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President's Message



Spring has sprung and we were certainly in an active mode this April! We kicked off the month welcoming our newest member, Kevin Van Allen.

We are delighted to welcome Kevin into the Rotary family and know that he is going to make an excellent member given his passion for service and generous spirit.

We dug in to help plant 23 trees at the Downs on Avon's first proclaimed Arbor Day. This was a great event that allowed us to work alongside the Boy Scouts and Village Parks Commission to continue reviving our park's tree population.

Our annual Rotary Honors program was held this month and allowed us to show our gratitude for a few of our community members who were well deserving of becoming a Paul Harris Fellow and receiving a Building Award. The people we honored that night are dear to many of us and have made a significant impact on our community. Their service was appropriately celebrated that night and is forever appreciated.

As in years past, we had a strong presence at the District Training Assembly with 6 of the 45 breakout sessions being given by Avon Ro-

tarians. Our club is often recognized on the district level for the wonderful work that we do and this was another opportunity for that. Every member had a hand in those sessions being successful as we are all fueling the engine that drives Avon Rotary.

We also were able to use our bag packing talents to help two of our cherished community resources in April – the Avon Food Pantry and Avon Central's backpack program. These bags that we put together are wonderful resources for the families, specifically the children of those families, that need the extra support. Our 30 minutes of work this month will make a lasting impact on these kids.

It wasn't all hard work this month though as we were able to have some fun with our Exchange students and host the Casino Night during the Exchange weekend. A big thank you to all who volunteered for that evening to make it fun for the kids and help them continue to make lasting memories during their Exchange.

Looking back on the month at all we have accomplished was inspiring and I'm looking forward to what's ahead for us next!

Yours In Rotary Service,
Heather

Board of Directors

Heather Ayers, President
Dom Lalisse, 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

Welcome New Member Kevin Van Allen

April 2, 2019

Kevin Van Allen was born and raised in Hornell, NY. He moved to South Lima in 1998 shortly after graduating high school. At that time he began working at the Presutti Law Office while he attended St. John Fisher College. He later attended University at Buffalo Law School where he graduated in 2006. In 2011 he formed the law firm of Cannon & Van Allen, LLP which became Van Allen & Hoffmann, LLP in 2017. He currently lives in Avon with his wife Kara and their four daughters Tessa, Elyse, Audrey and Molly (their T.E.A.M.). Service to his community has been part of his life for many years.

Please join me in welcoming Kevin to Avon Rotary!



April Highlights



On April 2nd we took time out to pack food bags for our ACS Stone's Community Resource Closet monthly project. Rotarian Marcie Williams ordered all the food, prepared orders and hauled all the items to our meeting where we then lined up and filled food orders according to the size of the families this program supports. In no time at all, with the help of club members in attendance, we completed this very important task.

On April 6 Avon Rotarians traveled to Wayne Central School for the annual District Training Assembly. We all enjoyed the many breakout sessions and learning opportunities. Many thanks to our very own instructors—Heather & Jake Ayers, Tom Vonglis & Kirk Vanderbilt, Rob Lupisella and Julie Carney. Each team provided very popular, well attended sessions.



On April 20 Rotarians and Community Members worked side by side planting trees in the Village Driving Park as part of a grant project to replace the ash trees. Many thanks to Heather, Janis, Dave, Marcia, Trisha and Hans for braving the weather and helping plant trees.

April Highlights continued



On April 23 PDG Jeff Krans was our guest speaker and shared a program about the Foundation Endowment fund. Bruce Amey explained how he worked with Jeff to establish a trust in memory of his parents. Thanks for sharing Bruce and your ongoing support of the Foundation!

The club also did another "Party in a Bag" in-meeting service project for the Avon Food Pantry. Many thanks to Jake & Heather Ayers for organizing this.

**AVON ROTARY
BLUE JEAN BALL**

KICKIN' IT UP FOR HANDS THAT HELP

**SATURDAY
MAY 18TH • 6-11PM**
2019

★ OAK KNOLLS MANOR ★
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ACS STONE'S COMMUNITY CLOSET
IN MEMORY OF LIZ GREEN

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OR

SEE MARCIA CAMERON

Avon Rotary Honors Program

Submitted by: Bob Mellen

A pair of innkeepers, a multitasking volunteer and avid gardener, and a food bank director were among residents honored April 9 for their contributions to the Avon community.

Three people, Jennifer Palmer, C. Thomas Moran and Ginny House, received Paul Harris Fellows, which recognize those who exemplify the ideals and professionalism of Rotary International. It also means that \$1,000 each has been donated to the Rotary Foundation, which enables Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.

