



### July 2018

## President's Message



The Change of Officers ceremony has always been a special night for Avon Rotary and this year was no exception. Once again, Laurie did a phenomenal job planning the evening and making sure every detail was handled – thank you for the hard work you put into making this an exceptional evening.

We had so many things to celebrate, the first of which is the phenomenal year that we had as a club. This would not have been possible without the amazing leadership that Tom brought this year and the willingness of everyone in the club to rise to his challenge of thinking of ways to be hands on and to “Make a Difference”. I want to thank Tom for the amazing example he set for all of us and the way he was able to raise the bar for our club this past year. The goals we exceeded, the records we set and the fun we had doing it all is truly something to be inspired by.

I also want to take this opportunity to again congratulate our Rotarian of the Year, Rob Lupisella, our Paul Harris Fellow recipients, Jake Ayers, Shannon DiFranco and Cathy Jo Murphy, PHF +5 Hans Koomen, PHF +3 Laurie Vonglis and our Rookies of the Year, Shawn Rice and Jeff Herberger. It's quite remarkable the work that this group of people has done to earn these honors and I'm so grateful to be able to work alongside each of them as they continue to bring our club to new heights.

I also want to express my deep gratitude for being honored as a Paul Harris Fellow along with my husband, Jake. Receiving this honor means so much to me, but to be able to share that with my partner and love in life makes it even more special. Thank you.

This year's Rotary theme is “Be the Inspiration”. We have all had moments of inspiration, but to be the cause of inspiration in others is truly something to strive for. To inspire others to put service above self, to inspire others to do small acts of kindness, to inspire someone by doing what inspires you – these are the things that will make lasting positive change. I put the challenge out to everyone to “Be the inspiration by being people of action.” Let's keep setting a great example of what a group of people can do when they are inspired and work together toward a common goal. Let's show our communities and the world just what Avon Rotary is made of and inspire others to achieve their own goals.

I am excited to take on the challenge of helping to lead our club to what I know will be another year to be proud of and celebrate. We already have a lot to look forward to just in the month of July – 2 service projects, a visit from our District Governor, a new meeting venue and more. I look forward to working and playing hard with you all this month and beyond!

Cheers,  
Heather

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Blue Jean Ball	2
Boy Scout 85th Anniversary	2
Change of Officers Highlights	3, 4
Club Meeting Schedule	5
July Celebrations	5
July Ramblings—Convention	6, 7
Exchange Month of June	8
Polio Update & More	9
Save the Dates	10

### Board of Directors

Heather Ayers, President  
 Dom Laisse, President Elect  
 Terry Lemen, Senior Director  
 Julie Carney, Director  
 Karl Sawicki, Member at Large  
 Tom Vonglis, Past President  
 Laurie Vonglis, Secretary  
 Kelly Cole, Treasurer

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

# Fun Time at the Blue Jean Ball



By: Jake Ayers

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball took place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We once again lived up to our motto of “Kicking it up for Hands That Help”. This year brought many firsts for the Blue Jean Ball one of the most notable being a change in venue. We

were honored to have the event at Julie and Dan Welch’s newly renovated barn, “Oak Knolls Manor”. They were gracious enough to open up their barn to us and boy what a beautiful place it is. I want to personally thank Julie and Dan for donating their spectacular facility to us and for all the hard work they put into getting everything ready for our event.

Every year the Blue Jean Ball designates specific charities that will benefit from the funds that are raised at the event. In past years, we have contributed to organizations such as Honor Flight, Teresa House, GVRC and Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance. This year’s charities that will benefit from the monies raised are: Avon Central Community Resources (Stone’s Closet), Chances and Changes, and Gilda’s Club

of Rochester. We were fortunate to have representatives from each organization speak to the crowd and explain how the money raised would help with their specific missions. I know hearing each of these individuals speak made me realize why we put on this event. We are going to be able to “Make a Difference” (Rotary’s 2017-2018 theme) in many people’s lives.

We enjoyed a wonderful night of dinner, music, dancing, games, raffles and of course fellowship! I want to thank everyone in the community and our club that purchased tickets, donated raffle items, and sponsored the event. Without each and every one of you, the Blue Jean Ball would not be the successful event it has come to be.

To the Blue Jean Ball planning committee, thanks for all your hard work, long nights, weekends and preparation that make this event better every year. This event again highlights how truly generous our community can be and how Rotary can facilitate events to benefit our community and beyond. I hope everyone had a great time and we look forward to seeing you next year! Stay tuned for the date and additional information.

