



The Ratchet



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www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue # 128 April 2008

Focus On New Members

As new members join the Alton/Godfrey Rotary Club, we are asking them to submit original pieces about themselves. Below is one by new member Jenni Thompson.



As a new member of the Alton/Godfrey Rotary Club, I would like to

introduce myself to the group.

My name is

Jeni Thompson and I am a lifelong resident of Alton. I graduated

from Alton High and then attended SIUE, where I earned a degree in geography. I spent the summer after my first year in college at Yellowstone National Park working at the snack shop at the Old Faithful Lodge. I met the man who would become my future husband that summer. He was from Oklahoma, but shortly after we left the park, he moved to Alton.

I am currently the Development Specialist at The United Methodist Village. Previous to that, I was the Public Relations Director at Child Center~Marygrove, a residential treatment facility in Florissant, Missouri for severely abused and neglected children.

My husband, Andy, and I have an 18 month old son named Wyatt. We share our home with three dogs, Emma, Lucy and Katie, and two cats, Fred and Martin. In addition to working at The United Methodist Village, I also own a gourmet dog treat company called The Barking Spot Biscuit Co. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, bike riding and traveling.

I am very pleased to be a member of Rotary and am excited to work with my fellow Rotarians on projects and activities to benefit our area and beyond.

Rotary Programs



May 3 Busch Stadium

Rotary Family Day at the Ballpark, 2:45 p.m. Tickets are \$32 or \$45 purchased in advance. Proceeds go to District Literacy Projects.

May 5 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Angela Valdez, who is the Director for the Community Hope Center, which is a local charity that has undergone significant changes during the past year. She will discuss what this organization does in the community and what their plans are for the immediate future.

May 12 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Students of the Month for May will be honored.

May 19 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. Golf outing to precede. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

May 26 No Meeting

Memorial Day Holiday

Student of the Month Essays

In this month's issue of The Ratchet, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

Dive Into Another World

By: Betsie Carrow



Dan Thornton Photography

I look into the mirror, but looking back is not my own reflection. It is the face of another woman I have met not long ago. She has the same bone structure, but everything else from hair and make up to attitude and lifestyle are completely different.

Being in the 2008 Alton High School musical, *All Shook Up*, has given me some of my favorite high school memories. The opportunity to become another person, and walk in her shoes was one that I had never had the guts to take until my senior year; although, I wish I would have become involved sooner.

Through the musical, I met so many people I wouldn't ever have become close to otherwise. I am not sure whether we actually know each other, or if we only know each other's characters, but the interaction of our characters creates a sense of personal friendship that I value none the less. These are friendships that continue to grow after exiting the stage, friendships that have taught me so much.

It has been like a wild ride. I almost feel as if I have been sucked into the television screen when merely watching my favorite movie is no longer satisfying enough. I had an incredible urge to jump in, and so I finally did. Now, immersed in the music and dancing, I have a hard time making myself come up for air.

I have become very close to my character and am sad knowing that we soon must part. In the last few weeks, I have spent hours learning about her emotions. Being with her is an escape from reality; she makes me forget about any stress or list of things-to-do I may have waiting for me. She and my cast members have given me the experience of a lifetime.

My Life Of Music

By Jasmine Toenyas

Everyone has something that he or she is passionate about. My passion, among many others, is music. The one thing that everyone in the world has in common is their interest in music. I have always loved to sing but as I grew older I developed an interest in learning to play the guitar. My first life changing music experience was when I went to Warped Tour in the summer of '06 at UMB Bank Pavilion in St. Louis, Missouri. Warped Tour is a concert that lasts from about sunup to sunset. There are many musical acts that perform throughout the day. You are granted the opportunity to meet and talk with all kinds of people from numerous states around the area. I had the chance to meet several bands such as: Billy Talent, All-American Rejects, Hawthorne Heights, Fall Out Boy, and many more. Watching the bands as they played their sets really

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inspired me. The reactions of the crowd motivated me and the sound of the guitar filling the air convinced me to become involved in music in any way possible. I am currently engaged in developing a new music venue called "Illinoise" in Wood River, Illinois. It is a place where musicians can go to play music and where teens and young adults can go to spend their time safely while enjoying great music and activities. There are very few places for bands to showcase their music in this area and I along with many of my friends aim to solve this problem. I help to promote and organize local music shows to raise money for the new venue. We all need something to motivate us in life and also to help us deal with tough times, music just

happens to be my haven. My goal is for Illinoise to become well know and to draw the active youth of the 618 area to join in on the fun and stay away from trouble that may be caused elsewhere. I enjoy devoting my time to ensure that there is at least one place that teens can go to relax and hang out without having to worry about something bad happening. Along with providing an audience for the bands, I hope to someday be the one entertaining the crowd while playing the guitar. Music, its not just noise, it is a way of life for some people. Let us keep the music alive, one venue at a time.