Avon Rotary also bestowed two Building Awards for building renovation and new construction, one to the Avon Inn owners and one to Evening Star Coffee Roasters.

Palmer, who began as a volunteer in the Avon food pantry, eventually took over as its director. During her time there she has seen the service grow from delivering food to about 30 families to serving 85 families in its store where shoppers choose the groceries they need. A staff of about 30 volunteers helps her with this mission.

Moran, a lifelong resident of Avon, was honored posthumously. Before his death last year he had spent years as a volunteer parent at St. Agnes School and had been a long-time volunteer for youth sports. A highly respected member of the community, he was employed by the Village of Avon for 40 years.

An Avon Lions Club member for 42 years, he held leadership positions including two terms as president, three terms as secretary and two as treasurer.

House, an Avon teacher for 30 years, now serves in retirement as a member and past director of the Avon Preservation and Historical Society along with being an active member of the Avon Garden Club. Every spring she helps plant flowers and shrubs in the Circle Park and then continues to care for them throughout the summer.

She is also active in the Avon United Methodist Church, being part of the choir and the bell choir and contributing extensively in church fundraising activities that allow the church to better serve the community. Ginny and her husband Bob also pick and donate bushels of apples each year for church dinners and help deliver holiday food baskets and Meals on Wheels.

Building Award winners Jim and Jennifer Krause were honored for their commitment to renovating the gracious Avon Inn and returning it as a viable part of the village.

Built about 1840, the Avon Inn was extensively damaged by a fire in 1979. It was restored and changed ownership until being bought by the Krause's, then underwent extensive renovations before it reopened last New Year's Eve.

Also receiving a Building Award were Jody and Christine Wolfanger, whose Evening Star Coffee Roasters grew from a business in their garage to a new dedicated building.

Their business began in 2008 and, according to its web site, moved in 2017 to Tec Drive where they built "one of the most modern, clean and organized business designs in all of New York State."



Ginny & Bob House



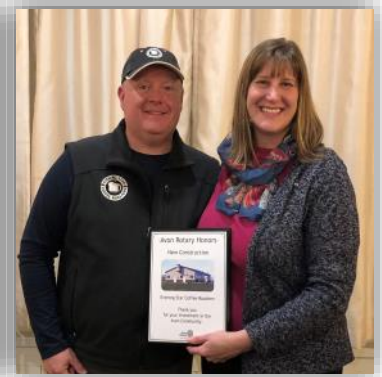
Jennifer Palmer



Tom Moran's children; Matt, Tracy & Katie



Jennifer & Jim Krause



Jody & Christine Wolfanger



Kirk Vanderbilt, Tom Vonglis, Don Alhart, Mike Slovak

Exchange Weekend: April 4-7, 2019

Messages from the Student Leaders

The past 4 years of being a part of exchange weekend and Interact has been really eye opening for me. It has allowed me to meet life long friends from all over the world.

I have learned positive and negatives of other countries, bonded with my own class mates as well as exchange students. It is neat that we are able to help a student attend school in Kenya and help our own community. I still keep in touch with all the exchange kids I have hosted and I'm glad Rotary gave me this experience.

Mia Hinds Senior Class of 2019

Exchange weekend: the most exciting weekend for interact members! Each year, our interact members get very excited to host exchange students. This year, students from Sweden, Brazil, Italy, and more got to spend a weekend with Avon students. Throughout the weekend, we went to RIT, did a scavenger hunt, went bowling, had casino night, and had a pancake breakfast. Thanks to many Rotarians, this weekend was a wonderful success. Our interact students are very thankful for this opportunity, as hosting someone from another country, even if only for one weekend, can be an eye opener to other cultures and traditions.

Maria Crane Class of 2019

Starting off the 2019 Avon Exchange weekend, Interact members met the exchange students at the village hall and then brought them for a tasty treat at Avon's favorite restaurant, Tom What's. Friday morning we all bundled up and headed to the Rochester Institute of Technology. All the seniors were laughing at the fact that every single year it seems to rain the day of the RIT tour. Continuing through the weekend, students participated in a scavenger hunt, bowling and always a favorite, casino night. After a tiring, fun filled weekend, everyone got up Sunday morning for the annual pancake breakfast. Even though everyone was sad to say their final goodbyes, we couldn't help but smile from all the memories made over the last 4 days. I just want to personally thank all the Rotarians who help make this weekend a success. As a four year interact member, this is always a weekend I look forward to and it's hard to imagine that I won't be here next year. Thank you again!

