Virginia District Exchange Clubs
Lynne Creasy, District President
5604 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111-6921

Virginia District Exchange Clubs 2021-2022 Calendar

July 1, 2021	Beginning of the Administrative Year
July 15, 2021	Program Development Meeting report due at National
July 29, 2021	Virginia District Board meeting, Zoom Meeting at 6:30 pm
August 1, 2021	Club Officers and Division Directors complete training via Exchange Education Portal
September 8-11, 2021	103rd National Convention, The Peabody Hotel, Memphis, TN (see National Site for Details and registration)
October 16, 2021	Court of Honor Toledo, Ohio
October 16, 2021	Virginia District Board meeting, Zoom Meeting at 10:00 am
November 15, 2021	Form 990 due to IRS with copies sent to District and National
November 30, 2021	Award application for Exchangite of the Year and Distinguished Virginian
January 5-9, 2022	National Mid-Winter Meeting, Hyatt Regency, Greenville, SC
January 29-30, 2022	Virginia District Mid-Winter/Board Meeting, Location TBD
April 23, 2022	Virginia District Board Meeting, Location TBD
April 30, 2022	Club Officer Election Reports due to National
June 1, 2022	National Outstanding Service Award application due
June 3-4, 2022	Virginia District Convention/Board Meeting, Location TBD
June 30, 2022	Conduct a Program Development Meeting (PDM), Awards application due
July 13-16, 2022	104th National Convention, Hyatt Regency, Greenville, SC

•As in all calendars for a year's activities, additions, deletions, and adjustments are always possible.

EXCHANGE ACROSS VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

August 1, 2021

EDITOR: FRANCES CARMACK

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Virginia District Exchangites:

I want to begin by thanking each of you for the opportunity to serve as your District President for a second term, 2021-2022 club year. It has definitely been an interesting year. I am in awe of how our district has been able to find creative ways to give back. It is so encouraging to see the dedication and resilience of our members and all they do for our communities.

I want to thank Immediate Past President Bill Trimble for his ever-constant encouragement and advice during the past year as well as all the members of our entire **leadership team.**

Also, I would like to review our club goals and to ask for your help in making this a successful year for the Virginia District. I know the growth goal continues to be a challenge for all clubs. I would like to encourage each of you to "remember why you joined Exchange" think of the talking points for the programs of service "Children, Community and Country" then ASK a friend or neighbor to come be a part of the club.

The following is a list of our District goals for the 2021-2022 year. Please acquaint yourself with these goals and strive to help your club and the District attain these goals.

Growth:
- Club Building
  - -Build 2 new clubs during the 2021-2022 year (Traditional, Collegiate, or Excel club)
- Membership Growth and Retention-Positive growth for all clubs
- Improve District Finances
  - -District Wide Fundraiser for all clubs to participate in

Education:
- Provide quarterly Exchange education information to all Club leaders for dissemination to members
- Club President's Guide to assist them with meeting National standards
- Promote development of District and Club Leadership
  - -Have all Club Leaders work through the new advanced learning portal set up by National
  - -Get new club members into leadership positions on the Club and District level

Communication:
- Encourage all Clubs to have a website and participate on Facebook.
- District Website – Encourage all clubs to get familiar with our NEW District website www.vadistrictexchange.org
- Promote "sharing of club newsletters" throughout the District.
- Continue communication from District and Club to Club. Quarterly newsletters with each club sending information to the newsletter editor on projects and activities
- Encourage the continued use of virtual meetings for district board meetings and possibly individual club meetings, as necessary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (con't from page 1)

Child Abuse Awareness:

●Encourage clubs to share the monthly information the District Committee Chair for Child Abuse Awareness and Education sends to each club.

●Have a District Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Project

-Pinwheel Project – Each club sponsor a pinwheel project in their community during the month of April to promote awareness

-Continue the campaign to increase contributions to the National Exchange Club Foundation (NECF) and the Virginia District Exchange Clubs Foundation (VDECF).

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our community this year. I want to encourage each of you to be as active as possible with your club and the District in the coming months to make our communities better places to live.

