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President's Message



I would have to say that December is certainly one of the busiest months of the year. There are so many obligations socially that occur during this month whether it be family, work, or other organizations that we belong to. Avon Rotary certainly added to the many activities and excitement the month of December brought for all of us. We enjoyed our annual Rotary Christmas party at the Avon Commons with a great turnout of fellow Rotarians, family members and friends. A big thank you to Laurie, Terry, and Doug for all your work to make this event happen. It was so fun to see the participation in the games that were planned and all the fellowship that was had by all.

December was also the Eastern Cities dinner. Once again, we had a great crew head to the convention center and enjoy a great meal along with so much information from our leaders in the district. I'm thankful to Rodney for driving a group of us in his van and Shawn for providing 'primo parking'. Oh boy is it nice to know the right people.

This past month our club accomplished another in-meeting service project as we were able to help the Focus on the Children organization. Everyone who came to our meeting had the chance to help with the "no-sew" blankets or putting the books and pajamas

into bags that were delivered to kids in need. I couldn't be more proud of Avon Rotary and the good work we are doing to help with children in need. Thank you to Heather, Jake and Greg for coordinating this effort.

How will we ever forget little Quinn singing our National Anthem. This is truly a very special little girl who put her heart and soul into that song. Thanks Rob for setting this up, it was wonderful to hear.

With the closing of 2017 I want to say thank you to everyone for a great first 6 months of my presidency. We have accomplished so much and I look forward to continuing all the good that we are capable of. Please continue to look for opportunities that we can help with and make a service project out of.

All my best for a Happy and Healthy 2018.

Thanks, President Tom

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



Eastern Cities Dinner—December 6, 2017

By: Laurie Vonglis

Twenty Avon Rotarians enjoyed the 92nd Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner sponsored by the Rochester Rotary Club. The keynote speaker was President-Nominee, Mark Daniel Maloney. This annual event was another marvelous evening. There was much opportunity to network with other Rotarians from around the District. The meal and venue were wonderful. Don Alhart made special arrangements to have a young vocalist perform for us. He provided holiday music and a couple popular songs as well. The President Nominee provided an inspiring discussion full of funny, personal insight and relevant Rotary news. I'm sure all who attended enjoyed the festive evening out.

One memorable highlight includes our very own Jerry Dougherty being recognized as the last man standing. All Rotarians were asked to stand and as each year ticked off, the person left standing has been a Rotarian the longest. Cheers to Jerry for his example and quiet leadership all these years.



Pictured: Avon Rotarians at the Eastern Cities Dinner
Another great showing for our club.

Missing; Colin Bruckel, Karl Sawicki



Pictured: Laurie Vonglis, Veerle Beckers, Kirk Vanderbilt & Tom Vonglis.
"Host parents" with Veerle, our exchange student



Pictured: Avon Legacy Rotarian—Jerry Dougherty
Last man standing!



Thank You Volunteers

This was a stellar year for volunteers supporting the Salvation Army with bell ringing at Tops. Many thanks from the chairpersons—Joanne Leone & Jackie Tickner.



Literacy Project



By: Dom Lalisce

Literacy Project – The Avon and Rush-Henrietta Rotary clubs partner to support School # 33 in Rochester.

Last month, I had the great privilege to participate to one of these actions we all work hard for to raise funds to help us change the World. Being able to make a positive change for our neighbors in need makes it all so wonderful!

On Tuesday November 21st, our club had the privilege to be part of a very special day for the 4th grade Class of School #33. Every year, The Avon and Rush-Henrietta clubs join their efforts to acquire enough books for the School to support the Principal's Book of the Month program. Through this program, students will be able to take

home a copy of the same book for an entire month. The program requires the purchase of multiple copies of the same book to support all the students' needs.

The students prepared a special show for the teachers, the library team, the school Principal and the Rotary attendees. The show featured an animated presentation of each book, which gave us the opportunity to witness and discover the expressive talent of the students. They also closed the event with a very dynamic dance which had all the attendees feel the Christmas groove!

After the show, the Principal shared how much he appreciated the efforts of Rotary in expanding the student's ability to access new and exciting books.

The event ended with a promise to continue the tradition next year!



Auction Item Gets 5 Star Rating

On December 5, eight Rotarians enjoyed a festive Crepe dinner created by Master Chef, Dom Lalisce. Tom Vonglis purchased this unique Avon Rotary auction item at the 51st event just weeks ago. For those that have enjoyed this in the past you understand how wonderful this meal is! Thank you Dom!

Watch out next year for more friendly spirited bidding wars to occur.



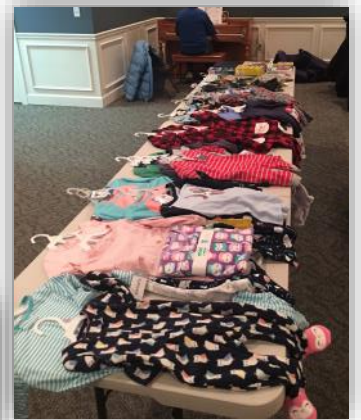
Focus On The Children Christmas Service Project



December 12—Many thanks to Heather & Jake Ayers and Greg Deragon for making arrangements and preparations for our in meeting service project. Focus on the Children President, Betsy Sherwood joined us and witnessed our club members at work preparing books, pajamas and no-sew blankets for area children in need.

Focus on the Children was established in 1993 after years of collaboration between Jones Chemicals, Inc. CEO, Robert Jones and his pastor (United Presbyterian Stone Church, Caledonia, NY), Merl Galusha. The two worked together to assist families first in their home community and then branched out to include families from Livingston County. Merl enlisted the help of Laura Canne. Laura soon became the first Executive Director to serve Focus on the Children when it incorporated in 1993. Robert's daughter, Elizabeth Sherwood helped "Bob", Merl, and Laura develop a Board of Directors, Mission Statement and Constitution. Since then, the agency has been privileged to have many contributors serve as board members and lend their expertise and commitment to the mission of FOTC. Avon Rotary is very pleased to partner with FOTC for this and future projects!

If you have an idea for our next in-meeting service project, contact Jake and make it happen.



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

The National Anthem

On December 19th we had a very special guest. Avon Elementary School 1st grader, Quinn sang the National Anthem at the start of our meeting. Many thanks to Principal Rob Lupisella for inviting Quinn and her Mom. If you were in attendance, you will agree that this little girl wowed the crowd with her sweet yet powerful version of our country's song. Personally, she gave me goosebumps and was a highlight of our time together in December.

Laurie Vonglis



Avon Rotary Christmas Party

Saturday, December 16 we had our annual Christmas gathering. Our Rotary family enjoyed plenty of 'dishes to pass', fellowship and games. Thanks to Terry & Doug for your help setting up. Enjoy the photos!

Laurie & Tom



Avon Rotarians to Build School in Nicaragua



By Rob Lupisella

Numerous Avon Rotarians will be heading to the Central American country of Nicaragua at the end of March to begin construction on another school. This will be the ninth school that our club has helped the non-profit organization, Linking Hands for Learning build. The Avon Rotary Club has generously donated funds once again this year to support the effort financially, and will also send a team of hard working volunteers to assist with the construction. The community of El Papalón, where the latest project will occur, is 17 kilometers from the town of El Sauce, Nicaragua. It will take one hour by truck, for the volunteers to arrive to the construction site each day.

The community of El Papalón has two school buildings currently in use, one of which is in good condition, having been built within the past four years. This building has fourteen students and houses grades 4, 5, and 6. The second building, which is in need of replacement, is the school for students in grades 1, 2, and 3. This structure also contains the pre-school program, and is divided in half by a wall made from plastic and several pieces of wood. The walls of this structure are made with bricks and wire, with wood pillars, which are very old and rotting away. Due to frequent seismic activity in Nicaragua, the entire structure is vulnerable to failure and collapse. There is no space between the ceiling and the bricks, on both sides of the wall, which makes the interior susceptible to the weather. There are presently 16 students in grades 1, 2, and 3 who attend school in this building. Teachers expect additional students next year, which makes the need for a new building even greater. The community of El Papalón is home to 38 families and around 60 children.

