

Avon Rotary



December 2019
Newsletter



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

Board of Directors

Dom Lalisse, President
Julie Carney, President Elect
Janis McMIndes, Sr. Director
Steve Csapo, Director
David Kilgore, Member at Large
Heather Ayers, Past President
Shannon DiFranco, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



A great start to the Holiday Season!

I cannot believe it is already the end of November. These past few months have been flying by with the numerous activities of the Club.

November was the Foundation Month and we had the opportunity to celebrate two Paul Harris Milestones for Bruce Amey and Tom Vonglis. Bruce and Tom are not only amazing Rotarians with their continued active participation in all our activities but they are also very generous donors to the Foundation. I know their commitment is a constant motivation element for a lot of us.

We started the month with a coat drive for Stone's Closet. The activity will provide Stone's Closet with winter coats for children in need in our school district. With our donations, we will enable children to learn better by not missing classes due to colds because they cannot dress appropriately for the fall and winter weather. Thank you for all your generous donations!

A critical annual event of our club in November is the annual auction which is a major fundraiser and supports many of the donations we make during the year. This year, we had new leadership for the auction with Janis McMIndes and Tom Honan stepping up as our auction leadership duo. Janis and Tom did a fantastic job keeping the auction team on track and we can celebrate another successful edition of our auction. They proposed and implemented some changes which accelerated the event while preserving most of the format. The auction sure felt less stressful than in prior years! They also learnt from a couple of areas we can improve next year to maximize the participation of Rotarians and the community at large. I cannot thank

Tom, Janis and the rest of their amazing team enough for a job well done which will allow our club to give back to the community.



In November, we also had the opportunity to hear from the team of educators and volunteers supporting the Migrant Literacy program. The program was made possible through a District Simplified Grant which is funded through the Rotary Foundation. The presentation gave us the opportunity to understand how donations to the Foundation can come back to our club and enable larger projects to help our community. The MLP project would not be possible without the grant and we are extremely grateful for all your donations to the Foundation.

This month, Laurie Vonglis organized a collection of Christmas gifts for Focus on the Children. It is a project we supported last year, and your response was again amazing. Laurie went for a "round 2" of gifts due to the overwhelming response. Thank you for making Christmas very special for children in need in our area.

Key committees have also continued their work to make our club more transparent and responsive to the Member's needs. Our by-laws committee has issued its recommendations for changes to our club by-laws, we will review the changes at the next Board of Directors in December and will submit them to a vote by the club members in early January. We thank Helen Zamboni and her team for their strong dedication to this difficult task. (Continued on page 2)



President's Message continued...

As I reviewed the draft of their proposal, I believe they addressed the feedback we received in the by-laws survey.

The Nominating Committee completed its task of collecting candidates for next year's Board of Directors. The names were approved by the Board on 11/18 and announced to the membership on 11/19. We are very fortunate to have some great new talent stepping up: Mike Ford as Director; Katie DeGraff as Treasurer and Leann Hill as Secretary. Bruce Amey and Barb Hermann will also be candidates for the position of Member at Large. They are both very talented and experienced Rotarians with tons of energy to spare! Julie Carney, Janis McMIndes, Steve Csapo will also join me on the overall slate of officers for the year 2020-2021. The official vote will be held at our next Club Assembly on December 17th. Thank you for supporting the team with your presence and vote at the Assembly!



As we enter the Holiday Season, I feel grateful for the support, kindness and amazing generosity you are showing every day. I feel proud and humbled to be an active part of such an amazing group.

November Highlights



During the month of November we focused time during our weekly meetings to talk about the Rotary Foundation. On two of those occasions, Bruce Amey and Tom Vonglis were presented a Paul Harris plus pin for their ongoing generosity in support of the Foundation. Bruce is now a +4 and Tom is now a +3. Congratulations on reaching these milestones gentlemen. - Laurie

The Rotary Foundation



Doing Good In The World



November 9

The Annual 52nd Avon Rotary Auction is in the books. Janis and I want to thank all who gave and went above and beyond to seek out donations, we also want to thank everyone who helped us and volunteered their time on the day of the Auction. We also want to thank our committee, without your support, we could not have done this. Also, the past chairs of the auction for

their support and always being there to answer questions when we needed them. It is amazing to me that this is the 52nd Auction and I am sure that the auction has been done 52 different ways over the years, with each group of chairs putting their own twists on things. This has been quite the learning experience for us as chairs and as new members getting involved and learning things that needed to be done even up to the day of the auction. But the important piece to remember is that we did this for our community, home and away. To be able to make a difference, in the community that we serve makes it all worthwhile. Lastly, I want to thank Janis for working with me and bringing this whole event together. She was such a pleasure to work with, I thank her for her guidance and passion for the good of the club and the community. Bringing all this together leads me to one thought "good people working toward a common goal can and will accomplish anything we set out to do". - Tom Honan

AVON ROTARY AUCTION

November Highlights continued



On November 19

A presentation on the club's Migrant Literacy Project took place at a recent meeting. Kirk Vanderbilt began by sharing how the club's recent award of a District Simplified Grant has supported this initiative. The purpose of the project is to provide literacy support for the adults within migrant families of students in the Avon Central School District. The project complements the services offered by the school to the migrant students by creating an English Literacy Program for the parents of the students. The studies on the challenges of migrant children show that the lack of parental homework support and conversation within the home are a major factor in impeding students' growth with learning the English language.

The project was launched in September, and includes twice weekly, free English classes for the parents of migrant children. The classes are taking place each week from 6-7:30 pm, in collaboration with the Avon Free Library. Karenina Quintero and Kaitlyn Altamura, trained Avon English Language Learners (ELL) teachers, are instructing the seventeen students that are currently enrolled.

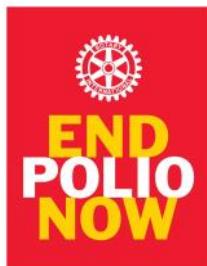
Two recent studies on the challenges of migrant education have highlighted the importance of supporting the needs of the adult family members. The two key barriers to the participation of parents in English Literacy programs are transportation and child care. Dom Lalisse mentioned this during the presentation. He said, "It was important to our success that we offer childcare and transportation to those who were interested. We didn't want these needs to prevent an adult student from attending." The support of migrant children is a growing need for the community of Avon. The Avon Central School District, in accordance with Education Law, provides support services to identified students through their English Language Learners (ELL) program. Rob Lupisella shared, "The number of students serviced in this program has increased dramatically over the past five years. The District has gone from one part-time teacher, to now having two full-time teachers."

Teacher Karenina Quintero shared words of appreciation from her students, "Thanks for the opportunity that Rotary is giving me to learn English" and "Thank you for allowing me to learn something new that is helping me and lifting up my life." - Rob Lupisella



2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of November 27, 2019

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	14	21	21	Oct 17, 2019
Pakistan	8	8	91	Nov 7, 2019
Total	22	29	112	



Global leaders pledge US\$2.6 billion to eradicate polio at the "Reaching the Last Mile" forum in Abu Dhabi. Countries and partners announce commitments to vaccinate 450 million children against polio each year and to overcome barriers to reaching every child.

Rambling On Rotary—December



By: Bruce Amey

Our club's Strategic Planning Team has been accomplishing much these past few months. As a review, Past President Heather got us started on the strategic planning process in April 2018, when she was President-Elect. Our club members participated in taking the District 7120 Club Health Check; we had almost 85% of our active members take the survey. A club team was comprised to meet with District 7120 Strategic

Planners and PDGs Bill Gormont and Scott MacDonnell, review the data from the CHC, and develop a strategic plan. The CHC collected member data relating to five areas: Club & RI Image, Membership, Business & Operations, Service & Social, and Club Experience. Our club's STP is Heather Ayers, Julie Carney, Dom Lalisse, Karl Sawicki, Kirk Vanderbilt, Laurie Vonglis, Julie Welch, and me.

Our first goal was to formalize a club Mission Statement, which the club's Board of Directors adopted later in 2018. Our mission statement is: The Rotary club of Avon is an organization where service-minded individuals unite to provide resources and take action for those in need and support lasting change in our world, in our community and in each other.

The first area we chose to address related to Club Experience. President-Elect Dom surveyed our membership in May 2019 relating to meeting times, frequency of meetings, program presentations, etc. We have also determined a process for greeters at meetings to welcome guests and provide information about Rotary and our club. The greeters will be the President-Elect and Senior Director. We have also looked to expand our social media presence as Mike Ford agreed to work with Laurie Vonglis and Kirk Vanderbilt and our Instagram and Facebook presence have increased. Be sure to follow and share Avon Rotary to increase our exposure.

