



The Ratchet



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A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #134 November 2008

Rotary Foundation Month

Rotary Programs



“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1.

A favored song from our youth by The Byrds put some of the verses of Ecclesiastes to music. Ecclesiastes is a short book of the Old Testament. It consists of only 12 small chapters and explores the purpose of our life. There are many parts of the book quoted in our literature such as “the race is not won by the swift” and a favorite of many, “eat, drink, and be merry.” But, if there is a time for everything, when is the time for giving?

This is the holiday season and this time is noted as the season for giving. If we take a cue from our mailbox, the time for giving is everyday. November is Rotary Foundation month. At the end of November, the Salvation Army begins its Tree of Lights campaign. So, we do have important organizations dedicated to helping others, recognizing this season of giving, and our generosity.

Foundation - Continued on page 4

Dec 1 St. Anthony's Health Center

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

Dec 8 Alton Sports Tap

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

Dec 15 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.

Dec 22 Alton Sports Tap

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

Dec 29 No Meeting

Holiday

Jan 5 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Betsy Smith will be our speaker. Betsy teaches a variety of exercise courses at Alton Memorial Hospital and she will

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.

Family

by Maurice Davis



"Families are the compass that guides us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter." This quote from Brad Henry is a true reflection of my relationship with my family. My family has influenced me in so many positive ways in my life that I will always be grateful for all that they do. Our relationship is centered on love. Without this, we are nothing more than friends sharing a common ancestry. Through all life's ups and downs, the good and the bad, the laughter and tears, we have been there for each other and will always be.

First there is my grandmother. She was the rock of the family. I say was because she has passed away but left a lasting impression on my life at such an early age. She possessed so much wisdom and guidance. She was also the nurturer and the confidant. When ever things went wrong, she was always there to make it better whether she had to cook our favorite dish or just serve as a listener. She was the one that taught me to live my dreams because tomorrow isn't promised.

Next there is my grandfather. He is the voice of reason in the family. He always looks at things from the practical perspective. Many times he also served as the secondhand disciplinarian in the family while my mother

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Giving And Receiving

by Morra Dwyer



In the prayer of St. Francis, St. Francis says, "For it is in giving that we receive."

My paternal grandmother, Joan Dwyer, was the first Eucharistic Minister at her church, St. Bridget's. She was a very devout Catholic and believed bringing the Eucharistic to those who could not come to Mass was an important calling. For 12 years, she continued to offer

the Eucharist to the homebound until Alzheimer's disease robbed her of the ability to understand.

Several years ago, my parish asked people to consider becoming Eucharistic ministers. A devout Catholic, my mom prayed for guidance. She decided that if someone from church asked her to be a Eucharistic minister, she would accept. The parish called, and although they did not feel worthy she and my father accepted.

For the past six years, my family and I have taken the Eucharist to Catholic residents of a local nursing home monthly. When I first started accompanying my parents to the nursing home, I was disgruntled, to say the least. I was not given any choice in the matter; instead I silently accompanied my family, furtively wishing I was anywhere but in the stinky, old nursing home. Eventually, I noticed how grateful and cheerful the residents were to be receiving the Eucharist and more importantly visitors. My parents explained that many of the residents did not receive any visitors all year except for us. After I realized how lonely the residents were, it was easier to accept spending an hour of my weekend giving them communion.

After the death of my grandmother, my paternal grandfather became a Eucharistic minister to continue

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Family

was at work. He would spoil us rotten and still make sure we understood the importance of appreciating the good things that were coming our way. That logic taught me to always evaluate a situation and make the most rational and logical decision. He was also the one that started stressing the importance of education and responsibility. For me, he served as the main father figure in my life when my father wasn't there.

My sister is the next important branch in my family tree. She is the excitement and adventure in my life. She taught me that all though life may get stressful, you should always take the time to have fun and enjoy life. She is the bully when I am vulnerable as well as my protector when I'm defenseless. I actually have a very funny story about her. When my mother brought me home from the hospital, she thought I was a present. When my mother took off the blanket and she discovered otherwise, and was not the happiest. At one point in time she even attempted to push me out of my bassinette. But as time went by, our bond became even stronger. She would even change my diapers at the tender age of two when my mother would be resting. She is truly my best friend and I couldn't ask for a better sibling. Lastly is my mother. There are so many wonderful things to be said of this magnificent woman. She is a woman of great courage. She is my motivation and support. She is my source of strength when I get

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Giving

her work. My maternal grandparents have been Eucharistic ministers for over twenty five years. The example of my parents and grandparents combined with my own experience has helped me understand how important service is especially for those who cannot do for themselves. I did not expect the sense of satisfaction and happiness service brings. We give them communion, but they give us so much more.

