

District President's Comments



Rick Benson (Wyvern237@aol.com)
Exchange Club of Bozeman

I attended the National Exchange mid-winter leadership meeting in Orlando, FL, the first week end of January. I know, it was a hardship- but somebody had to do it, and I did bring back some information to share with you.

IRS status. The national organization is proceeding with a plan to convert from a 501c(4) organization to a 501c(3) tax exempt charitable status. This effort, while on-going, will probably not be complete for another eighteen months, maybe longer. When it does, it will change the way all of our clubs do their administration and reporting. At the same time, it will make all donations to Exchange tax deductible as well as our dues. If any or all of this confuses you, consult your club's.

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JOIN US IN WEST YELLOWSTONE

A major content of this newsletter is focused on spreading the word about our upcoming district convention. Please join us at the Yellowstone Exchange District Convention taking place at the Holiday Inn/Sun Spree Resort in West Yellowstone, MT April 28 -30, 2006.

Ron Basile, Region 12 Vice President from Glastonbury, CT, and **Chuck Abernathy**, our own Regional Vice President are taking time from their busy schedules, and traveling great distances to join us in celebrating Exchange. Lets give them a record turn out in return!

Events will begin with a District Board Meeting at 3:30 PM on Friday. All Exchangites are invited and encouraged to attend. The Friday evening social activities include a dinner in the hotel and a show by the "Ringling Five," a group of ranchers from the Shields Valley, north of Livingston, MT. They perform throughout the Northern Rockies region; and are known for their music and humor.

Saturday morning will be filled with **presentations by Mark Izzi**, head of our National Exchange Club and District Services Department with other trainers from our national headquarters on a series of topics related to club growth, including "How To Hold A Rush Party." and related recruiting and retention subjects. Scheduled activities will end by mid-day, allowing all of us to enjoy the special features and activities in and around West Yellowstone through the afternoon.

The **Saturday evening dinner will include a program celebrating Exchange**. We will install our new district officers, and honor our **District Youth of The Year and District ACE award recipients**. The keynote speaker will be our national representative, Ron Basile.

Our convention will finish Sunday morning with a full business session, wrapping up by late morning to let all of us to start those long drives home.

As in preceding years, The District is offering to pay the full registration costs for each club's president-elect and one other club officer in order to encourage representation from each of our eighteen clubs. I suggest that second officer be the club membership committee chair, but the choice is up to each club. I think the convention registration fee of \$125 is a great value for all attendees, enhanced by the opportunity to have some members attend at no convention cost. Please encourage your club leadership to take advantage of this offer.. Many thanks go to District Immediate Past President, Jim Powell, for coordinating an event that I am sure will be both informative and fun for all of us..

Yours in Exchange, Rick

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lawyer or accountant member.

2006 National Convention. Will be held in Orlando, FL July 26-29. The hotel is located within the Disney World complex. National headquarters is urging members to make this one a family affair, for obvious reasons. I can tell you the hotel is very nice and will be even nicer by the time of our convention. The expected room rate for us, \$125 a day, is a bargain for the area.

Leadership Excellence Training. Club presidents have received promotional material regarding this program. The National Headquarters will travel to your club site and present this training free. If you are interested, contact your District Division Director.

All American Volunteer Of The Year Award. This is a relatively new program in Exchange. It is intended to recognize those who work hard for our organizations, but avoid other formal recognition, hold office, etc. You can find further information on the NEC Web site.

Regional Golf Tournament. For you golfers, our Region is looking for a club to host a Regional golf event sometime this summer. If interested, contact your Divisional Director

Exchangite of The Year. It's time for all of us to consider nominating a club outstanding member to be the District John Elliott Exchangite Of The Year. Each club has a deserving nominee, put him in for deserved recognition..

Thank you for all you do for Exchange and for your community.

Rick

**Submit your nominee for
District "Exchangite of the YEAR"
to President Rick Benson
NOW!**

Annual Convention Tentative Agenda!

FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH:

District Board Meeting	3:30 – 4:30pm
Kick-off Dinner & Entertainment*	5:30 – 9:00pm
Hospitality Suite	9:00 – Midnight

*Entertainment follows dinner and will be "The Ringling 5"

Check 'em out at www.ringling5.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH:

Breakfast Buffet	7:00 - 8:00am
Convention Session & District Elections	8:00 – 12:00pm
Free Time	12:00 – 6:00pm

Lunch on your own (limited lunch available in Hospitality Room)

Spend the time as you like or join your fellow Exchangites in one or more of the suggested optional activities including:

1. Tour Yellowstone National Park (roads open April 21st, but weather permitting) www.nps.gov/yell
2. Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center (www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.org)
3. IMAX Theater (www.yellowstoneimax.com) shows at 2pm, 3pm, & 4pm
4. Enjoy the pool at the Sunspree

Hospitality Suite	11:30 – 6:00pm
Reception/Socializing	6:00 – 6:30pm
Banquet	6:30 – 9:00pm

Call to order/Opening remarks, Pledge, Invocation, and Introductions

Dinner served/Door Prizes
District Youth of the Year and ACE Program
Keynote Address
District Officer Installations
John Elliott "Exchangite of the Year" award
Adjourn.

Hospitality Suite	9:00 – Midnight
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Recommended Dress: Friday – casual or western; Sat & Sun morning – business casual; Sat night – business.

Special Note: check-in time is 4:00 pm Friday, check-out time is 10:00am Sunday

Bozeman Club's Freedom Shrine Benefit Auction In an effort to remind local citizens of our nation's freedom, the club held a Dinner on November 10th at and in partnership with the Highgate Senior Living Center. Approx. 75 people attended and \$4,000 was raised to go to at least 2 Freedom Shrines for the Bozeman area (with money to spare for possibly a third FS, as well as other Americanism projects). The club has not done a FS for many years and looks forward to installing and dedicating two in the near future.

The Freedom Shrine, one of many programs of service offered by Exchange, is a collection of photographic reproductions of original documents from American history. The display includes such items as the Bill of Rights, the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the U.S. Constitution; and is neatly displayed permanently at public sites such as schools, libraries, and other municipal buildings. More than 12,000 Freedom Shrines have been dedicated since the program began in 1949.

Clubs are urged to take advantage of this wonderful program and form partnerships to ensure these shrines are in all schools, major community buildings and centers.

News from Eastside Idaho Falls Club:

Attendance at the 8th Annual Celebrity Dinner at the Red Lion Convention Center for Idaho Falls Eastside Exchange Club on Friday October 28, 2005 was fantastic. The winning bid for Johnathan Cederberg's "Hummingbird Cake" was a mere \$110 at the dessert auction! This was added to the Silent Auction, a great dinner, a no-host bar and dancing – for a fun time for all and money for great causes.

News from BigSky!

Christmas Party

Our 2005 Christmas party was held on the evening of December 8th. In 2004, they gave donations from their party to selected clients of Senior Helping Hands. This year, they asked everyone who attended to bring at least \$10.00. They gave \$25.00 and a card from the Big Sky Exchange Club to some of the less fortunate elderly citizens in our community. Volunteers were used to help deliver these gifts before Christmas.

Family Tree Center News

Family Tree Center has moved to 2520 5th Avenue South in Billings MT. Also FTC has officially become an **Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse or CAP Center**.

News from Boise Club!

The club hosted the combined Treasure Valley Club's Christmas Party which was put together by Walt Baker and his wife Sally. Members of the Boise Club along with the member from Nampa Club enjoyed a choral group singing christmas carols from old England, a disc jockey for dancing and a special visit from Santa with treats! The guest of honor was District President Rick Benson and his wife who traveled from Bozeman to join the fun.

News from the Idaho Falls Club:

The annual bell ringing for the Salvation Army on Dec 13th at Smiths Food Center and Fred Meyers was a great success. The Salvation Army was doing well with the fundraising help from civic groups such as Exchange! These brave souls endured single digit temperatures, wind and snow for this event!

National A.C.E. of the Year, Benton Harbor Resident

Each year The National Exchange Club awards a \$10,000 college scholarship to a high school senior who is Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (A.C.E.). Tyrone Clark, Benton Harbor, Michigan, has been named the 2004-2005 National A.C.E. of the Year. On July 14, 2004, Clark received his scholarship and was recognized at Exchange's 87th National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Tyrone attended Benton Harbor High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society and the Key Club while also working part-time after school.

