

**August 2018**

**President's Message**



The first month of the new Rotary year is behind us and we have accomplished so much already. We completed two service projects this month. The first was supporting Gilda's Club by providing lunch and running a few games at the carnival day during Camp Open Arms. This was a great opportunity to not only support another charitable organization, but also to work alongside two other Rotary clubs – Penfield and Spencerport. We also supported the Ride LCC bike race with Rotarians and family members providing water and traffic assistance – the riders had a great time and were that much safer thanks to our support.

Our club members continue to give back and we were able to honor one special Rotarian, Dave Henehan, with a Paul Harris +1. His continued support of the Rotary Foundation is inspiring and we thank him for having personally donated \$2,000 to the Foundation. These contributions keep the Rotary wheel moving and allows us to keep doing great things in our communities.

We also found opportunities to celebrate the achievements of others. In particular, this month we were able to celebrate the Avon Braves Baseball Team who won the State Champion title this spring. We hosted them at our family picnic where we celebrated the team's accomplishment and those of its players and coach. Congratulations to a wonder-

ful organization and group of young men!

This month also marked the last for our Exchange Student from the 2017-2018 Rotary year. Veerle Beckers was able to give an outstanding presentation during her last Rotary meeting that highlighted her experience as an Exchange Student. We were proud to have hosted such a talented and bright young woman – she truly will be missed.

We accomplished all of this while making a big move – changing our meeting venue to the Avon Inn. This was a homecoming of sorts for some of our members that had started their Rotary career meeting at the Inn. I'm happy we could bring some nostalgia to some of our members and help to enhance our meetings for all with meal service and a beautiful venue. The staff at the Inn has been great to us and we are continuing to work with them to make the meeting and meal service the best they can be.

The addition of our two new Greeters has been wonderful as well. Jerry Dougherty and Julie Carney were excited about bringing this aspect to our meetings and have taken on the role until September. As you watch them "work the room" before the start of our meeting, consider also volunteering to be a Greeter for one of our meetings this year.

The year has certainly started with a bang and there is still so much to look forward to!

President Heather

**Inside this issue:**

President's Message	1
Meeting Highlights	2, 3
Camp Open Arms Project	4
Bike Race Project	5
Summer Picnic	5
Last Meeting of the Month	6
Club Schedule & Celebrations	6
Rambling on Rotary	7
A Word from the Chairman	7
Interact 2017-18	8
Tearful Goodbye	9
RYLA 2018	10
Food Pantry	11
Polio Update	11
Save the Date	12

**Board of Directors**

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

## July 10—President Heather Kicks off the Year



District Governor Mike Slovak visited and gave a program for the club. He presented President Heather with this year's theme flag. "Be The Inspiration"

Heather presented immediate Past President Tom Vonglis with a special recognition plaque for his dedication to the club and exceptional leadership.



The 2018-19 Avon Rotary Board of Directors with special guests AG Dan Cole & DG Mike Slovak. A great way to start the year!  
Missing: Kelly Cole and Dom Lalisce

Avon Free Library celebrated the grand re-opening on this night. Avon Rotary was thanked for the generous contribution of \$8,000.





## July 17– ‘Back Home’ at the Avon Inn



In the words of Jerry Dougherty, “It feels good to be back home”.

Many celebrated our new meeting location this evening. The option to purchase a delicious meal and beverage coupled with great service was reason enough to make everyone happy! The beauty and comfort of the Inn is a welcomed addition to the start of our Rotary year.

## Stone’s Community Resource Closet with Liz Green

July 17

ACS Social Worker, Liz Green joined us and gave an excellent program, explaining the multi-faceted ‘Stone’s Closet’ she oversees at Avon Central School. This resource provides support to children in grades K—12, whether it’s food, clothing or school supplies. The program is supported through private donations. Liz is hoping to make this sustainable and enlist more volunteers. With the help of Rotary, she will be able to greatly increase her supplies and outreach for the ACS student’s in need.

This year’s Blue Jean Ball raised funds in support of one of Rotary’s areas of focus— maternal and child health. Stone’s Closet is one of the organizations that is benefiting and Co-Chair Jake Ayers presented Liz with a check for \$1500.

In addition, Avon Rotary was awarded a District Simplified Grant of \$3700 for Stone’s Closet. These funds will surely help make this resource sustainable for the foreseeable future.

