



The Ratchet



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Proud To Be A Rotarian

by Roland Hansen.



A Rotary International Convention brings home to the local Rotarian the significance of the organization. We have our weekly meetings, we attend District Assemblies and District Conventions, read the Rotarian magazine, participate in many good projects, etc., but when Rotarians from around the world get together at the International Convention you get a real sense of the extent and glory of Rotary.

From May 21 to May 25 I attended the 2011 Rotary International Convention in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. As my first time attending an international convention, it was a fantastic experience. Not having previously traveled to New Orleans, getting to know this one of a kind American city was another new experience for me. My wife, Janet, and fellow Alton-Godfrey Rotarians Larry Thompson-PDG, and his wife Judy accompanied us on our long drive to New Orleans. This was Larry's fifth Rotary International Convention. He was indeed our tour guide and convention advisor.

Registration was completed and we received our badges on Saturday, May 21. On Sunday morning we attended an Interfaith Service in a large and comfortable auditorium with stadium type seating. It was very moving service with a unique international flavor and beautiful music.

Sunday afternoon was the Opening Plenary Session. It took place at the convention center in a grand room with 20,000 individual seats. Giant video screens and a tremendous sound system made the experience great regardless of your seat location. There wasn't an empty seat in the room. A flag ceremony with over 200 flags, one for each of the countries with Rotary Clubs was unique and moving. A group of over 200 international rotary youth exchange students later performed as a choir and did a marvelous job with very uplifting music. Past RI Presidents were

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Rotary Programs



Jun 6

Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. 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 2010-2011 school year.

Jun 13

Temple Banquet Center

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Our speaker for June 13 will be the Honorable Mike McCormick, Mayor of the Village of Godfrey, who will discuss present issues facing the Village.

Jun 20

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.

Jun 27

Lockhaven Country Club

Annual Meeting 6:00 PM. Induction of New Officers, Board of Directors, and Paul Harris Fellows. Roland Hansen will be passing the gavel to new president, Mike Tillman.

Student Essays

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

A Better Leader

by Elizabeth Raglan



When I think about the last four years in high school, there is no question what has helped build and shape my life the most.

The last four years in AFJROTC have been amazing and, being out of school now, I realize just how much I loved it. One experience stands out to me the most though, one thing has really challenged me.

Second semester, senior year I was promoted to Cadet

Lt. Colonel and the Deputy Core Commander-I know what your thinking, "Good job, why is that challenging?" But this position within the core never goes to a senior, it always goes to a junior so they can be promoted to Core Commander their senior year. This creates a circuit so that there will always be someone to train the next Commander. This promotion broke that circuit, I would not be there the next year to train anyone, and I would not be there the following semester to take the place as Core Commander. If you're still a little confused as to why this is a big deal, I'd like to point out that we have one hundred and fifty students in our unit that all thrive on this order of things, the structure of the program, and what I just single-handedly accomplished was destroying that order and ruffling the feathers of every cadet.

This position though has challenged me to rise through the animosity and do the best I could. I only spent a semester serving in this capacity, but in that time I have organized a few events including the military ball and planning out many others.

I have learned what it takes to be a real leader and I have gained more respect for those leaders in my life now that I have seen what it takes to put together a lot of things I took for granted.

The following are the top three things I would share with others that I have learned.

The first is to always have a plan, you need to sit back and think everything through. You have to consider all the possibility's, even those that are better for others but not always good, or convenient for you. When your a leader it's your job to consider everyone and their feelings, as well as your own.

The second is to know who you are, and to be that

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Who I Am

by Taylor Gibbs



I am blood, sweat, tears, anger, and pride. I am a pair of women's size ten cleats and a 32 inch, 24 ounce bat. I am the black leather that swallows my left hand. I am the number that is on my back. I am one of many others, but I am softball. If I said that I was a seventeen-year-old girl who just graduated high school, was on the honor roll, was a good

student, was involved in other activities, and was college bound then I would just be a normal girl that everyone is already used to hearing about. I am much more than that girl.

I like nice things, I like to dress up and put on make up as well. I also have the same emotions that every other girl has. I cry when my relationship is not going as smoothly as I would like for it to, I become aggravated with my parents occasionally, and I get stressed out over the simplest of things. Aside from all of those typical things that I consist of, there is softball. I say that I am softball because it is what I do and it is what I spend a vast majority of my time doing. Unless you play a sport that you love so much, you will not understand what I am saying.

When I am on that field, I am an entirely different person; I have no limits. There is an army that is on the battlefield right by my side, and we always have each other's backs; we are a family. On the field I can dive through mid air, which I would not do any other place, I can predict the future by always being aware of what could happen, but most of all I'm in my own world. When I am on the softball field everything else escapes my mind. It is like there is a force field that does not allow it in. When I am standing in the batter's box, the earth stops moving. The only thing that I am focused on is the yellow and red thing coming towards my direction and it seems as though

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Who



everything else is frozen until, CRACK!, contact is made. When I am standing at first base, I see the batter's bat, and I wait for the ball to come my way. I am talking to my teammates the entire time; it is as though my mouth

will not stop moving, and I am unable to control it, where as off of the field I do not talk nearly as much.

