



ACTION SERTOMA

FALL/WINTER 2024

"A Club helping those in the Community."

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Robert Clifford

Member



My mother and father, Mary and Jack, met in England where Jack was stationed during WWII. Mary was born and lived in Manchester, which was heavily bombed during WWII. She worked in a munitions factory. After the war and getting married, they settled in Chicago. I have two brothers, Jack and Mike. My wife is Yvonne, and we have a daughter, Lindsay. She is a nurse residing in Houston, Texas. We have lived in Orland Park for the past 33 years. We love our pets and have had many over the years. Currently, 3 dogs, 2 birds, 1 horse and a guinea pig named Morty.

I grew up in the Brainerd area of Chicago and attended St. Kilian's grammar school and Leo High School. After attending Northern Illinois University, I joined the Chicago Police Department in 1971. I attended law school at night while on the CPD and stayed until 1979 when I resigned to become a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. While an ASA, I had numerous assignments including being the Supervisor of the office in the 6th District, Markham, which basically encompassed the southern suburbs of Cook County.

After leaving the SAO in 1989, I engaged in a private practice of law until I was elected as an Associate

Judge in 2005. I sat in numerous courts until I was assigned to the 6th District. While in Markham, I sat in the felony trial courts and was named the supervising judge of those courts. Eventually, the tiring of criminal law and criminals in general, I switched to the civil side of the law where I remained for 8 years until I retired in 2016.

In retirement, Yvonne loves her time with horses having done so since her youth and I love golf and golf trips such as to Italy to see the Ryder Cup in 2023. I also spend time serving on the Advisory Board of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, another charitable organization near and dear to my heart.

A fun fact is I grew up less than a block from Chas Lazzara and we didn't meet until Chas joined Action Sertoma and went on a golf trip to Myrtle Beach with the guys. I have been a Action Sertoma Member for 30+ years, served on the board of directors for various VP positions and was the newsletter editor. "Proud to be a Sertoman."

SERTOMAN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations

Connie Barrera

Announced in September. Details to come.





Sertoma National Executive Director, Jason Camis, visits Sertoma Star Services facility in Alsip, IL. Action Sertoma and POWR Sertoma, Founding clubs for the facility, joined the tour and presentation.

Jason's thoughts regarding his visit – "Another thing I'm learning during my club visits is that oftentimes little ideas turn into great big things. Take for instance the Sertoma clubs in the Chicago area. Many years ago, they set out to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities. Over time they raised a ton of money to support that cause, but more importantly envisioned bigger things where they could serve these folks in a myriad of ways, from job placement to social skills.

Today, Sertoma Star Services is a \$45+ million operation, employing hundreds of individuals that has impacted thousands of families in the Chicago Southside. It was great to tour one of their facilities and learn about the Action Sertoma and POW-R Sertoma clubs (along with many others) about the role they played in making this a reality."



Sertoma Star Services Newest Supportive Housing Project is underway! We proudly broke ground in October for the new apartment-style complex at 12000 S. Hamlin in Alsip.

Joining the Sertoma Star Services community in celebrating this milestone were State Senator Bill Cunningham, State Representative Mary Gill, Village of Alsip Mayor John Ryan, and officials from the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the Cook County Department of Planning and Development, and the Housing Authority of Cook County.

A supportive housing model allows adults with disabilities to live independently while receiving personal support through programs at Sertoma Star Services. As our third such complex, we are increasing housing opportunities for residents needing social support and counseling, job training and placement, and assistance with bill management.

The Hamlin Project will have 20 one-bedroom and five two-bedroom units, each with a kitchen, bathroom, and living space. There will be a community outdoor patio area, laundry room, secure entry, and on-site support services from Sertoma Star Services. The Alsip location on Hamlin Avenue is ideal due to its proximity to stores, pharmacies, restaurants, parks, a library, recreation facilities, and public transportation.



Action Sertomas 24rd Annual Golf Outing at Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park Raises \$53,000

WOW, SOLD OUT YEAR! Thank you golf committee, and Congratulations! Always a lot of fun. Our 25th Annual Golf Outing is Wed, July 16, 2025. Stay tuned for details at <https://actionsertoma.org/golf-outing>



SERTOMA

NEWS

2023-2024 Annual Report is Here!

