

The 2026 Connecticut District Exchange Convention



June 6, 2026
The Elks Club, Westbrook, CT



EXCHANGE
CONNECTICUT EXCHANGE CLUB

The Exchange 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.



Ginny Greatsinger **CT District President** **2024-2026**



I'm thrilled that we're gathered here today to mark the end of another successful Exchange year and to experience the unity that comes from being together at this Convention.

Today, we celebrate the unique strengths of our Clubs and the positive impact each one makes in its community. While all Clubs operate under the Exchange banner, each serves its community in a distinctive way that reflects local needs, interests, and strengths.

As we look ahead, we do so with pride and optimism. America 250 gives us a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unite our Clubs around a shared national moment — a chance to honor our history, celebrate our freedoms, and highlight the values that Exchange has championed for more than a century. Whether through patriotic displays, community partnerships, or programs that bring people together, our District and our Clubs are embracing this milestone with enthusiasm and purpose.

Together, we will continue to grow, adapt, and rise to the challenges before us — always guided by our mission, our love of country, and our belief in the power of Unity for Service.

Thank you all for coming today and making a difference every day in our Clubs, in our communities and in Exchange.

Ginny 😊

Schedule of Events

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM - Registration and Coffee Social

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM - CT District Annual Meeting

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM - Break & Networking

11 AM - 11:50 AM - Telling your Exchange Story

11:50 AM - Meet our Youth Award winners

12:15 PM - 1:45 PM

ACE and Youth of the Year Luncheon

1:45 PM - 2:30 PM - America250 Spotlight

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM - Break & Networking

2:45 PM - 3:15 PM - AI: A Powerful Club Resource

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM - CT District Awards Presentation

**3:45 PM - 4:30 PM - CT District Installation of
Officers & Celebration**

***** CLOSING *****

*Thank you to the 2025/26 Board of Directors for their tireless service,
commitment to excellence, and for sharing their
experience and expertise.*

*To our incoming Board of Directors, your contributions will be
invaluable as we continue to make a lasting impact in our communities.*

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!”

Board of Directors 2026-2027

President - Robin DiNicola (Wolcott)

Immediate Past President - Ginny Greatsinger (Stamford)

President Elect - Kathy Craig (NW Hills)

Treasurer - Peter Clarke (Stamford)

Secretary - Claudia Vaudreuil (Naugatuck)

Vice President - Annette Petruzzi (Wolcott)

Vice President - Jack Ferraro (Bristol)

District Director – Division 1 - Paul Greatsinger (Stamford)

District Director – Division 2- George Gray (Naugatuck)

District Director – Division 3 - Sean Heenan (Madison)

District Director – Division 4 - Kim Corbett (Wolcott)/

Annette Petruzzi (Wolcott)

District Director – Division 5 -Ginny Greatsinger (Stamford)

District Director – Division 6 - Available*

(Home Club)

