



# The Lakes & Prairies

## EXCHANGITE

lakesandprairiesdistrict.com

January 2026

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### Event Calendar

- Jan 28 Exchange Club of Mason City chartered in 1948; Exchange Club of Des Moines Area chartered in 2025.
- Feb 2 Exchange Club of Albert Lea chartered in 1980.
- Feb 5 Exchange Club of Cedar Falls chartered in 1977.
- Feb 8 Super Bowl LX.
- Feb 10 Lakes & Prairies District Exchange Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day.
- Feb 16 Presidents' Day.

## What's ahead for the second half of the Exchange year?

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



Greetings from COLD Minnesota. Dennis is in sunny Florida for a month.

For me, January always seems like the longest month...cold, gray, just blah. However, Exchange has lots of things happening.

**3rd Quarter:** It is the third quarter and half of the Exchange year is over. Club presidents are probably finally feeling comfortable with their position, things are going well in your clubs, and life is good. Well, Exchange is about to get exciting.

**Division Directors:** When was the last time you visited your clubs and reported on what they are doing, the problems they are having, good things that are happening in their clubs. Now is the time. Dennis would like to hear from each division director about the clubs they are working with. Please send him a report, or a review of each club at your earliest convenience.

**America 250:** Have you started attaching the logo for the America 250 to your agendas, programs, any information that you are sending out? If you

Google America 250, you will find the logo. How is your club commemorating this celebration? I know the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area is putting up 1776 flags for Independence Day. The Owatonna area clubs including our newest club, the Exchange Club of Medford, are working on a 1,000-flag field for Flag Day. Our National Exchange Convention Committee is working on Flag Avenue for the Convention.

**District Convention:** It's scheduled May 14-16 at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Owatonna. I am co-chairing this convention and we have changed things up a bit. Friday will actually start with a District board meeting in the morning, a tour of The Exchange Club Center for Family Unity office in the afternoon, an Americana evening picnic...that's just Friday! Saturday will be the One Nation Under God breakfast, the Youth Awards Luncheon, and the evening banquet with other items in between including time for seeing parts of Owatonna. All of this information will be in next month's Exchangite newsletter, along with a registration form and agenda.

**National Convention:** The National Exchange Club Convention will be July 9-12 in Omaha (see Page 3). This is the closest the National Convention will

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

**Medford:** Dusti Rarick; **Omaha:** Richard Johnson; **Waterloo:** Debra Shoopman

Congratulations to those clubs who have earned their National Service Award so far during the 2025-26 Exchange year: **Cedar Falls, Medford, Moonlighters of Owatonna, Steele County, Waverly, and the Excel Club of Waverly-Shell Rock High School.** The Award is earned by completing projects in Americanism, Community, Youth, the Prevention of Child Abuse, and two other projects in any of those listed categories. Submissions must be entered on **The National Exchange Club website by June 30, 2026.**



### *Check presentation to United Way*

The Exchange Club of Little Falls in January presented a \$9,000 check to the Morrison County United Way. A Facebook post Jan. 9, 2026 stated “Thank you Little Falls Exchange Club for your support of our youth programs, specifically the Imagination Library. Part of this donation is in memory of Bill Garber who served on the MCUW board of directors in 2002 when the board made the important decision to bring the Imagination Library to Morrison County. Bill took great pride in this project. Sadly Bill passed away in 2025. We are grateful for the work of people like Bill who volunteer their time to serve the community through nonprofits. Bill was active in the Exchange Club, MCUW and many other community organizations. Thank you to the Exchange Club for supporting this project for many years!”



### *Bedding drive*

Club members with the Exchange Club of Des Moines Area recently donated 10 pillows, 7 comforter sets, 6 sheet sets, 2 single comforters and 4 mattress protectors for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit organization who ensure children in need have a bed of their own. Club members helped complete that gift to make for comforting sleep.

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be for many years. If you have been to one, you will want to go again, and if you haven't ever been to one, this is the perfect time. Our Lakes & Prairies District and Region 3 are sponsoring this convention. Much more information will be coming your way soon.

**Elections:** I know we are only a little over half way through the Exchange year, but it is time to start promoting elections in your club and also throughout the district. Encourage those newer members to consider an office or board position. On the District level, directors in Divisions 2, 4, and 6 will be up for election, along with the treasurer, secretary, and president-elect.

**Awards:** Information will be included in next month's Exchangite newsletter. There are a number of changes, updates, etc. Youth judging information was sent out to each club and division director a couple weeks ago.

**T**hank you all, have a great February, hopefully a little warmer and more sun, and promote Exchange in our communities, to your friends, and even to those you just meet on the street. Invite them to your meetings, or if you have projects going on, invite them to help with the project.