# Avon Boy Scouts Celebrate 85 Years



June 12, 2018

Avon Rotary hosted a picnic at the scout house to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the troop. Scout families and Rotarians gathered on a beautiful summer evening, enjoyed a picnic together, and toured the scout house.

Fellowship and memories were shared and the evenings highlight was the presentation of a special commemorative plaque for the troop. Scout Master, Jim Yencer accepted on behalf of the Scouts and shared some history of the troop as well as the importance of the partnership with Avon Rotary.



# Change of Officers Celebration Highlights—June 19th



President Tom Vonglis passes the gavel to our 2018-2019 President, Heather Ayers.

Rob Lupisella was chosen as our 2018 Rotarian of the Year.



Paul Harris Fellows were presented to Shannon DiFranco, Cathy Jo Murphy, Heather & Jake Ayers.



Jeff Herberger & Shawn Rice were awarded Rookies of the Year!



Hans Koomen received his Paul Harris Fellow +5 pin

Laurie Vonglis received her Paul Harris Fellow +3 pin



## More Changeover Highlights

Our attendance for the year was 82% - a very respectable number according to the district. We had a very busy year and a great amount of participation. Those Avon Rotarians with 100% attendance, based on weekly meetings and hands on participation are the following....

Bruce Amey	Rodney George	Charlene Masten	Laurie Vonglis
Heather Ayers	Doug Hayes	Janis McMIndes	Tom Vonglis
Jake Ayers	Jeff Herberger	Bob Mellen	Bill Wall
Marcia Cameron	Barbara Herman	Cathy Jo Murphy	Julie Welch
Kelly Cole	David Kilgore	Shawn Rice	Helen Zamboni
Shannon DiFranco	Ed Kime	Josh Tonra	
Jerry Dougherty	Dom Lalisie	Kirk Vanderbilt	
Mike Ford	Terry Lemen	Jim Varner	



**Our 2018 Linda Kime Memorial Schorship recipient was awarded to Nicholas Pusloskie**



Veerle added some thoughtful, humorous 'paper plate awards' to the evenings presentations.

## July Club Schedule



<b>Tues. July 3</b>	NO MEETING—HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
<b>Mon. July 9</b>	Board of Directors Mtg 7 pm @ Hurricane
<b>Tues. July 10</b>	Reg. Mtg—District Governor Visits
<b>Tues. July 17</b>	Reg. Mtg— Program: Liz Green from ACS
<b>Wed. July 18</b>	Gilda's Club Picnic—Service Project @ Penfield HS
<b>Tues. July 24</b>	Summer Picnic
<b>Tues. July 31</b>	Reg. Mtg—Program: Veerle Beckers

## July Member Celebrations



### Birthdays

- ⇒ Joe Callahan (H)
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki
- ⇒ Charlene Masten

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Julie Carney 2009
- ⇒ Ted Coyne 1955
- ⇒ Jerry Dougherty 1966
- ⇒ Jim Gaffney (H) 1971
- ⇒ Steve Stevenson (H) 1963

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Greg & Jean Antkowiak
- ⇒ Terry Lemen
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard



In 5 weeks we will be hosting the 32nd annual Avon Rotary Corn Festival!

Are you ready?

Have you signed up to volunteer?

If not... please do so soon.

**We need you!**

# Rambling On Rotary— Reflections on Rotary International Convention 2018



By: Bruce Amey

I had the pleasure and truly awesome opportunity to attend the Rotary International Convention this June as it was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. As I arrived, I quickly found out that you pronounce the host city's name like "Trono". It was similar to when I went to New Orleans, Louisiana and learned it is pronounced, "Nawlins, Lose-iana".

Upon arriving, I learned there were more than 24,000 attendees registered from 75 different countries. For those of you who do not know, Rotary was started in 1905 with the vision of one man – Paul Harris, a Chicago attorney. His vision for the club was for "professionals with diverse backgrounds [to meet to] exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities." Today, Rotary has more than 1.2 million members and 35,000 clubs worldwide. I've known those numbers for a few years but to see people from those countries and have the opportunity to interact with them was AWESOME and mind-blowing.

During the opening session there was a Parade of Flags that lasted for about 20 minutes. Have you ever heard of Eswatini or Nauru or Palau or Vanuatu? These countries all have Rotary Clubs in them. Eswatini is one of the smallest countries in Africa. Nauru is an island in Micronesia that is the third smallest state in the world, behind Vatican City and Monaco. Palau and Vanuatu are both small island nations in the Pacific. It wouldn't surprise me that U.S. Rotarians have performed service projects in these countries, but these countries have seen what Rotarians can do and have formed their own clubs. For more than 110 years, Rotary members have been addressing challenges around the world and we continue to do so today.

