

# NEWSVIEWS

## EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT PERKINS

As I step into the role of President of the Exchange Club of Mattoon I do so with deep appreciation for our legacy and great optimism for our future. This upcoming year marks a truly special milestone – our clubs 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What an incredible testament to the commitment, generosity, and hard work of our members over the decades. As we honor our past, I am equally excited to look ahead and build on that foundation with fresh energy and renewed purpose.

My top priorities this year are to increase our membership and to increase engagement from our current members in club activities. Every member has something valuable to contribute, and I believe that by working together, we can continue to make a lasting impact in our community. Over the next couple of months, I will be seeking your input as we narrow our focus to the top three or four service and/or fundraising areas that matter most to us. With your voices guiding our direction, and our shared mission leading the way, I know we can make our 50<sup>th</sup> year one of the most meaningful yet. Let us celebrate where we have been—and boldly (and actively) step forward together into what is next.

Thank you – Lucy Perkins, President

## JUNE 2025

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

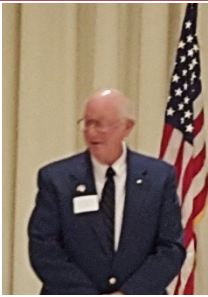
Over the last year it has been my privilege to lead the Exchange Club of Mattoon. It's been an honor to be part of a great group of individuals who give their time and effort to help others in the community. I want to give thanks to the Board Members for their guidance as I navigated through the past year. It was a lucrative year that we were able to give monies to all our youth and child advocacy programs.

I have learned the importance of collaboration and the power of community. I am confident that the club will continue to thrive under our new President Lucy Perkins.

Thank you, Steve

**January 2025**-Football pool  
**November 2024**-Pulled Pork Dinner.  
**November 2024**-National Day of Service-Christmas trees at Catholic Charities.  
**November 2024**-Veterans Day Parade-Handed out Flags.  
**November 2024**-Money for a Marion Medical Mission Well.  
**November 2024**-Volunteered for Mattoon Lights Works  
New Exchange Club light display at Peterson Park.  
**December 2024**-Christmas Club brunch Pulled Pork check to COC.  
**January 2025**-Club Social @ Lakeland Basketball Game.  
**February 2025**-Bauer Club Auction.  
**February 2025**-Club meeting with tour of Emerald Acres.  
**March 2025**-Club Meeting Ash Wednesday, First Presbyterian Church  
**May 2025**-High School Scholarship and Student Awards  
**May 2025**-Book of Golden Deeds Presentation  
**May 2025**-Proudly We Hail  
**June 2025**-Morgan's Meat Raffle

## REFLECTING ON THE UPCOMING 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



This starts the 50th year of The Exchange Club of Mattoon. During the past fifty years the membership, which started at 38, has varied from about twenty to over seventy. We have been blessed with a fine group of officers, many of whom have served for multiple terms. We have also donated thousands of dollars to various causes and individuals. In addition to the donations, we have contributed many hours of work in the community. Areas in which we have been remiss have been in encouraging new members to join and participate and encouraging members to lead and participate.

That seems to be our problem at this point – members being willing to step up and lead. Many seem to be willing to work, but not willing to take the small amount of time it takes to lead. I hope that we can continue to exist as an important part of the community and continue to improve the community for many more years, but it will take the participation of members for this to continue.

## DISTRICT CONVENTION JUNE 7, 2025

The Lincolnland District Convention was held in Normal ; Lincolnland currently has 24 Exchange clubs and 440 members. The Exchange Club of Mattoon is in Lincolnland's Division 5 along with Clubs in Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul. Max Jaeger is currently the Division 5 director and a Past District President.

During this event, members Jerry Parker received the All American Volunteer award for lifetime contributions to Exchange at both the club and district levels. Laura Severson was Lincolnland's Exchange Member of the Year for her many and varied contributions during the year. Both are featured on pages in this edition of NEWS VIEWS.

In addition to individual awards and recognitions, the Exchange Club of Mattoon received the 5 A's Award for the many Activities And Achievements during the year. The Exchange Club of Mattoon was recognized as having the highest average attendance (58.9%) of the clubs in the District.

Individual awards were made to Past President David Phipps awarded the Contributing Service Award, Jessie Janes with Bauer Auction Service received the Contributing Service Award for contributions to Exchange as a non-member, and Lenzi Sewell was honored with the Rookie of the Year Award. The club's Student of the Year and ACE Award winners will be presented with Honorable Mention Certificates by the Lincolnland District.

## SARA BUSH LINCOLN MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC



The SBL dental team visits 62 schools throughout the region and serves 2,280 children on its mobile dental bus. It also provides restorative care in its dental clinic in Mattoon and through a network of volunteer dentists throughout the region. Last year, some 19,935 procedures and x-rays were provided, with a focus on preventive care. It is estimated that the value of the services provided to children seen in the schools was \$349,867 with 59 percent of the children having four or more cavities.

They have a clinic in Mattoon that offers comprehensive care by appointment throughout the year. The portable and mobile dental clinics aim to remove transportation barriers. During the school year, we visit schools, and children are dismissed from class to receive services. Our Mattoon Clinic is a fun place for kids to come and get a healthy smile. We've designed the clinic to be interactive and provide oral health education the moment you walk in the door. Call and schedule an appointment today! Our mobile clinic provides preventive and urgent care at schools. We help kids with pain and infection that wouldn't otherwise see a dentist. It features two operatories in a bright and cheery atmosphere. Each chair is equipped with a television for kids to enjoy their favorite videos. Additionally, nitrous oxide (laughing gas) is available to help children with mild dental anxiety.