From the beginning, Tyrone never had an easy life. He grew up in a home where his father was addicted to drugs and he was consistently abused by those who were



supposed to care for him. He suffered through emotional, physical and sexual abuse until the day he made the choice to leave and become homeless.

Tyrone has risen above his chaotic and violent life to accept the challenge of excellence. He made choices to make his life better rather than using his troubles as an excuse for failure and unhappiness. He has used his experiences to grow, learn and become a truly outstanding young man. Tyrone volunteers with youth by tutoring at an elementary school, teaching art projects at a children's museum and helping out at the Boys and Girls Club. He also volunteers his time at the Salvation Army and the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Tyrone is also the director of

the male youth choir at his church.

Yellowstone District Exchange Clubs #28
2005-2006 Directors

Division 1 (Butte, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena) 2 Years remaining

Youth of the Year/ACE Award Committee

Brooks Coombe Butte Exchange Club #1751

135 Waldron Lane
Butte, Montana 59701

406-494-2362 H
1-800-823-6683 W

406-723-3880 Fax
evans@in-tch.com

Division 2 (Billings/Big Sky, Breakfast, Heights, Downtown) 1 Year remaining

Club Reporting & Recognition Committee

David Flanze Downtown Exchange Club #1746

505 Burlington
Billings, MT 59108

406-259-1822 H
406-565-5335 W

406-656-0536 Fax
dflanze@bresnan.net

Division 3 (Missoula, Garden City, Kalispell) 2 Years remaining

District Convention Committee

Rolf Tandberg, Missoula Exchange club #1755

6109 Linda Vista Blvd
Missoula, Montana 59803

406-251-4224 H
406-544-7995 Cell

tandberg@centric.net

Division 4 (Blackfoot, Idaho Falls/Eastside, Idaho Falls) 1 Year remaining

Club Development/Retention & Growth Committee

Tim Fowler Idaho Falls Exchange Club #1410

PO Box 543
Ririe, ID 83443

208-538-7353H
208-522-5100W

208-522-5103Fax
tfowler@kidk.com

Division 5 (Boise, Caldwell, Nampa) 2 Years remaining

Club Communications/Newsletter Committee

Jim Szatkowski Boise Exchange Club #1406

9501 W KNOTTINGHAM DR

Boise, Idaho 83704
208-332-1905 W , 208-866-2181 cell

208-672-1649 H , 208-672-1673 home fax, 208-334-4031 work fax
jameski@cablone.net

WHEN YOU ARE TRAVELING IN THE DISTRICT, VISIT AN EXCHANGE CLUB!

Blackfoot meets at noon Thursdays @ The Elk's Lodge.

Boise meets at noon Fridays @ Perkins, 300 Broadway.

Caldwell meets at noon Tuesdays @ Albertson College

Garden City, Missoula meets at noon Tuesdays @

Jaker's, 3515 Brooks

Big Sky Billings meets at 6:15 PM the 2d and 4th

Thursdays @ Bruno's, 2658 Grand Ave.

Heights Billings meets at noon Wednesdays @

Fudruckers on Main Street

Downtown Billings meets at noon Tuesdays @ The

Petroleum Club

Breakfast Billings meets 7:00 AM Fridays @ Metra Park

– Yellowstone Room

Helena meets at noon Thursdays @ Eagle's Lodge, 801

Fee St

Kalispell meets at noon Wednesdays @ Scotty's Bar,

2205 Hwy 93 South

Missoula meets at noon Thursdays @ The Press Box

(upstairs) 835 E. Broadway

Eastside Idaho Falls meets at noon Wednesdays @ The

Shilo, Lindsey Blvd

Bozeman meets at noon Mondays @ The Elk's Lodge,

Haggerty Lane

Butte meets at noon on Tuesdays @ the Thornton Bldg

Great Falls meets at noon Tuesdays @ Perkins, 506

Second Ave N.

Idaho Falls meets at noon Tuesdays @ Remo's

Restaurant. 340 E. Anderson

Nampa meets at noon Wednesdays @ the Dutch Inn

Yellowstone District Exchange
P.O. Box 1054
Helena, MT 59624

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