Tree of Lights

by Ed Morrissey

Salvation Army's Tree of Lights Bell Ringing campaign is now underway.

This is Salvation Army's major fund raising drive for the entire year and its success over the next 30 days will determine the level of future services it will provide during these difficult times.

Salvation Army helps individuals and families who find themselves in need of emergency assistance for housing, shelter, food, clothing, utilities, medication and a host of other basic daily needs which they are unable to provide due to circumstances beyond their control.

Alton-Godfrey Rotary Bell Ringing will be Saturday December 20th. We still have open spots for volunteers at all 3 locations

If considering a contribution this year to the Salvation Army Tree of Lights, please make it at one of our kettles on 12/20 @ Godfrey Schnucks, Alton Schnucks and K-Mart, or mail to Salvation Army c/o Alton Godfrey Rotary or to Ed Morrissey for Rotary.

show us the latest, including pilates and yoga. Bring your leotards.

Jan 12 Alton Sports Tap

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

Jan 19 Rolling Hills Golf Course

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

Jan 26 Alton Sports Tap

Regular Meeting 6:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Captain Brad Wells of the Madison County Sheriff's Office, who will discuss identity theft and how you can avoid being a victim. Bring your social security number.

Bill Hoagland - Program Director



Family

weary. Her love lets me know that even if I were to rob a bank she would love me regardless. She works tirelessly to provide for me. She is my number one fan and will go to the end of the world for me. I can count on her for anything. She stepped up and assumed full responsibility when my father walked out. She had to sacrifice a lot so that we would be taken care of. I attribute all of the success in my life to her dedication as a parent. She could have easily given up on me and walked out like other parents have, but she didn't and for that I will always love her.

I hope to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta Georgia and major in English. Then I would like to attend Thurgood Marshall Law School. As I am about to embark on this journey known as college, I will be enduring many life changes. This transition into adulthood will be challenging in more ways than one. I will be in an unfamiliar town with all new people. I also will be experiencing my first debt that I will ever encounter. The biggest change of all will be leaving my family. We are all very close and although I will be attending college to better myself, I can say that without them I would have already been a far worse person.

Foundation from page 1

RI President Arch Klumph started The Rotary Foundation when he decided to create a foundation with the profits from the RI convention the previous year. The amount was \$26.50. Last year's contributions were \$133,100,000. There were 57,190 Paul Harris Fellow awards last year and Rotarians contributed at least \$1,000 for each award. Did you participate as a Rotarian and contribute?

Our organization expects all of us to be active Rotarians. What that means is to participate in the fund raising activities of our clubs and to contribute individually to The Rotary Foundation. In my fourteen years as a Rotarian, I finally came to realize I was being asked to contribute annually to The Rotary Foundation. RI has a program called Every Rotarian Every Year where we are all asked to contribute some amount each year. As District Governor Elect, I was asked to set a goal for member giving in our district. My goal was \$75 annually and our membership currently averages \$70 annually. Rotary International is asking each member to contribute at least \$100 annually. That used to be a lot of money, but a month ago (and again soon), it was two tanks of gasoline.

Please consider contributing to The Rotary Foundation every year. You will be receiving a letter from me, your District Governor Elect, asking you to make a contribution. Your entire donation goes directly to projects sponsored by Rotarians throughout the world. We all know we cannot keep our fortune, and we are asked to be good stewards of the results of our labors. At this time and during this season, remember to give to The Rotary Foundation.

Merry Christmas,

Larry Thompson, 6460 District Governor Elect



Club Officers 2008-2009

President.....	Scott Neudecker 5212 Richland Woods Dr., Alton, 462-4697
Vice-President.....	Ford Phillips 1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Secretary.....	Roland Hansen 820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Treasurer.....	Mike Tillman 1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
Executive Secretary.....	Melissa Seymour 3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Rod Elias-3rd yr	Ebony Huddleston-2nd yr
Dick Jones-3rd yr	Brian White-2nd yr
Sam Stemm-3rd yr	Dave Walker-1st yr
Ken Spells-3rd yr	Chris Fox-1st yr
Gail Weinrich-3rd yr	Brock Hendricks-1st yr
Jasper Fisher-2nd yr	Michael Osborne-1st yr
Martha Morse-2nd yr	Tom Turpin-1st yr
Alan McBride-2nd yr	Josh Farley-PP