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**President's Message**



As I was thinking about this month's newsletter and what area of inspiration to draw from as I put pen to paper, I was hit with the news of the untimely passing of two members of our Rotary family, Steve Robertson of Lima Rotary and Liz Green from Avon Central School. So, it is with a heavy heart that I write to you this month.

I had the pleasure of meeting Steve, who was Lima Rotary's Past President, a few weeks ago in Inlet as he is an avid Snowmobiler. Laurie was wearing her Rotary pull-over while at one of our stops and Steve immediately connected with that. We had a great weekend with our new friend whom we quickly realized was a kind, genuine, gentle soul. We only spent about 8 hours with Steve over that weekend, but the connection we made with him was instant. I have learned that he had this type of impact on everyone that was lucky enough to meet him – he was just that kind of person.

As I was trying to digest the news of Steve's passing, I learned last night about Liz Green's passing. This one is especially tough to us all as she impacted the lives of so many in our community. Liz had been working closely with a few of us on this year's Grant and recurring project for Stone's Community Resources. Her kindness, love for children and passion to help those in need was evident in every interaction with her. She had an energy about her that was contagious and inspiring, which always made me reflect on how I can be better. Every time I talked with Liz,

she would share her immense gratitude for what Rotary was doing for the kids in Avon not recognizing that she was the reason we are able to do what we're doing. She was so selfless and did not look for praise or recognition, but rather was driven by the desire to help those that couldn't always help themselves. It's this kind of attitude that made her a Rotarian in my mind as she lived our motto day in and day out.

There is no way to make sense of these tragedies and losing people so young with so much left to give. The only thing we can do is live our lives in a way that honors their legacy and continues to keep their memory alive. These events also remind us that life is short and we need to live each day to its fullest, which gave me a different perspective on this month's Rotary theme of 'Peace and Conflict Resolution'. Normally, we view this on the global scale in terms of war or other large conflicts, but we can look at this topic through the lens of our own lives. Are we doing everything we can to create peace and unity in our communities, families, groups that we belong to, etc.? What else can we do to live a life that makes other people want to be better the way that Liz and Steve did? It doesn't take a lot to make someone's day – it could just be a warm smile, giving a compliment, or holding the door. You never know what people are going through in a given day, so if we all look for an opportunity to make someone's day a little bit brighter, it will have an endless ripple effect.

Yours In Rotary Service, Heather



**Avon Rotary Club meets  
Tuesdays at 6pm at Avon Inn**

**Board of Directors**  
 Heather Ayers, President  
 Dom Lalisce, President Elect  
 Julie Carney, Director  
 Karl Sawicki, Member at Large  
 Tom Vonglis, Past President  
 Laurie Vonglis, Secretary  
 Kelly Cole, Treasurer

# January Highlights



**At our January 15th meeting** Ginny House surprised Bob with a cake for his 80th birthday. Everyone sang Happy Birthday and Bob blew out the candles. We all enjoyed the cake and wish him many more happy, healthy birthdays.



**At our January 15th meeting** Tim Dickinson was presented with his Paul Harris +5 pin. Tim is also a member of the Paul Harris Society. His dedication to the Rotary Foundation is steadfast and outstanding. An excellent example for all.



**At our January 15th meeting,** Superintendent, Dr. Aaron Johnson introduced the program for the evening. Our guests from CASA-Trinity program, Rob Levy and Corinne Davis provided an informative presentation on the teenage use of alcohol, marijuana and vaping. Rob does work in the school district educating students of all ages on the harmful effects.

**At our January 22 meeting** we enjoyed celebrations from many members especially Bob Mellen. Quite possibly the lone Patriots fan in the club, Bob was very proudly wearing his New England cap and happy to remind us all of the longevity of success he and his team have enjoyed. According to Julie Carney, on Sunday, the number of RAM fans increased by millions.

We also heard from Rotaract President, Henry Lemen who was an Avon exchange student we sponsored just a couple years ago. Henry thanked the club for helping to sponsor the upcoming exchange ski weekend breakfast and will continue to keep us updated on their activities.

Tonight's program and special guests were Betsy & Sarah Sherwood from Focus on the Children. They thanked us for our support and generosity at Christmas time. Our Giving Tree project was

extremely successful and a shining example of the good our club does. Betsy shared a bit about the organization's history. It's truly been a family affair with her dad starting FOTC. Betsy took over for him in 1999 and just recently her daughter Sarah has stepped in as President. That is quite a legacy! Recent changes/improvements in the process involve partnerships with the local school districts which has made a significant difference.

President Heather proudly presented a contribution of \$200, on behalf of the club, to continue our support of their mission—to serve the children and families in our county.



## January Highlights continued...

### At our January 29th meeting...

President Heather announced the **proposed** Slate of Officers for the 2019-2020 Rotary year.

