



# Exchange Hotline

Exchange Club of  
Sugar Land Newsletter  
July 1st, 2022

## The Exchange Club of Sugar Land

4800 Sugar Grove Blvd. Suite 100  
Stafford, TX 77477  
[www.ecsl.org](http://www.ecsl.org)

### Weekly Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m.

Meeting at:  
Sugar Creek Country Club  
420 Sugar Creek Blvd.  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

### Officers 2022-2023

President:  
Lori Bisewski

President Elect:  
Thad Olive

Secretary:  
Juli Fournier

Treasurer:  
Paul Barnett

Immediate Past President:  
Rick Bell

### Board of Directors

Camille Edwards  
Betty Baitland  
Nora Sim  
Joni Stinger  
Cookie Joe  
Colleen Migl  
Suzanne Whatley  
Bruce Smith

Spaghetti Chair 2022  
Thad Olive

Webmaster:  
Paul Barnett  
[www.ecsl.org](http://www.ecsl.org)

Newsletter Editor:  
[newsletter@ecsl.org](mailto:newsletter@ecsl.org)



Dear Exchange Members,

### What a night!

Last night we installed our new president, **Lori Bisewski**, as well as our new officers and directors. Lori gave a challenging and inspiring speech, which laid out her vision for this upcoming year. If you were unable to attend the installation dinner, please make sure to be present at the Wednesday morning meeting on July 13, because she will cover in detail her agenda for the upcoming year.

The installation dinner included live music, cheerleading (it's a long story), workout tips (an even longer story), and great food. Just prior to writing this newsletter, I spoke with Lori. She said everyone made her feel so special last night, and she thoroughly enjoyed herself. Thad Olive did a fantastic job organizing and hosting the installation dinner.

On a personal note, you all made me feel so loved last night. I could not have asked for a better way to cap off a fun-filled year of serving as your president than what I felt last night. Camille Edwards' scrapbook contains photographs of all our major events last year. The pictures will remind me of all the fun we had serving together this past year.

The crystal gavel piece is gorgeous. It was the perfect gift for me, and it harmonizes with my **"Serve with Honor"** theme beautifully. I will display it proudly in my home. Many of you sent me emails and texts and I appreciate those words of encouragement. Finally, thank you all for the bottle of wine. I have not had an opportunity to sit down and enjoy a glass wine in quite some time. As I wrap up my final article, I am headed to do just that. I will raise my glass to all of you and thank you for making this year so special and for always... It's all yours Lori!

Serving with Honor,

Rick

**Lori's theme 2022-2023**

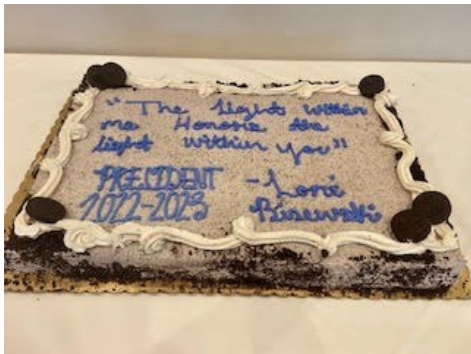
**"The light within me  
honors the light within you!"**



## Officer Installation Banquet 2022-2023



### Our Servers for the night! Thanks!



Thad Olive, Paul Barnett, Lori Bisewski, & Rick Bell



Dylan Jakobs



Officers & Board Members for 2022-2023



## Officer Installation Banquet 2022-2023

Cameras on you guys!



SUGAR LAND, TEXAS 1987



## Officer Installation Banquet 2022-2023





## Officer Installation Banquet 2022-2023



**Rick Bell presenting a gift to all his Board Members recognizing them for their contribution to Exchange and his time as President!**





06/16/2022

From Rick Bell...

I feel myself getting a little sentimental as I write this , so you may want to grab a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and get comfortable. There are a few things I would like to say before I pass the gavel to **Lori**. Please note I am writing this recap from memory, so if I leave your name off a category that you helped lead, please forgive me.

I want to recognize a few members in particular for displaying outstanding leadership in their areas of service. First, as I said this morning, our club has netted over ten percent growth this year! In my opinion, that is largely due to our host committee members. **Camille Edwards, Joni Stinger, Thad Olive** (Team Leader), **Carlos Perez**, and **Russ Braun** arrived early for every meeting this year and welcomed our guests with a smile. The first impression of our club is made right at that initial contact. Their smiles, engaging personalities, and kindness made all of our guests feel especially welcome. It also helped that our meetings were so much fun. With **Morris Lasris** and **Carey Snyder's** jokes of the day, how could an individual not want to come back for more? **Brooke Thompson's** ability to find exceptional speakers also helped ensure everyone had a good time at our meetings. Additionally, club member retention is an important aspect of growth. **Colleen Migl's** socials and **Nora Sim's** Care Team kept our membership engaged with one another, reducing the likelihood that a member would feel unimportant to the club. The Outstanding Membership Award was earned by all the members of our club, but this group, in particular, had a huge impact on our growth.

Secondly, I would like to express my gratitude for the job **Nick Landoski** did leading the Americanism Team. We had such a strong year in this area. Beginning with the 4th of July parade just a few days into our fiscal year and continuing all year long, we were actively involved in sponsoring Americanism projects within Fort Bend. With the help of **Bruce Smith, Cookie Joe, Leslie Woods, Pete Olson, David Lanagan, Doug Earle**, and **Brad Porter**, the Americanism team inspired our club to hand out American flags to children at numerous parades and events. We honored our veterans, first responders, and our military heroes that paid the ultimate sacrifice. With the assistance of **Betty Baitland**, we installed a beautiful Freedom Shrine in the James Reese Career and Technical Center. And to end our year, we are continuing to work on restoring dignity to the gravesites of a local cemetery that was completely overgrown with brush. The Outstanding Americanism award was earned by our entire club, but a special thank you to those that led us in that area.

Our Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Team is equally deserving of praise for the job they did. **Suzanne Whatley, Brad Porter, Vita Goodell, Ruthanne Mefford, Gladys Brumfield, Judge Robert Kern**, and **Cindy McCauley** combined efforts to raise awareness by leading our blue ribbon campaigns and programs of service for the prevention of child abuse and family violence. Their leadership in this difficult area resulted in an Outstanding Child Abuse Prevention award from our District.

**Juli Fournier, Amy Mitchell, Cookie Joe, Doc Lee Ivey**, and **Carla Mondt** led our Youth programs of service. They averaged over three programs a month! This is a very busy committee with tremendous leadership. I am so proud of the job you all did this year! Our club is truly blessed to have you all. Thank you to everyone else in the club that helped achieve the Outstanding Youth Award.

Continued...



**Continued...from Rick.**

It is hard to single out individuals responsible for the Outstanding Community Service Award. This truly is an area where everybody in our club is actively involved. I guess one of the things I love best about our club is how our new members immediately get involved in serving. This year, new members **Justin Brock, Irina Chrisco, Cindy Endres, and John and Priscilla Ogunfowora** all immediately were plugged in and helped serve our community. On Santa's Exchange, **Lydia Bourg** (Team Leader), **Jim Kij, Sue Sanchez, Clinton Chapman, David Lanagan, and Greg Oelfke** all helped ensure children in need did not go without this holiday season. **Lori Bisewski** (Team Leader), **Vickie Coates, Cindy McCauley, Nora Sim, Camille Edwards, Russ Braun, Paul Barnett, Jim Kij, Greg Oelfke, Doug Earle, Thad Olive, Leslie Woods, Brooke Thompson, and Carlos Perez** were a few of the members that took on leadership roles resulting in a very successful and LIVE Spaghetti Dinner. A few of our members that I see at almost every service project are **Kevin Barker** (Team Leader), **Farha Ahmed, John Heinemann, Carey Snyder, and Jack and May Williams** (the best example of a couple that serves together, stays together).

The Outstanding Club Bulletin and Scrapbook awards were earned by **Russ Braun, Camille Edwards, Paul Barnett, David Lanagan, and Jeff Dodson**. This group of individuals is creative, talented, and hard-working. If you ever find yourself in a situation where you are unable to attend our meetings for a period of time, **Russ** makes sure that everything you missed is documented with photos and included in our newsletter. If you prefer social media, **David Lanagan** (Team Leader) has you covered. He and **Jeff** are live streaming our events, publicizing our speakers, and recap-ing our meetings on social media. Although I haven't personally seen it, **Camille Edwards** put together a scrapbook of our entire year, and everything **Camille** does is outstanding. Behind the scenes, and doing more than anyone can imagine, is **Paul Barnett** a/k/a "Our Editor in Chief."

Speaking of **Paul**, the only individual award that was handed out at our District Convention was the Exchangite of the Year Award. I could write several pages about **Paul** and how important he is to the success of our club. But I will do that personally. I encourage you to do that as well.

Finally, I want to thank some individuals that I have relied heavily on for advice and help this year. I will also do that personally, but I would like to at least recognize you by name here. The entire Board of Directors, **Carlos Perez** (who is the butt of a lot of my jokes, but a gentleman and a man I respect immensely), **David Lanagan, Jim Kij, Lydia Bourg, Greg Oelfke, Doug Earle, Nick Landoski, and Russ Braun**.

This club is very special to me. I feel that you all are a part of my extended family. Each of you inspires me to be a better person and to be a productive member of our community. It has been a tremendous honor for me to serve as your President. We have made a positive impact on our community in so many ways by serving the needs of those around us, and we served them with honor. You all are the best!

**Serve With Honor!**

**Rick**

*Rick*

**Exchange Club of Sugar Land  
Past President 2021-2022**



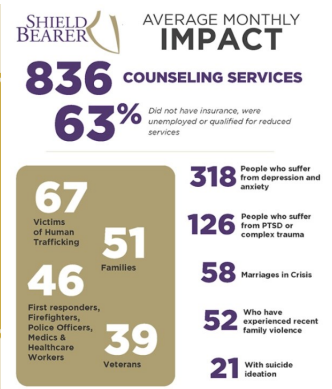
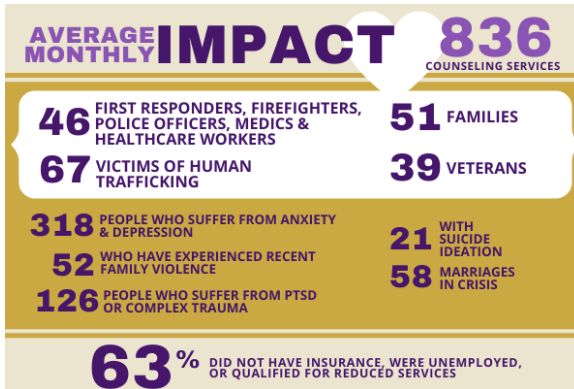


Exchange Club of Sugar Land presented a check to the **Fort Bend Regional Council On Substance Abuse (FBRC)** at our breakfast meeting June 15th. To accept the check was (R-L) John Robson COO for FBRC, Suzanne Whatley a Director for FBRC, presenting the check was Rick Bell President of ECSL and Kevin Barker (far right) Division Director for the TX LA District (Exchange).

Check amount **\$5,000** dollars!

## CHANGING LIVES & GIVING HOPE

### Speaker Series



Our featured speaker introduced by Exchange Member Brooke Thompson was **Thad Cardine (Executive Director)**. Thad presented information on the counseling services offered by Shield Bearer.

**Shield Bearer**, a non-profit 501c3 charity with nine Houston area locations, has been on the front line of fighting for the hearts of struggling individuals, couples, and families for over fifteen years.



**Counseling Services**— Professional counseling for individuals, couples, and families. We serve children, veterans, first responders, active military, people suffering from stress, anxiety, and depression, survivors of trauma including crime, abuse, human trafficking and natural disasters. Sliding scale services for anyone who qualifies. Support groups for depression, addiction, anger management, self injury, and Prevention Services.

**Professional Education**— Training for churches, schools, counselors, businesses, couples, and Individuals.



## Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast District Exchange Clubs Officer Training!

**David Lanagan reporting - District leadership training this morning in Houston. What a great bunch of leaders! Training for president and president elect by Paul Barnett, secretary by Dorothy Nall and treasurer by Marc Schwartz were all accomplished in their leadership roles. A number of members from different clubs attended in Houston.**



**EXCHANGE**  
TEXAS LOUISIANA GULF COAST DISTRICT  
*America's Service Club*





# Exchange Club

OF SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

Presented to-

*Rhonda Kuykendall*

BOOK  
of  
GOLDEN  
DEEDS

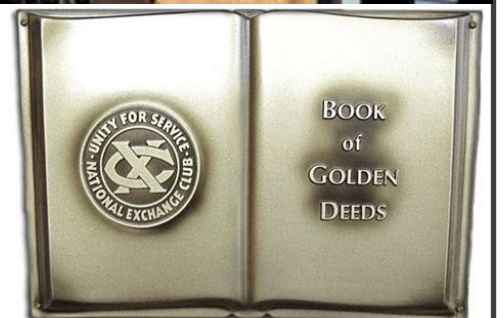
Volunteer efforts are very important to our society and should not go unnoticed. The National Exchange Club's longest running project, the Book of Golden Deeds Award, recognizes dedicated volunteers who give endless hours of their time and talents toward making their communities better places to live. Ever since the Exchange Club of Huntington, Ind., sponsored the first award in 1919, thousands of unsung heroes and heroines have been recognized.

