



President's Message

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
February Highlights	2
Partyman Catering Project	3
Show Me the Green!	3
Rambling on Rotary	4
Club Schedule	5
March Celebrations	5
An Update from Julia	6
Register Now for DC	6
Polio Update	6
Save the Dates	7
Food Pantry Items	7



This Team rocks!

This month has been challenging for me to keep up with all the Club activities.

The combination of a new job and personal commitments have made me unable to fully participate in the life of the Club and I apologize to all the members for being somewhat absent and unavailable.

At our last meeting in January, we had the opportunity to hear from Jen Moore, the current CEO of the Razorsharks. I found her story very inspiring, not only for her ability to face difficult circumstances but also for her sense of fundamental values in her business decision making. In that sense, I felt Jen is a Rotarian at heart, applying the 4-way test as a business principle.

In February, we made the decision to support Linking Hands for Learning for a new school build in Nicaragua! This project is very important to our club. It transformed the lives and minds of several of our members while enabling a better future for many children. It is an ideal project for us to support because it serves the Community while enriching our members who participate.

On February 11th, the Club celebrated Valentine's Day with a great dinner at the Avon Inn! I missed the event but heard rave reviews. We also gave the Interact Club the opportunity to run a bake sale/auction which is a major fundraiser for them. Thank you to all the members participating! The money raised allows Interact to run multiple projects throughout the year including a great weekend with all the Exchange students.

The last incredible event for February was our participation in the Partyman project to prepare meals for the Community. As I was looking at the multiple pictures posted on social Media, I felt an immense sense of pride to be associated with such a wonderful group. You are such an amazing group of men and women committed, fun and inspiring. As I reflect on my most exciting and memorable moments in Rotary, I believe we are the strongest when we combine a service project with camaraderie and teamwork. Fun with a zest of service!

As we enter the month of March, we can start looking forward to Spring! Spring break is around the corner. We have a lot of great events to look forward to.

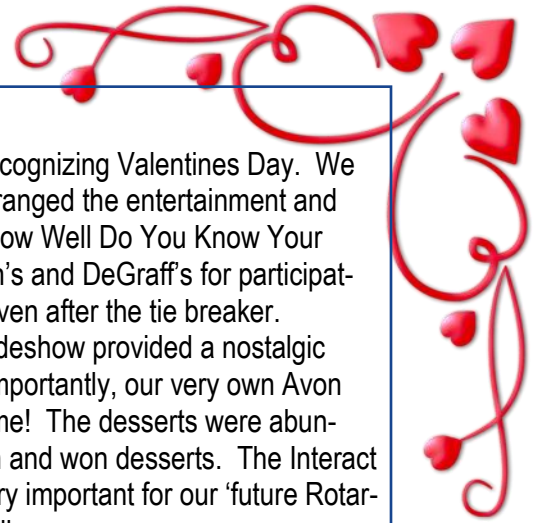
**Avon Rotary Club meets
Tuesdays 6 pm at Avon Inn**

Board of Directors

Dom Lalisce, 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



February Highlights



February 11:



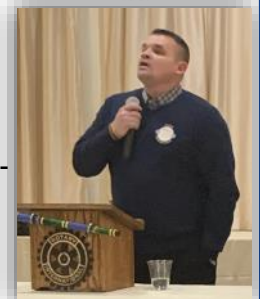
Avon Rotarians enjoyed the annual Sweethearts dinner, recognizing Valentines Day. We had a delicious buffet thanks to the Avon Inn. Shannon arranged the entertainment and had 3 Rotary couples compete for pride, not prize in the “How Well Do You Know Your Spouse Game.” Many thanks to the Antkowiak’s, VanAllen’s and DeGraff’s for participating. We had a tie between the VanAllen’s and DeGraff’s even after the tie breaker. Throughout the evening the ever popular “Then & Now” slideshow provided a nostalgic look at our couples on their wedding day and now. Most importantly, our very own Avon

Interact Club held a dessert auction. The students really stepped up their game! The desserts were abundant, creative and beautiful! Thank you to the generous Rotarians who bid on and won desserts. The Interact Club raised \$970 and plan to donate back to the community. This event is very important for our ‘future Rotarians’ and we hope to have an increase in attendance next year! - Laurie Vonglis



February 18:

Special guest Brock Thrasher, President/Founder of Local Hero provided the program this evening. Brock started Local Hero after he lost several of his Navy Seal Brothers he served with not to combat, but to the perils of addiction and suicide after they returned home. Local Hero is a charitable organization that is driven to help area Military Veterans and their families out in times of need. It does not end there, recently also focusing on lending a hand to people who have gone above and beyond for their community. Local Hero creates specific fundraising campaigns for each individual to fit their needs and to help them move forward in life with a positive path. May it be t-shirt sales, fitness challenges, concerts, or other special events. They also provide life coaching to get them on track and stay focused for now and the future.—Mike Ford



February 20:

Avon Rotary visited the 3rd grade class at St. Agnes School as part of our dictionary project. Every year, as part of Rotary International’s efforts to increase literacy and childhood education, Avon Rotary donates dictionaries to every 3rd grade student in both St. Agnes School and Avon Elementary. Many thanks to Jean & Greg Antkowiak for leading our club’s efforts.—Mike Ford

Partyman Catering Outreach Program



February 22:

Avon Rotarians joined by families and friends participated in the Partyman Catering Outreach Program . In a little over an hour volunteers packed 12,000 meals that will be donated and distributed to area food pantries. Many thanks to those Rotarians that participated in this hands-on project! - Mike Ford

Front Row— Trinity Sandle, Marcia Cameron, Bruce Amey, Katie DeGraff, Mike Ford Standing—TJ Vonglis, Reed Vonglis, Janis McMIndes, Archer Vonglis, Lena Antkowiak, Jean Antkowiak, Rachel Allen, Julie Carney, Rob Lupisella, Carolyn Lupisella, Jeanine Lupisella, Quinn Ford, Leann Hill, Steve Csapo, Rhonda Hirschler, Kevin VanAllen, Lisa Csapo



~ In an effort to finish up our Foundation drive and meet our goal of 100% participation ~

March 17th we will have our next Foundation Drive

"SHOW ME THE GREEN"

Contribute \$5—\$10 or more and receive a ticket for every \$5 donation. A drawing will be held, and the winning ticket will get 100 Foundation points transferred to them!



Rambling On Rotary—March



By: Bruce Amey

February 23, 1905. That was the date that Paul Harris founded Rotary in Chicago, Illinois. One hundred and fifteen years later Rotary International has grown to be one of the largest and most charitable service organizations in the world. I get goose bumps when I think of that. Rotary has almost as many members worldwide as there are seconds in a year. And almost every second of every year Rotarians are performing services for others someplace on this earth. Goose bumps!

In the March 2020 Rotarian magazine, RI President Elect Holger Knaak states that he believes the opportunities for Rotary are endless. As you are aware, his motto for his president's year is Rotary Opens Opportunities; I could not agree more. He states, "If Rotary is to realize its proper destiny, it must be evolutionary, at times, revolutionary on occasions. To be prepared for the future, Rotary must continue to be revolutionary and must believe in the power of youth." PE Knaack's passion in Rotary began with an interest in the Rotary Youth Exchange program; sounds a lot like our President Elect Julie Carney.

When Henry Lemen returned from his year abroad, he was a new energized young man. He was looking to be a Rotoractor; he was inspired in the work of Rotary. I look at our youth exchange ambassadors: Julia, Sophie, Veerle, Tabatha, Martina come to mind and how engaged they became in our community. I recall Veerle went to Nicaragua to help in our school-build project and then returned and completed a fund-raising project for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. That's inspiring. I am hopeful that when our in-bound young adults return home that they stay engaged with their Rotary clubs serving others. I know Martina has done a lot of traveling expanding her knowledge and awareness of various cultures.

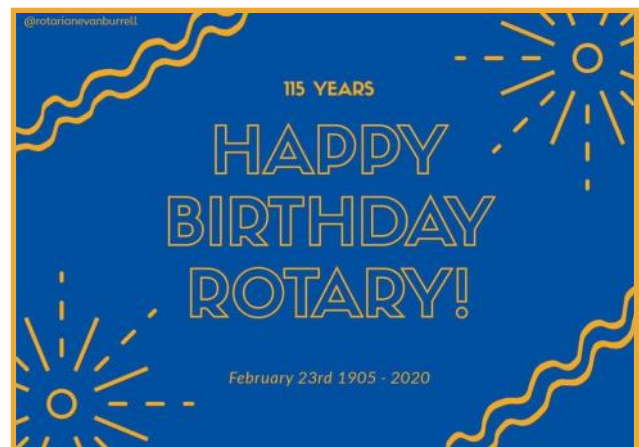
I am so inspired by the work of our Avon Interact Club. I recall when the club had maybe 5 members and through the inspiration and leadership of Linda Kime, Julie Carney, Cathy Murphy and Shannon DiFranco, and the ever-present support, love, and encouragement of Ed Kime, these young people are growing their love for service to others. I worked with mainly high school students my 41 years as a public-school educator and I have to say I always believed in the power of youth. But admittedly, I get goose bumps when I

