

MS-106 The Sertoma Club of Dayton Records

Collection Number: MS-106

Title: The Sertoma Club of Dayton Records

Dates: 1925-1997

Creator: The Sertoma Club of Dayton

Summary/Abstract: The Dayton Sertoma Club traces its origins to the founding of the first Cooperative Club of Kansas City, MO, founded on April 13, 1912, by Dr. George W. Smith. Smith, in conjunction with Dr. Charles E. Allen and newspaper editor W.R. Rowe, conceived the idea of another civic service club to aid society aside from the existing Rotary clubs. Smith believed that the Cooperative Club should not just utter principles toward mankind's betterment, it should selflessly take an active, non-political role in improving society. In 1950, it was determined that the name "Cooperative" was too confusing to the public, owing to the over usage of the term. The name "Sertoma" was adopted, an acronym for "Service to Mankind."

The Sertoma records consist of material relating to the affairs of the Dayton Sertoma Club as well as its activities in conjunction with various regional Sertoma clubs and Sertoma International, the top governing body in the club hierarchy. These records contain information dealing with the Dayton Sertoma Club's finances, civic programs, annual events, and the political view of some members, notably past presidents William W. Owen and Rev. Harvey Hahn. Letters, memos, news clippings, pamphlets and other documents are present in the collection. Much of the material is of a mundane nature, although this does not preclude its significance to the researcher, as it gives a fair view of the nature of Sertoma, particularly the period 1954-1975.

Quantity/Physical Description: 9.5 linear feet (including oversized)

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Box Number, Folder Number], MS-106, The Sertoma Club of Dayton Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Accruals: Periodic additions are anticipated.

Revisions: Additions processed by David N. Gaines, June 1987
Additions processed by Jason H. Rudesill, October 1994
Additions (consisting mostly of local papers) processed; finding aid document revised for encoded archival description (EAD); and subseries re-numbered to fit current departmental procedures by Ximena Chrisagis, July 2014
(Boxes were also completely renumbered since labels were coming loose and all had to be replaced).

Other Finding Aid:

http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms106.pdf

Related Material:

MS-110 Public Opinion Center Records
MS-130 Dayton Foundation Records
MS-217 Community Research, Inc. Records

Processed by: David A. Rea, March 1986

Additions processed by David N. Gaines, June 1987
Additions processed by Jason H. Rudesill, October 1994
Additions processed by Ximena Chrisagis, July 2014

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged into 5 series and 5 subseries:

Series I: Local Records, 1925-1997
 Subseries IA: Club Records
 Subseries IB: Inaugural Records
 Subseries IC: Local Bulletins
 Subseries ID: Rosters
 Subseries IE: Financial Records
Series II: Regional Records, 1956-1994
Series III: International Records, 1955-1994
Series IV: Conventions, 1954-1984
Series V: Miscellaneous, 1954-1987

Historical Note

The Dayton Sertoma Club traces its origins to the founding of the first Cooperative Club of Kansas City, MO, founded on April 13, 1912, by Dr. George W. Smith. Smith, in conjunction with Dr. Charles E. Allen and newspaper editor W.R. Rowe, conceived the idea of another civic service club to aid society aside from the existing Rotary clubs. Smith believed that the Cooperative Club should not just utter principles toward mankind's betterment, it should

selflessly take an active, non political role in improving society. The number of Cooperative clubs proliferated throughout the next eight years, due largely to word of mouth and increasing public awareness.

In 1921, the decision was made to establish a national body for the existing clubs (located in Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, and California). The Cooperative National, later known as Cooperative International, was established in June 1921. Cooperative National was organized in large part by Dr. Smith and the original founders of the first club in Kansas City. The number of Cooperative Clubs flourished through the 1920s. Dayton's Cooperative Club was chartered in September 1925. The groups grew sporadically through the 1930s and 1940s. In 1950, it was determined that the name "Cooperative" was too confusing to the public, owing to the over usage of the term. The name "Sertoma" was adopted, an acronym for "Service to Mankind." Hence, the current name reflects the values of the founding spirit of the organization to aid, improve, and serve society. A women's branch of Sertoma, "La Sertoma," has been in existence since 1925, nationally and locally (formerly known as "Cooperettes".)