Honoring a fellow citizen with the Book of Golden Deeds Award is a heartwarming and inspiring act not only for the honoree, but for any Exchange Club. The Book of Golden Deeds Award exemplifies *The National Exchange Club's beliefs.* (taken from the National Exchange website).

*This year this distinguished award was presented to **Rhonda Kuykendall**. We listened to the guest speakers share stories of Rhonda's dedication to the prevention of child abuse and human trafficking and was truly inspiring! Rhonda is a remarkable woman. She took a traumatic event from her childhood and used it as motivation to effectuate legislative changes. The laws protect children from sexual abuse and abolished loopholes that allowed offenders to avoid prosecution for their crimes. Guest speakers were Tommy Kuykendall President of Texian Exchange Club of Fulshear-Katy, David Lanagan past President of the Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Brian Middleton District Attorney, Ruthanne Mefford Executive Director of Child Advocates in Richmond and John Healy former District Attorney and member of Exchange Club of Fort Bend.*



L-R, Tommy Kuykendall, Rick Bell, David Lanagan, the award winner Rhonda Kuykendall, Ruthanne Mefford, Brian Middleton, and John Healy!





# SHOWCASE!

OUT WITH THE OLD!

IN WITH THE NEW!



IT'S OVER, YOU'RE DONE! THANK YOU,  
FOR YOUR AWESOME LEADERSHIP!



YOU'RE UP, GET READY,  
WE'RE SUPPORTING YOU 100%!



## CONGRATULATIONS! YOU "BOTH" DID IT!

"Past Theme"

**SERVE WITH HONOR!**



"New Theme"

**THE LIGHT WITHIN  
ME HONORS THE  
LIGHT WITHIN YOU!**



SUGAR LAND, TEXAS 1987



**A few members wanted to say something to you as you step down from President!**

**Rick! Bell! Rick! Bell! Rick! Bell! Rick! Bell! Rick! Bell! Rick! Bell! Rick! Bell!**

*It has been my honor to Serve with you with Honor, Your Honor.  
Great job, young man. -Doug Earle*



*Rick, congratulations on an eventful year and earning the title...Past President! -Nick Landoski*

*Rick, I believe we can change the world if we work together, and nothing has been more fulfilling than working side-by-side with you. You have been a selfless, exceptional President. It has been an honor to serve as a part of your team, Your Honor. -David M. Lanagan*

*"Rick is incredibly hardworking and tries every day to stretch the resources of the Exchange Club and push the Club forward. I especially admire his forward thinking, keeping in mind the next day, week, month, and year every step of the way. Not everyone does that, and not only does he do it, but does it well."  
-Colleen Migl*

*Rick has "honored" us with his year of service and has exceeded expectations by spearheading growth in our membership at a pace we haven't had in years. It has been a great year, congratulations Rick! -Juli Fournier*

*Rick, "Honesty and Fairness" is what I see in you! It's got to rub off on me right? Don't party too much celebrating the end/ or relief of your duties as President! It's been a pleasure to know and fundraise with you! -Russ Braun*

*Rick, We would like to congratulate you on an outstanding year as our Exchange President! We have really enjoyed being able to get to know you for the great guy you are !-Jack & May Williams*

*Thank You Rick for being an awesome leader. I really appreciate your kindness, the fun meetings and your smooth leadership style. Your great work has paid off for our club and I am very thankful and pray all the blessings come to you and your family. -Gladys Brumfield James*

*Rick, really enjoyed your leadership and your vision for the club. It has been an honor to serve with you. -Nora Sim*





Rick, I am sure our membership is in agreement, we all love Exchange and love what we do for our community. A family like atmosphere, to make our community a better place to live. To continue that legacy requires leadership and our club has been blessed to have outstanding leadership throughout our 35 year history. That leadership requires the correct temperament, dedication and integrity. What better attributes describe you Rick Bell. I knew from the moment I asked you to serve as our President we had our man for the job. There was no need to twist arms, You were ready to serve. And how you have served, above and beyond the call to duty. The club has continued to flourish, accomplish our goals, raise funds to give back to our community and strive for unity of service. However, Rick your job is not done with Exchange but you can take a breath, step back and know we all are very proud of you - job well done. -Greg Oelfke, Proud Past President of the Sugar Land Exchange Club

