



Mississippi Exchange-O-Gram



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Happy Holidays Exchangites



Roger Noller

By Roger Noller, MS District President

Halloween hits and the holiday season takes over our lives. Football, basketball, school plays, big family dinners, travel, present shopping, church activities, club projects ... there never seems to be enough time to do all the things we want to do or think we should.

However busy you are, this is also a perfect time for reflection. A time to take note on all you have accomplished both on a personal and professional level and a time to prepare on what you hope to achieve in the coming year.

Come January, we begin the second half of our Exchange year and though we have a lot of work to do, we have exciting things on the horizon.

January 29 is the date of the Mississippi District Mid-Winter Conference. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at the Richland Community Center. The conference will start at 9 a.m. and end around 2 p.m. Lunch and material is included in the conference price. Preregister by Jan. 21 and the cost to attend is \$20. Registration the day of the conference is \$25.

Mark C. Izzi, director of club and district services for the National Exchange Club, will be the guest speak and his topics will be "Club Challenges" in the morning and "Unity for Service" in the afternoon.

Izzi joined the staff of the National Exchange Club in November 1996. He oversees new club and the national building, membership growth, leadership development, the Program of Service awards program.

In addition, Izzi and his staff are responsible for organizing the National Conference for district presidents elect, coordinating the Volunteer Field (VFR) program and developing and conducting educational seminars at the and other meetings.

During lunch, our guest speaker will be Sara Abraham from Crosses Across www.crossesacrossamerica.com.

To register for Mid-Winter, contact your Division Director, any District Treasurer Freddy Ahrend at 601-573-9566; ahrend0028@bellsouth.net.



On March 27, the National Exchange Club celebrates its 100th anniversary – a once in a lifetime event. Each club is encouraged to commemorate this special occasion.

June 9-11, the Mississippi District Convention will be held in Long Beach. Plans are being finalized now but there will be a golf tournament and past district presidents' breakfast. The hotel in Long Beach is the Holiday Inn Express and rooms are priced at \$104, plus tax. Reservations can be made after Christmas.

The biggest celebration of the year will be in Detroit, July 6-9, when the National Exchange Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Big events are in the planning for this once in a lifetime event.

Mississippi Exchangites, I urge each and everyone of you to make plans not to attend all these wonderful events which are for you. Contact me or your division director for more information and I'll see you in January.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Mark Izzi

Leadership Representative national convention

America.

officer or District

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From the RVP

WOW, THAT'S A LOW PRICE!!!!!!!

You probably recognize the title of "Wow, that's a low price!" from a commercial of a national office supply chain.

How does that relate to Exchange?

When one considers the amount of dues Exchangites pay to receive the return on feeling good about the work Exchangites do in the community, *it is a low price with a high return on investment.*



Each month after receiving a report from Headquarters I send each new Exchange Club member listed on the report a letter welcoming them to the Exchange of (name the community). In the letter they are encouraged to get involved quickly in order to get a return on their new investment. There is the old saying "You get out of something what you put into something."

So our new Exchangites need to get involved to understand what this organization is about – people helping people.

Each month I also send an email to those have been dropped from the rolls a brief note telling them it is with regret that their termination was reported. Each dropped Exchangite is asked if they could give a reason on the termination. While the most often answers are "moving" or "changing job with new employer that will not pay dues" there are others, some disturbing to say the least.

Unfortunately there is the response of "the dues are too high" or "I was not getting a return on my investment" or "I was never felt welcomed as the group was "cliquish".

In my business of billboards, when a potential advertiser is giving a price quote we will many time hear "Wow, that is too much!" While being kind I often want to ask "What do you think you should pay?" A response to that question would be interesting because if a potential customer goes into the same business and looks at their product or service, responding "Wow, that is too much!" it would be curious how that business owner would respond.

