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President's Message



August certainly proved to be another busy month for Avon Rotary. The Corn Festival brings out the best in all of us as we work together to make this event a huge success. Making a difference is what will be the result of all the hard work that goes into the Corn Festival. At this point it looks like we will net over \$20,000 and with that money our club will be able to provide the support and donations that will make a difference for so many people. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Rodney George for leading the great team of committee chairs and making this year's festival so successful. On top of that he turns around and provides a wonderful day-after celebration at his house which was very well attended with so much fellowship, food, and fun. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work.

I'm so excited at the number of members that continue to attend our regular meetings. It's a testament to strength and dedication of everyone in our club. The enthusiasm for all the things we are doing is wonderful to see. I'm looking forward to the month ahead as we complete our first in-meeting service project being headed up by Heather. We'll look forward to a great turnout of members to help us pack the "party in a bag" that will be given to

the Avon Food Pantry for distribution to those less fortunate and wanting to provide a birthday or other type party for a loved one. We have more projects of this nature planned so stay tuned and stay engaged.

The devastation and loss in Houston and all of the surrounding areas in that region will have an effect on all of us. As a Rotary club we want to help where possible. The board of directors will certainly be looking for ways to provide support for the victims. Once again because of our members and the work we do to raise funds we are able to give back in times of need like Hurricane Harvey and truly "make a difference". Please keep all those affected by this disaster in your thoughts and prayers.

August brought us two new members. I am thrilled to welcome both Katie and Charlene to the Avon Rotary Club. I look forward to watching as these two ladies become engaged. I know they both bring a great deal of energy and will become engaged in all the good things we are doing. Both can be proud to be an Avon Rotarian.

Thanks to all fellow Avon Rotarians for making month #2 so successful. So much more to look forward too.

Sincerely, President Tom

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

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



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

August Meeting Highlights...

August 1—Many thanks to Jake & Heather Ayers for providing a program on “In-Meeting Service Projects”. Please contact them with ideas for future projects.



August-5
Avon Rotarians enjoying a round of golf in support of the BZ Tournament.



August 8—CA Krenzer was welcomed back from his extended recovery. Tom presented him with a special bag of coffee straight from Nicaragua.



August 8—Steve Csapo was presented with a Paul Harris +1 presented by Hoyt Mason in gratitude for all Steve has done for him and Paula.

August 8—President Tom presented Past President Scott with his year’s theme flag.



August 15—Henry Lemen returned from his exchange in Finland, shared his experience and thanked the club for supporting his time away.



August 29—Former ‘honorary’ member Rob Lupisella was presented with a new ‘active member’ button.



August 29—Veerle was given her official club button as our Netherland exchange student.

Corn Festival Wrap Up



By: Rodney George

My thanks to all for another successful Corn Fest which is in the books; our 31st. After months of planning and coordinating by all the committee chairs, we had a great few days of set-up involving many of you. The day started out great and although Mother Nature gave us a short downpour

around 1pm it didn't appear to deter the many visitors who were shopping and enjoying the festivities.

There was a wide variety of food vendors for our visitors to choose from (thanks to the efforts of Julie Welch and Mike Ford) along with our own corn booth (thanks to the efforts of Kelly Cole) that was flipping corn fritters, steaming corn and potatoes. We went through too many bushels of corn generously donated by J&A Farm Market.

Thanks to Terry Lemen's coordination and oversight, we had the largest 50/50 payout in Corn Fest history in the amount of \$1,960.00. The winning ticket was

sold by Jerry Dougherty to his sister. A large crowd witnessed the 50/50 drawing while enjoying the always great Sky Coaster concert. Many thanks to all the sponsors for our entertainment throughout the day and the coordination of the venues by Josh Tonra.



I am happy to report that although the final numbers are not yet determined, we netted somewhere around \$21 - \$23k that will support our local, county, state and international Rotary organizations and activities.