President, Dom Lalisie  
President Elect, Julie Carney  
Sr. Director, Jake Ayers  
Director, Steve Csapo  
Past President, Heather Ayers  
Member-At-Large, David Kilgore  
Secretary, Shannon DiFranco  
Treasurer, Kelly Cole

This will be announced at the February 5th meeting and then the club members will vote on February 19th.

We did our in-meeting service project and packed bags of meals for Stone's Community Resource Closet at Avon Central School. Many hands help make this worth-while project quick and efficient.



## New Theme Announced!

### 2019-2020: Rotary Connects the World

RI President-elect Mark Daniel Maloney's theme for 2019-2020, Rotary Connects the World, asks Rotarians to strengthen the many ways that Rotary Connects the World, building the connections that allow talented, thoughtful, and generous people to unite and take meaningful action through Rotary service.



VOLUNTEERS  
DO NOT  
NECESSARILY  
HAVE THE TIME;  
THEY HAVE  
THE HEART

ELIZABETH ANDREW



## Rambling On Rotary—February



By: Bruce Amey

I am writing this article in the third week of January and the cold of winter has truly set in. We are more than halfway through President Heather's Rotary year. We are approaching President-elect Dom's year. (By the way, rumor has it, the Change of Officers Dinner will be held in Paris ... but that is just a fool-hearty rumor.) Throughout this Rotary year, RI President Barry Rassin, District Governor Mike Slovak, our club President Heather have challenged each of us to Be The Inspiration. Where are we THE inspiration in our community?

We began our year supporting Gilda's Club of Rochester again by providing food (and revelry) at their Camp Open Arms working with the Penfield and Spencerport Rotary Clubs. The two years that we have supported this activity, I (and I know many others) have come away having been inspired by the volunteer childcare providers as well as seeing the joy on the faces of the children. We also supported the Ride LLC bike race providing course guidance and water to the riders who were riding for a good cause.

We have been inspired by the Avon CSD and its program opportunities for our children. We celebrated with the Avon Baseball team's inspiring accomplishment as Livingston County's first-ever State Baseball champions. We were also inspired with a presentation by Liz Green and the powerful support the district's backpack programs provides many children within our community. I am inspired that a goal of President Heather's this year was for our club to further expand and support that program. Additionally, our club was inspired to support the ACS STEAM program and we had a presentation from teacher/STEAM leader Luke Weaver that didn't seem to drone on at all (unlike these missives).

We conducted another "Party in a Bag" in-service meeting project along with our monthly Avon Food Pantry donations. Steve Vanderbilt continually reminds us that the Food Pantry is inspired by our constant support of its work.

Additionally, our two major fundraisers, the Corn Festival and the Auction, were both successful thanks to the leadership of both chairpersons (Rodney and Kelly, respectively) but never possible without the on-going hard work and commitment of the entire club membership. Because of these successful projects, Avon Rotary can continue to provide support and inspiration for other charitable causes in our community and around the world.

At the Eastern Cities Dinner this year it was an honor to have RI President Rassin speak encouraging all Rotarians to pursue their passions for the betterment of the world and to be the "flamingoes of change". However, it was also incredibly inspiring to see where our club has been an inspiration through our support of Linking Hands For Learnings as Rob and Jeanine Lupisella did a presentation on the schools their organization has built in Nicaragua. And to cap that off, our Past-President and District Polio Chairperson Laurie Vonglis also presented to clubs in October during World Polio week. It is inspiring to me to witness the level of activity our small Avon community Rotary Club inspires in our district.

As I look back on the year thus far, I believe we have been the inspiration for many in our community and our region. We have grown our membership which is a reflection of the inspiration that our club and Rotary, in general, is making. Our club has much to be proud of because as we inspire others through our donations, our labors, and our commitments, we are each inspired every time. It is true that we always get back ten-fold that which we put in when we give of ourselves for the service of others. Rotarians are people of action. Together, we are THE inspiration. And again, I have rambled on long enough.



# PEOPLE OF ACTION

*Rotary Club of Avon*

Rotary



**GPEI joint statement of Chairs:**

As the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) enters its 31st year, the Chairs of the effort's main global advisory bodies issue an extraordinary joint statement, urging all involved in the effort to excel in their roles.

“To succeed by 2023”- extraordinary joint statement to Polio Eradicators

In an extraordinary joint statement by the Chairs of the main independent, advisory and oversight committees of the GPEI, the Chairs urge everyone involved in polio eradication to ensure polio will finally be assigned to the history books by 2023. The authors are 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 Endgame Plan through 2018 has brought the world to the brink of being polio-free. A new Strategic Plan 2019-2023 aims to build on the lessons learned since 2013.