Rick, it has been a great journey! During this year I had the opportunity to speak with you weekly and I enjoyed every moment of it. You did a terrific job and I am extremely proud of your leadership and accomplishments. I noticed how the well being of each member was important to you; how important it was for you to make sure that each project was done correctly. You were always working side by side with the membership. You taught me how to unload an 18 wheeler full of toys while wearing fancy boots and a tie; not sure if that was classy or Texan but it sure was a learning experience for me. As the master of the English language I can say your are the definition of AwesomeST. You lead this club in so many projects and activities, while still juggling your job and family life. Thank you for your leadership, thank you for taking this club to a higher level and thank you for your friendship. -Carlos Perez

The Exchange Club now has a new Acronym to utilize  
"R.I.C.K." Relationship, Integrity, Character, and Kindness!! Rick I have always admired your poise and ability to lead. Thank you for all of the hard work you put in this year and the example you have set for us all.  
-Thad Olive

Rick Bell has been an excellent President! He is truly a servant leader and demonstrated that during his tenure as president-elect as well as president. Rick leads by example and shows his support at every project and event sponsored by Exchange. Rick embodies the essence of what Exchange is all about, making our communities a better place to live by service to others. Thank you Rick for such a great year! -Kevin Barker



**A few members wanted to say something to you as you step down from President!**

Rick is one of the most genuine, and humble people I have met. As our President, Rick was engaged, caring, and always open to ideas or suggestions. When I was sick earlier this year, Rick made sure to reach out to check on me and ask if there was anything he could do. Simple, thoughtful gestures like that are a testament to his character. He leads with a heart of gold. Rick, I feel incredibly blessed to know you. Thank you for your service. -*Carla Mondt*

Rick, for my first year in Exchange, you have truly made it a place to be. You make serving others look easy. Thank you for all you have done and will do for this club. It was my pleasure to serve with you. -*Camille Edwards*

Rick, you have done an exemplarily job in leading our club. Your dedication to serve with honor has been displayed in everything you have done. -*Joni Stinger*

Rick, you brought your excellent "Judge" approach from A to Z in your role as President. You were always personal and fair and could see multiple aspects of issues which helped make for a steady successful year. Gracias amigo! -*Brooke Thompson*

Rick Bell has been the iconic president with his ever ready cow boy boots - a judge who is never judgmental - that's the key to keeping a diverse club thriving - all ideas on the table and gives everyone a fair chance to soar or dive with those ideas - we will remember you Rick as that kind of president -*Farha Ahmed*

I played basketball for one of the few high school coaches to be inducted into the National Basketball Hall of Fame. I was exposed to some exemplary officers during my nine years of active duty in the United States Navy. During my eighteen years on Capitol Hill, including twelve years as a United States Congressman from Texas 22, I worked with American legends. These leaders have common traits - they listen to others, respectfully, despite the fact the speaker is talking like an idiot. They lead by example and routinely do the crappy jobs. Finally, they know that a smile or laugh may be the most important gift you can give a friend who is having a tough time. By those standards, President Rick Bell is one of the greatest leaders I have had the privilege to personally know. If the legendary Oail Andrew Phillips, Jr, (Bum) was alive, he would praise Rick like he praised Earl Christian Campbell: "Rick may not be in a class by himself, but whatever class he's in, it don't take long to call the roll." BRAVO ZULU, RICK!! -*Pete Olson*





## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Events

### Happy Exchange Birthdays!



**Nick Landoski (6/3); Doc Lee Ivey (6/5), Pat Welsh (6/19), Greg Oelfke (6/23), Eric Robins (6/28), Jaime Williams (6/28).**

### Exchange Anniversaries!

**Surendran Pattel 6/7/19 (3 yrs.); Ed Gojara 6/7/19 (3 yrs.); John Robson 6/1/08 (14 yrs.); Carlos Perez 6/4/03 (19 yrs.) Betty Baitland 6/20/01 (21 yrs.), Doug Earle 6/20/94 (28 yrs.) Vernon Hunt 6/28/12 (10 yrs.).**

**July 4th, the ECSL is slated to hand out American flags** at the Sugar Creek 4th of July parade. If you would meet in front of the Sugar Creek Country Club at 8:30 am. It is best to park either on Country Club Blvd. or even better in the Sugar Creek shopping center close to Sugar Creek Blvd. The parade starts at the entrance to Sugar Creek so Sugar Creek Blvd is blocked off for the parade. Be sure to wear your red white & blue!

