

YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS



June 2006

RICK BENSON, DISTRICT PRESIDENT

In my view our recent District convention in West Yellowstone was totally successful. I think all who attended had a good time, learned some things, saw old friends and made some new ones. Even the weather was on its best behavior.

From the time I was asked to state my goals as District President at the National Leadership Conference in Toledo (the "Charm School"), I have been focused on finding ways to help our clubs recruit and retain members. The Saturday morning training with Mark Izzi and Katie Smith was the product of that focus. At the risk of going into information overload, their messages on Rush parties, and general recruiting and retention techniques gave all of us some new, or re-discovered, tools to help build our clubs.

The agenda for the District Board meeting in West Yellowstone yielded some interesting stuff. The possibility of a partnership between Exchange of Montana and The Montana Meth Campaign was explored, and that exploration into ways Montana Exchangites might contribute is on-going. Our district financial position remains sound, the budget surplus is being expended in a measured way to both improve the health and leadership of our local clubs

and to encourage recruiting. With regard to our recruiting efforts, it is likely we will continue our support of the Stand Up America campaign again, although the exact details of our efforts this fall have yet to be determined.

We badly need for every club to get their annual election results in to both National and to Steve Miles in Helena. These reports are the only way your District leadership can craft a communications plan to allow them to meet their responsibilities.

Napoleon was once quoted as saying something like "give me a bolt of cloth and I can conquer Europe." He understood more than most the value a soldier placed on a bit of ribbon pinned on his chest. Exchange has incentive programs for exactly the same reason. Everybody likes to hear their name mentioned, everybody likes to be recognized for their efforts and their worth; even those who swear they couldn't care less. So, please send those reports on your programs of service in. Get your club the strokes it deserves.

There is another old cliché to the effect "grow or die." In 1988 the Yellowstone District had 834 members. By 1999 that figure had shrunk to 619, a loss of roughly 25%. Since then our



membership has fluctuated in the lower 600s. We reached our contemporary high point on March 31 of this year at 670. Our District is one of only a handful in the National Exchange Club who have grown during this current Exchange year. Congratulations to all who helped in this effort. We have a continuing need to offer the gift of Exchange to everyone we can reach. I know that under Kathleen McBrides' dynamic leadership our membership roles will continue to grow.

It is hard to believe that my time as District President is almost finished. I want to thank all the members of the District Board for all they do, not only for Exchange, but in trying their best to keep me out of trouble. Kathleen has an excellent set of leaders gathering around her, and I know the coming year will be both exciting and productive for the Yellowstone District of the National Exchange Club.

See you in Bozeman in a year.



2006 Youth of the Year:
Heather Marie Ingman



2006 ACE Award:
Megan Miller

KATHLEEN MCBRIDE, PRES-ELECT

Each year the President-Elect for the Yellowstone District attends "Charm School" in late February at our national headquarters in Toledo, Ohio. Actually, this February in Toledo was surprisingly mild!

Along with about 35 other President-elects from all over the county, we received 2 ½ days of intensive training. In this short time, the presenters provided new leadership materials and presented some of the new professional training programs designed to help our local clubs to be even more successful.

In the next two months, the District will be making every effort to pass on information to the leaders of each local club, especially, the incoming presidents. We will be contacting the leadership of each club in the near future to arrange this training

Do you have a Club function or special event you would like to have someone for the Yellowstone District attend? Whether it might be your Club's officer installation ceremony, dedication of a



Freedom Shrine, installation of new members, a fund raising event, a party or any other event, or even just to attend a meeting of your Club, the officers and directors of the Yellowstone District are always willing to come visit your Club. Contact us and let us know!

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YELLOWSTONE DISTRICT

Exchange Club of Bozeman Dedicates Freedom Shrine

The Exchange Club of Bozeman dedicated its most recent Freedom Shrine at Sacajawea Middle School in Bozeman on Friday, May 12, 2006. The ceremony was the centerpiece of the school's tenth anniversary celebration.

The dedication was done in a full school assembly. Music included the school orchestra playing "The Patriot," the school choir sang "We Shall Overcome," and the full school band played a medley of patriot songs. Members of

the local American Legion made a presentation on the history of the American flag.

The dedication address was delivered by John Vincent, Gallatin County Commissioner.

The Exchange Club of Bozeman has plans for several additional Freedom Shrines in the near future, all involving new construction of public buildings in Bozeman.



The 2007 Convention will be May 18-20 in Bozeman at the Grand Tree Hotel and Convention Center

GREAT FUN AT CONVENTION

The District convention was well attended and sported the following dignitaries in the photos to the right (top to bottom and left to right): Rick Benson, Yellowstone District President, Ron Basile, Region 12 Vice President, Jim Powell, Yellowstone District Past President; Chuck Abernathy, Region 2 Vice President

Kathleen McBride, Yellowstone District President Elect



YOUTH OF THE YEAR AND ACE STUDENT AWARDS

Heather Marie Ingman from Centerville High School is this year's Youth of the Year recipient. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Captain of the Girls Volley Ball and Basketball teams. She volunteers with 4-H, tutoring and with her church. She has a 4.0 GPA and is planning on attending Gonzaga University or the University of Montana where she plans on majoring in Psychology and Law.

Megan Miller is this year's ACE recipient. She is from Butte Central High School and her senior year GPA is 3.7! She will be the first member of her biological family to obtain a high school diploma. She's been in foster families since she was 5 years old. Though battling depression, she kept trying and with the help of patient and loving adoptive parents, an understanding therapist and her own courage—she is graduating! She is an outspoken advocate of child abuse awareness and prevention and is preparing for a television public service commercial about child abuse awareness.