The volunteer trip this year will take place from March 29, 2018 through April 9, 2018. The volunteers who travel to Nicaragua all raise at least \$300 each to support the construction effort. All volunteers who go to Nicaragua pay for their own travel expenses. Fundraising occurs only to help assist with construction costs, as Linking Hands for Learning, requires that traveling volunteers pay their own expenses for the trip. Avon Rotarians Hans Koomen, Jake and Heather Ayers, Tom and Laurie Vonglis, and Rob Lupisella will be leaving for Nicaragua at the end of March. They will be traveling with a team of twenty-one volunteers including our exchange student, Veerle Beckers from the Netherlands.



Due to frequent seismic activity in Nicaragua, the entire structure is vulnerable to failure and collapse.



This small structure will be replaced by a team of Avon Rotary volunteers.

Rambling On Rotary—January



By: Bruce Amey

“Be a Millennial in Rotary” was an article in the January 2018 *Rotarian*. “Millennials” are generally considered to be those born between 1978 – 1994. Whereas “Gen X-ers”, those born in the 60’s – mid-70’s, are generally considered to want to “tear down the entrenched institutions” created by the “Boomers”, Millennials “will be the ones to rebuild from the rubble and return order to the resulting chaos.” The author of the article, Dominick Bonny of the Wenatchee North, Washington Rotary Club, talks about his first meeting observations: “Rotarians are old, mostly. They sing [old] songs and say the Pledge of Allegiance before meetings. They tell lame jokes.” Sound familiar?

Millennials have grown up with the internet; boomers took longer to understand and use it productively; those in the Greatest (born in the 20’s) or Silent (born in the 30’s) Generations may still be trying to figure it out. And then came smart phones into our culture and who hasn’t been driving in town (think of Geneseo, for example) and almost hit a teenage or college-age student who is looking down at his phone paying no attention to anything around him. Many of us look to social mediums (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) as a means of keeping in touch with family and friends (old and new) but we are also keenly aware of the “presumed anonymity” it provides to disagree with and “trash” others. Mr. Bonny states that, “Rotary is a way to unplug from that. I think the path back to a more civil society is through our clubs. Rotary offers a neutral space where I can gather with other people, even those I may not see eye-to-eye with on every issue, and focus on what really matters – making the world a better place.”

There has been a push in Rotary for the past few years to add younger persons to Rotary’s membership; specifically those under 40 (X-ers and Millennials). In Avon, we have many of Generation Z involved in our Interact club who will hopefully look to remain engaged in Rotary in their adult lives. We Rotarians in the “older generations” can learn much from Millennials, just as they can learn much from us. The key is to search for the learning together. Too often, technology can isolate us into our personal silos where we don’t interact person-to-person with others. A touch from another’s hand and a smile while being able to look into another’s eyes are more beneficial in improving our world than a tweet or a Facebook post.

We have several Avon Rotarians who will again be going to Nicaragua to build a school in early April; they will be

servicing others. We have heard before of the impact that this face-to-face, hand-in-hand experience has had on those participating. A few weeks ago, Jake, who will be going to Nicaragua this year, offered to make things for you to receive donations to help raise funds to cover the cost of building the school. I would suggest if you don’t need more “stuff” (even though he was offering to make some nice “stuff”), just make a donation to support their service. Donations can be made to Livingston Cares (the parent charity for Linking Hands for learning <http://www.linkinghandsforlearning.com/>) on behalf of Jake or Tom or others who will be going this year.

Mr. Bonny concluded his article as follows: “So what’s it like to be a millennial in Rotary? To most young people, Rotary is old-fashioned. For me, that’s what makes it cool. People in my peer group tend to isolate themselves. We are connected by technology, but not truly connected. Rotary is my antidote to that.” Let’s take the antidote and stay connected. It is a new year filled with new opportunities for service above self. Let’s make a New Year’s resolution to attend meetings so we can interact with all the generations within our club and to learn from each other while committing ourselves to serving others. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.





