





WHERE...

Woodside Country Club



Monday, October 9

Shotgun Start 12:00

WHEN...

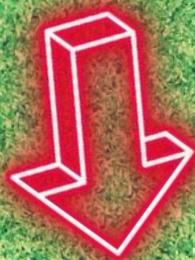


WHY...



HOW...

YOU!!!



**Can we get 20 people who read this
and enjoy THE BELL to support Camp
Sertoma by sending a check for \$100?
Put THE BELL in the memo line. (check
payable to Aiken Sertoma Club)**

Aiken Sertoma Club

Attn: Dick Frushour

PO Box 2065

Aiken, SC 29802

Notes from our annual Members' Meeting...



The meeting and all that went with it was fantastic and extremely informative. Your leadership and that of those around you is great evidence of all our love for Camp Sertoma. Thank you seems so inadequate for what each of you has done to make this successful.

Buzz Lewis, Atlantic Coast Regional Director

I did learn a lot especially from the treasures report... enjoyed networking with those who did attend the meeting which always provides insights into their clubs as to their successes and challenges. Donita Wagner, President Clemson Sertoma Club



LOOKING BACK...FUNDING, PART 2

In the last issue, I connected the roles that Governor and Mrs. West had in 1975 to secure a major state appropriation for the Outdoor Lab, specifically for completing the construction of Kresge Hall, the facility housing our Camp Sertoma kitchen, dining room, administrative, and program offices.

Fast forward to 1995 when we worked another state request through channels for state funding (a non-recurring request for \$560,000). Once again, we turned our constituents loose for lobbying purposes.

But we had no Lois West in the Governor's mansion now. But we did have someone on the "inside" of equal or, perhaps, of greater persuasive ability. This person was an intellectually challenged adult by the name of Essie of Columbia. At that time, she was in the early years of a 30+ year, three-days per week job of delivering mail in the Statehouse (she is now age 68 and still doing the same job).

Essie was a seasoned camper participant in Camp Hope, a sister camp of Camp Sertoma, at the Outdoor Lab. She loved Camp Hope! She talked Camp Hope throughout the year. She wrote letters to staff between summers, made friendship bracelets by the dozens to give away the next summer, embroidered staff names on pieces of cloth and mailed them at birthdays, and more.

And she was well known in the Statehouse by senators and representatives from across the state, and their staff. Her favorite subject with them....always Camp Hope.

So, we put a little "bug" in her ear. Tell every Senator and Representative you encounter that Camp Hope needs the money (in her mind, Camp Hope equaled the Outdoor Lab). She spent more than a month near the end of the legislative session telling of the need, over and over.

When the appropriation was opened for debate, a state Senator stood behind the microphone in the main chamber to address those who would vote yea or nay and said, "It is now time to vote on the 'Essie Bill'."

The room erupted with laughter as they knew exactly what he was bringing to the floor. Then he said something like "If you don't vote for the 'Essie Bill', you'll have to take it up with Essie." The vote for the appropriation passed unanimously!

And that's how things work sometime.....in Part 1 last month, a First Lady bending the ear of the Governor. This month, an intellectually challenged adult camper preaching the need to all who had a vote.

As a postscript, Essie attended Camp Hope this past summer (July, 2023) for her 50th consecutive year! We provided a celebration for her and all campers and staff in Kresge Hall, complete with a beautiful cake, a camper/staff made banner, and a counselor led song to her. Also, four of her co-workers from Columbia drove up to surprise her. Essie has been a wonderful camper, starting with us in 1973. And now you know how valuable she has been to the Outdoor Lab.

Charlie White
CUOL Director, Retired
Camper Recruiter
Clemson Sertoma Club

