



## **Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue Records (S0966)**

**Collection Number:** S0966

**Collection Title:** Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue Records

**Dates:** 1933-2005

**Creator:** Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue (Clayton, Mo.)

**Abstract:** The Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue Records contains correspondence, photographs, rosters, and newsletters relating to the group's mission to provide humanitarian services to the residents of the St. Louis area.

**Collection Size:** 9 cubic feet  
(137 folders, 60 photographs)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue Records* (S0966); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the Western Historic Manuscript Collection by Wendell Smith on July 14, 2006 (Accession No. SA3678). Additions were made on February 28, 2007 by Wendell Smith (Accession No. SA3723); and December 4, 2021 by Martha Henderson (Accession No. SA4551).

**Related Collections:** Additional materials related to the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue Records can be found in the following collections:

[Rotary International District 6060 Records](#) (S0233)

[Roy W. Bergmann Papers](#) (S0696)

[Elmer Ellis Papers](#) (C4069)

**Processed by:** Processed by Rachael Heriford, October 2023

### **Historical Note:**

On November 11, 1924, under the direction of Roy Turnbull, president of the St. Louis Rotary Club, twenty-five businessmen met at the Clay-Mo Hotel in Clayton, Missouri, to form the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue. Milton Daugherty was elected temporary president at the second meeting on December 2, 1924. Until 1940, the group met at the Fairfax House in Clayton before moving to the Town Hall Restaurant in 1940. In 1955, the group moved its meetings to its present location at the Clayton Community Center. Since its origin, the group has belonged to several Rotary Districts, including District 14, 135, 605, 6050, and the present-day Rotary District 6060. Four members of the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue have served as district governors, including Bill Barnes, Robert R. Wright, Lester M. Abbott, and Martin H. Scharlemann.

Since 1983, the group has given out the Lester Abbott Rotarian of the Year Award to honor a member who promotes the spirit of Rotary International. The Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue was a men's club until 1988, when Rotary International changed its bylaws to allow women to become members. Ellen O'Brien became the first woman to join the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue, with Kathy Holman becoming the first woman president of the group in 2000.

The Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue have contributed to Rotary International's charity campaigns and have organized several local charity events. In the 1980s and 2000s, the group raised several thousands of dollars for Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign to vaccinate children worldwide against polio. The group also contributes to the Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary International, to help fund global charity initiatives. The Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue also created its own foundation for assisting the St. Louis area through the Clay-Ro Trust in 1956. The Clay-Ro Trust provides temporary emergency assistance to needy individuals or worthy organizations. The group has also participated in the Rotary International Group Study Exchange, created a scholarship program for St. Louis area students, and hosted golf benefits and chili cookoffs to provide fundraising for the Rotary Foundation. As of 2023, the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue still meets biweekly and provides humanitarian services to St. Louis County.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following seven series:

Meeting Minutes

Correspondence

Financial

Roster and Handbooks

Programs

*The Spokesman*

Photographs

Please note that this collection has been minimally processed and has not been heavily indexed.

**Scope and Content Note:****Meeting Minutes**

The Meeting Minutes series consists of meetings between the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue officers and the Board of Directors and contains discussions of membership, event planning, and the financial well-being of the group. The materials have been arranged chronologically and consist of materials from 1964 to 2003.

**Correspondence**

The Correspondence series primarily contains correspondence between members of the club regarding membership, committee nominations, and charity events. This series also consists of correspondence from Charlie H. Kemper, the governor of Rotary District 135 in 1944. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1945 and 1987 to 2002.

**Financial**

The Financial series contains yearly ledgers detailing expenses and membership payments, treasurer reports, proposed budgets, and financial statements relating to the finances of the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1994 to 2002.

**Roster and Handbooks**

The Roster and Handbooks series contains attendance records, membership applications, and directories detailing each member's occupation and years of service. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and consist of materials from 1948 to 2005.

**Programs**

The Programs series contains correspondence, reports, and lists documenting the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue's creation and participation in several charitable events and programs, including the Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus, and the Clayton Rotary Scholarship. The materials have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contain materials from 1945 to 2002.

***The Spokesman***

This series contains the biweekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue, *The Spokesman*. The newsletter provides background information on guest speakers from each meeting, upcoming events, and leadership changes. This series also contains issues of the *Rotary International News Broadcast* and the monthly *Governor's Letter*. The series has been arranged chronologically and consists of materials from 1952 to 1982 and 1996 to 2003.

**Photographs**

The Photographs series contains photographs of a golf benefit, group photos, and the 40th anniversary celebration to the Rotary Club of Clayton-Ladue. The photographs have been arranged alphabetically by subject and contains materials from 1933 and 1964.

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	f. 96	Rotarian of the Year, 2001
	f. 97	Rotary Foundation, 2001
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