



Sertoma Bulletin

The Columbia Sertoma Club

ColumbiaSertoma.org

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President's Message

Our meeting this week had Temple Ligon as our speaker. Temple is advocating, as he has been for some time now, that Columbia build an opera house downtown on Main Street in the general vicinity of across the street where Capitol Restaurant used to be. He had many good reasons for our community putting money into such an expensive building, and I must admit that perhaps I am a fan of the opera house being built as long as the public isn't strained too badly with the payment.

Please keep in mind your veterans this week as this Thursday, the 11th, is Veterans Day. I share with you here a picture of Sgt. Jillian Murphy, who is a friend of a friend of mine in the National Guard. Just last week, Sgt. Murphy's convoy was attacked with RPG and small arms



fire as they were moving through an area in Afghanistan. She and her fellow soldiers fought valiantly as she not only returned fire but managed to save two of the four herself that were wounded in the firefight. Sgt. Murphy, or "Murph" as she is called by her friends, used to be a paralegal in the Army, but recently was trained to be a nurse. She stated in an email to friends that she has been involved in 3 rocket/mortar attacks, 3 small arms attacks, and has treated 3 combat wounded on 2 different occasions. One of the small arms attacks she was involved in was when her group was ambushed by the enemy. They were attacked with automatic weapons, RPG's (rocket propelled grenades), and hand grenades. This isn't something that is just happening to people in the distance... this is happening to our families and our friends. Just a couple of weeks ago, South Carolina had its first National Guard casualty, and that certainly hit home amongst myself and all my friends that I serve with. Please remember those soldiers who have given so much over their lives, and also the ones who continue to give in service today, when Veteran's Day rolls around this Thursday.

I will see you at lunch this coming Monday, so have a great week!

Sterling

Speakers & Events

November

8 Regular Meeting

15 Regular Meeting &
Board Meeting

19 5th Annual Sertoma
Golf Tournament @
Fort Jackson

Guests

Tracy Simons

Guest of Husband Ben

Clay Winslet

(application approved)

Guest of Joseph Azar

Jamie McComb

Member of Vista Club

Business Meeting

Sterling Anderson gave the Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Football Parking: Over \$500 was raised last Saturday! Our total for the season is \$5,040 which is FANTASTIC!! Many thanks to Mark for securing this property from SCE&G for our use. Many members were involved with this, and again we applaud all the volunteers who make this possible. Football parking has become our second most productive fund-raiser, behind Carolina Children's Home, of course.



Sertoma Fall District Conference Report: District Governor Chris Weston stated that turnout was light and Columbia area clubs had the lowest attendance in The Whole Wade Hampton District. No awards are given for this.

Membership Dinner: Dan Felker is heading up another opportunity for members to bring guests to hear about Sertoma and hopefully join. The date has been set for Monday, January 31.



Coaches Corner:



Todd Lewis reported that the USC game was very exciting with a 35-32 victory due to a last minute drive. This win qualifies the Gamecocks for a bowl game, perhaps the Peach Bowl.

Neal Sutker said The Tigers approached last week's game as the underdog and pulled out a great victory. The biggest improvement was in the defense.



Guest Speaker, Temple Ligon: The membership was treated once again to the dry wit and attitude of Mr. Ligon as he gave a brief history of Opera and Culture as it moved from France & England over to The Colonies. Temple brought with him slides of (I assume) famous opera houses across the nation/world and a scale model of our downtown with the proposed addition at the corner of Main & Gervais. Temple is a visionary and about had me convinced that Opera & Culture may even be market-able in Columbia.



Dean

Sergeant @ Arms Report
39 Members and 3 guests attended.
The \$37 Pot was LOST! by Tony Peake.

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Submissions to Bulletin must be received no later than 6:00 PM Tuesday.



