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President's Message



Happy spring, Rotarians! This is always the time of year where I begin to feel a new sense of energy as we come out of the winter hibernation and start planning for all of the fun that the warmer months

bring us.

March is always a great month as we get to celebrate the Irish with St. Patrick's Day and we had a wonderful opportunity to showcase our club and talents at this year's Lifting Up Livingston Parade. Congratulations to all those that made this a success, especially Leann Hill and Rhonda Hirschler. There was also lots of fun to be had at our annual St. Paddy's day party – thank you to Laurie and Tom Vonglis for coordinating a wonderful evening!

We also were front and center in the community as we hosted the Avon Parks Commission and the DEC and facilitated their public information meeting for their efforts in creating a sustainable plan Urban Forestry plan for Avon. And we can't forget that Herb Jones reminded us how much our country has to offer with our National Parks.

I'm renewed with energy as I think about the final stretch of our Rotary year – there is still so much to look forward to in these next 3 months. We have the induction of another new member of Avon Rotary, the District Training Assembly, the Avon Rotary Honors program where we will honor very deserving community members for their hard work and contributions, a roadside cleanup, a tree planting project at the Downs, the District Conference, a blood drive hosted by our Rotary club, the Blue Jean Ball, the Quad Cities golf tournament and many more programs to share during our regular meetings. It's going to be a busy spring, but one that I am looking forward to with enthusiasm!

Thank you for the continued inspiration and energy you bring to all that we do!

Yours In Rotary Service,
Heather

Board of Directors

- Heather Ayers, President
- Dom Lalisce, President Elect
- Julie Carney, Sr. Director
- Jake Ayers, 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 Inn

March Highlights

On March 5th Janis McMIndes was presented with her 1st Paul Harris Fellow. She is a generous supporter of the Rotary Foundation, having reached this milestone so soon after joining Avon Rotary in 2016. Many thanks to Janis for her dedication to the Foundation.



At our March 5th meeting we did an in-meeting service project and packed weekend food bags for ACS Stone's Community Resource Closet. Many thanks to Marcie Williams for heading this up with her excellent organizational skills. We packed almost 80 bags in no time at all with the help of the Rotarians in attendance.



At our March 12th meeting Past President Tom led the occasion and we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. The Avon Inn provided a fantastic corn-beef & cabbage meal! Members participated in some holiday trivia and a "Who Am I" game with a clear winner. Jerry won after 1 guess with the correct answer—Superman! How did he do that? Prizes were awarded and fun fellowship was apparent.



March Highlights Continued...



On March 16th

We had so much fun working on the float for 2 weeks with some awesome people.

The hard work and long hours were well worth the end result even with the heavy wind and freezing weather during the parade.

Submitted by Rhonda Hirschler



At our March 19th meeting we enjoyed a program about US National Parks. Local photographer, Herb Jones did the presentation. He gave us a bird's eye view of the parks as seen through his eyes and camera lens.

Submitted by Tom Vonglis

At our March 26th special meeting we had the pleasure of hosting an informational meeting about how the DEC and Village of Avon are working together to deal with the results of an invasive insect, specifically at the Avon Driving Park. The DEC awarded the Village two Urban Forestry grants that will not only benefit the Driving Park but also the trees along the Village streets and other Village parks. The presenters tonight were Brice June, DEC Forester and Chris Luley, President of Urban Forest Diagnostics. John Marks has been working closely with these groups on behalf of the Village and Parks Committee.



L-R: Chris Luley, Brice June, John Marks & President Heather Ayers

Welcome New Member David LeFeber



Inducted into membership—February 26, 2019

I am a lifelong resident of Avon, graduating from Avon Central School, SUNY Morrisville and Cornell University. Since graduation I have been involved in the family dairy and crop farm. Currently my Mother and I are shareholders in the corporation.

I reside on Littleville Road with my wife Andrea, who coaches Avon girls sports and is a teacher for Genesee Valley BOCES.

Since January 2000 I have been in Avon Town government and since 2002 involved in Livingston County government.

I have always recognized the good efforts of Avon Rotary in the Avon community and around the world. Thank you for accepting my membership and I hope I can contribute and advance the initiatives being worked on by the Avon Rotary Club.

Submitted by David LeFeber

Avon Rotary Club Literacy Program 2019

It's a rite of passage to receive a Rotary dictionary in 3rd grade. On March 20, 3rd graders gathered at St. Agnes and Avon Elementary School to receive their Rotary gifts. At the elementary school, Rob Lupisella started the presentation with an introduction about Rotary. He put together a slideshow explaining the purpose of Rotary, its history and our mission. Marcy Williams and I read through the slides for the students. In addition, the presentation highlighted our fundraising events. Most students were familiar with the Avon Rotary Cornfest. Rob explained that by attending the Cornfest, students and parents were supporting our fundraising and charities. Rob mentioned Avon's Interact Club and encouraged the students to think about joining when they are in high school.