The wins, the losses, the sheer victories, the heartbreakers, and the disappointments all remain on the fields that they were played on, but they also remain in our hearts and in our minds. The emotion that is portrayed on the diamond is so powerful; the type of power that love has on you. Love is what I have for this sport and that is why it is *what I am*. I could have gone on to talk about all of the things that I have accomplished and the charity work that I do, but what is the point? Telling you those things does not really tell you who I am. Telling you about softball and what it does to me is telling you who I am.

Another Successful Golf Tournament

By Allen Klope, 2011 Chairman

The 2011 Alton Godfrey Rotary Golf Tournament netted \$6,900 that can be used for scholarships and community service projects of the club.

Committee members Andy Bowen, Chris Fox, Wayne Sivia, and Gail Weinrich are to be commended for their work prior to and the day of the tournament.

Special thanks go to Richard Rook for providing the snacks during the event, Ford Phillips for the drink cart on the course, Wayne Sivia for the golf balls in each goodie bag, Ron Mayhew who took our photographs, Saint Anthony's Health Center for tees for the goodie bags and several items for our auction, and Chris Kane and his staff at Rolling Hills for their help in putting on the tournament. Also, special appreciation goes to Charlie Maneke of Maneke Jewelers for sponsorship of our \$10,000 hole-in-one.

Our three silver sponsors, \$1,000 in-kind advertising, were Today's AdVantage, WBGZ, and The Telegraph. The AdVantage and WBGZ had teams that played in the tourney.

There were seven Bronze sponsors, who contributed \$500 or more to the tournament, 39 hole sponsors who contributed \$100 each, and 28 individuals and businesses who contributed items for our auction.

Next year, the even will conducted on May 21 at Rolling Hills, Andy Bowen has agreed to be the chairman.

Jul 4

Holiday

No meeting

Jul 11

Alton Sports Tap

Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Program to be announced.

Jul 18

Rolling Hills Golf Course

Special Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 PM. Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. District Governor Gordon Jumper will make his official visit to the club representing Rotary International. A golf outing may precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

Jul 25

Alton Sports Tap

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

Bill Hoagland, Program Director



Leader



person. If your trying to lead someone, they need to trust you and they need to know who it is they are following.

The last is to have fun, I know it can be hard ,but stressing yourself out will never help the situation. Sometimes being a leader also means deviating from your plan and just going with the flow.

I'd like to thank my instructors for making me a better leader. I'd also

like to tell everyone, especially those of you who say, "I will never be a leader", that you are all are leaders. Everyone is an example to the world, you need to live your life in a way that you would be proud to show someone who you are. Live in a way that you would be humbled when a little kid wants to be just like you.



New Member David Fritz

Proud

introduced and Ray Klinginsmith, the current RI President, gave a welcome address to the 20,000 attendees. As a side note, Klinginsmith is from nearby Kirksville, Missouri. Other fine musical entertainment was scattered throughout this and the other plenary sessions. Country & Western, Classical , Contemporary, and of course New Orleans Jazz were featured. Thirteen different musical groups and individuals performed at the various sessions and they were all very entertaining. Special treats were choral music by women of the Rotary Club of Seoul, Korea and by the Simon Estes Music High School Alumni Choir of Cape Town, South Africa.

Several different speakers participated in the various sessions. They were all excellent. It was a privilege to hear and see Bill Gates who spoke at the third of the four plenary sessions. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has placed a top priority on eradicating polio from the face of the earth. He personally has traveled the world in his efforts to obtain the status and results of the fight against polio. He emphasized that even though we are really close to the goal, it remains a difficult task to get rid of the last 1%. We all need to keep that in mind as we deliberate upon our giving to the Rotary Foundation in its fight against polio.

An emphasis throughout the convention was the need to sustain Rotary well into the future, as it is becoming more difficult to maintain membership levels. Rotary must adopt change while preserving the Principles of Rotary. It is crucial that younger generations become Rotarians. New generations see, think and do things differently from that of many current Rotarians. It is clear that they are more motivated by engagement than by attendance. We must embrace this, not resist it. Diversity, in terms of gender, age, profession and ethnicity, needs to be increased to spawn Rotary membership and to continue achievement of the many worthy goals of Rotary.

The 2011 Rotary International Convention was a new experience for me and one that I enjoyed tremendously. I did not meet a stranger at the convention. I am grateful that I attended, inspired to continue our worthy work, and more than ever, ***I am proud to be a Rotarian.***

Club Officers 2010-2011

President.....	Roland Hansen
	820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Vice-President.....	Mike Tillman
	1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
Secretary	Jasper Fisher
	3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
Treasurer	Bob Hamilton
	4003 Stoneledge Court, Godfrey, 466-4362
Executive Secretary	Melissa 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