



The Ratchet



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

www.altongodfreyrotary.org

Issue #155 October 2010

Twenty-Fifth

Rotary Programs



Robert Wadlow's statue now is older than he lived to be, and a ceremony on Monday, October 18, marked its 25th anniversary. The ceremony was held at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the statue site on College Avenue in Upper Alton, across the street from Loomis Hall on the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine campus. Wadlow had attended classes there when it formerly was Shurtleff College, so members of the committee that got the statue put up thought it would be an appropriate spot to place it.

Wadlow died July 15, 1940, at age 22. The statue officially was unveiled on Oct. 20, 1985. Steve Tassinari spearheaded the Wadlow statue project. He and most of the committee members were there to celebrate the anniversary.



Nov 1 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our program will feature Sandy Ramage, the new District Executive for the Lewis and Clark Council for the Boy Scouts of America. (Boy Scouts in the Alton-Godfrey area now fall under the jurisdiction of the Lewis and Clark Council.) She will discuss future plans of the organization.

Nov 8 Alton Sports Tap

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

Nov 15 Rolling Hills

Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. PDG Ron Riggins, District Rotary Foundation Chair, will be giving a briefing to the club on the Rotary Foundation. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Nov 22 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Second Quarter Club Assembly for the election of new officers and board of director members for 2011-2012. Committees report to the membership.

Student Essays

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

Integrity

by Corbin Newquist



As I currently near completion of my senior year, I am humored by my younger years as a boy who thought he knew everything. Reflection helps me appreciate how much I have changed during my young adult life. I marvel every time my five o'clock

shadow shows up, and

I still count my chest hairs every morning. But I am most proud of the positive changes which have emerged from within. The countless daily trials of teenage life have often tested my conviction; I have been frequently met with two paths to choose from in a variety of arenas. Weighing these choices against my self esteem and core values has created personal definitions for character traits I hope to fully embrace.

It was during my seventh grade year when I learned the importance of integrity. I moved from my small, catholic school where my class size was nineteen to a larger public school. On my first day, I was dumbfounded. There were more students in that middle school, than there were in all of the grades in my old school. I knew no one, and no one knew me. I was a big fish back at my old school, but I was just dropped into the ocean with more fish than I could ever count. At first, I started socializing conservatively. I joined the baseball team, but I was still the awkwardly dressed, new kid with braces. I only associated with my teammates and a handful of friendly faces in my classes. Then I became obsessed by the lure of popularity; I wanted to be unanimously

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Learning To Lead

by Steve Ditman



With every decision comes a choice. I did not choose when I was in sixth grade to be president of student council. Vice-President seemed to be the easier choice. I was the back-up, the side-kick, the President's right hand man. I would not be in charge and I could just follow his lead. The best laid plans.... The eight grade boy who was president transferred to a different school just weeks after winning the election passing his duties onto a vice-president, who was not prepared to lead.

I have heard people say that I am a born leader, and I know that's not true. I had people who believed in my abilities and helped me become a leader, but it took time. I stayed with student council as a freshman and sophomore, but I had no major impact on what was happening at my school. However, I did use this time to learn from the senior officers. I signed up and lead various projects throughout the school year.

When my junior year rolled around, I was elected as the president of my class. By this time, I had gained experience and proven my reliability and commitment to an organization that affected the students in a positive way and gave them a better school experience. I was in charge of supervising every major project and devoted a lot of time to the council. My major contribution was the end of the year student celebratory picnic. I organized all the events, made sure all supplies were gathered or purchased, and then lead some of the activities. It was a great event for the student council.

As a senior, I am student council president and just completed our most important project of the year, organizing homecoming activities. With set goals in mind, it was my responsibility to keep everyone focused on their assigned tasks like meeting decoration deadlines. I had to remove or

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Integrity

known throughout the school, and that's when my misbehavior started. That is when I lost my integrity. I began to act out in class. I turned into a snotty, annoying, middle school boy that teachers had nightmares about. I didn't just behave badly inside of school. For example, for practices, the baseball players had to walk a couple blocks to get to the field at the local park. Feeling that these walks were tedious, my friends and I started knocking over trash cans and tables on our way trying to outshine each other's absurdity. Our tyrannical behavior escalated one afternoon before practice when a few of my teammates and I went into the local candy store across the street. We surveyed the aisles. There were rows upon rows of candy with only one worker on duty. I could see my friends shoving suckers and chocolates into their pockets, and quickly, I found myself shop lifting too. I didn't take much, a Laffy Taffy and a box of Nerds, but in my heart I knew I was stealing them. My dad soon got word of what I did, and he chastised me severely. Immediately, he drove me back to the store, and he walked me in. I walked up to the counter and in between my tears and sniffing, I told the checker what I had done and paid back what was owed.



Upon leaving that candy store with my dad, I promised myself I would never allow temptation to win over integrity. Now, like then, peers have tested my integrity endlessly. Gandhi said, "A 'No' uttered from the deepest conviction is better than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or worse, to avoid trouble." A man with integrity does not solely believe in good morals or values; the man is committed to those values regardless of the surroundings. Most would argue against lying, cheating, and stealing, but how many are committed against them? That complex struggle is the root of integrity. It takes an average man to put together a list of honest values, but it takes a brave man to live and practice them. Preserving integrity will always be an uphill battle. There will always be shortcuts and temptations, but the payoff for choosing the higher road is always greater. Because of the honest payoffs, battles with integrity will always be fights worth fighting.

Nov 29 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Membership Committee will present a program relative to our effort to recruit new members.

Dec 6 St. Anthony's Health Center

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

Dec 13 Alton Sports Tap

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

Dec 20 Rolling Hills Golf Course

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

December 27, 2010 No Meeting

Holiday

Bill Hoagland, Program Director



2010-2011 District Conference

Rotary District 6460 Conference is history. The two day conference was held at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. It was attended by 198 Rotarians from 49 of the 51 clubs in the district. Also in attendance were 15 Youth Exchange students from 12 different countries.. The speakers were interesting and the breakout sessions informative. Next year’s conference will be held at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois, on October 15 and 16. If you have not attended a district conference, consider putting this one on your calendar for next year.



Clockwise from left: Governor David Parsons, Youth Exchange Meerim Abdykalykova, Kiwanian Paul Palazzolo, Governor Elect Gordon Jumper



Youth Exchange Students

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

Learning



reassign members for not pulling their weight and bring in others to complete tasks. It can be difficult to replace friends but being an effective leader means sometimes you have to be the “bad guy”. Doing the right thing can make you unpopular, but in the end, after weeks of planning, building, and frantic decorating, it

all came together and the hard work paid off.

The benefits that I have received from student government are endless. Under student council: I have experienced the challenge of tackling a difficult project, learned to rely on others, and discovered time management skills. I have noted that patience is a critical skill and maintaining a sense of calm is almost as important. It can be difficult to keep your head in a situation when everything seems to be collapsing down around you. I have had to learn to deal with the reliable and the unreliable, making concessions for one and commending the other. These activities have given me valuable experience and allowed me to work with a wide variety of people. My sixth grade self would agree that even though the first time I became the president I was overwhelmed and unsure, it put me on a path that I am glad I took.

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