

EXCHANGE USA



MISSISSIPPI

EXCHANGE-O-GRAM

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MISSISSIPPI WELCOMES DAVE NERSHI TO MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



David A. Nershi, CAE, Executive Vice President of the National Exchange Club, will be the keynote speaker for Mississippi's annual Mid-Winter Conference being held in Raymond on January 29, 2005. Nershi, a member of the board of directors of The National Exchange Club, is responsible for fulfilling the objectives of the organization, implementing board policies, and managing the day-to-day operations of Exchange's National Headquarters in Toledo, Ohio. Concurrently with his position as executive vice president, Nershi also serves on the board of trustees of The National Exchange Club Foundation, which supports Exchange's child abuse prevention efforts and numerous other service programs, including Americanism, youth, and community service activities. Nershi has some 20 years of experience in association management, communications, and marketing on local and national levels. He is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College. He worked six years as an award-winning newspaper reporter and editor in West Virginia before entering the field of association management. Before coming to The National Exchange Club, Nershi served as executive director of marketing for The United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, also known as the Jaycees, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Recognized as a Certified Association Executive in 1992, he has also served on the American Society of Association Executives Communications Section Council and has been a presenter at ASAE's annual Management Conference. He is active in his community and serves as president of his church council. Nershi is a member of the Exchange Club of Toledo, Ohio. He and his wife, Kathy, have two children, Randy and Rachel, and reside in Perrysburg, Ohio.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Exchangites,

I can't believe we are almost half way through our year. Let me thank each club for the invitations I have received for presentations and visits. I am having a wonderful time, but there is much left to accomplish. Exchange is growing in the Mississippi District. We are plus seven members for the end of November and in the top five for net membership increase this fiscal year. However, we must make a dramatic push to be the overall leader at the end of this fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. I know that with the assistance of the great Exchangites in the Mississippi District we will claim first place in total membership increase by the end of the year. Let each of us make a commitment to Exchange and give someone else the opportunity to experience the Exchange feeling of service. I still intend to visit all the clubs before this year is complete.

I want to personally encourage each of the club presidents to be sure that a representative from their club is in attendance of the Mid Winter Conference January 29, 2005. The Mid Winter Conference will be held at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center in Raymond. This is an outstanding facility and each one will be proud to be in attendance. The beginning time and ending time for the day have been adjusted allowing travel time, which should prevent someone from having overnight accommodations. We are excited about this conference. Our National Executive Vice President, Dave Nershi, will be our National Representative. Dave will bring much energy and excitement to this conference. Also let me personally invite each member to attend and find out more about Exchange and it's programs of service. There will be a session on Exchange history and one on Exchange growth. As a special treat we will be honoring the first time attendees. Also, as requested by the District Board, we will have a couple of short sessions in which club Presidents will give some advice on fund raisers that have been successful in their areas.

Let us all UNIFY NOW IN THIS YEAR and make the Mississippi District the strongest District in the nation. Exchange should be fun as we provide services to our communities enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of this great nation in which we live. I wish all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. May all of your travels be safe and remember to share the exciting feeling of Exchange with someone in your community. UNIFY NOW IN THIS YEAR and UNITY FOR SERVICE TO ACHIEVE.

Jimmy Dickerson
District President
2004-2005



**LET THE SPIRIT OF EXCHANGE
SHINE IN YOU**

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE IS NEAR

Mississippi's Mid-Winter Conference will be held this year at the Eagle Ridge Convention Center, 1500 Raymond Lake Road, Raymond, Mississippi, on Saturday, January 29, 2005. Room rates are \$65 per night. Those requiring overnight accommodations may contact Eagle Ridge at (601) 857-7100. Cost for the registration fee for the Mid-Winter Conference is \$25 per attendee, payable to the MS District.

The theme for the Mid-Winter Conference is 'Blue and Gold', the official colors of Exchange. President Jimmy Dickerson is asking all attendees to proudly wear their blue and gold colors. Also, please bring plenty of door prizes for our traditional "Let's Have a Drawing." Below is a tentative agenda for the conference.

9:00 am.....Registration
10:00am.....Call to Order
 Jimmy Dickerson, District President
 Invocation
 Pledge of Allegiance
10:10am.....Welcome
 Jimmy Dickerson, District President
10:15am.....Secretary's Report
 Johnny Middleton, District Secretary
10:20am.....Treasurer's Report
 Luther Roan, District Treasurer
10:25am.....Special Recognition of First Timers
 Jimmy Dickerson, District President
10:45am.....Growth in the Mississippi District
 Franklin Williams, Regional Field Representative
11:15am.....Points on Fund Raising
 Club Presidents
12:00pm.....Luncheon
 Invocation
 Meal
 Introduction of Keynote Speaker
 Keynote Speaker
 David A. Nershi, Executive Vice President
 The National Exchange Club

1:30pm.....The History of Exchange
 Mickey Boyette, Volunteer Field Representative
2:00pm.....More Pointers on Fund Raising
 Club Presidents
2:30pm.....Awards and Special Recognition
 Jimmy Dickerson, District President
3:00pm.....Announcements - Comments
 Jimmy Dickerson, District President
 Adjournment

UNITY FOR SERVICE

COVENANT OF SERVICE

Accepting the divine privilege of single and collective responsibility as life's noblest gift, I covenant with my fellow Exchangites:

To consecrate my best energies to the uplifting of Social, Religious, Political, and Business ideals;

To discharge the debt I owe to those of high and low estate who have served and sacrificed that the heritage of American citizenship might be mine;

To honor and respect law, to serve my fellowmen, and to uphold the ideals and institutions of my Country;

To implant the life-giving, society-building spirit of Service and Comradeship in my social and business relationships;

To serve in Unity with those seeking better conditions, better understandings, and greater opportunities for all.



MISSION STATEMENT

Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.



MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT EXCHANGE
CALENDAR
2004-2005

- January 28.....District Board Meeting, Jackson
- January 29.....Mid-Winter Conference, Jackson
- February.....National Community Service Month
- March 16.....Deadline to Submit Suggested Candidate for National Office
- March 27.....94th Birthday of Exchange
- April.....National Child Abuse Prevention Month
National Volunteer Recognition Month
- April 9.....District Board Meeting, Grenada
- April 15.....Club Officer Election Reports due to National
- May.....Freedom Shrine Month
- May 15.....Deadline for National Outstanding Service,
Fund Raising, and Public Relations Awards
- May 15.....Deadline for A.C.E. / Youth of the Year
Nominations to District Committee Chairpersons
- May 30.....Memorial Day
- May 31.....Deadline for National CARE Award
- June 1.....Deadline for National Convention
Credential Cards
- June 2.....District Board Meeting, Grenada
- June 2-5.....85th Annual Mississippi District Exchange
Convention, Grenada, MS
- June 25.....Last Day for Online Applications for National
Service Awards
- June 30.....Club Activities Summary Due to National
- June 30.....End of Administrative Year



DISTRICT CANDIDATES, 2005-2006

(This list contains the names of candidates who have formally filed as of the date of this publication).

District Director, Division V

Rebecca Middleton---Actively involved in Exchange since 1996 as a member of the Oak Forest Exchange Club and The Exchange Club of Madison County, MS; served on all Programs of Service committees either as Chairperson or committee member; served her local club on the Board of Directors, as Club Secretary, as Club Treasurer, as Club President-elect, and as Club President; recognized as District Exchangite of the Year 1998-1999; National Distinguished Club President 2002-2003; currently serving as Division V Director and as District Bulletin Editor.

As stated in the Bylaws of District Exchange Clubs, Article X, Section 3, "all suggested candidates for the office of District President-elect, Vice President(s), District Secretary, District Treasurer and members of the Board of Directors must be forwarded to the District Secretary or the Immediate Past District President not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date designated for the annual convention." Section 4 states, "nothing contained in these Bylaws shall be construed as limiting the right to make further nominations from the floor of the annual convention, except anyone nominated from the floor must be registered and in attendance at the convention as a delegate." Section 5 continues, "no person shall be nominated for any office who is not fully cognizant of the duties of that office and without consenting to such nomination being first obtained." Section 6 states, "should any District Director desire to seek another office at the end of the first year of a two year term, a letter of resignation must be submitted to the District Board of Directors for action at its pre-convention meeting. The resignation must be accepted and shall take effect when his/her successor is installed." Section 7 concludes, "No person may be a candidate for two offices at the same convention."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The true friend is the one that's coming in the door while everyone else is going out!"

