

September 2018

President's Message



What a great month August was for our Rotary club – we certainly lived up to the month's theme of "Membership and Club Development". We started the month with the final preparation for what is turning out to be Avon Rotary's most successful Corn Festival to date. I can't say enough good things about the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers. Of course, none of this would be possible without the leadership, planning and guidance from both our Corn Fest Committee and our Chairman, Rodney George. Thank you all for your tireless efforts to continue raising the bar each year and providing a tradition for everyone to enjoy – this does not go unnoticed or unrewarded. The reward is plentiful in a successful festival, a time for rest and reflection at our annual wrap-up party hosted by the George's, and our ability to contribute to our community in so many ways with the proceeds of the festival. The Corn Festival really sets the tone for the year and allows us to start fulfilling the goals and plans we set out to accomplish. With the success of this year's event, we will be sure to have a great year to come.

The timing of our first Membership Night was great in the sense that it came right off the heels of the Corn Festival. Many thanks to Terry Lemen and Jake Ayers for getting the details in order for that night. We were able to add to our traditional "open house" and included the completion of another In-Meeting

Service Project with a repeat of last year's popular "Party in A Bag" project. What a great opportunity this was to not only talk about the mission of Rotary, but to show perspective members and members from the visiting Roc City Club how Avon Rotary makes a meaningful contribution to our community. I know we inspired many people that night to think outside the box for ways to get involved and to join our club.

We were also able to hear firsthand the work that our Avon Eagle Scouts are doing to exemplify the Rotary motto of Service Above Self and showed our support for the Scout Troop to allow girls who are interested in joining the Scout program to participate. Then a group of us made the trip down to visit GVRC, which is a wonderful annual tradition. This is something to celebrate since it was reported that we are the only contributing Rotary club that visits the camp each year. You should be very proud that we take action in that way and can set an example for other clubs to hopefully do the same.

Lastly, we met our Exchange Student, Sofie, from Denmark. We are certainly looking forward to learning more about her and her home country and welcoming her into the Avon Rotary family.

Thank you again to all for another great month, a successful fundraiser and for being the inspiration by being people of action!

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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

Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Avon Inn

August Highlights

On August 7th

Avon Rotary was joined by 3 prospective Eagle Scouts from Avon Troop 26. Hunter Clark, Camden Arlauckas, and Riley Adams all gave a short presentation outlining their upcoming and ongoing final Eagle Scout projects.

Hunter is working with a local organization in Lima, NY called Begin Again Horse Rescue. He explained that they rescue horses that may have been mistreated or unable to be cared for properly. Hunter is building a run in shelter in one of the pastures for the mini horses. This can be especially important when the new horses need to be quarantined from the others when they first arrive.

Next, Camden talked about his project with St Agnes church in Avon. Camden has placed a covered kiosk at the cemetery on Linden St with an overhead map of the grounds. He also has created a list of those buried there with the corresponding places on the map. There is also additional space for other announcements or material that could be displayed.

Lastly, Riley spoke of his project with a local Habitat for Humanity house. Riley will be building a storage shed on the property for the deserving family that will be moving in.

These presentations were a great example of the strength of our local troop and their support of the community.

By: Shawn Rice



On August 21

Sixteen Avon Rotarians visited GVRC and witnessed over 100 campers enjoy their authentic camping experience. The week was full of entertainment, fun, outdoor adventure all with a science theme this year. Seeing the number of volunteers who come back year after year for this special week is very inspiring.

Pictured below left, Rob, Greg, Jean and Kathy visited the camp for the 1st time and quickly learned why Rotary supports this camp. Below right, a full house of campers and volunteers watch and participate in the light hearted science show.



"Here is love", the camp's tag line, couldn't be more perfect. Many thanks to those that attended!

August Highlights Continued

MEET SOFIE HAUGE OUR 18-19 EXCHANGE STUDENT August 28

Avon Rotary was officially introduced to our 2018-19 Exchange Student from Denmark, Sofie Hauge. Sofie presented President Heather with her club flag which will be proudly displayed all year at our meetings.

We welcome Sofie and encourage everyone to get to know her.



IN-MEETING SERVICE PROJECT & MEMBERSHIP NIGHT

On August 28

What a night! Thank you Terry Lemen for arranging a special Membership Night. We had eight guests, curious about Rotary and getting a first hand experience with an in-meeting service project. Many thanks to Jake Ayers for carefully planning our 2nd "Party In A Bag" service project to benefit the Avon Food Pantry. With over fifty people in attendance, it was all hands on deck, filling and preparing 70 bags which were all delivered the next day. Steve Ste-

phenson carefully stocked the pantry shelves with our contributions. The bags include ingredients to prepare a birthday cake, candles, balloons and several party favors that every kid can enjoy. Local families in need can ensure a celebration for their little one.

