



The Ratchet



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www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue # 117 May 2007

Parting Words from Our President

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I can't believe I only have one month remaining in my term as President of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club. Time sure does fly when you are having fun – and I truly mean that. It has been a term full of fun and fellowship for me. I had the good fortune of getting to know each of you better and have been truly blessed with your friendship.

As I look back on my term, I think about the goals that I had planned for the Club and realize that sometimes there is not enough time to accomplish what we set out to accomplish. That being said, however, I also look at what our Club accomplishes on a regular basis by sharing in the Rotary spirit of “service above self”. We all do this in so many ways – whether it be through donations to worthwhile causes, participating in hands-on projects, or by coming to meetings on a regular basis to share the Rotary spirit with our fellow Rotarians. As I have stated before, we don't all have the same abilities or the same passions, but we do all have one thing in common – we're all members of the family of Rotary and, as such, we all have the same objective –Service.

Let's take a few minutes and reflect on the “Object of Rotary” which provides a framework for the Rotary's purpose as well as our own personal responsibilities as Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club members.

The **Object of Rotary** is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for **service**;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to **serve** society;
3. The application of the ideal of **service** in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of **service**.

To put it succinctly, the **Object of Rotary is Service** and I truly believe that we have all succeeded in accomplishing this mission whether or not we reach each and every one of the goals we set for ourselves as a Club. I am proud to be a Rotarian and especially proud to be a member of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club. I look forward to sharing fellowship and service opportunities with each and every one of you for many years to come.

Yours in Rotary,
Jeannine

Rotary Programs



Jun 4 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker for the June 4 meeting will be Tad Armstrong, an attorney practicing in Edwardsville. Mr. Armstrong is the founder of "ELL Clubs", which is a non-profit organization that conducts free monthly seminars at various locations in Madison County on specific issues arising under the U.S. Constitution. Mr. Armstrong believes that as Americans, we need to better understand our rights under the Constitution if we want to those rights to continue. He will explain how the clubs work and he will then discuss a specific current topic arising under the U.S. Constitution. He currently plans on discussing the power of eminent domain and your rights as a property owner at our meeting.

Jun 11 Julia's Banquet Center

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 2006-2007 school year. Spouses are invited.

Students of the Month

In this month's issue of *The Ratchet*, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month. We hope that you will become better acquainted with these fine young students. Please let us know what you think of this new feature.

The Game of my Life

by Josh Bates

Some people think soccer is a matter of life and death. I assure you, it's much more serious than that." If there has been a moment in my life that I'll never forget, it would definitely be this one. This game I will soon describe, taught me so many things, it's hard to believe.



The Alton High soccer team had not won a regional title in over a decade; yet, on a late October evening where the wind was as sharp as daggers and the dark clouds hid the setting sun, a ray of light shone but in a different manner. It was the regional championship and my team, the Alton Redbirds, was about to go into battle with our nemesis, the Edwardsville Tigers. My entire soccer career led up to this pivotal game.

This battle was like a classic Disney movie. It was the underdog versus the heavyweight in a winner takes all match-up. The game constantly went back and forth to where my emotions felt like they were riding a roller coaster. My desire to succeed and to vanquish all obstacles before me grew with every minute, yet my opposition's hunger for

victory grew as well. At halftime it was 0-0 and my second wind was about to kick in for I love a good challenge. In the second half the three other defenders and I became the unsung heroes and the backbone of the team. We did this by bonding together and encouraging each other to keep playing hard; thus, our overall play lifted. We became a cohesive unit, teamwork at its best, who kept the score tied at the end of regulation, even all the way into double overtime. I learned during regulation that determination in one player, or our defense in this case, can spread like wildfire through one's team and make any team great on a given day. Before double overtime, our coach gave us that smile which said just keep playing hard, you are giving it your best shot. I had no energy left. I felt like a drained battery trying to function, yet I walked back onto that field. During the second overtime I learned that playing with heart can take a person or team a long way. In the second overtime, the Tigers dominated the play but they could not suppress our spirit or our desire to win. Thus, with five minutes left we scored a goal to win the game.

