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President's Message



It is so hard to believe that this Rotary Year is coming to a close. This being my last formal article as president I would like to first say thank you to all Avon Rotarians for helping to make this year such a great success. It has

been a truly great experience for me to lead our club and accomplish so much. It is a great feeling when you hear from others that Avon Rotary is a model club with all we do.

This past month has once again been very busy with our district conference which was well attended by Avon Rotarians and spouses. Saratoga proved to be a wonderful place to hold the conference and I know that everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves and came away with a greater "Rotary spirit". We can all look forward now to next year's conference which will be held in the Poconos at the "Kalahari Resorts Poconos". This location should be fun for all as there is an indoor water park and many things for families to do.

While we were away at the conference our team of volunteers helped to make the Special Olympic event a huge success at Avon Central School. My thanks to Greg Antkowiak for spearheading this and all the volunteers who helped him that day.

Our exchange student Veerle, showed us what can be done by our youth as she arranged the Make a Wish fundraiser that so many of enjoyed at the Avon Commons. She is a fine example of a young person who acts in a way that we as Rotarians can very much relate to. "Service above Self" came shining through as Veerle raised \$2600.00 that will help someone who is hoping to see their wish come true. We are so proud of you Veerle for all you did to make this event happen and for the success you achieved. Thank you!

While the Blue Jean Ball did not actually occur in May I have the chance to write this article just a day after it happened. Our committee once again did such a great job at putting on this event. Avon Rotary is so grateful for the generosity of Dan & Julie Welch for the use of their renovated and beautiful facility. A great big thank you to Jake and Laurie, committee chairs and the entire committee for all the work done to make this event a success. It was great to hear from our three chosen charities that will benefit from this event and how the monies raised will help them with important mission. Once again, my hats off to all the people who helped and supported this event.



**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

So as I wrap up my year and look forward to the changeover dinner it is a great feeling knowing that our club is on a path of success and able to continue doing good near and far. Avon Rotary really came through with the theme for the year in "Making a Difference". The leadership of our club is strong and I know the future is bright. This didn't happen overnight but rather by the past leaders and those who will lead in the future. I look forward to a wonderful 2018-2019 under Heather's leadership and ask that you support her in the same way you did for me.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done.

"Avon Rotary Rocks"

Pres, Tom



Veerle's Make A Wish

May 1, 2018

Our very special exchange student from the Netherlands, Veerle Beckers had a wish. Her wish was to be an exchange student and come to the United States. While here, she has accomplished many things, made many friends and made many memories. A definite highlight was her Make A Wish event she organized independently, inviting area musicians and vocalists to perform. Rotarians and community members were invited and made donations at the door. Local clubs made contributions including \$1000 from Avon Rotary, \$500 from Avon Interact and \$100 from Avon Lions. In total, Veerle's event raised \$2600 for the Western NY Make A Wish Foundation. Rotarian Jean Antkowiak spoke from the heart when she described her family's experience with the program and her daughters wish year's ago. Veerle's desire to make a child's wish come true was high on her priority list as a way of giving back for her experience here. All in attendance surely enjoyed the entertainment and great job she did putting it all together. Special thanks to Shannon DiFranco for her guidance along the way.

Laurie Vonglis



MAKE A WISH
Western New York

Special Olympics Lunch

May 5, 2018

Avon Rotary hosted lunch this past Saturday for the 2018 regional Special Olympics athletes and coaches. We welcomed over 275 athletes and coaches to a lunch break in the elementary school with music, refreshments, and fellowship shared by all.

Rotarians are a hard working bunch. The cafeteria was festive with decorations and Blondie music (provided on repeated loop by Kelly Cole). We only lost 1 balloon: Sorry we couldn't find a ladder tall enough to retrieve it from the ceiling, Rob...

Also, there was a troubling moment when Kelly Cole was scratching his head at the apple station. Rest assured I had a talk with him about hygiene and for the rest of the day he did wear latex gloves. President Tom, I'll leave you to establish the fine for this infraction.

Greg Antkowiak



District 7120 Conference in Saratoga



May 4—6, 2018

Saratoga was the place to be for this year's district conference. A great city to visit, especially if you're a horse fan. We enjoyed derby fun on derby weekend including some fancy fascinators adorned by most of the women. Avon had an impressive showing with 19 representatives and it's safe to say that we all enjoyed our time together.

The venue, entertainment, speakers and meals were all top notch but for me, the time together with club and district members is priceless. It's always a weekend with learning opportunities and a chance to 'refuel' our Rotary spirit.

Our club was acknowledged for:

- ◆ 1st place in Division 1 for our bulletin
- ◆ Certificate for our literacy projects
- ◆ Awarded a District Simplified Grant
- ◆ Club attendance

There was a special acknowledgement for Veerle for her volunteer work this year and Mark A Wish fundraiser. She is a shining example of what an exchange student should be.

Save the date for next year's conference: May 3—5, 2019 at Kalahari Resort, Mt. Pocono PA.

Laurie Vonglis



Strategic Planning Committee

May 12, 2018

Incoming President Heather Ayers put a committee together to work on a strategic plan for our club. This work was done based on the club health check survey completed earlier this year, taken by 50 of our members. District leaders, Bill Gormont and Scott MacDonald facilitated the 6 hour session. We had a very productive planning session with more work ahead of us. I'm sure Heather will be sharing more information on this as the new year begins.

Laurie Vonglis



American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE May 22, 2018

Many thanks to Karl Sawicki for organizing a very successful blood drive for the American Red Cross. Many club members signed up and donated that afternoon as well as a few community members. In total we gave about 27 pints of blood and we had 20 volunteers.

We look forward to doing this again in the future!

Laurie Vonglis



Our Foundation Season



As we round third base and head home for this Rotary year, we should all be meeting at home plate to celebrate together. It's hard to imagine a better season than we've had as a club this year, and if you'll allow me one more baseball analogy, I would say AVON ROTARY HAS WON THE PENNANT! This has

truly been a remarkable year of service for our club and there are many things for which we should be proud. I could go on and start a list of service projects, both hands-on and financial support, but from my perspective, one accomplishment stands out - and that is our collective effort towards supporting the Rotary Foundation. As you've heard me say all year, it is the Foundation that allows Rotary to be the most influential NGO on the planet. And I am proud to report that as a club, we had 100% participation in supporting the Foundation this year. I am so proud of our club, knowing that all the amazing projects and initiatives of the Rotary Foundation have ALL of our fingerprints on them. Numbers? You want numbers?? I got numbers.

How about 227?? That is our percentage of President Tom's goal for Foundation giving. How about 260?? that is

our Club's per capita contribution in US dollars. How about 5?? that's the number of Clubs in the district that had higher per capita totals than Avon. How about 2?? That is the number of Paul Harris Society Members we have (\$1000 per year)

You get the idea, Avon Rotary has done our part to ensure that Rotary is truly Making A Difference and THANK YOU for your participation and not getting too annoyed with me.

Congratulations to President Tom on a great year all-around and congratulations to all of you, because you ARE AVON ROTARY, and AVON ROTARY ROCKS



Quad Cities

May 29th, 2018

Avon had 18 members attend dinner and 5 golf teams play that afternoon. Coming in 1st place was Rodney's team, with Jim Ryan, Tom Vonglis and Kelly Cole. Close 2nd was Laurie's team, with Kirk Vanderbilt, Katie DeGraff and Chris Masten. It was a gorgeous day and no matter what the score, everyone seemed to have fun chasing the little white ball.

Dinner and fellowship with Mt. Morris, Caledonia and Geneseo clubs was very nice which included reports from club presidents that provided summary's of the year.

Another fun Rotary occasion!

Laurie Vonglis



June Club Schedule



Sat. June 2	Blue Jean Ball 6 pm at Welch's Barn
Tues. June 5	Club Assembly & Corn Fest Mtg
Mon. June 11	Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. June 12	Scout Celebration 6:00 @ Scout House
Tues. June 19	Change of Officers Dinner 5:30 pm @ Avon Inn
June 24-27	Rotary International Convention in Toronto
Tues. June 26	Hoyt Mason Memorial Service (no meeting) 6:00

June Member Celebrations



Birthdays

- ⇒ **Bruce Amey**
- ⇒ **Kelly Cole**
- ⇒ **Dave Henehan**
- ⇒ **Dom Lalisce**
- ⇒ **Jim Ryan**
- ⇒ **Jim Tompsett**

Rotary Anniversary

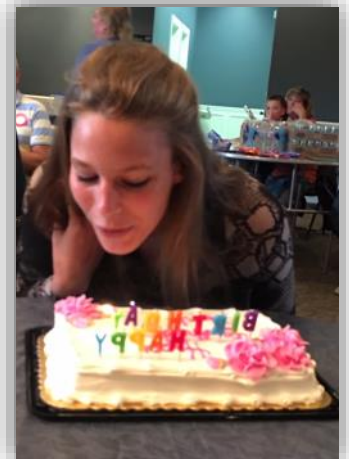
- ⇒ **Colin Bruckel 2014**
- ⇒ **Steve Csapo 2010**
- ⇒ **Shannon DiFranco 2014**
- ⇒ **Doug Hayes 2012**
- ⇒ **Rob Lupisella 2012**
- ⇒ **Laurie Vonglis 2004**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Greg Deragon**
- ⇒ **Bob Hayes**
- ⇒ **Karl Sawicki**
- ⇒ **Steve Stephenson**
- ⇒ **Jim Tompsett**



*Happy 18th Birthday
Veerle*



Rambling On Rotary— June



By: Bruce Amey

Hard to believe that June is here. We will have the longest day of the year with the summer solstice on June 21, which means the daylight hours start to get less from that point until December 21. In my immediate family, June holds 6 birthdays and one anniversary. For 41 years, June also had me looking to a last day of classes, graduation ceremonies and the start of summer vacations. In our Rotary family, June means the start of a transition with our Change of Officers Dinner. But this year, for me, June presents the exciting opportunity to attend the Rotary International Convention in Toronto from June 23 – 27.

I have never attended an International Convention. I have enjoyed the several District 7120 Conferences I have attended because it is always interesting to hear what other clubs are doing and exchanging ideas with them. District 7120 has just under 2300 members. My head is exploding thinking worldwide there are 1.2 MILLION Rotarians and that the International Convention has that potential attendance. Our Rotary District has 2 tenths of a percent of the International membership; that means that the other 99.8% of Rotarians in the world live outside our Rotary district and that could be the multiplier of attendees at the International Convention.

I am looking forward to the opportunities to interact with Rotarians from all around the world but I am also nervous as to how will I be able to interact; to converse with them. May 20th was the observance of Pentecost in the Christian Church. During the first celebration of Pentecost as described in the Book of Acts, Jews from all around the world

gathered in Jerusalem for a festival. But what was amazing to those attending was that each understood what other Jews were saying yet they were foreigners speaking in their own native languages. Is attending an International Rotary Convention going to be like that for me? Will I somehow be able to understand what Rotarians from so many different countries have to share?

The June edition of The Rotarian has many examples of various projects Rotarians are undertaking around the world. Will I be able to meet some of these folks? Again, I am having trouble grasping the enormity of potential the International Convention has for me. Toronto is a fantastic international location that already has a blend of cultures and languages. Whereas I have visited Toronto on many occasions, the volume of tourists gathering for this conference adding to the bustle already there is daunting. So for me, this June holds a lot of excitement with anticipation, trepidation with encouragement, interaction hopefully leading to more action on my part. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this convention in “our own backyard” and looking forward to learning more about Rotary and broadening my Rotary vision. But, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Thank you to the Livingston County Board of Supervisors for recognizing the Youth Exchange Students who are living and attending school in Livingston County. The students represent the countries of France, Taiwan, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Australia and Japan. They are sponsored by different programs which include Rotary, AFS and Exchange Australia. They are amazing Ambassadors that help build world peace one student at a time!
Julie Carney 5/23/18



“The bad news is; time flies. The good news is; you’re the pilot. “



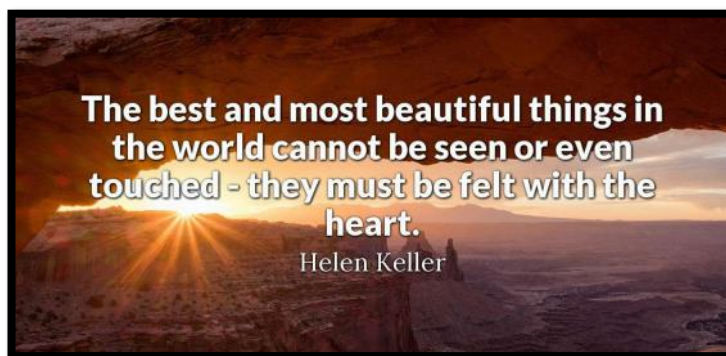
By, Veerle Beckers

May was again a super busy month. It is usually my favorite month of the year, because everything looks pretty (yay spring!), weather gets warmer, people are happier, + it is my birthday month! A few of the big things of my exchange year happened, including prom and the district conference. Time flies when you’re having fun.

So the month started off with the Make a Wish fundraiser, which went really well, and raised about 2600 dollar. Then the following weekend, we had the Rotary event of the year: the district conference in Saratoga Springs. We had a flag ceremony with the exchange students, two formal big dinners, a service project (painting picnic tables in the sun :)), doing a rope course, and just walking around in the cute little town. It was kind of our own little rotary prom weekend. But then I also had the real American high school prom, which was so much fun! I had my absolute dream dress, boho bride, anti-prom, pretty boho flower hair and ready to go. The barn was gorgeous, the people were gorgeous, and the night was great.

Then I went twice to the lilac festival, which was sooo pretty. I felt like a happy little kid. Surrounded by lilacs and tu-

lips, good food and good vibes. I tried fried oreos, frozen cheesecake dipped in chocolate and rainbow sprinkles (yummmm), a garbage cup, and some greek food. It was super good weather, and just so pretty and so much fun. With Natalie I visited the House of Guitars in Rochester. It was super cool. Big artists and bands like the Beatles and John Lennon have been there, and it was just so big and cool. May 25th was my birthday (18!) and we had a super fun picnic at Vitale Park. The rest of the long weekend I spent in the Adirondacks, with my two best exchange friends, while we did horseback riding, boat rides and spending time in the sun. It was an amazing birthday weekend which I will never forget.



In Loving Memory of Hoyt Mason



*Tuesday, June 26th
Central Presbyterian Church, Avon
Masonic Service at 5:30 pm
Memorial Service at 6:00 pm
Followed by heavy horsdourves at the church
Everyone is welcome!*



April Update



By: Sarah Carney

April was such a great month! I celebrated Easter with my host family and then I left that evening for Barcelona for a whole week with my class from school. It was such a great trip; we saw and did so much! It was a great trip with my friends, I'm glad I had the opportunity to go.

Barcelona is one of the prettiest

cities I've been to outside of Belgium and I really hope to go back someday. The second week of the Easter vacation I spent with my parents! It felt like a dream the first few days they were here; I couldn't believe my parents were actually in Belgium. It was so weird having my two lives come together but it was great being able to show my parents around my second home and introduce them to everyone in my life here. As much as I loved seeing them for that week, I was happy when they got on the plane to go home so I could get back to my life here and enjoy that last 100 days I have left. It's scary how fast time is going by, I'm not ready for the year to be over. I never want to leave this beautiful, little country I now call Home.



