



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Club Calendar & More	2
Rambling On Rotary	3
Meeting Recaps	4
Sweethearts Dinner Highlights	5
Veterans Outreach Project	6
Blue Jean Ball News	6
Veerle's February Update	7
Interact News	7
Sarah's February Update	8
Rotex Ski Weekend	9
Polio Update	9
Items to Note	10
Save the Dates	11
Food Pantry Needs	11

President's Message



So another month has come and gone. It sure does seem like time is speeding up but maybe it's just because we are so busy with work and of course all the good we are doing in Rotary. This month we saw another fantastic service project completed. Many thanks to Jake for taking the lead on our Veterans Outreach project. The amount of clothing we collected along with the backpacks full of useful materials will certainly be a great help to those that have served our country. Our special guest from the Veterans Outreach center, Laura, provided an excellent overview of the many services they provide for local Veterans.

We enjoyed a wonderful sweetheart's dinner thanks to Shannon, Terry, Laurie & Partyman Cartering. Along with our wonderful meal we enjoyed once again the dessert auction provided by our Interact Club. I must say the \$180.00 I spent on the peanut butter brownies were worth every penny. Our thanks to Dave Coyne for his auctioneer skills that

helps to raise this money for the exchange weekend activities in March.

Our month of February was also filled with committee meetings as we prepare for the upcoming events that our club will be hosting. These include the District Training Assembly, Corn Festival, and Blue Jean Ball. Our vibrant club has stepped up to make all of these events successful. As we move closer to the District Training Assembly I'll be asking for more and more participation from all our members. I'm so grateful for the committee chairs that are in place but rest assured they can not do all the work themselves. Volunteers are needed!

I look forward to continued efforts around service projects that help others and embody the "service above self" motto. Thanks to all of you for the great job this year and all our accomplishment to date. Looking forward to a strong finish to this Rotary year.

Yours In Service,

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



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

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

March Club Schedule



Tues. Mar 6	Reg. Mtg. Corn Fest Mtg following
Mon. Mar 12	Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Mar 13	St. Patrick's Themed Mtg. DTA Mtg following
Tues. Mar 20	Barilla Tour 4-6pm, Reg. Mtg following
Tues. Mar 27	Reg. Mtg. BJB Mtg following

March Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ *Ted Coyne*
- ⇒ *Rodney George*
- ⇒ *David Kilgore*
- ⇒ *Ed Kime*
- ⇒ *Wayne Warriner*

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ *Heather Ayers 2014*
- ⇒ *Jake Ayers 2014*
- ⇒ *Tim Dickinson 2005*
- ⇒ *Mark Evans 1994*
- ⇒ *Helen Zamboni 2005*

Wedding Anniversary: *Kathy Shrestha*



March Meeting Set-Up

#1 #2

- Tues. March 6: Jim Varner & Charlene Masten
- Tues. March 13: TBD
- Tues. March 20: Tom & Laurie Vonglis
- Tues. March 27: Doug Hayes & Terry Lemen



Rambling On Rotary— March



By: Bruce Amey

Actress Audrey Hepburn is credited with saying, “Nothing is impossible. The word itself says “I’m possible”! From my perspective, through Rotary, nothing is impossible, or, to say it affirmatively, through Rotary, everything is possible!

Look at some of what our Avon Rotary has accomplished this year. We support a number of local activities. To name a few: Avon Lacrosse Club, school scholarships, dictionaries for 3rd graders in ACS and St. Agnes, literacy with Rochester CSD, Avon scouting, the Avon Library capital project, the Downs walking/exercise trail plus playground, a homeless vet project plus an in-meeting service project with the Veterans’ Outreach Center, Avon Food Pantry, Avon Ambulance, Theresa House, the Senior Bash (a pre-graduation safe activity for ACS seniors), the Avon Drama Club, etc.

Regionally our club has supported both in monetary and on-hands support: “The Outreach Program: Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives” project with Partyman Catering, Honor Flight, Focus on the Children backpack/school supplies/no-sew blankets in-meeting service project, Gilda’s Club Open Arms picnic last July, etc.

When it comes to international activities we have participated both with monetary support and hands in the ground in Nicaragua with Linking Hands for Learning to build schools, with the Victor-Farmington Rotary a water project to provide clean water in Esteli, Nicaragua, shelter boxes, American Red Cross supporting disaster relief, specifically in Puerto Rico, etc.