Dr. Phil McGraw
Good Housekeeping



EXCHANGE HISTORY

In 1995, David A. Nershi was named executive vice president of The National Exchange Club, replacing Past National President William C. Wodtke Jr., who served as interim executive vice president.

AROUND OUR DISTRICT



The Cleveland Exchange Club cooked their famous pancakes for over 150 cub scouts, parents, and troop leaders for their Make a Difference Day project. Boys in grades 1-5 have an annual campout and choose a yearly theme. This year's theme was "Native Americans" and Exchange members dressed in costume to get in the spirit of the festivities. Pictured above are the members who served breakfast. Seated: Charlotte Edwards, Peggy Davis, Angela Ellison, Vicki Fioranelli (chair), Debbie Maxwell. Standing: Raymond Wond, Jack Fletcher (Club President), Terry Latour, Mike Carr, and Marcie Moore.

WELCOME BOONEVILLE !!

Congratulations to the New Club-Building team of Harry Robinson and Harold Robinson of the Houston Exchange Club for Mississippi's first new club of this Exchange year at Booneville.

The Booneville Exchange Club of Mississippi will be conducting a POM for the club on January 7, 2005, at noon at the China Buffet Restaurant in Booneville.

A special thank you to Franklin Williams for all of his hard work and assistance in making this new club become a reality.

EXCHANGITE CHARLES TREAS NAMED "POET OF THE YEAR"

Charles Treas of Oxford, a member of the Exchange Club of Oxford and the L-O-U Exchange Club, has been named "Poet of the Year" for 2004 by the Mississippi Poetry Society, according to an announcement by Dr. Winifred Farrar of Meridian, Poet Laureate of Mississippi and a member of the Society.

Dr. Treas is a professor emeritus of Ole Miss and a charter member of both Oxford clubs. He has enjoyed reading and writing poetry since childhood. His poetry has appeared in numerous publications over the years.

In recognition of this honor, the MPS has published a book of selected poems by Dr. Treas entitled "From a Quiet Corner." This book includes a selection of 50 of his poems, some which were written during his childhood. These books may be ordered from Dr. Treas for \$6.00 per copy, postpaid, at 400 Country Club Road, Oxford, MS, 38655. His e-mail is sgt@watervalley.net and the phone number is 662-234-4635. Signed copies may be requested.

Congratulations

The National Exchange Club has appointed Franklin Williams, Past District President of the Mississippi District, to the position of Regional Field Representative. Franklin's responsibilities will include assisting in new club building efforts and helping under-strength clubs to grow. His territory will include Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, and West Florida. Best of luck to you, Franklin.

Clubs in the Mississippi District are encouraged to submit to the District Bulletin Editor their activities and special events for publication in future issues of the Mississippi Exchange-O-Gram.

When it seems that you have been knocked off track a shade here in Exchangeland, maybe you are still on track, it is only the timing that has gotten off a shade. Time always comes to you saying, "Use me now", but sometimes that just is not possible, or so it seems then. Did you get all those New Club Projects going months ago, or were you waiting until after the first of the year? How about all those non-members that you have been meaning to invite to your Club Meetings? Do you have your "One for Exchange" Pin yet? How about that New Fundraiser you have been dying to try?

The most important thing is to be very firm in your Leadership Role about where you are going for Exchange, but you will probably find that you will have to use more flexibility than you had imagined on how and when you get there. I assure you I have.

If you become too focused on a single path, you may be disappointed in the results, then everyone loses. Be a little flexible on the path, but determined on the destination. The obstacles that block your path do not have to block your progress. We all want our lives to go nice and smooth like a well flowing Expressway, and I certainly know that sometimes it looks more like Bumper Cars, but we need to just take control of we are heading, and just keep going forward.

