



# THE UNITY VOICE

California/Nevada District Exchange Club



## Introducing THE UNITY VOICE

In my home club of Las Vegas, we've embraced a powerful call to action: **"Bringing UNITY Back into CommUNITY."** It's more than a motto—it's a movement. And now, it's time to carry that spirit forward across our entire district with the launch of something new: **The UNITY VOICE.**

At the heart of the National Exchange Club lies a simple yet profound principle: **UNITY.** In a world where division often dominates the headlines and our social feeds, our clubs in the California/Nevada District continue to shine as beacons of connection, compassion, and shared purpose.

But **UNITY** isn't just a word—it's a way of life.

- It's the quiet strength of showing up for one another.
- It's the courage to listen with empathy.
- It's the commitment to work side by side to build safer, healthier, and more connected communities.

You see it in every volunteer hour. In every community event. In every conversation that bridges differences and builds trust. As we step into a new administrative year, we're not just continuing our mission—we're reigniting it.

We're calling on every member, every partner, and every neighbor to **lead with heart, serve with purpose, and put UNITY back into CommUNITY**—one act of kindness, one moment of understanding, one shared goal at a time.

- Let's be the light in someone's darkness.
- Let's be the bridge where there's a gap.
- Let's be the reason someone believes in community again.

Together, we are more than just a bunch of clubs —we are a movement.

And through the **UNITY VOICE**, we will continue to be a beacon of hope, healing, and unity for all.

JP Fallou - District President

### HELPING HAND by Amy Grant

#### 2025-2026 Officers

President: JP Fallou  
 Treasurer: Cynthia Strasmann  
 Secretary: Lisa Stringfellow  
 Imm Past Pres: Ken DeFour

#### Directors

District Division 1 - Larry Rannels  
 District Division 2 - Malcom Chambers  
 District Division 3 - Johnny Tai  
 District Division 4 - Sonja Dawkins  
 District Division 5 - Lyn Lamison  
 District Division 6 - John Blythe  
 District Division 7 - Victor Alejandro

### 2025/2026

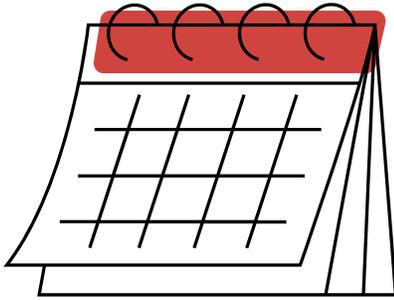
#### Mid-Winter Conference



#### Learn More

Mail: 304 S. Jones Blvd  
 Las Vegas, NV 89107  
 Phone: (702) 423-9967  
 Email: members@calnevexchange.org

### District Events



The California/Nevada District Exchange Clubs is pleased to share with you events that you may have an interest in attending in our community. Please click on this link to view these events.

*Click the image for New Exchange Club Podcast*



### Exchange Marketplace



Multiple Products Available

*Shop Now*

In June, we proudly hosted our **101st District Convention**, a milestone event that brought together members from across the district to celebrate our shared mission and accomplishments. The convention led by our President Ken DeFour featured a dynamic lineup of guest speakers, networking opportunities, and inspiring presentations that highlighted the impact of Exchange Club initiatives in our communities.

One of the most memorable moments was the induction of our new slate of officers, led by National Past President David Johnson. His presence and words of encouragement added a special significance to the ceremony, reminding us of the enduring legacy and future promise of our organization.

The convention also served as a platform to recognize outstanding members and clubs for their service and dedication, reinforcing the spirit of Exchange and energizing attendees for the year ahead.

