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President's Message



Somehow I am sitting here writing my last article as President of Avon Rotary – what a year it has been! As I was reflecting on this past Rotary year and was reminded of a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, who said “Our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be”, which is so fitting for this year’s Rotary theme of ‘Be the Inspiration’. And I have to say that each member of our club has truly been an inspiration to me and helped me grow into the Rotarian I knew I could be. This year’s District Conference highlighted some of our achievements with awards recognizing our newsletter, our in-meeting service projects, achievements in Literacy programs, and the work that has been done by Bruce Amey to help the District with their strategic planning initiatives, which Avon Rotary was the first club to complete. These are things we should all be proud of, and there are so many more moments we had this year to draw inspiration from.

This past month is a great example of these moments, the energy and fortitude our club has, which has always been my inspiration. We hosted another blood drive, which continue to have strong turnouts. We had a breakout year for one of our main fundraisers, the Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball. The over-

whelming success of that event will ensure Stone’s Community Resources will support the children of Avon who are in need for years to come and will continue the legacy of our friend in Rotary, Liz Green. We saw what wonderful hearts our Interact Club has with their donation of \$1,500 to Home Away from Home Respite in Geneseo – the money they raise throughout the year goes to great organizations such as this. We were awarded another District Simplified Grant for a project around Literacy and received additional funds from the District to support work being done at the Avon Food Pantry. These are both great examples of utilizing the generous contributions made to the Foundation by Rotarians and bringing that money back to do good in our community.

With anything, there are wonderful moments, challenging moments, and sobering moments, and this year has been filled with all of those. I am so grateful to have had each experience and am a better person and Rotarian for having been able to help lead our club this year. I am sad to see this year end, but am excited to see what the years ahead will bring. I know we will continue to serve our communities in a meaningful way – after all, that’s what Rotary is all about.

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



May Highlights

May 1 - We enjoyed a joint meeting with the Avon Lion's Club on a rainy night at the VFW.

Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



May 4 - Greg Antkowiak led a team of volunteers serving lunch during the Special Olympics event at Avon Central School.

Many thanks to the volunteers and family members who helped!



May 14 - Thank you once more to those who assisted and or donated. Our official total was 27 units, our best yet. For planning purposes, our next blood drive is now scheduled for August 13th, Tuesday following the Corn Fest.

Karl Sawicki



**American
Red Cross**



Interact Club News

By: Shannon DiFranco

At the May 28th Rotary meeting Interact President Maggie Dempsey was present in support of the program that evening. Maggie has been a great leader this year and will greatly be missed. Under her leadership and a strong contingent of Interactors, fundraising was very successful this year. At a recent meeting many organizations were considered to contribute to. The voting and amount determined was all up to the students. The Interactors were touched by many programs but knowing Cathy Jo Murphy and the importance of the Home Away From Home Respite Program, students voted to contribute a significant amount to that great charity. A \$1500.00 check was presented by Maggie and incoming President Abbey to Sharon Leary, Respite program director at the Geneseo College.

We closed out the year making additional donations to our international student to continue her education and the Special Olympics. We met all requirements for our Interact Presidential Citation and are extremely pleased with the students involvement this last year.

Thank you for your support of our student's activities and efforts!



Pictured: Sharon Leary, Home Away Respite Program Director, Heather Ayers, Club President, Abby Decillis, incoming Interact President and Maggie Dempsey our out going Interact President



Rotary District 7120 Conference Highlights—May 3-5, 2019



These are the 2019 Avon Rotarians and youth representing our club at the conference located at the Kalahari resort, Pennsylvania.

Our In-Meeting Service Project display was voted #1! In turn Avon Rotary will be awarded 1000 Paul Harris Fellow points for our future use.

The display featured information about the school backpack program & party in a bag for the food pantry.



Julie Carney was recognized for her leadership in the District with the youth programs. Well deserved!



Our bulletin was awarded 1st place in Division 1. Many thanks to those that contribute throughout the year!

Avon Rotary was presented a certificate of recognition for all of our work in the area of literacy. Great job to our Literacy leaders, Jean & Greg Antkowiak!



Light yourself on fire with passion & people will come from miles to watch you burn...

A great message from the key note speaker, LaShonda Delivuk

Bruce Amey was presented a certificate for his outstanding leadership as part of the strategic planning facilitating team. Great job Bruce!



Job well done Tom Vonglis, organizing the golf outing for the golfers in the district. Way to go Heather Ayers winning closet to the pin!



Blue Jean Ball—May 18, 2019



The Fourth Annual Avon Rotary Blue Jean Ball has come and gone. What an event it was. This by far was our most successful yet. I first want to thank Julie and Dan Welch for allowing us to have the event at Oak Knolls Manor. What a first class venue, and the perfect location to have our event. We can't thank you both enough for all you did to make our event as successful as it was.

On behalf of the Blue Jean Ball Committee, I also want to thank all the club

members. Those that donated items, bought tickets, volunteered to work the event, recruited others to help, and purchased items at the event. We are grateful for your generosity and time. Your call to service helped ensure that Stone's Closet will continue to serve the children of Avon for years to come. You also helped carry on the legacy of Liz Green to help each and every child have the resources they need to learn. Thanks to the record attendance and generosity of many, we raised just over \$14,000! These funds will be used for years to come to serve our youth.

The night was one of celebration, but was also very emotional due to the circumstances of Liz's passing. Thanks to Rob Lupisella, Marcie Williams and Heather Ayers for giving such heart felt messages about what Liz meant to the children and staff of Avon and presenting her family with a Paul Harris Fellow. I know it wasn't easy to deliver the messages you spoke, but I know in speaking to Liz's family, they were very appreciative for everything that night.

We started the Blue Jean Ball four years ago. Some of you have been on the committee since the beginning, some have joined the past few years. Each of you have played an important part in making the event what it has become today. After four years, I will be stepping down as Chairman of the Blue Jean Ball. I am confident that the event will continue to be in great hands and allow the club to raise funds for worthy local and regional charities every year. Again, thank you for living up to the Rotary motto of Service Above Self!

Yours In Rotary Service,
Jake



Many Thanks to our Blue Jean Ball Sponsors!

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Hedonist Chocolate

Jen Born

Avon Inn

Avon Rotary Rotarians

Black Bear LODGES
On Fourth Lake

MARY KAY
Rebecca Honan

S & S Limousine

Paul Gugliamo

Nolans Catering

Salon Secrets

James Missell & Associates

KC Sunshine Entertainment

The Cake Place

D.P. TOOL

Rambling On Rotary—June



By: Bruce Amey

We are entering the last month of our Rotary year and on June 25 we will have the smooth transition of leadership from Heather to Dom. I am always impressed with the preparation plan that Rotary and our club have developed that allows for the smooth transition of leadership. A member is elected to serve as a club director with the understanding that she or he will follow a succession path to Senior Director to President-Elect to President and then to Immediate Past-President. Serving as a director is a 5-year volunteer commitment, other than the Member-at-Large position.

Our District 7120 helps in that leadership preparation by offering, among other things, the District Training Assembly, Global Grant workshops and, most importantly, the President-Elect seminars held throughout the final year of preparation. Our past president Tom Vonglis attended training this year as well as he moves into a new leadership role in District 7120 as he will begin to serve as a Assistant Governor (AG) on July 1. Again the training track is essential for smooth transitions and for the local, regional, and world leadership of Rotary to continue to serve others in the best ways possible.

When new members have joined our club, you have heard me repeatedly state that there are more than 35,000 clubs worldwide and that “If you have the opportunity to visit other clubs while traveling, you will be welcomed as a Rotarian and can now feel that you have friends all over the world.” As I shared at our May 21 meeting, while I was in Detroit caring for our 2 granddaughters, I took the opportunity to visit the Mount Clemens Rotary Club. I felt very welcomed as soon as I entered their meeting room. I was invited to sit with Rotarians who asked questions about me and our club. As someone was asked to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance, the person said “Ready Rotarians” and began so that all were starting together rather than joining in some five words into the pledge. Another thing they did together was to recite the Rotary Four-Way Test, which I thought was a good practice. They sang songs like we do; their song book looked similar to ours but had different songs. I was glad to join with them doing an in-meeting service project. What does this have to do with leadership? I believe visiting other clubs provides leadership opportunities as you can learn different ways to serve others and to gain a better appreciation how Rotarians serve in other communities.

