



The Ratchet



Received Charter No 851 from Rotary International March 1, 1921
Meets Mondays - 6:00 P.M. - Alton Sports Tap

www.altongodfreyrotary.org

Issue #159 February 2011

Rotary Programs



ROTARY

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

NEW ORLEANS USA

21-25 MAY 2011

There is still time to register for this year's international convention.

All the information you need is listed below:

To attend the convention and experience the fellowship of Rotary at an international level

- 1 [Register for the convention and ticketed events](#)
- 2 [Reserve your hotel](#)
- 3 [Purchase host event tickets](#)
- 4 [Check the preliminary schedule](#) to help plan your trip.
- 5 [Download the 2011 RI Convention promotional brochure](#)

Mar 7, 2011 Main Street UMC

26th Annual Chili Chowdown,
Serving 11 a.m. - 1 PM., 4:30 PM. - 7 PM.

Mar 11-12 Keller Conf Center, Effingham

Land of Lincoln President Elect Training Seminar

Mar 14 Alton Sports Tap

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

Mar 21 Rolling Hills Golf Course

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

Mar 28 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will be at the Jerry F. Costello Confluence Field Station, located on Route 143 just downstream from the new Lock and Dam 26 in Alton. The program will feature a 30 minute tour of the new facility and will be followed by a catered meal from Lewis and Clark College. A commemoration of the club's 90th

Student Essays

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

Role Model by David Lauschke



My mother is my greatest role model. While she was in high school, she took upon herself the responsibility of raising her young sister and caring for her sick mother. She worked nearly full time to support her family while acting as the captain of the high school cheerleading squad and maintaining good grades. Despite all of

her stress, she was the first person in her family to attend a four year university. She has become a successful person in our community, working extremely hard for herself, her family, and the education of students in Alton. She has taught me more through her actions about how to lead my life and make the best of what is given to me than any other person.

I recently received my Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scouts. The trail to the Eagle rank could be easily described as a "road less traveled." Many obstacles stood in my way, including my own reluctance to continue with Scouting. Many times I considered quitting all together, but my parents, who introduced me to Tiger Cubs, the youngest chapter of Scouting, at age six, changed my mind. My mother once said to me, "You made a promise to the Scouts whenever you signed up that you would continue. Don't break your promises." Reflecting on all that my mother had overcome to achieve her goals, I readily accepted the guidance that she gave me. Realizing how much my situation paled to hers, I knew that I could keep pressing forward and complete my obligation and desires.

The realization gave me a different attitude towards my Scouting and, ultimately, my high school career. Expanding on the ideas she gave me, I knew that I could not only push myself to complete my goals, but could go above and beyond what was required. In school, I told myself, "I'm spending all this time here, so I would only be hurting myself not to work harder

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Life Lessons by Mary McKee



At first glance I look like a shy girl with a simple lifestyle, but under the surface, I am something more. I am a busy, hardworking leader in my community and in my school. To be a leader, it takes

time and devotion; it is not always an easy task. As Senior Class President and Vice-President of the Peer Leadership program and SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions) program, I help plan things for my school, such as, homecoming, graduation, and various assemblies to teach my peers the harmful affects of drugs and alcohol. As captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, I am in charge of seven girls that look up to me to lead them as we cheer on our team. But besides these things, the majority of my free time goes towards volunteer service: helping with summer camps for kids with cancer, helping my church parishioners, and planning vacation bible school with my youth group. These things take patience, hard-work, and drive, all in which I have learned from my time spent with my dad in the woods.

The woods have always been a peaceful and inspirational place for me. Since I was four years old my dad has taken me hunting and it has become one of my favorite pastimes. Through hunting, he has taught me many lessons that I use everyday. For example, if you want to become a good marksman, you must first perfect your aim and accuracy. I took his "practice makes perfect" advice and applied it to cheerleading. He was right. After four years of hard

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work and long hours of practice, I proved to my peers that I was dedicated enough to be their captain. Not only does cheerleading and hunting take practice; they also take patience and motivation. When it comes to hunting, for me, motivation is the hardest part. On a Saturday morning, four a.m. comes around earlier than I would like, cold weather conditions are not my favorite, and often the tree my dad chooses to sit under is not comfortable. Yet, because my dad taught me to be a driven individual, I move forward and forget the negatives and go in search of the positives. I am lucky enough to say that the positives have outweighed the negatives in my life and have all been accomplished with patience.

