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Big Crowd Enjoys the Annual Banquet

By Jerry Gordon

The weather outside was a bit on the nippy side, typical for late November. But inside the Friendly Farm banquet room there was a warm atmosphere as one hundred twelve Chesapeake Region members and guests gathered for the final event of the Club's 51^{st} year.

Members started arriving more than an hour before the buffet dinner was scheduled to start. Entering the room everyone was greeted by Board members and received gifts – a hot drink coaster with car themes made by Tom Kenney, corsages for the ladies, and pez dispensers for the gentlemen.



Bud Currey's 1959 Pontiac parked at Friendly Farm

There was an abundant hors doerves table for snacking while most everyone gathered around in small groups to visit. In the background scenes from all the Club's events played on a screen. The side tables were loaded with door prizes, more than enough for everybody. Another side table was loaded with fancy home made pastries to go with the after dinner ice cream. Each dining table was decorated with a car theme centerpiece that was given away by drawing at the banquet's end.

After introductions by Jerry Gordon, first time attendees were asked to stand for a welcome. A moment of silence was observed for members who passed away during the year: John Packard, Richard Bandel, Roger Warren, and Malcolm McGregor. Art Rutledge then gave the blessing over the meal.

After a delicious dinner, the program continued with all the current Officers and Board members being introduced. Margaret Werneth, who chaired the Nominating Committee, announced the newly elected Officers and Board for 2007: Tom Young, President; Dave Benson, Vice President; Anne Kenney and Tom Kenney, Co-Secretaries; Gary Wilmer, Treasurer; Harry Wilhelm, Director; Jim Synodinos, Director; Jerry Gordon, Activities Director; Paul Habicht, Membership Chair; Ed Allen, Technical Chair; and Larry Butcher, Chief Judge.

Members voted for the three most popular Club events: the Crab Feast, Annual Banquet, and the Howard County Fair Car Show. Also getting votes were: the Flower Mart Show, Ladew Topiary Gardens Show, and the Club tours.



Franklin Gage arrived in this 1955 Chrysler Imperial

Jerry Gordon presented a service award to Tom Young for his accomplishments as the Club's President in 2006. The year's major awards were: Chick Smith Award (chosen by popular vote as the member who has done the most for the Club) – Jerry Gordon; Spirit Award (member selected by the Board who has helped the Club) – Dan Materazzi; and two President's Awards for promoting the Club and its activities.– Ted Schneider; and Anne Kenney and Tom Kenney.

The Banquet activities were organized and coordinated by Vicky Wilmer, Lois Krupinsky and Mary Allen. Tom Kenney and Ted Schneider provided the backdrop pictorial review of all the Club's 2006 events and activities.

Then, as usual, everyone collected a door prize from the gift-laden tables. Many members visited some more with their Chesapeake Region friends before departing for the holiday season and preparations over the winter for an excellent active car season in 2007.

Big Crowd Enjoys the Annual Banquet – continued



The 2007 Chesapeake Region, AACA Officers and Board



Mary Allen, Vicky Wilmer, & Lois Krupinsky presented outstanding gifts, favors and decorations



First row above from left: Jerry Gordon presents award to Tom Young; Anne & Tom Kenney receive President's Award; Art & Margaret Rutledge celebrated their 65th Anniversary Nov. 15^{t.h}. Above: Dan Materazzi, Spirit Award; Jerry Gordon, Chick Smith Award; new member Doris Phelps; new member Bill Cunningham; and Ted Schneider, President's Award.



New members Dixie & John Raffensparger; Helen & Dr. Loy Zimmerman; and new members Eric & Laura O'Dell