Over the past 100 years, the Rotary Foundation has transformed donations into projects that have changed lives both close to home and around the world. More than 90% of donations to the Foundation go directly to supporting service projects, that is, less than 10% goes for administrative support. Because of donations to the Foundation, 99.9% of all polio cases in the world have been eliminated. Donations to the Foundation also help train future peacemakers, support clean water projects, help to build schools, and strengthen local economies.

I am passionate about the work of the Rotary International Foundation; it exists to serve our community, our nation, and our world. As Avon Rotarians, our record of service and serving others is clear. But for me it is also my belief that every member of our club needs to commit to making some level of a monetary donation to the Foundation. As our Foundation Chair Kirk noted in the February Newsletter, the

club’s goal is for every member to donate \$50 this year; but all I want is for every member to give something. It is great to recognize sustaining members (those who give at least \$100 annually, which is less than \$10/month) but it is more important to me that 100% of our membership recognize the value that the Foundation provides for service in our community and globally and makes a commitment to give something. If you have not already made your donation to the Foundation, please contact Kirk. Even \$5 or \$10 may be the seed that becomes the next life-saving project.

Also, I would like to encourage everyone to register for the District 7120 Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY on May 4-6, if you have not done so already. It happens to be Kentucky Derby weekend and, if you can’t be in Churchill Downs, there is no better place to be than in Saratoga for the run for the roses! Also, the Rotary International Convention is a stone’s throw away in Toronto, Canada on June 23-27. Registrations for the conferences and reservations for housing for both are open. I have never attended an international conference but I am so looking forward to interacting, engaging, and learning with other Rotarians from our District and around the world; what fabulous opportunities to be inspired both conferences will provide.



Rotary International President-Elect Barry Rassin has selected the theme for next year; he is challenging all Rotarians to “Be the Inspiration”. I believe we are doing that today; I believe Avon Rotarians have been doing that for years. I am inspired by our club and the activities we are seeking to serve. For us nothing is impossible because “I’m possible!”

And, as usual, I really have rambled on long enough.

MARCH IS

WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

“Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone, must become available to all people now.”
Jean-Michel Cousteau

Rotary  

www.rotary.org

Meeting Review....



February 6: Jeanine & Rob Lupisella shared an update on this year's Linking Hands For Learning school build project. 8 Avon Rotarians will be traveling to Nicaragua to help with the build in March. President Tom presented a donation on behalf of the club for \$2500. In addition, Foundation Chair, Kirk Vanderbilt presented a Paul Harris +1 pin to Kelly Cole. Thanks for your support to the Foundation Kelly!

February 13: Foundation Chair Kirk Vanderbilt encouraged foundation giving in the month of February in support of the District give \$28 challenge. With much gratitude for the generous Avon Rotary sustaining members, all were called up to receive 17-18 stickers and a group photo. Missing from the photo were those absent plus Marcia Cameron and Dorothy Coyne. Apologies ladies for the oversight.



February 20: Avon Rotarian Barbara Herman was presented a Paul Harris Fellow +1 and was pinned by Past District Governor Scott MacDonald. Thank you Barbara for your generosity to the foundation.

February 27: Sleight of Officers for 2018-2019 was determined with no additional nominations made from the club. Bruce Amey made a motion to accept and Janis McMIndes seconded the motion. The next Board of Directors will be:

President—Heather Ayers

President Elect—Dom Lalise

Sr. Director—Terry Lemen

Director—Julie Carney

Member-at-large—Karl Sawicki

Past President—Tom Vonglis

Secretary—Laurie Vonglis

Treasurer—Kelly Cole

Sweethearts Dinner Highlights

Feb. 13: Another Sweethearts Dinner in the memory books! Many thanks to Shannon DiFranco & Terry Lemen for arranging this special event once again. Partyman Catering provided a delicious buffet and the ladies supplied festive decorations, trivia and games. We enjoyed the special company of our DG Don Milton and his partner Ruth as well as our youngest party-goer, Chase Holmes. He seemed to enjoy his very 1st Rotary meeting.