We are excited to announce the release of our 2023-2024 Annual Report, marking the first of its kind in many years! This report is a celebration of the incredible stories and impactful work carried out by our local clubs, as well as the collective efforts of our international organizations and programs. <https://www.sertoma.org/News/View/ArticleId/12060/Your-2023-2024-Annual-Report-is-Here>

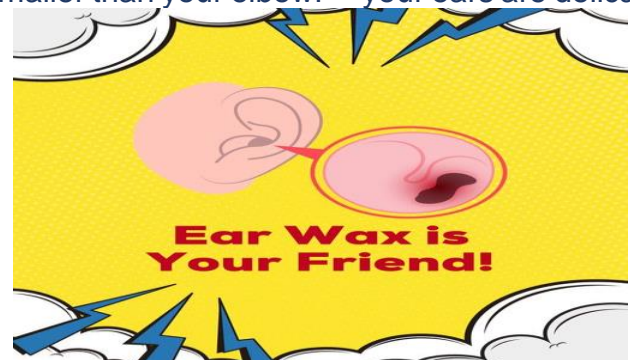
Through powerful narratives and vivid testimonials, we highlight the positive changes we are making in communities across North America. Join us in reflecting on our achievements and looking forward to a future filled with hope and service.



DID YOU KNOW?

Earwax plays a vital role in keeping your ears healthy. While many people think of it as something that needs to be cleaned out, earwax actually protects your ears by trapping dust, dirt, and other particles before they reach deeper parts of your ear. It even has antibacterial properties that help prevent infections!

So next time you hear someone say "clean out your ears," remind them that earwax is your friend! Just gently clean the outer ear and make sure to avoid putting anything into your ear canal smaller than your elbow! —your ears are delicate!





Action Sertomas 20th Annual Fall Fest at Chicago Gaelic Park in Oak Forest Raises \$68,600

WOW A RECORD BREAKING YEAR! Thank you Fall Fest committee, and Congratulations! Everyone had a lot of Fun! Our 21st Annual Fall Fest is Fri, Nov 7, 2025. Stay tuned for details at <https://actionsertoma.org/fall-fest>



Make the holidays brighter for our youngest clients!

Our Santa's Workshop program helps fill holiday wishes for hundreds of children and teenagers in the south suburbs every year.

Donate today

Monetary donations received by December 2nd will enable our "volunteer elves" to go shopping for the very items kids are hoping to receive. With your support we can make it happen!

Do you want to do the shopping yourself?

Here's our "Wish List" of favorites or you can use the QR Code to shop our Amazon Wish List

CLASSICS

Board games, Action Figures, cars and trucks, dolls and doll clothes, Nerf Guns, Play-doh, coloring books, Pre-School toys, art sets, Legos, basketballs, footballs, craft kits

TEEN FAVORITES

Flannel sleep pants, candles, wallets, chapstick, makeup, jewelry, nail polish, purses, small backpacks, boot socks, body wash, lotion, cologne, hair accessories, anything Chicago sport team related



GIFT CARDS

Panera, Chic-fil-A, McDonald's, Culvers, Portillo's, Chipotle, Wendys, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Target, Walmart, Play Station, Xbox, Game Stop, Bath & Body Works, Ulta, Simon Mall



Dropping off toys at Together We Cope

Bring new donations by December 2nd to 17010 South Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park

Contact Dianne McMaster at 708-633-5040 ext. 7221 or via email at dmcmaster@togetherwecope.org
Online credit card donations can be made at togetherwecope.org

Together We Cope

Serving 27 south suburban communities

17010 South Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
www.togetherwecope.org



Gabrielle Nelson \$5,000
Tray McCampbell Foundation \$2,000
Sertoma Star Services \$10,000
Crisis Center South Suburbia \$2,100
United Sertoma \$1,000
TLV Charities \$1,250
Sertoma Speech and Hearing \$20,000
Chicago Lawn \$1,000
Filing in the Gap \$1,000
Jones Center \$500
Sylvia Rodriguez \$2,500
RESPOND Now \$2,000
Paityn Castillo \$1,000



Every Tues 8pm - QUEEN OF HEARTS Fundraiser.

