Lincoln Park Mayor to Lead National Service Organization

Lincoln Park, MI, Mayor and resident Thomas E. Karnes was sworn in as The National Exchange Club’s National President at the organization’s 96th National Convention in New Orleans, LA, in July. He will serve in this capacity for one year, leading more than 650 local-level Exchange Clubs and nearly 20,000 members in the organization’s Mission of making communities better places to live.

Karnes, a member of the Exchange Clubs of Lincoln Park, Detroit No. 1, and Trenton, MI, joined the Exchange Club of Lincoln Park in 1998. At the club level, he has served on the Board of Directors, as President-Elect, three terms as President, as well as on various club committees. He has also served a term as President of the Exchange Club of Trenton. For the Michigan District Exchange Clubs, Karnes has served on the Board of Directors, as President-Elect, and as the 2007 – 2008 District President. In the National capacity, Karnes has chaired the Child Abuse Prevention Relations Committee, and was co-builder of the New Beginnings Exchange Club of Downriver Michigan (2011) and the Exchange Excel Club Lincoln Park Railsplitters (2013). He is a Berkey Fellow and a member of the Dr. North Society and the Heritage Society.

An energetic member of his community, Karnes was a police officer for the City of Lincoln Park for more than 31 years, including eight years of service as Chief of Police. He has been involved with the Knights of Columbus and Sons of the American Legion. He is also active in Lincoln Park’s Goodfellows organization – which provides food, clothing and toy to families at Christmas – and serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Lincoln Park Community Credit Union.

Karnes attended Madonna University of Livonia, MI, where he received a bachelor’s degree, and is a graduate of the 1911st session of the FBI National Academy. He and his wife, Mary, have three children.

Exchange is America’s oldest service club with more than 650 clubs and nearly 20,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The organization’s Mission, working to make America’s communities better places to live, is carried out through its Programs of Service – Americanism, Youth Programs and Community Service – as well as the National Project, the prevention of child abuse. Founded in 1911 in Detroit, MI, and headquartered in Toledo, OH, Exchange celebrated its 103rd anniversary in March 2014. www.nationalexchangeclub.org.

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