

Associations Category

The Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio
2005.119, 2012.029, 2013.052

The Clark County Historical Society

Processed by:
Sue Hebner
June 2014

Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio
Sue Hebner 2014

Introduction

The collection of the Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio, was donated to the Clark County Historical Society in several stages by the club and its members with the bulk of the collection being received in 2012. The collection consists of by-laws and procedures, board meeting minutes, weekly newsletters, member directories, applications and memorials, committee reports, correspondence and financial information.

The documents date from 1914 to the present day. The collection fills nine large record size boxes, 4 small sized boxes and one flat oversized box. Photographs in the collection are located separately in the Photographic Category in a flat oversized box. The collection is arranged into 11 series as follows:

- Series 1: Club History and General Club Information
- Series 2: Members
- Series 3: Financial Information
- Series 4: Board Meeting Minutes
- Series 5: Weekly Minutes/Newsletters
- Series 6: Committees
- Series 7: Correspondence
- Series 8: Scrapbooks
- Series 10: Photographs

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Historical Sketch

The Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio, was started by W. E. Copenhaver at the suggestion of Harry S. Kissell. It was officially chartered by Rotary International on March 1, 1914 becoming the 98th club accepted into the organization. The club was composed of local businessmen who each represented a different type of business and came together for fellowship, mutual support and to serve their community.

Meetings were held every Monday at noon at various local hotels, restaurants and meeting places in Springfield. A speaker made a presentation on a topic of interest each week. The club's main focus of service is children with disabilities. It began serving children with disabilities formally in 1919 with the formation of its Welfare Fund for Crippled Children. The first county wide free orthopedic clinic for children with disabilities was held in 1922, the same year it started its annual Christmas party for the children. Over the years other services for children with disabilities included a school, orthopedic clinics, summer camp, and a cerebral palsy preschool.

In addition, the Club awarded numerous scholarships to outstanding high school students, recognized outstanding teachers, participated in a student exchange program, and contributed to Rotary International's ongoing effort to eliminate polio.

The Rotary Club continues to actively serve the community and has expanded its reach with several international projects in Lesotho (Africa).

Scope and Content

The collection spans the years 1914-2014. Weekly newsletters intermingled with newspaper clippings, board minutes, committee reports and correspondence make up the bulk of the collection.

Additional information owned by the Turner Foundation includes three scrapbooks of minutes, letters, newspaper clipping and meeting announcements spanning January 14, 1914-June 1926 and a fourth scrapbook of newsletters dated September 17, 1945-February 5, 1951. A financial ledger contains payments by current (1950) members and financial statements from 1924-1950.

The collection is identified as Springfield Rotary Club. However, the official name of the organization is the Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio.

Series and Folder Listing

Series 1 contains 27 files with general information about the history of the Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio and the Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio Foundation plus information about the local Rotary District, The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International.

Series 2 contains financial and audit reports for the club and foundation, as well as contributions made in memory of deceased Rotarians. Financial information that was combined with the Secretary-Treasurer's annual report is located in several files in Series 1. The Activities/Budget 1951-1952 file in Series 6 includes the 1951-52 budget.

Series 3 contains information about members. It has rosters (member directories) and correspondence about new members, member attendance and classifications. Detailed memorial resolutions honoring the life of deceased members are included as well. All monies given for deceased members are filed in Series 2 (financial) as Memorial Donations. Four smaller boxes contain member applications. Box 5 has a section with applications from people who did not become members and copies of forms reporting membership changes (classification, type of member, etc.) to Rotary International.

Series 4 contains two record boxes of board minutes with agendas and copies of board packets with information related to the agenda.

Series 5 contains four record boxes of weekly minutes/newsletters. The information was called weekly minutes and *RotariaNews* over the years. The format of the weekly information varied from typewritten pages to printed documents, in various sizes, to an online publication. Newspaper clippings about club members and activities are interspersed throughout some of the older files.

Series 6 contains a little more than one full record box of information about the club's committees and their activities. It includes annual committee reports prepared for the district governor and club members, committee correspondence. The original Welfare Committee quickly became the Crippled Children's Committee and was later renamed the Handicapped Children Committee then the Committee for Service to Children with Disabilities and, finally, the Committee for Service to People with Disabilities. The committee and its paid caseworker, later known as the executive director, administered the program day for children with disabilities including the annual Christmas party, summer camp and fair. Early files on the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, which later became Easter Seals, document the strong connection of the Society with Rotarians. Some correspondence in the Christmas Party files discusses a second Christmas party given for the Clark County Children's Home from the 1920s until at least 1950. An upright document box contains information about the Rotary Awards Committee that selected Rotarians for its internal Award for Distinguished Service and the Leadership and the Springfield Awards Banquet, led by the Springfield Jaycees, which included several local service organizations. Information about exchange students and host families is on file cards at the end

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of Box 5.

Series 7 contains general club correspondence by the secretary-treasurer and club members. Additional correspondence may be found in series 6 (committees) in the individual committee folders, in series 2 (members), and series 4 (board minutes).

Series 8 contains miscellaneous scrapbooks including two large scrapbooks of club newsletters and newspaper clippings. The oldest is dated March 26, 1917-1923 with loose pages of committee lists dated 1924, 1925-26 and 1930-31. The second scrapbook is dated October 4, 1926-May 8, 1933 and contains a few smaller, loose pages dated March 1926. Two scrapbooks contain Easter Seal Campaigns with newspaper clippings dated 1944-1960 and 1961-1977. A ledger book lists the first 125 club members with their classifications and dues payments.

Series 9 contains photographs, slides and negatives. The majority of the images are from various Christmas parties for children with disabilities and other club activities.

Series 10 contains oversize materials including a scrapbook of photographs including 8"x10" portraits of club presidents from 1946-1990 taken by Charles A. Thomas, a 1936 group portrait with many Rotarians, certificates and proclamations.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Series 1-General Information

Club Constitution and By-Laws, revised June 1954
Club Constitution and By-Laws, 1968; 2008
50th anniversary-1914-1964, Booklet, Calendar (of anniversary activities) and Banquet program
Anniversary clippings (newspaper)
Suggested Script for Radio/Television Interview-Rotary's 56th anniversary-1961
75th Anniversary (booklet)-1989
The Rotarian (Rotary International) 100th Anniversary Issue-2001
Annual Report of the Secretary-Treasurer-1958
Annual Reports, 1960-1969
Annual Reports, 1970-1979
Annual Reports-scattered, 1979-2004
International Convention Directory, 1921, Charles Nisley Passport
COGS(from the Wheel of the Rotary Club of Springfield, Ohio) Booklet-May 1, 1922
"Rotating the Rotarians" poem.
"Downtown" Springfield poem
Pledge card for Springfield (Welfare fund)
Mayoral Rotary Week proclamation, February 13, 1980
Rotary Storage Information
Rotary Foundation of Springfield, Ohio (5 folders)
Springfield Rotary Club Foundation
Wittenberg College Assembly Handbook- June 16, 1952 (District 231)
667 District Conference, 1964 (hosted by Springfield)
"Golden Ideas" (District Governor) Address-February 24, 1964
"Seven Paths to Peace" (Rotary International)
"Adventure in Service" (Rotary International publication for new members)
"Club Secretary's Handbook" circa 1973.
"What's Rotary" Pamphlet

Series 2-Financial Information

Financial Statements/Budgets, 1948-1952
Treasurer's Report-March 9, 1953
Financial Statements, 1953-1963
Financial-Secretary Reports, 1953-1966
Financial & Audit Reports, 1965-1970
Financial & Audit Reports, 1971-1975
Financial & Audit Reports, 1976-1980
Financial & Audit Reports scattered, 1981-1999
Homer C. Corry-Memorial letters & Contributions to Welfare Fund, 1955

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Flint Estate
Memorial Contributions (4 folders)
Financial Statements-Rotary Foundation, Dues Records, Audit (2 folders)