We sincerely appreciate our partner—Tom Honan of the



Geneseo Wegmans for the support and generous contribution to help make this possible.



32nd Annual Avon Corn Festival and a Bit of History



Hometown story recently published in the Genesee Valley Penny Saver—
Submitted by Jerry Dougherty, Edited by Laurie Vonglis

For over thirty years, the Village of Avon has been delighting both community members and visitors from near and far with its Annual Rotary Corn Festival. Bringing the community together has been the key to its success from its early years until now. You may wonder what, other than the abundant corn produced in our local communities, inspired this festival? So did we.

In 1986, the Avon Rotary, along with the Avon Lions Club, decided to start a festival to serve their community while bringing people together and giving local groups a way to help themselves. Each organization appointed three people to conduct a study and recommend a festival. One of these appointees suggested a corn festival, since he knew of a successful one elsewhere in New York. In the summer of 1986, Avon held its first Annual Corn Festival, and the rest, as they say, is history.

On Saturday, August 11th the Annual Avon Rotary Corn Festival extended for over two blocks along Genesee Street in Avon and drew between 5,000-10,000 people. School “shuttle” buses, which are handicap accessible, transported visitors from parking areas to different stops along the festival route. “...We not only provided a fun and family-oriented day of entertainment, but [the festival] is also an opportunity for the Rotary and other area organizations to raise money for worthy causes,” Avon Rotary members share in their short article, “Why We Sponsor a Corn Festival.” This reflects the Rotary motto: Service Above Self. This service to others is demonstrated very well in the festival’s Kid Zone, a section of the festival filled with such kid-friendly entertainment as Gadgets the Clown, a bounce house, Mr. Scribbles and Cookies Songman.

Great entertainment was offered all day long on the festival’s three stages, with features such as local bands, dance performances, a corn eating contest and headliner Skycoasters free concert from 7:30pm-10:30pm. Also, a new game was introduced to the event’s festivities: A Cornhole Contest sponsored by the ROC City Rotary Club. Over 100 arts & craft vendors also provided a variety of products, services and experiences ranging from health information to pickling & canning to jewelry. There was, quite literally, something for everyone.

Another festival favorite, the food court, was even bigger and better this year. Returning for its 32nd year, Lapressi’s Lemonade offered cool refreshment. The Rotary tent served corn on the cob, salt potatoes and corn fritters while its fellow, original co-founder, the Lions Club dished up a tasty chicken BBQ plate. Many more delectable food options were available, served from tents, stands and food trucks alike. Offerings ranged from the ever-popular corn fritters to gourmet grilled cheese, from fried ravioli to extravagant cotton candy and Amish baked goods, from savory to sweet, from homemade soda to craft brews. That’s right; brews, wines and cider were offered in this year’s brand new Avon Rotary Beer Garden, set up next-door to the Avon Police Department, from 12PM-9PM.

Still, what is perhaps most appealing about the Avon Corn Festival was the sense of connection it brought, reconnecting with friends from near and far and the feeling that no matter where your travels have taken you, the Avon Corn Festival always welcomes you back with good fellowship, great music and delicious food.



Corn Festival Highlights...



Thank You Rodney & Donna George

Avon Rotary enjoyed the annual 'after Corn Festival' picnic hosted once again by the George's on Sunday, August 12. Fellowship, fun, food and much needed relaxation was enjoyed by all who attended.

Sincere thanks to Rodney & Donna for having us and all the attention to detail they put into this event.



September Club Schedule

Tues. Sept 4	Regular Mtg 6:00
Mon. Sept 10	Board of Directors Mtg 7:00 @ Hurricane
Tues. Sept 11	Regular Mtg 6:00
Tues. Sept 18	Fall Picnic @ The Home of Terry Lemen 5:30
Tues. Sept 25	Regular Mtg 6:00 Program: Sarah Carney



September Member Celebrations

Birthdays

- ⇒ **Shannon DiFranco**
- ⇒ **Bill Wall**

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Leann Hill 2017**
- ⇒ **Ainslie Johnson 2017**
- ⇒ **Josh Tonra 2014**
- ⇒ **Marcie Williams 2016**

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **Katie DeGraff**
- ⇒ **Shannon DiFranco**
- ⇒ **Jerry Dougherty**
- ⇒ **Jim Gaffney**
- ⇒ **Scott Holmes**
- ⇒ **Hans Koomen**



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



2018 Wild Polio Case Counts As of August 28

<u>Country</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	13	14	12	12 July 18
Nigeria	4	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	20	8	3	18 May 18
Total	37	22	15	

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!