I have been blessed with many things throughout my life but none compare to my dad. I believe he has taught me things that cannot be learned out of a book; only by experience. If he had not taught me to be patient, hard-working, and motivated, I'm sure I wouldn't be the person I am today.

Ugly Sweater Contest



The ugly sweater contest was held in February at Rolling Hills. From the left, second place winner, Mike Seymour, Dick Jones, who, for obvious reasons has been barred from competition for the past several years, and first place winner, Steve Thompson.

anniversary will be held during the meeting. Spouses are invited.

Apr 4 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. The presenter will be Charles Erickson, M.D., of Lincoln, NE. Dr. Erickson is a pediatrician in Lincoln who volunteers his services to hospitals in Zambia. This is a project sponsored by Rotary District #5650, in Nebraska. Dr. Erickson, who is a long-time friend of Bob Hamilton, will discuss his experiences in Zambia as a part of this effort.

Apr 9 Crowne Plaza Springfield

District 6460 Assembly – Training for club officers and committee leadership.

Apr 11 Alton Sports Tap

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

Apr 18 Rolling Hills Golf Course

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

April 25, 2011 The Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Fourth Quarter Club Assembly. Plans for 11-12 Rotary year to be announced. Committee organization presented.

Bill Hoagland, Program Director



Role

and better myself in the process.” I eventually adopted this same practice into every activity in which I participated.

The guidance I received through my years in Scouting from my mother and other leaders helped to instill in me a personal responsibility to make the best of whatever I am given. More than any other attribute, I think that this attitude towards life, challenges, and opportunities has helped me achieve what I have so far. My mother has taught me that whenever things get tough, I have to work that much harder to be successful. One of the prime qualities of an Eagle Scout is leadership. Without my mother’s influence, I would not be the leader I am today.

SAVE THE DATE TO ATTEND DINNER FOR DR. AND MRS. ROBERT HAMILTON

Thursday, May 12, 2011

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, longtime Rotarian Dr. Robert Hamilton and his wife, Charlene, will be honored for their community service at the annual [Circle of Care](#) award dinner. Proceeds from dinner reservations, sponsorships, program book advertisements, tribute gifts, and a raffle will benefit local children. [Learn more.](#)

This annual tribute by Riverbend Head Start & Family Services places the Hamiltons on a list of esteemed [leaders](#) who have received the award for community building.

A [committee](#) of the Hamilton’s peers are planning the event. [Email](#) or call Debby Edelman at 463-8913 for more information.

[Riverbend Head Start & Family Services](#) is a 95-year-old non-profit organization that operates the federal [Head Start](#) program in Madison County, Illinois. Locally, Head Start provides unduplicated early childhood education and family strengthening services to over 1,000 children, age 5 and under, and their caregivers. Families must qualify for Head Start, which has a goal to prepare children for kindergarten.

Club Officers 2010-2011

President.....Roland Hansen
 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
 Vice-President..... Mike Tillman
 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
 SecretaryJasper Fisher
 3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
 Treasurer Bob Hamilton
 4003 Stoneledge Court, Godfrey, 466-4362
 Executive SecretaryMelissa Seymour
 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Mike Fitzgerald-1st yr	Ken Spells-2nd yr
Ebony Huddleston-1st yr	Sam Stemm-2nd yr
Chuck Norman-1st yr	Gail Weinrich-2nd yr
Jeni Thompson-1st yr	Mike Osborne-3rd yr
Pete Zimmer-1st yr	John Rain-3rd yr
Dick Jones-2nd yr	Larry Spain-3rd yr
Ron Mayhew-2nd yr	Jess Woodman-3rd yr
	Ford Phillips-PP