Later in the morning, I visited the 3rd grade class at St. Agnes. I used Rob's presentation to introduce the 3rd graders to our Rotary Club. The students were so excited to receive their dictionaries. Several started looking up words and of course there was a challenge to find the longest word in the world! Afterwards, we took a group picture and the students thanked me for their gifts.

Thank you to the Avon Rotary Club for continuing this time honored tradition. The children still love to receive this gift from us!

Jean Antkowiak, Co-director of Avon Literacy Committee



Thank you for your generous donation of \$288 to The Dictionary Project which we received on February 20, 2019.

Your support makes it possible for students in Avon Primary to receive a dictionary for their own personal use that they will be able to use for a lifetime. For some children, this may be the very first book that they have owned. You are truly making a difference in their lives by giving them such an important reference tool.

Our goal is to reach every third grade student in the United States and you are helping us make this possible. So far this school year, we have reached an estimated 1,492,360 students. Cumulatively, we have been able to reach an estimated 31,605,981 students. Of these, 1,704 were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Avon.

With Gratitude, Mary The Dictionary Project

Rambling On Rotary—April



By: Bruce Amey

I think most of you know I believe in the benefits of renewable energies and making changes that will preserve our earth for mine and your grandchildren and their grandchildren. Relaxing in front of the TV on Sunday, March 17, I saw an episode of Madam Secretary which focused on climate change. And then today I received the April edition of “the Rotarian” which also focused on climate change. I was inspired for the theme for this month’s Rambling article.

The Madam Secretary episode focused a small island in the southern pacific which vanished during a super-cyclone believed caused by climate change. You may recall in my June Rambling I wrote about countries represented at the RI Convention in Toronto that I had never heard of. One of those countries was Nauru. Nauru is a small island in the south pacific; its highest point is only 213 ft above sea level. The TV episode named the island lost due to the weather similarly to Nauru. RI President Rassin lives on the island of Bermuda and his home is only a few hundred feet above sea level. Could parts of Bermuda begin disappearing due to climate change?

Many have mused about Global Warming, “how can we be complaining about the cold when there is global warming.” The issue is climate change and it is raising the earth’s temperature causing the polar ice caps to be melting which is raising the water levels... the result, disappearing shorelines and islands. Waterville, Maine Rotary

Club president-elect Peter Garrett states, “I know Rotary stays out of politics. But climate change is not a political subject. It would benefit Rotary to get involved in this thing that affects the entire world.” He goes on to “urge his fellow Rotarians to use the Four-Way Test to scrutinize the climate change issue. Is climate change true? As far as he’s concerned, scientists have erased any doubt as to its existence and potential impact. Is it fair? Absolutely not, especially if you live on a low-lying island. Resolve those problems [of climate change] and good will, better friendships, and beneficial outcomes will naturally follow.”

Rotary Scholar Sahar Mansoor states, “Based on the best scientific evidence available to date, we have less than 12 years to mobilize a complete conversion from fossil fuels to green energy, or we risk dangerously destabilizing Earth’s climate.” Scientists have definitively stated that carbon emissions have contributed to climate change. Changing from carbon producing fuels (coal, gasoline, and oil) and using “green” energies will help to reverse the process, but we must start today. In 12 years, my grandchildren will just be entering their teens; what will the world’s climate be for them?

DG Mike Slovak recently sent emails relating to global grants to support water and sanitation projects in Africa. What would it be like for our club to pursue global grants to address climate change?

RI President Rassin stated that transformational service is what Rotarians do best. “Because of our networks, which span the globe; our community presence, which allows us to see what’s most needed; and our expertise, which encompasses countless skills and professions, we’re able to serve in a manner that has no equal.” Rotarians have no equal as persons of action to accomplish great things. Rotarians are transformational!

I have previously referred to Rotary’s six 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. But as Karen Hendrick-Hands, a member of the Rotary Club of Madison, Wisconsin said, “If we don’t get climate change right, it doesn’t matter what we do in our six areas of focus.” Climate change is real and as people of action, we must act. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Avon Rotary Honors Program

Tuesday, April 9th

Avon Inn, 55 E. Main Street, Avon

6:00-7:00 pm Social Hour with light refreshments • 7:00pm Program

*Presenting Paul Harris Fellows
to Individuals Exemplifying the Ideals and
Professionalism of Rotary International*



Ginny House
Community Volunteer



Jennifer Palmer
Food Pantry Coordinator



Tom Moran
Community Leader
Posthumous

*Presenting Building Awards
to these businesses for their investment in the Avon Community*

BUILDING RENOVATION



Avon Inn
Jim & Jennifer Krause

NEW CONSTRUCTION



Evening Star Coffee Roasters
Jody & Christine Wolfanger

Please join Channel 13 Anchorman and fellow Rotarian Don Alhart, and members of the Avon Rotary Club as we recognize, honor and celebrate these citizens and businesses who have made a difference in our community.



Give Me 5 on the 5th Campaign

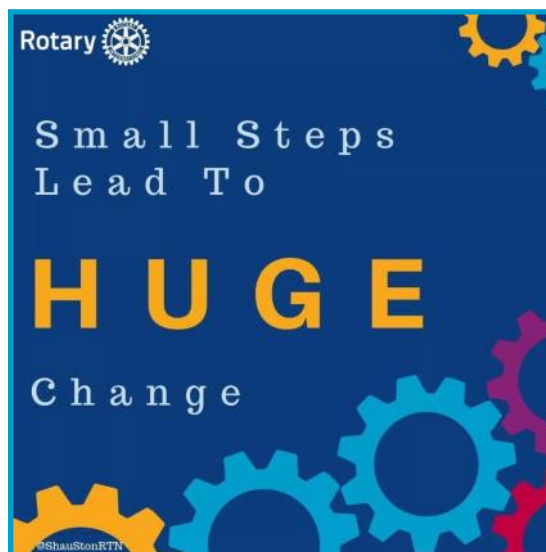


I wanted to personally thank everyone who participated in our Give Me 5 on the 5th campaign. I'm so proud of Avon Rotary and our dedication to supporting the Foundation as we raised over \$750 for the Foundation that evening. I'm no math wiz, but with just over 60 members at 5\$ a piece, we may have over-shot our goal a bit. Obviously, many folks contributed more than the \$5, with most doing at least \$5 to both the Annual Fund and Polio Plus. Special thanks too to those who have recurring contributions through Rotary Direct and contributed that evening anyway.

Please know that your contributions are indeed making a real difference in the world. As I write this, the Victor-Farmington Rotary Club's water project, which is being funded through an RI Global Grant, is in the very final stages of approval, and Avon Rotary has partnered with them to donate \$2500. Through the "magic" of the Foundation, our Club's donation becomes \$7500 towards providing clean and safe drinking water to an entire community in Nicaragua. Let that sink in.....you are making a difference, you are doing good in the world.

Avon Rotary Rocks!

Kirk, Foundation Chairman



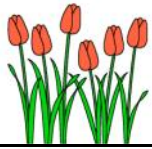
2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of March 27

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	14	21	2	Jan 12, 2019
Nigeria	0	0	0	Aug 20, 2016
Pakistan	8	8	6	Feb 25, 2019
Total	22	29	8	



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!

GPEI News: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General and Chair of the Polio Oversight Board, has issued a personal response to the extraordinary joint statement published in January by the Chairs of the main, independent, advisory and oversight committees of the GPEI. The joint statement is an impassioned plea by the Chairs of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization (SAGE), the Independent Monitoring Board, the Emergency Committee of the International Health Regulations (IHR) Regarding International Spread of Poliovirus and the Global Commission for the Certification of the Eradication of Poliomyelitis (GCC) – the Chairs urged everyone involved in the GPEI to ensure polio will finally be assigned to the history books by 2023.



April Club Schedule



Tues. April 2	Reg. Mtg. New Member Induction, Corn Fest Mtg following
Mon. April 8	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm at Hurricane
Tues. April 9	Special Event: Avon Rotary Honors Program 6:00 pm
Tues. April 16	Reg. Mtg. Party in a Bag Project, BJB Mtg following
Sat. April 20	Roadside Cleanup—8 am Storage Building, Cemetary Rd.
Tues. April 23	Reg. Mtg. RI Foundation Endowment Fund—Jeff Kranz, Program



April Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ **Bruce Burritt**
- ⇒ **Mark Evans**
- ⇒ **Mike Ford**
- ⇒ **Bob Hayes**
- ⇒ **Scott Holmes**
- ⇒ **CA Krenzer**
- ⇒ **TJ Vonglis**
- ⇒ **Kevin Van Allen**

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Bruce Burritt 1995**
- ⇒ **Bill Wall 2000**
- ⇒ **Aaron Johnson 2016**
- ⇒ **Kevin Van Allen 2019 NEW!**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Bruce Burritt**
- ⇒ **Mike Ford**

APRIL IS



Learn More
Visit
www.rotary.org



www.rotary.org

Sofie's Update



March has been a very eventful and busy month! I have experienced so many great things, and I'm so thankful for every moment I get to experience something new.

