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President's Message



We've started off 2018 with a bang and I know it will continue as the year progresses. Many thanks to the board of directors for hosting a fun evening of fellowship while providing some eats and drinks to celebrate New Year's. This was a nice way to start our January sched-

ule. We have once again had a busy and successful month. The Partyman service project was absolutely wonderful and gave all of us that participated a chance to work with many others in the community. To think that in a short period of time over 31,000 meals were put together and sent off to area food pantry's. We all know that District Governor Don Milton has an initiative to help with child hunger in our area and I truly believe that this project will go a long way to help many children as well as adults who are in need. Thanks to all who volunteered to help out at Partyman and thanks to Avon Rotary for the donation of \$100.00. Once again, we can be proud for the service we have provided in our community.

In January we started the planning process for 3 major events that our club will undertake. First is the District Training Assembly (DTA) which will take place on April 14th at the Avon Middle School. I'm grateful for the people who have volunteered to sit on this committee with me and make this a wonderful event for all the folks in our district who will attend. There is much to be done but I have all the confidence in the world that we will come through with flying colors. I know the Corn Festival Committee has not officially met but already the emails have begun. We have had a small group meeting to discuss our food court and vendors. This is the start of what is always a great event that highlights both Avon and Avon Rotary. Through Rodney's leadership once again

I know we will have a successful festival. Lastly our Blue Jean Ball committee is underway with their planning. Now moving into its third year, this event has become a highlight for our year. Unlike our other fundraisers this is truly a great social event with a fundraising theme. Thank you to our committee for all your hard work to make this event so great.

In January we were able to donate \$250.00 to the Avon Youth Lacrosse club. With our donation they will provide new equipment for kids that want to join this sport. It was great to hear from Clip Class who sits on that board and shared the story of how that money will be used for the good of our community and the kids that participate.

With heavy hearts we said good bye to a special person, Hoyt Mason. Hoyt has graced us with his presence for so many years as he would come back to Avon each summer and always helped at the Avon Corn Festival in various capacities. I will always remember him and his stories sitting by Ted's pool. To live until 96 years old you have to believe him as he always said "it's the vinegar". Rest in peace to our dear friend Hoyt.

My congratulations to Tim Dickinson as we presented him with his Paul Harris +4 pin. Tim, you are a great example to all Rotarians for your giving to the Foundation. Thank you.

Well I'm certainly looking forward to the next couple months as we plan more service projects and work to get the events on our schedule organized and ready to go. I'll continue to push and ask for help and as always I am so thankful for all that you do for Avon Rotary.

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

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

Meeting Review....



JANUARY 2: At our 1st meeting of the year, the Board of Directors provided pizza/wings and drinks for the club. There were many celebrations for the holidays, New Years, time with family and friends but most notable was President Tom's happy dance to the tune of "Let's Go Buffalo". Long time fan celebrated the Bill's making the playoffs.

JANUARY 9: President Tom provided a program on Vocational Service & Ethics. We looked at how we can apply Rotary values to our workplaces, and how we can use our vocations to help others.

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



JANUARY 16: President Tom highlighted the work to be done over the next few months to plan for the District Training Assembly, Blue Jean Ball and Corn Festival. He provided an inspirational video to motivate the group. We sang happy birthday to Bob House & Barb Herman celebrating birthdays today as well as Jerry Dougherty on the 18th. The grand finale to the meeting was a presentation of a PHF +4 pin to our very generous Avon Rotarian, Tim Dickinson. Congratulations Tim!

JANUARY 23: Clip Class, President of the Avon Lacrosse organization, visited our meeting and gave us information about the program which benefits both boys and girls in this and surrounding communities. A great deal of effort is made to keep costs down for families. Donations allow for new equipment and young kids having the opportunity to learn and play this sport. President Tom presented a contribution from Avon Rotary for \$250.



