



The Ratchet



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A Monthly Newsletter

Issue # 120 August 2007

Just the Facts, Ma'am, Just the Facts

by Larry Thompson, RI District 6460 Governor Nominee

"This is the city. Los Angeles, California. I work here... I'm a cop." Dun ta dun ta "Tuesday, February 12. It was cold in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of robbery division. My partner's Frank Smith. My name's Friday."

Many Rotarians remember watching episodes of Dragnet growing up and some of us even remember listening to the radio version. Most of us remember Sergeant Joe Friday's badge number. Well this story is about membership in Rotary and not how old we are, but first the facts ma'am.

Worldwide Rotary looks like this: 85% of the members are men, 40% have been members for more than ten years, 66% are over the age of 50, and 78% are still working.

In North America, Rotary is nearly identical with: 78% of the members are men, 40% have been members for more than ten years, 67% are over the age of 50, and 78% are still working.

There are still several concerns regarding membership with the most important concern being the number of Rotarians in North America decreasing in recent years after the Centennial year. Other concerns include diversity, young members and the number of women members.

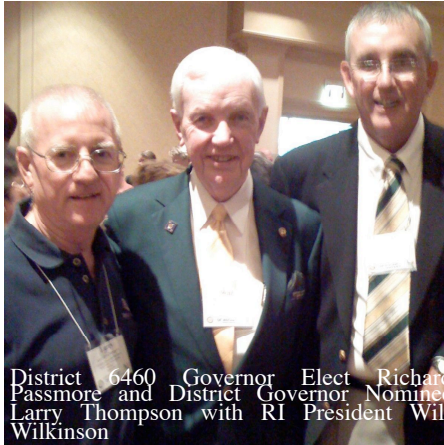
When we look around at Rotary meetings, we suspect the new theme color for Rotary is gray. This could be simply a reflection of our baby boomer group aging, but why are we not introducing the children of these boomers into Rotary?

While Rotary was an all men organization until the 80's, why is it taking so long to involve more women in our organization? Also, we need to look at our communities and determine whether our club reflects the diversity our population area includes.

The August issue of the Rotarian magazine was devoted to membership. A big reason for this content theme is August is membership month in Rotary, but the biggest reason is a challenge issued from our Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson. He is asking each Rotarian to invite a new member into Rotary sometime during this year.

All of us remember how we became members of Rotary. Someone asked us to come to a meeting and consider joining. How can you meet the challenge of President Wilf Wilkinson? Well, that is easy. *Just Ask.*

Also, read the August issue of the Rotarian. It contains many articles that will help you explain Rotary to your prospective member. When you are finished with the issue, perhaps you could give it to your prospective member. Better yet, give them the July issue and use the August issue as your toolbox for making our membership grow.



District 6460 Governor Elect Richard Passmore and District Governor Nominee Larry Thompson with RI President Wilf Wilkinson

Rotary Programs



Sep 3 No Meeting

Labor Day

Sep 10 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 p.m.
 Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. District Governor, Ron Riggins, will present his message from the District. Students of the Month for September will be introduced.

Sep 17 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.

Sep 24 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. First Quarter Club Assembly

Oct 1 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Terry Sharp, who will discuss the Alton Area Landmarks Association's new driving tour of historic homes in the Alton area. He will discuss the houses that made the cut and some of the history with respect to those homes.

Another New Ratchet Feature

As new members join the Alton/Godfrey Rotary Club, we are going to ask them to submit an original piece about themselves. Below is the first of, hopefully, many more to come.

Short Stories about **Ebony R. Huddleston**

by Ebony R. Huddleston

My career planning began around 3rd or 4th grade with aspirations of being a candy maker. I wanted a push cart with a large umbrella, similar to the hot dog stands you might find in the amusement park or fair grounds. I was determined to be a candy maker until my parents told me I had only three options for a career path – that of a doctor, lawyer or astronaut. So my childhood dreams are currently put on hold until after I conquer the world of law.