**Board of Directors to consider nomination(s)/vote at future BOD meeting.*



Divisions

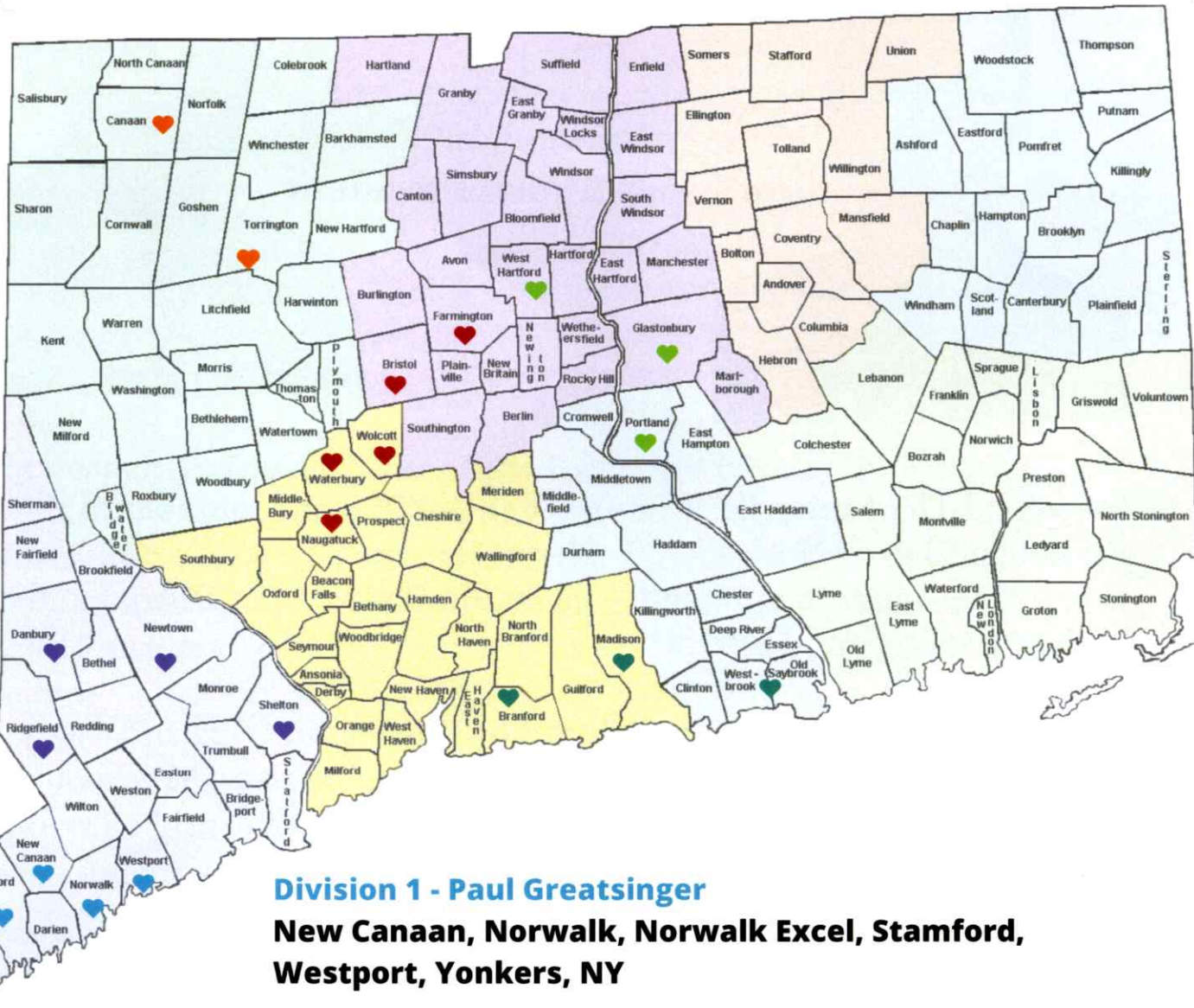
Cobleskill, NY



Dutchess
County, NY



Yonkers, NY



Division 1 - Paul Greatsinger

New Canaan, Norwalk, Norwalk Excel, Stamford, Westport, Yonkers, NY

Division 2 - George Gray

Greater Candlewood, Danbury, Shelton, Ridgefield

Division 3 - Sean Heenan

Branford, Branford Excel, Old Saybrook /Westbrook, Madison, Polson Excel Club of Madison, Danial Hand Excel of Madison

Division 4 - Kim Corbett and Annette Petrucci

Bristol, Bristol Excel, Farmington, Naugatuck, Naugatuck Excel, Waterbury, WAMS Excel, Wolcott, Wolcott Excel

Division 5 - Ginny Greatsinger

Canaan, Cobleskill, Dutchess County, Northwest Hills

Division 6 - Vacant

Glastonbury, Portland, West Hartford



Joe Dudek
National President

Joe joined The National Exchange Club in 2003 as a member of the Exchange Club of Norwalk, CT. Since then, he has built five clubs and is currently a member of eight—six in the Connecticut District and two in the New England District.

He was elected to the National Board of Trustees in 2022 and previously served as Region 12 Vice President. Joe also serves as a volunteer field representative for both the Connecticut and New England District Exchange Clubs.

Professionally, Joe is the Executive Director of Help for Kids – the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of Southern Connecticut. A highlight of his past year was celebrating the center's 35th anniversary. Prior to his nonprofit work, Joe spent 30 years in the corporate media world with Cox Enterprises, serving as General Manager of their International Media Division.

Joe is part of a proud three-generation Exchange family, following in the footsteps of his father, Erwin, formerly of Highland, NY. He now serves alongside his two daughters, Meghan and Caitlin, in the Exchange Club of Westport, CT.