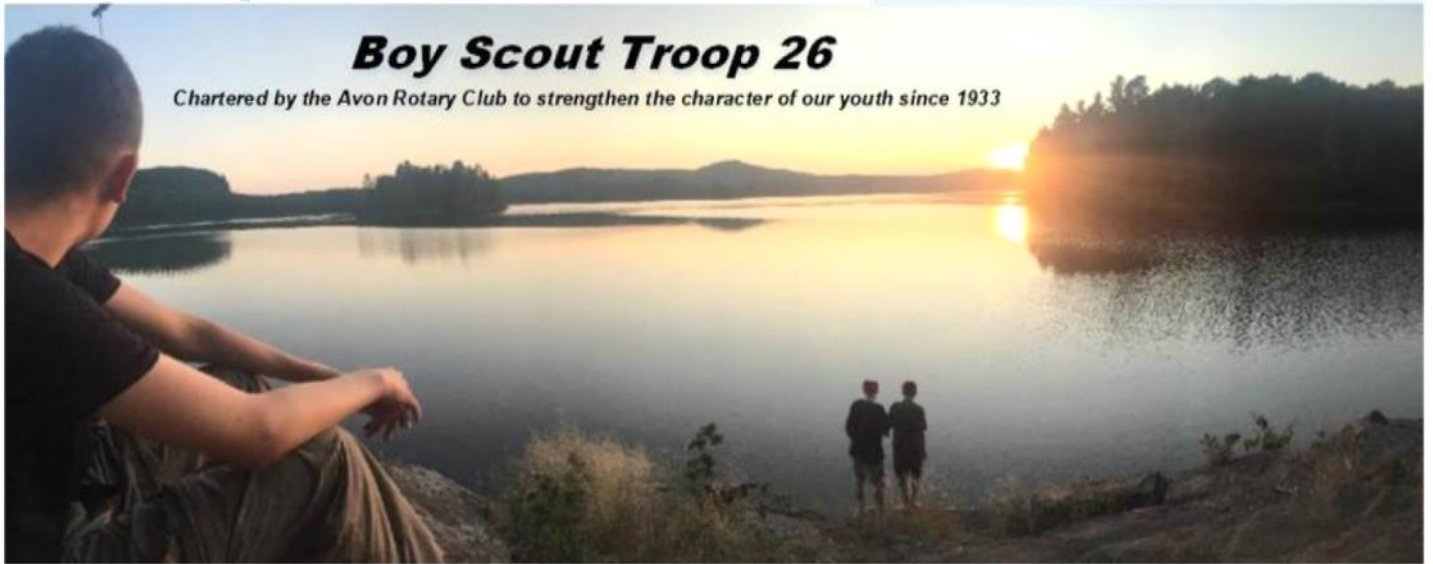


Avon Rotary 
 Presents...
A Celebration of **Scouting** 
 All current and former Scouts are invited –
 spread the word!

June 12th, 6:00 pm
 Scout House, 4652 Cemetery Rd
 Food and Refreshments provided by
 Avon Rotary Club

Boy Scout Troop 26

Chartered by the Avon Rotary Club to strengthen the character of our youth since 1933



PLEASE JOIN AVON ROTARY AS WE CELEBRATE OUR

Change Of Officers

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018 @ 5:30 P.M.

AVON INN ~ 55 EAST MAIN STREET ~ AVON, NY 14414

BUFFET DINNER \$30 PER PERSON

R.S.V.P. BY JUNE 11



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

Supplies Needed in June:

Cereal, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jam, Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce,
Pancake Mix, Syrup, Tuna Fish

You can drop off at Bank of Castile. Thank you!

2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of June 1

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	8	27 April 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	1	8 March 18
Total	37	22	9	



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!

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