The Columbia Sertoma Club touches & changes lives

by Reggie Belcher

Tradition, friendship, generosity, and community service and involvement have drawn Columbia's leaders to join The Columbia Sertoma Club since its inception in 1950. Today, the Club thrives and endures, making it one of South Carolina's oldest and most successful civic and charitable organizations. Through all of the societal and business changes over the last six decades, the Club's purpose and mission remain constant in bringing together members

dedication. During the last two years, The Midlands Center named the Club the Outstanding Service Organization in the Midlands, while the South Carolina Speech Language and Hearing Association named the Club the Service Organization of the Year in South Carolina. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society recognized the Club as its Service Organization of the year in North and South Carolina.

Recipe for Success—The Club's membership reflects the diversity of the

Columbia business community, and several of the Club's charter members still participate actively in the Club's projects and social events. Despite declining participation in civic and charitable organizations both locally and nationally, the Club still boasts nearly eighty members and carefully screens all applicants, as the Club strives to protect, preserve, and build on the legacy of its founders.

Much of the Club's success undoubtedly is related to the friendships, many life-long, that inevitably result when mem-

Involved in our Community

who care for each other and their community by funding and supporting local charities—primarily those helping orphans, victims of domestic violence, underprivileged children, the homeless, disabled individuals, cancer patients, babies with birth defects, and families struggling to survive.

History of Good Deeds and Rewarding Service—The Club's many accomplishments include helping South Carolina eradicate polio, providing funding for the construction of Riverbanks Zoo and



This photo shows Sertoma members John Hedden (left) and Reggie Belcher (right) at the 2004 South Carolina State Fair, where The Columbia Sertoma Club raised money selling concessions in the grandstands during concerts.

bers come together to complete a

Thanks
To
Curtis
Murphy
for
Sending
this
November
Article
from
2020
Columbia
to
us.

funding for the construction of Riverbanks Zoo and EdVenture, and raising over \$3 million for the Carolina Children's Home. The Club continues to touch the lives of countless South Carolinians. Last year, the Club raised over \$70,000 for the Carolina Children's Home, while contributing to more than thirty other local charities including Camp Sertoma, Home Works, Sistercare, Work In Progress, the Sexual Trauma Services Center, the Interfaith Thanksgiving dinner, the Good Neighbor Fund, Children Unlimited, Project Take Heart, and Rolling Readers, among others.

The Club typically raises funds by participating in various projects throughout the community, such as selling concessions during concerts at the State Fair and the Three Rivers' Music Festival, parking cars prior to football games at the University of South Carolina, selling smoked Christmas turkeys and hams, and seeking monetary pledges in an annual fundraising drive to benefit the Carolina Children's Home.

Philosophy of Giving—The Club's members are volunteers who pay monthly dues to finance their meetings and social events, thereby enabling the Club to donate one-hundred percent of its fundraising monies to worthy charities.

Numerous groups have recognized the Club's generosity, compassion, and

result when members come together to complete a fundraiser or service project. In fact, the Club's members and their families enjoy a wide array of social activities together, including boat cruises, golf tournaments, oyster roasts, football games, and an annual installation banquet during which the Club inducts its new president and board members and celebrates its storied history.

In a perfect world with no pain, suffering, or poverty, our communities would have no real need for an organization like The Columbia Sertoma Club. Until that day arrives, this Club will continue to make the lives of so many more enjoyable, livable, kind, and humane—just as it always has done, with little publicity and fanfare but lots of caring, goodness, and appreciation for others.

You Are Invited—The Columbia Sertoma Club typically meets for lunch on Mondays, at 12:30 p.m., at Seawell's on Rosewood Drive and invites interested leaders to attend. For more details on the Club or its sponsorships, contact the Club's Vice-President, Todd Lewis, at btlewis@yahoo.com or 803-240-1213, or access its website at www.columbiasertoma.org.

Reggie Belcher is a Shareholder with McNair Law Firm in Columbia, and he is a former President and Chairman of the Board with The Columbia Sertoma Club.