Paul Greatsinger
Region 12 Vice President

Paul Greatsinger is a member of the Exchange Club of Stamford, CT, and is also the Connecticut District Exchange Clubs' volunteer field representative. He has held several other offices with the organization, including division director, club president, club vice president, CT District President, and currently serves as CT District Immediate Past President.

Paul joined the organization in 2007, initially for the fellowship, but has pursued leadership roles due to Exchange's Mission and National Project, the prevention of child abuse.

Paul is the Vice President at Morgan Stanley, based in Stamford, CT. He is also a veteran who served 20 years as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps. Paul is married to his wife of 35 years, Ginny, and they have three adult children, as well as a miniature Australian Shepard named Sandy. He enjoys golf, reading, and French cooking.

He hopes to help Exchange achieve its vision of strong communities and unified people through his role as Regional Vice President.

Business Meeting Agenda

- Invocation - Paul Greatsinger
- Pledge of Allegiance - Bernadette Carver
- Welcome and Introduction of Guests - Ginny Greatsinger
- Guest Comments:
 - National Exchange Representative - Joe Dudek
 - Region 12 Vice President - Paul Greatsinger
 - Region 12 Vice President (running) - Rick Lunetta
- Credentials Report - Dunn Heenen
- Officer's Reports
 - Kathy Craig - Secretary
 - Peter Clarke - Treasurer
 - Ginny Greatsinger - President
- New Business - None
- Board Nominations - Election Committee Chairman - Dunn Heenan
- Outgoing CT District President Remarks - Ginny Greatsinger

Telling Your Exchange Story

Bristol's own Erin King will walk us through some key strategies and insights on how to properly brand your Club while also establishing a great presence online.

You can find Erin's handouts and resources on the District Website after the convention.



EXCHANGE
CONNECTICUT EXCHANGE CLUB



Youth Awards Luncheon Program

Welcome and Introductions - *Ginny Greatsinger*

- *Luncheon Buffet* -

Award Presentations:

Accepting the Challenge of Excellence - *Kelly Pinho*

Youth of the Year Award - *Sean Heenan*

The Youth of the Year Award (YOTY) recognizes hard-working high school students who attain high levels of scholastic achievement, community involvement and leadership.

The Accepting the Challenge of Excellence (ACE) award recognizes high school students making a dramatic change in their attitude and performance during high school. These changes enable the students to overcome incredible adversities and prepare for graduation.

Each year, local Exchange Clubs work with their local high schools to nominate students for Youth of the Year and Accepting the Challenge of Excellence. It is a competitive field, and from that one YOTY and ACE winner is named at the Club level. The individual club winner then competes against all the other Club YOTY and ACE winners to be selected as the CT District winners. We are thrilled and honored to be able to recognize these students today.

Our CT District ACE and YOTY winners move on to compete for the National ACE and Youth of the Year award. The national winners receive a \$15,000 scholarship presented at the National Convention in Omaha, NE, July 2026. Travel and accommodations will be provided to the winner and his/her parents/guardians.

This year, the Youth of the Year theme is:

"In a world that is constantly changing and ever-evolving, our youth play critical roles in shaping the future of their communities. From advocating to leading, young people are taking charge and making significant impact. How have you personally contributed to society and how do you envision your future in community service?"

CT District Youth of the Year

*Grace Ackerman - Daniel Hand HS
Madison Exchange Club*



Grace Ackerman is an adept scholar who maintained a 4.76 GPA throughout a rigorous courseload of advanced placement and honors classes. Her vast academic accolades include membership in the national honor society, Sacred Heart University Book Award, AP Biology Excellence Recognition, and Excellence in Business Education. She is one of 150 nationally recognized Coca Cola Scholars selected from over 100,000 applicants.

Grace has demonstrated her commitment to serving others as a student advocate, coach, and community volunteer. She has stood out amongst her peers serving on the state Youth Political Activism Coalition, Connecticut State Student Advisory Council on Education, and as a Youth and Family Services Student Liaison. Her passion for serving others led her to create Raffles for Wishes, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that raises money for Make-A-Wish by raffling experiences for local youth.

Grace is a dedicated leader and a 4-year class representative. She served as a delegate to the CT Girls' State program, editor of the yearbook committee, and secretary and treasurer of the Daniel Hand Excel Club. Grace not only competed as a track and field athlete and soccer player but dedicated herself to serving the community as both a youth soccer coach and youth referee.