Rambling On Rotary—September



By: Bruce Amey

I recently saw the following post regarding Rotary: The purpose of a Rotarian is to serve, to care, to love, to share, to give, to be just, companionship, comradeship, friendship, and fellowship. BE the INSPIRATION!

In our little village and town of Avon, we are somewhat insulated from the world. But as Rotarians, we are a part of the entire world. In the September edition of *The Rotarian*, there was an interesting article, "Oh, the humanity. Want to be one with the world? Hop on the subway." If you have ever ridden a subway, this is so true. The article writer, Barbara Brotman, characterizes the interactions and events that occur when riding public transit that we just don't get the opportunity to "enjoy" driving in our private vehicles around our suburban/country environs. When I was in NYC with Diane and our daughter Madison several years ago, we took the subway all over. We had our camper in Hoboken, NJ (Madison loved to watch *Cake Boss* and Buddy's original Carlo's Bakery is in Hoboken) and we would take the train into southern Manhattan. We took the subway to Central Park, to Yankee Stadium, and, of course we did a lot of walking, too. Depending on the time of day, some subway rides were so packed you couldn't move. Madison had skipped a meal and fainted on the train, but we were so packed in the subway car, I couldn't get to her but other riders helped her to a seat. The passenger next to her on the seat offered Madison some water and a granola bar she had. We got off at the next stop to get some air before resuming our ride to the Yankee's game. Riding public transit, especially in cities, you meet people from all walks of life and of all nationalities. When Madison was quite young, she and I rode a train together back from a Florida vacation to Syra-

cuse; and the people we met along the way were very interesting. (Of course when you are riding with a young child, people are more willing to interact and engage in conversation.)

Where am I rambling with this? As Rotarians, our purpose is to interact with others. To serve them, care for them, show them love, to share with and give to them, to provide companionship and comradeship and friendship, and to have fellowship with them. While attending the International Convention in Toronto, I witnessed so many people from various cultures interacting and engaging like riders on a subway, and at times, the convention venues felt that crowded. Our club members do a lot of outreach within our community, but I believe we need to reach out more to our world as well. As our club has supported Rob's Nicaragua school-building missions both financially and with back-breaking labor, this is an example of true outreach and demonstrates everything Rotarian. As we try to support a global grant water project, this is our club reaching out and demonstrating the characteristics of Rotarians. We soon will be approaching the season of Foundation giving. The Foundation is one of our arms to reach beyond our community to allow us to serve the world. Please consider giving generously to the Foundation. Being Rotarian involves our time, our talents, and our treasure/financial support.

I am honored to be a Rotarian but know I have room to grow to demonstrate all the characteristics listed above. However, in OUR club, I know we will all continue to grow together. RI President Rassin's theme is Be The Inspiration; you all are my inspiration. And I have rambled on long enough.

Interact News

By Shannon DiFranco

Interact has started to recruit new students and the incoming freshman to join our group as we prepare for the new school year. We had 3 students help shuck corn at the festival, Nathan Helmbold, Sydney Boone and Gabrielle Kashorek. The kids zone was a success! Interact raised \$749.00 with the bounce house!!! I do thank the kids for all showing up and doing a great job.

Picture: Senior Sydney Boone, Senior Emma Zeluff, Senior Maria Crane, Senior Maggie Dempsey and Sophomore Alicai Faville.



Veerle Looks Back

Interview by Bob Mellen



Not every 17-year-old girl could do what Veerle Beckers did. Fresh out of the Netherlands' version of high school last summer, she hopped on a plane alone and jetted almost 4,000 miles to live for a year with strangers in the tiny village of Avon, N.Y.

But in her year here she proved her mettle, jumping fully into life at Avon High School and the families she stayed with and the people she met around town.

"I love it here," she said at an Avon Rotary meeting of near the end of her year abroad. The town "is really nice. It has only nice people."

Perhaps that's partly because Avon is much like her home in Rhoon, a small suburb of Rotterdam. Veerle (pronounced fear-la) grew up in a home much like those in Avon, but the houses are closer together, she said, and with much smaller yards.

It's also due in large part to her effervescent personality and the large share of empathy she has. When Veerle learned that several Avon Rotary members have traveled to Nicaragua to build schools in remote villages, she decided to go along to help.