I participated in this year's performance of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. It was so much fun to be a part of another theatre production. I was surrounded by great people, and I'm so grateful, that I was able to be a part of both a sport and the play.

I also got to go to West Virginia with the Masten's. They invited me to go on a skiing trip. I had so much fun, and it definitely gave me a really great impression of my new family!

I'm now participating in track and field. The swimming and diving season ended with a great and memorable banquet, so now I'm back to running. I can't believe how time flies by, but now we're in April, and it's time for the meets to begin.

Recently I switched host family. It was sentimental to say goodbye to Paul and Deirdre, but we will definitely stay in touch. I'm very happy with my new family, and I can't wait for all the fun moments we will share!

Words can't express how grateful I am for this whole experience.

- Sofie



New Member Information:

Kevin Van Allen
14 Five Lot Lane
Avon, NY 14414
305-4325
kevin@cvaattorneys.com

Rotary



BUSTING THE MYTHS

Myth 1 - Rotary is for men only

Myth 2 - Rotary is for old people

Myth 3 - You have to attend every week

Myth 4 - Rotary is only for Doctors, Lawyers and CEOs

Myth 5 - Membership is by invitation only

Myth 6 - Rotary is a religious organisation or a secret society

Myth 7 - All Rotarians do is cook barbecues

Myth 8 - You've seen one Rotary club, you've seen them all

Myth 9 - You cannot discuss your business or profession in Rotary

Myth 10 - Rotary is an "old fashioned" organisation, with boring and ritualistic meetings

Notes of Thanks....

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$100 to Outreach, which was received February 11, 2019, in support of the Partyman Catering Packaging Event.

The mission of Outreach is to provide safe water, food, medical care and education to children and families in need for current and future generations.

The donations received will assist in this mission. Thank you again for your support of Outreach and its mission. Together we are impacting the lives of children and families around the world.

Sincerely, Katheryn Hamilton

The Outreach Program

The wonderful donation of \$500 to the Hill and Woolsey Fires Relief and Recovery Fund at the Rotary District 5240 Charitable Foundation was received on March 4, 2019. thank you so very much!

Your donation will be combined with those from others to provide relief and recovery from the devastation created by fires. Your donation is an example of how Rotarians step up to serve those they will likely never meet because help is needed.

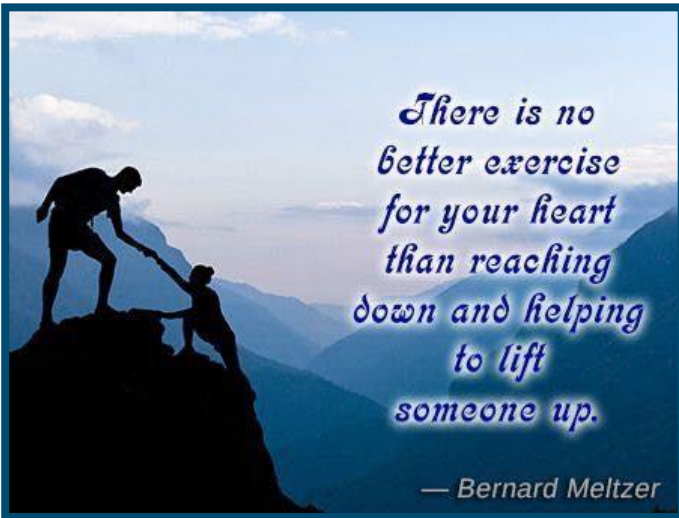
Once again, Thank you.

Yours In Rotary, Barry VanderKelen

Avon Food Pantry

Collections are the
3rd Tuesday Of The Month

**jello, jam, jelly, ketchup, mustard,
salad dressing, pancake mix and
syrup.**



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





Save The Date

2018-2019 Rotary Calendar of Special Events



Saturday, April 6, 2019	District Training Assembly
Saturday, April 6, 2019	Exchange Weekend Casino Night
Tuesday, April 9, 2019	Avon Rotary Honors Program 6 pm
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	Lions/Rotary Picnic Meeting 6 pm
Friday, May 3– May 5, 2019	District Conference, Mt. Pocono, PA
Saturday, May 18, 2019	Blue Jean Ball, Oak Knolls Manor 6 pm
Tuesday, June 4, 2019	Quad Cities Golf—Avon
Tuesday, June 25, 2019	Change of Officers, Avon Inn

2019 Rotary District 7120 Conference

This Year's Theme is "Family Fun"

May 3, 2019 thru May 5, 2019



Room Check-in Begins at 4:00 PM
 BUT Access to the Waterpark Starts at Noon
 Don't Miss this Opportunity!
 Check Conference Literature for Detail

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center

250 Kalahari Blvd., Pocono Manor, PA 18349

Go to District 7120 website and register today!