During high school, I thought I'd try my hand at archeology camp in Kampsville, IL. Even though I graduated valedictorian from Alton High in 1998, I never really envisioned that before reaching the buried artifacts of ancient Native Americans, I had to live with and dig through bugs of all kinds. As someone who refused to get remotely close to an insect, no one really warned me about what I was getting myself into. During the two weeks I was there, I eventually got used to the daddy longlegs and the mosquitoes, but the archeology experience culminated during a bus ride from the dorm to the digging site when I felt a mysterious movement on my stomach. Low and behold, a tick had found its way into my dresser drawer, onto the underside of my shirt and then had the nerve to crawl on me. I learned a great deal during the program, but needless to say, that was my last day.

After high school, I knew I wanted to go far from home to experience life without parental control. I applied to ten universities and all of them accepted me with offers of scholarships. I choose Xavier University of Louisiana in

New Orleans, LA. A city below sea level with a culture of its own. A place where the cockroaches fly and the humidity forced me to take 3 showers a day. Xavier is the only catholic, historically black university in the country placing the highest number of minorities in the medical field. Although the education I received was stellar, it's the other college experiences that helped shape my character. How do you go to college over 700 miles away from home, carry better than a 3.5 g.p.a. every semester, but still never figure out how to use a bus transfer? Or, no matter how much money my parents sent me, I only saved enough of that money to buy a super-sized fry from McDonald's and had to eat baked potatoes the rest of week.

In 2002, because I was accepted into an accelerated program in law school, one week after graduating from Xavier, I packed up the suburban and headed to Ohio Northern University. Graduate school was really a test of my nerves. Sure law school forced me to prioritize and elevate my level of endurance, but my classmates always knew when to bother me during my designated and extremely important nap times and the professors always knew when to assign that extra case to read and brief and conveniently provide an "extra credit" opportunity of attending some legal seminar half-way across the state on the weekend I planned to drive home, or go shopping, or finally do my laundry. Law school is designed to teach you just enough about the law so that you realize without real world application, you really don't know what you're doing.



Recruitment strategies

RI President Wilf Wilkinson is encouraging all Rotarians to help strengthen Rotary's membership by bringing at least one new member into Rotary. Members of his leadership team who met this challenge have been recognized with a new member sponsor pin.



President Wilf encourages clubs to adopt the same recognition incentive for their members. For Rotarians who sponsor more than one new member, additional recognition can be displayed with a numbered tab that attaches to the pin.

August is Membership and Extension Month, a special time each year when the entire Rotary family gets a chance to focus on the heart of the organization and what makes it great - our more than 1.2 million members in nearly 33,000 clubs worldwide. But why limit our focus to just 31 days of the calendar? Keep membership top of mind all year by implementing one of the following ideas each month:

- Place a promotional ad or insert in your local chamber of commerce directory.
- Create business cards printed with your name, the Rotary logo, and the phrase "Be My Guest," along with the day, time, and location of your club's meetings. The cards serve as an invitation to attend a club meeting at the club's expense.
- Develop a spreadsheet or database of program alumni (e.g., Rotaract, Interact, Youth Exchange, Group Study Exchange) so that these individuals can be invited to become Rotarians once they are qualified.
- Invite program alumni as guests to your meetings, and propose any qualified alumni for membership.
- Ask members to consider recruiting their spouses to the club, and offer that spouse an incentive, such as no club dues for a full year.
- Send a welcome letter to the owners of new businesses in your community.
- Hold a luncheon for community leaders. Each club member is responsible for inviting a set number of prospective members who are community leaders, and club members donate a set amount for the cost of the meal and invitations. Show the six-minute video *This Is Rotary* (449-EN), and bring in a dynamic Rotary leader as a speaker.
- Scan local business journals and newspapers for the names of influential business people and community leaders.
- Invite a prospective member or members to participate in a club activity or project that demonstrates the meaningful work of your Rotary club.
- Ask members to wear pins or T-shirts with the slogan "Ask Me About Rotary" to generate conversation about membership in Rotary.
- Create a prospective member leaflet or brochure called "What's in It for Me?" that lists recent speakers at your club meetings, area companies that are represented in the club membership, and current local service projects.
- Obtain space in a prominent shop window to display information about the club's activities in the community.
- Collect business cards from individuals who attend a meeting as a guest or speaker, and send a follow-up note or postcard thanking each visitor and inviting them back. Buy a supply of *Rotary Notecards* (980-MU) or the *RI Theme Postcard* (910-07MU) to use for this purpose.
- Wear the Rotary logo on your clothes during service projects.
- Make it a point of honor to propose a new member. Recognize the proposer in the club bulletin or at the weekly meeting.