The joint statement urges everyone involved in the effort to find ways to excel in their roles. If this happens, the statement continues, success will follow. But otherwise, come 2023, the world will find itself exactly where it is today: tantalizingly close. But in an eradication effort, tantalizingly close is not good enough.

The statement therefore issues an impassioned plea to everyone to dedicate themselves to one clear objective: to reach that very last child with polio vaccine. By excelling in our roles. It means stepping up the level of performance even further. It means using the proven tools of eradication and building blocks that have been established in parts of the world that have been free of polio for years.

The Chairs remind us that as a global community, we have stood where we stand today once before, with smallpox. And we achieved the eradication of smallpox. And the world is a much better place without smallpox.

So, let us make the world again a better place. Together. Let us eradicate polio.



**2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of February 5**

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	14	21	0	6 Nov 18
Nigeria	0	0	0	20 Aug 16
Pakistan	8	8	0	7 Oct 18
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	



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!





## February Club Schedule



<b>Tues. Feb. 5</b>	Regular Meeting & Induction, with Corn Festival Kick Off meeting following
<b>Tues. Feb 12</b>	Sweethearts Dinner & Interact Dessert Auction 5:30 at the Avon Inn
<b>Mon. Feb 18</b>	Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 at Hurricane
<b>Tues. Feb 19</b>	Club Assembly, Vote for 19-20 Officers and Blue Jean Ball meeting following
<b>Tues. Feb 26</b>	Regular Meeting with Foundation meeting following



## February Member Celebrations

### Birthdays

- ⇒ *Hans Koomen*
- ⇒ *Steve Stephenson (H)*
- ⇒ *Karen Vanderbilt*

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ *Joe Callahan 1987 (H)*
- ⇒ *Margo Harper 1999*
- ⇒ *Barbara Herman 1999*
- ⇒ *Bill Shaw 1971 (H)*
- ⇒ *Karl Sawicki 2007*
- ⇒ *Jim Tompsett 1979 (H)*

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ *Julie Carney*
- ⇒ *Mark Evans*

**FEBRUARY IS**



**Learn More  
Visit  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)**



TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives

# Help Wanted!

## Social Committee Members

- ⇒ Do you like to have fun?
- ⇒ Do you enjoy club social events?
- ⇒ Are you looking to find your club niche?
- ⇒ Here's your opportunity to join a fun-loving team, help organize and carry out various social events throughout the Rotary calendar.
- ⇒ The team is growing... Laurie, Shannon, Marcia & Janis
- ⇒ For more information or to volunteer, contact Laurie



Info Update:

**David L. Henehan**

585-489-2898 (mobile)

dave@henehanlaw.com

2 Woodridge Trail

Henrietta, NY 14467



**2019 Corn Festival  
Kick-Off Meeting  
Tues. February 5**

**2018 & Future  
Committee  
Members  
are encouraged  
to attend**



I hope there are days when your coffee tastes like magic, your playlist makes you dance, strangers make you smile, and the night sky touches your soul. I hope there are days when you fall in love with being alive.

*Bredie Hampton*

## Notes of Thanks....

Dear Laurie,

My family went to Bogotá, Colombia over Christmas for our cousin's wedding. While we were there, we toured the Salt Cathedrals and came across this Rotary marker.

My brother Andrew (Austria, 2007-08), my sister Maggie (Spain, 2011-12) and I (Argentina, 2009-10) all smiled at the marker... The tour of the Salt Cathedral was precisely the type of informative (and awesome!) tour we had each experienced so many of as Rotary Exchange students. We had a moment of appreciation right there and then for not only the experiences and friendships and perspective we gained from our respective exchanges, but for all of the people (particularly host families and Rotarians) that made our years possible. It was an incredible year, one that I still draw on and refer to regularly, even as I approach 10 years (!!!) since my exchange.

Please send best wishes to the Avon Rotary Club, with gratitude from the Lloyd kids.

All the best! Catherine Lloyd



Heather and Laurie,

Wonderful meeting with you on Tuesday! We are always so amazed by the positive energy your group exudes - does a body good to be around such good vibes. We want to share the news of the generous gift you provided to Focus on the Children - I wonder if you could send us a copy of the pics you took that evening?

Thanks again - keep us in mind as you continue to serve the community of Avon.

Sarah and Betsy, Focus on the Children

Dear Avon Rotary Club,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to the Avon Free Library.

We greatly appreciate your support and will put it to good use for the community.

We always appreciate your support!

Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn

## Avon Food Pantry

Collections are the  
3rd Tuesday Of The Month

Items needed in February are:

Cereal  
Canned Fruits &  
Vegetables  
Peanut Butter  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Paper Products



## 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

Tuesday, February 12, 2019	Sweethearts Dinner 5:30
Tuesday, March 12, 2019	St. Patrick's Dinner 5:30
Wednesday, May 1, 2019	Lions/Rotary Picnic Meeting 6:00
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!