Your Officers and District Directors include:

- President: **Jean-Pierre (JP) Fallou**
- Treasurer: **Cynthia Strasmann**
- Secretary: **Lisa Stringfellow**
- Immediate Past Pres: **Ken DeFour**

- District Director/Division 1 – **Larry Rannels**  
Laguna Beach, San Clemente, San Diego, South Orange County
- District Director/Division 2 – **Malcom “Buzz” Chambers**  
Culver City, Pacific Coast
- District Director/Division 3 – **Johnny Tai**  
Irvine, Newport Beach
- District Director/Division 4 – **Sonja Dawkins**  
Fontana, Hemet-San Jacinto Valley, Las Vegas, Magnolia Center/Riverside
- District Director/Division 5 – **Lyn Lamison**  
Cuyama Valley, Central Coast
- District Director/Division 6 – **John Blythe**  
Bakersfield, Kern Valley, Porterville
- District Director/Division 7 – **Victor Alejandro**  
Gilroy, Hollister, Silicon Valley, San Ramon Valley, Scotts Valley

Please extend a warm welcome to all these individuals for taking on these important leadership positions.



On June 7th and 8th, The California/Nevada District Exchange Club featured the recognition of our Youth of the Year (YOY) and Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) award winners—exceptional young individuals whose stories of perseverance and achievement moved and inspired all in attendance.

The ACE Award honors high school students who have overcome great physical, emotional, or social obstacles and are now on a path to success. These students may not have had the highest grades or the most accolades, but they've shown remarkable resilience, determination, and personal growth.

- Purpose: To recognize students who have turned their lives around and are now making positive choices.
- Impact: It celebrates perseverance and encourages continued success in education and life.

**A.C.E. Award Winners**

- Katelyn Rushing sponsored by the Kern Valley Exchange Club.
- Nolan Payne sponsored by the Exchange Club of Newport Harbor.



The Youth of the Year Award recognizes high school students who have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership in school and community activities.

- Purpose: To honor well-rounded students who exemplify strong character, leadership, and service.
- Impact: It highlights the importance of civic responsibility and encourages young leaders to continue making a difference.

**YOY Award Winners**

- Cecilia Huape sponsored by the Exchange Club of Fontana.
- Toby Nguyen sponsored by the Exchange Club of Newport Harbor

Congratulations to all our Award winners from all of us at the California/Nevada District Exchange Club.

**YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS Program for 2025/2026**

The California/Nevada District and Foundation are proud to offer four scholarship opportunities totaling over \$10,000 to students across all 24 clubs, supporting individuals from diverse educational backgrounds in achieving their academic and career aspirations.

We encourage every club to visit the District Awards webpage for key dates and guidance on how to establish your club's scholarship program. **Don't miss out**—your club's nominees could be honored at both the district and national levels!

<https://calnevexchange.org/scholarships/>

## Club News

Last year, our district proudly gave back over \$9,000 to support club-hosted events and/or donations that hold personal significance to their members. We're excited to announce that this year's budget has been approved to allocate \$10 per member directly back to their club.

To receive these funds, we ask that each club connects with their District Director to meet and strategize about the club's future. Please note that only a District Director can submit the funding request on behalf of the club. So, give them a call or email them. Phone numbers and emails can be found on <https://member.nationalexchangeclub.org/>



**EXCHANGE**  
CALIFORNIA - NEVADA DISTRICT EXCHANGE CLUBS

**GIVING BACK TO OUR CLUBS**

We extend our deepest gratitude to ALL our Clubs for your unwavering support and dedication.

Our District has given back over \$8,000 to our clubs this administrative year. Their steadfast commitment to our shared mission has been instrumental in fostering positive change within all our communities. The impact of all contributions is immeasurable, and we are profoundly grateful for our continued partnership.



- Support Veterans Affected by the LA Wildfires VETERANS!
- Exchange Club of San Ramon Valley
- Exchange Club of Newport Harbor 26th Annual Field of Honor
- May 16 - May 26, 2025 | 9 AM - 5 PM
- Cherry Park - 10th Street & Denver Drive

## 2025/2026 Mid-Winter Conference

### Hotel Registration

This year's Mid-winter conference will be held at the Tachi Palace Casino Resort.