Maggie Dempsey Class of 2019

A Word From Shannon

Another exchange weekend is in the books. As always I get a little sad seeing seniors leave our group. But this year this class is so special to me because it is my sons class and I have known these kids since they were in pre-school. As it is bitter sweet, I hope this program and I have impacted them. This group always helped when I asked and took the lead when they needed to. They all contributed so much to this program. They lead the way in school and talked about Interact with their friends and spread interest. I will miss working with them and having my "go to's." I will miss those faces!

Ed and I had a whirlwind of a weekend and were faced with many last minute changes. That being said, I think the weekend went well and the feed back was awesome. I wish I could share all the pictures and laughs with you in this letter. We give many thanks to the families that hosted and the Rotarian's who helped. Ed and I thank you so much for being apart of our weekend and making it run smoothly! From Avon Central School, music, extra eyes, dealers to cooks...Really...thank you everyone involved!

Shannon DiFranco, Avon Interact Leader



Rambling On Rotary—May



By: Bruce Amey

Each of our meetings has Rotary's Four-Way Test posted on a banner. "Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?" During the induction of new members, I also refer

to Rotary's 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 ... with respect." [The first 2 of the 4 principles.] These statements create a commitment on our part as to how to act and behave in all of our daily activities.

When I received the May 2019 edition of The Rotarian that had a cover with "The Four-Way Test in a Post-Truth Era" I was intrigued. In Joseph Epstein's article he references politicians, news persons, and corporate leaders who have been less than truthful. Then he states, "Everywhere you turn, the first of the Four Ways – "Is it the truth?" – would seem more and more in danger of going by the boards." That hit me hard.

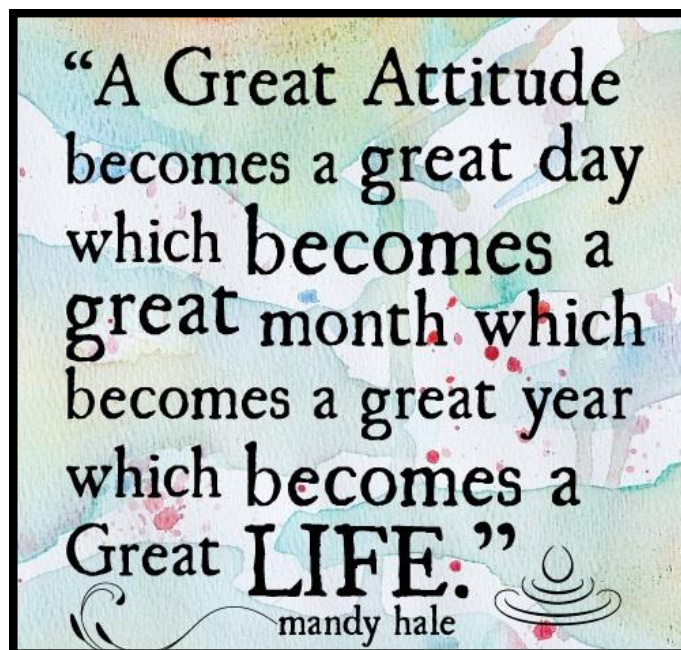
What is truth? Is it an opinion? Is it something factual? What makes something factual? Mr. Epstein continues that "Truth and fairness are most elusive where passions are engaged... You're likely to build goodwill and better friendships, to be beneficial to all concerned only if ... you keep your eye on the goals of truth and fairness."

It is very disheartening when we are confronted by someone who is less than honest with us. When I have trusted someone and then find that trust betrayed, I feel be-

trayed. When I believe what someone has told me and then find out it is a lie, it makes me angry. This is a "post-truth era" and in many respects that in and of itself is disheartening. What has happened to our society and our world, and what can be done to change this? Where have ethics, morality, and honesty gone?

I believe as Rotarians we are persons of action. Our actions make a difference throughout our community and the world. I do not need to repeat to you the impact we, as Avon Rotarians, have had because of our commitment to various projects and activities. So how do we change the dialogue regarding a "post-truth era"? I believe we change that by living in a "truth era" every day. And we do that by constantly keeping our Rotary Four-Way Test and Code of Conduct at the forefront of what we say, think, and do.

When we act with integrity and high ethical standards, when we treat others with respect, our actions will be beneficial to all concerned and will build goodwill and better friendships. The way to return to a "truth era" is by being truthful and fair in our daily activities. The acts of honesty and fairness demonstrated as we devote ourselves to serving others will come back as good will to each of us. As persons of action, when we act and behave as in a truth-era, we can change the world one person, one community at a time. Our Four-Way Test is the map and we need to follow it. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Sofie's Update



Time flies by, and it is unbelievable that it's now May. Lots of exciting events are coming up and the district conference is only a week away. April has certainly been a very eventful month! I'm constantly experiencing new and exciting stuff, and I couldn't be more grateful!