see what young people engaged in Rotary activities and living Rotary ideals can accomplish. I am very proud of the support our club provides for the youth in our community while helping to build a Rotary foundation for them to grow on.

RI PE Knaak stated, "Our core values have always been the basis for what we do. Friendship, diversity, integrity, leadership, service – they will never be outdated." One hundred and fifteen years ago I cannot imagine that Paul Harris could envision the fruits that have blossomed and are being realized because of the seeds of friendship, diversity, integrity, leadership, and service that he and the other founding Rotarians planted.

As Rotarians, we have welcoming handshakes and hugs all over the world. We must remember to keep our homes and our hearts open to those in need. "Rotary Opens Opportunities" and "It Connects the World." Blessings for safe travels and hard works accomplished as some of our members passionately join Linking Hands for Learning in the next Nicaraguan school build April 1-12. Building these schools demonstrates our belief in the power of youth; helping provide a good education helps to build potential in the children and their communities.

RI PE Kaack wants to "encourage Rotary clubs to think about their future." As our Avon club strategically plans for our future, engaging our youth and increasing our membership to include more "youthful" members needs to be in the forefront. When I see what we accomplish, I am very proud of our club. When I think of what is possible for us to accomplish, I get goose bumps. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



March

Club Schedule

Mon. March 2	Board of Directors Meeting 7 pm at Hurricane Conference Room
Tues. March 3	Regular Meeting
Tues. March 10	Regular Meeting, Corn Fest Mtg following
March 13-14	President Elect Training Seminar for PE's and AG's
Tues. March 17	St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Meeting
Tues. March 24	Club Assembly, Blue Jean Ball Mtg following
March 26-29	Avon Interact—Exchange Weekend
Tues. March 31	Regular Meeting, Bivona Presentation and Foundation Mtg following

March Celebrations

Birthday

- ⇒ Ted Coyne
- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Ed Kime
- ⇒ Dick Stanton (H)
- ⇒ Wayne Warriner (H)

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Kathy Shrestha



Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Mark Evans 1994
- ⇒ Helen Zamboni 2005
- ⇒ Carmine Simone 2010 (H)
- ⇒ Jake Ayers 2014
- ⇒ Heather Ayers 2014

MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

"Clean water, the essence of life and a birthright for everyone, must become available to all people now."

2011-Michel Cousteau

Rotary   www.rotary.org



A Word From Our Exchange Student



My name is Julia Pinheiro Leandro, I'm 18 years old and the Rotary Exchange Student from Brazil. My year here in Avon is being full of new experiences and lessons. I'm not talking about external stuff (of course there is a lot too), but I'm saying internal learning. Every day I learn different things about myself and doing this on exchange, where I have all the time to think about me, is a privilege.

I'm very happy to have this opportunity, to be here and to grow so much. Thank you Rotary and all people supporting me. My host families and friends.




Rotary  

2020 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 1-3, 2020 | The Conference & Event Center
Niagara Falls, New York



2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of February 26, 2020

<u>Country</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	21	28	0	Dec 7, 2019
Pakistan	8	135	12	Jan 22, 2020
Total	29	163	12	



Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are renewing their partnership to EndPolio! This will mean an additional \$150 million for polio eradication every year for three years and the Gates Foundation will match donations 2-1. Now is the time to contribute!

Save the Date



Avon Rotary's next drive is: **Tuesday, April 7**

2019-2020 Avon Rotary Calendar of Special Events



Tuesday, March 17, 2020:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
Tuesday, April 14, 2020	Rotary Honors Program 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 23, 2020	Change of Officers Banquet—5:30

Avon Food Pantry

*Collections are the 3rd Tuesday
of the Month*

Pantry critical needs in March are:

- ◆ Condiments
- ◆ Crackers
- ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Canned Tuna

Thank you, Jennifer



*Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in
need?*

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