Series 3 -Members

Roster
Copies of Roster-Earliest
Roster-1926
Member directories, 1924-1956-scattered
Roster of Members, Attendance at Meetings, 1954-1955
Member Directories, 1960-1969
Member Directories, 1970-1979/80
Member Directories, 1980-1984, 1986
Member Directories, 1990, 1993-96, 1999/2000
Member Directories, 2001-2007
New Member Correspondence, 1967-1989
Classification Committee, 1979-1989
Membership-Miscellaneous
Rotary International Semi-Annual Report, 1970
Mailing List, 1950
Applications for Membership
Attendance Sheets, July-October 1950
Attendance Percentages, 2000-2005
Deceased Members
Memorial Resolutions (3 folders)

Box 2

Membership Applications, A-G

Box 3

Membership Applications, H-M

Box 4

Membership Applications, N-Z

Box 5

Change of Member Status Reports
Membership Applications, Not accepted into membership
Exchange Students (name, host family, address, payments)

Series 4 – Board Meeting Minutes

Box 6

Board Minutes, July 10, 1950-June 2000

Box 7

Board Minutes, July 2000-2009

Ohio Leadership Institute for 1982-83 Rotary Club Presidents

Series 5 – Weekly Minutes, *RotariaNews*

The information was called weekly minutes and *RotariaNews* over the years. The format of the weekly information varied from typewritten pages to printed documents, in various sizes, to an online publication. Newspaper clippings about club members and activities are interspersed throughout some files, especially older ones. Please note that the minutes and *RotariaNews* are basically the same.

Box 8

Minutes Weekly Meetings, July 3, 1950-June 30, 1951

The RotariaNews-July 25, 1955-June 29, 1970

Box 9

The RotariaNews-July 3, 1972-June 1985

Box 10

The RotariaNews-July 1986-1998

Box 11

The RotariaNews-1998-2008

Series 6 – Committees

Note: Information about exchange students and host families is on file cards located at the end of Box 5.

Box 12

Committee Reports/Budget, 1951-1952

Committee Reports at Club Assembly, April 30, 1953

Committee Reports, 1956-1958

Secretary's Copy, Committee Reports, 1958-1959

Committee Chairmen Reports, 1959-1963

Committee Chairmen Reports-Office Copy, 1966-1967

Rotary Club Committee Rosters, 1947-2003

Committee Assignments

50th Anniversary-Crippled Children's Work
Crippled Children's Committee Annual Report, July 1970-June 30, 1971
Activities (general)
Welfare Committee Reports, 1922-1935
Welfare Committee, 1945
Welfare Committee, 1946
Crippled Children's Committee, Activities Report 1949-1950, Correspondence
Crippled Children's Committee, Activities Report 1954-1957, Correspondence
Crippled Children's Committee, 1970-71
Committee on Services to People with Disabilities, Guidelines for Distribution of Funds, 1996
Ohio Society for Crippled Children, 1919-1924
"Fifty Years of Service" 1919-1969-Easter Seals
Ohio Society of Crippled Children, Kissell Correspondence
Ohio Society of Crippled Children, 1948-1952
Easter Seals Campaigns, 1944-1960
Crippled Children's Committee, United Appeals Fund 1953
Crippled Children's Committee, Easter Seals Campaign 1977-1980
Christmas Parties, 1928-1979
Acts Submitted for Crippled Children's Christmas Show (1953)
Camp Lake Allyn-1929, Camp Knolls-1928
Camp Lake Allyn-1945-1969

Box 13

Clark County Fair, 1961-1983
Ambassadorial Scholarship, Letters from Jean Geis-1953
Carnegie Hero Foundation, 1955-1956
Chairman for the Day
Fellowship Committee Report, 1957
Nurse Scholarships, City Hospital 1950-1958
Rotary Scholarships
Scholarship Clippings
Scholarship Recipient Comments-June 1, 1989
Rotary Scholarship Applications
SCOPE-1975, 1977-1979
Work Study Day, April 13, 1972
A Brief History of Springfield Rotary Club Awards Program
Awards for Distinguished Service & Leadership, List beginning 1960
Awards Banquet
Robery M. Bell
Donald J. Bishop
William Bitner Browne
Homer T. Collins
Paul U. Deer

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Frank E. Dock
Karl J. Eipper
Charles L. Fox
J. Robert Groff
Wesley T. Harrison
William Kinnison
Richrd L. Kuss
Fred R. Leventhal
Oscar T. Martin
Rosella Martin
Harris E. Miller
Charles L. Nisley
Clarence C. Stoughton
Robart F. Sullivan
Carl Ultes, Sr.
Richard H. Wehler
Robert F. White