A tingling sensation like no other went through my entire body. All of my hairs stood straight up. It felt like I was shot by a miniature lightning bolt. I have never experienced anything quite like that in my life. The adrenaline rush was unbelievable.

On that October night, my team and I defied the odds like a Rocky Balboa boxing match where the winner was supposed to be the loser. My soccer team, who on paper, was supposed to lose that night; yet, we did not, and I love to prove the naysayer wrong. That night I learned about dependability and teamwork through my teammates, and I also found a drive and a passion inside of me that I plan on bringing to the University of Illinois. With that said, I also wish to graduate from there so maybe I can get that tingling sensation one more time and have a successful career in the future.



My Life Is A Circus

by Alex McDonald

One day I thought to myself, if I stole three magical eggs from a magical hen, and in the ensuing chase sequence the magical and cunning hen forced me onto a bridge strong enough only to support the weight of myself and two of the magical eggs, how would I be able to safely cross the bridge and keep all three eggs? It was on that somewhat fateful day that I decided I needed to learn how to juggle.



I immediately turned on the stove to hard boil the most magical-looking eggs in my fridge, but then thought better of it and grabbed a can of tennis balls. For a week I earnestly tried to learn the standard three-ball juggling routine, the "three-ball cascade," but failed (dropping the ball, so to speak). I then turned to that which helped television in raising me, the internet, to attain the knowledge necessary to accomplish my goal. I learned that the juggling motion was much like that of tossing a salad, requiring me to mix the balls underhanded into an organized mess in front my face.

Within three days, I was able to toss each ball under the arc of the previous ball with rhythm and precision. Next I learned other patterns in addition to the cascade, such as "under-the-leg," "behind-the-back," and the "factory." Soon enough, I was able to juggle four balls, and I am currently working on being able to juggle five, which is proving to be significantly more difficult than juggling four, but I am confident I will be able to master the skill with one more month of practice.

In reflection, I suppose that if I were running away from a hen, however magical, *who'd* be the real chicken? But my initial *naivety* has sparked an interest in a skill that I can hopefully build on until I have too much in my busy schedule to juggle.



Jun 18 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.

June 17-20 Salt Lake City, Utah

Rotary International Convention

Jun 25 Lockhaven Country Club

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

Jul 2 Moonlight Restaurant

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

Jul 9 Moonlight Restaurant

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 p.m. Regular meeting, 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

Jul 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.

Jul 23 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular meeting, 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

Jul 30 Moonlight Restaurant

Regular meeting, 6:00 p.m. Program to be announced.

- Joel Copley, Bill Hoagland - Program Directors

May Minutes

The May 14, 2007 meeting of directors of the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club was called to order at 5:00 p.m., by President Jeannine Kelly. Others in attendance were, Ron Mayhew, Scott Neudecker, Bryan White, Roland Hansen, Tom Turpin, Mike Seymour, Mike Osborne, Rod Elias, Josh Farley, Ford Phillips, Dana Eastman, Dick Jones, Bill Moyer, and the Executive Secretary Melissa Seymour.

Others in attendance, Jasper Fisher and Larry Thompson. On a motion by Dick Jones, seconded by Roland Hansen the minutes were approved. On a motion Dick Jones, seconded by Bryan White, the treasurer's report was approved.

In Club Administration, Dick Jones reported that there is \$17,486.48 in the Piasa Foundation account. Ron Mayhew said the Paul Harris Committee selected 4 to receive the honor. Bill Moyer brought up the fact that we should follow through with the budget and support Rotary International Foundation with \$1000.00 yearly. This was placed into a motion and seconded by Ron Mayhew. The Board approved sending \$1000.00 to Rotary International this year. The installation dinner is scheduled at Lockhaven Country Club for June 23. Larry Thompson suggested inviting the Interact officers to the installation. A motion was made by Bill Moyer, seconded by Rod Elias that we invite the officers and also pay for there dinners. Larry Thompson asked that the motion be amended to present the officers with pins. This was seconded by Rod Elias. The motion as amended was approved.