The success of our Corn Fest would not have been possible without the support of our village board, crew, school district and police department. And, especially, it would not have been possible without each of you, our entire rotary club and friends of rotary who donated their time helping us.

Now on to our Auction and then the planning will start for the Blue Jean Ball and next year's Corn Fest. When we work hard together, it allows us to support very worthy activities and then have great fellowship times together.



Team Work

Corn Festival Celebration Picnic—August 13, 2017

*Thank you Rodney & Donna George
for hosting our annual picnic where
fun was had and memories were made.*



Summer Fun

Avon Rotary Inducts 2 New Members—August 15



Charlene Masten

A little bit about me....I'm married to my wonderful husband, Christopher Masten, who is also a Rotarian. I have two beautiful children, Natalie Masten, who is 14 years old, and Evan Masten, who is 12 years old. For the past 11 years I've worked for M&T Bank and for the last 3 years I've been the Re-

tail Branch Manager at the Pittsford Branch. I'm not sure how many years ago my husband joined Rotary, but he was the one who initially introduced me to the Rotary club and all of the amazing members. Through him and my new Rotarian friends I became involved in volunteering for Rotary events. I learned throughout those years all the amazing things that Rotary does for its local community and nationally. I decided to join Rotary to become part of something bigger than myself. I've always felt the desire to volunteer and do more than just take care of myself and my family. For 14 years I've dedicated myself to my family, and I want to show my kids the importance of helping others and how those selfless acts can have an impact on them. I've found a great group of Rotarian friends that I enjoy spending my time with, and I can't think of a better way to serve my community next to all of them. I look forward to many years of involvement with Rotary and would eventually like to make the trip to Nicaragua to help build a school for kids that are less fortunate to have the education we provide in the states.



Katie DeGraff

My name is Kathleen, but I go by Katie. I am married to my wonderful husband, Austin and we have two children (Brandon 18 and Madden 2) and we reside in Leicester. I work for Tompkins Bank of Castile and I am the new Branch Manager for our Avon Office. I was introduced to Rotary by the former

Branch Manager and Rotarian, Diana Williams who connected me with Kirk Vanderbilt. At my first meeting as a guest, there was a presentation about building schools in Nicaragua. I was overcome with passion and commitment from Avon Rotary and knew I needed to become involved with this great group of people. Since then, I have felt the warmest of welcomes into this community. I hope to continue to learn more about Rotary and exemplify "service above self."



August 15, 2017: Katie DeGraff & Charlene Masten inducted into the Avon Rotary Club. DGE Mike Slovak & President Tom assist with the presentation with Laurie Vonglis & Kirk Vanderbilt (absent) as sponsors.



Summer Camp—GVRC, August 22, 2017



By Heather Ayers

I think most of us can remember a time when we went to summer camp as a kid and think fondly back on the great memories made with new friends singing songs, doing crafts, hiking, etc. Unfortunately, kids that have disabilities don't usually get the opportunity to have this type of experience. But this is not true for the campers at Genesee Valley Rotary Camp (GVRC).

This was my first visit to GVRC, and I must say that seeing firsthand the work that is done during the week our camp is open made such a difference in my understanding of the impact we are having when we help provide funding for the camp. When you walk up the road into the campground, you are immediately met with the familiar sights and sounds of a summer camp – tents, lodges, songs and laughter. It seems like your everyday camp until you begin to meet the campers – some are in wheelchairs, some have serious health issues, some

have Down Syndrome, and so on. There were 109 campers in total getting the experience of a lifetime and feeling like a regular kid at summer camp for a week. The 70+ staff and volunteers who run the camp were so engaged with the campers during the evening's activity, which was a wonderful surprise as PDG Bill Gormont was putting on a magic show for the kids. It was a heartwarming experience for me and what I can summarize as a labor of love for the staff and volunteers.