Interact News:

Mackenzie Mekeel led the pirate toy and food drive in December. With the Avon Elementary School and Avon Rotary’s help, we collected lots of items making this very successful. Thank you to everyone who helped and donated. It is always a good feeling to know that we can make a difference and put a smile on someone’s face.

Also, thank you to the Interact students that volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.



January Meeting Set-Up

	#1	#2
Tues. Jan. 2:	Tom & Laurie Vonglis	
Tues. Jan. 9:	Hans Koomen & Steve Csapo	
Tues. Jan. 16:	Charlene Masten & Laurie Vonglis	
Tues. Jan. 23:	Bob Mellen & David Kilgore	
Tues. Jan. 30:	Tom & Laurie Vonglis	



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

The Holidays in the U.S.

Hi Everyone!

First of all, happy new year! I had a very fun break over the holidays. Before the break I had with some girls from school, a Christmas party, so we spend the night decorating cookies and we did a secret Santa. And on Wednesday night I went to the Hip Hop Nutcracker in the Auditorium in Rochester with my host mom and sisters and the whole group of the Avon Dance Emporium. The first days of the break I was home, and my friend came over for a "Mean Girls" movie date. On Christmas Eve we were home with a mixed group of friends and we played Just Dance and gambling. Christmas morning was so much fun! We opened the stockings first, which was so excited and then the gifts under the Christmas tree. My first Christmas with gifts! My 3rd host parents came also over for breakfast and then in the evening we went to friends of my host family for a Christmas dinner. It was so much fun and I saw a real Christmas classic. Elf! Such a good movie, I can't believe I never saw that one before, so I am definitely bringing that movie over to the Netherlands next year.

I had also 3 sleepovers! First I went to Watkins Glen to see Portia, who was back from New York City. It was super "gezellig". Thanks to Kirk and Laurie for driving me all the way there and back! Then I went to Greece, to see some of my exchange friends. We started to watch a movie, but apparently I was the only one who didn't know it was a "funny" horror movie. So I freaked out, woops. But it was a lot of fun and we went outside for a snow fight and snow angels. We saw Fanny's track meet, so of course we were supporting her. At last, we went to the Avon Rotary (Ed Kime) overnight! That was so much fun! First we went ice skating and I loved it. I have done it before but it was such a long time ago. Also we did disco bowling at night. For the last days of the break and New Year's I drove with my family to the Adirondacks, so luckily I could sleep in the car. There was so bizarre much snow there and it was crazy cold, but so, so pretty. I spent a lot of time outside and we did a hike in the mountains, with some winter wonderland views. Very cool!

Love, Veerle



December in Belgium



By Sarah Carney

Happy New Year, or Gelukkig Nieuwjaar as we say it in Dutch! The month of December was full of fun and joy. I went bowling with the other Exchange students in my district and then we went to the Christmas market and rode the ferris wheel. Also with the Exchange students, we did a fundraiser called Pizza For Life to raise money for the poor children in the Flemish region of Belgium. I went to the city of Maastricht in the Netherlands with my YEO, his wife, and daughter. Maastricht was literally a winter wonderland, just without any snow since it only rains here in Belgium! From the 26-30 of December I went to Brand, Austria with one of my school friends to ski. I never thought I'd ski in the Alps but I can now cross that off my bucket list! It was so great to celebrate the holidays with my host family; I really do feel like I am, and always will be, a part of their family. I can't wait to see what 2018 has in store for me!

January is Vocational Service Month



Happy New Year and Happy New Month! In the Rotary calendar January is Vocational Service Month. (I am Vocational Service Chairperson). In the past I have organized a program on business ethics. For many years the Rotary Club – Board of Directors was comprised of the Four Avenues of Service chairpersons- The four avenues of service were-

Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service and International Service.

Each area was headed by a club director. We now have our 6 areas of focus, unrelated to the directors.

This year I decided to highlight vocational service by briefly visiting this area. What is vocational service? As a Rotarian you represent your vocation to the members of your club and it is important to share highlights, issues and your experience in your chosen field with your fellow Rotarians. Also, remember, you are representing Rotary daily to others you interact with as the vocational person you are. This is also true for other community groups you are involved in, from church to lodges, scouts etc. To further this goal we have available for each member a copy of the Rotary Business Code of Conduct- “Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions” and the “Rotarian Code of Conduct.” These are available from Club Secretary Laurie. I would encourage you to frame and place in your work place or home office.

Thank You, Chair - Jim Tompsett



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

An Article from ‘Being Rotarian’

Vocational Service Month: This means we look at how we can apply Rotary values to our workplaces, and how we can use these to help others.

What is **Vocational Service**? If you are an active, engaged Rotarian, you probably view vocational service as a way of life, even if you find it difficult to articulate a clear definition.

The **Concept** of Vocational Service: The Object of Rotary is a philosophical statement of Rotary’s purpose and the responsibilities of Rotarian’s. The concept of vocational service is rooted in the Second Object, which calls on Rotarian’s to ‘encourage and foster’: High ethical standards in business and professions. The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations. The dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society As a Rotarian, how can you put these ideals into action?

Consider these **suggestions**: Talk about your vocation in your club, and take time to learn about fellow members’ vocations. Use your professional skills to serve a community. Practice your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your own words and actions. Help a young person achieve his or her career aspirations. Guide and encourage others in their professional development. If you do any of these things, you are performing vocational service. And if vocational service motivates and energizes you, then you’re in the right place, because vocational service is the very essence of Rotary. It is what sets Rotary apart from other service organizations.

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



With the close of 2017 we have a record low number of new wild polio cases in the world. Financial support and volunteers from around the world continues and is as important as ever. Our efforts to end Polio remains Rotary's #1 goal and we must reach Zero. Please join me and millions of others who support the Rotary Foundation. Make contribution to the PolioPlus fund to help end this disease. The children of the world Thank You!

Laurie Vonglis, District 7120 Polio Chair

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	8	15 Nov 17
Afghanistan	20	13	13	3 Dec 17
Nigeria	0	4	0	20 Aug 16
Total	74	37	21	

January Member Celebrations

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Mike Ford 2017**
- ⇒ **Bob French 2009**
- ⇒ **Chris Masten 2011**
- ⇒ **Jim Ryan 2010**
- ⇒ **Kirk Vanderbilt 2003**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Helen Zamboni**

Birthdays

- ⇒ **Greg Antkowiak**
- ⇒ **Julie Carney**
- ⇒ **Jerry Dougherty**
- ⇒ **Charles Feller**
- ⇒ **James Gaffney**
- ⇒ **Doug Hayes**
- ⇒ **Barbara Herman**
- ⇒ **Bob House**



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

Supplies Needed in January:

*Apple Juice
Canned Fruit
Peanut Butter*

Thank you!

December Board of Director Highlights

- ◆ We have pledged \$7500 to the Avon Free Library renovation project.
- ◆ We have pledged \$2500 to a Global Grant initiated by the Victor-Farmington Rotary Club for a water project in Estelle, Nicaragua.
- ◆ We have pledged \$2500 to help build a new school in El Papalon, Nicaragua.
- ◆ We have pledged \$250 to help purchase equipment for the Avon Lacrosse program.

Thank you for your support and volunteering of our fundraisers to make all of this possible.





January Club Schedule

Tues. Jan. 2	Happy New Year's Party
Mon. Jan. 8	Board of Directors Mtg. 7pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Jan. 9	Reg. Mtg.: Jim T on Ethics & Contribution Presented
Tues. Jan. 16	Reg. Mtg.: TBD
Tues. Jan. 23	Reg. Mtg.: District Training Assembly Committee Mtg following & Contribution Presented
Tues. Jan. 30	Reg. Mtg.: Blue Jean Ball Mtg following

Be the reason
someone smiles
today.



Save The Date

2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, February 13, 2018:	Sweethearts Dinner & Dessert Auction—6:00
Tuesday, March 13, 2018:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
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
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	Change of Officers
Sun.-Wed., June 24-27, 2018	International Convention, Toronto, Canada