In Club Public Relations, Jeannine e-mailed Sam Stemm and let him know the grant is approved.

In membership, Joel Copley reported that speakers are scheduled through June. He also asked that it be emphasized to the membership, the week before, that the steak fry is a membership night.

In Service Projects, Mike Seymour reported that there are still 15 members who have not paid for their tickets. Scott Neudecker said there are 18 teams registered for the golf classic but more teams are needed. Also, a few more auction items are needed. There are 50 items to date and there are 36 hole sponsors, a cart sponsor, and a hole in one sponsor.

For the Rotary Foundation, Bill Moyer reported that the District has not heard back from Argentina on the cataract project. Interact had a car wash fundraiser and made \$600.00 for their International Project.

In mail/correspondence a request was received from District to send a donation for tornado relief for Greensburg, KS.

The funds are to be sent to District 5690. It was approved on a motion by Bill Moyer, seconded by Josh Farley that we have the Sgt. at Arms handle the task of raising funds. A request for \$2000 to purchase a grand piano for Alton High School was referred to Service Projects.

In old business, concerning the Rotary Fountain, Roger Hoffard has spoken with the Park Department and the City does not want to do any plantings at the present time. For the Lars Hoffman Park, Josh Farley reported that only 6 showed up for the planting so there is more work to do. Dana Eastman reported that 2 students from Alton High will be attending the World Affairs Seminar. A third student was paid for and Dana has requested a refund. Bill Moyer requested this year's share of the \$12,000 committed for Lincoln Douglas Square over 5 years for landscaping and maintenance.

In new business, Curt Martin is moving to Pennsylvania and it was approved on a motion by Dana Eastman, seconded by Ford Phillips that a letter wishing him well be sent by Jeannine. The board approved sending a \$50.00 memorial for Bill Abbott. Jeannine would like a Youth of the Year Scholarship for the Boys and Girls Club. This was referred to Service Projects.

Guest speaker, Tom Hewlet, from BSA, made a presentation for 10 waterfront docks and a swim platform at Camp Warren Levis. The total cost of the materials is \$19,100.00. The components for the docks are already in. They are looking for help in constructing the docks in June. It takes 4 – 6 people to put together one dock. Bill Moyer said that Rotary should continue supporting the camp. In the past Alton-Godfrey built two buildings, one in the 1950's and another in the 1980's.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary

April Report

Previous Balance	\$12,504.20
cleared payments	5,190.04
cleared deposits	3,199.70
Cleared Balance	10,613.86
uncleared payments	2,459.29
uncleared deposits	0.00
Account Balance	8,054.57
New Payments	1,004.77
New Deposits	954.00
Ending Balance	8,003.80

Club Officers 2005-2006

President.....	Jeannine Kelly
	25 Logan Road, Alton, 465-0123
Vice-President.....	Josh Farley
	1211 Callahan Dr, Alton, 465-5257
Secretary.....	Scott Neudecker
	5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
Treasurer.....	Ford Phillips
	1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Executive Secretary.....	Melissa Seymour
	3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2005-2006

Allen McBride-3rd yr	Dan Saeger-2nd yr
Martha Morse-3rd yr	Tom Turpin-2nd yr
Mike Seymour-3rd yr	Joel Copley-1st yr
Mike Tillman-3rd yr	Dana Eastman-1st yr
Bryan White-3rd yr	Rod Elias-1st yr
Ron Mayhew-2nd yr	Roland Hansen-1st yr
Bill Moyer-2nd yr	Dick Jones-1st yr
Mike Osborne-2nd yr	Sharon Johnson-PP