A big thank you to Ernie Wiard and Dave Henahan for organizing the trip down and for your 35+ years of service on the camp's board. I'll be marking my calendar to visit the camp next year, and I highly recommend you do the same!



Rambling On Rotary—September 2017



By: Bruce Amey

We had a very successful Corn Fest August 12. Tremendous thanks go to Rodney George as Chairperson for the event and all the committee chairs for coordinating the food vendors, street vendors, entertainment, corn booth, corn procurement, advertisement and program, 50/50, etc. The chairpersons do an incredible job over the course of many months of planning, but the event would not be successful without the support of every Avon Rotarian. Thank you to all.

On August 22, twenty-one Avon Rotarians made the trip to the Genesee Valley Rotary Club (GVRC). "The theme [of the camp] "Here is Love" is perfect as we witnessed the love and dedication all around us. 109 campers, 82 full time staff and many more volunteers contribute to the success of this camp." Thanks to all for your time and caring hearts in supporting this activity.

At our August 15 meeting we had the joy of adding two new members to our club; welcome Katie DeGraff and Charlene Masten. We have at least two other prospective members right now awaiting the Fireside Chat and Board of Directors acceptance. And, as I write this missive on August 23rd, we have a community invitation to membership meeting scheduled for August 29; I am sure it will be a great time. Thanks to President-elect-elect-elect Terry Lemen for coordinating this activity.

It has been a busy two months into President Tom's year. He challenged us to be more active in our community. This renewed activeness is a way to "re-invent" ourselves and our club. Whereas the Corn Fest and GVRC are events we have supported for many decades and could hardly be considered "re-inventing ourselves", they are essential to our club's history. Our history is our foundation. But to keep our club new and inspiring, we must continually inspect our struc-

ture to identify areas in need of repair and in need of new ideas and additions.

I am anxious to hear the results of the member survey the Board of Directors conducted and what areas it may identify where our club needs to change and improve but also the new ideas for growth. New members always are exciting with their new ideas for service and activities and fellowship within our group. At their induction, both Katie and Charlene mentioned the inspiration of being involved in a club that is so much bigger than themselves ... how we look at what Rotary accomplishes in our neighborhoods and in the world is inspiring. When District 7120 Governor-elect Mike Slovak attended our meeting on August 15 for the new member induction and he commented on our club's enthusiasm, jovial bantering ... and asked how we could "infect" other clubs with that camaraderie, I was inspired for what our club is and is becoming. Every time we add new members, we are re-invented as we listen to and welcome them.

For me with 41 years in public education, September always brought the excitement of new students, a new year, and new beginnings. September was always filled with excitement of new opportunities on which to build within my class and my school. It's September! I am excited to continue in our Rotary year as we forge ahead towards our Rotary Auction on November 11 (Veteran's Day). How can we each support Kelly Cole (as new Auction Chairperson) to help re-invent our Auction ... to make it bigger and better than ever?

New members, new opportunities, new ideas ... they are all invigorating and inspiring for us as a club continually re-inventing itself. Let's continue to explore new ways to serve our community and our world and by doing so, we will continue to re-invent our club. But, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Take Note

Please add the following to your membership directory:

1. Paula & Hoyt Mason
Home Phone: 863-284-0941
Hoyt's Cell: 863-272-5098
Paula's Cell: 863-944-7016
pbeikirch@cs.com
2. Katie DeGraff
4899 York Rd. Leicester, NY 14481
Cell—585-704-0479
kdegraff@tompkinsfinancial.com
3. Charlene Masten
301 Spring St. Avon, NY 14414
Cell—585-739-8552
chaka1878@yahoo.com



Did You Know?

In the fall 2017 issue of "The Empire State Mason", Hoyt Mason is listed as a 60 year member of the Masonic Lodge here in Avon. Quite a milestone!



Info Credit: Steve Vanderbilt

Mission of Rotary

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.



