



# S W A P S

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Official Publication of the Exchange Club of Macon, Georgia

Editor – Ronald Raleigh

2020/2021  
Exchange Club of Macon

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<http://exchangeclubofmacon.org>  
as well as the  
[Club's Face Book Page](#)



Meetings held at  
"Buffalos" - Zebulon Rd.  
twice monthly.  
11:30AM to 1:00PM

## "October 22<sup>nd</sup> Crime & Fire Prevention Month"

\* **October 22** we met at the Fire Department's "Station # 109 at 5264 New Forsyth Road. We celebrated the Fire Department's candidate for "**Fire Fighter of the Year**" - **Lt. Takella Gooch**. Lunch was provided by the Club for all in attendance. There were "**7**" members present and "**14**" guests. **Debbi McCreary** offered the invocation and **Bobby George** led those assembled in the "**Pledge of Allegiance**".

**Fire Chief Marvin Riggins** reported that the "**Macon-Bibb County Fire Department**" has faced several challenges during 2020 and especially the COVID Pandemic. The department is short "**65**" fire fighters on staff, and has faced additional temporary shortages due to some fire fighters experiencing positive COVID-19 tests, and others being "called up" to active duty in their respective Reserve & National Guard Units. The members of the Department have worked hours of overtime, given up days off, and vacation time to meet the community's fire response needs. During this "New Norm", **Chief Riggins** reported that every time the "bell rings" we have answered with NO missed calls.

**Chief Riggins** presented **Lt. Takella Gooch** as our honoree for the "**Fire Fighter of the Year Award**." **Lt. Gooch** joined the Department in April of 2008. She has recently been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. **Lt. Gooch** balances married life and "**7**" children with her career and has done so very well. She never misses a call, and has always been available when needed for extra duties. **Chief Riggins** reported her attitude toward her career as "**Let's get it done in a professional manner**".

## **Lt. Takella Gooch**



# “One Word of Wisdom”



This *Veteran's Day* the *National Exchange Club* in partnership with *Veteran's Matter* will present a virtual *Honor Wall* to recognize the many U.S. Military Veterans among the Exchange membership. To be included in the event, send a digital photo and your information (name, branch of service, rank, and Exchange Club name) to the NEC at the following email address – [commun@NationalExchangeClub.org](mailto:commun@NationalExchangeClub.org)



# EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF MACON, GA