## MATTOON JROTC PROGRAM



The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a U.S. federal program available at Mattoon High School. School year 2024 had 75 students participating in the program that began in 1934 at MHS. The curriculum includes Leadership Education and Training (LET) classes taught by retired military personnel. Extracurricular activities such as drill and archery competitions, as well as community service. Participation does not obligate students to join the military. Benefits include leadership skills, community engagement, scholarship opportunities, and personal development, making it a valuable experience for students preparing for future academic and career paths.

Exchange Club of Mattoon President Elect Lucy Perkins is shown presenting a check to Ret. Major Zachery Long.



**JERRY PARKER****2024-2025 ALL-AMERICAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

Jerry Parker has been an esteemed member of The Exchange Club of Mattoon for 49 years, during which time he has held several prominent leadership positions, including President, Treasurer, and Secretary. His active participation in club projects and his service on various district and national committees have been instrumental in advancing the club's mission. Notably, Mr. Parker has made significant contributions to community service initiatives, particularly through his

role as Chair of the local food pantry project for two decades.

In addition to his leadership roles, Mr. Parker has been deeply involved in various community service activities. He has served as a Board member, Bulletin editor for over 20 years, and has given the invocation at least once a month at Club meetings. He has also provided educational insights through the "Minute for Exchange" at all Club meetings for the last ten years. Furthermore, he has chaired the Club Awards committee for the last ten years and participated in nearly every project and fundraiser the Club has organized during his tenure. His commitment to community service extends beyond the club, as he has attended nearly all social events the Club has hosted.

On the district level, Mr. Parker has served as District Director for three different districts, Treasurer, Secretary, President Elect, President, Convention Chairman, and has been involved in several committees, including the DSA committee and ACE committee. At the national level, he has contributed to the National Convention Committee and National Attendance committee.

Mr. Parker's dedication to community service is evident through his extensive involvement and leadership in various initiatives, making him an asset to The Exchange Club of Mattoon and the Mattoon community. Now retired, his legacy of service and commitment continues to inspire others.

**LAURA SEVERSON****2024-2025**

Laura Severson is being honored with a District award in recognition of her extensive volunteer service and community involvement. She was recently recognized as the Exchange Club of Mattoon's Book of Golden Deeds for 2025 because of her advocacy as an avid volunteer in the community.

Ms. Severson's commitment to volunteer work is exemplified by her multifaceted role within the Mattoon Exchange Club.

She currently holds positions as a board member, Social Committee Chair, Newsletter Chair, Pulled-Pork Fundraising Chair, Raffle Tickets Coordinator, and Community Auction Co-Chair. Her commitment to serving others is evident in her extensive and ongoing contributions to the community.

Her contributions span various organizations, including SBLHC, EIU, Mattoon Public Library, and the Coles County Council on Aging. Ms. Severson's current activities underscore her unwavering commitment and passion for serving others, as she actively participates in multiple capacities without seeking recognition for herself.

Ms. Severson's volunteer work is extensive and varied. At SBLHC, she serves as the Guild BOD Social Committee Chair, Infection Control, and Gift Shop. At EIU, she is involved in Music Ensembles. Her musical talents are also notable, as she plays the piano, flute, piccolo, auxiliary percussion, violin, cello, and sings. In addition, she has served as a Doudna Usher, as well as being a member of the EIU Alumni Association.

She also contributes to the Mattoon Public Library as an Outside Special Advisor and Cataloger. Additionally, Ms. Severson had volunteered at Elevate as both a Volunteer and Class E Volunteer, and as a board member of HOPE of East Central Illinois. Her work with the Coles County Council on Aging/LifeSpan Center includes roles such as IDOA SHIP Medicare specialist, Welcome Desk, IDOA BAA, and writing a weekly editorial article for JGTC.



## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?



HIGHWAY CLEANUP CREW



SOCIAL GATHERINGS



BREAKFAST AT DENNY'S 2018



40th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET



**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.***



CELL PHONES  
OFF OR SET  
TO VIBRATE  
@ MEETINGS

Thanks!



EXCHANGE  
[www.mattoonexchange.org](http://www.mattoonexchange.org)

Wednesday Mornings  
7:00 am American Legion



2024—2025 Officers

**President**

Stephen Martin

**President-Elect**

Lucy Perkin

**Secretary**

Dennis Bucker

**Treasurer**

Robert Riggert

# EXCHANGE CLUB of MATTOON

March 27, 1976



49 YEARS OF SERVICE



## CLUB ACCOUNTS

JUNE 2, 2025

Treasurer's Report:

Operation Acct. \$ 3524.65

Project Acct. \$ 8670.30

Scholarship Acct. \$ 103.78

Total Bank Acct. \$ 12298.73

Cash \$ 189.58

Scholarship CD \$ 8298.88

Overall Total \$ 20787.19

Queen of Hearts \$212



EXCHANGE

[www.mattoonexchange.org](http://www.mattoonexchange.org)



## JUNE

### MEETINGS

6/4

Races For All Paces

6/11 Zachary Long

Mattoon JROTC

6/18

Mattoon Community Food Center

6/25

All American Volunteer—Jerry Parker (District Award Winner)

Contributing Service Award - Bauer Auction, Jessie Janes, (District winner)

Distinguisher Service Award - Dave Phipps (District Honorable Mention)

Exchange Member of the Year - Laura Severson (District winner)

Rookie of the Year - Lenzie Sewell (District Honorable Mention)  
Club Awards

7/2

SPECIAL BOARD/MEMBER MEETING

# MAKE A PROGRAM SUGGESTION

## TO

## LUCY PERKINS!

