



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

March 12, 2019

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

President-Jim Noyes, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Barbara Griffith, President Elect-Erin Fournier
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

Speaker paints somber picture of opioid crisis

By Stuart Deane

Our speaker at the March 5 meeting, an EMT, offered a first-hand look at the opioid crisis, especially as it relates to children.

While we awaited our entrée choices of fish and chips, jambalaya or chicken strips over rice, President Jim Noyes reported some casual Exchange news and referred several matters to the next Board of Directors meeting.

After dinner, Tammy Stanton of Atlantic/Cataldo Ambulance (right), gave us a look at the impact of opioids as prescription drugs.

“We see a lot of kids get into their parents’ medications,” she said. “They don’t know what they’re getting into. Prescription meds are used for pain. In 2015, twenty to thirty percent of opioids were abused unknowingly. Now, it’s seventy percent. Even generics can be heavy pain meds. Kids dip into the medicine cabinet. We had a child who didn’t make it – at age 13. As far as anyone knew, he had never tried this before. This happens more than you know.

“Drugs are so easy to find on the streets. We find needles in parks, on the riverbanks, on the streets. Opioids don’t discriminate. We’ve dealt with a state trooper’s son. He did CPR on his own son, who didn’t make it. It’s hard telling a parent that a child is no longer breathing.

“I don’t know the answers. Certain communities want this kept quiet. It’s bad for image, bad for school ratings, bad for real estate values. Well, it’s also bad for children. The



public doesn’t see eighty percent of what we work on.”

Atlantic/Cataldo employs 900 EMTs in its North Shore service area, with approximately a dozen ambulances in Greater Newburyport making some 70 calls a day.

Schedule

- Mar. 19: Regular Meeting
- Mar. 26: Board of Directors
- Mar. 28: Salvation Army Dinner, 5 p.m.
- Apr. 2: Regular Meeting
- Apr. 11: “Bowling Social” at Leo’s in Amesbury
- Apr. 16: Regular Meeting/Election of Officers
- Apr. 23: Board of Directors
- May 3-5: N.E. District Convention in Hyannis
- July 17-20: National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia