

New Member Orientation

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.



EXCHANGE
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Welcome!

Now that you've become a member of the Exchange Club, we'd like to give you a little more information about the organization you've joined.

Your local club will provide you with information specific to your club – it's officers and directors, committee structure, fund-raisers, service projects, dues, etc.

Don't be afraid to step up and speak up! Don't wait to be asked to work on a project or join a committee – volunteer! It's the quickest way to get to know everyone in the club. Above all – ask questions! We want you to enjoy Exchange and become an active member.

Here are a few websites that you may want to peruse for additional information.

[The National Exchange Club](#)

[Lincolnland District Exchange Clubs](#)

[Believe in the Blue](#)

[National Exchange Club Foundation](#)



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We're Connected!

Your local Exchange Club is part of a National organization – We are America's Service Club!

In Illinois, there are currently 31 Exchange Clubs in 11 Divisions that make up the *Lincolnland District*.

In turn, the Lincolnland District, along with the Dakota Territory, Minnesota and Wisconsin-Upper Peninsula Districts comprise Region 3

In all, there are roughly 24,000 members of 800 clubs, in 32 districts, arranged in 12 regions which make up the National Exchange Club.



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History of Exchange

Charles A. Berkey is credited with the founding of this great organization. At his suggestion, the name “Exchange” was selected because the group wanted to exchange ideas and information with like-minded individuals about how to better serve their communities.

The first local Exchange Club was formed in Detroit, Michigan in 1911. The second was the Exchange Club of Toledo, Ohio formed in 1913. Subsequently, two others were organized in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Cleveland, Ohio. These four clubs were the first to be chartered by the National Exchange Club after it was organized as a nonprofit, educational organization in 1917.



Since then, hundreds of clubs have been chartered in the United States and Puerto Rico, with nearly 24,000 members making a positive difference in their own communities everyday.

We are America's Service Club. From our organization's earliest days, Exchange Clubs have been unselfishly serving their communities and improving the quality of life. The diverse array of Exchange-sponsored programs and projects has made a considerable impact on America, enhancing the lives of countless men, women and children across the Nation. The National Exchange Club headquarters is located in Toledo, Ohio. Our chief objective is to help Exchange Clubs realize their full potential of community service.



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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.



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Lincolnland Clubs

- Aledo (1954)
- Alton (1927)
- Aurora (1937)
- Beardstown (1992)
- Belleville (1946)
- Bloomington (1936)
- Bolingbrook (2005)
- Champaign (1926)
- Charleston (2005)
- DeKalb-Sycamore (1993)
- Galesburg (1924)
- Grayslake (1971)
- Gurnee Noon (1975)
- Gurnee Breakfast (1985)
- Joliet (1946)
- Kendall County (2008)
- Lockport (1983)
- Mattoon (1976)
- Naperville (1987)
- North Chicago (2008)
- Paxton (1981)
- Plainfield (2008)
- Quad Cities (1969)
- Quincy (1946)
- Rantoul (1970)
- Round Lake (1999)
- Shorewood (2007)
- Tri-Cities (1979)
- Urbana (1926)
- Waukegan (1937)
- West Dupage Co (1966)

Club city, followed by year chartered



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Program of Service

- Americanism
- Youth Activities
- Community Service
- Child Abuse Prevention

These are the programs of service of the National Exchange Club. Your club may have service projects in all of the service areas, some of the areas or even just one – that decision is left to the individual clubs. Let's take a look at some of the projects.



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Americanism

- Freedom Shrines
- GiveAKidAFlagToWave
- Proudly We Hail
- Healing Fields
- One Nation Under God
- Get Out the Vote
- Freedom Gallery
- A More Perfect Union
- Constitution Day
- Rally 'Round the Flag

Freedom Shrines and Galleries represent visual displays placed by Exchange Clubs in their communities. The Shrines feature important documents from our country's rich history, while the Galleries feature artwork depicting our past.

GiveAKidAFlagToWave is a project to give kids of all ages American Flags – at parades, concerts, it's all good. This project started as a local project in Galesburg and has grown into one of the most popular National projects.

For more information check out

<http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org/programofservice/Americanism/Americanism.htm>



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Youth Activities

- Youth of the Month/Year
- A.C.E. Award
- Young Citizenship Award
- Many, many others – Every club has their own take on this one!

Most of the clubs in Lincolnland participate in the Youth of the Year Program. Each year, the National Exchange Club establishes an essay theme that exemplifies the National president's theme for the year. Local clubs work with high schools in their communities to select Youths of the Month, then the Youth of the Year. The local winner is submitted to the Lincolnland District, with the winner receiving a \$2,500 scholarship. The District winners are submitted to National, with the National Youth of the Year receiving a \$10,000 scholarship.

The A.C.E. Award works the same way, recognizing a high school senior who has made a dramatic change in their attitude and performance during their high school years which has enabled them to overcome adversities and prepare for graduation. There is more information on these and other Youth projects at:

<http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org/programofservice/Youth/A.C.E.Award.htm>



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Community Service

- Crime and Fire Prevention
- Service to Seniors
- Book of Golden Deeds
- Many, many others – Every club has their own take on this one!

Community service projects are limited only by your club's imagination – from the [Book of Golden Deeds](#) to Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the year to Adopt-a-Grandparent to Special Olympics, clubs in Lincolnland are active in their communities.

These projects can include environmental awareness, sponsoring youth athletic and scholastic teams, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, blood drives, Adopt-a-Highway projects – you'll see these and many more being done here and across the country. Millions of volunteer hours and dollars are donated to these causes in the name of Exchange.

Here is a sampling of other Community Service Project ideas:

http://www.nationalexchangeclub.org/programofservice/Community_Service/community.htm



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Child Abuse Prevention

- Time Out Teddy
- Believe in the Blue
- Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Save Abandoned Babies
- Period of Purple Crying
- CAP Centers & Affiliates
- Report Card Inserts

Lincolnland is fortunate to have two Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Centers within the District – in Joliet and Naperville. Other agencies throughout the state also benefit from contributions from local clubs.

Time Out Teddy is a 7' teddy bear costume that is available to local clubs for parades and other events at no charge. All you need is a volunteer to don the suit!

Child Abuse Prevention has been the National Project of Exchange for 30 years. The National Exchange Club has produced a project guide to assist local clubs reach out to their communities to help prevent child abuse.

See more on these and other projects, as well as the project guide [here](#).



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Where do your dues go?

Every club sets its own dues structure. Some clubs include meals as part of their dues – others charge meals separately. At any rate, a portion of your dues are paid to the Lincolnland District and to the National Exchange Club.

National Exchange Club

Operations	\$ 58
Exchange Today	6
Foundation	10
Lincolnland District	
Operations	16
	<hr/>
	\$ 90

These are annual figures - the balance of your dues are used for the operation of your club. The funds that you raise for service projects cannot be used for operating your club.



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Officers & Directors

Your club is lead by a slate of officers board of directors. While the structure of some clubs varies due to size, the typical board is made up of a President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President and 4-6 Directors. Some clubs will have 1 or more vice-presidents.

The Lincolnland District board is made up of the District President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President and 11 Division Directors. These officers are elected by the membership at the annual District Convention. Division Directors are elected to two-year terms, with the odd-numbered divisions elected in odd-numbered years and even-numbered divisions elected in even-numbered years. Each Division consists of 2 to 4 clubs, arranged geographically throughout the state.

The National Exchange Club board is made up of the National President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Immediate Past President and 12 Regional Vice-Presidents. The officers and directors are elected by the membership at the National Convention each July.



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What are we?

The National Exchange Club (and all of its affiliated local clubs) are not-for-profit organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. There is a significant difference between Section 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(3). Contributions to a 501(c)(3) (Charitable) organization are tax deductible, while contributions to a 501(c)(4) (Service Club) are not. For this reason, the National Exchange Club, the Lincolnland Exchange Clubs and several local clubs have established charitable foundations in order to 1) accept tax-deductible gifts and 2) be exempt from sales taxes on their fund-raisers. Check with your club officers to see whether your club has established a charitable foundation.

Even with foundation status, not all transactions are tax exempt, but generally, your club can purchase items for use in fund-raising without having to pay sales tax – leaving you with more funds for charitable purposes.



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As previously stated, the National Exchange Club uses charitable foundations to raise funds to support its program of service. The [National Exchange Club Foundation](#) was established in 1979 to help advance our Program of Service. Your club may be participating in the [Campaign for Kids](#), in which clubs collect funds to support the Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Centers across the country.

In addition, there are ways that you can personally support the Foundation through individual giving programs including the [Berkey Fellowship](#), North Society, Heritage Society, Diamond and Medallion program and memorials.

In addition to providing funds for the CAP Centers, contributions to the Foundation provide scholarships for the National Youth of the Year and ACE award winners.





The Lincolnland Exchange Clubs Foundation for Youth was established in 2006 to create a scholarship endowment fund. Once fully established, income from the endowment will be used to award scholarships to the District Youth of the Year and ACE award winners. In addition, clubs in the District can utilize the Foundation's tax exempt status for their own fund-raising projects in lieu of establishing their own foundation.

The Foundation relies on individual gifts and pledges and has established giving levels to recognize donors. Donor levels include the Abraham Lincoln Society, President's Cabinet, Log Cabin Club, Campaigner and Railsplitter categories – ranging from as much as \$5,000 to as little as \$100. Contributions and memorials of any amount are welcome.



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Member Benefits

Membership in Exchange provides tangible benefits through products and services arranged with the National Office in Toledo. These benefits include discounts from places like:

- Alamo Rent-a-Car
- AirTran Airways
- Altas World Travel
- Avis Rent-a-Car
- Budget Car Rentals
- Choice Hotels
- Hertz Corporation
- Hickory Farms
- Penny Wise Office Products

Check out the National Website for details [here](#)



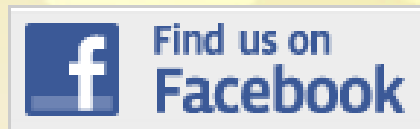
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Publications

Included in your District and National dues are several publications. *Exchange Today*, the official publication of the National Exchange Club is published 4 times a year. In addition, a new electronic publication, *e-xchange*, is published and updated periodically and is available on the [National Website](#).

Link, the official publication of the Lincolnland District Exchange Clubs, is also published quarterly. Electronic versions of the *Link* are available on the [District's website](#).

The National Exchange Club and the Lincolnland District also have [Facebook](#) pages and you can follow the National Exchange Club on [Twitter](#).



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Get More Information

This presentation is meant to give you a basic overview of the National Exchange Club and the Lincolnland District Exchange Clubs. Talk to your club officers about questions specific to your own club and what you can do to get involved.

Thanks for visiting the Lincolnland District Exchange Clubs New Member Orientation!



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