



# PBY-NAVAL AIR MUSEUM

## Spring 2017 Donor Newsletter

We are pleased to make our Spring 2017 report to you, our “stakeholders”, on how your financial and artifact donations are contributing to the preservation and presentation of history.

A good measure of how the museum is doing are the “local attraction” reviews on the TripAdvisor website. Here is the latest review of the museum on TripAdvisor:

*“Excellent Museum. For a small, donor-funded museum, this is absolutely top notch. Took my father in law there today. He is retired Master Chief who was stationed at NAS Whidbey several times during his long and illustrious career. He had worked on PBYs during his earlier career, and many other naval aircraft as well. He was extremely impressed with the exhibits and variety of displays.*

*The staff was very friendly and informative.*

*The layout was very comprehensive and easy to navigate.*

*The entire museum is obviously a labor of love for the men and women who have dedicated themselves to preserving these important artifacts of our naval history.*

*Well done!”*

Check out our other reviews on TripAdvisor. They relate visitor experiences that tell a lot about how we are putting your artifact and financial donations to work.

There are many great things happening at the PBY-Naval Air Museum. This newsletter focuses on one aspect – our future. As many of you know, we had a very successful Celebration of Flight Dinner and Auction on 20 May 2017. It brought in just over \$90,000 with \$40,000 of that donated by the John and Norma Berto family toward our capital improvement fund. Added to other donations, the Berto’s donation gives us over \$50,000 to use as we move forward to identify a site for a future hangar style museum. Additionally, the Celebration of Flight proceeds will enable us to replace our oldest flight simulator and to sponsor a PBY-5A to fly in this summer’s Seafair Air Show, as well as to significantly strengthen our financial balance sheet.

Our improved finances could not have come at a more crucial time for your PBY-Naval Air Museum. The Capital Improvement Task Force has been moving forward with site selection and planning for our new hangar-style museum. While we are bound by a confidentiality agreement and cannot yet share details, we believe that by summer’s end there will be very exciting news to share with you regarding a prospective site for the new museum.

Meanwhile, in mid-late July we will be launching our 2017 mid-year fundraising campaign. This campaign takes on special significance because it will be for unrestricted funds that will be used to sustain museum operations through the remainder of this year and well into 2018. By following up our successful Dinner and Auction fundraiser with a strong summer fundraiser, we will be better able to negotiate with bankers for the important next step toward the new museum, hopefully the purchase of a building site.

**270 SE PIONEER WAY P. O. BOX 941, OAK HARBOR, WA 98277-0941**

PHONE (360) 240-9500 ([www.pbymf.org](http://www.pbymf.org))