



EXCHANGE

THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB

THE FORT SMITH NOON EXCHANGE CLUB

PRESIDENT	BARRY MCCORMICK
PRESIDENT-ELECT	TOMMY FOWLER
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES	SCOTT MONROE
TREASURER	PAUL ULMSCHNEIDER
SECRETARY	GARY MARCOTTE

BOARD

**PAUL RIVALDO, CLAUDE LEGRIS, BUDDY ACOACH, BILLY DOOLY, CHRISTY VINES,
AL WHITSON**

STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 29, 2008:

Presiding	Barry McCormick
Invocation	Buddy Acoach
Guest Slips	David Harris
Birthday Slips	Karen Lindsey
50/50 Tickets	Gary Marcotte and David Kerr
50/50 Winner	John Putnam

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A special Thank you goes out to George Beattie for his service to the club as Program Chairman for TWO months. What a guy!!!!
- The Girls Inc Summer camp Drive will officially commence with the arrival of dues notices for April. We raised \$11,000.00 last year...a new record. Be sure to give early and often!
- Leadership Excellence Core Training will be held on April 12. The training will involve the first two modules of the program with the follow-up to be held on August 16. This is great resume building training. While the training is free to all Exchangites, there will be a \$20.00 fee for lunch and materials.
- The annual Fish Fry will be held on May 2, 2008 at Columbus Acres.
- The annual PGM Golf tournament will be held on June 13, 2008 at Ben Geren Golf Course. The first Tee Time will be at 1:30, after the lunch meeting. Sign up with Herb Couvillion.

PROGRAM:

The Western Arkansas chapter of RSVP was the topic of last week's program. Susan Reehl, the Executive Director, gave us a summary of the volunteer program for seniors. While they have several hundred people signed up as volunteers, they can always use more. It's a great way for seniors to get out and remain active in the community. Volunteers must be 55 years old to join. Susan also spoke about the Federal Stimulus payments being made this spring. Even seniors who do not file income tax returns are eligible so long as they file this year. For more information, contact RSVP, the Social Security office or your accountant.

HUMOR:

The angry wife met her husband at the door. His breath stunk of alcohol and his face was plastered with lipstick. "I assume," she barked, "there is a very good reason for you to come drifting in at six o'clock in the morning?"
"There is!" he replied, "Breakfast."

FUTURE PROGRAMS:

March 7 Dr. George Schmidt, UA-Fort Smith College of Business; Topic: Computer Security – Detecting and Preventing Threats
March 14 Dr. Henry Rinne, UA-Fort Smith, College of Arts and Sciences; Topic: Alphonso Trent: On the Frontier of Jazz
March 28 Liz Martin, Peachtree Hospice

REPORT:

This week, I went to Oklahoma City for a District Board Meeting and to visit the Downtown OK City club. First, allow me to say that Oklahoma City is a great place. They have done phenomenal things to revitalize the downtown and the city as a whole. In fact, our city could learn much. There are all kinds of things to do and all within walking distance of one another. I encourage all members to attend the District Convention in June. If for no other reason; for the opportunity to visit OKC. I have a packet with city information that I'd like to share with all of you...please ask about it.

Additionally, I visited the Child Abuse Prevention Center (CAP) that is operated by the clubs in that area. The center is an active little place with about six employees. They have a Director, Receptionist/Clerical, and four Teacher/Caseworkers. There are no children actually present as the center's function is strictly prevention through education and help. Once abuse occurs, the case goes to law enforcement or DHS. Since one of the Caseworkers was on her way to a "home visit", I tagged along and got a shocking dose of reality. A young mother of two (not even twenty yet) living in absolute squalor and without the first notion of what life skills are. A seven month old girl was eating off the floor since there was no dining area. There were electrical outlets (live ones) hanging out of walls and only a refrigerator in the kitchen. Yes, I mean there was no sink and no stove. I was told that that home was the average of the caseworker's some 40. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a problem that needs to be addressed in our city, as well.

Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.

Sir Winston Churchill

A PROGRAM OF SERVICE

The One Nation Under God project was adopted on July 30, 1964, by Exchange leaders seeking to heighten awareness of our rich religious heritage. November, observed nationally as One Nation Under God Month, is a special time of year when Exchangites join together to increase public appreciation of the important roles religious faith and freedom have played in our nation's history. This article contains a variety of simple but effective project ideas that will enable your Exchange Club to help remind all Americans of our religious freedoms. Also keep in mind that although November is One Nation Under God Month, these suggested projects can be equally effective at any time of the year.

This powerful program not only aims to increase appreciation of our rich religious heritage, but also seeks to remind Americans that we must always trust in a higher power for guidance, protection and strength. The famous words of the program's title are, of course, taken from the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Exchange Clubs can implement this program in a variety of worthwhile ways, such as organizing community-wide prayer breakfasts, distributing pamphlets describing the American Flag's history and proper flag etiquette, sponsoring One Nation Under God essay or poster contests in schools and encouraging attendance at religious services.