

The Bell

Issue 26, February 1, 2021



Spotlight:
Lexington
Sertoma

Aiken

Midlands
Strong

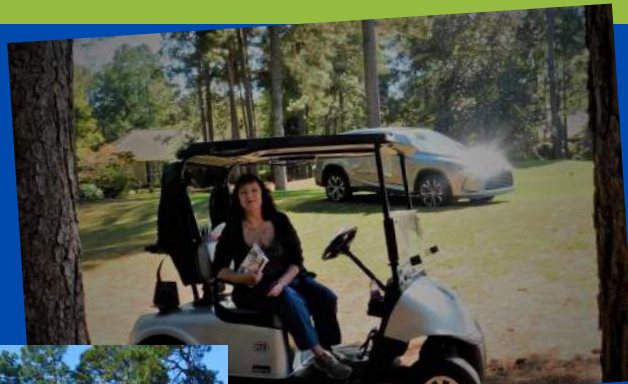
*This road
always leads
home*

Camp Sertoma...

stayed PLENTY busy during 2020! We continued the monthly e-newsletter your eyes are on right now, including 2 CAMPER EDITIONS over the summer to highlight our efforts in taking Camp Sertoma to our campers (see the awesome gift baskets below). The newsletters were emailed to campers and were filled with pictures of camp and activity pages for our campers, along with virtual hugs and a reminder that Sertomans and campers make up Camp Sertoma...and WE ARE STILL HERE for them.

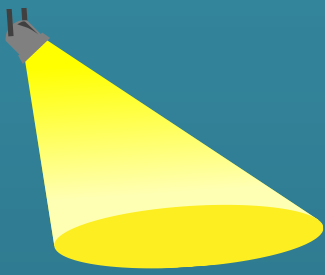


Our new Camp Sertoma flag didn't get to fly above our campers at camp, but it DID get to fly AT camp...and at our incredibly successful Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament! ..AND every registered camper got a Camp Sertoma t-shirt and mini flag to keep in their room at home...until we meet again.



But our focus in THIS issue of THE BELL isn't Camp Sertoma..our spotlight is on SERTOMANS....specifically Lexington Sertoma, and a group of Midlands Sertoma clus that are really GETTING IT DONE!





LEXINGTON SERTOMA

The Lexington Sertoma Club is 44 years old! Originally Sponsored by the Richland Sertoma Club, Lexington hit the ground running and forged their own, AWESOME path. Their two major fund raisers are their Spring Golf Tournament (in its 30th year) and their annual BIG THURSDAY event, highlighting the Carolina-Clemson rivalry, bringing in former players from each team to a crowd of 350 over dinner, and having a wonderful time. Together, the two events raise the \$25,000 that Lexington Sertoma pours into their community and our camp.

Throughout the pandemic they have met in person, outdoors, indoors, virtually, combined virtual and in-person...whatever it takes to keep going.

Let's check out more about this active, innovative, connected, and motivated group...

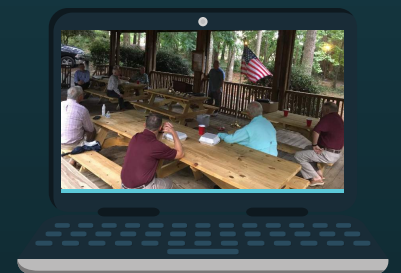


Lexington Sertoma Club in Action

"By God's grace...."

The **Lexington Sertoma Club** has safely navigated the past 9 months since the Coronavirus turned the world upside down. The club held regular meetings via conference call from April through May, and then began meeting under an outdoor shelter at a local park from June through October. They offered a virtual option in addition to meeting in-person October and ZOOMED in November. After finding a meeting space that offered enough room for proper physical distancing, Lexington returned to in-person meetings along with offering the virtual option for the rest of the year. **Amazingly, Lexington Sertoma has been able to conduct all of their regular meetings and Board meetings throughout the pandemic.**

On the fundraising front, they were unable to hold their two major fundraisers in 2020. ...their 30th Annual Golf Tournament and the Carolina-Clemson Big Thursday Celebration in October. **Lexington came up with a plan to place an ad in their local paper and ask the loyal sponsors of their fundraisers to contribute.** While very unconventional, the fundraiser was a great success that far exceeded their expectations! It allowed Lexington to raise money to support local needs while doing so in a manner that was safe for their members and sponsors. On the service front, while they haven't been able to participate in many of the "hands on" activities that they do every year (Kid's Day exhibitor booth, etc.), they have continued to serve with the delivery of Meals On Wheels in their community. They've been able to continue to fund all of the needs they traditionally support each year (Lexington School District 1 Speech & Hearing supplies, Camp Sertoma, a scholarship for hearing-impaired college student, Meals on Wheels and many local needs.