Yours in Exchange,
Lynne Creasy
Virginia District President, 2021-2022

Editor's Note

Now that we are trying to figure out the new normal, people are wondering if they will continue to work from home or head back to the office. We are often quick to think of the advantages of each. Working from home is certainly convenient and cost effective for the employee and companies can save on real estate. However, I recently read an article on the dangerous downside of permanently working from home. The article pointed out that in 2008 there was a push by big tech companies to have their employees work from home and IBM tried this new "work-from-home model". In 2009, IBM had 40% of its employees from around the world working from home. At first this sounded like a good idea with the company clearly saving billions on real estate costs. But soon the company began falling apart, losing momentum, and the program eventually failed badly. It was discovered that after working from home long-term, creativity, innovation, momentum, and opportunity die. What happens is people who do not get to know each other are less likely to collaborate or come up with new ideas. I began to think of this in terms of volunteer organizations. While ZOOM meetings have served a purpose during the COVID-19 pandemic, let us learn from IBM's huge mistake and return to in-person Exchange meetings. Truth be known, like all teams and groups, Exchangites can work best when they are together, collaborating, swapping ideas, and focusing on who they are – their vision, their mission, their values, their motto, and getting to know each other.

Scholarships – Investing in Our Youth

Youth of the Year

The Youth of the Year recipient for 2020-2021 is Brayden Patrick Lynch. Brayden graduated from Magna Vista High School in Ridgeway, Virginia. His high school activities included student government, musical organizations, debate, stage productions, and various club memberships. He has been quite involved in community service as an active member of Boy Scouts and in the 4-H Club. Church activities are also a large part of his life. This young man is a person who "thinks outside of the box". Brayden initiated several new projects during the COVID quarantine to keep groups with whom he was associated active in community service. There were at least ten local, state, and national awards to his credit on his application. Additionally, he earned an Associate's Degree in Arts and Science with a Major in Science while he was also earning his high school diploma. In addition, he earned a General Education Certificate. Brayden will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall. Braydon was sponsored by the Martinsville Club.

Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) Award Winner

The ACE Award Winner for 2020-2021 is Josef Bryant. Josef is a deserving young man who is described as humble with an eagerness to learn. He consistently chose the most difficult and challenging courses while attending Rustburg High School in Rustburg, Virginia, and was involved in several activities outside the classroom, including the French Club, National Honor Society, and the National French Society. He volunteers at Gleaning for the World and teaches the French language and culture in an after-school enrichment program for elementary school students. In his junior year he was accepted into the Campbell County Early College Program and graduated with his High School Diploma and Associate's Degree. He plans to attend the University of Virginia in the fall where he will major in psychology. Josef enjoys serving others and giving back to the community. After college, he

National Exchange Club Encourages Local Clubs to Reinvigorate Potential Members

The National Exchange Club recognizes that the pandemic caused everyone to change their priorities, so they are offering incentives for past members to return to our great service organization. If previous members left March 2020 - June 30, 2021, they may rejoin with reduced dues. Returning members will also be entered into a raffle that includes the following prizes: ●$1000 cash ●All-Expenses paid trip to the 2022 Greenville, SC, National Convention (includes airfare, accommodations, All-Events package). ●All Expenses paid trip to any Exchange Club event (includes airfare, accommodations, tickets) ●$1000 Donation to the National Exchange Club Foundation, making the winner a Berkey Fellow; with a ticket to the exclusive Berkey Dinner. ●1 Full Year of Free Club Dues (includes National and District).

Exchangites, you are encouraged to contact prior Exchange Club members and welcome them back into the Exchange family. Remember that National is helping you with this recruitment by entering returning members in a raffle that includes 5 (five) great prizes!

Exchange Club of Poquoson Welcomes New Member

On May 26, 2021, the Exchange Club of Poquoson welcomed their newest member, Regina Blankenship. She was inducted into the club by Steve Geiger and was sponsored by Jesse Wood. A warm Exchange welcome to Regina!

(Lf. – Rt.) Steve Geiger, President of the Exchange Club of Poquoson, Regina Blankenship, and Jesse Wood.

Exchange Club of Wythe – Spring Yard Sale

On Saturday, May 15, the Exchange Club of Wythe held its first Spring Yard Sale. The purpose of the yard sale was to make up for lost revenue from canceled fundraiser events during the pandemic. Leading up to the sale, club members collected and priced items and displayed them on tables. On the day of the sale, members assisted and interacted with hundreds of shoppers, rang up sales, and spread the word about how the proceeds will benefit the community. The event was well publicized and attracted bargain hunters from as far away as North Carolina. The event was very successful!