CT District ACE of the Year

*Isabella Cappuccia - AITE HS
Stamford Exchange Club*



The A.C.E. Award honors students who rise above adversity with courage and determination. This year, we recognize Isabella, a young woman whose strength, perseverance, and quiet resolve embody the very heart of this award.

During high school, Isabella faced challenges that would have overwhelmed many students — including the heartbreaking loss of both her mother and father while still navigating her teenage years. These experiences shaped her journey, but they did not define her. Instead, Isabella chose to rebuild her life with intention, maturity, and a deep commitment to her own growth. Her teachers describe her as focused, thoughtful, and remarkably self-driven. Her academic progress reflects that determination. Isabella learned to advocate for herself, set goals, and steadily strengthen her performance in the classroom. She embraced the belief that progress is built one step at a time, and her consistent effort has transformed her path forward.

Beyond academics, Isabella finds balance and confidence through figure skating, a sport that mirrors her personal journey. On the ice, she discovered discipline, resilience, and the courage to rise after every fall. Skating became a place where she could push herself, find joy, and build the inner strength that now defines her. Isabella is also known for her kindness and her ability to connect with others. She carries herself with empathy and grace, offering support to those around her even as she worked to rebuild her own foundation. Her quiet leadership and grounded presence make her a source of comfort and inspiration within her school community. Isabella's perseverance, maturity, and remarkable personal growth make her an extraordinary example of what the A.C.E. Award represents. We are proud to honor her today and celebrate the bright future she is creating for herself.

Afternoon Sessions



America250 Spotlight

*America 250
Official Site*



Hear about the local and online resources available to all the Clubs in the District. Then we will have an open forum for Clubs to talk about what they are doing to Celebrate our Country's Semiquincentennial. Go America!!



*CT District
Flag Request*

*NEC Campaign
Guide*



AI: A Powerful Club Resource

AI is a powerful new ally for Club leaders. This segment highlights simple, practical ways AI can save time, enhance engagement, and help your Club thrive, and grow membership.

CT District Awards

Membership Recruitment Drive - First Place
Mike Denegris Distinguished Service Award
Exchange Club Member of the Year

Installation of Officers

2026-2027 Board of Directors
Installation and Pinning Ceremonies - Joe Dudek
Incoming President Remarks - Robin DiNicola

Alas, all good things come to an end...

Raffles & Thank You's
Closing and Covenant of Service

The Mike DeNegrìs Distinguished Service Award Kathy Craig - Exchange Clubs of Waterbury and the NW Hills



Few people embody the spirit of Exchange as fully and as wholeheartedly as Kathy Craig. A proud member of the Waterbury Exchange Club since 1997, Kathy has spent nearly three decades pouring her time, talent, and heart into strengthening her Club, her community, and the Connecticut District. Her service record is extraordinary: eight terms as Club Secretary, four terms as Club President, and countless new members sponsored. But titles only hint at the depth of her dedication.

At the Waterbury Club, Kathy helped transform a collection of individual recognition events into one signature celebration — the Doc Shea Awards — now one of the largest and most admired community programs in the District. This past year, more than 300 people attended as the Club honored first responders, youth, civic leaders, and volunteers. Whether coordinating honorees, greeting guests, or selling fried dough at the Bethlehem Fair to support the cause, Kathy was always there — sleeves rolled up, smile on her face, leading by example.

Her impact, however, extends far beyond her home Club. For the past three years, Kathy has served as District Secretary, bringing organization, steadiness, and heart to the role. And in the hours she somehow found between her District responsibilities, she pursued a dream she carried for years: starting a new Exchange Club in her hometown of Torrington.

The Mike DeNegrís Distinguished Service Award

Kathy Craig (Cont.)

Kathy was the driving force behind the Northwest Hills Exchange Club from the very first spark. She met with the Chamber of Commerce, connected with civic and community leaders, reached out to child abuse prevention organizations and women's shelters, and spoke with anyone who would listen about the mission of Exchange. Her passion was contagious. Today, the Club stands proudly with 17 members, including her daughter Andi and her dear friend Barbara — a testament to Kathy's ability to inspire others and bring them into the circle of service. And fittingly, Kathy now serves as the current President of the Northwest Hills Exchange Club, guiding the new Club with the same energy, vision, and heart that built it.