Photo Credits! These photos and most of the photos in this newsletter taken by and courtesy of **Jens Selvig** and the *Big Sky Newsletter*



BILLINGS CLUBS REDEDICATE FREEDOM SHRINE

The Big Sky Club, Downtown Club and Heights club are rededicating the Freedom Shrine at the Boys & Girls Club on June 14th at 6:30 PM.

A bar-b-que dinner will be held at the same time honoring Gordon Eldridge, retired director of the Boys and Girls Club. Gordon founded the Billings Boys Club and was

the director for a quarter century before retiring. Gordon was also a long time member of the Downtown Exchange Club.

The Freedom Shrine is a collection of 30 historic documents that helped to form the many wonderful freedoms that we enjoy in America today.

This has been a National

Exchange Club program since 1949!



Share your newsletters! Please send or e-mail a copy of your Club's newsletters to the officers and directors of the Yellowstone District. We like to see what all of you are doing and also like sharing your newsletter ideas with other clubs!

Program Development Meeting

Do you really know where your Club is headed?

It's been said, if you don't know where you are going, you might not get there. If we don't know the direction our individual club is going, we probably will not get the hoped for results. Each club needs to think about what it would like to see the club accomplish. Perhaps your club may undertake some new projects, work with newer members to step up to be officers, or work to increase the

number of members in your club, so you can take on bigger projects. Having a plan, or roadmap to get you there will make it easier to attain your aspirations.

Each year your club should hold a "Program Development Meeting" sometime before **July 31st**. This important meeting provides your club with an opportunity to chart a course for the year's activities. At this meeting the leadership for each club, including the Board of

Directors and Committee Chairs set goals for program excellence, growth and leadership development. It is generally most productive to hold this meeting separate from a regular meeting, but with the meeting open to all club members.

Remember, this Program Development Meeting should be conducted before **July 31st** and reported by **August 15th**.

Programs of Service

A few clubs in the Yellowstone District have attained their National Service Award for '05-'06 and several other clubs are just a project or two away. Make sure you get your project cards sent in or go on line to the National Exchange Club web site

www.nationalexchangeclub.org and follow the instructions for "Member Services." If you want to learn

more about reporting your Club's activities on line, call your District Director, or the District officers for assistance.

Remember **JUNE 30, 2006**, is the deadline to complete your reporting of your Club's 2005-2006 activities for the National Service Award as well as your annual Activities Summary and your application for the "Big E" Award.

Club Election Reports

Has your club provided its election report to Steve Miles, Yellowstone District Secretary/Treasurer, and to National headquarters? All clubs are asked to hold their elections for leadership by April 15th each year and to report the results with contact information for each officer elected. If your Club has not already held its election for the 2006-2007 officers, please do so immediately and make sure you report it to Steve Miles and to National headquarters.

At the District level, we need to know the folks who will be in leadership positions this next year, including up-to-date contact information about each of the officers, so we can ensure information from the District is passed on to the leaders of each club.

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Exchange Club of Boise

JOHN ELLIOTT “EXCHANGITE OF THE YEAR” AWARD FOR 2005-6 *DR GERALD A DIETTERT*

Jerry has been an active member of the Missoula Exchange Club – forever! He was a founding member, and no one can remember any time when he was not actively involved and a leader in club matters. He always adds energy and enthusiasm to any club project. He is the club 'unofficial historian', sharing stories of the old days before most of the club was old enough to be a member. He helped restore buildings at Fort Missoula, was a leader in the establishment of Freedom Shrines around Missoula-personally recommending the majority of the sites that exist today. He has spoke to the kids at the dedications of these shrines about the history of our country and the significance of the shrines. He's been active on the fund raisers, including ushering at the sports events, and he devised a fund raising sailboat project – the club is building two small sailboats: one will be donated to the Boy Scouts for use on Flathead Lake; the other will be raffled off to the public. He devoted himself to

this project actively seeking materials and labor and simply raising money for the boats. He purchases a gift certificate each week and when we hold our attendance drawing, he 'convinces' the winning Exchangite to donate the winnings to the boat project in exchange for the gift certificate.

Significant amounts of Jerry's seemingly boundless energy have been devoted to serving his community. He was an instigator in the construction of the Carousel and remains very active in its care and upkeep. He was a leader in the development of the Dragon's Hollow children's play area that was built next to the Carousel. He was honored as a Senior Volunteer of the Year for his community efforts. Dr Diettert has been very active with the Boy Scouts – he convinced the Club to sponsor a troop. In addition, he served as a commissioner for the Unit and the District. His efforts on behalf of Scouting have been recognized twice in the

In addition, he served as a [Boy Scout] commissioner for the Unit and the District.

“FUN-RAISER” AUCTION

This year's annual “Fun-Raiser” for the Butte Club was the most successful ever, grossing approximately \$26,500. When all the bills are paid the club will net just under \$20,000 to support the youth of our community and other worthy Exchange Club projects. The **Butte Underground – Speak Easy** theme turned out to be great fun. Several club “gangsters” and “flappers” are now memorialized on film and electronic media.



The Strong-Armed Auction Crew: Dale Mahugh, Brooks Coombe, Ron Davis and John McBride



Two High-Fashion Ladies at the April Fun-Raiser: Karen O'Neill and Penny McElroy.





Yellowstone District Exchange Clubs

JUNE 2006

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