

The Noon News

March 02, 2009

Published by



Waterloo Exchange Club

MET Transit System – President-elect Sharon Droste ably conducted the meeting today in President McGriff's absence. The program was a presentation by Larry Meyers and Kathy Plummer from the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MET). Mr. Meyer is a 30 year veteran of MET. For the past 3 years, Larry has served as Operations Manager. Kathy has been at MET 13 years, serving as Street Supervisor for the past 2-1/2 years. Exchangite and MET General Manager Mark Little was out of town, with the Cedar Valley Coalition in Washington, D.C.



Kathy Plummer and Larry Meyer from the MET Transit

Larry and Kathy used a slide presentation to give us an overview of the MET operation.

First they described the Fixed Route system. This is a series of 12 scheduled routes serving the following areas: 7 routes in Waterloo; 1 in Cedar Falls; 2 routes running between Waterloo and Cedar Falls; 1 route between Hawkeye Community College and the University of Northern Iowa and 1 route around the U.N.I campus. The buses run these routes 6 days a week.

Larry reported that 1,660 passengers on an average weekday. On Saturday the average ridership is 970 passengers.

Larry wanted to make sure we understand that, contrary to the prevailing opinion, " ... *the buses are **not** empty!!!*" He went on to say that MET recently received state awards for increased ridership and decreasing cost per ride. Larry reported that ridership is up 14.74% year-to-date on the regular routes and 9.55% on the school routes.

Then Larry told us about the program they have during the summer called Trolley Kids. This program runs for 8 weeks while school is out and serves young people between the age of 7 and 14 years of age. There are two fixed route schedules that travel between places young folks need to get to in Waterloo and Evansdale, such as the swimming pools, Waterloo Center for the Arts, YMCA, YWCA, etc. Rides cost a dime.

Then they described the Paratransit program for people with disabilities that prevent them from using the normal fixed route buses. Buses in this program operate by scheduled appointments. People must apply for this service and meet a specific set of criteria. Currently, this program averages 14 routes per day during the week and 3 on Saturday.

Next we heard about some new things MET is doing. We are seeing a new paint scheme being deployed to differentiate between the Fixed Route and Paratransit buses. Also, bike racks are being installed so that passengers can travel to bus stops on their bikes. Larry is really pleased with this one.

Wrapping up, Larry and Kathy showed us a video from the Iowa Public Transportation organization highlighting mass transit here in Iowa.

NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

Program : Family and Children's Council
Prayer : Mike Knapp
Pledge : Ivan Miller
Menu : Prime Rib Sandwich with Fries

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mar 09: Family and Children's Council
Mar 16: Closed Business Meeting
Mar 23: INRCOG—2035 Transportation Plan
Mar 30: Basketball Awards
Apr 06: A.C.E. Student of the Year

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

Mar 09: Prime Rib Sandwich with Fries
Mar 16: Tuna Salad Croissant & Soup
Mar 23: Meatloaf
Mar 30: Fried Chicken with Cole Slaw
Apr 06: Tuna Croissant with Fruit Cup
Order Chef Salad one week in advance

BIRTHDAYS

Mar 03: Kevin Evans
Mar 08: Bill Swisher

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Like a jigsaw puzzle, everyone holds an important piece of the big picture. Find out what yours is." - D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas

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Rock & Roll Fund-Raiser - Dick Cole says preparations are complete for the Rock and Roll Dance Party he's organizing as a fund-raiser for the District Exchange Convention our Club will be hosting this summer here in Waterloo. He asked that we bring in our ticket money at the next meeting.

This is going to be a great show. He has an all-star cast lined up. Richie Lee will be doing all the Buddy Holly stuff and more. Michael Cutsforth, well, he'll be doing everything else worth doing. *Don't miss this one no matter what. We'll see past history revived and new history established.* Check out page 4.

Membership update— We have another a new member joining us. Ben has his own business Fishsticks Millwork. Tony Fischer invited Ben as his guest last week. We're glad you came back Ben and we hope you



New member—Ben Fisher

feel welcome. We are looking forward to knowing you as an Exchangite.

Guests - No guest this week.

Sports Show Volunteer Opportunity - Diane Neebel recruited volunteers at the Sports Show at the UNI Dome March 13-14-15. We should be all set now, but Diane will let us know at the next meeting.

Club Awards - Wanda Martin, Awards Committee Chair, reminded the awards season is upon us. We've been looking at the criteria for the Rookie of the Year Award. This week we add the other two: Exchangite of the Year and Book of Golden Deeds. *Nominations for the awards must be turned in to Wanda by March 23rd.*

Rookie of the Year Award -

Definition: "Inexperienced, a new comer." Exchange defines rookie as a member with less than two years service in the club. Rookie of the Year goes a step further, it's still that inexperienced person with less than two years, but it's someone who has demonstrated a degree of outstanding interest and enthusiasm and has a high level of participation in club activities.

