

The Roundtable

Published Mostly Weekly by the
Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Club

www.bangorbreakfastrotary.org

December 1, 2016

Greeting troops with a permanent tribute

The troops come off the planes looking grim and tired. Then they see the Troop Greeters and their faces break into smiles. Chuck Knowlton, with fellow Troop Greeter and co-chair of the capital campaign, Gil Cory, described the scene at Bangor International Airport that has been repeated hundreds of times since the greeters first gathered at 1991. With flights arriving at anytime during the day and night, the greeters were ready to travel to the airport to greet the next flight.

Mr. Knowlton said that after 9/11, publication of the flight arrivals ceased, but the greeters continued to find out when the flights were on their way. Over the years, thousands of items have been donated by arriving soldiers—patches, medals, even uniforms. The question arose: what to do with all this?

A Troop Greeters Museum at the airport will house as much of the memorabilia as space will permit. Mr. Knowlton told of a fundraising effort to support the vision created in 2009 to build a museum in space near the ramp where troops disembark. The organization incorporated and received non-profit 501(c)3 status.

Mr. Knowlton began troop greeting nine years ago and became chairman of the group four years ago. Information from their website (<http://www.mainetroopgreetersmuseum.org/>) reports that since 2003, the Maine Troop Greeters have welcomed over 1.5 million Troops either going overseas or returning from duty at Bangor International Airport. These greetings have resulted in a collection of memorabilia consisting of over 5,000 challenge coins, 1,000+ patches, 500+ dog tags, flags, banners and many letters of gratitude. The museum will ensure that these items are displayed and preserved for all to appreciate.

The museum, designed to be 80'x14', plans to be opened on November 11, 2017.



Meanwhile...

That will also be the date for the next Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast, but not at Brewer Auditorium. **Jay Muth** said that the auditorium is booked for that Saturday and he will talk with Jeff's Catering about the possibility of holding the event.

Bangor Savings Bank, via Jay Muth, presented a \$1,000 check for its sponsorship of the Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast. The money will be spent tomorrow evening at the Burlington Coat Factory in Bangor starting at 6 p.m. The club will deliver around 300 Coats for Kids to Shaw's in Bangor Saturday morning. **Judy Horan** will announce the time. Special thanks went this morning to **Kendra Speed**, who chaired the Pancake Breakfast event, **Jay Muth** and **Tom Violette**.



President Kristy Kimball announced the next Board of Directors meeting (Wednesday, December 14). The board seeks nominations for Vice President. The room was uncharacteristically quiet until Jay nominated new-ish member **Caroline King**. Caroline responded by returning her "New Member" ribbon that she has worn faithfully for weeks. Additional nominations will be accepted; Kristy can provide a "job description."



Stats (not the medical term, but the numbers term): 160 attendees, 13 sponsors, 90 auction items. That's the lineup so far for the Dinner/Auction next Thursday evening, December 8 at Spectacular Events. New this year is on-line and mobile bidding. No standing in line; no

waiting. If you have not yet responded to the menu, **June Kontio** needs to know your choice of grub. Stat. No breakfast meeting next Thursday.

When two members of the Birthday Lullaby Trio have birthdays in the same month (September), and only those two are present, **Paul Miragliuolo** decided he waited long enough to fine **Lisa Wahlstrom** and **Les Myers**. The members and guests serenaded each of them. Then Lisa and Les performed their highly tuned rendition of the song for another September out-of-the-womb celebrant, **Craig Costello**.

Judy Horan reported on the Membership Committee, whose goal is a net ten new members for the club this year. She said also that the on-air fundraiser on Channel 2 raised \$105,000 to fund World War II veterans to travel to Washington DC (two plane-loads so far) to visit war memorials. In addition, the station will follow WWII veteran Robert Coles as he returns to Pearl Harbor for the first time since the attacks 75 years ago. WLBZ will follow the 92-year-old Mr. Coles from Trenton to Hawaii. On-air stories begin Monday.



Speaking of flying, **John Cheney** witnessed sloppy driving as he motored up Interstate 95 this morning and watched a car hydroplane. **Bob Leavitt** gave a Survivor Dollar after making it through Thanksgiving Day. His wife prepared two huge turkeys and fed 37 people at their house. Had Mrs. Leavitt been at this morning's meeting, she probably would have demanded a generous tip.

David Zelz also noted the Pearl Harbor 75th anniversary, and said that marching in the

Macy's parade was fun, exhausting, and that security was tight.

Among Lisa Wahlstrom's Happy Dollars included a note about the Chamber Choir at St. John's Catholic Church in performance this Saturday at 7:30 pm. The concert will include the premier of a new work by Maine-based composer Carlton Russell. (It's lovely, easily singable, and a pleasure to hear. *Edtr, and also member of the Chamber Choir*) Lisa is thankful she didn't have to walk a dog in the rain this morning, and was very happy to spend the Thanksgiving holiday in Florida. **Jeff Plourde** gave a Happy \$ for Lisa's work on the auction.

Les Myers- December 1, 2016

