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President's Message



Another month has come and gone and once again Avon Rotary has been more active than ever. We started this month with our support of the Nicaragua School built in El Papalon. Not only were we able to donate \$2500.00 to help with the construction but we also had Avon Rotarians volunteer to help with the school build. It was especially rewarding to see our Rotary Exchange student, Veerle Beckers working hard and making a difference on this trip.

Once again for me this was a great trip, as the community of El Papalon joined us to help with this project. It's so special to see the children engage with everyone and in turn the volunteers embrace each and every one of these wonderful kids. My other special memories of this trip will be having my sister Diane join us. She traveled from California to experience this part of the world and see how the people of Nicaragua live. Having grown up on a farm,

this hard work was nothing new to Diane and she quickly jumped in and accomplished any task that was asked of her. I'm so happy we got to do this together. We also had the opportunity for a project while we were in Nicaragua. With the extra money raised by Jake and Heather we were able to fill pack packs for all the kids at the school with supplies that will help them as they begin to use their new facility. It was cool to have three clubs represent assist with this project. Avon, Cal-Mum and Honeoye Falls Mendon Rotary clubs took part in this project along with other volunteers that were on the trip. It was especially nice to see the faces of the children as Jake and Heather handed these backpacks to them on our last day. Many thanks to Rob and Jeanine Lupisella and "Linking Hands for Learning" for all the hard work they put in to making this a great experience for all the people that volunteered. Their dedication to this mission of building schools continues to amaze me and I am truly grateful to be part of this group.

So we returned from Nicaragua and jumped right into the District Training Assembly that Saturday. I can't begin to give enough thanks to our club for all the hard work that



**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

President's Message continued...

was put into the event. Avon Rotary really came through in a big way. Special thanks to Tim Dickinson for taking the lead while I was away and for all the great work he did with the registration. Along with all the committee chair people and other volunteers my hats off for a great job. At the DTA we had so much information at each of the breakout sessions. I know there were Avon Rotarians leading the charge on some of these as well. We continue to be engaged and people of action and it is something for all of us to be proud of. I'll once again say THANK YOU to all of you that helped make the DTA a huge success.

I know April also brought along the roadside cleanup. With Bill Wall unable to attend it didn't stop us at all. Bruce Amey jumped in and led the charge to get the job done along with other volunteers. I want to thank Bruce and all those that attended to continue our work in keeping the section of Route 39 that we are responsible for neat and clean.

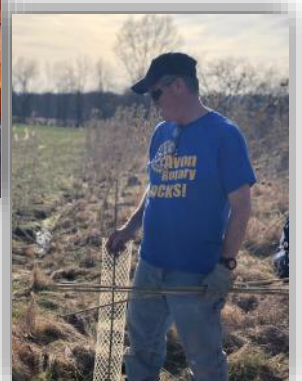
I'll close with the thought that the Rotary Year is closing fast. We are off to District Conference in early May and that always means a step closer to the new year. We are such an active Rotary club, our committees for BJB and Corn Festival are hard at work. I'm impressed at the decisions that each of these committees make and the amount of time and effort put into each decision. We can all be proud to know that all of them are looking out for the best interest of our club and how it will impact the great work that Avon Rotary is doing. Thank you for all you do for our club.

I'm looking forward to another great month in May and hoping for spring weather and sunshine.



We had the opportunity this month to fulfill the goal set by Rotary International President Ian Riseley, plant one tree per each Rotarian. Thanks to Jake for purchasing over 120 trees and letting us participate in this project to plant them on his property. With the work done we can count 2 trees per Avon Rotarian. It was a fun Monday night project and I want to thank all those who attended to help accomplish this goal for our club.

Yours In Rotary Service,
President Tom



May Club Schedule

Tues. May 1	Special Event 7 pm—Veerle Beckers, Make A Wish
May 4—6	District Conference in Saragota
Tues. May 8	Regular Mtg & Corn Festival Committee Mtg
Sat. May 12	Strategic Planning Mtg 9 am @ Hurricane
Mon. May 14	Board of Directors Mtg 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. May 15	Regular Mtg
Tues. May 22	Special Mtg: Blood Drive & Blue Jean Ball Mtg
Tues. May 29	Quad Cities Golf & Dinner

May Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ **Jean Antkowiak**
- ⇒ **Marcia Cameron**
- ⇒ **Tim Dickinson**
- ⇒ **Leann Hill**
- ⇒ **Rob Lupisella**
- ⇒ **Cathy Jo Murphy**
- ⇒ **Sue O'Hearn**
- ⇒ **Jerry Passarell**

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Greg Deragon 2015**
- ⇒ **Bob Hayes 2005**
- ⇒ **Greg Johnson 2009**
- ⇒ **David Kilgore 2013**
- ⇒ **Ed Kime 2010**
- ⇒ **CA Krenzer 2013**
- ⇒ **Jeff Passarell 2015**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Marcia Cameron**
- ⇒ **Kelly Cole**
- ⇒ **Steve Csapo**
- ⇒ **Charles Feller**
- ⇒ **Doug Hayes**
- ⇒ **Greg Johnson**
- ⇒ **Jeff Passarell**

May Meeting Set-Up

	#1	#2
Tues. May 8:	Terry Lemen, Doug Hayes	
Tues. May 15:	Laurie Vongis, Kirk Vanderbilt	
Tues. May 22:	Tom Vonglis, Karl Sawicki	



No matter
what people tell you,
words and ideas
can
change the world.

~ Robin Williams *

Rambling On Rotary— May



By: Bruce Amey

When you care for a 2½ year old, as Art Linkletter used to say, “Kids say the darndest things.” Well as you know, my grandson Johnathan is about 2½ and he lives with us. I should also say that our two children Ben and Madison are both Star Wars/Superheroes fans. Madison even has a Batman night light for Johnathan casting the “batlight” on his ceiling. Ben and Krisi (his wife) gave Johnathan Star Wars sheets this past Christmas. Johnathan has a Star Wars alphabet book and a book with Darth Vader reading bedtime stories to Luke and Leia. I think you get the picture.

The other day Johnathan asked me to do something and I said, “I’ll try.” His comeback in his best Yoda was, “There is no try. Only do or do not.” Well I acquiesced ... and I did. Reflecting on Rotary, that is what we do, isn’t it. We do! On April 14th, Avon Rotary hosted the District 7120 Training Assembly. Whereas I was out of town, everyone said it ran very smoothly and guests thought the sessions and coordination were excellent. As a club, with everyone’s help and participation, we were doing.

At our April 17th meeting, we heard celebrations from Laurie, President Tom, President-elect Heather, Jake, Hans, Rob, and foreign exchange student Veerle about how they “did” in Nicaragua with the Linking Hands For Learning build a school project. As we have heard in the past as others have returned from this experience, “doing” this project almost does more for those doing than it does for the community.

Over three days from April 21-23, we had numerous club members (along with some spouses) join in serving our community by picking up roadside garbage and serving our earth by planting 120 trees. We were “doing”.

Per the Board of Directors meeting Minutes from March, our club is supporting a local ACS education STEAM initiative. “As school districts across New York State devote resources to the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), they are motivated not only by an understanding that these efforts will help prepare students for a changing economy, but also by the opportunities they can provide for teaching and learning.

STEAM education engages students in an integrative approach across curricula and grade levels.” I am very proud for what we are doing as a club to support the education for our community’s children.

Club members are in the final planning stages for our June 2nd Blue Jean Ball with funds raised to support Stone’s Community Resources (providing ACS students in need with backpacks filled with food, school supplies, and an emergency clothing closet), Chances and Changes (Offering people a CHANCE to escape the traumas of abuse, to heal the emotional and physical bruises, to live in an environment of comfort and protection, and to take the first step in making a CHANGE for a better, safer, happier life), and Gilda’s Club Rochester (which is a place where people who have been impacted by cancer can find support, friendship and important resources in our community). Avon Rotary is doing!

April has been a very busy month for our club. As we gather each week for fellowship, it is inspiring to share all the things we are doing and to plan for future service projects to undertake. I know there are many times when I find myself saying I will try to do something, but, as Johnathan reminded me, for Rotary, “there is only DO!” Thank you to all Rotarians for all you DO. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



There Is Only Do!

From Nicaragua to North Carolina



Hey Avon Rotary!

So I guess everyone heard already a lot about the trip to Nicaragua, but I will still write an article about it, because it was an amazing experience and a big part of the month. When we arrived in Managua, I met Enrique, "our angel". We went to a resort close to the airport for the first night, and it was very nice (we still had air-conditioning). The morning after we drove for three hours in a van to El Sauce. We stopped in front of a volcano, to take some pictures and at that point I fell in love with Nicaragua. Beautiful people and the country was beautiful. It was very hot, I think I said everyday I couldn't sweat more, but really, then the next day was worse. :)

We worked very hard at the school, but all the translators and volunteers + school community helped, so it was tons of fun. During lunch break or between work some soccer games with the school children and everyone all in this together, shoveling, sanding bricks, carrying bricks and big buckets full with stones and sand. It was pretty hard, and I'm pretty muscled now, and I think I never drank so much water. The rides in the back of the pick-up trucks were so funny, all standing holding on to the rails and each other trying to not fall, and warnings all over to avoid the branches and trees. "Brancheeeeees!!!!", is by far the most

said word during the whole trip.

The goodbye was sad, because there was such a good spirit and all the En Lace people became good friends. Everybody is truly happy, loving and singing songs. But off we went to the island Ometepe for the last relaxing weekend. We stepped on a real Mama Mia boat (someone brought a real chicken) and I burned for the first time, because all week I was covered in leggings, short sleeves, a bandana and a hat. The lake looked like a beach and it was gorgeous. We went for a hike up to a waterfall, saw some monkeys, (and we beat Hans and Trish!). I got up for sunrise which was awesome and just relaxed on the beach.

Then I was home sweet home for a short two weeks, and now I'm in the airplane, coming back from North Carolina. I met Ashley Vonglis, my sister from another miss and mister. It was a lot of fun, we went shopping and to the beach. I just love the beach. We ate a lot of good food and I had the best pancakes ever, I think I never ate so much pancakes.

Conclusion: amazing month and time's flying...



Veerle & Heather meeting children in Ocotal, Nicaragua



Veerle & Ashley enjoying some beach time in Wilmington, North Carolina

2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of May 1

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	7	3 March 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	1	8 March 18
Total	37	22	8	



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!



*Avon Food Pantry Collections
are the 3rd Tuesday Of The Month
Supplies Needed in May:*

**Pasta sauce, peanut butter, tuna,
crackers, pancake mix and syrup**

Thank you!



TICKETS ON SALE

It's Time! Purchase your tickets for our 3rd annual Blue Jean Ball on Saturday, June 2nd. This year's event will benefit Avon Central School Stone's Community Resource Closet, Chances & Changes and Gilda's Club of Rochester. Your support and that of family,

friends and area community members are encouraged. We've planned some new fun, music, menu and games. You'll love our new location and enjoy the beautiful barn and grounds at the Welch Homestead. Another new change—ticket price includes soda, beer and wine from 6-10 pm. Tick-

ets are available online at

www.avonrotarybluejeanball.com or purchase at the Avondale or from Avon Rotarian, Terry Lemen. The cost is \$40 per person for a full evening of entertainment. So dust off those cowboy boots and hats then join us for a memorable evening.



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 @ 6:00—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 6—10 PM
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



Save The Date

2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

Saturday, June 2, 2018

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Sun.-Wed., June 24-27, 2018

Quad Cities Golf—Mt. Morris

Blue Jean Ball—Welch's Barn, 6:00—11:00

Change of Officers—Avon Inn, 5:30

International Convention, Toronto, Canada