One of the most important things to remember is that we have the best Products of any Service Club out there; Americanism, Community Service, Youth Projects, and Child Abuse Prevention. We do more for our Communities, and we are far more efficient than any government agency. And that alone should give you the Positive Attitude that it takes to succeed. You can do it, we can do it, we WILL do it, together.

Did you SEE today? Did you 'Share the Exchange Experience' with anyone?

Thanks for all you do,

Jerry DeFeo
National President

The Mississippi District Board held its second meeting of this Exchange year on November 13, 2004, at the Holiday Inn in Grenada. Also in attendance were RFR Franklin Williams and VFR Mickey Boyette.

District President Jimmy Dickerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and Secretary Bettye Galloway followed with her Secretary's report. Secretary Galloway noted that eight clubs in the Mississippi District have received the National Service Award as of November 1st. The minutes of the Board Meeting of August 14, 2004, were approved as written and distributed to each Board member. A letter of resignation effective November 15th was submitted by Secretary Galloway. On motion by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Barrett, the appointment by President Dickerson of Johnny Middleton to serve out the remainder of the 2004-2005 term of District Secretary was unanimously approved.

In the absence of Treasurer Roan, a brief Treasurer's report, which had previously been e-mailed to the Board members, was presented by the President showing an October 31st bank balance of \$3,038. On motion by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Brown, the Treasurer's report was approved as previously sent to the Board members by e-mail.

Highlights of the reports by the District Directors indicated that most clubs were in good shape.

Franklin Williams RFR reported on club building efforts. VFR Mickey Boyette expressed his congratulations to Franklin Williams on his new position with the National Exchange Club and pledged his support to Franklin and to the Mississippi District.

President Dickerson and the Board spent the remainder of the meeting finalizing plans for the Mid-Winter Conference which is being held in Raymond on January 29, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm with the motto – *Unity for Service*.

From your Regional Vice President

This is the time for us all to stop and be thankful for the things in life that really matter.

Friends, family, a united America, the good things in life that don't cost but pay us... these are the kinds of things for which I am grateful. For wonderful Exchange friends who lift each other up and make the joyous times even greater... For the wonderful Exchange friends who brighten the darkest days simply by being there and sharing time together... For our Exchange family who knows us for all our warts and blemishes and yet through all of it continues to love us without restraint, unconditionally... For a united America where we can differ and argue and bicker but always stand up for one another's rights and the freedoms of speech, religion, expression... We Americans are truly an odd lot. You and I, together we serve in unity to make our communities better places to live.

I am thankful and congratulate the fine leadership in the Mississippi and Tennessee District Exchange Clubs for the great things that are being done. These great things are making an impact on our individual communities. The greatest things are sometimes the smallest gestures such as ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, holding a fund raiser to support our Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention efforts, or spending time with a senior when no one else can or will find the time to share. We can beat the drum and brag to our heart's content, but does it, any of it, really matter if we are not helping our fellow citizens?

I encourage each and every one of you to find someone to share the joy of Exchange with and invite them to join us in serving America. In this holy season, I urge you to remember the reason for the season. Celebrate the most holy one you worship. Love your family, live long, laugh often and have a Happy New Year... from my heart to yours.

In the spirit of Exchange,

Ken

Warmest Thoughts

and Best Wishes

For a Wonderful Holiday

and a very

Happy New Year

Jimmy Dickerson

Loyd Eaton

John Miller

Roger Noller

Johnny Middleton

Rebecca Middleton

Luther Roan

Randall Walters

Bettie Puckett

Alvin Brown

Tammy Barrett

John Blake

Jimmy Johnson

**MARK YOUR 2005
CALENDAR TODAY**

The 85th Annual Mississippi District Exchange Convention will be held in Grenada, MS, on June 2nd through June 5th. Start making your plans today to attend and bring an Exchange friend. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

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**Superior Rating and
Judges Award for
National News and
Promotion
1998-1999
2000-2001**

**Superior Rating and
Judges Award for
Exchange Education
1999-2000**

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2001-2002**

**Superior Rating for
Maintaining a High
Standard of Excellence
2002-2003**