Other notable highlights were the club wedding slideshow which continues to grow with photos each year, music, celebrations, song and especially the Interact Dessert Auction! Under Shannon's direction, the student teamed up and provided a table full of desserts to bid on. The bidding was extremely generous and even a bit competitive, even between spouses! All monies raised will help support the Interact Exchange Weekend in March.

Congratulations to the "How well do you know your spouse" game winners—Greg & Jean Antkowiak! So much fun.

Thank you to all that attended and supported the auction.



Jean & Greg Antkowiak



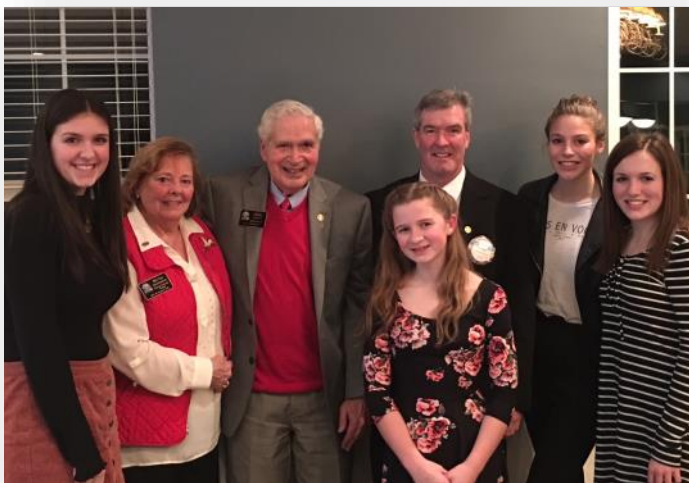
DG Don & Ruth enjoying cheesecake dessert.



Scott, Jill & Chase Holmes showing off their auction item.



Party goers ready to bid.



L-R: Maggie Dempsey- Interact PE, Ruth Cronkwright, DG Don Milton, President Tom Vonglis, Eliza Kime, Veerle Beckers- Exchange Student and Maria Crane- Treasurer.



Veterans Outreach Center—In Meeting Service Project



On February 20th Avon Rotary completed their latest In Meeting Service Project. This particular project was put together to benefit the Veterans Outreach

Center in Rochester. We were able to assemble 20 backpacks with professional supplies and a toiletry bag to help Veterans in their job readiness program. These supplies will help the Veterans as they go on job interviews and begin employment. As a bonus, the club stepped up big time with the donation of boxes and boxes worth of gently worn dress shirts, pants, socks, ties, sport coats and suits. A huge thank you to all who donated. This really made the overall project so much more substantial. This will give the Vets a "one stop shop" to help look their best when interviewing and starting/changing their careers.



In speaking with Laura Stadley the Executive Director of the VOC following that evening, I can say she was overwhelmed and very impressed by all that was given by our club. She again reiterated that all of these items would go to good use and that there was a huge need that was filled by our club.

I want to thank everyone in the club again for getting behind this project and I hope you all enjoyed participating. I know personally being able to complete something tangible and see it benefit someone is so much more meaningful than just writing a check.

I am still looking for ideas for future In Meeting Service Projects. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas.

Jake Ayers
In Meeting Service Project Chair



3rd Annual Blue Jean Ball

Well it's that time of year again, time for the 3rd Annual Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball. This year we will have many exciting changes to our already successful event.

A few of the changes will be a venue change to the barn of Julie and Dan Welch. For those that came out this past fall to their reveal party know this venue is spectacular. We are very grateful for Julie and Dan to allow us to have our event at their venue. We will also be changing up the entertainment and having a DJ this year instead of a live band.

Look for many more updates, opportunities to donate items, and opportunities to volunteer on the night of the event. We have chosen 3 worthy charities this year that the Blue Jean Ball will directly benefit. Stone's Closet (Avon Central School Backpack Program), Chances and Changes, and Gilda's Club. These 3 Charities fit well into what we are trying to do as a club and the overall theme of Rotary International.

I look forward to another successful event this June 2nd and I hope that you will all be a part of it. Tickets will be on sale soon!!

Mr. Jake
BJB Co-Chair

Veerle's February Adventures



Hi Avon Rotary!

This time I will write a little piece about my adventures in the month February. The 18th, I was exactly 6 months in the United States, and it goes so incredibly fast. This month, I did my first speech for a pretty big crowd, about my exchange, linked to how important it is to stand up for women's rights. It was the father/daughter night in the Lions club. It was a great evening and my speech went very well!