By: Laurie Vonglis



*Be The Reason Someone Smiles Today!*

# Gilda's Club Camp Open Arms Picnic

July 18 we provided lunch for over 200 kids and counselors at the 2nd annual Camp Open Arms. Led by Tom Vonglis, this service project partnered with Spencerport & Penfield Rotary Clubs. In all we had almost 30 volunteers. We completed the project in 4 hours which included only 20 minutes of actual serving due to our efficiency and many hands on deck. We were even entertained by our very own resident comedian, Bruce Amey as he announced every single choice of meat, whether a hamburger or 'hot-digity-dog'!

While there, Co-chairs, Jake & Laurie presented a check for \$1500 to Sally Cramer of Gilda's Club with the proceeds raised from the Blue Jean Ball.

Many thanks to Tom for coordinating this service project again, shopping and aligning volunteers. It was a beautiful day and a day full of inspiration.

By: Laurie Vonglis



Dear Rotarians,

It's an honor and a pleasure to work with such an amazing group of individuals!! Our campers and counselors created memories to last a lifetime today... all possible because of **you!** Can't thank you enough for your partnership this year! **You're** an incredible team and organization!!

Warmest regards, Sally, Mark and Regan—Gilda's Club

Thank You  
  
for your Kindness



## Bike Race Project



**July 22**

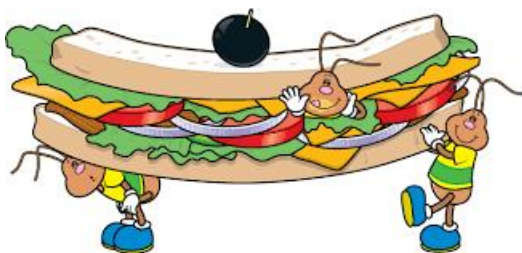
Avon Rotary volunteers assisted with traffic to ensure safety for the cyclists in the American Rock Salt Race Series. Many thanks to the club members & families that supported the project. Avon Rotary was given a donation of \$500 for our efforts.



## Summer Picnic Fun

**July 24**

Despite a little drizzle, the club enjoyed a summer picnic at the Avon Driving Park. Many thanks to Terry, Shannon & Tom for the delicious food and drink. We had special guests attend the occasion—The Avon Braves Varsity Baseball Team, State Champs and Coach Rob Fries, Coach of the Year! The guests signed baseball bats and a ball which will be auctioned off at the November Rotary auction.



## Last Meeting of the Month



**July 31**

Congratulations to David Henehan on receiving his Paul Harris Fellow +1. This signifies David's generous giving to the Rotary Foundation, reaching the \$2000 mark. His generosity is a wonderful example for all and will help with RI projects near and far.

Our darling exchange student, Veerle, gave a presentation reflecting on her year in the U.S.



Highlights for her included her trip to Nicaragua,

her trip to the West Coast, her participation in the Sound of Music, the friendships she made and the bonds developed with her exchange friends.



### August Member Celebrations

#### Birthdays

- ⇒ **Greg Deragon**
- ⇒ **Jeff Herberger**
- ⇒ **Ainslie Johnson**
- ⇒ **Bob Mellen**
- ⇒ **Bill Shaw**

#### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Katie DeGraff 2017**
- ⇒ **Scott Holmes 2011**
- ⇒ **Charlene Masten 2017**
- ⇒ **Steve Vanderbilt 2011**

#### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Heather & Jake Ayers**
- ⇒ **Tim Dickinson**
- ⇒ **Bob House**
- ⇒ **Aaron & Ainslie Johnson**
- ⇒ **Char & Chris Masten**
- ⇒ **Bob Mellen**
- ⇒ **Shawn Rice**
- ⇒ **Carmine Simone**
- ⇒ **Tom & Laurie Vonglis**
- ⇒ **Wayne Warriner**

### August Club Schedule



<b>Tues. Aug 7</b>	Reg Mtg 6:00 Program—Eagle Scout Projects
<b>Sat. Aug 11</b>	CORN FESTIVAL—ALL HANDS ON DECK!
<b>Sun. Aug 12</b>	CORN FESTIVAL PICNIC @ Rodney's 3:00
<b>Mon. Aug 13</b>	Board of Directors Mtg @ Hurricane 7:00
<b>Tues. Aug 14</b>	Reg Mtg 6:00
<b>Tues. Aug 21</b>	GVRC Dinner & Visit 5:30
<b>Tues. Aug 28</b>	Membership Night 6:00



## Rambling On Rotary—August



By: Bruce Amey

Hot-diggity-dog!! That was heard being said at the Gilda's Club lunch service project. Our year of "Be THE Inspiration" began with our service project for Gilda's Club Rochester on July 18 followed very closely on July 21 assisting with the American Rock Salt Race Series. At the Gilda's Club event, I was inspired by the number of youth leaders who were there giving their time to support the children. I was inspired at our July 17 meeting listening to Liz Green share with us all the positive activities occurring for Avon children and families through ACS' Stone's Community Resources and the fact that members of our community have helped to keep the program going and growing. I was thrilled that President Heather had already secured a district simplified grant to support this program.

It has been said, "There is no better demonstration of faith than a man planting seeds in a field." Isn't that what we do as Rotarians?? Aren't our service activities planting seeds to inspire others to join our mission and serve others? In RI President Barry Rassin's first message in the August edition of *The Rotarian*, he stressed the need to "pay attention to the needs within" our family, our organization. President Rassin said, "We are a membership organization first. If we want to achieve the goals we've set for ourselves, we need to put membership first." So as I asked in my July Rambling, how do we attract new members? Where are we planting seeds of service that will grow new members for our

club and organization? We support young men in scouting; we have a very active Interact club. How do we support Interactors into becoming Rotaractors and then Rotarians?

Past President Scott Holmes is spearheading a committee to plan meeting programs. This past year we had some wonderful in-meeting service projects which were inspiring to me, as was President Tom's Rotary Minute videos. However, as new members give us a try, we need to show them what our club has to offer them. Our club is rich with professional talents that can inspire new and young potential Rotarians. Programs promoting our professions and what we have learned along the way might inspire guests to become new members. I encourage you to talk with Scott about what YOU can share about you and your profession as part of a 15-20 minute meeting program.

DG Mike Slovak has commented that he loves attending our meetings. Clearly a strength of our club is our social camaraderie. But we need to do more to "pay attention to the needs within" our club if we are to grow to better serve our community and our world. Let's plant the seeds of Rotary service every day in everything we do so that we might inspire others to be a part of our organization. Let's face every day with that hot-diggity-dog feeling and relish every moment. And again, I have rambled on long enough.

## Corn Fest... A Word From Our Chairman



By: Rodney George

Well folks, next week is our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Corn Fest. I just want a few moments to give you an earful. Much has been accomplished but in this final week there is still much to do. I want to thank all Rotarians who have already signed up to work and for recruiting family and friends to help us in this community celebration. But, we still have some spots to fill. As you know, we added a Beer Garden this year on a trial basis, but that added some slots for Rotarians to fill to allow our event to remain a family friendly gathering. We were thrown a surprise when Jim Tompsett was informed that our usual corn huskers (weekend guests at the Livingston County jail) would not be available to assist us this year; as such, we need to find huskers (and you

don't have to be husky to husk). Please check your assignments thus far and if you have any time available to assist throughout the day, please let me know.

Finally, I have to give a tremendous shout out to the entire Corn Fest Planning Committee for your months of dedication and commitment planning for this event. Each and every one of you is the reason our festival is so successful year after year. And to every volunteer, you are the reason people plan on and look forward to returning to the Avon Rotary Corn Fest annually. Let's have fun next weekend. After all, we are Avon Rotarians Hard At Work Having Fun in service to our community and our world.

## Avon Rotary Interact 2017-2018



I am excited to complete my first year with Interact. It was nice to work with students again and teach them to care for their community and abroad. We had 60 students that were involved. Some students really got involved, some came out of their shells, some stepped up when needed, some just observed, most made new friends from around the world and every single student volunteered at one point throughout the year. Keeping in mind these are high school students who have busy schedules and are involved in many extracurricular activities. So I am happy with the impact they made.

It is always sad to see our seniors go but wish them well as they leave their "home" of 13 years. Our seniors: Robbie Herberger, Mackenzie McKeel, Veerle Beckers, Molly Carrick, Maddy Smith, Marisa Rumfola, Jessica Rozanski, Jacob Faville, Dana Peck, Erin Wolfanger, Cam Arlauckas, Allie Leonard, Nick Pusloskie, and Mackenzie Mislán. Cam Arlauckas was Livingston County Student Citizen of the Year and enjoyed a nice dinner with other students from around the county. Nick Pusloskie received the Linda Kime Scholarship out of 8 applicants, all of whom were worthy candidates.

We were able to donate \$500.00 to 3 different charities; the Avon Food Pantry, Make a Wish, Community Cares and support our student in Kenya. We sponsored Christine Achieng Ouma from Kenya to attend school and have school supplies. I was proud of what the students accomplished and had a "moment" when we were all deciding on how we should donate our monies. If you could have seen these students step up in the decision making process on who we should donate to and how much to give, was just amazing. They really got involved and wanted to split the monies the best way and to as many organizations as they could.