Words Are Important



By: Jean Antkowiak

Avon Rotary Club Literacy Program

How many times have I said, "Use your words?" I probably have said this many times at home with my own children and also at school in my role as a school counselor. The words you use to convey a message are important. Remember dictionaries? These days with technology so easy to access, we can use Google, Wikipedia or Alexa to help us find the right word or it's definition. Will children still want a new dictionary?

On January 23, members of the Avon Rotary Club donated dictionaries to the 3rd graders in our school district. First, Dom Lalissee and I visited St Agnes Catholic School to distributed the dictionaries. I haven't been to St. Agnes since Bingo Night years ago. It was so nice to meet the principal and to see the students. The 3rd graders were thrilled to receive the new dictionaries and right away put their names in them.

Next stop, the Avon Primary School. Dom and I were joined by Rotarians Rob Lupisella (School Principal), Marcie Williams-Altamus (3rd Gr. Teacher) and Scott Holmes. 3rd graders viewed a short video defining what it means to be a Rotarian and how we touch lives locally and internationally. Then Rob showed a presentation explaining Rotary's history, the importance of "Service Above Self", Rotary's 4 Way Test and our dedication to eradicating polio worldwide. Students asked a variety of questions including why we chose to be Rotarians, do we help animals, and is it easy to be a Rotarian, which Dom explained is much easier when we all work together. Several of the 3rd graders have family members in the Avon Rotary and almost all of the students had been to our Corn Festival.

Once the students received their dictionaries, I could see their excitement grow. Many began to look up words and found the section where the American Sign Language alphabet was illustrated. Some even looked for the longest word in the world, which no one could pronounce. Their excitement was surprising. They were so happy to receive these new dictionaries; it was evident in their eyes and smiles.

Thank you to the Avon Rotary Club for continuing this time honored tradition. Words are important, and children still love to receive this gift from us.



Rambling On Rotary— February



By: Bruce Amey

A few weeks ago, President Tom shared a video at our meeting that made a large impression on me. The video had the Rotary gear emblazoned with the words, “Let the work we do be the gears to the machine that drives good into the world.” The video soundtrack was “Calling” friends, neighbors, family, workers, teachers, doctors, ... everyone to “an incredible commitment to service above self.” In Rotary, service is our cause. Rotary is this incredible machine. “If you are in Rotary, accept your calling.” The video ended with 6 words appearing in order: Relief, Hope, Action, Education, Service, and Joy.

On January 18 we lost our friend and longtime Rotarian Hoyt Mason. He clearly exemplified our ideals, our 4-Way test, our motto throughout his life. On January 20, more than 15 of our members participated in a community service program sponsored by Partyman Catering to benefit “The Outreach Program: Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives” project where we shared in preparing 31,000 meal packets that will be distributed to food banks throughout the Genesee Valley area.

In the February edition of *The Rotarian*, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Paul Netzel had a message stating that “On 23 February, Rotarians will celebrate World Peace and Understanding Day – the 113th anniversary of Rotary’s founding.” He continued, “Peace has been at the core of our organization from its earliest days. ... We were in London when the seeds were sown for what would become UNESCO after World War II. In Havana in 1940, we adopted a resolution calling for ‘freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word, and respect for human rights,’ which became the framework for the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of human Rights in 1948.”

Our role as Rotarians is to build the bridges for peace while we serve others. Bridges break down barriers and cross crevasses between us while encouraging dialogue essential to understanding. We are each called to serve. Hoyt generously accepted his call. As we participate in our service opportunities, so do we all. The result of our service will be a better more peaceful community, nation and world. As we educate others by our actions and service we will bring others relief, joy, and hope. Let us continue to drive good into the world. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough!



Hoyt Mason

At our January 30th meeting, club members shared a few memories of our long time friend Hoyt Mason.

~Anyone who knew Hoyt knew he attributed his longevity to his love of vinegar. So much so, he carried it with him in a flask!

