon DiFranco & Ed Kime



Loving Life!



Hi Avon Rotary, I've been already here for seven months, and it is flying by. I don't even want to think about it, that I will fly back the second of August. Of course I want to see my family and friends, but at the same time I don't want to leave all my friends and family here (and all over the world). But I don't have time to think about it, and

I want to get everything out of myself and this amazing year. March was crazy busy, but very fun month!

The big highlight of the month was definitely the Sound Of Music production. I had so much fun doing this during the last months, and production weekend was absolutely amazing. I made so many friends here and I miss it a lot. We had senior night the first show, we went to Denny's after the second, and bowling on Sunday. I saw also the theatre show in Livonia (Spamalot) with my theatre friends, which was really fun! Now I have started with tennis, which is also pretty fun. I spent my 200th day in the States with my best exchange friends. St Patricks day was spent with my host family (Vanderbilt's) and friends of them at the parade in Rochester, and I moved in with my new host family, Laurie and Tom!

I made all the truffles as my fundraiser for my trip at the end of the year with Julie. It took a lot of time, but we had fun and we had a very good playlist to jam with. The

other big highlight was the Avon exchange weekend. Friday to RIT college was super fun and the sun was finally shining! We had a yummy lunch and we went to a rooftop of one of the buildings! Saturday I stayed home to study for my college applications back home, and at night we had casino night! That was so much fun! I dressed up with my exchange friends and two friends from school, and it was just a great night! (thanks Rotary!!) Sunday we had breakfast all together, and then I helped Tassia with some Dutch, because she's going to the Netherlands next year. To end the month I leave for Nicaragua in two days! Thank you for everything Rotary! Love ,Veerle



Avon Seniors in the Sound of Music



Avon Interact & Exchange Students at Casino Night



Veerle & Friends Celebrating 200th Day in US.

It's not a year in a life, it's a life in a year



By: Sarah Carney

They always say, "Home is where the heart is." But what if my heart is in more than one place? My heart is in two different countries, two different lives. Half of my heart is back in my home country, with my family, my friends, and everything I had before. The other half of my heart is here in my new country, my new home, with my new families, new friends, and everything I have now. A part of me wants to be back home, back in my normal life. The thing is, my "normal life" isn't so...normal anymore. Just like my heart is in two different places, I also have a "normal life" in two different places. I also have my life here in my new country that I consider to be "normal." Even though a part of me wants to be home, an even bigger part of me isn't ready to leave this new normal.

I recently read an article that said, "You build a life in 10 months and then leave it forever." I believe it's more of "You build a life in 10 months and a part of you will stay in that life forever." I can't imagine leaving my exchange behind and never coming back. Someone told me that your exchange starts the moment your year ends, and that you take the things you've learned into your life after exchange. I didn't just make new friends and family in one country, I

now have friends and family all over the world, and that is something I will have with me forever.

Before I left, I wondered how I'd go a year without the people I've had in my life forever. Now, as I am in the last months of my exchange, I am wondering how I've lived my whole life without these people I've known for a year. On exchange you just have to trust these people. Your new families you've only talked to a few times over Facebook messenger? Trust that they'll take care of you, they won't let you starve! And hopefully they treat you like one of their own. Your classmates at school? You have to trust that they'll help guide you through the school year and show you the ropes. They can't do all the work though, take initiative and talk to them first, they're probably just as scared to talk to you as you are to talk to them. Soon, these people who were once complete strangers will turn into friends, and eventually they will feel like family. The thought of having to say goodbye to all these people who I now consider family is the worst part about my exchange. The good thing is, I know I'm not saying goodbye forever, it's more of a "I'll see you later." I now know I have people and memories to come back to, and that is something I am extremely grateful for.

Thank you Avon Rotary!!



03/26/2018

Avon Rotary
Mr. Jake Ayers



Dear Mr. Ayers,

We recently received your generous donation of 9 dress pants, 6 sports jackets, 16 suits, 4 boxes of dress shirts, dress shoes, 20 backpacks with office and personal care items. We want to thank you on behalf of our dedicated staff and the thousands of veterans who walk through our doors each year.

Our mission has always been to provide veterans with the breadth of services needed to regain their mental, physical and economic health, reconnect with themselves and society, and resume productive lives as civilians after their service. The Center's work began in 1973 to answer the needs of returning Vietnam veterans, and today- 40 years later- the need for our services is still strong, both among these same veterans as well as the newer generations of veterans that have come home since then, and we stand ready to serve the veterans of tomorrow.

We continue to believe that the Rochester region is the very best place for our 68,000 veterans to come home to because of the warm welcome they receive from neighbors like you. It is your dedication and support that makes our success, and that of our veterans, possible.

Again, we thank you. We appreciate your willingness to help us succeed and hope you'll stop in to visit our Center and see the difference your gift is making.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Stradley
Executive Director

PS- Did you know that you can donate your old vehicle to VOC? It's easy! Learn more here:

[//veteransoutreachcenter.org/ways-help/get-involved/](http://veteransoutreachcenter.org/ways-help/get-involved/)



In-Meeting Service Project Tuesday May 22
2:00—7:00 pm Sign up today



American Red Cross

Contact the Sunshine Liaison Agent

to report any members or extended family that may need a card or some cheer.

Barbara Herman: 226-6735 or barbara1901@twc.com



**Avon
Rotary**



Blue Jean Ball

Saturday, June 2, 2018 @ 5:00—11:00 PM

The Home of Julie & Dan Welch
3956 Caledonia-Avon Rd. Caledonia NY 14423

Tickets \$40 Per Person
Music by Showcase Sound
BBQ Feast by Partyman Catering
Beer & Wine Included!
Games, Prizes, 50/50 Raffle & Auction

~ Our Charities ~

Avon Central School Stone's Community Resources
Chances & Changes
Gilda's Club of Rochester

Purchase Tickets Online at
avonrotarybluejeanball.com



[Avonrotarybluejeanball](https://www.facebook.com/Avonrotarybluejeanball)

Kickin' It Up For Hands That Help



Help Plant A Tree

Sunday, April 15th 10:30am

Ayers Acres on Hogmire Road

Lunch provided



Save The Date

2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Sunday, April 8, 2018	Foundation Brunch—12-3, Ventosa Vineyard, Geneva
Friday, May 4– May 6, 2018	District Conference—Saratoga, NY
Tuesday, May 29, 2018	Quad Cities Golf—Mt. Morris
Saturday, June 2, 2018	Blue Jean Ball—Welch’s Barn, 6:00—11:00
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	Change of Officers—Avon Inn, 5:30
Sun.-Wed., June 24-27, 2018	International Convention, Toronto, Canada

We're Racing to Saratoga Springs!

Saratoga 2018
Rotary
District 7120

*Taking place on "Derby Weekend"—
the 144th running of
the Kentucky Derby*

Rotary 7120
District Conference
May 4-6, 2018
Saratoga Hilton
Saratoga Springs, NY

Hosted by
Penfield Rotary Club

**ROTARY:
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DIFFERENCE**

*Avon Food Pantry Collections
are the 3rd Tuesday Of The Month*

*Supplies Needed in April: pancake mix and syrup,
sugar free items, coffee, tea and jam/jelly*

Thank you!

APRIL IS

**MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH
MONTH**

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver"
Mahatma Gandhi

Rotary

www.rotary.org