The Exchange Club of Wythe - Ramp Building Project

On June 5, 2021, the Exchange Club of Wythe proudly built another handicapped access ramp for a Hampton citizen in need.

(Lf. – Rt.) Jim Thomas, Roy Austin, Vickie Servais (kneeling), Doug Gray, Bob Gurley, Phil Everhart, Jim Puckett, Lonnie Servais and Mike Schetting (not pictured Rich Dietz and Bill Trimble).

Child Abuse Prevention

Donna Hodges, Child Abuse Prevention Chairman, continues to send out excellent information each month, and she has agreed to continue another year as our District Chairman for Child Abuse Prevention. In June, she shared a beautiful story about two women who saw a need, acted upon it, and made a difference in the lives of orphaned, neglected, and abused children. The story began in 1952 and has continued through the years to shed light on the serious problem of child abuse and open facilities around the world as safe havens for children. The two women who had this idea and acted upon it were actresses that entertained on the USO goodwill tours where military service people often donated when the "hat was passed" to help the children. Donna purposely sent the June message during our Memorial Day weekend in honor of all our service men and women that have given the ultimate sacrifice and for those in our Exchange Family that have served and continue to support and give for the greater good.

Since July is a month when new laws from legislative action take effect, Donna sent out two items of interest that have passed through legislation in support of Child Abuse Prevention. This shows that the problem is being recognized and getting attention, but there is still much to be done. **We** can be proud of what **we** do to raise awareness of this crisis and acknowledge and celebrate each success.

June Challenge: Take time to have a silent prayerful thought of gratitude in recognizing the many service people who helped the children in the very early years, and for many that still help today. Also, as you go about your day-to-day activities, when you see a military person, remember to thank them for their service.

July Challenge: Hug a child and share our smiles!

I hope each of you is faithfully reading the Child Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention information that Donna sends and that you share it with others. July's information especially brings to light how crucial it is to keep Child Abuse Prevention in the forefront.

Installation of Officers

Denise Strub, Regional Vice President from Region 6, installed the new officers for the year 2021-2022 at the Virginia District Convention held virtually on June 5, 2021.

Virginia District Board Executive Committee Officers

District President Lynne Creasy

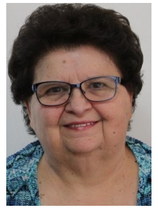
District President-Elect Carol Wood

Secretary Marie Warren

Treasurer James (Jim) Puckett

Immediate Past District President Bill Trimble

VP for Training and Education Bob Moore



VP for Foundation Education Susan Brewer

The duty of these officers and directors is to provide the Virginia District Clubs with leadership and direction and to assist with the efficient and effective operation of the clubs. They will also co-ordinate training and education for club officers and help set goals and meet standards for the clubs. These leaders are knowledgeable of club, district and national policies and programs. They are here to help the clubs excel in the areas of growth, program excellence and leadership development. Do not hesitate to ask for your officers' and directors' help. Working together, the Virginia District will be Exchange Strong.

Virginia District Board of Directors

Division 1 Barry Stephens

Division 2 Jesse Wood

Division 6 Bill Trimble

Division 7 Margaret Moore

The Importance of Growth

Denise Strub, Regional Vice President from Region 6, spoke briefly at the Virginia District Convention on the importance of asking people to join Exchange. She shared examples from her personal experiences. She pointed out that she was asked five times before she joined! And it goes without saying that she has become a very involved Exchangite on the Local, District and National levels. What a loss it would have been if she had only been asked once! Another example she gave was asking someone to join who said "yes" when she was advised by others that this person would not be interested. The point is.... we need to ask. If all of us do a better job with recruitment, Exchange will grow and thus be better able to serve our communities. Wouldn't it be wonderful if next year we can report ....growth!

Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) Award Winner (con't from page 2)

plans to become a psychiatrist where he can continue to assist others and give back to the community. Josef is part of a large family, supported by a single mother after losing his father to cancer at a young age. His award application was submitted by the Exchange Club of Lynchburg.

These two students who have worked their way from the club level to the district level will now compete in the National competition.

