

Noon Line



Official Publication of the Downtown Exchange Club of Billings

November 2009

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

In June 1996 I was employed at Eagle Mount and was responsible for fundraising. We (Eagle Mount) had written a grant to the Downtown Exchange Club. Eric Hoffman was our advocate to help secure the grant. He invited me to lunch to receive the check and give a report on the impact this grant would have for the Eagle Mount program. At the meeting I thought, what a cool club, good lunch, interesting speakers, they gave me money, and the mission – WOW – who doesn't have a heart for kiddos in our community, especially those who are being abused or neglected. I had visited the other Exchange Clubs and decided to join the Downtown Exchange Club.

I believe it was in the first year or two as a member that I joined the board of directors for the Downtown Exchange Club the first time. My thought was that I wanted to learn more about the club and how it worked.

This second time around as a board member I wanted to have a voice in decisions that are made and get more involved. By joining the board you have the opportunity to hear first hand ideas that the leaders are working through, see all of the requests from organizations for money and offer suggestions to make this a better club.

I would encourage everyone, whether you've been in the club for a number of years or you are a new member. Get intimately involved – volunteer whenever possible, join the board and share your gifts and talents.

Melodie McDermott, Board Member

WE ARE A "SERVICE" CLUB

First a big "Thank You" to those of you who have stepped forward and worked or signed-up for a wrapping shift. This is the first big event that is not alcohol or gambling related that we have taken on in the last several years. And part of joining a "Service Club" is doing some service!

It is very exciting for us to tackle a new fundraising project and I would love to see everyone get involved. If you have "Drifted Away" from the club in the past several months or years, take this as a challenge to reinvigorate yourself. If you are new to the club, please take this as an opportunity to meet other club members as well as show the community the good works that we are involved in.

I know that not everyone is a professional gift-wrapper and it might be intimidating to you. We do have professional assistance right next to our booth in the mall staff and they are happy to help if you need it. If you give it a try it will not be as hard as you think and it might even be FUN.

Please remember why we are doing this work and that this project will allow us to help those organizations that are most in need in this economy.

Sign up for a shift or two... And thanks for your service!

Dale Brown

National Exchange Club

Exchange is an all-volunteer, national service organization for men and women who want to serve their community, develop leadership skills and enjoy new friendships.

Exchange is made up of nearly 800 clubs and more than 25,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

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"The first requisite of success is the ability to apply your physical and mental energies to one problem without growing weary."

Thomas Edison

~~Future Programs~~

After Dec 1, there aren't any more Tuesday lunches until Jan 5th.

Jan 5, 2010	Allen Powers Behind the Vault Door, LLC
Jan 12, 2010	Melinda Middleton Billings West High Forensics
Jan 19, 2010	MYSTERY TUESDAY (Not to be missed)
Jan 26, 2010	Debbie Witner AFLAC

~~ MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES ~~

The following members are celebrating anniversaries with the Downtown Exchange Club in July.

Norm Shorb	43 years
Ron Yates	9 years
Russ Yerger	9 years
Lynn Caraveau	6 years

NEW GRANTS

At the board meeting on Monday the following grants were awarded to local organizations:

- \$2,500 grant for the Friendship House to fund their after school programs and summer camps. These programs are available to low income youth and are located in south Billings. These funds came from our involvement in the Par 3 Golf Course.
- \$3,500 to the Family Tree Center for their Festival of Trees. The Family Tree center is dedicated to the prevention of all types of Child Abuse. This will help to fund their general operations.
- \$250 grant for Senior Helping Hands. This is a project that the Big Sky Exchange Club used to fund. The staff at Senior Helping Hands gives a \$25 grant to the 10 neediest seniors that use their services. It's a nice surprise for them during the holiday season.

These are the types of projects we are able to fund with your hard work. You really do make a difference in our community.

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."

Vincent Van Gogh

~~ Upcoming Events ~~

RIMROCK MALL GIFT WRAPPING

RIMROCK MALL, BILLINGS, MONTANA

NOV 27TH – DEC 24TH

Please sign up to help wrap gifts and raise funds.

WRAPPING PARTY

BRIARWOOD CLUBHOUSE, BILLINGS, MT

DEC 15TH

This is our annual holiday party. We wrap gifts to be given away at the Santa in the Schools program

FREEDOM SHRINE

LOCKWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL, LOCKWOOD, MT

TIME TBD

We install this shrine with the other clubs in Billings.

SANTA IN THE SCHOOLS

METRAPARK GRANDSTANDS, BILLINGS, MT

DEC 22ND

We will gift presents out to elementary students at Orchard, Ponderosa and Newman schools



EXCHANGE

THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB