



Urbana Rotary Club  
Records, 1924-2015

Collection 207

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Bradley Kane

**Creator/Corporate name:** Urbana Rotary Club

**Inclusive Dates:** 1924-2015; bulk 1995-2015

**Physical Description:** 4 boxes (2 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The Urbana Rotary Club Records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in 2015.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of the Urbana Free Library.

**Biographical Note:**

The Urbana Rotary Club was chartered with twenty-five members on April 15, 1924. It is a member of Rotary International, an international organization originally founded in 1905 as the Rotary Club of Chicago with the stated goal of promoting community leadership and service. The Urbana Rotary belongs to Rotary District 6490, which is composed of several other Rotary Clubs in east central Illinois. The Urbana Rotary Club collaborates with both District 6490 and Rotary International on different service projects. Urbana Rotary worked with both Rotary International and the Blantyre Rotary Club was the Malawi Water Project, which involved helping more than 5,000 villagers in the African country of Malawi have access to safe drinking water.

Urbana Rotary members have come from various professions, businesses, and community organizations. Members attend weekly club meetings which often feature guest speakers, time for fellowship, and club announcements. Most of the community service-based projects undertaken by the Urbana Rotary Club focus on working with youth. The most notable of these is the Wilcox Shoe Fund, which was created in the early 1930's by Rotarian John T. Wilcox to provide local school children with shoes. The Club has also partnered with Urbana School District 116 to create the Urbana Rotary Vo-Tech Scholarship, which is used to enable underprivileged high school seniors to achieve technical degrees at Parkland College. The club's two main service committees, the Ways & Means Committee and the Wilcox Shoe Fund Committee, are responsible for raising and distributing money to these, as well as other charities such as the Matthew House (devoted to helping underprivileged children) and Center for Women in Transition (devoted to helping female survivors of domestic abuse).

**Scope and Content Note:**

The bulk of the Urbana Rotary Club Records pertain to the club's more recent history, with only a limited amount of material created before 1995. Among these materials are brief summaries of the Urbana Rotary Club's history, along with the club's constitutions and by-laws, which were altered a number



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of times over the course of several decades. Records types present in the collection include membership lists (1948-2007), orientation booklets (2002-2005), lists of directors and committee members (1948-2015), meeting minutes, financial records, committee histories and reports.

Also included are lists of the Rotary Club's goals and various projects that they intend to sponsor from 1999 through 2006, as well as background information on the purpose and requirements for receiving the Vocational Technical Scholarship along with application materials submitted by several individuals between 2003 and 2005. Information in the form of reports, newspaper clippings and general correspondence related to a number of other programs and projects sponsored by the Urbana Rotary Club are included. Several crayon and colored pencil children's drawings are included with material related to the Matthew House.

Also included within the collection are the clubs newsletters, which were initially referred to as the Repartee, but had become the E-Repartee by 2006. The bulk of these newsletters consist of those issued between 2003 through the first six months of 2007, with only a handful of copies from the years 1999-2002. Also included are printed copies of Rotary District 6490's newsletter from 2006 through 2014. A small number of publications issued by the Rotary between 1980 and 2000 are also present, as well as several local newspaper articles discussing the Rotary Club.

Additionally, the collection contains two separate bound items, the Rotary International District 6490- Official Directory 2011-2012 and the ABC's of Rotary, an undated orientation manual.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged based on use and format at the series level. The series are arranged and ordered based on chronology of creation and importance to the organization. At the folder level, materials are arranged chronologically.

**Separated Materials**

Rotary International District 6490- Official Directory 2011-2012  
The ABC's of Rotary

**Subject Terms:**

Rotary Clubs--Illinois  
Clubs--Records and Correspondence

**Name Terms:**

Center for Women in Transition (Champaign, Ill.)  
Matthew House (Champaign, Ill.)  
Rotary International. District 6490  
Rotary International. Urbana Club



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**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Organizational Records**

Folder 1: History of Urbana Rotary Club, 1924-2004

Folder 2 Urbana Rotary Club By-laws and Constitution, 1968-2002

**Series 2: Membership Records**

Folder 1: Membership Lists, 1948-2007

Folder 2: Membership Attendance Reports, 1998-2005

Folder 3: Urbana Rotary Club Attendance, 2006

Folder 4: Urbana Rotary Club Attendance, 2007

Folder 5 New Member and Prospective Member Orientation booklets, 2002-2005

Folder 6: Member resignations, 1994-2005

Folder 7 Rotary International Alumni Directory, 1960s to early 2000's

**Series 3: Administrative Records**

Folder 1: Committee Officers and Directors, 1948-2015

Folder 2: Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 2000-2009

Folder 3: Weekly Meeting Minutes, 1998-2000

Folder 4: Weekly Meeting Minutes, 2000-2002

Folder 5: Weekly Meeting Minutes, 2002-2004

Folder 6: Weekly Meeting Minutes, 2004-2007

Folder 7: Rotary Club and Rotary Charities Foundation financial reports, 1993; 2000-2008

Folder 8: Semi-annual dues invoices, 2002-2005

Folder 9: Wilcox Shoe Fund history, 1997

Folder 10: Wilcox Shoe Committee financial reports, 1982-2003

Folder 11: Wilcox Shoe Committee correspondence, 1997-2003

**Series 4: Programs and Projects**

Folder 1: Goals and Project Lists, 1999-2006

Folder 2: Vo-Tech Scholarship general information, 1998-2003

Folder 3: Vo-Tech applications, 2003-2005

Folder 4: Vocational achievement award, 2004-2005

Folder 5: A Women's Fund, 1991-2003

Folder 6: Center for Women in transition, 1991-2002

Folder 7: Matthew House, 1993-1998

Folder 8: Rotary International Projects, 1980-2007

Folder 9: Malawi Water Project, 2006-2008

**Box 2**

**Series 5: Ways and Means Committee**

Folder 1: Ways and Means Committee index sheet, 2001-2007

Folder 2: Tabs 1-5, 2001-2005

Folder 3: Tabs 6-10, 2005-2007

Folder 4: 2003-2004 Centennial Project



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Folder 5: 2008 Urbana Rotary Spring Raffle

**Box 3**

**Series 6: Publications**

Folder 1: Urbana Rotary Repartee, 1999-2005

Folder 2: Urbana Rotary E-Repartee, 2006

Folder 3: Urbana Rotary E-Repartee, first half of 2007

Folder 4: District 6490 Newsletter, 2006-2014

Folder 5: Miscellaneous Publications, 1980-2000