In the very beginning of April I switched host family. My very last host family, the Masten's. I'm just so thankful that I get to stay with another amazing family. I'm already truly enjoying them.

The Avon Interact Club hosted the Avon Exchange Weekend. An amazing and unforgettable weekend filled with laughter, funny moments and the best people. Besides, I got the privilege of celebrating my birthday on April 8th. I'm now 17 years old. I had an absolutely amazing day with the my very beloved friends and host family.

I also had the privilege of experiencing spring break. I went to Boston with Paul and Deirdre and the family to watch Anna run in the Boston Marathon. It was a breathtakingly amazing city, and an unforgettable experience to watch Anna run. She did amazing! I also went to Myrtle beach, South Carolina with the Masten's and some of their friends. It was amazing to be at the beach, feel the sun, and being able to experience the atmosphere in Myrtle. A truly amazing place that I'd love to visit again!

Besides track and field is going very well. I'm just enjoying being part of an amazing team, and being surrounded by my very best friends!

I'm so thankful for all the amazing experiences and moments. I wish this never ended! Thank you.

- Sofie



Exchange Weekend



Boston Marathon





May Club Schedule



Wed. May 1	Lions/Rotary Spring Picnic—Special Joint Meeting
May 3-5	District Conference in Pocono Manor, PA
Mon. May 13	Board of Directors Mtg, 7 pm at Hurricane
Tues. May 14	In-Meeting Service Project: Red Cross Blood Drive, BJB Mtg following
Sat. May 18	Blue Jean Ball 6 pm at Oak Knolls Manor
Tues. May 21	Reg. Mtg.
Tues. May 28	Reg. Mtg.

May Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ *Jean Antkowiak*
- ⇒ *Marcia Cameron*
- ⇒ *Tim Dickinson*
- ⇒ *Leann Hill*
- ⇒ *Rob Lupisella*
- ⇒ *Cathy Jo Murphy*
- ⇒ *Jeff Passarell*
- ⇒ *Paul Phillips*

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ *Marcia Cameron*
- ⇒ *Kelly Cole*
- ⇒ *Steve Csapo*
- ⇒ *Charles Feller*
- ⇒ *Tom Honan*
- ⇒ *Jeff Passarell*

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ *Bob Hayes (H) 2005*
- ⇒ *Ed Kime 2010*
- ⇒ *CA Krenzer (H) 2013*
- ⇒ *David Kilgore 2013*
- ⇒ *Jeff Passarell 2015*
- ⇒ *Greg Deragon 2015*

MAY IS

**YOUTH
SERVICE
MONTH**

"We cannot talk about the future without talking about children. They are our future." - PPIP James L. Lacy 1998-99



Rotary  **YOUTH** SERVICE

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Volunteers Needed!

- ⇒ Rotarians are needed from 10:00 until 2:00 to help with lunch for a Special Olympics event this Saturday, May 04...
- ⇒ The Avon school campus is hosting a Special Olympics regional track and field competition Saturday. A parade and opening ceremonies start at 9:45 on the track. Athletic events start at 11:00.
- ⇒ Rotary will set up some decorations, set-up a buffet style line of foods and drinks already packaged for the athletes, mingle with the athletes as they eat, then clean-up.
- ⇒ Please come help at any time from 10-2 in the elementary school gym.
- ⇒ I can be reached at this email or 585-733-2926.
- ⇒ It is an easy opportunity to make a difference and the more the merrier!!!!

Thanks, Greg Antkowiak



One car accident victim can use as many as **100 units** of blood.

**Avon Inn
Blood Drive**
Sponsored by
Avon Rotary

Ballroom
55 E Main St
Avon, NY 14414

Tuesday, May 14, 2019
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of April 25

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	14	21	3	Feb 25, 2019
Nigeria	0	0	0	Aug 20, 2016
Pakistan	8	8	6	Feb 25, 2019
Total	22	29	9	

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

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/Dinner @ Farview & Avon Inn
Tuesday, June 25, 2019	Change of Officers, Avon Inn

Avon Food Pantry

*Collections are the
3rd Tuesday Of The Month*

**Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Corn Flakes
Canned Fruit**



Notes of Thanks....

Dear Rotarians,

.... I have only the highest respect for all that you do for your community. Living there and visiting Avon have bettered my life more than you can imagin, and it is because you are a real community of hardworking and loving persons who think and act way beyond self to other.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.

Paula Beikirch Mason

Excerpt from a note received with her Corn Festival program ad.

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

Dear Rotarian Friends,

What a wonderful night! Everything was perfect! Thanks to all of you. I'm so honored to be a Paul Harris Fellow. May I always live up to the ideals of the Foundation.

With much appreciation and thanks,

Ginny House