The number of Sertoma clubs grew rapidly after 1950, from 130 bodies scattered throughout the South, Southwest, and Midwest, to 903 clubs located in every state, as well as Canada and Mexico (1977), with an aggregate membership of 34,000. Membership figures for the past decade are absent from this collection, although the upbeat tenor of the Dayton Sertoma Club's bulletins indicate that there has been no decline in membership, locally or nationally.

The chief governing body, Sertoma International, sets policy guidelines and rules for the local clubs to follow. The International governing body, located in Kansas City, MO, divided the nation into 39 regions in 1956, each region having its share of local clubs. Thus, the Sertoma hierarchy is divided into three echelons: International, Regional, and Local.

Officers for the International level are chosen each July. These include International President, three Vice Presidents, Chairman of the Board, and Managing Director, plus Governors for each region. The local clubs adhere to the guidelines set by Sertoma International, although they are allowed a fair amount of autonomy concerning procedure. For example, Dayton Sertoma Club officers were until 1974, chosen in January of each year rather than July. Dayton Sertoma Club officers include a President, three Vice Presidents, a Sergeant at Arms, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

Sertoma International publishes a bimonthly news magazine, The Sertoman. This publication, available to members only, lists a broad overview of Sertoma activities, pledge drives, organizational procedures and changes, and general news features dealing with Sertoma Club members throughout the nation.

Scope and Content

Series I, Local Papers, consists primarily of documents of the Dayton Sertoma Club from 1925 (when it was known as the Dayton Cooperative Club) through June 1994. The material in the files largely covers traditional events, inaugural ceremonies for the installation of new officers,

board meetings and minutes, financial statements, programs and their implementation, and a wide range of other activities tied to the club's motto "Service to Mankind."

The documents take the form of memos, form letters, photographs partly of the 60th anniversary celebration, news clippings of various Sertomans (William Owen of Dayton City Transit and President of the Dayton Sertoma Club in 1955 is prominent in these, as is Harvey Hahn, pastor of the East Dayton Evangelical United Brethren Church and a President in 1954), brochures, convention schedules, photos of prominent club events, and local club bulletins. The files contain a fair amount of correspondence between Rev. Hahn, William Owen and past Sertoma members, and a number of folders are designated as being material chiefly relating to activities of various individuals. There are folders, for instance, containing correspondence to Paul J. Price, former Chief of Dayton Police, Robert Makarius, a 50 year member of the local club, Ed Kester, a member who later became a regional governor, etc.

The preponderance of local material presents a fairly accurate view of the day to day life of the club, and the attitude of club officers to questions of morale, structural and organizational problems, etc. A weakness of the local records is their paucity after 1975. Local club bulletins are the only source of information concerning Dayton Sertoma from 1976-1986. These newsletters lack the intimacy provided by the other documents, and tend to present a sterile, skeletal view of the local club in the last decade. Rosters from various years serve as a good means to trace membership and changes.

When additions were processed in July 2014, local bulletins were added for the years 1994-1997. However, there was not a complete run provided for these years. Issues lacking as of July 2014 are as follows:

1994 (issues lacking):

- Jan. 19, Jan. 26
- Feb. 9, Feb. 16
- Mar. 8, Mar. 15, Mar. 22 [?] (Mar. 1 and Mar. 30 are present)

1995 (issues lacking):

- Jul. 12, Jul. 26
- Aug. 2, Aug. 30
- Sep. 27
- Oct. 4
- Dec. 6, Dec. 20[?]

1996 (issues lacking):

- Mar. 20
- Apr. 24
- May 15, May 22
- Sep. 4, Sep. 25
- Oct. 16, Oct. 23
- Nov. 13
- Dec. 18, [?-any later Dec. issues?]

1997 (issues lacking):

- Jan. 29
- Apr. 2
- Jun. 11
- Jul. 2
- All issues: Aug.-Dec.

In July 2014, the bulk of local bulletins in the accession (covering the years 1988-1993) were already in the collection. In general, one duplicate copy was retained and filed, but any additional duplicate issues beyond two were returned to the donor or discarded in accordance with the donor's wishes. If the duplicate copy or the existing copy filed in the collection was in very poor condition (*e.g.* torn in multiple places), a single copy (the one in the best condition) was retained for the collection and the other copies were returned to the donor or discarded.