Series 7 - Correspondence

Box 13

Correspondence-Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, 1953-1957
Correspondence, 1952-1955, 1961-1979

Box 14

Correspondence, 1979-1991, 1998-1999
Enclosed Gift Letter-September 30, 2003

Series 8 - Scrapbooks

Box 15

Scrapbook of club newsletters, newspaper clippings, and attendance, March 26, 1917-1923 with loose pages of committee lists dated 1924, 1925-26 and 1930-31
Scrapbook of club newsletters, newspaper clippings, and attendance, October 4, 1926-May 8, 1933 with a few smaller, loose pages dated March 1926
Scrapbooks of Easter Seal Campaigns with newspaper clippings, 1944-1960 and 1961-1977
Ledger book, 1914-1925 (first club members with their classifications and payments)

Series 9 - Photographs

Box 16 (See Photograph Category)

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Crippled Children's Christmas Party 1923-1026, 1948, 1952-1968, 1970, 1973-1974, 1982, 1984, 1986-1998, 2000-2001, 2003, 2006
Frosty Fairways, February 12, 2000

Box 17 (See Photograph Category)

Assorted negatives
Undated photographs
Special Olympics, no date
50th Anniversary
Special Olympics, Motor Activities Event, May 9, 1992, May 8, 1993
Special Olympics, 1998, 2003, 2004,
Crippled Children's Class Public Schools, 1920 (Wittenberg Avenue)
Crippled Children's Classroom (Bushnell School)
Pre-school Class at Community (Hospital), 1971
Cerebral Palsy Class, 1974
Snowhill School, 1954-1955
Bushnell School
Easter Seals Campaigns
Easter Seals Promotional Photographs, 1970-1975
Clark County Fair, 1963
Marianne Lucas, Pghysical Therapy
Camp Knolls, 1928
Camp Allyn, 1948, 1961, 1976, 1983
Dinner at Shawnee Hotel, February 23, 1922
Box 18

Assorted slides

Box 19

Presidents Who Served with Rosie Martin (See map drawer)
Rotarians
Kissell and Dock photographs
Program/Events
Carnegie Hero Foundation-Ronald Cole
District Governor's Meeting-August 31, 1953
50th Anniversary
Ohio Senate Proclamation honoring 75th anniversary
Certificate of Appreciation-Charles L. Nisley, 46 yrs. service (hand lettered)
Assorted certificates and proclamations
Rotary Posters (Objects of Rotary, Four Way Test, Good Citizen)
Album of Rotary Club Presidents including
 1946 - 1947 Oscar T. Martin
 1948 - 1949 Robert F. White

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1950 - 1951 J. Dewey Lytle
 1954 - 1955 Howell R. Jones
 1955 - 1956 Wesley T. Harrison
 1957 - 1958 Charles E. Fry
 1959 - 1960 Thomas J. McCrehan
 1960 - 1961 Richard L. Kuss
 1961 - 1962 Bitner Browne
 1963 - 1964 John M. Taggart
 1968 - 1969 Louis H. Fitch
 1969 - 1970 Robert B. Click
 1970 - 1971 Joe C. Miller
 1971 - 1972 John E. Harwood
 1972 - 1973 R. Laird Allender
 1973 - 1974 Harry L. Young
 1974 - 1975 Robert M. Bell
 1975 - 1976 Robert P. Rohrer
 1977 - 1978 John O. Harper
 1978 - 1979 Robert H. Lehman
 1979 - 1980 E. Dean Sprague
 1980 - 1981 Paul Recknagel
 1981 - 1982 Reed Robertson
 1982 - 1983 Charles Brougher
 1983 - 1984 N. Rod Monahan
 1984 - 1985 Richard Brinkman
 1985 - 1986 David Dillahunt
 1956 - Charles Fox, Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor
 1986 - 1987 Richard H. Wehler
 1987 - 1988 Roy E. Schmunk
 1988 - 1989 Robert A. Vaughn
 1989 - 1990 Wm. G. Lambacher