

THE RAMPART REVIEW

The Kiwanis Club of the Rampart Range – Caroline Vulgamore, editor

Meetings every Tuesday, 7:45 am, Aspen Pointe Café, 1675 Garden of the Gods Rd. 80904

President: Rick Couch. Secretary: Al Ziegler. Treasurer: Rex Kramer. Directors: Belenda Cornelius, Burl Kreps, Caroline Vulgamore, Harry Vulgamore. District Governor: Kathy Lee. Division 4 Lt. Governor: Harry Brandon, RMD Executive Administrator: Nancy Wichagen. International President: Jane Erickson.

September 12, 2017

KIDS IN CRISIS: THE OPIOID CRISIS AND OUR COMMUNITY



More chairs were brought in as the audience filled room 1210 at the Citizens Service Center at noon today for an intensive look at our drug problem. Welcome **Benny Nasser, R.F. Smith** and **Joe Foreman** from the Monument Hill Club who joined those attending from around the community. President **Rick Couch** introduced the speakers, Dr. **Jeff Watson**, and Lieutenant **Mark Comte** of the Colorado Springs Police Department.

Dr. Watson, who specializes in orthopedics, explained opioids greatly reduce pain, acting as receptors in our systems, deriving from the opium poppy. Common opioids are Methadone, Percoset and Oxycontin. They are synthetic drugs made to work in a similar way as opiates, such as Heroin, which are naturally occurring from the poppy. He explained in the 1980s and into the 1990s pharmaceutical companies pushed for these drugs, claiming they weren't addictive, so doctors cranked out prescriptions.

They were punished if they didn't, receiving poor ratings. Today the U.S. is faced with a medically induced opioid epidemic and doctors have to say NO.

Lieutenant Comte's message was sobering. Overdose deaths are increasing especially among young people, and 90% of property crimes in our city are related to drug abuse. Kids get opioids from medicine cabinets and sell them to their friends. Following opioid use, kids are offered Heroin, which is cheaper but immediately addictive. The black market from Mexico and Central America is huge and suppliers are savvy. We must interrupt the flow across the border. The drug is demonizing, "you no longer are the person you used to be" as the drug takes over. Law enforcement is forced to be reactive, with limited treatment options. There is no place to take individuals—we do not have treatment clinics in this community! In emergencies, police use Narcan to save lives, but it has become extremely expensive, up to \$80 a dose.

Audience members asked questions and offered comments. Some states are filing lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies. We all need to be proactive and take a hard look at our society. "It's okay to hurt!"

Kudos to Rick for creating a dynamic, informative program. He invited audience members to sign up for more information about Kiwanis and consider joining us in our commitment to kids.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 19: *No Meeting.*

September 26: *Board Meeting.* Harry Brandon here to induct new president, **Belenda Cornelius.**

October 3: Program: **Frances St. Germain.** County Administration Manager. "County Commissioners and the Count's Citizens Services Center.

October 10: Program: **Burl Kreps.** "Angola – The Birth of a Nation."

Thanks to members who worked our table at last Saturday's "What If" Festival.



Rex, Jack and Jim Smith



John Mangino texting?

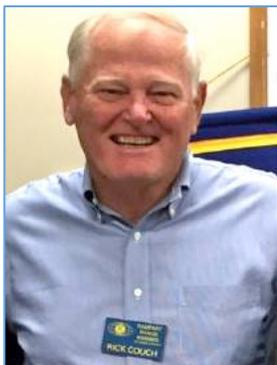


Kaitlyn Davidson of Manitou Key Club

PRAYER: September 26: Jack Cooley.

QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Just say no to drugs!"

...Nancy Reagan, 1987



The Prez

