



# The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Starboard Galley

July 28, 2020

[www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org](http://www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org)

President-Erin Fournier, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Barbara Griffith, President Elect-Jane Collins  
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

## Guest speaker outlines Lawrence ‘Field of Honor’

By Stuart Deane

The July 21 meeting, complete with masks and social distancing, was moved to the back yard of member Barbara Griffith for a quieter atmosphere than that offered by the Bartlet Mall of the previous meeting. Guest speaker was Rick Blain (right) of the Exchange Club of Lawrence and the Andovers.

Last year that club hosted its first “Field of Honor” with the input and assistance of the Newburyport club. This year, with both clubs going to a virtual “Field,” Lawrence returned the favor by sharing the experience of its earlier ceremony on July 4.

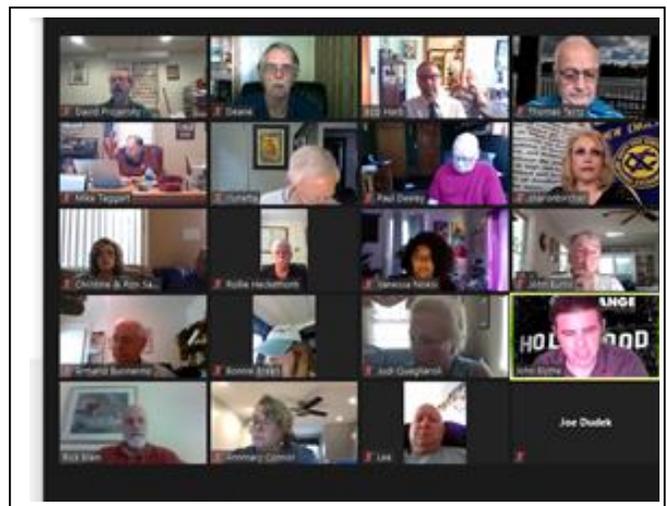
“This was our second ‘Field of Honor,’” said Rick, and our first opportunity to help *you*.”

Among his tips:

- Promotional use of half-page ads (at half price) in the local Lawrence *Eagle Tribune*, which also owns the Newburyport *Daily News*
- The use of donated Clear Channel billboard displays
- Use of the local Boy Scout troop for flag set-up
- On-site sales when members are available, though most sales were made on-line
- An on-site “mail box” with flag purchase forms when no one is available to cover
- The purchase of a special website address ([xcflags.com](http://xcflags.com)) for ease in finding
- Selling only \$1,000 and \$500 sponsorships



- Identifying sponsors with signs for each row of flags in the field
- Broadcast of a virtual video the day of the event on local public access television



### District Convention

(Attended and Reported by Stuart Deane)

The 73<sup>rd</sup> annual New England District Convention, due to the current pandemic, took

place via Zoom on Saturday, July 18, with Past National President Bob Harb presiding.

Following the “Pledge of Allegiance” and an invocation, National Exchange Club rep John Blythe, all the way from Hollywood, Calif., updated attendees on National matters. Also present for the session was Regional Vice President Joe Dudek of Norwalk, Conn.

A detailed but unusual Treasurer’s report, due to a number of cancelled events, was presented by Dave Projansky of Auburn, Maine.

Anmarie Connor of the Michael B. Christensen Family and Community Support Center in Lawrence, our local prevention of child abuse center, then detailed the difficulties of providing services during a pandemic.

Two new National promotional videos were shown for presentation to local news outlets, and Bob announced that the 2021 District Convention will be back at the Red Jacket Inn in North Conway, N.H., May 21-24.

John Blythe then swore in the new District officers, who will serve two-year terms due to the disruptions of COVID-19. They are:

- Sharon Birchall of the Lawrence and the Andovers Exchange Club as President.
- Tom Terry of the Lawrence and the Andovers Exchange Club as Secretary
- Dave Projansky of the Auburn, Maine, Exchange Club as Treasurer.

As per long-standing tradition, Sharon was presented with her new nickname, selected by a “super secret” committee and announced by Bob “The Buffalo” Harb – “The Swan.”

“I like that,” responded Sharon with a smile of relief. “Thank you all for making this possible. I have a great team. I’m humbled and honored. Change is inevitable, but we will be successful. I hope to visit each and every club.

“When I joined Exchange in 1999, my husband was sick. Six months later he died. Every member of the club came to the calling hours. I’ll never forget that. Thank you.”

“Sharon will have a great year,” concluded Bob.

### **Schedule**

- Wednesday, July 29: Board of Directors meeting at 6:30, again at Barbara’s house
- Aug. 4: Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 18: Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

## **“Field of Honor” Portfolio**