Delivery of the Camp Sertoma blanket, t-shirt, flag and \$100 gift card to campers that were scheduled to go to Camp in 2020.



Outdoor in-person meeting, August 3.



ZOOM meeting January 18

Lexington Sertoma currently has 33 members and is sending 4 children to Camp Sertoma in 2021!

From Lexington Serotmans

"I'm very proud to be part of the Lexington Sertoma Club and to be a part of what we try to accomplish for our community. I'm also thankful that being in the construction business, a lot of my contacts were able to keep working through the pandemic and all of my "regular" contributors were willing to give. I have a hard time asking people for money, but I also know that it's for a very good cause. And without these good folks supporting us with their contributions we could not do what we do! I'm proud to be a (Lexington) Sertoman!"

– Butch Ballington, VP Community Needs

"The Challenge for the Lexington Sertoma Club this past year has been for real. The makeup of our meetings has changed drastically from all person to person meetings to a combination of in-person with virtual to totally virtual.

The plus for our club – we are not only hanging on. We continue to move forward with meeting and accomplishing our club's community goals. As always, PROUD TO BE A SERTOMAN!"

– Buzz Lewis, President-Elect

A Great Big THANK YOU

The Lexington Sertoma Club
would like to thank
our sponsors for their support
as we conclude this challenging
year of 2020.

Van Safriet
Old South Ironworks
Ace Drywal
Southern Mutual Church Insurance
LOVE GMC
Stier Supply
Cool Flow Heating & Air
Ed Smith Lumber
John Shealy
Capital Concrete
Kleen Sites Geoservices
Bar-Price Funeral Homes
Tidwell Agency
Robin Haynes CPA
Piggly Wiggly Devire Street
Bryant Herring - UNITED REAL ESTATE SC
Jeremy Thomason - EDWARDS JONES FINANCIAL
Carolina Surveying Services
Davis Frawley LLC
Carolina Gas Transmission
Mid Carolina Electric Co op

South State Bank
Splash Omnimedia
Caughman-Harman Funeral Home
NAI Columbia - Ben Kelly
Chris Eledge - ALLSTATE INSURANCE
The Drawing Board
Best Distributing - Terry Spiers
Ballington Builders, Inc.
Homestyle Painting
H&H Electrical Contractors
Abbott's Auto Care
Northwood Dental Associates
WP Law
First Community Bank
Lexington Machine Corporation
Barnes Jewelers
Dennis D Bull, CPA LLC
The Breazeale Company, CPAs
Shealy's Bar-B-Que
In Memory of Dennis Williams
Several Anonymous Sponsors



"We're blessed with a really strong core group of guys that like to roll up their sleeves and get things done! Buzz Lewis is going to take our club to even greater heights than I could ever have done. He is absolutely ON FIRE for all things Sertoma and will continue to be a great leader for our organization in the role of President."

email a CONGRATULATIONS or a question to Lexington
Sertoma: jmarkhendrick@gmail.com

Unity in the Midlands



This spirit of cooperation remains alive and well in the midlands of the state where clubs regularly come together to Serve Mankind. The first “Celebrate Sound – Don’t Walk In Silence” was sponsored by **Columbia, Cayce-West Columbia, Lexington, North Lake, Richland and Wade Hampton Sertoma Clubs** with two additional walks in following years. The Camp Sertoma of S.C. Golf Tournament regularly has members from midlands clubs on the planning committee and are a powerful presence on tournament day. For the last three years Richland, North Lake, Columbia and Wade Hampton have sponsored a **“Camp Sertoma Picnic”** in January to introduce new families to our camp and to bring back former campers and their families to provide first-hand testimony about the value of the camp. During the rest of winter and spring, the clubs work together to identify campers for sponsorship and they regularly assist each other with transportation to and from camp. In 2020, on behalf of all S.C. Sertomans, midlands clubs presented **ten laptop computers**, acquired by Camp Sertoma of S.C., to the South Carolina State Guard for their use in responding to natural disasters and their support for the National Guard. The event included a barbecue dinner and presentations by Commanding General Leon Lott. The midlands clubs have come together regularly to provide displays at **“Back-To-School”** events sponsored by Beginnings of S.C. and by midlands school districts. This year the clubs **co-sponsored a ground-breaking project** with their first-ever **“Signing Santa and Mrs. Claus”** event where children were able to attend a “drive thru” visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Signing children were able to speak to the Claus Family in American Sign Language in this difficult-for-everyone pandemic year because of the creative, passionate and heroic efforts of our Midlands clubs! Thank you and congratulations to our fellow Sertomans!