Her leadership didn't stop there. To strengthen Exchange's visibility and patriotism across the region, Kathy worked with the towns of Litchfield and Winsted to establish their first Historic Field of Flags displays. These powerful tributes not only honored veterans and first responders, but also helped build new relationships — including welcoming the Winchester Chief of Police as one of the Club's newest members. Kathy then used that momentum to encourage the Torrington Police Chief and ultimately the Mayor of Torrington to join as well.

Her ability to connect people, build trust, and inspire action is unmatched. Kathy is a force — of good, of passion, of unwavering commitment to Exchange. She solves problems by bringing people together, she lifts others into leadership, and she lives the motto of Unity for Service with every step she takes. Her work has strengthened Clubs, expanded our reach, and deepened Exchange's impact across Connecticut.

For her decades of service, her extraordinary leadership, and her relentless dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant District, we are proud to honor Kathy Craig with the Mike DeNegrís Award.

Exchange Club Member of the Year



The Connecticut District Exchange is proud to honor **Karl and Dianna Tack** as our 2025–2026 Exchangites of the Year. Their leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to the mission of Exchange have strengthened not only the Bristol Club, but the entire District and the communities we serve.

Dianna Tack – A Steady Force of Compassion, Leadership, and Community Impact

Dianna Tack is a cornerstone of the Bristol Exchange Club and a shining example of service, compassion, and quiet leadership. A long-time board member, former Secretary, and three-term Club President, she continues to strengthen every pillar of Exchange through her steady commitment and hands-on involvement. Her leadership style is humble yet powerful — she lifts others, builds confidence in new volunteers, and brings a sense of unity to every project she touches.

This year, Dianna played a key role in launching the new Excel Club at Bristol Eastern High School, helping guide its formation and mentoring its student leaders. She continued her dedicated service on the ACE Scholarship Committee, supporting local youth and their educational goals. Her work reflects a deep belief in investing in the next generation.

Dianna leads the Christmas Families program and expanded the club's holiday outreach to include baked-goods deliveries to all five firehouses, the police department, and EMS. Following the tragic loss of Bristol's fallen officers, she helped the community heal by organizing ongoing baked-goods deliveries with her volunteer team, the "Betty Crockers," offering comfort, stability, and connection during a difficult time.

She also serves weekly with Agape House and contributes to major club events including the Parade and Craft Fair. Dianna's kindness, reliability, and leadership embody the very best of Exchange, and her impact is felt throughout the Bristol community.

Award Criteria - This award is designed to recognize an outstanding member who is active in the organization through participation in recruitment/new club building efforts, club/district leadership positions, major club or district committees, projects or fundraisers. The award also seeks to recognize individuals who roll up their sleeves to volunteer and have a positive attitude.

Dianna and Karl Tack - Our 2026 CT District Exchange Club Member of the Year

Karl Tack - A Pillar of Leadership, Service, and Community Stewardship

Karl Tack has been a steady and influential leader within the Bristol Exchange Club for more than a decade. His service reflects long-term commitment, reliability, and a deep belief in the mission of Exchange. Since joining the Board of Directors in 2016, Karl has helped guide the club through growth, transition, and renewed community engagement.

Karl has been a dedicated member of the ACE Scholarship Committee since 2015, helping recognize and support outstanding local students. His commitment to youth extends to the Exchange Excel Clubs, where he coordinated the Bristol Central High School Excel Club from 2021 to 2025 and played a key role in establishing the new Excel Club at Bristol Eastern High School in 2025. His mentorship has helped expand Exchange's presence among local youth.

His service also includes contributions to the Americanism Committee from 2022 to 2025, promoting patriotism and civic pride throughout the community. Beyond committee work, Karl has served as Family Events Chair for the Mum Festival since 2016, helping coordinate one of Bristol's most cherished traditions.

Known for stepping in wherever help is needed, Karl supports fundraisers, assists with club initiatives, and encourages new members to get involved. His leadership, consistency, and passion for service make him an outstanding candidate for Exchange Club Member of the Year.

A Shared Legacy of Service

Together, Karl and Dianna represent the very best of Exchange. Their teamwork, dedication, and shared passion for service have strengthened the Bristol Club, inspired fellow members, and elevated the mission of Exchange throughout Connecticut and New England.