My responsibility in my billboard industry is to give support on why the price and what to expect on investment. In the Exchange Club we need to be doing the same. To say, "Well, we will feed you lunch weekly" is not a good return on investment.

How much should dues be for membership? Let's face it, if someone is getting a return on investment the dues are not really the issue. There is a cap, I understand. But when hearing the "dues are too high" and then when one learns the amount of dues, that Exchangite is really saying "I am not getting a return on investment!"

To move to the next level Exchange Clubs, and individual Exchangites, have got to help give all members and guest a "return on investment". Returning to the community and the national project of Prevention of Child Abuse are keys to proving there is a true investment by the membership.

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Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 1 Stand Up America
- 1New Year's Day
- 17 Martin Luther King's Day

FEBRUARY

National Community Service Month

- 1-28 Stand Up America

MARCH

- 1-31 Stand Up America
- 9 Deadline to submit candidate for National office
- 27 100th anniversary of Exchange

APRIL

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

- 10 National Award Deadline
- 16 Believe in the Blue Day
- 16 Board Meeting, Richland
- 30 Election Reports Due

MAY

Freedom Shrine Month

- 1 Centennial Club Drive begins
- 9 ... Proposed National amendment deadline
- 15..... Deadline for National awards
- 31 Care Award deadline

JUNE

- 1 National convention credentials deadline
- 9 District Board Meeting, Long Beach
- 9-11 District Convention, Long Beach
- 15 Centennial Club Drive ends

JULY

- 6-9 National Convention, Detroit, Mich.

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Likewise a Club's meeting has to be of quality. I am not saying become "elitist" but Exchange has to have quality in the meeting structure.

I recently was told in one of the responses "I quit because the Club President was showing up in walking shorts, tee-shirt and golf cap and it just was not professional." So the Club President had a afternoon golf game, but the President's priority during the meeting should be the Exchange Club, not the golf game —one can change clothes.

Each of us as members, and especially officers, need to make sure we are running professional meetings. And each of us need to make sure our Clubs are giving the members a "return on investment". If Exchange does not make it worth someone's money and time, then members will seek other opportunities in the community.

How invested are you in Exchange? I hope you realize that "Wow, that's a low price!"

*Shining the Light of Exchange,
Don Wright*

Exchange's popular recruitment program is back. From January 1 to March 31, new members can join Exchange through a 90-day trial membership. Show prospective members What thousands of Exchangites already know:



It's great to be in Exchange!

Help Wanted

The Exchange Club of Cleveland needs the aid of all Mississippi District Clubs to maintain the Broom Memorial Scholarship at Delta State University. This scholarship is named for James W. Broom, who was the first president of Delta State and a past Mississippi District Exchange president. The scholarship was formed by the Mississippi District and is under the care of the Cleveland Club. The scholarship is available to any student, recommended by an Exchange Club, entering Delta State for the first time. Any donation to this Memorial Scholarship would be greatly appreciated.

Send donations to:

Broom Memorial Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 1529
Cleveland, MS 38732

For more info, call Denise Strub at 662-721-8691



Mission Statement

Exchange, America's Premier Service Club, working to make our communities better places to live.

Core Values

Family, Community, Country

Covenant of Service

Accepting the divine privilege of single and collective responsibility as life's noblest gift, I covenant with my fellow Exchangites:

To consecrate my best energies to the uplifting of Social, Religious, Political and Business ideals;

To discharge the debt I owe to those of high and low estate who have served and sacrificed that the heritage of American citizenship might be mine;

To honor and respect law, to serve my fellowmen, and to uphold the ideals and institutions of my Country;

To implant the life-giving, society-building spirit of Service and Comradeship in my social and business relationships;

To serve in Unity with those seeking better conditions, better understandings, and greater opportunities for all.



Does your club need help with a program, project or problem? Contact a Volunteer Field Representatives:

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Follow the Mississippi District Exchange Clubs on
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<http://mississippi.districtexchange.com>



Mississippi District Bulletin
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