

The Roundtable

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A Lift to Life

When you hear the helicopter take off or land on the roof of Eastern Maine Medical Center, there is a 25 percent chance that Dustin Smiley will be piloting the craft.

Mr. Smiley presented the LifeFlight story at Thursday's meeting and his role as one of four pilots. He joined LifeFlight in June.

Dustin grew up around the country before attending the U.S. Naval Academy. He went on to fly multi-mission helicopters off aircraft carriers and later instruct in both airplanes and helicopters in addition to serving in many leadership, operational, and staff roles during his 20-year Navy career.



LifeFlight has three helicopters and one fixed wing aircraft; the plane and one helicopter are based in Bangor. The others are based in Lewiston and Portland. The service flies an average of four flights per shift, with 85 percent involving patient transport from one hospital to another.

The balance of flights involves on-site service, for which the pilots take weather conditions, power lines and other obstacles into consideration. Flights or ground transportation are ordered by physicians in cases where speed and criticality are priorities, and coordinated by the Medical Communications Center.

LifeFlight made 1,929 transports in FY2017. Since its establishment in 1998, more than 23,000 patients have been safely transported by ground or air. The service cares for patients of all ages, from premature infants to 80 years old and older.

The LifeFlight Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the non-profit organization. "The need outpaces what we are able to do," Mr. Smiley said.

Back On The Ground

Kristy Kimball gave thanks to all who helped make the Toys for Tots Dinner/Auction a success: \$29,578 was raised. She received thanks in the form of Happy Dollars from **Dave Merritt, Doug Townsend, Tom Violette and Lisa Wahlstrom**. This was Kristy's fifth and last year of chairing the auction. The club entertains nominations for a new chair person. **Ken Kimball** said he will be happy to have his wife back.

Ken announced that three bands will play in the *All that Jazz* program in March: Orono, Old Town and Bangor. The committee seeks a non-profit organization sponsor for the program.

Speaking of money, **Kendra Speed** reported that the Coats for Kids fundraiser raised \$3,900 enabling purchase of 143 coats. **Greg Jamison** pushed the button on his Santa hat to remind us that some slots are open for the Salvation Army bell-ringing at Sam's Club tomorrow, 10 am.

President Doug Townsend said the board approved a \$1,000 donation to Interact for the next two-year period. He thanked Kendra for her work for the successful Veterans Day pancake breakfast. **John Quinn** said the Interact members raised \$2,000 for shelter boxes.

Lisa was back with an announcement dollar about the Bangor Symphony soiree for which a limited number of raffle tickets @\$50 are for sale. She said also that the Good Samaritan Agency received \$15,000 plus an additional \$5,000 from the Cross Center Gala last week.



No, **Greg Urban** is not going on an African Safari. He was the winning bidder last Thursday night on the package to Africa, but he served as a proxy bidder. The winner is anonymous.

The Birthday Cake Trio sang with icing on the cake for **Jodi McCarthy** and **Tom Dorrity**. And speaking of music, **David Zelz** told a story of thinking that he saw Moody Blues singer John Judge, who was recently nominated for the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame (if you follow this stuff, you know all about it). David was going to play it cool and not go right up and ask for an autograph. In fact, he wasn't really sure it was John Judge. Finally, getting his nerve up, he said he approached the man and, if he heard an English accent, it would be The Man. He did. It was. David got an autograph and a very cordial "how do you do." Judge even introduced himself to David's wife.

Paul Miragliuolo is happy for the cold weather. He heads for Florida for the rest of the month.



Les Myers- December 14, 2017



Art at Old Town City Hall