



## Tom Gerdy – Insights from the Inside

The speaker for the January 16 club meeting was Tom Gerdy, local building contractor and philanthropist, shared information about his work keeping kids from making bad decisions. Tom has published a book titled "Insights From The Inside" that discloses thoughts from inmates on what led them to become incarcerated. Tom uses this book of letters as a warning to kids about decision making in their lives and proactively reaching out to them.

Tom Gerdy speaks to the club on January 16.



## ACE Award

A local student was the recipient of the Accepting the Challenge of Excellence Award at the January 16 meeting. Kyla Tanski is a senior at Liberty Christian Academy, she was born in California and lost her mother to cancer when she was just 5 years old. Her father became ill from a heart attack 3 years later and because of the family situation, she was referred for adoption. The Neff family of Rustburg adopted Kyla when she was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. After struggling with motivation and insecurity she has gotten on track and will graduate high school with a 3.0 GPA. She is described as having contagious kindness and warmth for others. Kyla is active in the school chorus and is currently competing in regional and national competitions.



Club President Lynne Creasy (L) and ACE Award Chairman Mike Spencer (R) presents Kyla Tanski (Center) the ACE Award.

## New Member

Per our bylaws, new club members are approved by the board and then that information is provided the membership for any objection or feedback. We have a new member – Sarah Maddox (you may remember Sarah from the AL Veterans Council). Any feedback should be directed to a club officer or board member regarding Sarah's membership.

## We Want Your Opinion...

You will be contacted by a club officer or board member in the near future to complete a survey on involvement in the club, meeting spot, etc. We want your opinions to help us be a better club!

## Upcoming Events

### • This Meeting, Regular Club Meeting:

February 6, 2015 at Noon  
Phase 2 Restaurant  
4009 Murray Pl.

### • Next Regular Club Meeting:

February 20, 2015 at Noon  
Phase 2 Restaurant  
4009 Murray Pl.

### • February Club Board Meeting:

February 24, 2015 at 5:30  
1705 Enterprise Dr.  
Merrill Lynch Financial Offices



Stand Up America Campaign is January through March!



## February Birthdays

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Keith Johnson | 13 |
| Marsha Bryant | 14 |
| Jon Rosin     | 18 |
| Jeff Staley   | 26 |
| Phil Brown    | 28 |

## Meeting Info – February 6

At the upcoming meeting on the menu we will have chicken over noodles, prime rib, mashed potatoes, and green beans.





*The Exchange Club of Lynchburg*

*PO Box 774*

*Lynchburg, VA 24505*

*Club Officers:*

*President: Lynne Creasy*

*President-Elect: Barry Stephens*

*Immediate Past President:*

*Mike Staley*

*Treasurer: Joan Silver*

*Secretary: Jerry Stokes*

*Board of Directors:*

2013 – 2015

Branden Bosch

Soledad Moore

John Bolton

2014 – 2016

Eugene Wingfield

Dave Burch

Chad Wheeler



Check us out on the web at:  
[www.lynchburgvaexchangeclub.org](http://www.lynchburgvaexchangeclub.org)



*Newsletter Editor: Jerry Stokes*

*Email:*

*exchangegrapevine@gmail.com*

### Blood Drive – January 19

The club hosted a blood drive with the Red Cross on January 19. The event was held at Grace Church, 21129 Timberlake Rd. from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. The project was a great success. The Red Cross collected 24 units, a high number for blood drives during this time of year. Many thanks to our volunteers – Joan Silver, Barbara Couch, Eugene Wingfield, Barry Stephens, Mike Staley, Tom Currier (and wife Wendy) and Lynne Creasy. And, to our club members who donated – Mike Spencer, Mike Staley, Barry Stephens, Frank Whitten, Thomas Creasy, and Lynne Creasy – thank you for giving the gift of life!



### Socks for Homeless Veterans Campaign

The American Legion Veterans Council is hosting its first annual socks for homeless veterans drive. Most don't realize how important a pair of socks can be for someone who is homeless or underprivileged. The goal of the drive is to provide new socks for homeless veteran men and women in the central Virginia area. The Exchange Club will support this campaign by collecting socks at the two February meetings (6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). Please bring in new socks (white athletic type is preferred) to the meeting so they can be collected for the Veteran's Council.

### Meeting Spot

The club board and officers have been discussing and looking into another meeting venue. A location has been identified as a possible spot with lots of promise. To test this location out, we will meet there in March (March 6 and March 20) rather than Phase 2. The location is Choice Hibachi Buffet, 2623 Wards Rd. near the Mall Entrance. They have a webpage - [www.choicehibachibuffet.com](http://www.choicehibachibuffet.com) - so surf by and take a look at the menu, they offer a variety of foods - from classic American favorites to exotic Chinese and Japanese specialties such as sushi and a hibachi grill. The price will be \$10 (including tax and tip) for the self-serve buffet and drink.