

The Motivator

Exchange Club of Lake Tansi

Club #2359 Div XII TN-KY

Joni Witherite, Editor



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November 2020

Our Mission: *Exchange, inspiring communities to become better places to live.*

Our Vision: *A strong America, safe communities, and unified people.*

Our Motto: *Unity for Service*

I was asked to re-run the following article I originally included in the March 2019 Motivator, so here goes...

When the National Exchange Club was first created in 1917 it was an all-male organization, as were the primary service organizations at that time. Women were homemakers, raised children and were not largely a part of the workforce. As women's role in society expanded, they became interested in joining organizations in their communities. The service clubs were open to men only. This began to change in the 80's.

On July 4, 1985, at Exchange's 67th Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the organization's national constitution was amended, thus opening membership to women.

At the Convention, National President Fred Harron presented to the delegates the recommendation of the National Board of Directors that Exchange's bylaws be changed to permit women members.

"The law relating to the admission of women into Exchange in Minnesota and at least 36 other states is quite clear," Harron said to the convention attendees. "Our friends, the Jaycees confirmed that when they spent in excess of a million dollars in legal fees in their unsuccessful attempt to challenge the question all the way to the United States Supreme Court. So we have three choices: either admit women into Exchange; spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight a losing battle in the courts; or else close up shop and get out of town in those states which insist we let the ladies in."

"Faced with these choices and the fact that the role of women in our society has changed so dramatically since our constitution was first written, your Board of Directors decided there was only one proper choice to be made," he continued. The delegates agreed and their affirmative vote ended a 10-year long debate and opened a new chapter in the history of Exchange.

Since that historic decision, thousands of women have joined the ranks of America's Premier Service Club, helping Exchange make even greater progress in its community service and expansion efforts. Two of them reached the highest office, National President: Pamela Sudlow, 2003-2004; and Margaret Miller, 2010-2011.

Every day, in cities and towns across America, Exchange Club members are dynamically transforming the Exchange ideal of "Unity for Service" into direct and positive action, enhancing the lives of their fellow citizens from coast to coast. From a handful of members in Detroit, Michigan, at the turn of the century, Exchange has developed into a progressive national service organization comprised of tens of thousands of dedicated men and women. ¹

We have so many dedicated men and women in Exchange who do so much good in their communities, I'm glad the leadership didn't opt to close up shop rather than admit women to Exchange. While we don't always agree on what our role in the community should be, we manage to come together and make a difference.

Speaking of making a difference, Lake Tansi FCE collected baby care supplies and feminine products to donate to the Stephens Center in observance of the National Day of Service. Our donation was delivered to Stephens Center director Dawn Killman Raines at the Board member training session on October 23rd. Our donation included 977 diapers, 1546 wipes, 39 feminine products, 3 sippy cups, 15 bottles and 20 pacifiers donated by over 15 club members.



¹ National Exchange Club website.

Our next fundraising event will be our "Holiday Happening" a bake sale and lunch in conjunction with pecan sales in November. Since the lake Tansi Christmas Craft Show has been cancelled for this year, Judi was left with no place to sell the pecans and other nuts that support the Tennessee district's scholarship fund. There are a lot of people who look specifically for the nuts at the craft show and begin asking about them in the fall, so we're going to try incorporating a bake sale, silent auction and lunch and holding our own independent event. We will also have live Holiday wreaths to sell. Start baking those quick breads, cookies and other baked goods and stashing them in the freezer so we'll be ready. Contact Les and Judi Elam if you have items to donate to the Silent Auction. The sale will be Saturday, November 21st from 11AM to 1 PM. Judi Hartman sent a copy of the flier that will be posted around Lake Tansi to everyone via email earlier this week. Please share it with your friends and other clubs or organizations where you are a member. This is uncharted territory for us so let's all pitch in to make it a success!

There is no update so far on the 917 Society project to provide a copy of the U.S. Constitution to each 8th grader at Brown Elementary. Judi has ordered the booklets. We'll let you know when we have the presentation set up. (917society.com)

The Stephens Center Christmas Party is going to look a bit different this year. The Methodist Church is not available this year due to Covid restrictions. Dawn still wanted to do something for her families, so she has arranged a drive through event to be held at the Plateau Pregnancy Services office on December 12th from noon to 2PM. We will be providing packaged dinners from Food City that the clients can take home and prepare. Santa will be there to hand out gifts and rumor has it the Grinch may make an appearance too. Should be quick and slick with minimal set up and clean up. No baking spaghetti this year!

Hope to see some of you at Trunk or Treat at the Thunderbird on Saturday. Tim and I will be there. It's supposed to be chilly, but there is no rain in the forecast.

Welcome to new members Tim and Joni French and Lynne Harty!

Finally, don't forget to vote!

Please continue to keep Pat Camachi in your thoughts and prayers. If you'd like to drop her a note or send a card, her address is:

Pat Camacci
555 Highland Ave.
Room 416
Milford, MI 48381

She would be happy to receive mail from any us, whether you know her well or not.

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November Exchange membership anniversaries:



Jon Stewart – 2 years

Mary Vesper – 2 years

Ginger Wade – 3 years

Jena DeMars – 4 years

Joe Holmes – 16 years

Larry Robertson – 16 years



November Birthdays:

11/1 – Judi Hartman

11/4 – Judi Elam

11/13 – Roger Coulther



November Anniversaries:

11/19 – Anna and Joe Holmes

11/22 – Jerry and Sheila Davenport

If you have a birthday or anniversary that I have missed or reported incorrectly, please let me know.

Holiday Happening

Saturday, November 21st.

11am - 1pm

Thunderbird Activity Center

- Bake Sale!**
- Silent Auction!**
- Holiday Wreaths for sale**
- Nut Sale! (pecans, walnuts, cashews and more)**

**Come out and enjoy some chili,
hot dogs, and a beverage
All for just \$6**



Lake Tansi Exchange Club