As we looked at the other areas to address, one comment from the CHC jumped out for the SPT that we felt overlapped each of the categories: our club has "no formal Rotary "book of knowledge"; no standard operating procedures documentation for major events (what we have is piecemeal)." With no delineated procedures so for a member volunteering to step forward for any particular task is very difficult; there is no understanding of time commitment, what is expected for the task, how the task has been done in the past, etc.

As such, with the

approval of the Board of Directors this past November, we are undertaking a process asking all members to submit brief but as detailed as is necessary descriptions of the various tasks in which you have been involved. As an example, chairing our Rotary Auction. It would be ideal if past chairpersons (Tom and Janis, Kelly, Tim Dickenson, Mark Evans, et.al.) could together submit the when, who, how, where, etc. of planning the Rotary Auction. When do you start, how do we publicize it, who contacts the school and the auctioneer, etc. The same is true for the Blue Jean Ball ... past chairpersons Jake and Laurie? The Corn Fest has so many different functions that need to be addressed in addition to the chairperson, e.g., booths and crafts, corn booth, how to stir the butter or prepare the fritter batter, the beer tent, securing the corn, etc. As you can see, the tasks are many and every one of us has been involved in planning and/or executing many of these roles. There are Roadside cleanups, Gilda's Club event, in-meeting club activities, Food Bank donations, etc. We need everyone's assistance to compile our Club Procedures Manual. We should even be denoting the expectations for each position on our Board of Directors.

This will be an extensive undertaking to compile this manual, but with everyone's assistance, our goal is to complete this by May 31, 2020. The Board has given approval to posting this manual internally on our club's web page so the descriptions are available to all members and can be tweaked and updated after each event or as often as is necessary. I will have sample template sheets for each duty to have the information compiled at our December 10 meeting as I will answer any questions as part of our Club Assembly meeting. I am excited about watching our club grow as we all participate in this endeavor together and improve by sharing roles and responsibilities across our Rotary year.

In December, I wish all of you a blessed holiday season shared with family and friends. Within our Rotary Club, I have made many friends and realized how much we can accomplish together through our Service Above Self for others. The spirit of giving in this season and

throughout the year inspires me. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



A Word From Our Exchange Student



November 24

My name is Julia Pinheiro Leandro, I'm the Rotary Exchange Student from Brazil. I've arrived here in Avon about 3 months ago and I can tell it was the best 3 months in my life. The experience is already awesome, but I can say I'm even more lucky for having amazing host parents and Rotarians supporting me. In the past

days, I've been to my volleyball banquet, it was very important to say goodbye to a great season, the girls and the amazing coach. Coach Braun taught me not just the sport but that I need to work hard and do my best to whatever dream I want to reach. About a week ago, I joined the swimming team, experienced practices, and now I have new friendships and a new coach. It's being really hard (not gonna lie) but it is worth it (I was gaining some weight haha). Besides that, I'm going to have a new and very soon change, I'm moving from host family. I'm very happy and sad about it. I think it is one of the hardest things on Rotary exchange. My new host family is quite different from now. I'll have host siblings, a cat and a dog, and I'm excited to live this crazy life full of people. Another big thing coming is Thanksgiving. I don't have this holiday back home and I'm excited to understand more about it and eat a lot of

tasty food (that's what people tell me). Once again thank you Avon Rotary for making my experience the best I could possibly imagine. I would like to thank my host mom Laurie Vonglis and host dad Tom Vonglis for all the incredible things you did for me, for making me feel part of the family and for all the good moments we had! Inside my heart you'll always be my family. -JULIA



Avon Rotary Interact Club



Abby DeCellis & Ella Vanderbilt
leading the November Meeting

With national Interact week we tried getting everyone together for a group picture. We are missing several kids but here is a good looking bunch. Julia wanted to spread her love for Interact with Avon. Way to be spirited, Julia! We found these gold bags to fill with goodies for Santa at the Village Hall. Thank you Avon Chamber for letting us help. Our in-meeting projects go so quickly with so many hands! We had a group of future bakers out do everyone with baked goods for the Avon Rotary Auction. They made five amazing desserts and all with a sense of humor. We plan on stepping up our game for Valentine's Day, be ready. We raised more money for our charities with concessions at the auction. Thank you to all Rotarian's who helped throughout the day. Abby and Ella ran the Rotary meeting. This was a huge learning experience for Abby and she was able to make it through the meeting. Ella helped Abby and was well prepped for next year. I'd buy the no fine button for that month!!