Nominations must be in writing and club activities should be listed. This individual should be honored for their **Exchange involvement, enthusiasm and interest** not other volunteer activities.

Here's a list of the members who qualify for the criteria of being a member with less than two years of service:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Ames, Julie | Johnson, Mark |
| Breakenridge, Dawn | McGowan, Kathy |
| Carter, Douglas | McNamee, Lori |
| Foster, Patty | Porter, Debbi |
| Girsch, David | Rogers, Robin |
| Harrington, Shawn | Schultz, Sylvia |
| Horan, Scott | Shepherd, Richard |
| Huffman, Elizabeth | Shinkle, Gale |
| Hunter, Trent | Shollenbarger, Mary |
| Husome, Glenda | Woods, John |

The members serving with Wanda on the Awards Committee include: Kathy Earnest, Kathy McGowan, David Sasse, Mary Shollenbarger and Nancy Showers. Normally the selection of the Rookie of the Year is made by the President. The committee will only be involved in the selection if they are asked to do it. If this would happen, Kathy McGowan and Mary Shollenbarger will not be involved in the selection since they are eligible to win the award.

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Exchangite of the Year Award Criteria -

Definition: An award given to the Exchangite that has done the most for the advancement of the club within the last year. Someone that has gone above and beyond the normal status of being an Exchangite. Has taken the role of helping Exchange grow through the additional work they have done. The award can also be given to a member that has, for years, been dedicated and worked for Exchange without fanfare, just has a love for Exchange. Usually a person that is a candidate that just stands out and will often be nominated by several different individuals. Following is an example of a nomination:

Using the above criteria, I would like to nominate NAME for Exchangite of the year. In my opinion he/she is deserving of this award. Following is a list of activities this individual has been involved in this last year or since joining Exchange:

- Co-chair of the "So proudly We Hail Committee"
- Worked on the "Sunshine Special"
- Has attended 3 National Conventions and 4 District Conventions in order to learn & grow in Exchange
- Attended several education training sessions
- Worked the Home and Sport shows every year since joining the club in 1998.
- Served on the Board of Directors for 2 years
- Has chaired almost all the committees
- Brought in 3 new members last year for a total of 7
- Always early for Exchange meetings and has become the unofficial greeter
- Has worked to establish rapport & fellowship with other clubs in the area
- Always available when a volunteer is needed regardless of the job to be filled

This list is by no means complete, but on a consistent basis this individual is there to serve Exchange. NAME represents our organization with style and class and it is very evident this individual loves Exchange. We wouldn't be honoring him/her for the work done in Exchange this past year, rather we would be honoring them for the many hours spent on Exchange since the time they were recruited. This individual certainly exemplifies Exchange in a manner we can all be proud of. Let's honor NAME as Exchangite of the year 2008-09.

Nominations must be in written form and turned in to Wanda Martin, Chairperson.

Book of Golden Deeds - The National Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award project recognizes dedicated volunteers who give endless hours of their time and talents toward bettering the community. Volunteerism is important to our society and should not go unnoticed.

Honoring a fellow citizen with the BOOK OF Golden Deeds Award is a heart-warming and inspiring act not only for the honoree, but for the Exchange Club and its members. The Book of Golden Deeds exemplifies Exchange beliefs and is easy to implement.

When searching for the appropriate volunteer, keep in mind that the recipient need not be a person of great wealth or prestige. It is important to choose a person who is sincere about helping the community, has an exceptional track record of continued, unselfish giving and enjoys volunteering his or her time to help others. The recipient can be from any profession, a member of any organization or even from the humblest walk of life - someone who deserves acclaim, but rarely receives it.

The book of Golden Deeds award is not limited to a single volunteer, but can be presented to a group of individuals such as civic groups, sororities/fraternities, religious groups and charitable organizations. The volunteer **does not** have to be an Exchange member.

For many years, the club only gave out one "Book of Golden Deeds" award yearly. Several years ago the board made the decision we would give up to 3 awards within the year if we had applicants that had made significant contributions and were equally qualified. Even though we may have 3 or more applications we may make the decision to only give one based on the quality of the applications.

When making out a nomination it must be in written form with specific examples of the nominee's volunteer history. **THE ONLY CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING THE AWARD IS TO HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.** All nominations should be turned in to Wanda Martin, Awards Chair.

SPONSORED BY EXCHANGE CLUB OF WATERLOO

Rock & Roll

Refreshments
and Food
Available



Dance Party
STARRING

RICHIE LEE
As Buddy Holly & Ritchie Valens

Also
FEATURING
Michael Cutsforth
& The Wicked Andersons

- Special Guest Stars
- Air Guitar Contest
- 50's Dance Demonstrations



Saturday, March 14 • 7-11 PM
Sullivan Brothers Convention Center
Tickets: \$10 at the door
Contact: Dick Cole 233-7780 for advance tickets