~Hoyt was a dedicated Mason and whenever he was in Avon, he’d attend a meeting which was no easy task climbing all those stairs. In his later years he donated a chair lift for those needing assistance. He was a generous man!

~A fond memory was his participation in the Memorial Day Parade as a Veteran, marching from the school to the circle park even at 90 years old.

~Year’s ago Hoyt and his wife Nancy hosted a few visiting Avon Rotarians in Florida. In Nancy’s hast to greet her guests at the door, she quickly put on her wig... sideways. Well Jerry and Ernie could hardly contain their amusement. So much so that Ernie had to leave the room but instead of going out through the apartment door, he went into the broom closet. Hoyt loved his visits with Avon Rotarians.

~One of the groups favorite stories was Hoyt’s poolside announcement at Ted’s. “Men miss toilets”. Evidently he didn’t with the aide of a red funnel he carried with him. We believe that has been gifted to Ted. We may never know.

He will be missed by all who knew him. R.I.P Hoyt.

Mac & Cheese Fighting Hunger



By: David Kilgore

Boy was I surprised! When President Tom put out a call for volunteers to help package food for area food pantries, I thought: O.K. We are going to pack food baskets for area food pantries, maybe with miscellaneous items of food donated by local groups. Was I ever wrong!

Partyman Catering had teamed up with The Outreach Project out of Des Moines, Iowa to actually make food packets – mac & cheese dinners that food pantries in our area could distribute to their clients.

Partyman reached out to area clubs, businesses and organizations to recruit volunteers for the day of the packaging party. (That's what it was – a party!) About 26 of our Rotarians volunteered for the project. And so many other groups offered to help that there were more volunteers than could be used.

When we arrived around noon the party/work project was in full swing. In Partyman's huge kitchen at least 70 people were in small assembly lines, making up mac and cheese packets. The Outreach Project people had trucked in a mountain of dried elbow macaroni and powdered cheese packets. We relieved folks whose shifts were ending. I was in a line with Wayne and DeeDee Warriner, Jerry Dougherty, and Mike Ford and his daughter Quinn. Wayne would open individually sized pre-printed plastic bags and insert the cheese packets, DeeDee used a large funnel to fill the bags with macaroni, and Jerry weighed the packets with a scale to make sure they were exactly 434 grams. I used a hot sealing machine to seal the packets and Mike and his daughter packed them in boxes. This same operation was going on at every table in the large room. There was music, laughter, dancing, and hollering, but it was actually a well-organized project that moved quickly along. When we finished we had created enough meals to feed 31,000 people! Partyman trucks hauled the boxes of mac and cheese packets to 22 area food pantries. Kudos to the Partyman staff, owner, Joe Yantachka, and Partyman employee Amanda Osborn who coordinated this effort with The Outreach Project.

Professional photographer Larry Tetamore took photographs of the fun. His photographs are on the Partyman Catering and Rental Facebook page. Check it out; there are a lot of photos of Avon Rotarians!



More On Avon Rotary's Recent Giving



By: Bob Mellen

Because of several donations by The Avon Rotary Club the Avon Free Library and other projects have been given significant boosts in their programs.

Rotary recently gave \$7,500 to the library's renovation fund-raising drive, \$200 to Avon Youth Lacrosse and \$2,000 to a community water project in Nicaragua.

The \$7,500 gift put the library's fund drive over the halfway point in its goal to publicly raise \$77,000 for an extensive renovation to its building and services.

"Avon Rotary is very excited to support the renovation project," club President Tom Vonglis said. "We have been a supporter of the library for many years and we are confident that our money will be well spent helping get these renovations done."

The renovations, expected to cost \$344,000, were undertaken because "the way people use libraries is changing everywhere," said Library Director Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn. "We are upgrading for more flexible use of space." The work is expected to be completed in April.

The gift to the Nicaragua water project will provide potable water and home spigots to the town of La Palma, a needy village of about 700 residents. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere after Haiti. Its villages typically do not have electric power or running water.