The opening session held presentations from current president Ian Riseley and Ontario Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdswell along with dances of the indigenous people of Toronto and their Chief Stacey Laforme. Chief Laforme reminded us that we "gather to do the right thing for our people, our children, and our future." President Riseley welcomed us stating that Rotary, like Toronto, is a cultural mosaic. He stated Rotarians make a commitment to something larger than themselves ... serving not only our communities, but our world. He paraphrased W B Yeats emphasizing the need to support educational projects with, "Education is not the act of filling a bucket but that of lighting a

fire." He noted that this is what Rotarians do; we inspire others by lighting their fires for service. Lt. Governor Dowdswell stated that "the work of Rotarians is more important than ever in this ever-changing geopolitical landscape." She continued, "Rotarians continually demonstrate that great challenges to humanity are not overcome by isolation but through collaboration. The first and simplest place to start solving problems is through dialogue. We need to bring people together around the same table and listen to each other." And there we were more than 15,000 Rotarians from all over the world being inspired together.

I was awed by the sense of unity of purpose that was in the room and wondered, how do we bring that sense to the governments of the world. For me the answer was getting the parties together in the same room around the same table and making sure they listen to each other. I believe Rotarians can make that happen ... we can change governments while we change the world when our focus is on serving others rather than serving ourselves.

There was a House of Friendship, which had examples of various Rotary projects being conducted by clubs around the world, each project addressing one of the Rotary Areas of Focus: Peace and conflict prevention/resolution, Disease prevention and treatment, Water and sanitation, Maternal and child health, Basic education and literacy, and Economic and community development. Again, I was amazed to see all the good that Rotary is doing around the world and to talk with others about their projects.

The 2nd General Session had a wonderful panel presentation by three Rotaractors from Australia, California, and Pakistan, a presentation by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, and the President and CEO of UNICEF USA. Some very powerful and inspirational messages were offered such as:

- We must measure the impact of our work so we can prove our value
- The power of your compassion (of Rotary) and the force of your commitment can truly change lives and change the world.
- History will record that we were the generation that eradicated polio or the generation that did not get it done when we had the chance. We must not stop; we are on the brink of history. If we do not eradicate polio now, the WHO predicts that in 10 years, 200,000 children will again be dying each year. If we do not ensure that all children are vaccinated, then an outbreak is just a plane ride away.
- Let's make the health and safety of all children a political priority ... they are 100% of our future.

The third general session addressed the "Intersection and Impact" of clean water and education. "Together they

## Rambling (continued)

change everything.” The featured speaker of the day was former First Lady Laura Bush who has had a passion for children and literacy throughout her adult life. “Every child deserves a quality education and a safe and healthy childhood. Literacy is an essential foundation for democracy.” Other presenters continued to address the need for literacy education and Water and Sanitation Health (WASH). I was reminded that, “Rotary is an enabler of dreams for all people.” The fourth general session featured Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Some of the breakout sessions I attended truly stuck with me. As many of you know I believe the Rotary Foundation is one of the greatest tools to bring change to the world and I strive to give as much as I can to the Foundation. I learned about the Rotary Endowment program and will try to find more information to share with you at other times. As someone put it, our general fund giving to the Foundation helps us provide programs for today as we perform Service Above Self. The Rotary Endowment allows the Foundation to continue, in perpetuity, to provide programs for Service “After” Self.

A session “Membership Models for the Future of Rotary” expanded the thinking of how to make Rotary more available to others. It made me think of how colleges have taken programs to their students in multiple ways of traditional day classes, to evening classes, to on-line courses and a combination of all three to allow students to be involved when they can, not just when it’s convenient for the college. Are there ways to better reach potential Rotarians that allow them to be involved even when they cannot attend our traditional meeting times.

One of the most inspiring sessions I attended addressed “Communicating the Value of Our Club Experiences and the Value of Rotary”. Simon Sinek was quoted, “People don’t buy what you do, they buy WHY you do it.” Do you know WHY you are a Rotarian? Do you share your WHY with others? A survey was conducted asking Rotarians why they joined and stay in a Rotary club and the #1 reason was “making a positive impact on my community”. When inactive Rotarians were asked why they left, the #1 reasons were the cost and time to “belong” and the club not satisfying their expectations for service.

We talk about attracting members under 40, one panelist in this session described how Rotary is what millennials need. She said that “Rotary excels in teaching global citizenship, which so many of today’s jobs require. Rotary allows its members to practice empathy. Rotary offers young millennials to learn Board experience ... how to handle governance, mentoring, etc. very early in their professional lives and that has helped her advance in her professional life. Rotary offers unique opportunities and experiences.” Now, I ask, how often do we trumpet those opportunities of belonging to Rotary? To attract younger members, we need to sell or expertise that older members offer. We need to share our WHY!