- Shannon DiFranco

Avon Rotary Interact Club—continued



Avon Rotary Christmas Party

- Bring an appetizer or dessert to share
- Beverages provided
- Guests welcome
- Wear your cozy holiday pajamas
- Games & Music

Friday, December 20, 2019

6:30 pm ~ Masten Home

301 Spring Street ~ Avon

Last house on the left heading into the Downs.
Park on the street or in the 1st lot of the Downs

Sign Up by December 13

or email Terry: kettermic@aol.com

December Celebrations



Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ **David Kilgore**
- ⇒ **Bill Wall**
- ⇒ **Julie Welch**



Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ **Ernie Wiard 1975 H**
- ⇒ **Bob House 1987**
- ⇒ **Marcia Cameron 2005**
- ⇒ **Rodney George 2010**
- ⇒ **Cathy Jo Murphy 2011**
- ⇒ **Terry Lemen 2012**
- ⇒ **Dom Lalisse 2014**
- ⇒ **Jim Varner 2014**
- ⇒ **Julie Welch 2015**
- ⇒ **Jean Antkowiak 2016**
- ⇒ **Greg Antkowiak 2016**
- ⇒ **Karen Vanderbilt 2018**

DECEMBER Club Schedule

Tues. Dec. 3	Red Cross Blood Drive—2—6 pm
Tues. Dec. 3	Regular Mtg, Strategic Planning Committee Mtg following
Wed. Dec. 4	8:45 Audubon School #33 Principal's Book of the Month Club—Literacy Project Event
Sat. Dec. 7	Holiday Spectacular—Crepes & Cider Rotary Tent 12—9 pm
Mon. Dec. 9	Board of Directors Mtg 7 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Dec. 10	Regular Mtg.
Tues. Dec. 17	Club Assembly—Annual Mtg: Election of Officers
Fri. Dec. 20	Christmas Party 6:30 pm at the Masten Home
Tues. Dec. 24	No Mtg—Merry Christmas!
Tues. Dec. 31	No Mtg—Happy New Year!



SIGN UP TO SAVE A LIFE

Our next blood drive is
December 3rd from 2 pm to 6 pm
At the Avon Inn



Our Holiday Giving Tree

A Note from Betsy Sherwood, Focus on the Children 11/25/19

I cannot tell you how grateful we are to have your support for our Christmas Program. As you know, we have placed a larger emphasis on school aged kids, and many of them are Middle School / High School. As you can imagine, these are the age groups most impacted by the noticeable disparities in Christmas experiences as they return to school sharing their stories and showing off their gifts. Your generosity plays an important role in lifting the self esteem of the children we serve. The reason for the season is alive and well with your heartfelt kindness.

We are beyond grateful!

Betsy

Avon Food Pantry

*Collections are the 3rd Tuesday
of the Month*

Pantry needs in December are:

- ⇒ Cereal
- ⇒ Peanut-Butter
- ⇒ Pasta,
- ⇒ Canned Tuna or Salmon
- ⇒ Crackers



Thank you,
Jennifer



Salvation Army

Avon Rotary is scheduled to ring the bell the week of **December 9—13.**



Look for a sign up sheet at upcoming meetings or contact

Mike Ford
447-1511



Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please let the club President know and Sunshine Liaison Agent—Barbara Herman



Save The Date

2019-2020 Avon Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Friday, December 20, 2019:	Christmas Party—6:30 @ The Masten Home
Tuesday, February 11, 2020:	Sweethearts Dinner—6:00
Tuesday, March 17, 2020:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
Friday, May 1– May 3, 2020	District Conference—Niagara Falls, NY
Saturday, May 30, 2020	Blue Jean Ball—6:00 @ Oak Knolls Manor
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	Quad Cities Golf—Caledonia
Tuesday, June 30, 2020	Change of Officers Banquet—5:30