

Exchange Club of Waterbury, CT

Exchange Club of Waterbury
P.O. Box 9244
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Website:

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Exchange Club Officers 2022-2023

- Megan Charette, President
- Justin Golden, President-Elect
- Ivelisse Cruz, Vice President
- Don Marold, Treasurer
- NeNean Cofrancesco, Club Secretary
- Kathy Craig, National Secretary
- Cathy Chaikowski, Imm. Past President

Board of Directors 2022-2023

- Ginny O'Rourke Cookson
- Brenda Corbo
- Mark Graveline
- Kelly Cronin
- James Higgins
- Sam Leisring
- Mary Ann Marold
- Luke Pergola
- Maureen Torrence

Exchange Club Foundation Officers:

- Mary Ann Marold, President
- Don Marold, Treasurer
- Kathy Craig, Secretary
- Ginny O'Rourke Cookson,
Imm. Past President

Foundation Board Members:

- Megan Charette
- Brenda Corbo
- Ivelisse Cruz
- Justin Golden
- Mark Graveline
- Marci McAllister
- Barbara Sticco
- Maureen Torrence

Motto: Unity for Service



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Meeting Reminder: DATE CHANGE!!!

Next club meeting is scheduled for **Monday, May 8th as follows:**

Board of Director Meeting @ 11:30 AM
Luncheon Meeting @ 12:30 PM

Meetings at Saverio's Pizza & Catering – 91 Chase Ave.
Waterbury (across from Aldi's Grocery Store)

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



A Message from your President, *Megan Charette*

Greetings Exchangites,

It is amazing to me that 2 years have already come and gone. As my term as president winds down, I have to thank you all for your amazing support, guidance and friendship. It has been an absolute honor to lead the club and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to grow and learn from you all.

This year is a milestone year for our Exchange Club, and 75th Anniversary events are in full swing. We have already accomplished some amazing things, and the rest of the year looks to be more of the same. The month of May is beginning to be very busy but let's not forget our "Salute to CT Finest Event" (see more information in the listing of event dates). Please consider joining us as we represent Waterbury and support our officer that evening!

I had the opportunity recently to address the Watertown Rotary Club, courtesy of Exchange President-Elect and Rotary President Justin Golden. This opened a door to further communication and possibly collaboration in the future. Thank you Justin for the opportunity! What else can I say. It has been a crazy, fun and exciting ride and I enjoyed every moment. Thank you all again for your support and all that you do for Exchange.

Sincerely, Megan

Exciting News: Exchange Club Sponsors a PAL Baseball Team

As part of our club's 75th Anniversary, we are sponsoring a PAL baseball team. It would be great if we could attend some of the games to show support for our team. The schedule of games is as follows:



Mondays, May 1st, 8th, and 22nd – all at 7:15 PM
 Friday, June 2nd at 7:15
 Saturday, June 3rd at 9:00am and at 12:00 Noon (2 games)
 Monday, June 5th at 7:15



Games are held at the PAL field on Division Street across from the PAL Center.

Club Trivia: *Did you know that one of our very own Exchange Club members played for the Red Sox team in the Exchange Club All-Star Little League in 1950 and 1951? Any guesses who that is?*





Update from the Foundation President, *Mary Ann Marold*:

At the November meeting of our club's Charitable Foundation, I was given the privilege of becoming its president. The Foundation board was considering how best we could raise funds to battle the horrors of child abuse. We debated several different ideas, but in the end, we decided to do what we have done successfully for over 26 years and that is our "**Wine, Beer and More**" fundraiser. The twist is that this time, it will be a holiday event.

It will be held on **Wednesday, December 6th at La Bella Vista from 5:30 to 8:30 PM**. The committee began meeting monthly in February and we have made tremendous progress. Now we can use the help of the entire club. If you could think about who you might reach out to for tickets sales, sponsorships, raffle prizes or silent auction items it could really help make the difference. Maybe your company could be a sponsor. Reach out to friends and co-workers to put together a table of attendees. It is always a guaranteed great night for an awesome cause. Tickets will cost \$50.00.

I will keep you posted on our progress as we go along. Reach out to me at any time if you would like to join our committee. Your participation could really help make the night a rousing success.

Yours in Exchange, *Mary Ann*



Words from the CT District from President, *George Gray*



Dear Fellow Exchangites:

As District President, I travel to many clubs and I am still stunned by the **Believe in the Blue** event that the Waterbury Club hosted last week, and kudos to Kathy Craig as the coordinator of this event. I want to remind all of you that Believe in the Blue is celebrated every April but it should be in our minds every day as we pursue the **National Project of the Prevention of**

Child Abuse.

