



EXCHANGE
THE NATIONAL EXCHANGE CLUB

Thomas E. Karnes
National President 2014-2015

Identifying and Intercepting School Violence Through Cyber-Investigation

BACKGROUND:

I am Tom Karnes, past National Exchange Club President, and retired Chief of Police in Lincoln Park, Michigan. I am also employed as a substitute teacher at Lincoln Park High School.

On November 30, 2021, there was a school shooting in the suburban Detroit area at Oxford High School in Oxford, Michigan; the area where I live. Four students were killed, and seven others injured. Nationwide, this is a great risk facing our students today.

Our National Program of Service is the Prevention of Child Abuse; this is accomplished through educational efforts. With the help of Dawn Portner, a Regional Vice President of the National Exchange Club, I was put in touch with Detective Rich Wistocki, retired from the Naperville Police Department. He is an Exchange Club member that has been successful in preventing school shootings.

In most cases the violence is perpetrated by a student in the school. In the majority of these cases, the shooter has publicized warning signs or even intentions of committing the act. In Oxford there were social media postings. Online "leakage". Detective Wistocki (Ret) has the means to prevent future events through Cyber-Investigations.

Within a day after discussions with Detective Wistocki (Ret), I was in conference with the Chief of Police and the Superintendent of Schools about **Identifying and Intercepting School Violence Through Cyber-Investigations**. This is a two day training presented by Detective Wistocki (Ret).

After forwarding a short video about the program, and arranging a zoom conference, we set a venue and training dates. Two months later the two day training was attended by officers and school officials throughout the state of Michigan. On the second day of the class, one of the attendees showed a posting from his area where a student was displaying a gun. This case was worked on in the class and was resolved without incident.

The Exchange Clubs of the Michigan District donated to the effort and the Exchange Clubs of Lincoln Park and Trenton were the hosts. The clubs handled registration and organized breakfast, lunch, and snacks for the officers.

The Exchange Club was the catalyst for this training. The Prevention of Child Abuse was the goal. Your Club/District can also be the catalyst. The importance of this training cannot be over stressed. It is needed in every community that has a school. Not only will it prevent school shootings, but it will also help the officers in other investigations as well.

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WILL YOU BE THE CATALYST?

Most Exchange Clubs have a relationship with the Police Department(s). We have Exchange programs where they have been recognized and honored; they know who we are. Utilize this contact to introduce the training to them.

Don't let them say they have already had the training; that is extremely doubtful. Police administrators are leery of people coming to them with the next best training. They will believe you are trying to sell something.

Emphasize to them that this is not a software program to be installed; it is a blueprint to conduct a successful investigation and remediation of a cyber threat. They will be prepared when a student comes to the school officer showing an anonymous post threatening the school. **Seconds mean lives!**

You can show them videos of the training and the testimonials of officers who have taken the class. Officers that have had the training have prevented **37** incidents in the first **three** months of **this** year!

We also have good contact with the schools through our Youth of the Year and A.C.E. programs. Take it to the Principals, Superintendent and/or School Board.

Use Detective Wistocki (Ret) and me as a resource to help. I view Exchange Clubs as the facilitator and host. The importance of this training for the safety of our children is paramount.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

Venue and Date: Get a Venue and schedule two days

Location for 75 attendees – 50 Officers and 25 School Administrators

Wi-Fi strong enough to handle 75 people accessing and downloading at the same time

Permission for Wi-Fi removed to allow access to social media sites

Large Screen or Electronic Board for sharing Wi-Fi access – multiple screens helpful
if not possible, then a projector

Power connections for all attendees to charge their laptops which are used continuously
IT person on site

(In Lincoln Park we used the training room at the school board office at no cost.)

Fundraise:

Law Enforcement departments have training budgets depending on the state

(If not, individual officers may be charged, or fundraise to offset)

Schools have funding available through the Cares Act via the "SEL GRANT"

(Social and Emotional Learning – varies by State)

These resources will usually cover the cost of the training

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Identifying and Intercepting School Violence Through Cyber-Investigations is an approved class in many states. Law enforcement officers get credit for the course, and it allows the use of the training budget. If it is not already certified, Detective Wistocki (Ret) may be able to get it certified in your state.

Attendees: Detective Wistocki (Ret) creates the advance registration process

Registration is set up for officers to register and pay if the cost is not funded
Exchange Clubs may want to sponsor officers or obtain sponsorships

(In Lincoln Park the Chief recognized the importance and determined that the city of Lincoln Park would pay for all the costs. This is not always possible.)

Be The Host:

Exchange is responsible for Detective Wistocki (Ret)
Airfare and lodging
Transportation to and from the airport and hotel
Welcome attendees at opening session
Arrange for Local Dignitary to welcome guests
Arrange for a Color Guard
Anticipate the needs of the group:
Meal service – two Breakfasts, two lunches – Get them donated
Beverages and snacks at breaks – Get them donated

Promote: Issue a press release and invite the media to the opening

Ask for Help: I have attended the class, have law enforcement, education, and Exchange experience. I am available to help. Detective Wistocki (Ret) is available and more than willing to help as well. Please contact us for information and help.

Tom Karnes:

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Detective Wistocki (Ret)

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In the aftermath of these events people ask, "What could I have done to prevent it". As Exchangites, we can be proactive and lead the way.

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