



The Ratchet



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Meets Mondays - 6:00 P.M. - Alton Sports Tap Restaurant

www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #145 December 2009

Dave Walker: A True Rotarian

By Dick Jones



The Alton-Godfrey Rotary club was diminished December 28, 2009, with the passing of David Walker. David and Roz moved from Springfield to Godfrey in 1977. He joined our club and began his lifelong commitment, serving as president in 1982-83, and being elected a Paul Harris Fellow in 1987. His contributions are many and include –serving on the club board numerous times, chairing the Paul Harris Selection Committee, and being involved in the Gordon F. Moore Award Committee. He was the driving

force behind the “Black Book” from the beginning. In fact he almost single handedly published the first tome. He attended two Rotary International Conferences and helped on numerous Districts meetings.

He loved to play golf and cards (bridge and poker). David was vertically challenged; however, that didn't faze him. He was a giant in our club. What ever he did, he did with enthusiasm. He was always ready to help in whatever capacity he could.

David will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know him!

Rotary Programs



- Jan 4 Alton Sports Tap**
 Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will feature Dr. Susan Lindsey, the new Director for the Alton YWCA. She will discuss the Alton facility, what services are offered there and her vision for improving it. Prior to taking this position, Dr. Lindsey served for 17 years in various executive positions at the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center in Eureka, Missouri.
- Jan 11 Alton Sports Tap**
 Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for January will be honored.
- Jan 18 Rolling Hills Golf Course**
 Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM.
- Jan 25 Alton Sports Tap**
 Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our speaker for January 25 will be Marybeth Gras, who is a licensed social worker and counselor currently working with the Alton School District. She will discuss the new federally-funded program known as the "Raise Your Hand" mentoring program that was recently instituted in



Student Essays

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

A Season Of Surprises

by Jessica Hoefert

Sometimes in life, successes are met under the most unlikely circumstances. Have you ever experienced a reality filled with such intense emotion that you actually felt the presence of God? Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you knew with certainty that God was actively interceding in your life? This past May, I was blessed with that experience.

For the past several years, under the direction of Coach Rob Moginot, the Marquette girls soccer team has been "above average" to say the least. Twice since my freshman year, we were within one game of going to the state playoffs. Last year, however, we finally earned that golden ticket for the first time in Marquette soccer history. This may not seem like a miracle to many, but to our team it most definitely was.

At the beginning of the year, we were a good team - skilled players who worked well together. As the season progressed, we became better and stronger. On May 7, however, tragedy struck. Our star forward, Nicki Wisnasky, was tackled by the goalie in a game against Carlinville. We expected Nicki to get back up and walk off the field as she has so many times before. When she was carried off the field, we knew something was terribly wrong. Everyone was devastated; Nicki played a huge role on our team. The news that she required surgery and extensive rehabilitation was crushing.



As a team, we met and discussed our options. The only option was to pull it together and step it up. Negative and doubt-filled comments swirled around us. Many saying we had no chance of advancing. Were we the "dream team"? God must have thought so! On May 11, we made history when we beat Alton High for the first time. Before we knew it, we were in the sectional semi-finals against our rival, Columbia, and won in overtime. We then won the sectional title. Marquette was going to state.

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Life Is What You Make It

by Justin Stanton



I wasn't supposed to be here. Shortly after my birth, I was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder that prevented my body from processing proteins and allowing my body to take in the right nutrition. I was not expected to be around for very long. For fourteen years my parents heard over and over that I probably would not live to see my second birthday or my tenth birthday or even make it to adulthood. But here I am and I can say without reservation that the power of love and possibilities has kept me alive. From the start of their nightmare, my parents had always listened to what the doctors/nurses had to say regarding my condition based on what little medical information that was written on my disease, but always knew that I would have the best life no matter the number of days on Earth. They were not willing to just accept fate based on what "may" happen. Their determination and faith not only saved my life, but made it a happy one so far. What I have learned from them is that it is never over when there is another day to work. With that focus, I made it to a point in my life to receive the ultimate gift, a chance to live.

I received my liver transplant in 2007 and since the moment I opened my eyes from surgery, I have never looked back. I understood that my success from that opportunity would only happen based on what I was

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Bell Ringing

Thanks to all our Rotary Salvation Army Bell Ringers, we enjoyed another successful season



Alton Godfrey Rotary
Salvation Army Tree of Lights
Bell Ringing
Saturday
December 19, 2009

Rotary 2009

Alton Schnucks 8 AM to 4 PM	Shop'N'Save 8 AM to 4 PM	Godfrey Schnucks 8 AM to 7 PM
Tom Juravich	Wayne Sivia	Mike Fitzgerald
Steve Tassanari	John Keller	Andy Bowen
		Don Nicholson
Don Emde	Ron Mayhew	Andy Bowen
Mike Osborne	Jeni Thompson	Don Nicholson
Larry Spain	Dale Neudeker	Denny Foster
Craig Schaaf	Dennis Wilson	Jeannine Kelly
Ray Botterbush	Jim Towy	Dick Johnson
Phil Hamilton	Don Moyer	Art Williams
Mike Seymour	Mottaz	Mike McCormick
Melissa Seymour	Klope	Steve Causley
	Maley	
Steve Thompson	John Rain	Mike McCormick
Jim White	Scott Neudeker	
Jim Green	John Hopkins	N. Gail Weinrich
Dale Kelley	Ed Morrissey	Butch Chapel
Jasper Fisher	Roland Hansen	John Gaskill
Ford Phillips	Wayne Sivia	CL Sheppard
		Mike Tillman
		Wayne Sivia
		Bill Bryant
		David Boase
		Dick Jones
		Chuck Norman

the Alton School District. The purpose of the program is to match up local community leaders with specific students in the Alton School District who would seemingly benefit from having an adult "mentor". Ms. Gras will explain how the program works and what qualifications are in place for any Rotarians who would want to serve as a mentor. She will be accompanied by her supervisor, Sandy Crawford, who will also assist in answering questions.

Feb 1 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program to be announced.

Feb 8 Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for February will be honored.

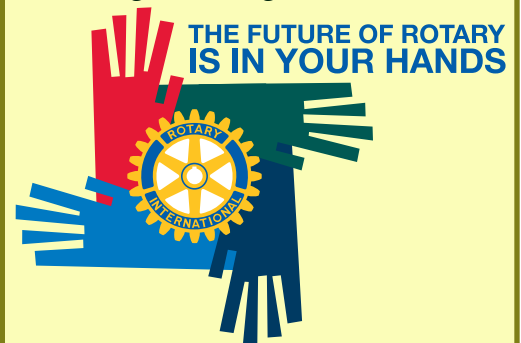
Feb 15 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM.

Feb 22 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Third Quarter Club Assembly. The annual budget will be reviewed.

-Bill Hoagland, Program Director



Surprises

To succeed at the state level, we knew we had to play as hard as we could for as long as we could. On the bus ride to Naperville, Coach Moginot unexpectedly stood up and passed out a piece of paper to each of us. Being the history teacher he is, he revised a speech made by Dwight D. Eisenhower as he led his troops into battle on D-Day. A few of these inspiring words were: "Ladies, you are about to embark on the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. . . Our heart has given us the will to survive and play under pressure . . . The tide has turned and we march together towards victory . . . I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to responsibility and skill in battle . . . Good Luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

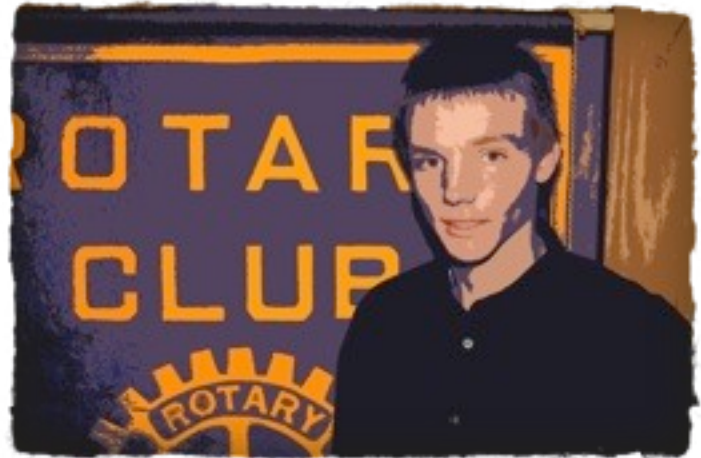
God's presence was evident throughout this entire



experience. Our plan is not always His plan, but He is a Master at all that He does. I believe He worked through Nicki to teach us firstly to have faith in Him and secondly, to have faith in ourselves. Nicki suffered both physically and emotionally with her injury, but she embraced it with the courage of a lion, and ultimately strengthened our entire team.

Final score in the championship game against Manteno after four ten minute overtimes and penalty kicks was Manteno 1, Marquette 0. The scoreboard was disappointing because it did not reflect our performance on the field. We all agreed that the true victory was within our hearts. This soccer experience taught me firsthand one of life's lessons: In life it's not important whether you win or lose every challenge - it's how you play the game. After it is all said and done, God is the ultimate scorekeeper.

Life



willing to do to take care of myself, catch-up with my school work, and work very hard towards what I wanted to be after graduation. Beginning my sophomore year at Alton High School, for the first time I could just worry about doing homework, studying for tests and meeting new friends. The "normal" things that kids my age did were not part of my thinking because all I cared about was to keep my body healthy enough to avoid illness or worse. I can't tell you how much fun it was to just sit in class and work math problems or even sit in study hall. I was alive and I was not going to miss a thing.

While I know it was fine to celebrate the fact that I would fulfill the dreams of many people that love me and were, at times, unsure of my future. I know and continue to live with the attitude that I take everything with gratitude because good health is really the most precious resource anyone would always celebrate.

Club Officers 2009-2010

President.....	Ford Phillips 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Vice President	Roland Hansen 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Secretary	Mike Tillman 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
Treasurer	Jasper Fisher 3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
Executive Secretary	Melissa Seymour 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2009-2010

Dick Jones-1st yr	To Be Appointed-2nd yr
Ron Mayhew-1st yr	Jess Woodman-2nd yr
Ken Spells-1st yr	Bob Hamilton-3rd yr
Sam Stemm-1st yr	Ebony Huddleston-3rd yr
Gail Weinrich-1st yr	Don Moyer-3rd yr
Brock Hendricks-2nd yr	Jeni Thompson-3rd yr
Mike Osborne-2nd yr	Jeff Weber-3rd yr
Larry Spain-2nd yr	Scott Neudecker-PP