In some respect, Series II and Series III, the regional and international records, are distracting to the flow of local activities found in the collection. These documents include issues of the Sertoman, programs and brochures of international and regional conventions, regional bulletins which occasionally appear to have little relevance to the local material, campaign buttons, and brochures and other memorabilia culled from past elections for international officers. The regional and international files are nonetheless useful in providing an overall context in which to interpret the local records.

The bulk of the records, local as well as regional and international, cover the period 1925-1994. An interesting aspect of the Sertoma Papers is the political and ideological frame of mind found in the records of William Owen and Harvey Hahn. Both have several copies of International President James R. Burchfield's talk to the Memphis regional convention of March 1968. This address, endorsed by an overwhelming vote of Sertomans at the mid-year convention in 1968, presents a very right wing view on a wide series of issues confronting society, *i.e.*, welfare, crime, war in Vietnam, racial disorders, etc. The impression given in the files is that the local and international bodies were comprised of men very conservative in their outlook, believers of the free enterprise work ethic as opposed to the liberalism of the day.

Other records, both local and international, attest to Sertoma's dedication to charity programs, scholarships for needy students, an efficient Youth Employment Service run by Sertomas, and a host of other worthy volunteer endeavors.

Subject Terms

Organizations/Corporate Names

Sertoma Club of Dayton, Ohio.
Sertoma International.

Subjects (General)

Social service – Ohio – Dayton – Citizen participation.
 Voluntarism – Ohio -- Dayton.

Places

Dayton (Ohio) – Social conditions – 20th century.

Material Types

Correspondence.
 Minutes.
 Photographs.

Collection Inventory**Series I : Local Records, 1925-1997****Subseries IA: Club Records**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Robert Smith	1943-1975
	2	Cooperative—Sertoma	1941, 1946-1953
	3	Dayton Sertoma Financial (Sponsorships, Contributions, Budget Statements, I.R.S. Notes)	1950-1973
	4	Photographs of 28th Birthday Celebration	1953
	5	Sertoma Club	1954
	6	Sertoma Board	1955
	7	Sertoma Club	1955
	8	Sertoma Programs	1955
	9	Sertoma Club	1956
	10	"Chief" Paul Price	1956-1959, 1969
	11	Sertoma Christmas Parties & Concerts	1956-1977, 1986-1990
	12	Rev. Harvey C. Hahn	1957-1958
	13	Sertoma Attendance & Membership	1958-1959, 1987, Undated
	14	One-Way Street Debate	Jan. 6, 1960
2	1	Sertoma Dunk & Dribble	1989
	2	Sertoma Dunk & Dribble	1990-1991
	3	Sertoma Dunk & Dribble	1992-1995
	4	Life Memberships	1945-1974
	5	Sertoma Membership Applications	1935-1965
	6	Dayton Sertoma Club History	1925-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	7	Paul Kagey & Bob Markarius	1988
	8	W.W. Owen	1986-1990
3	1	"Chief" Paul Price	1956-1993
	2	Dayton Sertoma Attendance Records	1951-1962
	3	Dayton Sertoma Attendance Records	1963-1973
	4	Dayton Sertoma Attendance Records	1974-1984
	5	Clowntown History & Slides	1985-1986
	6	Miscellaneous Pictures	1937-1987
	7	Student Thank-You Letters	1987
4	1	Sertoma Special Events	1960-1961
	2	Don Bassett	1961-1962
	3	Sertoma Talk by William W. Owen	July 11, 1962
	4	Sertoma Board	1963
	5	Sertoma Club	1963
	6	Sertoma Scrapbook	1963
	7	Sertoma Classification Committee	1964
	8	Sertoma Club	1964
	9	Sertoma Club	1965
	10	Photograph: G.Bayless, E.Kester, D.Hall	1966
	11	41st Birthday Talk by William W. Owen	Sept. 38, 1966
	12	Programs (Political)	Oct. 26-Nov. 2, 1966
	13	Robert Mouser, M.D. Changing Calendar Year; History of Dayton Sertoma,	1966-1967; Compiled 1967
	14	Sertoma Club	1970
	15	Sertoma Club	1971
	16	Sertoma Club	1971-1972
	17	Pancake Breakfasts	1972-1979
	18	Bob Makarius-50 Year Member	1973
	19	Calendar Year Changed	1974
5	1	Joseph McLaughlin	1974-1983
	2	50th Anniversary, Dayton Sertoma	1975
	3	Photographs of 50th Anniversary Celebration	1975
	4	Photographs of 50th Anniversary Celebration	1975
	5	Correspondence to Jack Moore	1984-1985
	6	60th Anniversary, Dayton Sertoma	1985
	7	Clowntown	1985-1986