Because of matching grants from Rotary International, Avon Rotary's \$2,000 gift is actually worth \$4,000 to La Palma, but "I believe that our \$2,000 can become \$7,000 when all the matching between (the local Rotary) district and Rotary Foundation is complete," Avon Rotarian Kirk Vanderbilt said.

Avon and the Victor-Farmington Rotary clubs are working hand in hand with the Rotary Club of Esteli, Nicaragua, to provide a pump, chlorinator, tank and distribution piping in La Palma. When finished, villagers will no longer need to walk up to a kilometer to get well water.

The Avon Youth Lacrosse Club is an independent organization that runs the lacrosse program in Avon. Rotary's donation "goes along with our focus on supporting child health and well being" Vonglis said. "Keeping our kids active in this community is important and necessary."



A La Palma, Nicaragua, woman pumps well water by hand.

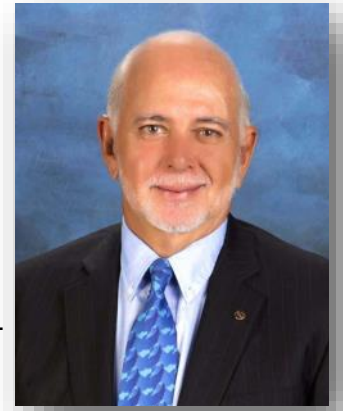
FEBRUARY IS

PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

"Imagine all the people living life in peace..."
John Lennon

Rotary  

www.rotary.org



2018-19 RI President Barry Rassin wants Rotary members to Be the Inspiration

Rotary International President-elect Barry Rassin laid out his vision for the future of the organization on Sunday, calling on leaders to work for a sustainable future and to inspire Rotarians and the community at large.

Rassin, a member of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas, unveiled the 2018-19 presidential theme, Be the Inspiration, to incoming district governors at Rotary’s International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. “I want you to inspire in your clubs, your Rotarians, that desire for something greater. The drive to do more, to be more, to create something that will live beyond each of us.”

Rassin stressed the power of Rotary’s new vision statement, “Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.” This describes the Rotary that leaders must help build, he said.

To achieve this vision, the president-elect said, Rotarians must take care of the organization: “We are a membership organization first. And if we want to be able to serve, if we want to succeed in our goals — we have to take care of our members first.”

Rassin asked the incoming district governors to “inspire the club presidents, and the Rotarians in your districts, to want to change. To want to do more. To want to reach their own potential. It’s your job to motivate them — and help them find their own way forward.”

By Hank Sartin, RI Website



New Year—New Hope! With 2017’s record low polio cases one can ask, 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.

2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of 1/31/18

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Pakistan	20	8	0	15 Nov 17
Afghanistan	13	14	2	6 Jan 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Total	37	22	2	

How am I Already Halfway?



By: Sarah Carney

Is it just me, or did January go by sooo slow? I'm not complaining because the more time I can spend in this beautiful country, the better. January was a great month; a great way to kick off the new year and the last half of my exchange. New Year's Day was spent with both sides of my first host family, first with my host dad's side and then with my host mom's side. It reminded me of New Year's Day back home, going to my grandma's house with my mom's side of the family.

I moved to my second host family on January 3rd. My host mom of my second family is the sister of my first host dad, so I got to know my second family before moving in which made getting settled much easier. I have a host sister who is one year older than me and a host brother who is two years younger than me. They also have a cat, Titus, which I LOVE because I've missed having a pet around the house.

The 6th of January was our monthly Rotary outing, this time we visited the city of Brugge. It was absolutely beautiful and I really hope I get the chance to go back and spend more time there. Just like every city trip we do, I love being able to see the other exchange students and spend time with them. The following weekend, the future outbounds from Belgium had their first orientation, and they all found out what countries they were going to, and sadly, only one student is going to America. There was also a Rotary Gala Fundraiser put on by one of the Rotary clubs in our district. All of us inbound students were invited to attend; we got to get all dressed up and enjoy the night listening to great music and spend time with each other and the other guests.