**Friday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Sunday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm**

Tachi Palace Casino Resort

17225 Jersey Ave Lemoore, CA 93245

Book Your Hotel Stay by Phone: **559-924-7751 or 559-925-5880**

Use Code “**National Exchange Club Region 1**” when booking your room.

Deadline for the discounted rate is Oct 26<sup>th</sup>

<https://shorturl.at/oUE6p>

**Convention Registration (Meals)** - The \$125 Fee allows all members admission to all scheduled convention sessions. The Fee includes Saturday Breakfast, Saturday Lunch, and 8:00am Sunday Breakfast. Attendance at the convention is complimentary; however, the cost of the meal book is \$125.

Please Note: Friday evening reception begins at 6:00 PM, where each registered attendee will receive two tickets. The event will begin promptly at 8:00 AM on Saturday for those not staying at the hotel.

### Schedule

#### **Friday, November 7th**

6:00 PM – Location TBA Hospitality Room – Light snacks and drinks

#### **Saturday, November 8th**

8:00AM – 9AM Breakfast Buffett

8:30AM Call to Order Region 1 Vice President John Blythe

Prayer and Pledge by NorCal Representatives

Introduction of Guests

State of the Region – John Blythe

National Report National President and America 250 Project, Joe Dudek?

Working with Non-Profits for Grants/Sponsorships – JP Fallou

Overview of Member Resources – Projects and Exchange Education – JP Fallou, others

12:00 – 1:30 – Plated Lunch with Topic Tables

2:00 PM – Exchange Presentations (six clubs discussing projects fundraisers, member recruitment, ideas, etc.)

6:00 PM – Location TBA Hospitality Room – Light snacks and drinks

#### **Sunday, November 9th**

8AM – 9AM – Continental Breakfast

8:30AM Call to Order – John Blythe

Prayer and Pledge by Cal/Nev Representatives

Question and Answer Period

Final Thoughts and adjournment – John Blythe

10AM – 11AM California/Nevada District Board meeting in Hospitality suite – TBA

[Register Today!](#) >>

[Register by clicking here at](#)

<https://shorturl.at/oUE6p>

## 2025 National Exchange Convention in Louisville, KY

The 107th National Exchange Club Convention took place from July 9–12, 2025, in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Galt House Hotel, a scenic venue overlooking the waterfront in the heart of downtown. Highlights from the Convention:

- **Purpose & Atmosphere:** The event was designed to celebrate achievements, foster inspiration, and provide learning opportunities for Exchange Club members. It featured nationally recognized speakers, workshops, and networking sessions aimed at strengthening community service efforts.
- **Youth Recognition:** A standout moment was hearing from the three National Youth Scholarship recipients, a cherished tradition that continues to inspire attendees each year. Winners Included: ACE Award Winner of Mitchel, South Dakota, Youth of the Year - Shailin Pathy of Madison, Connecticut, and Legacy Award Winner - Ashley Renea Bloom of Crockett County each winning \$15,000.
- **Voting & Governance:** Registered attendees had the opportunity to vote on proposed amendments and elect officers for the 2025–2026 term. Joe Dudek as National President, Fussell Hughes as President-Elect, Julie Harman as National Treasurer.
- **Community & Fellowship:** With around 550 members in attendance representing 174 clubs, the convention fostered a strong sense of community, collaboration, and celebration among Exchange members from across the country. Over \$102,000 raised during the Auction.



Click on the TALK EXCHANGE Image as 6 California/Nevada District Exchange Club members where highlighted.



# Strategic Growth Plan for our District and Club

As we begin this new administrative year, our district is setting a bold and achievable goal: to grow from **538 to 600 members**—a net increase of **62 passionate individuals** and **Businesses** committed to service, unity, and making a difference. This growth isn't just about numbers; it's about expanding our reach, deepening our impact, and strengthening the legacy of the National Exchange Club in our communities.

To achieve this, we're focusing on five strategic pillars: **engaging local businesses, amplifying our Four areas of Interest, Americanism, Youth Programs, Community service efforts and the prevention of child abuse, retaining and energizing current members, launching a new club, and celebrating every milestone along the way.** Each step is designed to build momentum, foster connection, and invite more people into the meaningful work we do.