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	8	George Foster House	1985-1986
5	9	Sertoman of the Year	1986
	10	Membership Campaign	1991
	11	Correspondence	1986-1987, 1995-1997
6	1	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	1934-1940
	2	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	1941-Mar. 1953
	3	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	Apr. 1953-Dec. 1958
	4	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	1959-1963
	5	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	1964-1967
	6	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	1968-1974
	7	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes	1975-1981
	8	Dayton Sertoma Club Board Minutes & Leadership Conferences	1982-Apr. 1987

Subseries IB: Inaugural Records

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1	Inaugural Balls	1954-1959
	2	Inaugural Balls	1960-1966
	3	Inaugural Balls	1967-1970
	4	Inaugural Balls	1971-1977
	5	Inaugural Balls	1978-1980

Subseries IC: Local Bulletins

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	6	Sertoma Bulletins	1954
8	1	Sertoma Bulletins	1955-1957
	2	Sertoma Bulletins	1958-1959
	3	Sertoma Bulletins	1960-1961
	4	Sertoma Bulletins	1962-1963
	5	Sertoma Bulletins	1964-1965
	6	Sertoma Bulletins	1966
	7	Sertoma Bulletins	1967-1968
9	1	Sertoma Bulletins	1969-1970
	2	Sertoma Bulletins	1971-1972
	3	Sertoma Bulletins	1973-1974

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	4	Sertoma Bulletins	1975-1976
9	5	Sertoma Bulletins	1977-1978
	6	Sertoma Bulletins	1979-1980
	7	Sertoma Bulletins	1981-1982
	8	Sertoma Bulletins	1983-1984
10	1	Sertoma Bulletins	1985
	2	Sertoma Bulletins	1986
	3	Sertoma Bulletins	Jan-Jun 1987
	4	Sertoma Bulletins	Jul-Dec 1987
	5	Sertoma Bulletins	Jan-Jun 1988
	6	Sertoma Bulletins	Jul-Dec 1988
	7	Sertoma Bulletins	1989
	8	Sertoma Bulletins	1990
	9	Sertoma Bulletins	Jan-Jun 1991
	10	Sertoma Bulletins	Jul-Dec 1991
	11	Sertoma Bulletins	Jan-Jun 1992
11	1	Sertoma Bulletins	Jul-Dec 1992
	2	Sertoma Bulletins	Jan-May 1993
	3	Sertoma Bulletins	Jun-Dec 1993
	4	Sertoma Bulletins	1994
	5	Sertoma Bulletins	1995
	6	Sertoma Bulletins	1996
	7	Sertoma Bulletins	1997

Subseries ID: Rosters

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	1	Rosters	1953, 1957-1959
	2	Rosters	1961-1964
	3	Rosters	1965-1967
	4	Rosters	1968-1970
	5	Rosters	1971-1972, 1975
13	1	Rosters	1976-1980
	2	Rosters	1981-1986
	3	Rosters	1987-1992

