

The Roundtable

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Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Club

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From “Away,” And Feeling Quite At Home

“How about a bottle of pop?”

No. It’s “soda” in Maine.



Dr. Lisa Larson, President of Eastern Maine Community College, shared a few lessons she and her family have learned about being “from away” during her classification talk at today’s meeting. She and her family have experienced friendliness, helpfulness (neighbor offering to mow their lawn soon after they moved to Hampden) and acceptance into the community. She became adept at pronouncing Bangor as a city, not as a sausage.

Lisa is no stranger to winter. In fact, the Watertown, South Dakota native was born in a blizzard that forced their father’s state-owned car (he was a game warden) to get stuck as he transported Mom to the hospital. Lisa’s parents were carried by sled for the remainder of the journey for her and her twin’s births twenty minutes later. Her father faced paperwork and questions about use of a state vehicle for maternity transport. Lisa has seven brothers and sisters.



Lisa attended college in Aberdeen, South Dakota and then worked to earn a Master’s Degree in Mitchell, South Dakota as well as meeting her husband, Tim. After teaching in a middle school for a year, the couple moved to Minnesota where Lisa earned her Ed.D at St. Mary’s College and taught and served as vice president in the two-year community college system. The love affair with community colleges began.

“Ten years into our marriage, we talked about having children,” she said. This resulted in the adoption of two South Korean children. Their 13-year-old son is involved



in sports and their 10-year-old daughter is active in drama and theater. Lisa's husband is elections coordinator for the Associated Press, gathering and dispatching returns during election seasons.

Having lived in five houses in 25 years, "we have perfected the art of moving," she said. "We are embracing all the new things." Her children find smaller classes, and the family is taking in the bounty of history in the region.

The biggest challenge that Lisa sees for EMCC is attracting young men into coursework that will help them find jobs. Recent statistics reported many young men are leaving the workforce. "We need to find them and help them get training they need," she said.

"EMCC is a gift and an honor for me to be here."

ETC...ETC...

Ann Dyer finally showed up, so the Trilling Trippingly on Their Tongues Trio (**Cattelle, Myers** and **Wahlstrom**) sang a modified birthday tune for her singing that we don't care how old she is.

President Kristy Kimball gave a brief board report from yesterday's meeting. There are two events at EMCC to note- the Trivia Contest tonight in the room where we meet. Next Thursday morning, the Rotary Scholarship Winners will be feted at a breakfast to which we are invited – free – 7:30-9 am.

Tom Dorrity announced that **Doug Townsend** was awarded "Coach of the Year." **Ivan McPike** gave three Happy \$s for Tom, who attended his first meeting of the Hampden Planning Board last night. Tom is also on the school board, and he will be a daddy soon. **Paul Miragliuolo** is happy that he is no longer on the Lucerne Planning Board. **Wayne Woodford** said his Phillips Strickland House "Dancing with the Stars" fundraising event was a success last weekend.

If you're looking for summer employment, and want to take some time off-like three months – from your "day job," Interact Leaders director **John Quinn** has a deal for you. The YMCA needs camp counselors for the summer. "You'll get paid less than minimum wage, but you will learn much more about kids than you ever will by taking college courses about them."

The Joker's Wild cash cache lumbers along with \$321 so far to be won at the annual dinner in June.

Les Myers- April 13, 2017

The Morning Gallery



Ann Dyer deciding whether to stand or sit for her birthday salute