Recognizing Outstanding Individuals in Our Communities

Distinguished Virginian Award

The recipient of the Distinguished Virginian Award for 2020-2021 is David Harker. Mr. Harker was born and raised in Lynchburg, Virginia. He graduated from Brookville High School in 1964, received his Associate Degree from Bluefield College in 1966, continued his education at Virginia Tech., and was drafted into the United States Army in June 1967. While on a search and destroy mission in Heip Duc, South Vietnam on January 8, 1968, his rifle squad was ambushed by North Vietnamese forces, and he was taken prisoner. On March 5, 1973, David was returned to American forces through the Paris Peace Accord which ended hostilities.

After serving in the military, Mr. Harker returned to Virginia Tech where he graduated in June 1976. In November, he was appointed to serve as a Probation and Parole Officer. In 1990, he began work as a Parole Examiner for the Virginia Parole Board and in March 2002 he was appointed by Governor Mark Warner to the Virginia Parole Board where he served as Vice Chairman for four years.

Beginning in 2007, Mr. Harker worked on a part-time basis as a Special Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Veteran Services. In 2009, he retired from state service. He continues to speak to church and civic groups about his combat experience and POW experiences. He is an active member of Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Gideons International and Military Order of the Purple Heart. He has been married to his high school sweetheart for 43 years, has two children and four grandchildren. God, family and country are his great joys and he has served in an exceptional manner through the years in both his public and private life.

All American Volunteer

Mike Schetting, member of the Exchange Club of Wythe, was selected as the 2020-21 Virginia District All-American Volunteer of the Year. He is a most worthy recipient. Mike has been an Exchange member since October of 2007. He has been involved in many of the projects completed by the Club since joining. He has served as Chair of the Christmas Party, Finance, Adopt-a-Spot, and Senior Community Assistance Committees and as a member of the Crime Prevention, Fire Prevention, Book of Golden Deeds, Americanism, and Pancake Jamboree Committees. The Wythe Club usually completes over 200 projects each year and Mike has been involved in well over 50% of the projects. Although he is not technically on the Ramp Building Committee, he is almost always there participating in the build. The Club has recently become involved in the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization that provides beds to children who do not have a bed in their home. Mike participates in this activity regularly. Congratulations to Mike, a most deserving, dedicated volunteer.

Inspiring Quotes

"Success is not built on what we accomplish for ourselves. Its foundation lies in what we do for others."

-Danny Thomas, American Entertainer

"We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others."

-Helen Keller, American writer and advocate for the deaf and blind

Recognizing Exchangites for Outstanding Service

The Importance of Awards

Each year the Virginia District gives awards to very deserving individuals. These awards give club members the opportunity to reflect on their accomplishments during the past year and allow the clubs the opportunity to showcase their achievements as active contributors in their communities. Awards are important because they give recognition, motivate, and promote excellence. They also provide an opportunity for the clubs to gain and retain members and grow stronger. When members of your club are recognized for their excellence and receive awards, be sure your club's publicity plan is in place. Share the successes on social media and in your local publications.

Exchangite of the Year

Carol Wood is the recipient of the Exchangite of the Year Award for 2019-2020. Carol is an enthusiastic and exemplary member of the Exchange Club of Poquoson where she has served in every position including Club treasurer, Club Secretary, Club President Elect and Club President. At the Club level she has received much recognition with her greatest being acknowledged as Exchangite of the Year in 2017. With Carol at the helm, the Exchange Club of Poquoson has received many awards and recognitions and really reestablished itself with the Virginia District. From an individual perspective, Carol has received awards for Outstanding Club Secretary, Outstanding Club President, Outstanding District Director (twice), and Outstanding Club Bulletin Editor (twice) from the Virginia District. She also received a Presidential Award from Claude Carmack, the year he was District President, for her efforts within the Virginia District. Carol has been District Director (twice) and currently serves as President Elect of the Virginia District. On the National level, Carol has been recognized as a Distinguished Club Secretary, Distinguished Club President, and Distinguished District Director (twice).

Carol has personally recruited six new Exchange Club members and assisted many others in their efforts to recruit while allowing those members to take full credit. She led the effort to re-charter the York Exchange Club when their membership dwindled to zero, and while this effort was unsuccessful due to Covid -19, many lessons were learned and are being applied to the effort to charter a new Exchange Club in Gloucester. In addition to her many awards, Carol has served on many major Virginia District committees such as One Nation Under God and was instrumental in helping the Virginia District win the spirit award at the National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia.