There is hard work involved, hauling supplies over poor roads, digging foundations, erecting a new building. But Veerle proved to be one of the hardest workers, said Rotary past President Tom Vonglis. Veerle's assessment: "It was pretty cool" to be able to help others less fortunate.

On another occasion Veerle decided "to do a benefit night for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I really don't know why." But she said "I chose Make-A-Wish because the exchange here is like a wish come true for me. Make-A-Wish makes wishes come true for other kids who are really sick.

"I love music so I invited singers and song writers. I contacted the Make-A-Wish in western New York so they helped me a little bit. A lot of people came and I raised \$2,600."

That money went to enable one girl's wish come true, Veerle said. "She had a perfect prom night with a limousine and photo shoot.

Veerle was participating in Rotary Youth Exchange, which brings international students at the secondary school level to live with a host family and attend secondary school for either an academic semester or year.

In her year here, which ended Aug. 2, Veerle stayed with three families and was able to do a substantial amount of traveling with her Rotary sponsors. She went to New York City, "which was really fun," she said. "I was in love with New York City. We went to the World Trade Center to see the view and we saw a little bit of the (9/11) memorial."

In order to help pay for a West Coast trip with Rotarians in the last few weeks of her U.S. year, "I raised about \$500," she said. "I made truffles in all different flavors and people could buy them." She said she visited Yosemite National Park and San Francisco, which she like even a bit better than New York City "because it was really different." The trip also included Nevada, Arizona "and a lot of canyons."

Thinking back over her year abroad during which she turned 18, Veerle said "it's been more than I hoped for because I didn't really know what to expect. I've had such an amazing year."

"Amazing" is also a word used by Vonglis when he told her that "I need to thank you for being such an inspiring exchange student. Your Make-A-Wish fundraiser was nothing short of amazing. Your shining personality and wonderful smile truly lights up a room. You are destined for greatness and I know we will all miss you."

Veerle said she too "will miss all the people, the activities and sports" in Avon. "I only will see when I get back home how much I've actually changed in this year."

But she already is aware of some difference caused by her year-long experience. "I feel more confident and happy," she said. "I feel way more worldly, more on my own."

After she returns to Rhoon, Veerle plans to embark on a career in nursing. "We will see how that goes," she said. Considering her outgoing personality and large capacity for caring about other people, it should go very well indeed.



Save The Date

2018-2019 Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Tuesday, September 18, 2018	Fall Picnic 5:30, Terry Lemen's Home
Sunday, October 28, 2018	Eastern Cities Dinner 4:30—8:30
Tuesday, November 20, 2018	Rotary/Lion's Thanksgiving Dinner Meeting 6:00
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
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	Lions/Rotary Picnic Meeting 6:00
Friday, May 3— May 5, 2019	District Conference, Mt. Pocono, PA
Saturday, June 1, 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

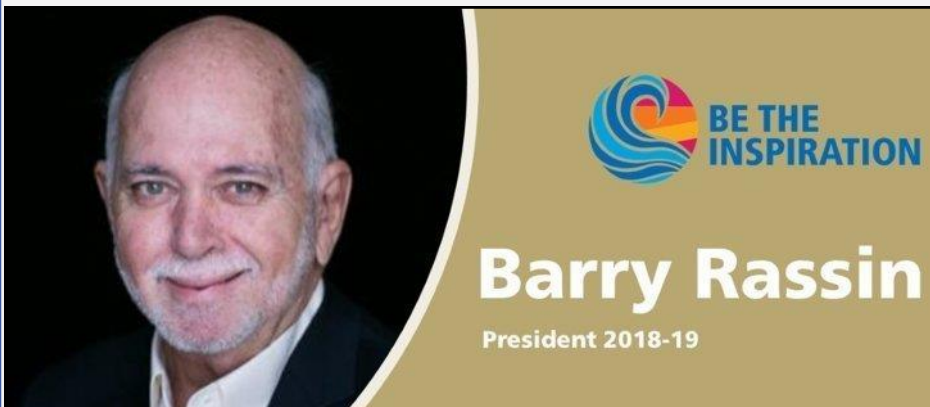
SAVE THE DATE~RSVP

Eastern Cities Dinner

Sunday, October 28, 2018 4:30 PM—8:30 PM

Rochester Riverside Convention Center

If you plan to attend, email Laurie Vonglis by September 10. Seating is limited!



Guest Speaker, Rotary International President, Barry Rassin and his wife Esther will be the guests of our Hosts, the Rochester Rotary Club. Join us to hear Barry's message on our theme—"Be the Inspiration".