



The Bulletin

COURTESY OF:
FLORENCE EXCHANGE CLUB
THE LONGEST SERVING CIVIC CLUB IN THE SHOALS

**2017 - 2018
 BOARD OF
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“As a teenager, my dream was to become a singer,” Marie Lowery told the Florence Exchange Club members last week.

After high school graduation, she moved to Muscle Shoals and doors opened for a studio contract as a solo artist. Soon she had regular work as a session vocalist, and chronicled work with artists such as Amy Grant to Hank Williams Jr. Her Nashville connections led to a call from Ronnie Milsap which resulted in her being an integral part of his entourage for seven years. At the top of Milsap’s career, Marie and two other local vocalists (Barbara Wyrick and Suzy Storm) were on his records, videos, and were featured in his concerts with choreography and even a duet Marie shared with Milsap. She also shared songwriting credits on recordings by Milsap and Amy Grant.

The concert tours with Milsap provided opportunities to be associated with the best in the industry at that time: Kenny Rogers, Reba McEntyre, Barbara Mandrell, Vince Gill, Alabama, Ricky Scaggs, Dwight Yoacum, The Judds, Oak Ridge Boys, and others. There were television specials with Ray Charles, Dukes of Hazzard, Gladys Knight and the Pips, Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters, The Tonight Show and The Merv Griffin Show.

With so many years of living out of a suitcase, Marie reconsidered her desire to pursue a solo career. She returned to local session work and developed a fulfilling career in radio sales and marketing. Marie is married to Florence Schools retired teacher and coach, Ronnie Lewey. They are the proud parents of Claire and Daniel.

Throughout these years, Marie has been a vocalist in the stage band for the Alabama Music Hall of Fame Induction Banquets, (along with Cindy Richardson Walker, the late Ava Aldridge, and Carla Russell), sweetening the performances by Glen Frey (Eagles), Lionel Richie, Tammy Wynette, The Commodores, Kris Kristofferson, Tommy Shaw (Styx), and so many others. She continues to appear in local events and concerts when called upon, such as this year’s WC Handy Event with the Muscle Shoals All Stars.



Marie has a special fondness about the more recent years when she was in Lenny Leblanc’s worship band at a local church. The team traveled around the world, which was a long awaited dream-come-true for her. The inspirational music shared and her personal experiences during those years remain the most rewarding part of her musical journey thus far. “That music provided a connection with others I have never known, and it was a returning of my gift to the One who gave it to me”.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS :

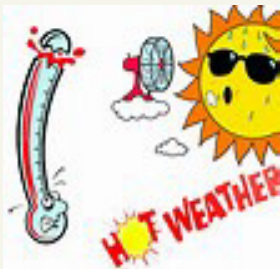
Board Meeting	July 10
Jack Counts	July 18
Doug Evans	July 25
TBA	Aug 1
TBA	Aug 8

Do you have an idea for a speaker?
 Call Fran

W E L C O M E G U E S T S !

We're happy to host community leaders as our guests to introduce more individuals to the ideals of Exchange. This week we welcomed Mary Lee Gillespie, local dentist, a guest of Vance. Teresa Robertson introduced her son, Taylor, who is working at the First Southern Bank. Bill Cadenhead was proud to introduce his bride of 69 years, Rachel. Also he was proud to announce his recent 93rd birthday.

P R O T E C T Y O U R S E L F , F R I E N D S A N D P E T S



The weather procrastinators say it will be **HOT** for the remainder of this July.

With temps in the high 90s, air conditioning is a some times blessing. But be warned that the temp in a closed car reaches to about 120 degrees in just a few minutes.

C H A N G E I S C O M I N G

FEC Board of directors recently voted to approve a revised contract with Marriott Conference Center for our weekly meetings. President Brian noted that upon this recommendation from the Board, he'd like to have a vote from the Membership for final approval. Upon motion by Adin and seconded by Bill, the membership approved the new contract. Note that a slight increase in membership dues will be reflected on your next quarterly statement .

Our club member, Norman Ross, is proud to announce that all the Buddy Benches are now ready to be installed at the various elementary schools.

Students at the Allen Thornton Career Technical Center cut and assembled the benches.

Norm and a few other members helped make some changes. Also the painting of the words were done by students from the Attention Home.



Exchange: What Is It?

Exchange is a place for true recognition
For anyone leading in a worthwhile position

Exchange is seeking to improve our relations
With all the leaders of our great nation

Exchange is concerned with children's welfare
We seek to protect them from the abuser's snare.

Exchange got its name from exchanging ideas
Let's don't let our club come in the arrears.

Exchange thrusts forward to take the lead
Whenever our members see the need.

Exchange keeps its sights upon the cross
Where our utmost efforts are all but dross.

Exchange is a place where we can take pride
We can hold our heads high with every stride.

--*From Wallace M. Wilborn*
1993