Honor Roll

Acceptance into the Virginia District Honor Roll recognizes a superb Exchangite who has made a long-term contribution to Exchange at both the local level and District or National level. This year two outstanding individuals were recognized. They are Marie Warren and Roy Austin.

Marie Warren joined the Peninsula Networking Exchange Club in 1999, where she held the office of Club Secretary (2001-2002 and 2002-2003) and received the Outstanding Club Secretary Award. During that time, she was also involved in many club projects, and was instrumental in planning events and parties. She later joined the Hampton Roads Networking Exchange Club in 2015, where she held the office of Club Secretary (2016-2017). Marie's secretary skills include superb attention to detail and sending out club information in a timely manner. She participates in all club activities, especially fundraising and community service projects. She helped organize a new club, the Exchange Club of Tidewater, where she also serves as secretary (2019-2020 and 2020-2021). On the District level, Marie has served as the District Secretary, beginning in 2017-2018 and continuing each year to the present (2020-2021). She served on the District Convention Committee in 2018 and chaired the District Hospitality Committee for the National Convention held in Norfolk, Virginia, 2019. She also serves on the District Minimum Standards Committee with Bob Moore.

Awards she has received in the Virginia District include Outstanding Club Secretary (2001-2002 and 2002-2003) and District Exchangite of the Year (2010-2011). On the National level, she was recognized as a Distinguished Club President in both (2017-2018 and 2018-2019).

Honor Roll (con't from page 4)

Roy Austin has been a significant participant and contributor to the very foundations of the Exchange Club of Wythe, having joined the club in 1982 after spending six years in the Nansemond-Suffolk Club, which he joined in 1976 as a charter member. He has served on the board as various Club Officers and as Club President twice, (1984-1985 and 2001-2002).

Roy has been involved in many club service projects and fundraisers. Under his leadership the club won the National Community Service Project of the year twice for building ramps in the City of Hampton. He has chaired or co-chaired many of the Club projects that required skilled supervision, such as assembling and installing Freedom Shrines, putting up and taking down Christmas Tree lots, the Pancake Jamboree, and the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project.

He currently serves as Chair of the House Committee, Spring Party/Fish Fry Committee and Co-Chair of the Wheelchair Ramp Committee. He is a member of the Christmas Tree Lot, Awards and Nominations, and Charter Night Committees. He has been selected as the Wythe Exchangite of the Year twice.

Roy has attended numerous Mid-Winter Conferences and Conventions in the Virginia District.

To say that Roy is a workhorse for the Wythe Club is an understatement. As a matter of fact, he was at an Exchange worksite building a handicapped ramp on Saturday, June 5, 2021, when this award was given.

Matching Foundation Gift Exceeds Goal

Through the generous donations of our members and clubs, The Virginia District Exchange Clubs Foundation (VDECF) **exceeded** the challenge to match the anonymous donation of $2000.00 by June 30, 2021, having received $2,275.00 in matching funds. Another generous anonymous donor has agreed to match the additional $275.00 which gives the foundation $4,550.00 additional funds for youth awards. Foundation President Susan Brewer expressed her gratitude for the donations, saying, "I am continually awed by the generosity of our Exchange family. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this challenge a success."

This is a great start toward setting up an enduring source of funding to continue our Youth of the Year and ACE Awards. Please continue to consider the District Foundation in your club and personal giving plans. Contributions may be made payable to VDECF and mailed c/o Claude Carmack, 5604 Cold Harbor Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

National Exchange Club Convention – Coming Soon

The 103rd National Exchange Club Convention and 38th Symposium will be held September 8-11, 2021, at the luxurious Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis, TN. The hotel is known as the South's Grand Hotel and is famous for its resident ducks that make two daily marches through the lobby. The rates for Exchange members are $175.00 + taxes and fees for both single and double rooms. Parking is $24.00 a day, however Exchangites will receive a 50% discount. **Make your reservations no later than August 4, 2021.**

It will be good to be back together for an in-person convention that will include education, speakers, a field of flags, awards and much more. There are many local attractions to experience during your visit, as well. So, come early or stay late to take advantage of Memphis' attractions.