



The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Starboard Galley

February 12, 2016

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

President-Claudette-Beerman, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Mary Sortal, President Elect-Joe Murphy
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

Full house, new member, speaker are highlights

By Stuart Deane

Fourteen of nineteen members showed up for the February 2 meeting to witness the swearing in of a new member and to hear a presentation by Amy Pessia (right) of the Merrimack Valley Food Bank.

As we awaited our entrée choices of tips and shrimp, firecracker chicken, panko fried haddock, or a Cajun salmon Caesar salad, President Claudette Beerman swore in new member Jane Collins (below), a retired guidance counselor from Pentucket Regional. We have seen Jane in the past as she accompanied our Pentucket scholarship winners to meetings. She was sponsored by Jim Noyes.

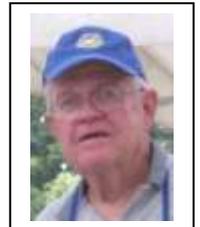


Receiving membership certificates from National were Major Rosemary Hughes, Tracey Garbers, and Mike Viccaro.

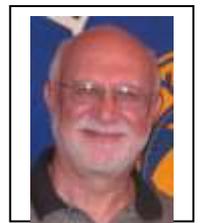
Tracey and Erin Fournier, chairs of the Teddy Bear committee, will report on their progress at our February 16 meeting, with the presentation to local police and fire departments scheduled for the April 19 meeting.

Member Bios

Joe Murphy grew up in Danvers, graduated from Boston College, taught high school math for six years, and worked for the Massachusetts Teachers' Association in contract negotiations and mediation for 35 years. He and wife Beverly live in West Newbury and have three adult children and two grandchildren. On his "bucket list" he has already climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, crossed the Serengeti, and white water rafted the Grand Canyon. Still unchecked are the South American rainforest and the South Seas islands. Joe has been in Exchange for two years and is our President-Elect.



Ben Iacono was born in Italy, grew up in East Boston and Revere, earned degrees from Northeastern and Suffolk, was commissioned in the U.S. Army, worked for the Bailey Corp. in Seabrook, and is now a consultant for private parties wishing to organize their homes.



He and his late wife Maria brought up three daughters in Newburyport. He now has three grandchildren. Ben has extensive volunteer work with youth soccer, the PTO, CASA, the Women's Crisis Center, Elder Services, Yankee Homecoming, Kids as Peacemakers, and the Senior Center. He has been in Exchange for eleven years and has served as president for three.



Speaker

“It’s my pleasure to be here this evening to share our story,” said Amy. “I started with the Food Bank as a volunteer twenty years ago and have been working there for thirteen years. We are now celebrating twenty-five years of service to communities in the region. Both individuals and families may need help with something as simple as food. There’s enough food go around. It’s a matter of access. The Bank can collect, store, and distribute food to local agencies. We collect up to three million pounds of food to feed 70,000 people. The image of those who might need a food bank is quite surprising – us, our parents, a neighbor... You never know what is going on in people’s lives – loss of jobs, accidents, illnesses... The last thing they want to do is ask for help. We’re there for them.

“We are good stewards of the food donations and funds that we receive. The good news is that there is still enough food for an increasing problem. We have two freezer trucks and a freezer as large as a building. We are beneficiaries of large corporations, local farms, and individuals. Each dollar we receive produces four dollars of food.

“We also offer programs for specialized populations – food for children to take home from school to keep them attentive as well as nourished, food during the summer vacation, a mobile food pantry for disabled seniors...

“The main focus of our mission,” she concluded, “is to increase access to nutritional food, done with dignity. A bag of food can make a huge difference.”

Schedule

- February 16: Regular Meeting
- February 23: Board of Directors
- March 1: Regular Meeting
- March 15: Regular Meeting
- March 22: Board of Directors
- March 24: Salvation Army Dinner
- April 5: Regular Meeting
- April 13: Re-dedication of Athol High School “Freedom Shrine”
- April 19: Regular Meeting with the presentation of Teddy Bears to local police and fire departments.
- April 26: Board of Directors
- April 29-May 1: New England District Convention at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway, N.H. (below)



New Member. Retired school guidance counselor Jane Collins poses with sponsor Jim Noyes at the conclusion of the February 2 meeting.