



The Lakes & Prairies

EXCHANGITE

lakesandprairiesdistrict.com

February 2026

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Event Calendar

- Feb 20 Exchange Club of Steele County Peace Officer of the Year program at VFW, Owat.
- Mar 6 Exchange Club of Waseca chartered in 1982.

Spring forward on March 8!



The importance of investing in Exchange

Proposed district dues increase to be voted on, May 16, at District Convention in Owatonna

*By Dennis Kehoe,
2025-26 Lakes & Prairies District President*



Service is the focal point of Exchange. We make our communities stronger, our children safer and assist veterans in need. The work of Exchange clubs makes a real difference to the people we serve.

Everything we accomplish is because of our members who give their time and financial support. The district dues we pay make it possible to grow Exchange by building new clubs, supporting existing clubs in need, and training the future leaders of our clubs.

Like all of us today, the Lakes & Prairies District is facing rising costs. Our current dues no longer cover the costs of supplies, program materials, insurance, scholarships and the expense of our events.

The Lakes & Prairies District was formed in 2014. The district dues at that time were \$6/quarter. Since that

time we have never increased dues, but the time has come that we must have a modest increase to continue the programs and projects we need to grow Exchange.

Our executive committee has determined a \$2 increase per quarter is necessary to keep our district financially stable in the future. Without an increase, we will not be able to continue to grow our clubs, educate our officers, support our National project of the Prevention of Child Abuse, and give scholarships to our top students. So I ask you to think of a dues increase as an investment in the future of Exchange.

At our District Convention in Owatonna on Saturday, May 16, you will have a chance to discuss and vote on the dues increase. As your district president, I ask you to seriously consider this increase which will allow us to continue to make our communities better places to live.

(Do you have an event you'd like Dennis to attend coming up? Email, text, or call him today so he can get it on his schedule.)

District Convention registration

Included in this newsletter on Page 2 is the registration form for the 2026 Lakes & Prairies District Convention being held this year in Owatonna.

As you can see from the form, the fees have gone up. Unfortunately, food prices have risen, the cost of facilities
(Registration continued on Page 3)

The Lakes & Prairies District wishes to recognize the newest members who joined their respective Exchange club so far in February:

Steele County: Gail Buckingham; Paul Knutson;
Waterloo: Goodwill Industries (Rachel Hesse)

**LAKES AND PRAIRIES 2026 DISTRICT EXCHANGE CONVENTION
MAY 15, 16, & 17, 2026
REGISTRATION FORM**

# Attending	EVENTS	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	Early Bird Package - Member Full Convention MAY 4 DEADLINE	\$135.00	
	Early Bird - First Time Attendee - Member full Convention MAY 4 DEADLINE	\$125.00	
	Member Full Convention - After May 4th	\$145.00	
	First Time Attendee - Member Full Convention - After May 4th	\$135.00	
	Youth Meal Package (10 and under)	\$60.00	
	Friday Fun Time Event (not included in any package price) incl. meal, games, bingo)	\$30.00	
	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS	UNIT PRICE	
	Saturday One Nation Under God Breakfast	\$35.00	
	Saturday Youth Awards Luncheon	\$45.00	
	Saturday Installation/Awards Banquet	\$65.00	
	TOTAL AMOUNT:		

CLUB NAME:	
MEMBER NAME:	
CURRENT OFFICE:	
CONTACT PHONE:	
ADDRESS:	
EMAIL:	
DIETARY RESTRICTIONS:	

SIGN UP ONLINE: <https://givebutter.com/LP2026>
or mail form to: Diana Sash 5410 11th Ave, Dysart, IA 52224 ~ Email ddsash@fctc.coop ~ Phone: 319-240-8977
Make checks payable to: LAKES AND PRAIRIES DISTRICT EXCHANGE

QUESTIONS: Sharon Klein 507-363-0143 sharonk1949@gmail.com

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS
RESERVE BY **APRIL 23rd FOR DISCOUNTED RATE**
DOUBLETREE ~ 2365 43rd St NW, Owatonna, MN 55060 ~ PHONE: 507-888-7300 ASK FOR EXCHANGE BLOCK RATE
Online Booking Link: [Click Here](#)

ROOMS \$119.00 KING OR DOUBLE/DOUBLE

We need you on the Lakes & Prairies district board

By Sharon Klein,
2025-26 Lakes & Prairies Immediate Past District President



Recently, I sent out letters to each club in the district in regard to elections.

The following positions are open for the 2026-27 district board: President-elect, secretary, treasurer, directors in Division 2 (East Minneapolis and Little Falls), Division 4 (Steele County, Owatonna, Moonlighters, and Medford), and Division 6 (Waverly, Mason City, and Waverly/Shell Rock

Excel Club.

If you have someone in your club interested in any of these positions, a letter of support and nomination needs to be sent to me by Wednesday, April 1.

Just so you know, I am not in this alone, all letters will be forwarded to both our District President Dennis Kehoe and District President-Elect Trent Hunter. My address is: 21 Carriage Lane, Owatonna, MN 55060, and my email is: sharonk1949@gmail.com.

Share your club's news!
Email Randy at rsobrack@yahoo.com

(Registration continued from Page 1)

has risen, and the district can no longer stay at the same rates we have been.

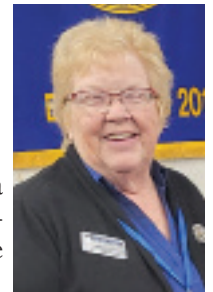
The agenda will be in the March 2026 Exchangite, but I can say that many events will begin on Friday, May 15, including a tour of The Exchange Club Center for Family Unity in Owatonna, along with the Veteran's Memorial, and the Freedom Shrine.

The Center is the only certified family unity location presently in the Lakes & Prairies District.

If you have any questions, please contact District Vice President Katie Smith, District Secretary Lynn Limberg or Immediate Past District President Sharon Klein.

District award forms are coming

By Sharon Klein,
2025-26 Lakes & Prairies Immediate Past District President



There has been a change in the district awards in more ways than one.

Katie Smith, who has been in charge of awards for many years has made the difficult decision to step down, at least for this year. As you know family always comes first, followed by life events. Sometimes we just need to step back, and do what is most important.

Katie is involved in many aspects of Exchange, and unfortunately there are only so many hours in a day. Katie is one of the many heartbeats of Exchange, and though she may step back from award recognition this year, she will still be working strong for Exchange in other areas.

The other changes are in the awards themselves. I am working diligently to get new forms created, and new explanations done. All award forms will be in the March 2026 Exchangite newsletter coming out no later than March 14.

Until that time, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me as I will be the awards chairperson for this convention.



Win a Three-Night Stay and Two Premium Convention Packages!

Package Value: \$1185

The Three-Night Stay and Premium Convention Package for Two include:

- Three (3) nights at the Hilton Omaha (one room)
- The National Project Luncheon
- One Nation Under God Luncheon
- Friday Evening Entertainment
- Saturday Annual Banquet festivities, and access to all open events for two.

Entries are:

- 1 for \$25**
- 5 for \$100**
- 10 for \$200**

National Convention is almost here!

Enter the NEC Foundation Convention Raffle today and get your tickets now!

The link is: <https://go.exchangefundraising.org/d23061/Campaign/Details>



EXCHANGE CLUB
 CENTER for
 FAMILY UNITY
 in Owatonna

YOUR VOTE MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE.

Vote to help a nonprofit receive a
\$10,000 Community Grant!



GBU FOUNDATION
 COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS

Help us give nonprofits a
\$10,000 grant.

Help shape the future of local communities by giving a nonprofit the opportunity to receive a **\$10,000 Community Grant** from the GBU Foundation—supporting vital work across GBU Life's four Community Pillars: Wellness, Education, Charitable Giving and Hometown Hero Support. Voting is open to everyone, takes just minutes and has real impact. **Vote before February 28, 2026**, and help strengthen communities nationwide.

Every vote helps decide which nonprofits will receive \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 in Community Grants—funding that directly supports meaningful programs and services. You don't need to be a member or donor to participate. Voting is public, easy and allows you to support up to four nonprofits, one in each community pillar.

