

I think it's unfortunate that the opioid epidemic has become such a problem in our local communities. But just because something is unfortunate doesn't mean we should turn a blind eye. The efforts that Chief Mackenzie and the Kennebunk Rotary Club are putting into the Save a Life and Give Hope for Recovery Training is admirable. This is the first actionable step toward admitting we have a problem and becoming more prepared to deal with it. For all we know, our neighbors, our friends, or our family could be directly affected by this epidemic and being trained to save their life may be one of the most important things we can do with our time. Don't miss the chance to get yourself prepared. Call your local Police Chief or Rotarian to find out how you can get involved. You won't regret it.

Mark R.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn so much about Opioid addiction! I am so glad that I took the time to learn about this epidemic.

My ignorance was obvious to me and I learned so much about the crisis in our state and across the country. I also was surprised to learn the latest CPR strategy of using compressions only which was a good refresher for me as well. I hope I am never in the position to have to do CPR, use Naloxone, or call 911 on an overdosed person, but I am very aware now of the symptoms and what I can do in such a situation.

The workshop was valuable, informative, and eye-opening.
Thanks again!

Adrienne A.

The fact that with a few hours of training I could possibly save someone's life is wonderful.
Thank you! Joe

I think what the class brought most to me was awareness, acknowledgement of the problem. It is so easy to stand back and sit in judgment of a whole group of people who struggle with opiate addiction. It is a whole other thing to put my judgment aside and actively endeavor to put myself in the shoes of a person struggling with this. Also bringing together 25 Rotarians on Saturday morning, to learn about a troubling societal problem, was truly an amazing thing. If Rotarians did not care about it they would not have shown up, but they did....now there are 25 Rotarians that want to do more....

On a personal note there was a 41 year old in the Bonny Eagle School District who recently died from an opiate overdose. It really brought it home to me in a way it had not before. His son

attends the same HS my son does and they know each other. I also knew the person through business and town connections and I know his father as well. He left behind and wife and 3 or 4 children.

Help us (Kennebunk Rotarians) figure out the next step.....for us to help and get involved. Honestly I think there is a hunger there to do something by the 25 that showed up and I am sure several more, we just need to be led there.

Regards,

Brett D.

The underlying message - Bad things can affect good people, helped dispel the notion that this problem is something the illicit drug market has created. This epidemic is NOT the logical manifestation of access to 'cheaper highs' that one might expect to see emerge from within the traditional community of drug and substance abusers.

While I suspect many in this community view this epidemic thru a filter that places it as occurring 'out there' – something we see in the paper and know to be lurking silently behind the scenes, flowing through the cracks and crevasses of our social fabric, nothing could be further from the truth. This event helped expose and educate the audience to the true depth of this problem. It shined a light on the simple fact- if you do not think this epidemic is affecting your life or those of your friends and loved ones then you are simply not looking!

It was also effective in starting to shift the burden we all must share-thinking of ways to lift the stigma and shame associated with the disease of addiction.

This was a great first step! Next I think we need to formulate a circular of sorts, something that can expose and educate all members in our society to the many dimensions that define this problem. Stemming the tide of this epidemic is too big a gorilla to expect a handful of public safety and medical professionals to address. Everyone needs to find a way to help! As Rotarians, being trained in ways to save a life prepared each of us to assume one of core purposes of what it means to be a human being- serve humanity.

Thanks again for sponsoring this event. I hope this program gets more exposure and gains traction as there are many in our communities-Rotarians and others, that need to understand more of how this is affecting our goal of moving us to a more civil society, a social system in which everyone works together to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

As Rotarians 'at work' this reinforced the value that - service above self – plays in helping shape the fabric of a more civil society..

.Jim B., Ph.D.