Then I had the Rotary ski weekend with all the exchange students. I had not skied in a couple years, so I was quite nervous I totally lost it, but it went actually really good, and I loved it. I never skied in the dark, because in Europe most trails close around 4 PM, but that is so cool! The weekend after I saw Claudia and Natalie for a while, and Natalie and I went to the movies. I went to

Simply Crepes with Makenna, which was yummy, and I am having fun with all the theater people in the play, (which is March 9th, 10th and 11th, in Avon Auditorium).

Last weekend I went with my host family, Laurie and Tom, and Heather and Jake to Inlet. We hiked across the lake, saw a beautiful fireworks show, had campfires and watched movies. I was so excited about the fireworks, because I missed those a lot actually with New Years. So it was a very fun weekend!

March is going to be absolutely crazy busy, with the play, start of tennis season, the Avon exchange weekend, my move to my next and last host family, and the trip to Nicaragua.

Until next month,

Love Veerle



Interact News:

Thank you all who bought the Interact desserts. The kids we so surprised on how much some desserts went for! David Coyne did a great job and we thank him for his time. The money raised will ensure we can have a fun exchange weekend and hopefully add another charity to our donations. It was a fun night and we raised \$1140.00.

Thank you., Shannon





Sarah's February Adventures

February was a very bitter-sweet month; I made a lot of great memories, but I had to schedule my flight back home and I officially made it halfway. I am having the time of my life, but it's finally hitting me that my time here is going by fast and I have less days left than days I've been here.

Starting off the month of February, I went to the city of Luik (Liege in French) with my host mom. We dropped my host dad off at the train station and then walked around the city for the rest of the afternoon. Luik was such a beautiful city. We climbed many steps, but it was worth it in the end for the incredible view of the city. It was such a great afternoon spent with my host mom, we get along very well. I also got some exciting news from back home that same day; I was accepted into SUNY Brockport! I don't want my exchange to come to an end but I'm looking forward to what's coming next.

My YEO invited me to go to the KRC Genk football (soccer) game and gave me an extra ticket so I could take a friend. I invited my friend, Sophie, from school, the same girl I went skiing with over the Christmas vacation. The game was very nice, especially since they won! I never really watched soccer back home but I'm always up to attend a sporting event, no matter what the sport is.

We had a week off from school from the 11th of February until the 17th of February. My host family has a house in Austria, so I got to go skiing for a 2nd time in the Alps! My host parents, my host brother, and I spent the week there and it was so much fun. Unfortunately, my host sister couldn't go with us because she had classes that week. I have never skied for more than 2 days in a row, so skiing everyday for 6 days was a major workout for me, but all worth it. One of my favorite memories from that week was when we went out to dinner one of the nights with two other families from Belgium that were there. We made a reservation at a restaurant that was on the slope, and the only way to get there was by walking up the mountain. It was about a 30-minute walk, and by the time we got to the restaurant, we were all sweating even though it was about -5 degrees Celsius outside. We brought some sleds with us, so instead of walking back down the mountain, we sled down the mountain. It was definitely one of the best sledding experiences I've had. One of my other favorite memories was skiing a whole day while wearing onesies. Since that week

was Carnival, we brought some costumes with us to wear while on the slopes. My host brother was a cow, I was a green Teletubby, one of our friends was Pikachu, and the other 2 girls were sheep. This is a tradition I'm going to bring back to the states, and soon everyone will be skiing in onesies. I loved every minute of that trip and I wish it didn't end.

Our Rotary trip this month was to De Koninck, a brewery in Antwerp. There is an interactive museum inside which shows you the process of how the beer is made and the history of the brewery. I have visited it before with my first host family at the beginning of my exchange, but it was nice to see it for a second time. The first time we went, I couldn't understand most of the information that was given in Dutch, but the second time around I could understand almost everything.

At school everything is going well, I haven't had any more conflict with my one sport teacher. My counselor at school informed me that there are two other sport teachers that said I could help assist them in some of their classes. Hopefully when my sport teacher hears about other teachers letting me help, she will come around.

I have noticed a huge improvement in my Dutch over the past couple months, especially since I've moved in with my second host family. My host brother only speaks to me in Dutch and I try to respond in Dutch but sometimes I don't know the words I need for what I have to say. My host dad and host sister both speak to me in Dutch most of the time, unless I have no idea what they are saying and then they translate in English. Before I moved in, my host mom was very good about speaking to me only in Dutch, but then once I moved in, we were always speaking English to each other. I didn't really notice it but then my host brother called her out and told her she speaks too much English with me and that she should only speak Dutch. When I speak to my host family, it's a mix of Dutch and English; I'll start the sentence in Dutch and when I reach words I don't know, I say them in English. I always text my host parents in Dutch which has really improved my reading and writing skills. I'm still waiting for the day where the language just "clicks" with me and I'll be able to speak it more confidently and correctly.

I'm almost at 200 days and I don't want to be near the end yet. Thank you for all of your support!

Sarah Carney



Rotex Ski Weekend



By Terry Lemen

The weekend of February 10th and 11th District 7120's Rotex organized a ski weekend at Swain for all of the inbound and outbound exchange students. This fun filled weekend culminated in a delicious breakfast prepared and served by Avon Rotarians Ernie Wiard, Terry Lemen and Doug Hayes at the Beachcomber Restaurant on Conesus Lake.

There were about 50 students, Rotex and Rotarians who enjoyed Ernie's famous home fries, pancakes, bacon, sausage and eggs. Special thanks go out to Tom and Mary Alice Mays for donating their restaurant and kitchen for us to use. Also many thanks to Ed Kime, Dan Cole and

Holly Krueser for chaperoning the weekend. Despite a couple of injuries and a trip to the hospital the weekend was deemed a great success by the students.



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 2/28/18

<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	3	6 Jan 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Total	37	22	3	

PROUD TO BE A

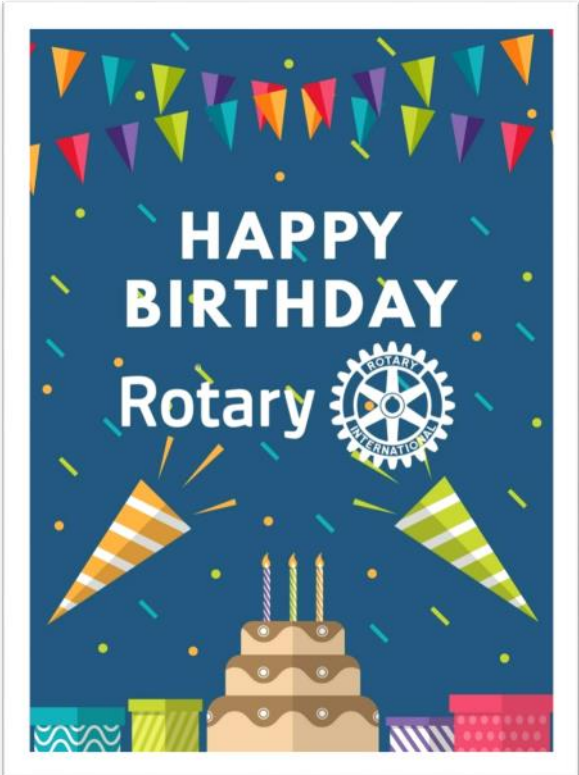


PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

Rotary   **ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Thank you, to the Board of Directors, and the Paul Harris Committee, for bestowing an additional Paul Harris Fellow on me. This is truly a high honor, and I am so pleased that you have chosen me for this award.

Barbara Herman-



 **save life**
Give blood

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



American Red Cross

We're Racing to Saratoga Springs!



Saratoga 2018
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



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

COMING SOON....

District 7120 Training Assembly
Saturday April 14th, 2018 7:30 am—12:30 pm
Avon Central Middle School
191 Clinton Street
Avon, NY 14414

Hosted by: Avon Rotary Club
PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
Contact Tom Vonglis for more details!



Save The Date

2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

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, 6:00—11:00
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	Change of Officers—Avon Inn, 5:30
Sun.-Wed., June 24-27, 2018	International Convention, Toronto, Canada



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

Supplies Needed in March:

SUGARFREE: JELLO, CANNED
FRUIT, SNACKS & JUICE

Thank you!

May the dreams
you hold dearest
be those which
come true
And the kindness
you spread
keep returning
to you

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?