I am committed to getting all of our CT and NY clubs sharing information and experiences. Every club has its own fundraisers and events. One such event is our District Convention. This year, our convention will be at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury on June 10, it is a purely social event (except for our annual meeting which should take 30 -45 minutes). We will be awarding Youth of the Year, ACE and District Award winner plus induction of officers will take place at dinner. The Guest Speaker will be Leif Welhaven, the incoming National President. Cost is \$60 per person and a cash bar.

For more information on CT District Events, go to <https://ctdistrictexchange.org/>

Yours in Exchange, *George*

Exchange Club of Waterbury Member Highlights

Welcome to two new members: *Debi Schatzle Baker & Lana DeSimone Ogradnik*
Who were installed by George Gray at the 75th Anniversary Program on April 12, 2023
What an honor to be installed the same day we were chartered 75 years ago.



Update on *Dr. Richard Shanahan*:

Doc became a member of the Exchange Club of Waterbury on September 1, 1960 during the presidency of Dr. Larry Shea. Doc was a regular at the Bethlehem fair for many, many years; however, is currently experiencing health issues and now resides at the Middlebury Convalescent Home. If anyone would like to send him a card, the address is: 778 Middlebury Road, Middlebury, CT.

Hello from *Joy & Jack McHugh* (from Florida):

Jack was another member of our club joining in 1971 and was very active for many, many years. He and his wife, Joy spends part of the year in their Florida home. They will be in CT for the summer and will be joining us soon whether at Ginny's on the lake or at a club meeting. Welcome home Joy & Jack.



Congratulations to *Megan Charette*:

In January 2023, Megan's position changed from AVP, Business Development Officer to AVP, and Branch Manager for ION Bank. She transitioned from Small Business Commercial Lending and is now managing the Main Office of ION Bank located at 87 Church Street in downtown Naugatuck. Congratulations Megan, job well done!

Congratulations to *Lee Schlesinger*:

June 30th will be the last day that Lee will be sitting at his desk at Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury. Lee has served in the capacity of Executive Director for the past 10 years and has served the agency well. He'll be retiring and planning on enjoying life and even though he will not be representing Safe Haven, he will be continuing on with the club. We'll be looking for you at the fair, Lee! ***Enjoy your retirement, you deserve it!***



(Member Highlights continued...)

Words from *Spencer Parrish* on his recent trip to Poland:

“March 1st saw me driving to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in the United States Track & Field Indoor competition. After winning 2 bronze medals for the 1500 and 3,000 meter race walks, it was back to CT to pack another bag and fly to Poland. In Poland, I was representing the United States in the 3,000 and 10,000 (6.2 miles) meters race walks at the World Masters Indoor Track and Field competition. I was successful in winning 2 individual gold medals and a Silver medal as a member of the U.S. Race Walking Team. The weather was 28 -36F cold rain, wind and snow. After that effort, I became a tourist traveling a thousand miles by train to different cities. In addition to sightseeing, my intent was to find Ukrainian children living there away from the war. To that end I was successful before I returned home on April 6th. Those that I found were on the streets in the rain trying to raise money to help with their living and staying alive. (This is tearful for me and I will say no more.) I did see the President of Ukraine receive Poland’s highest award the Silver Eagle. Security was not happy when I took my camera out. Cell phones were ok, so no cell phone, no pics. So I left.”



(Congratulations Spencer – he completed these accomplishments at the age of 80+++)

Congratulations to both *Brenda Corbo* & *Michele Grull* as they work hard with their clients thru the Savings Bank of Danbury



Important Club Dates to Remember

Monday, May 1st – 7:15 PM – PAL Baseball field – 1st game of season
Pal field on Division Street – come support our Exchange Club Team

Wednesday, May 10th – 10: AM – Memorial for Fallen Police & Fire Personnel
At City Hall – downtown Waterbury – Come join other Exchange members

Thursday, May 18th – Salute to CT Finest – 6PM @ the Aqua Turf, Plantsville
Tickets are available @ \$20 members - \$40 guests
Honoring Office Adam April and all State honorees
Speakers: David Johnson, National Exchange Club President
Brian Gould, Chief of Police, Bristol, CT
Blue & Gold Awards will be presented to our two fallen Bristol officer’s families
Contact Kathy Craig if interested in attending.



Wednesday, May 24th – Time to be announced...

Fun Night with Exchange – Come Join Us at Verde Restaurant

Opening Night on the Patio with Tom Chute & the Harold Zinno Band
Come out and help us support Tom Chute for all he does for Exchange
Contact Don Marold for more information

Sunday, May 28th – Waterbury Memorial Day Parade

Would you like to represent marching with the Exchange Club?
More information to follow shortly.



Saturday, June 10th – CT District Meeting & Convention

@ the Heritage Hotel in Southbury

All new officers should plan on attending for any district training available
More information is listed in comments from George Gray's CT District Remarks

End of Year Picnic at Ginny's Home on Hitchcock Lake – June date to be announced

Come join us to celebrate our year's accomplishments and gather to install officers
and board members for 2023-24 year

Friday – Sunday, September 8-10th – Bethlehem Fair

Plans to begin shortly – hope you plan on volunteering over the weekend

More club event dates will be announced thru the Foundation for our 75th Anniversary

May Anniversaries:

Ann Marino – May 4, 2022 – 1 year
Sam Leisring – May 13, 1988 – 35 years

May Birthdays:

Erik Anthony, Joe Bottacari, James Higgins,
Mike Jarjura, Steven Shaker, and Lucy Warren



WAYS TO SUPPORT FELLOW EXCHANGITES ...

Note: If any club member has an event or wants to publicize an business or social item, please send the information to Kathy Craig as soon as possible.
This is another way members can help each other.



Member Events

Grand Re-Opening!
May 3rd, 2023 at 9am



SKYLINE
FINANCIAL
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
BE A PART OF OUR WORLD

We're celebrating:

- New system launch
- Community Charter Expansion of our Field of Membership; now open to individuals and businesses in New Haven and Litchfield Counties in Connecticut.
- New services for members:
 - Business accounts, merchant, and loans!
 - Consumer line of credit, courtesy pay, and more!

3528 E. Main St, Waterbury CT 06705

Contact club member James Higgins for more information



Stop in and see club member Ginny O'Rourke Cookson and her staff at their new location.

Please see the end of the newsletter for a collage of photos from our Doc Shea Memorial Awards Dinner, our Blue Ribbon Campaign, our 75th Anniversary Event, as well as the Candlelight Vigil for Child Abuse Prevention.

Some photos compliments of Sergy (WPD, Forensics Dept.)

Note from Newsletter Editor: *Kathy Craig*

I am in the process of updating our club roster with National Exchange and would appreciate receiving any information needed for your current phone number, address, work information, email address and phone too.

I will be working with Megan on her final edition as well as Justin on his 1st one with a possible release by July 1st. If you have any information you need to submit, please send to kcraig055@gmail.com. Thank you and I hope you enjoyed your first of many editions as we have lots coming up!

Doc Shea Memorial Awards Dinner – March 29, 2023



Left to right-bottom) *Sandy Gonzalez Quinones* (Bridgeport PD), *Maureen Torrence*, Firefighter Chair, *Zhion Rountree*, A.C.E. Recipient, *Caitlyn Sheedy*, Program Co-Chair. (top) *James Higgins*, Program Co-Chair, *Tom Chute*, Emcee



Left to right: Police Chief *Fred Spagnola*, Officer of the Year, *Adam April*, *Megan Charette*, Exchange Club President, Firefighter of the Year, *Sam Kinkade*, and Fire Chief *Terrence Ballou*



Left to right – *Mary Ann Marold*, YOY Chair, *Zhion Rountree*, A.C.E. Recipient, *Kathy Craig*, Exchange Board Member, *Mahasin Gudaf*, YOY 1st Place, *Dr. Verna Ruffin*, Superintendent of Schools

Absent from event was *Aniyah Parker-Rickettesial*, YOY 2nd Place



Left to right – *Justin Golden*, Club Pres-elect, *Don Marold*, Club Treasurer, *NeNean Cofrancesco*, Club Secretary, *Ginny O'Rourke Cookson*, BOGD Chair, *Linda Noujaim*, Book of Golden Deeds Recipient, *Ken Mysogland*, Bureau Chief, State of CT Department of Children & Families, Blue Ribbon Award Recipients (accepting on behalf of the Commissioner)