## 1. Targeted Business Membership Campaign

- Identify Key Businesses: Focus on companies that value community engagement—banks, hospitals, law firms, and local franchises.
- Create a Business Membership Package:
  - Highlight benefits like networking, community visibility, and member engagement.
  - Offer business memberships or sponsorship opportunities.
    - Visit our [Exchange Club of Las Vegas Website](#) for more details
    - Our “Bringing UNITY back into commUNITY” brochure.
- Host Business Mixers: Partner with chambers of commerce or local business associations to host events introducing Exchange Club values.

## 2. Leverage our Areas of Interest

- Patriotic Events: Organize flag retirements, essay contests, or veteran appreciation events. Invite the public and use these as recruitment opportunities.
- Service Projects with Visibility:
  - Collaborate with schools, first responders, or local nonprofits.
  - Ensure media coverage and social media promotion to attract interest.
- Invite Prospects to Participate: Let potential members experience the impact firsthand before joining.

## 3. Retention & Engagement

- Welcome & Onboard New Members: Assign mentors, send welcome kits, and host orientation sessions.
- Recognize Contributions: Celebrate milestones, spotlight members in newsletters, and give awards.
- Create a Member Event Calendar: Include social events, projects, and leadership development opportunities.

## 4. Grow a New Club

- Identify Underserved Areas: Look for communities without a club but with active civic life.
- Recruit a Core Team: Use existing members to help seed the new club.
- Offer Support: Provide training, materials, and mentorship from experienced members.

## 5. Track Progress & Celebrate Wins

- Monthly Growth Goals: Aim for ~1 new members per month.
- Use a Dashboard: Track new members, club engagement, and retention.
- Celebrate Milestones: Publicly recognize when you gain a new member.

## 6. Talk Exchange

- Take the Exchange Education “New Member Orientation Course” on the Exchange Club Member Website
- Attend one of our Quarterly Zoom New Member District Orientation class.
- List to “Talk Exchange” Podcast.

# Save the Date

102nd District

Exchange Convention

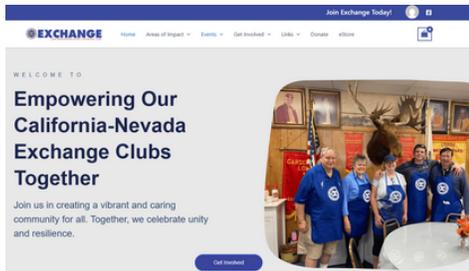
May 29, 30<sup>th</sup>, & 31st, 2026

in Las Vegas



IT'S A NEW DAY IN LAS VEGAS

## Cal/Nev Website



<https://calnevexchange.org/>

## Exchange Education



<https://member.nationalexchangeclub.org/exchange-courses/>

## Message from the District President – JP Fallou

As President of the California-Nevada District of the National Exchange Club, I am honored to serve alongside so many passionate and dedicated individuals who believe in the power of community.

Our mission—to inspire communities to become better places to live—guides everything we do, and it is through our shared values that we continue to make a meaningful impact.

The National Exchange Club stands on three core values: Family, Community and Country. These values are not just ideals—they are the foundation of our work. Whether we are supporting child abuse prevention programs, honoring our veterans, promoting patriotism, or empowering young leaders, we are building a community rooted in compassion, service, and unity.

Growing our district from 538 to 600 members—an increase of 62 members—is a great goal for this administrative year, and our focus on business memberships, Americanism, and community service is a strong foundation.

Let us continue to lead with purpose, collaborate with kindness, and serve with heart. By living out the values of Exchange, we are creating a ripple effect of hope and progress across California and Nevada.

Thank you for your commitment to Exchange. Let's keep building a stronger, more connected community—one act of service at a time.

Hope to see you at our Mid-winter conference in November or in Las Vegas next year.