At the convention, I could see that we are truly international. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents. Today, members in nearly every country work to solve some of our world’s most challenging problems. Rotary perseveres in tough times. During World War II, Rotary clubs in Austria, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain were forced to disband. Despite the risks, many continued to meet informally, and after the war, Rotary members came together to rebuild their clubs and their countries. We are committed to service, and we’re not afraid to dream big and set bold goals. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, polio remains endemic in only three countries — down from 125 countries in 1988.

I will close this Rambling by going back to the Opening Session. After the Parade of Flags, Canada’s flag was presented as the host country. That was followed by Australia’s flag being presented as the country of the Rotary International President Ian Riseley. Then the announcer said, “And now for the flag that unites us all, the flag of Rotary International.” The applause was deafening. The statement was so true. Everyone in the arena, everyone attending the conference is united in what Rotary International stands for. If 24,000 representatives from 75 countries can come together united in purpose, we must use that unity and that focus to make our world a better place. Attending the International Convention, we were all united around one purpose represented by one flag. And now I truly have rambled on long enough.



# My Exchange Month of June



Saying goodbye to Natalie at the Rochester airport.

Very sad to see her go!



This month went by again, so fast. The month started off amazing, a bucket list item came true. I went to a concert in America with my best friends. It was a concert of Vance Joy, an amazing artist and singer/songwriter, and it was incredible. We were so close and his music and the whole vibe was so good. It was my goodbye gift for my best friend Natálie, she left this month, which was really sad.

The other big event of the month was graduation. It started off with the senior walk in school in cap and gown (so cool). And other senior activities like the senior bash and baccalaureate, which were all very fun but at the same time bittersweet. Graduation itself was very cool too, because to me it is one of the most 'American' experience I've had. Then I had tons of graduation parties, from my exchange friends, but also my Avon school friends. I'm sad high school ended, but it was a year to never forget.

Right before graduation, I went for a weekend to Ithaca with my Avon friends. I visited the Taughannock falls and the Buttermilk Falls (jumped off a cliff!), and we got a tour of Cornell University, super cool to see! It was an amazing weekend.

I hung out with Natálie as much as possible because she was leaving. We went to Stony Brook state park (loved it, later that week I went again with Jessica, Elise and Caroline my HFL Nicaragua friends!), to the high falls in Rochester and eating bbq food in downtown. We went to the drive-in together with Claudia and Ed (thank you!!) which was so fun, and we visited the Eastman museum. She came with me to the change of officer dinner, which was a great night and I hoped you all enjoyed my paper plate awards haha. And then I went with Kirk to the Jazzfest which was so much fun!! I loved it. It was a good month. ❤️

Love Veerle

Graduation day with her good friend Mackenna.



Vance Joy concert with Paula and Natalia. So much fun!





The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



## OUR AREAS OF FOCUS



Peace and Conflict  
Prevention/Resolution



Disease Prevention  
and Treatment



Water and Sanitation



Maternal and  
Child Health



Basic Education and  
Literacy



Economic and Community  
Development

**fighting  
hunger  
together**

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

*Supplies Needed in July:*

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

*Thank you!*

### **Contact the Sunshine Liaison Agent**

to report any members or extended family  
that may need a card or some cheer.

Barbara Herman: 226-6735  
or barbara1901@twc.com



### **2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of July 3**

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	8	27 April 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	3	18 May 18
<b>Total</b>	37	22	<b>11</b>	

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!





# Save The Date

## 2018-2019 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, July 24, 2018	Picnic —5:00
Sunday, August 12, 2018	Corn Festival Picnic @ George's—3:00
Tuesday, August 21, 2018	Visit GVRC & Picnic—6:00
Tuesday, August 28, 2018	Membership Night—6:00
Tuesday, September 11, 2018	Avon Rotary Honors —6:00
Saturday, September 15, 2018	Clambake —3:00
Sunday, October 28, 2018	Eastern Cities Dinner—5:00
Saturday, December 8, 2018:	Christmas Party—6:00
Tuesday, February 12, 2019:	Sweethearts Dinner—6:00
Tuesday, March 12, 2019:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
Friday, May 3– May 5, 2019	District Conference—Mt. Pocono, PA
Saturday, June 1, 2019	Blue Jean Ball
Tuesday, June 4, 2019	Quad Cities Golf—Avon
Tuesday, June 25, 2019	Change of Officers