The first person to read this and send an email to Ron will receive a free dinner at Rotary on Monday, May 5,2008.

Jun 2 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

Jun 9 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Student of the Year will be recognized. High Schools will receive recognition plaques listing the names of the students who were recognized as Students of the Month during the 2007-2008 school year.

Jun 16 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 p.m. Golf outing to precede. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Jun 15-18 Los Angeles, California

Rotary International Convention

Jun 23 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Annual Golf Outing

Time: 12:30 PM Tee Off

Game: 4-Man Scramble

Cost: \$75.00 per player

Dinner: Steak Fry starting at 5:30 PM

Auction: Live Auction starting at 6:15 PM followed by Golf Awards and 50/50 Drawing.

Jun 30 Lockhaven Country Club

Annual Meeting. Induction of New Officers, Board of Directors, and Paul Harris Fellows. Josh Farley will be passing the gavel to new president, Scott Neudecker.

Bill Hoagland - Program Director

April Minutes

The April 14, 2008 meeting of directors of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Josh Farley. Others in attendance were, Roland Hansen, Scott Neudecker, Mike Osborne, Bryan White, Rod Elias, Sam Stemm, Tom Turpin, Ford Phillips, Mike Tillman, Jasper Fisher, Dan Saeger and Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary.

Others in attendance were Ed Morrissey , Brock Hendricks, and Larry Thompson.

On a motion by Jasper Fisher, seconded by Bill Moyer, the minutes and treasurer's reports were approved to file for audit.

In Club Administration, there was no report.

In Club Public Relations, there was no report.

In Service Projects, Mike Osborne reported that the golf committee is working on getting 32 hole sponsors. Scott Neudecker has sent out letters for auction items and is following up with phone calls. He needs a donation of golf balls to give out. The mural committee is meeting on a regular basis. The committee had concerns that the tenants of Mississippi Lofts may not want the mural on their building. The committee took a hard look at the building and design. Their recommendation is to find a new location and design. Ed Morrissey made a presentation concerning the St. Baldrick's cancer fundraiser project. The Board recommended that the Club go ahead with this fundraiser as non-financial for the Club and let Ed run it. On a motion by Mike Osborne, seconded by Tom Turpin, the Board approved proceeding with the project. Alton-Godfrey Rotary has received the \$1000.00 grant money for the Dictionary Project. Tom Turpin will order the dictionaries by the end of April. In Foundation, the Foundation Dinner is in Springfield on April 27th. Bill Moyer asked for our Club to donate \$1500.00 to the Foundation.

In old business, Ron Mayhew said microphone system is still on order.

In new business, the Board accepted the resignation of Dana Eastman from the Board due to health reasons. Josh Farley said that in order to receive a Presidential Citation we need to make a \$200.00 donation for the International Project. On a motion by Ford Phillips, seconded by Jasper Fisher the Board approved this donation.

Dan Saeger made a proposal that the Interact Advisors become honorary members. This was seconded by Jasper Fisher. The Board approved making them honorary members. Further discussion followed that these advisors should be removed of any responsibility for past chili tickets, pecans, and receive free meals. The feeling was that with this being Phil Trapani's last year as principal this would make it more palatable for the new principal to continue with Interact. On a motion from Jasper Fisher, seconded by Ford Phillips this was approved by the Board.

In other new business, Bryan White proposed that we provide meals to the bar people on steak fry night. On a second by Jasper Fisher the motion passed, yes – 7, nay – 3.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary

March Report

Previous Balance	\$15,191.64
cleared payments	3,863.68
cleared deposits	9,697.42
Cleared Balance	21,026.38
uncleared payments	2,158.33
uncleared deposits	2,048.00
Account Balance	20,915.05
New Payments	0.00
New Deposits	643.00
Ending Balance	21,558.05

Club Officers 2005-2006

President.....	Josh Farley 1211 Callahan Dr, Alton, 462-5257
Vice-President.....	Scott Neudecker 5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
Secretary.....	Ford Phillips 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Treasurer.....	Roland Hansen 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Executive Secretary.....	Melissa Seymour 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2005-2006

Ron Mayhew-3rd yr	Ken Spells-2nd yr
Bill Moyer-3rd yr	Sam Stemm-2nd yr
Mike Osborne-3rd yr	Jasper Fischer-1st yr
Dan Saeger-3rd yr	Martha Morse-1st yr
Tom Turpin-3rd yr	Alan McBride-1st yr
Dana Eastman-2nd yr	Mike Tillman-1st yr
Rod Elias-2nd yr	Brian White-1st yr
Dick Jones-2nd yr	D. Jeannine Kelly-PP