Midlands Sertomans action...

Lexington



Columbia



North Lake

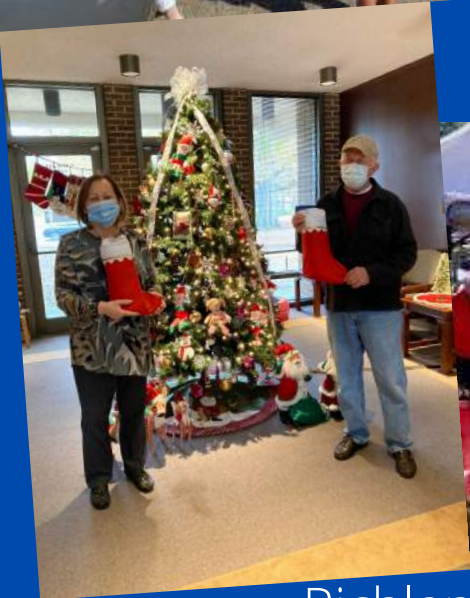


Cayce West



**MIDLANDS
STRONG**

Wade Hampton



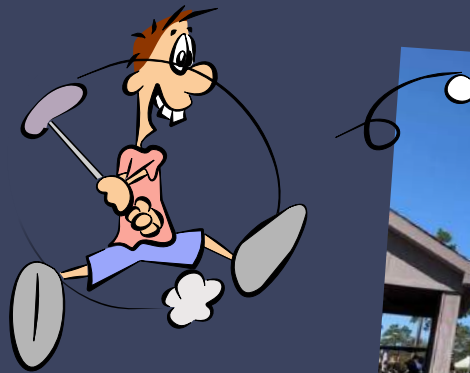
Richland

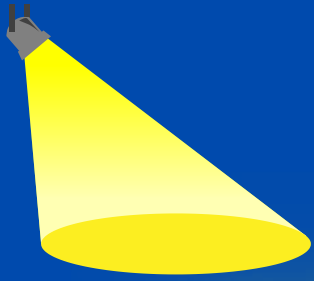




Aiken Sertoma Club Comes Through Again

You already know how much they do for our Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament...but they also **took this year's Camp Sertoma gift basket idea to another level.** Aiken put on a socially distanced PARTY for their campers this summer at an outdoor mini golf and batting cage venue. It was an incredible event during a hard time for their campers. They also added Mills Adams to our Camp Sertoma Board of Trustees, and are sending FIFTEEN campers to camp this summer! AND...they are already meeting regularly and planning THIS YEAR'S CAMP SERTOMA GOLF TOURNAMENT!!! Oh, by the way, on January 18, at their club meeting, Aiken Sertoma presented a check to Camp Sertoma of South Carolina for \$20,000!





CLUB SPOTLIGHTS

We have LOTS of more spotlights of SC Sertoma clubs doing awesome things in the next 3 issues of THE BELL.



Email me a few sentences and pictures to get your club in an upcoming issue of THE BELL!

campdoc240@yahoo.com

HELP GET CAMP READY



**Camp Sertoma
Work Days
May 14-15**

***You can come Friday, Saturday or both days!**

***Food and lodging provided.**

***Come work alongside fellow Sertomans in
OPEN AIR in May!**

***Trail clearing, cabin clean up, sailboat
washing, and other projects to help make
camp awesome, safe, and special.**

***You must register for the event and space is
limited.**

***If you're LOCAL, sign up for Friday if you can.**

**campdoc240@yahoo.com
for more information**