At school, we just had a celebration called Chrysostomos, which is to celebrate there being 100 days left of school. It's basically like spirit week and senior bash put into two days. School here is a bit different than back home. Here, you get to choose your course of study; for example, I'm in the sport and science track, there is also Economic, Math, and other tracks you can follow, so there are different classes within each grade. During the week of Chrysostomos, or Xmos, on Thursday each class in the senior class



comes up with a theme for a dress up day. My sports class dressed in random sport clothes, other themes were lederhosen, banana suits, and camouflage. That day was so much fun, we didn't do much in any of our classes. Thursday evening, just about everyone from the 6th year (senior class) went out to Versuz, which is a really fun club. We didn't get there until around 12am and we stayed until about 5am. I stayed the night, well 3 hours, at a friend's house before going back to school at 9am the same morning. We had breakfast at the school and then we put on a show for the 5th year (junior) class. Each class in the 6th year came up with a performance. My sports class got into three groups and each group came up with a dance. The group I was in came up with a dance but we added a little twist to ours. I'm sure you've seen the videos online of the girls who do the dances with the Styrofoam mannequin heads under their sweatshirts. If you haven't, then you should look it up to get an idea of what my friends and I looked like. Hint: we looked absolutely ridiculous! No matter how ridiculous we looked, it was so much fun. After the show, the school provided lunch for the whole class before we all went off for our class activity. I went to a trampoline park with my class which was so much fun! After those two very busy days and running on only 2 hours of sleep, I couldn't wait to be back in my bed.

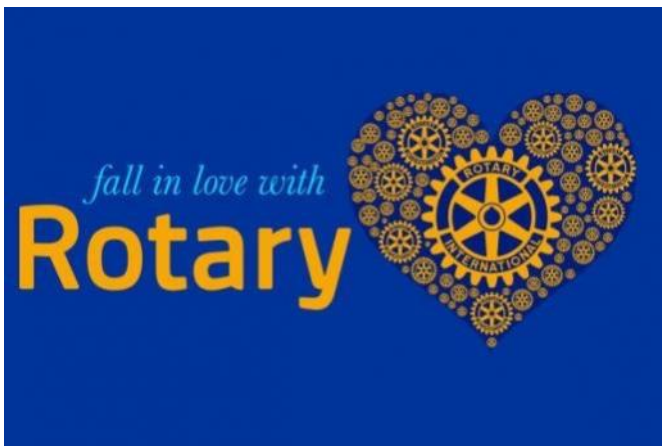
January was a very fun and very busy month. It was also the marking of me being halfway through my exchange. I've made so many new friends, family, and memories in the past 5 1/2 months, here's to what the next 5 1/2 have in store for me!

Interact News:



Interact is gearing up for exchange weekend March 22nd-25th. It is always a busy but very fun weekend. We invite any Rotarians to come help or visit us at Casino night, March 24th at the Village Hall, 7pm. Thursday night all the students come to town and meet their families for the weekend. We continue the tradition with RIT field trip, glow dance, bowling, casino night and pancake breakfast to close out the weekend. We are also glad to have all our Rotary volunteers help us with that weekend!!!

DESSERT AUCTION: Some Interact students will visit Rotary Tuesday at the Sweethearts Dinner and we look forward to the dessert Auction! Come prepared!



New Club Meeting Signs Are Posted...
Check Them Out.