Share your club's news!  
Email Randy at  
[rsobrack@yahoo.com](mailto:rsobrack@yahoo.com)



### *Check presentation to Salvation Army*

The Exchange Club of Waterloo in January presented a \$2,250 donation from their Club members to the local Salvation Army. Club Member Ellie Rogaczewski (pictured left) accepted the donation on behalf of the Salvation Army and shared that \$165,000 was raised through their Red Kettle Campaign.

The bylaws list the following purposes of a district:

1. Building local Exchange Clubs.
2. Increasing fellowship among clubs in the district.
3. Strengthening established clubs.
4. Promoting the participation of local clubs in the Programs of Service of The National Exchange Club.



## **Register Now for the 2026 National Convention in Omaha!**

Kick off 2026 by securing your spot at the National Exchange Club Convention, happening July 9–12 in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Registration is open — so reserve your place, book your hotel, and start planning now for an unforgettable experience in one of the Midwest's most vibrant cities.**

This year's convention brings members together from across the country to:

- ✓ Celebrate Exchange's achievements and future opportunities
- ✓ Connect and network with fellow members
- ✓ Participate in personal and professional development sessions
- ✓ Hear from a dynamic panel of expert speakers

Everyone is welcome! Stay tuned on social media and through our publications for updates on speakers, entertainment, and special events. Share these announcements with your club leaders and members — **and encourage them to register early so they don't miss out on Omaha 2026!**

**Register at [nationalexchangeclub.org](http://nationalexchangeclub.org)**

# Board Meeting




## **Register to Watch the February 11th Board of Directors Meeting**

You are invited to register to view the live stream of The National Exchange Club Board of Directors Meeting on:  
**Wednesday, February 11, at 5 PM (Eastern).**

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

**[https://nationalexchangeclub-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8TdwJL4ITuuX76ZyfHgu9g](https://nationalexchangeclub-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8TdwJL4ITuuX76ZyfHgu9g)**

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](mailto:memberservices@NationalExchangeClub.org) before 5 PM (Eastern) on February 11.

 <b>EXCHANGE</b> THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB <i>America's Service Club</i>		National Summary Report December 31, 2025									
District	# of Clubs	Active as of Jul 1, 2025	Active as of Nov 30, 2025	Dec 2025 Adds	Dec 2025 Drops	Active as of Dec 31, 2025	MTD Change	YTD Change	YTD % Growth	YTD % Retention	
Alabama District	19	583	633	1	9	625	-8	42	7.2%	93.5%	
California-Nevada District	25	538	578	5	8	575	-3	37	6.9%	95.2%	
Connecticut District	32	759	775	4	9	770	-5	11	1.4%	89.3%	
Dakota Territory District	6	265	249	0	0	249	0	-16	-6.0%	93.2%	
Florida District	24	628	603	4	4	603	0	-25	-4.0%	81.5%	
Four Corners District	19	299	294	0	6	288	-6	-11	-3.7%	85.6%	
Georgia District	32	1516	1568	21	40	1549	-19	33	2.2%	93.6%	
Indiana District	18	467	457	6	7	456	-1	-11	-2.4%	91.2%	
Lakes and Prairies District	19	430	435	1	3	433	-2	3	0.7%	92.1%	
Lincolland District	23	450	426	2	1	427	1	-23	-5.1%	93.8%	
Michigan District	21	476	466	4	7	463	-3	-13	-2.7%	92.9%	
Mid-America District	8	268	254	0	10	244	-10	-24	-9.0%	81.7%	
Mid-Atlantic District	23	510	509	3	19	493	-16	-17	-3.3%	93.9%	
Mississippi District	19	471	455	2	2	455	0	-16	-3.4%	83.0%	
New England District	13	431	431	3	3	431	0	0	0.0%	93.5%	
North Carolina District	28	631	604	13	6	611	7	-20	-3.2%	73.9%	
Northern California District	10	187	176	0	1	175	-1	-12	-6.4%	85.6%	
Northwest District	11	265	271	1	2	270	-1	5	1.9%	93.6%	
Ohio-West Virginia District	25	517	513	1	0	514	1	-3	-0.6%	94.2%	
Puerto Rico District	7	111	100	0	1	99	-1	-12	-10.8%	74.8%	
South Carolina District	20	1030	999	5	12	992	-7	-38	-3.7%	88.2%	
Tennessee District	26	644	665	1	5	661	-4	17	2.6%	93.0%	
Texas District	21	798	765	5	11	759	-6	-39	-4.9%	86.1%	
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast District	20	985	883	57	1	939	56	-46	-4.7%	68.7%	
Virginia District	15	326	311	3	2	312	1	-14	-4.3%	85.6%	
Yellowstone District	16	503	499	1	13	487	-12	-16	-3.2%	86.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>14088</b>	<b>13919</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>13880</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>-208</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>		