



Sertoma Bulletin

The Columbia Sertoma Club

ColumbiaSertoma.org

Chartered June 10, 1950

Volume 10

January 9, 2006

Issue 18

President's Message

Happy New Year! Having Columbia Police Chief Dean Crisp as our guest speaker this week was a great way to start 2006. Thanks, Todd for continuing to line up interesting and informative programs for our club meetings. We also saw sponsorship funds given out to Family Connections and Palmetto Place Emergency Shelter. We still have more to present as a result of our November board meeting. What a great start to what will be another banner year for Columbia Sertoma Club.

Guests

Bob VanDoren Jr.
Guest of Father Robert
Visu Sodisetti
Guest of John Alam
Kelly Kennedy
Red Cross
Casey Hecker
Family Connections

In case you haven't heard already, we have significant changes to our January schedule. There will be no meeting next Monday, January 16, 2006, which is ML King Day. The board meeting has also been moved to Wednesday, January 18, 2006, 7:30 a.m. at the Summit Club for a buffet breakfast. Somehow I don't

think required attendance will be a problem. The January 23, 2006 club meeting will be at the Red Cross on Bull St. Seawells will deliver a hot meal for us to enjoy there. The last schedule change is that we will have a regular lunch meeting at Seawells on January 30, 2006 and postpone the membership Dinner originally planned for that evening until a later date. I apologize in advance for the inconvenience these changes may cause to some of your schedules.

Have a great week, and we will see you in two weeks at the Red Cross.

Dan

Sergeant @ Arms Report
Forty-Three Members
and Three guests signed
in. The \$61
Rollover Pot was WON!
By Karen McGrady

Speakers & Events

January

- 16 No Meeting
MLK Day
- 18 Board Meeting.
7:30 am for
Breakfast @ The
Summit Club
- 23 Meeting & Blood
Drive @ Red
Cross
- 30 Regular Meeting
Note: Member-
ship Dinner
Postponed

COLUMBIA SERTOMA CLUB BULLETIN, published weekly, is the official publication of

The Columbia Sertoma Club.

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Business Meeting

- **Kenny Potter** gave the Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.

Sponsorships:

1. **Family Connections**~ \$1,000.



2. **Palmetto Place Emergency Shelter**~ \$500.

3. **Palmetto Little League Baseball**~ \$600.

Additional Sponsorship requests will be considered

at the February Board meeting.

Blood Drive- Our Luncheon meeting January 23rd will be held at the American Red Cross Center at 2751 Bull Street. The Club is also sponsoring a blood drive for that day from 11am- 7pm. Please call Kelly Kennedy at 331-3629 to schedule your appointment time or e-mail at:

kennedykel@usa.redcross.org.

There is still no substitute for human blood! While only 5% of eligible people actually donate, it is estimated that 95% of us will need blood or a blood product during our lifetime.

Third Annual **Membership Recruitment Dinner**, scheduled for January 30 will be postponed, NOT cancelled. Our meeting place is no longer available. You still have time to line somebody up. We will give you a date when we find a place to land.

Guest Speaker—Dean Crisp, City of Columbia Chief of Police gave a well-ordered account of the four major issues affecting the safety of Columbia residents:

1. **Traffic fatalities:** 2005 was the highest in 15 years. Non-use of seat belts the major cause. Cops don't look for speeders as much as reckless drivers.
2. **Drugs:** \$20 of crack lasts about an hour, which relates to a \$200/day habit. This is a major source of crime. Of 17 homicides in 2005, 9 were direct result of drugs. 2,300 cars were broken into last year, most were left unlocked. 500 drug arrest were made last year, with 26 resulting in life sentences!
3. **Gangs:** Getting a foothold, but most of these young thugs are gang wannabe's.
4. **General Violence & Mayhem:** Columbia experienced a significant downturn in 2005. 2,085 less incidents than 2004. 24% reduction in property crimes and 11% reduction in violent offenses.

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