While National rules allow only one nominee to advance, the CT District proudly honors both Karl and Dianna Tack as our 2025–2026 Exchangites of the Year — a recognition they have earned through extraordinary service, leadership, and love for their community.

Past CT District Presidents

2024/25 Ginny Greatsinger

2022/23 George Gray

2020/21 Paul Greatsinger

2019 George Gray

2018 Vince McClean

2017 Cliff Kiernan

2016 Joe Dudek

2015 Bill Solder

2014 Roger Picard

2013 Annette Petruzzi

2012 Michael DeNegris

2011 Peter Cascini

2010 Regina Kiernan

2009 Christian Miller

2008 Annette Petruzzi

2007 Pam McKinnon

2006 Gino Sternberg

2005 Joseph Petruzzi, Sr.

2004 Anthony Gesnaldo

2003 Yvonne Ledoux

2002 Dunnith R. Heenan

2001 Don Marold

2000 Cliff Kiernan

1999 William H. Deacy

1998 Craig A. Fleming

1997 Wanda Mascola

1995 Robert F. Bailey

1996. Robert F. Bailey

1994 Bruce Greenfield

1993 Marc Lyons

1992 Richard Murray

1991 Ronald L. Basile

1990 Jess Lucas

1989 Justin J. Pagano

1988 David A. Scribner

1987 John P. Maloney

1986 Clifford T. Gunnery

1985 Warren T, (Tom) Davies

1984 Albert W. Starr

1983 C.C. Bud DiMaria

1982 Dr. Daniel J. Spinella

1981 William B. Wagenknecht

1980 Frank J. Liburdy, Jr.

1979 Dr. Eugene S. McNamara

1978 Lynn H. Lansberry

1977 William F. Lawlor

1976 Joseph Rajtar

1975 Harry F. Pergoda

1974 Stephen A. Mongillo

Past CT District Presidents

1973 Thomas P. Cafora	1949 John H. Keithline
1972 Dean M. Boundy	1948 Ivar F. Hall
1971 Carl E. Burdick	1947 Newell R. Kelley, MD
1970 John B. Keegan	1946 Clayton Johnson
1969 Frederick R. Starr	1944 Dwight A. Hogg
1968 Albert C. Bassett	1944 Stewart Segar
1967 Richard Evans	1943 Athur J. Bushell
1966 Nicholas F. Fleming	1942 Edward J. Gardner
1965 John J. Madigan	1941 John Walters
1964 Comel C. Coulter	1940 Alfred Mackrille
1963 Jacob Feitelson	1939 Emril Stedman
1962 Irving D. LeBow	1938 Carlyle C Thomson
1961 Dr. Dean E. Peterson	1937 Ralph H Pease
1960 Walter E. Rotzal	1936 Wayne Robinson
1959 Gabriel Price	1935 Milan R. Cook
1958 S. Franklin Bell	1934 William P. Spear
1957 Harold S. Hodgon	1932 William E. Smith
1956 John J. Salmon	1931 Edward A Deming, Jr.
1955 James R. Greenfield	1930 Lloyd Middlekauf
1956 Augustus W. Preble	1929 Ed H. Christ
1953 Karl S. Newsom	1928 A.A. Packard
1952 Reginald C. Morrell	1927 Edwin Donnelly
1951 John M. Finney	1926 Perry Eldridge
1950 George A. Thomas	1925 Maurice Perry
	1924 John Stoddard

Thank You

... to our Convention Committee

Committee Members:

Regina Keirnan (Naugatuck), Cliff Kiernan (Naugatuck),
George Gray (Naugatuck), Annette Petruzzi (Wolcott),
Erin King (Bristol), Jack Ferraro (Bristol),
Nancy Smith (Madison), Dunn Heenan (Madison),
Ginny Greatsinger (Stamford)

The Committee welcomes suggestions for our 2027 convention venue. Please contact any of the Committee members with your input. We are always looking for fresh ideas and we'd love to have you join us on the committee.

JOIN THE FUN IN OMAHA, NE, JULY 9-11!

Each year in July, The National Exchange Club hosts its annual National Convention. This gathering is an exciting opportunity for members across the country to gather in a central location and celebrate Exchange's achievements and opportunities, network, partake in personal growth training, and hear from a panel of expert speakers. Everyone is welcome!



The CT District offers \$100 towards registration for any Club member attending the convention for the first time.

Contact Peter Clarke for more information.



Registration Information