



The Ratchet



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 Meets Monday - 6:00 P.M. - Moonlight Restaurant on Fosterburg Road
www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue # 123 November 2007

Rotary & Salvation Tree of Lights

Rotary Programs



Steve Tassinari, Tom Juravich, Roland Hansen, Capt. Randy Tooley

This season, as many of us gather with family and friends to celebrate the holidays, some are facing the oncoming winter season with meager resources to meet even their most basic needs.

Salvation Army helps individuals and families who find themselves in need of emergency assistance with shelter, food, utilities, medication, etc. for which they may not be able to provide themselves due to circumstances beyond their control.

Thanks to all our Rotary volunteers ringing Salvation Army bells to help these families.

There are still a few open spots that could use an eager volunteer. Please call Ed if you can help complete our schedule. Also, consider inviting another family member to ring bells with you. No matter how cold it is outside, this is truly a heart warming experience! Extra bells will be at all locations.

If considering a contribution this year to the Salvation Army Tree of Lights, please make it at one of our kettles or mail to Ed Morrissey, and it will be delivered for Rotary.

Thanks again for your participation this busy time of year.

Submitted by Ed Morrissey

Dec 3 St. Anthony's Health Center

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Program - Spouses Night.

Dec 9 Rock Springs Park

Christmas Wonderland. The Alton Godfrey Rotary will be working the gates Sunday evening from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Dec 10 Moonlight Restaurant

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

Dec 17 Rolling Hills

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Club Christmas Party. Family night. Special guest will be Santa Claus to provide a preview of his upcoming world tour.

Dec 22 Godfrey Schnucks Alton Schnucks K-Mart

Rotary will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at three locations.

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.

Living in Two Worlds

By: Hannah Vroman

I live in two worlds. One is a world of books. I have attended numerous extravagant parties at Gatsby's house with Nick Carraway, rose from humble Chinese farmer to wealthy landowner with Wang Lung, rode a sad train with Anna Karenina, gotten kicked out of Pency Prep and gallivanted around New York City with Holden Caulfield, attempted to be murdered alongside Agent 007 by Le Chiffre, stood behind Oliver Twist asking for a bit more food, lived as a hermit with Thoreau, watched Atticus defend Tom Robinson and attempted to see Boo Radley with Jem, and been in the car crash with Al DeMeo when the Gemini Twins tried to kill him after they killed his father, the famous mobster of the Gambino family, Roy DeMeo. It is a rewarding world. It is full of knowledge and experiences I would not know of if I had not read about them. While my friends were watching Family Guy I was right alongside my revered character who really existed, Al DeMeo, as we contemplated with his father about how to fake Roy DeMeo's death before Paul Castenello had him killed and I was there still when he had to stand there and identify his father's frozen body that was found in the back of the family's black Cadillac to help shield his sisters and mother from pain. Although this world is extremely rewarding, my second is far superior.

It consists of slightly less eccentric characters, filled with love and hope, made of flesh and blood.

First there are my grandparents, Alice and Bob Vroman, and Jack and Donna Streeper. My grandfather, Bob, taught me French and a bit of German before my first trip to Europe. My grandmother, Alice, is from whom I get my Hispanic ethnicity and have learned to embrace it. My grandmother, Donna, has taken to yard sales and lunch practically every Saturday during the summer since I was knee high to a grasshopper. My grandfather, Jack, has been

supporting of everything I do from going to Europe to meet with diplomats to wanting to go to an Ivy League university even though neither of my parents were able to finish college. They are my guideposts without whom I could not stand and I am proud to be their grandchild.

My mother and father put me through a private school until third grade when I was accepted in to the Alton School District's Gifted Program. They made me do my homework every night, but let me establish my own studying habits only interfering when I asked them. Every Sunday we either went to church or spent the day out as a family, and when my brother, Griffin, came along ten and a half years after I was born, this did not change. I lived every little kid's dream of meeting Mickey Mouse in person and having breakfast with Pluto at the age of six. We were regulars at The Spaghetti Factory. While my mom took me shopping, helped me with what seemed like never ending computer problems, tricked me into going on my first rollercoaster ride, and helped me figure out what scholarships to

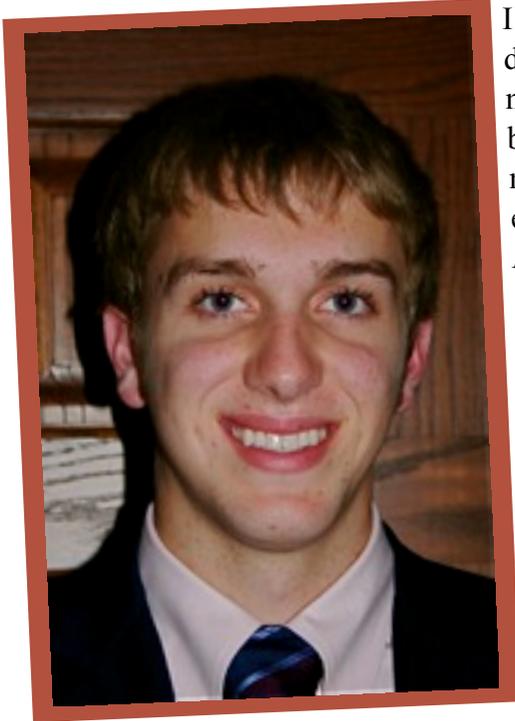
which I should apply, my dad was teaching me how to crank Metallica, getting me drumsticks signed by numerous drummers (for example, the drummer from Boston), introducing me to Ozzie Smith, and playing hooky with me and taking me to the St. Louis Science Center, a St. Louis Cardinal's baseball game, and even taking me on a tour of the Anheuser Busch Brewery in St. Louis because I wanted to see the famous Clydesdales.

All of these people have shaped my life and helped me grow into the person I am today. I love them all very much and they have always supported me in everything I have ever wanted to do.



High School Muse-icals

by Chris Kratschmer



I put off writing this article day after day. I kept telling myself I had plenty of time, but the deadline snuck up on me, so here I am. I'm an editor of the *Marquette Review* and *Marquette Chronicle*, and it seems I never can convince myself to sit down and write an article until it's after midnight the evening before it is due. However, my topic of choice (my commitment to service) has been thoroughly canvassed by the previous student of the month in the last *Ratchet*, so you'll bear with me, I'm

going to reflect on what being Student of the Month means to me.

Receiving this award as a senior is gratifying; it embodies the consummation of my ambitions at the beginning of my high school career. Four long years ago, as an incoming freshman, I had my role models; the exemplary upperclassmen that I looked up too. They were the captains of the football team, the Student Council officers, the kids with the lead roles in the spring musical. I had plenty of examples; perhaps the most influential was my brother. As high school progressed I attempted to mold myself into a leader, as those before me were. As a senior, I am now the captain of the soccer team, the President of Student Council, the lead role in the musical. I am the role model for others, and I know must conduct myself accordingly. As a freshman I wanted to become the benchmark for others, and this award represents my achievements. It is rewarding to receive recognition for attaining my goals. Hopefully there is an underclassman out there ready to step into the spotlight.

I'd like to reiterate my thanks to the Alton-Godfrey Rotarians for the honor of being Student of the Month. It is truly an honor for me to be selected and honored by the peers of my father and grandfather (both former Rotary presidents), and it's especially fun to see my name in lights all over the city...

Dec 24 **No Meeting**

Christmas Eve

Dec 31 **No Meeting**

New Year Eve

Jan 7 **Moonlight Restaurant**

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

Jan 14 **Moonlight Restaurant**

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

Jan 21 **Moonlight Restaurant**

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

Jan 28 **Moonlight Restaurant**

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

-Bill Hoagland, Program Director



November Minutes

The November 12, 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, Mike Tillman, Jasper Fisher, Roland Hansen, Scott Neudecker, Ron Mayhew, Rod Elias Bryan White, Tom Turpin, Ford Phillips, Mike Osborne, Dick Jones, Bill Moyer, Ken Spells and the Executive Secretary Melissa Seymour.

Others in attendance were Larry Thompson and Jeannine Kelly.

The new board member, Ken Spells, was introduced to the Board.

On a motion by Bryan White, seconded by Bill Moyer the minutes were approved. On a motion by Bryan White, seconded by Ford Phillips the treasurer's report was approved.

In Club Administration, Ron Mayhew said the mic and stand are ordered at an estimated cost of \$290.00. Dick Jones reported that there is \$15,897.76 in the Piasa Foundation. Scott Neudecker said the nominating committee is being put together

In Club Public Relations, Bill Moyer said the light sockets for the lighting of the Rotary sign at the Christmas tree are corroded. On a motion by Ford Phillips, seconded by Dick Jones it was approved for Bill Moyer to purchase two green spotlights and install them.

In Service Projects, pecans are in and Marty Carrow is in the process of passing them out. Bob Hamilton spoke on the mural project. He has talked to the owners of the 8 units sold at the Riverview Condominiums. There was one owner not in favor of the mural. The overall cost is \$40,000 and he is asking Rotary to take this on as a project. He said his motivation is to renovate Downtown Alton. This request was referred to the committee for recommendation. For the simplified grant Alton-Godfrey Rotary asked for grant money to purchase t-shirts for students at the Motivation Achievement Center Day at Warren Levis. This is a program for kids who suffer from behavioral and emotional disorders. The grant request was \$149.00 for 68 t-shirts. We ended up getting the entire amount for the shirts \$306.00 (68 x \$4.50).

In Foundation, Larry Thompson said November is Foundation Month. He brought up Bill Moyer's challenge 10 years ago to the Club to raise funds for Polio Plus and the club raised \$17,000. Larry asked the Board to be on the agenda next month. He is asking each individual member to contribute \$100.00 this year.

In Membership, there are still a few members who have not paid their dues. The Board asked Josh to call these individuals. On a motion by Rod Elias, seconded by Mike Osborne, the board approved dropping these members after they are contacted by Josh and do not pay their dues within one week of being contacted.

In mail/correspondence a request was received from the City of Alton for \$650.00 to purchase a print for the City Council chamber. The Board declined the request. Notification was received from RI that the World Affairs Seminar is cancelled permanently.

In new business, Bryan White asked if everyone liked the menu being included in the meeting emails. He was told to keep it up. Jeff Weber spoke to the board about his concern in moving the Chili Chowdown location this year. He said we get a lot of business from Downtown merchants and he feels the crowd will be smaller this year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Seymour, Executive Secretary

October Report

Previous Balance	\$24,620.74
cleared payments	6,104.77
cleared deposits	3,810.22
Cleared Balance	22,326.19
uncleared payments	2,168.29
uncleared deposits	2,048.00
Account Balance	22,205.90
New Payments	105.00
New Deposits	7,792.50
Ending Balance	29,893.40

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