Details at <https://actionsertoma.org/queen-of-hearts>

Dec 3rd – GIVING TUESDAY

Jan 17, 2025 – Action Sertoma Holiday Party

Feb 7 – Sertoma Star First Look for Charity

Feb 22 – Crisis Center South Suburbia Gala

March – Sertoma Star Home Show Pack-Up

July 16 – Action Sertoma Annual Golf Outing

Nov 7 – Action Sertoma Fall Fest



Dennis Canalini-Oct 5
Tim Fitzgibbons-Oct 9
Kristine Kalnins-Oct 28
Joe Varanouski-Nov 3
Charles Lazzara-Nov 27
Ed Kelly-Dec 4
Al Maggi-Dec 5
Joy Jarom-Dec 9
Bradley Nielsen-Dec 15
Michelle Pinto-Dec 15
Dan Shanahan-Dec 15

Jack Shanahan-Dec 31
Gregg Jarmon-Jan 3
Jason Nielsen-Jan 17
Brian Letizia-Feb 3
Rich Greene-Feb 10
Melissa Scott – Feb 16
Jack Howe-Feb 18
John Parker-Feb 19
Dennis Fioretti-Feb 21
Dan Letizia Jr-March 3

Happy Anniversary

Eric Leader – Oct 1
 Concetta Pinto – Oct 1
 David Nick – Oct 1
 Greg Jarmon – Oct 1
 Andrew Sampalis – Oct 1
 Glenn Bylina – Nov 1
 Robert Clifford – Nov 1
 Ed Fioretti – Nov 1
 Joe Varanauski – Nov 1
 Mike Reeg – Dec 1
 Carol Daggy – Jan 1
 Pat Gill – Jan 1
 Joy Jarom – Jan 1
 Rick Lakie – Jan 1
 Brad Nielsen – Jan 1
 Debbie DeMaar – Mar 1
 Pat Harpold – Mar 8
 Robert Hehl – Mar 18

Tracy Fioretti-Moehle–Oct 2
 Anita Flassig – Oct 8
 Connie Barrera – Oct 25

Stephen Reilly – Nov 10
 Gene Esposito Sr - Nov 11
 Joe Racine Jr.- Nov 13

Charles Lazzara – Dec 9
 Rich Green – Jan 1
 Jack Mclain – Jan 1
 Al Maggi – Jan 1
 Rob Surrusco – Jan 1

Dennis Canalini – Mar 7
 CRISIS CENTER–Mar 17



Members Dinner Mtg
1st Tuesday of the Month at
GATTO'S RESTAURANT & BAR
8005 183RD Street
Tinley Park, 60487
6:00 pm Cocktails
6:30 pm Dinner



Action Sertoma Board Mtg
3rd Tuesday of the Month
BLARNEY STONE
15400 Cicero Ave
Oak Forest, IL 60452
6:00 pm

ACTION SERTOMA BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRPERSON:

GENE ESPOSITO, JR

PRESIDENT:

DOMINIC PORTO

TREASURER:

JOHN PARKER

SECRETARY:

JEFFREY SHINN

Welcome our new Secretary Jeff

VP SPONSORSHIP:

JOE RACINE, JR

VP MEMBERSHIP:

EILEEN CLANCY

VP SOCIAL:

TOM FINGER

PUBLICITY/BULLETIN:

CONNIE BARRERA

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

ROBERT HEHL

DIRECTORS:

ROBERT SCOTT

DENNIS FIORETTI

CHRIS OBBAGY

CHAS LAZZARA

KRISTINE KALNINS

GEORGE FETCHO

ANITA FLASSIG

KEN CASTILLO

SERTOMA STAR BOARD MEMBERS

DAN LETIZIA AND GEORGE FETCHO

Merry Christmas!

May this season be full of
 light and laughter for you
 and your family.