Join thousands of community members in celebrating nonprofits doing outstanding work. Your voice helps amplify their impact and bring critical resources where they're needed most.

GBU Life is the marketing name for GBU Financial Life, Pittsburgh, PA. All organizations included in the voting round have been reviewed and verified by the GBU Foundation under its published nomination and eligibility guidelines as IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofits. Final grant awards will be determined based on the voting results and the Foundation's grant guidelines. Full details at gbu.org/foundation.



Connor Heyward, NFL tight end presents the 2024 \$10,000 Community Grant Award for GBU Life's Charitable Giving Community Pillar to the Women's Center & Shelter of Pittsburgh.

Cast your vote by February 28, 2026, and help award a \$10,000 Community Grant. Scan the QR code to learn more or visit gbu.org/foundation.



gbu.org/foundation

Board Meeting



Register to Watch the March 13th Board of Directors Meeting


You are invited to register to view the live stream of The National Exchange Club Board of Directors Meeting on:

Friday, March 13, at 9 AM (Eastern).

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://nationalexchangeclub-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XRWNb2JYTHubyeoyDEgdJg

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to join as a viewer. If you need assistance with registration or accessing the livestream, please contact National Headquarters at memberservices@nationalexchangeclub.org

 EXCHANGE <small>THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB</small> <small>America's Service Club</small>		National Summary Report January 31, 2026									
District	# of Clubs	Active as of Jul 1, 2025	Active as of Dec 31, 2025	Jan 2026 Adds	Jan 2026 Drops	Active as of Jan 31, 2026	MTD Change	YTD Change	YTD % Growth	YTD % Retention	
Alabama District	19	583	625	1	7	619	-6	36	6.2%	92.3%	
California-Nevada District	25	538	575	7	10	572	-3	34	6.3%	93.3%	
Connecticut District	32	759	770	30	18	782	12	23	3.0%	87.0%	
Dakota Territory District	6	265	249	4	6	247	-2	-18	-6.8%	90.9%	
Florida District	24	628	603	13	3	613	10	-15	-2.4%	81.1%	
Four Corners District	19	299	288	3	3	288	0	-11	-3.7%	84.6%	
Georgia District	32	1516	1549	7	17	1539	-10	23	1.5%	92.5%	
Indiana District	19	467	456	22	9	469	13	2	0.4%	89.3%	
Lakes and Prairies District	19	430	433	4	8	429	-4	-1	-0.2%	90.2%	
Lincolnland District	23	450	427	1	5	423	-4	-27	-6.0%	92.7%	
Michigan District	21	476	463	2	7	458	-5	-18	-3.8%	91.4%	
Mid-America District	8	268	244	0	2	242	-2	-26	-9.7%	81.0%	
Mid-Atlantic District	23	510	493	5	3	495	2	-15	-2.9%	93.3%	
Mississippi District	19	471	455	4	5	454	-1	-17	-3.6%	82.0%	
New England District	13	431	431	1	1	431	0	0	0.0%	93.3%	
North Carolina District	27	631	611	20	10	621	10	-10	-1.6%	72.3%	
Northern California District	10	187	175	2	3	174	-1	-13	-7.0%	84.0%	
Northwest District	11	265	270	7	9	268	-2	3	1.1%	90.2%	
Ohio-West Virginia District	25	517	514	2	6	510	-4	-7	-1.4%	93.0%	
Puerto Rico District	7	111	99	0	0	99	0	-12	-10.8%	74.8%	
South Carolina District	20	1030	992	11	21	982	-10	-48	-4.7%	86.1%	
Tennessee District	26	644	661	12	10	663	2	19	3.0%	91.5%	
Texas District	21	798	759	6	2	763	4	-35	-4.4%	85.8%	
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast District	20	985	939	3	1	941	2	-44	-4.5%	68.6%	
Virginia District	15	326	312	0	2	310	-2	-16	-4.9%	85.0%	
Yellowstone District	16	503	487	8	10	485	-2	-18	-3.6%	84.3%	
Total	500	14088	13880	175	178	13877	-3	-211	-1.5%		