February Meeting Set-Up

#1 #2

Tues. Feb. 6: Terry Lemen, Doug Hayes
Tues. Feb. 13: Laurie Vonglis, Tom Vonglis
Tues. Feb. 20: TBD
Tues. Feb. 27: TBD



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



February Challenge



By: Kirk Vanderbilt

As we try to wrap up our 17-18 Foundation fund drive, I am happy to report that we are well over half way to achieving our goals for this year. While as a Club we set actual monetary goals, I as your Foundation Committee Chairman, have a simpler goal in mind. That goal is simply to have every single member of our club participate at some level. Last year we set a goal of \$26.50 per member to honor the very first donation ever to the Rotary Foundation (that's over \$500 in today's dollars) This year we set a goal of \$50. Of course we encourage all members to contribute at a level with which they feel comfortable. For some of us, that might be a sustaining membership of \$100 per year, but for some it might be a one-time donation of \$10 - and that's OK. I just want people to feel like they have "skin in the game" when it comes to our Club's efforts towards "Doing Good in the World"

So if you haven't had the chance, or have simply forgotten to make your contribution, please let me know how I can help make that happen. Whether it be by check, cash, credit card, or setting up a recurring donation or a 1-time donation through Rotary Direct, all I ask is that you join our collective effort.

As incentive to join our effort our committee has decided to offer a lottery to name a Paul Harris Fellow. For any member who becomes a Sustaining Member of the Foundation (\$100 per year) by the end of February (either by 1-time donation, or by setting up recurring giving through Rotary Direct at a level which achieves that amount), their name will be added to a random drawing. The winner will be given the opportunity to name a Paul Harris Fellow. They could name a friend or family member, a fellow Rotarian, or a community member (keeping the spirit of Paul Harris in mind of course)

As a Rotary Club, we have much to be proud of. We are growing, active, fun, and vibrant. Let's add 100% participation with the Foundation to that list.



Veerle's Exchange Update

Hi Rotary!

This month went by just as fast as the other months, maybe even faster. It is bizarre that I am almost halfway. I just came back from my first (ice) hockey game and it was so much fun! It was at RIT college so of course I took a picture with the lion. During the midterm week I had a couple days off, which was so good. One day I went ice skating in the city with two friends from school and my exchange friend Natálie, which was so much fun! Also, I went for a weekend with my host family to see their family in Amsterdam! But we didn't had to take a plane, it was only three hours driving. We went snowtubing and of course I took pictures in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Although I have to say; Amsterdam and Rotterdam are much more spectacular in the Netherlands! A week ago I went to see Claudia's ski-meet and then we had a sleepover with Natálie at her house. And last Friday we had again a sleepover with also Fanny and Melody at Laurie and Tom's house, because Ed took us that morning to Buffalo in the truck! This month I saw also the movie "The Greatest Showman" three times (Yeah it is that good) and I absolutely love it. All fun and I can't wait for everything that is coming!



Love Veerle

February Member Celebrations

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Joe Callahan (H) 1987
- ⇒ Margo Harper 1999
- ⇒ Barbara Herman 1999
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki 2007
- ⇒ Bill Shaw (H) 1971

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Julie Carney
- ⇒ Mark Evans

Birthdays

- ⇒ Hans Koomen
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson



We're Racing to Saratoga Springs!

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:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



American Red Cross

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



Rotary



The Four-Way Test

of what we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



February Club Schedule

Tues. Feb. 6	Reg. Mtg. + Program: Nicaragua Presentation, Corn Festival Mtg.
Mon. Feb. 12	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Feb. 13	Sweethearts Dinner 5:30 pm @ Avon Commons
Tues. Feb. 20	Veterans Service Project, DTA Committee Mtg.
Tues. Feb. 27	Reg. Mtg. + BJB Committee Mtg.



*Avon Food Pantry Collections
are the 3rd Tuesday Of The Month
Supplies Needed in February:
Juice, Peanut Butter, Canned Fruit
Thank you!*



Save The Date

2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, February 13, 2018:	Sweethearts Dinner & Dessert Auction—5:30
Tuesday, March 13, 2018:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
Saturday, March 24, 2018:	Youth Exchange Weekend Casino Night 8-11pm
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, 5:00—11:00
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	Change of Officers—Avon Inn, 5:30
Sun.-Wed., June 24-27, 2018	International Convention, Toronto, Canada