

EAGA Business Builder

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Today's speaker was Dr. Tom Pascuzzi—GoPrivateMD



Dr. Pascuzzi grew up in Michigan, although he probably wasn't called "Dr. Pascuzzi" back then. Most likely he was just Tommy Pascuzzi in the old neighborhood. His first stomping grounds were in Detroit...until the riots in the late 1960s. His family moved away from that environment to settle in Romeo, a few miles north, but still in Michigan. It sounds as though Dr. Tom enjoyed living in Michigan. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1985, then headed to Wayne State University Medical School. His medical school education was compliments of the Air Force Health Professional program (a kind of a medical ROTC), so after finishing that education he was required to serve at least one tour as an Officer in the Air Force. The now officially titled "Dr. Pascuzzi" was asked if he had a preference for his first assignment. After perusing photos of various locations he chose a very nice area with mountains and cool looking scenery. It was approved, so in 1991 he was transferred to Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, NM. Not exactly what Dr. Tom was expecting, but it did turn out to be a relatively good assignment. He had about 200 patients made up of military folks and their families plus a few local area residents. Then came the Gulf War in 1992 and Dr. Pascuzzi served as a flight surgeon. After completing the required tour of duty, Dr. Tom decided to sign on for another term. He was transferred to a position at the Army Medical Centers in San Antonio, TX where he learned a lot about emergency treatments and disaster medical care. Near the end of that second tour, Dr. Pascuzzi was transferred to Kirtland AFB where he finished his service. He worked in a variety of emergency rooms around New Mexico and during that time, discovered, as most of us have, that emergency rooms don't work anywhere close to being an efficient, practical, or overly beneficial health care option. Wait times are way too long and then the treatments received are often just a 'band aid' (pardon the pun) pending the real care that is actually needed. Dr. Pascuzzi thinks that there should be a better way to provide people with their medical care. In 2008 he founded the MD Urgent Care facilities in Albuquerque. They were somewhat of an alternative to emergency rooms. Another issue though is that people with insurance coverage are basically bound to their Primary Care Physician to get medical care, however, they (the patients) can't schedule a timely visit with the provider, and can't get any specialty care they may need without waiting even longer. Many of those patients have figured out that they can avoid a good portion of the long wait by seeking care at an urgent care facility. Timely treatment has become such a problem that many people even resort to using urgent care facilities as their primary care doctor. Health care received that way may be quicker than waiting for a primary doctor and subsequent referrals, but it doesn't facilitate any real patient/doctor relationship and whatever medical care is received, will always be just treatment for a specific incident without much consideration for the patient's past, or future care. There still has to be a better way. Dr. Pascuzzi sold his urgent care locations in 2012 and went to work for the Innovation and Telemedicine Department in the Presbyterian Group. He learned more there, and ultimately came to a couple of conclusions: Health insurance is too expensive for what you get and timely access to real health care is not there. The average employer pays nearly \$15,000 per employee for health insurance, and all that gets them is a card and a foot in the door to the aforementioned poor health care system. A better way would be a return to the old private doctor system again. In 1989 there were half-million private doctors practicing in the US. There are very few of them now. Dr. Tom wants to encourage, and help rebuild the private doctor network in New Mexico. About eight years ago, he opened his own private practice - GoPrivateMD. He offers direct primary care medical services with access to medicines through a discount pharmacy. He has knowledge and experience as an emergency room doctor, so is quite capable of personally providing a majority of the basic, and even next-level, medical treatments that may be needed. He provides coordinated services for any needed lab tests, etc. (and can even get an MRI scheduled on a relatively immediate basis for the very low cost of \$350). Dr. Tom offers a transparent, low cost medical care alternative to the traditional insurance directed activities. His business is all cash (or credit card) so he is not dependent on, or bound by directives of, the insurance industry. His practice currently includes only 400 patients, although he could easily increase that to 600 without decreasing the amount, or quality, of services that he provides. [Contrast that to the 3,000 patient load of a doctor in the usual insurance based health care groups]. Dr. Pascuzzi is able to provide medical consultations that last as long as needed for each patient and each situation, and he is able to establish a great physician/patient relationship so that he understands the medical history and needs of each patient. He is committed to prevention and education too, so each patient is able to get a full understanding of their care. Dr. Pascuzzi charges a fixed \$2400 per year, per patient. For that fee the patient gets all the primary doctor type care and emergency medical services needed—including 24/7 access to the doctor. Dr. Tom has been in New Mexico for 20 years and has been a doctor for over 30 years. He has acquired a lot of experience and a huge amount of knowledge that is available as needed for each patient. His practice currently includes people from 2 to 97 years old. If you are interested in hearing more about the services that Dr. Pascuzzi provides, give him a call at 505-235-2350, or send an email to drtom@goprivatemd.com. He may not be in the office because he has three sons and enjoys flyfishing, but he is "the 24/7 doctor" so you can be certain that he will quickly answer the phone or return an email. Dr. Pascuzzi also wants to note that he can provide all the basic services needed most of the time, but he doesn't have the facilities to offer major surgical or long term extensive care. When those are needed, he directs patients to a similarly transparent, low-cost facility in Oklahoma City for quality care. He also recommends having a catastrophic type of health insurance coverage to assist with costs to treat major illnesses (like cancer) and the longer term services related to them.

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Special Notes or Announcements:

*** NOTE FROM JOHN MEAD – JOHN THOMAS JEWELERS ***

John Thomas Jewelers is having an EAGA Open House Party November 18th from 5 to 7 pm. That day is coming up very soon, so don't miss it. There will be an Open Bar, Door Prizes, Giveaways and Catered Food. The address is 2440 Louisiana NE, Suite 310.

- ◆ Veteran's Day is November 11th and we want to extend a "Thank you!" to all the veteran that have served to keep our great country safe. We want to particularly recognize those veterans that are members of the Executive Association of Greater Albuquerque. Your efforts and sacrifices are very much appreciated. THANK YOU!!
- ◆ Board members please note that the next Board of Directors meeting will be right after breakfast on November 14th.
- ◆ There will be an election to fill the board position for two members whose terms will expire at the end of the year. If you are interested in being nominated, or if you want to nominate another member, please contact Paul Losey (pal@covenantschools.com) as soon as possible.
- ◆ EAGA's Annual Holiday Party will start at 6:00pm on December 9th at Hotel Albuquerque. Sign-up sheets and more details will be available at our two remaining November meetings.
- ◆ Please note that there will not be a meeting on November 21st because of the Thanksgiving Holiday that week.

Badge Board Greeters

Nov 14 th	Lonnie Carreathers—1st Service Team
Nov 21 st	There will not be a meeting because of the Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 28 th	Jack Bonsignore—Jump 4 Fun
Dec 5 th	Tim Stewart—Impact Nations
Dec 12 th	
Dec 19 th	
Dec 26 th	There will not be a meeting because of the Christmas Holiday

Upcoming Speakers

Nov 14 th	John Mead—John Thomas Jewelers
Nov 21 st	There will not be a meeting because of the Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 28 th	Lawrence Herrera—Performance Ranch
Dec 5 th	Phil Buckles—Buckles Business Solutions
Dec 12 th	
Dec 19 th	
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