September Meeting Set-Up Schedule

- Sept 5: Shannon DiFranco & Char Masten
Sept 19: David Kilgore & Bob Mellen
Sept 26: Katie DeGraff & Bill Wall



Show Your Pride!

Outbound & Loving It



By: Sarah Carney
Since I've arrived in Belgium on the 15th of August, I have already done/seen so much! The first night I was here, my host parents invited my other two host families over for dinner so I could meet them; all of them are so nice and they all seem like they will be amazing host families. My host mom decorated my room for me by print-

ing off pictures of me and my friends/family and taping them up on my wall like a collage. She also printed off a picture of me and my boyfriend from back home, framed it, and put it on my nightstand next to my bed. And since I'm away from my dog for the year, they bought me a stuffed animal dog that looks like Emerald and is almost the same size as her too!

My first family has taken me to many cities in Belgium including Genk-where I'm going to school, Hasselt-where there are lots of shops and restaurants, Lier-one of the oldest cities in Belgium, and Bloetevoetenpad-a hiking path done all in bare feet and you walk through mud, water, on rocks, sand, grass, and over many other things. Not only has my host family taken me to many cities, I've also been to another country! Granted, the Netherlands is only a 30-minute drive away but still, I went to another country which is pretty awesome. While in the Netherlands, we went to a restaurant called De Pannekoekenbakker, The Pancake Baker, where I ate the BEST pancake of my entire life. My second host family took me to the zoo which is much bigger than Seneca Park Zoo back home. This zoo was cool because you could pet most of the animals, there were even some monkeys just walking around part of the zoo. We stopped in the city of Leuven, which is mainly a student city, on the way home for dinner.

We've also had our first Rotary event which was held in Brussels. I met a few of the exchange students from my district in Genk to take the train to Brussels. Every single student that is spending their exchange year here in Bel-

gium was in Brussels so there were about 150-200 exchange students. Out of all the exchange students, only the 15 of us in my district are in the Dutch speaking part, everyone else is in the French. Brussels was a beautiful city. We took a tour of the Royal Palace, went to the Grote Market, had lunch, which included frituurs/fries which are so delicious here, and then we went to the Belgian Parliament and the Vice President spoke to us and a rebound student who spent his year in Australia spoke to us and gave us advice for our exchange. It was nice to finally meet the other students in my district; they are all so nice and they are a great group of people!

There is a sports training center right down the street from my house so my host dad talked to the manager and asked if there was room on any of the teams so that I could train with them and they found room on one of the teams for me. The team that I train with twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays, is so much fun! My skill level is right around theirs so it is a perfect fit for me. The first day of training that I went to was very strange. The whole session was in Dutch (obviously) but it was so weird not being able to understand what the coach was explaining. Luckily there are a few girls on the team who speak English well so they could translate for me what we had to do.

I also got registered at my school. I will take Dutch lessons in the morning with the other exchange students going to school in Genk then in the afternoon I will go to my normal school. I am attending the sports/science school so I'll be able to play volleyball while at school which will be so much fun. My host brother of my second family also goes to this school so I will at least have one familiar face for the beginning of the school year.

Overall, my first couple of weeks have been amazing, I have only felt homesick once or twice and my jet lag didn't take too long to wear off. I have a good feeling that my year is going to be an experience I'll never forget.



Rotary Youth Exchange Inbound—First Weeks



By: Veerle Beckers

I am in Avon for almost two weeks now. I love it here! Everybody is so nice and kind. My arrival, at Rochester airport, was really nice. My first host family, Ed, Cathy, Julie and Jim were waiting for me with a poster and balloons. Then we went to

core eatery for a great salad and I got my first doggy bag there J. On Monday I had my first volleyball training. Everyone was super nice and there were also two other exchange students in my team, so that was fun. We also had a scrimmage and we went with the whole team on the school bus. All the yellow school buses look so cute! I didn't play, but it was fun. On Tuesday I went to the camp which Rotary is a big sponsor for. It was great to see how much fun all the kids had and how thankful the people were for Rotary's support. I also went midnight shopping with Dana (my host sister) and it was so much fun! We walked around for like an hour, in a huge Wegman's and we drove around for like an hour and a half and sang the most catchy songs ever. On Thursday (the 22th of August) I met Claudia, an Italian exchange student here nearby. Ed, Julie, Claudia and me went out for dinner (it was so good) and some