Subseries IE: Financial Records

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
14	1	Dayton Sertoma Treasurer Reports	1982-1984
	2	Dayton Sertoma Treasurer Reports	1985-1987
	3	Dayton Sertoma Treasurer Reports	1988-1992
	4	Dayton Sertoma Budget Reports	1966-1994
	5	Dayton Sertoma Cash Disbursements	1988-1990
	6	Dayton Sertoma Tax Returns	1967-1981
15	1	Dayton Sertoma Tax Returns	1984-1990
	2	Bank Reconciliation & Deposit Slips	1982-1987
	3	Bank Reconciliation & Deposit Slips	1987-1989
	4	Bank Reconciliation & Deposit Slips	1988-1992
16	1	Sertoma Club Sponsorship Fund, Inc.; Records Book	1966-1986
	2	Sertoma Sponsorship Pledges	1970-1989
	3	Sertoma Sponsorship Fund, Inc.	1978-1990
	4	Sertoma Sponsorship Fund Tax Returns	1983-1990
	5	Sertoma Sponsorship Deposits & Statements	1988-1992

Series II: Regional Records, 1956-1994

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
17	1	Gov. Lou McCoy	1956-1957
	2	District Bulletins	1957
	3	District Governor	1957
	4	Governor William W. Owen (Southwestern Ohio District Material)	1957
	5	Governor's Newsletter (William W. Owen)	1957-1958
	6	District Bulletins	1958
18	1	District Governor (Chicago Convention, June 25-28, 1958)	1958
	2	Leadership Conferences	1958
	3	Miamisburg	1958
	4	Regional Convention (Dayton)	1958
	5	Gov. Bill Owen	1958-1959
	6	Sertoma Special Programs & Inter Club Relations, Program Chair/Weekly Programs	1958-1970, 1987-1994
	7	District Bulletins	1959
	8	Gov. Ed Kester	1959-1961
	9	District Bulletins	1960

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
	10	Governor's Newsletters	1960-1965
18	11	Kester—Director—Louisville	1965
	12	Cincinnati Sertoma Club	1968
	13	Sertoma Regional	1968
	14	Governor's Newsletters	1969
	15	Governor's Newsletters	1994

Series III: Sertoma International Records, 1955-1994

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
19	1	<i>Sertoman</i> Magazine	1978-1984
	2	<i>Sertoman</i> Magazine	1985-1988
	3	<i>Sertoman</i> Magazine	1989-1990
	4	<i>Sertoman</i> Magazine	1991-1992
	5	<i>Sertoman</i> Magazine	1993-1994
	6	Sertoma International Directories	1971-1986
20	1	Sertoma International	1955
	2	Sertoma International Membership	1958
	3	Sertoma Life Memberships	1958-1960
	4	William Wendell Owen - Past Governor	1959-1961
	5	Sertoma International History	1960
	6	La Sertoma	1961-1964
	7	Burchfield Talk "Time to Take a Stand and Be Heard"	1967-1968
	8	Burchfield Talk (Welfare)	1968-1970
	9	Historical Facts about Sertoma International	1985

Series IV: Conventions, 1954-1984

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
20	10	Colorado Springs; Richmond; Louisville; Houston	1951; 1952
	11	Windsor	1954
	12	Los Angeles; London, Ontario	1955; 1957
	13	St. Louis; Chicago; Memphis	June 1957; 1958; June 1959
	14	Chatham (Regional) ; Miami	Apr. 1960; 1960
	15	Middletown; Indianapolis	1960; 1961
	16	Indianapolis (Regional); New Orleans; Akron; Toronto	1967; 1969

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
21	1	Dayton; Indianapolis; Vancouver	1971; 1973; 1977
	2	Hamilton; Dearborn; Dayton; Niagra Falls; Indianapolis; Catham; Akron; Evansville; Louisville	1977; 1978; 1979; 1980; 1981; 1982; 1983; 1984; 1965

Series V: Miscellaneous, 1937-1987

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
22	1	News Clippings	1937-1985
	2	Photographs	[1948-1961?]
	3	President's Club	1954-1959
	4	Sertoma Miscellaneous	1954-1973
	5	Sertoma Club Officers' Manual; Constitution & By Laws of Other Clubs	1955-1962
	6	William W. Owen Talks, Letters, Memoranda, etc.	1956-1976
	7	Sertoma Music-Songs	1957-1973
	8	Sertoma Certificates (William Owen)	1960-1972
	9	Sertoma Resolutions	1964-1968
	10	Awards to Non Members	1967-1973
	11	Crime Prevention Brochures-Ohio & Montgomery County	1987, Undated
OS 48	1	2 Photographs: 37th Annual Convention Sertoma International	June 19-22, 1957