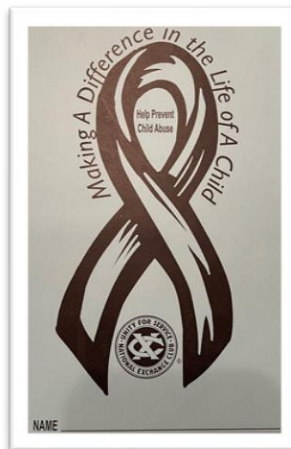


Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you to all the program chairs for another successful event in memory of *Dr. Lawrence J. Shea*, our first Club President

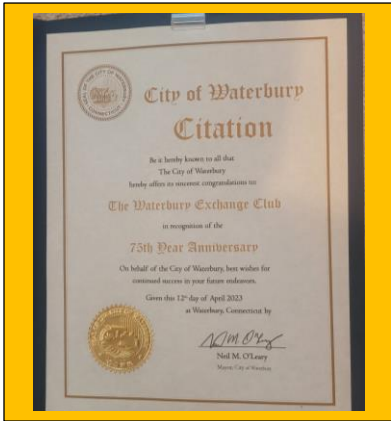


Thanks to the support of the *City of Waterbury Education Department, Waterbury Police Department, Firefighter's Federal Credit Union, Skyline Financial Federal Credit Union, O'Rourke & Birch Florists, Domenic & Vinnie's Pizza (4 locations), Saverio's Pizza & Catering, and Jarjura's Market* – we hope to have a very, very successful Blue Ribbon Campaign during the month of April.

We'll keep you posted as to our tally for this year. Here's a few photos that have been submitted so far.



Exchange Club of Waterbury Turns 75 Years Old Today April 12, 2023




Program

Welcome Remarks Kathy Craig, Program Chair
 *Invocation Don Marold
 *Pledge of Allegiance Mary Ann Marold

Recognition

City of Waterbury Paul Pernerewski, President
 Board of Alderman
 CT District Exchange George Gray, President
 Waterbury Exchange Megan Charette, President
 Installation of New Members. Debi Schatzle Baker
 Lana DeSimone Ogrodnik
 Covenant of Service Justin Golden, President-Elect
 Closing Remarks Kathy Craig

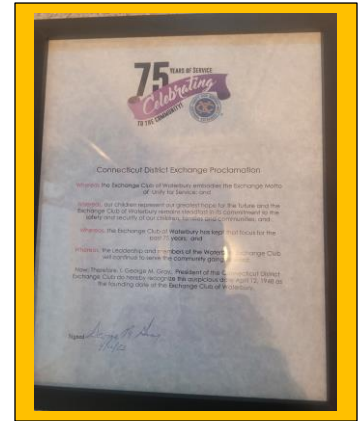


VISION:
A strong America, safe communities, and unified people.

MISSION:
Exchange, inspiring communities to become better places to live.

CORE VALUES:
Family, Community, Country

MOTTO:
Unity for Service



This was a special evening for Exchange and I thank all of you that came out to celebrate. I would also like to thank *Alexandra (Ali) DeGirolamo, M.P.A.*, Aide to Mayor O’Leary that went above and beyond to help ease my worries in setting up this program, to *Charlotte Williams, Lt. Nadine Amatruda, Police Chief Spagnolo*, and the members of *B.A.C.A. (Bikers Against Child Abuse)* for their help with any safety measures for this evening! I would also like to thank *Sam & Marsha Leisring* for supplying the original program from 1948 as a souvenir to all.

If any member that was not in attendance would like a copy, I’ve printed extra for you. Just let me know and I’ll be sure to get one to you.

Yours In Exchange, Kathy Craig, Program Chair

Reminder – **Duck Day Tickets** are available for purchase. \$2.50 per ticket stays with our club..... Checks must be made payable to the Naugatuck Chamber if paying by check. All monies and unsold tickets need to be turned back into the Chamber by May 18th. You may pick up tickets at Ginny's Store at 1 Chase Avenue in Waterbury. Please contact Karen Engratt @ (203) 578-0237 or NeNean Cofrancesco @ (203) 525-8019 for any questions.

**BUY YOUR DUCK
DAY TICKETS
HERE!!**

\$5.00 PER ENTRY

**FIRST PRIZE: \$5,000 CASH
SECOND PRIZE: \$1,000 CASH
THIRD PRIZE: \$500 CASH**

AND MORE!

**DUCK RACE
& FESTIVAL
2023**

Splashing Around For 18 Years

Your purchase helps support

**Programs on Child Abuse Prevention thru the
Exchange Club of Waterbury and area non-profits.**