shopping. We went to the Forever 21 and it was insanely big. It was a great evening and very nice to meet another exchange student. Then on Friday, I went with my host siblings Dana and John and my host dad to the Kueka Lake. We stayed there for the night, went for bike rides, boating and tubing. Tubing was so much fun, we went super-fast! The Kueka lake is so pretty and enormous. On Saturday we drove to Little Italy, for the introduction camp. All the people were really nice. And I could speak Dutch, because there was a girl from the Dutch speaking part of Belgium, so that was fun. We did a bonfire (with smores !), games and of course pictures with all the flags. Oh and I got my rotary sweater from Ed, thank you grandpa! When I came back from the weekend, the girl from Czech Republic invited me for a bonfire at her place with some girls from her school in Livonia. I got to know Nathalie a little better and it was fun. And she had a kitten, so I cuddled the whole evening, so cute. This week I had my first Rotary meeting (and I saw one of my future homes), I met Tabata and went for lunch with her and Ed. Also I had a pizza and bonfire with the volleyball team, which was very nice. We had to make senior volleyball pictures for in the gym, so you can probably see me hanging there soon. And I got my schedule, which include among other things creative writing, sociology and economics. I'm really enjoying life in Avon so far and thank you all for reading this!



September Club Schedule

Tues. Sept 5	Reg Mtg, Program: Bob Mellen—Publicity
Tues. Sept 12	Avon Rotary Honors Avon Middle School 6:15 pm
Sat. Sept 16	Clambake 2 pm @ Dougherty's
Mon. Sept 18	Board of Directors Mtg 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Sept 19	Club Assembly & New Member Induction
Tues. Sept 26	DG Don Milton Visit & In-Mtg Service Project



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

**Jam/Jelly
Peanut Butter
Tuna**

September Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco
- ⇒ Bill Wall



Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco
- ⇒ Jerry Dougherty
- ⇒ Jim Gaffney
- ⇒ Scott Holmes
- ⇒ Hans Koomen
- ⇒ Katie DeGraff

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Josh Tonra 2014
- ⇒ Marcie Williams 2016


**KEEP
CALM
AND
END
POLIO**

Only 9 new cases
of Polio in the year
2017.

Help us in the
'Countdown to
History'.

Make your contribution today to the
Foundation PolioPlus fund and be part
of history.

ROTARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a Rotarian, I will:



1. Act with integrity and high ethical standards in my personal and professional life.
2. Deal fairly with others and treat them and their occupations with respect.
3. Use my professional skills through Rotary to mentor young people, help those with special needs, and improve people's quality of life in my community and in the world.
4. Avoid behavior that reflects adversely on Rotary or other Rotarians.



Save The Date

2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Friday, September 8, 2017	District Golf Tournament @ Lima CC, Noon Reg.
Tuesday, September 12, 2017	Avon Rotary Honors Program—7:00
Saturday, September 16, 2017	Clambake @ Dougherty's
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	World Polio Day Service Project—6:00
Tuesday, October 31, 2017:	Halloween In The Community—6:00
Sunday, November 5, 2017:	Foundation Brunch @ Ventosa Winery
Tuesday, November 28, 2017:	Thanksgiving Dinner—6:00
TBD 2017:	Eastern Cities Dinner
Saturday, December 16, 2017:	Christmas Party
Tuesday, January 2, 2018:	Happy New Year Party—6:00
Tuesday, February 13, 2018:	Sweethearts Dinner—6:00
Tuesday, March 13, 2018:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
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
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	Change of Officers

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