**Behind the Badge is raffling off an amazing BBQ pit on a trailer.** The tickets are \$20.00 a piece or 6 tickets for \$100.00 (or as **Greg Oelfke** would say buy 5 get one for free). Whether you win or not, your ticket goes to support our first responders here in Fort Bend that are either injured or qualify for a grant. To get your tickets, see **Nick Landoski**.

Reminder from **Lori**. If you have not filled out the **new form** for automatically charging for dues and other club expenses. Please contact Lori at [lrob78@aggienetwork.com/](mailto:lrob78@aggienetwork.com)

**Carey Snyder** let us know that the BSA girls troop 1731 trailer was stolen this past weekend. They are planning a fundraiser to help replace the trailer and camping equipment and will have more details soon.

**The Memorial Exchange Club of Houston** is holding its annual fundraising raffle. The prize is a very nice Sig Sauer P365 sporting pistol and two hours of lessons at the Athena Gun Club. Tickets are \$50 and the drawing will be held on July 4, 2022. "What an appropriate day for this drawing. Buy a ticket and help celebrate Independence Day and our most important Second Amendment," says **Paul Barnett**. Go to [memorialexchange.org](http://memorialexchange.org) to buy your ticket.

**Vita Goodell** advised that the Women's Center closed down one of its donation centers. Therefore, your future donations should be made at either the Stafford or Richmond locations. The addresses for those locations are Stafford - 13645 Murphy Road, Stafford, TX 77477; Richmond - 501 Highway 90A East, Richmond, TX 77406.

From the editor,

Today is June 25, and I was thinking about the **Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast District Officers training session** that we had this morning. It was a great event that some of our Exchange leaders put together for District; **David Lanagan, Paul Barnett, Dorothy Nall, Mark Schwartz and Susan Schwartz**. I wasn't really sure I belonged at the session since I am not an officer. But, Paul Barnett assured me it was ok to come so I went.

It was wonderful to be among the other clubs being represented there. You see when I talk to people about Exchange I mention the other clubs. It is important to understand when approaching prospects what their schedules are like and location of where they live. I do meet a lot of people, matter a fact you do have to meet people to invite people to learn about the Exchange experience. We support child advocacy. We are helping to prevent child abuse by raising money for charity's like Child Advocates, the Women Center and other charitable organizations we write checks to.

So with that said, I always remember what Jim Kij said or was it Doug Earle? One of them said you are supposed to be having fun as a member. We're here to raise money and volunteer and have fun not get all stressed out about selling Spaghetti Dinner tickets. Well I have to laugh about a number of things. If you stay in Exchange long enough you will have stories to tell just like I do. So, getting back to District training now and making somewhat of a point of this writing!

**Yes, we have training!** I remember when I joined the club and my sponsor was Charlie Braun (rip). Charlie was great guy we went to church together as well. Anyway I came to a breakfast meeting a couple times as a new member. One breakfast I found myself in a circle of three. It was Rod White (rip) and Charlie and then me. So Charlie starts talking about the Newsletter and asked Rod if they had found someone to do it yet. And this is where it gets funny. Charlie looks over at me in front of Rod who is President of Exchange that year and says Russ you want to do it? I could barely answer, I was like what, your asking me? (to myself). I was like let me think about it. Lol... Anyway, I called Charlie that night. I said Charlie I don't know how to do a newsletter but if you will help me I will give it a shot. Well the first 4-5 newsletters I did with Charlie holding my hand on every issue. He was so patient with me. Till this day when I see a new member I always jokingly say don't ever stand in a circle of 3, because the other two might ask you do something, ha-ha. It just cracks me up every time. And I have been doing the newsletter ever since. And I rarely stand in a circle of 3!

Moral of this story really is for new members is just to have fun with us, don't get stressed about raising money or volunteering in an area you know nothing about. Remember we offer training, and there are a lot of people in Exchange that will help you with as much patience as Charlie had for me .

Thank you for listening to my story. Exchange is the best thing that has come my way in a very long time. And it is such a good cause helping kids and just being patriotic and serving the community. We are so glad to have you if you are a new member or you have been here awhile. Get involved, but watch out for "the circle of 3" lol. You have found a special place with Exchange Club to bring your talents and smiles. We need you! And it's going to be fun having **Lori Bisewski** leading us as our new President for this fiscal year 2022-2023! She needs your support and volunteer efforts to make this fiscal year a fun and successful year!

Your newsletter guy,

Russ Braun

