



# The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at Noon, Starboard Galley

September 22, 2023

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

President-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Steve Di Camillo, President Elect-Open  
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

## Meeting reviews schedule, enlists event volunteers

By Stuart Deane

The September 19 meeting, without a speaker, was devoted to brainstorming ways to involve our new members who are still working into our program of service. They, obviously, are usually unavailable during the work week other than for lunch, so we need some suggestions from them themselves.

Similarly, as shown by the low number of flag sales at the Field of Honor, we need a greater exposure on social media. We hope that a newer member will step forward to spearhead this effort to update our website and Facebook page and to stay connected with the Chamber of Commerce and the local Nextdoor website.

Before dinner arrived those new members in attendance received certificates of membership, name badges and club shirts.

Still to be scheduled are our up-date of the Nock Middle School Freedom Shrine of national documents, our annual fall meal preparation for guests at the Salvation Army and our holiday party for clients of Turning Point group homes in Amesbury.

This month's Board of Directors meeting has been cancelled.

Following are copies of our thank-you letter in the Daily News, an appreciation letter from State Representative Dawne Shand, who spoke at our Field of Honor, and quotes from Rabbi Alex Matthews after the ceremony and Jill Santopietro after receiving our donation to the Anchor of Hope Diaper Drive.

Our next meeting is October 3 with guest Thea Tsaris of Haverhill, our District Director, as speaker.

Monday, September 18, 2023

### Letters

#### Exchange Club thanks Field of Honor participants

To the editor:

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport would like to thank the participants in our Sept. 10 Field of Honor for those who serve, whether military, fire, police, first responder, medical personnel or personal heroes. We also thank our sponsors, those who purchased flags and those who attended what was a most moving ceremony on the Bartlet Mall.

Despite the threat of foul weather, the rain held off, but the West Newbury Fire Department had already erected a large tent just that morning to ensure that the Merrimack Valley Concert Band would be able to stay dry and play.

Paige Gouldthorpe offered a splendid version of the national anthem. Rabbi Alex Matthews of Congregation Ahavas Achim delivered a thoughtful invocation and benediction. Making remarks were Mayor Sean Reardon, Veterans Affairs Officer Kevin Hunt, State Representative Dawne Shand, State Senator Bruce Tarr and Congressman Seth Moulton. All acknowledged the heroism of those who give of themselves, "who run towards the danger," in times of crises, and all noted the need for our country to come together again as we did after the attacks of 9/11.

Keynote speaker Jennifer Lowrey, an officer of the American Red Cross,

described her life-changing experience of flying into New York City on 9/11/001 and witnessing the aftermath of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers, followed by her assistance to first responders in the days that followed.

The Merrimack Valley Concert Band, under the direction of Anthony Beatrice, provided inspiring music at several intervals throughout the ceremony. Soloist Kathy Peavey led the attendees in singing "God Bless America."

The ceremony ended with a reading of the individual flag dedications, called the "Verbal Wall."

Our lead sponsors were the Newburyport Bank and the 1st Lt. Derek Hines Soldiers Assistance Fund.

Also: the Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation and Edmund and Patricia McGrath.

Murphy Construction Company, Inc.; The Blanchette Financial Group, Inc.; Kim and Steve Di Camillo, Rochester Electronics and Wall's Ford, Inc.

Kathleen Bailey, Deborah Kennedy and the Breakfast Exchange Club of Greater Haverhill.

Lombardi Oil, Inc.; Haverhill Bank, Jim and Sue Noyes, Starboard Galley, Barb and Andy Griffith and New England Hospitality, LLC.

In-kind sponsors were Dugan Supply, Steve Swochak, the Merrimack Valley Concert Band, the Newburyport Cultural Council, Immaculate Conception Church, the Newburyport Daily News, Local Pulse of Newburyport and Pete's Toilet Service.

This was our 14th Field of Honor. We will be back again next year with our 15th. We hope to have a robust attendance to honor those who serve.

STUART DEANE  
President  
Exchange Club of Greater  
Newburyport



**DAWNE SHAND**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
1ST ESSEX DISTRICT

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

Committees:  
Intergovernmental Affairs  
Municipalities and Regional Government  
Cannabis Policy  
Children, Families and  
Persons with Disabilities  
Consumer Protection  
and Professional Licensure

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Stuart Deane

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Dear Mr. Deane:

I would like to thank you and the Exchange Club for organizing the 9/11 commemoration. I remember its beginnings, thirteen years ago. Your club's tradition remains an elegant tribute to a profound tragedy. Thank you for asking me to speak. I was grateful to be included.

Sincerely,

Representative Dawne Shand

**“I was honored to take part and appreciate all the hard work you and the Exchange Club did to make it happen.**

**“I'm sorry attendance wasn't quite what you hoped, but it was a moving ceremony, and I'm sure the flags are touching more people than we can possibly know.”**

**– Rabbi Alex Matthews –**

**“I need to send a HUGE thank you to the Exchange Club for making such a generous donation to the Anchor of Hope Diaper Bank! We just had our September monthly Board meeting tonight, so I'm just seeing it today! We are so very grateful. Please share our gratitude with everyone in the group.”**

**– Jill Santopietro –**