I am a pretty conservative person and change is not something I necessarily relish (even though some think I am a hot dog). But each of the major changes in my life has offered the opportunity to grow and to lead. June, in our Rotary year, ends with our Change of Officers celebration; “change” is even in its name. Whereas I am thrilled with all we have accomplished as a club under President Heather’s leadership, I am excited about President Dom’s year starting and where we will grow together and the leadership opportunities that will be offered to each of us. RI President-Elect Mark Daniel Maloney’s Rotary year theme is “Connecting the World”. I believe we, as Rotarians, are connected to others around the world, and that is exciting. I am convinced that Rotarians can accomplish almost anything in service to others around the world when we work together. However, RI President’s Rassin’s theme “Be the Inspiration” for me was inspiring. As we bring this Rotary year to a conclusion, I will enter our next year inspired to be a conduit to help connect the world. Join me! And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.

In a world
where you can
be anything,
be kind.



Avon Food Pantry

Collections are the 3rd Tuesday Of The Month



Avon Interfaith Council Meeting May 16th, 2019 AVON FOOD PANTRY

Statistics for the month of April 2019:

- 72 families served that included 90 adults, 45 children and 23 seniors.
- A Mobile Pantry Market was held at the E. Avon Fire Dept. on Friday April 26th, 2019 from 10:00a.m to 11:30 a.m. Residents of Avon and of surrounding villages in Livingston County benefitted from donated grocery items that were delivered by Foodlink. A total of 123 households were served.
- Pantry needs for this month and throughout the summer: **canned fruits, canned vegetables, apple sauce, apple juice, other types of 100% juices, cereal, snack bars, peanut butter, jam, spaghetti sauce and tuna.**

Thank you Have a wonderful summer! God Bless Jennifer Palmer (Avon Food Pantry Director)

2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of May 31, 2019

| <u>Country</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>Date of last case</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Afghanistan | 14 | 21 | 7 | April 3, 2019 |
| Nigeria | 0 | 0 | 0 | Aug 20, 2016 |
| Pakistan | 8 | 8 | 19 | May 5, 2019 |
| Total | 22 | 29 | 26 | |



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!



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



226-6735 or
barbara1901@twc.com





June Club Schedule



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Tues June 4 | Quad Cities Golf & Dinner, Farview 11:30 am & Avon Inn 5:00 pm |
| Mon June 11 | Club Assembly 6:00 pm |
| Tues June 17 | Board of Directors Mtg 7:00 pm @ Hurricane |
| Tues June 18 | President Heather's last regular mtg 6:00 pm |
| Tues June 25 | Change of Officers Banquet 5:30 pm @ Avon Inn |
| Fri June 28 | District Changeover Dinner @ RIT Inn & Conference Center |

June Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ Bruce Amey
- ⇒ Kelly Cole
- ⇒ Dave Henehan
- ⇒ Rhonda Hirschler
- ⇒ Dom Lalisce
- ⇒ Dave LeFeber
- ⇒ Jim Ryan
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Greg Deragon
- ⇒ Bob Hayes
- ⇒ Nick Lovullo
- ⇒ Janis McMIndes
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson
- ⇒ Jim Tompsett

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Dick Stanton (H) 1959
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis 2004
- ⇒ Steve Csapo 2010
- ⇒ Doug Hayes 2012
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella 2012
- ⇒ Shannon DiFranco 2014
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel 2014



JUNE DESIGNATION IS

ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

"What binds Rotarians together is a unity of deeds and a unity of purpose to serve society and to serve mankind, a unity in diversity."
Past RI President C.P.H. Tawoiba 1965-66

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: rotaryfellowships@rotary.org

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