Oct 8 Moonlight Restaurant

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

Oct 15 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.

Oct 22 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Dave Marlow, an Edwardsville resident who is an expert on the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). He will discuss a specific event that occurred in Illinois in 2000.

Oct 29 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our program will be "Black Tuesday 75 years later". This refers to the stock market crash on October 29, 1929. Our speaker will be Matt Collins, a senior research analyst with Edward Jones who will discuss current stock market conditions. He has appeared on CNBC, Bloomberg's and other programs and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal.

- Joel Copley, Bill Hoagland -
Program Directors



August Minutes

The August 13, 2007 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, Ford Phillips. Mike Osborne, Joel Copley, Mike Tillman, Jasper Fisher, Dick Jones, Martha Morse, Roland Hansen, Rod Elias, Dana Eastman, Dan Saeger, Scott Neudecker, Sam Stemm, Bryan White, Jeannine Kelly, and the Executive Secretary Melissa Seymour.

Others in attendance, John Rain

The minutes and treasurer's report were approved.

In Club Administration, Dick Jones reported that there is \$17,677.02 in the Piasa Foundation.

In Club Public Relations, Ford Phillips will send replies, since it is club policy to no longer give funds to other not-for-profit organizations, declining the request.

In Service Projects, the flower baskets have been installed at Lincoln Douglas Square. Fabrication Specialists made the hangers and only charged labor. A thank you letter will be sent to Jim Tallman of Fabrication Specialists. Performance Power Coating donated painting the brackets.

In Membership, Ebony Huddleston and Craig Schaaf have been approved for membership. The memberships of Jonathan Becker and Angela Goers were approved pending their attending two meetings. Fred Renshaw made a request that his status be changed to honorary. On a motion by Dick Jones, seconded by Rod Elias the board approved this request.

In Rotary Foundation, no report.

In mail/correspondence, Alton-Godfrey received a 10 year patch from the World Affairs Seminar that will be placed on our banner.

In old business, concerning the fountain, Mike Drake called Josh and told him Central Avenue was going to be dedicated in 30 days and at the same time the fountain would be dedicated. Fred Haney has talked to Jeannine about the granite placement. Ford Phillips said the fountain does not look good and isn't working the way it was proposed to the Board. He felt we should wait to put our name on it when it is working properly. Josh will call Mike Drake and inform him that we should not be involved in the dedication.

It was discussed that there is still outstanding chili money. On a motion by Rod Elias, seconded by Scott Neudecker the secretary was directed to send an email to those individuals stating that "Failure to pay could result in the Board dropping you from membership for failure to fulfill your responsibilities to Alton-Godfrey-Rotary"

In new business, the committee chairs were given member information to use in choosing their committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary

July Report

Previous Balance	\$20,718.68
cleared payments	7,746.54
cleared deposits	3,005.52
Cleared Balance	15,977.66
uncleared payments	6,202.72
uncleared deposits	1,021.00
Account Balance	10,795.94
New Payments	505.30
New Deposits	8,880.00
Ending Balance	19,170.64

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	Dick Jones-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
Joel Copley-2nd yr	Mike Tillman-1st yr
Dana Eastman-2nd yr	Brian White-1st yr
Rod Elias-2nd yr	D. Jeannine Kelly-PP