We start next year strong with an already involved board! Rotary is sending 2 Interact students to the RYLA for training this summer! We will be teaming up with the Rotary Club with some new projects this year. We will see everyone at the Corn Festival as we man the bounce house as our first fundraiser of the new school year. Stay tuned.

Shannon, Interact Co-Chair



### Mission of Rotary

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.



# A Tearful Goodbye



## August 2

The day I'd been dreading finally arrived, Veerle's day to fly home to the Netherlands. She's gone and I feel very sad. I will miss her but feel grateful at the same time for the experience. Hosting an exchange student was something I never imagined doing but thank goodness we did. Our lives are better for it and we now have a Dutch Daughter that will hold a place in our hearts forever.

We're fortunate to have spent almost 5 months with her, traveling to Nicaragua, North Carolina, Inlet New York and assisted her with many bucket list items. We will cherish those memories and the time we spent together.

She is loved by everyone who knew her especially her other host families—the Vanderbilt's and Pecks. The Rotary Exchange & Interact 'staff' - Julie, Shannon, Cathy Jo and especially Ed adore her and she them. I'm confident we can all agree that she is one of the most special Exchange Students our club has ever hosted, and we've had some remarkable young people.

As we said our goodbyes, gave our hugs and kisses at the airport, Tom and I were just 2 of the many there to give her a loving send off. Tears stung many eyes as we watched her walk away. Veerle loved it here and I know she's thankful for the experience of a life time. We look forward to seeing her again, hopefully in the near future.

If you've ever thought about hosting a student and have questions, I'd be happy to talk with you. This was a very enriching experience for us and one we hope others will have as well.

Laurie Vonglis



# RYLA 2018

## Maggie Dempsey—RYLA Experience

My RYLA experience was one to remember for sure. In just 5 short days, I made great friends, learned a lot and made countless memories. As someone who is always looking for new ways to improve as a leader in their community, this was an amazing opportunity. Our teacher, and leader, for a large part of the week, Ted Baumhauer, was a very inspirational man with a humorous side. Him along with our guest speakers, and of course our moms and pops, were all really helpful and were always trying to push us to become better members in our communities. One important skill I really learned during the week was the importance of listening to others. With 28 leaders in one room, it was very important to hear everyone thoughts and also, it's okay to sometimes not take control of a situation. Now, I can't wait to use the skills I learned from RYLA as the Interact Club President and through many other clubs and organizations as well. I also can't wait to meet up with some of the people I met at RYLA in the near future. I'm so grateful I got to go to RYLA and improve on my communication skills while also growing as a leader in my community. Thank you!

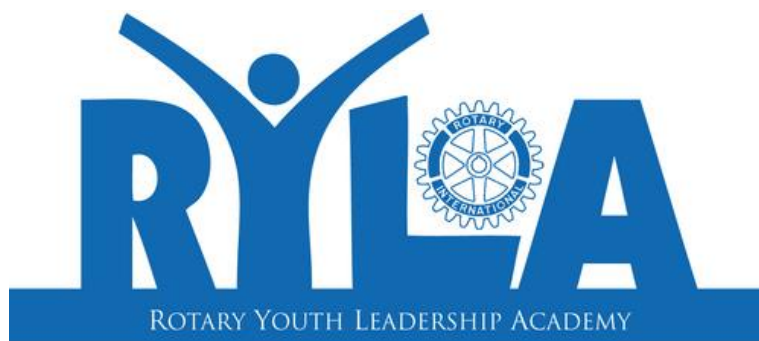


## Maria Crane—RYLA Experience



I had a pleasure having the opportunity to go to RYLA. Thank you to all Rotarians for sponsoring my friend Maggie and I to go to RYLA—"Rotary Youth Leadership Award." It is a 5 day long leadership conference where we learn different aspects of being a leader and how to grow into being a better one. I learned that being a leader does not always mean being the forefront of each situation, it can meet stepping back and letting your peers lead in situations. It is important to get ideas from each person in a group and to use problem solving techniques. At the

leadership conference, we played many games where the group had to solve the issues. One of the games was forming a triangle out of a circular rope, but the issue was that we were blindfolded. We realized as a group that letting two people lead us would end in the best result. We were successful in completing the task but it was difficult! My week at RYLA opened my eyes on the Importance of being a leader, thank you so much to all Rotarians for sponsoring us!





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*

*Watch for the list of needs from Steve Vanderbilt*



### **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](mailto:barbara1901@twc.com)



### 2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of July 24

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	10	22 June 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	3	18 May 18
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</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

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
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