

**LONG ISLAND BREAKFAST MEETING – JOHN FALKENBERG**

On March 13th, the Long Island breakfast group met at a new location, The Embassy Diner. Liking the new accommodations, (John Falkenberg notes that “the diner is across the road from an extension of North Shore Hospital, in the event our ailments get out of control.”) the group met again on May 15th with the “usual suspects” reporting recent health problems and great conversation. **The Lombardi Brothers, Artie and Joe**, there in March, did not make this session because it conflicted with previously scheduled testing. **Carmine Destafano**, at the breakfast in March, after being rejected by the Yankees to replace A-Rod and still upset that the team picked Billy Crystal instead of him, went with his team to play league softball for seniors. It was nice to see **Bill Staskel** and **Richie Scholler** back in May after recuperating from surgery. Sorrow was expressed by all at the March breakfast at the passing of CWA official **Larry Mancino** who attended the NYC reunions and was a personal friend to many of the Area personnel.

Interesting to hear **Ciro and Mario Iannacone**, our seniors, describe how they trap pesky squirrels and other animals, relocate them to another state and then tell strange stories about their return. **Al Muscarella** showed some interesting pictures from the early 1980s depicting how Western Union material was distributed throughout the Eastern region. He also has some Teledeltos fax paper, type L-48, from the days when Western Union was the leader in this field. Totally different from the technology today. *By the way, Happy Birthday, Al!!*

With **Bill Staskel** back from his surgery, for those of us that know Bill it will be hard to believe he actually refused a coffee refill! Other attendees, most at both breakfasts were: **Al Bauer, Leon Golembeski** (who did the arranging), **Herb Gold** (who makes the calls and spreads the notice of the meeting), **Joel Goodman** (March), **Lou Ingoglia, Jim McGuire** (had trouble recalling Florida coast towns and had to consult his expert for clarifications...his wife!), **Rich Maffucci** (required a PC to figure out how to proportion the bill and gratuity among the group), **Don Middlemiss, Bill Pyne** (sporting a Hollywood mustache), **Rich Schoeller** (as bad as Jim McGuire with recalling Florida towns), **Gordon Skau** (sporting designer suspenders), and the author of this missive – **John Falkenberg**

Other Long Islanders were expected who were unable to make it and we hope nothing serious happened. Not sure if another breakfast meeting will occur before the October lunch but see you there at Galaxie Caterers on Friday, October 3, 2008 from 12-4PM. See *Dates To Remember* for details. Remember, cost will be \$47.00 per person.

**CHATTANOOGA, TN – LEN COBLE**

**Len** writes that it was about 20 years ago that **Frank Reckard** stepped down as Regional Vice President of the Chattanooga group and passed the baton to Len. After 20 years as RVP, Len says it was quite an experience, both challenging and satisfying. During his stewardship, there have been as many as 64 attendees and as few as 6 at the quarterly meetings. Len is now stepping down as RVP and **Bill Webster** has graciously agreed to take over as RVP. Bill and his wife, Ann, reside in the local Chattanooga area and are quite active working almost full time among local charities in the area.

In his last meeting report, Len says he has relied quite heavily on **Maxine Sedman** (their volunteer secretary), and **Tom Thrasher** for their regular supportive actions in rallying locals for good attendance. Both Tom and Maxine were at the April meeting and have always been regular attendees. Tom also has made arrangements with the Golden Corral for our regular meetings. Maxine furnished each of us with an updated list of our “Listed” former WU workers/families.

**Brother Ernie Sutton**, having recovered from surgery, offered prayers for known sickness and/or other maladies, for the safety of our troops, for those now deceased and then gave thanks for the upcoming meal.

**Lenny Pisarski** and **Jim Baker** came up from Atlanta. Lenny returned the book, *The Western Union Story*, that he won at the October 2007 meeting. **Elsie Fugate** now has possession of it until our October 2008 meeting. Len presented the new copy of the book that he had received to **Bill Webster** as a token of Len’s thanks for Bill’s willingness to take over the lead for the Chattanooga group. Then the entire group present autographed the book for Bill. **Ben Pendergrass** was welcomed after having cared for Mary Frances during many months of illness. Everyone was pleased that **Bob and Jean Beck** were back. Jean is a quilting enthusiast, and told Len that she makes about 3 trips a year to Murfreesboro. **D.R. and Irene Brown** were at the lunch for the first time in over a year. Irene wants to know what to do with all that “WU Stuff” that some of us have. Len told her to wait until we can see if a museum is available.

**P.W. Davis** (Frankewing, TN) and **Charlie Brown** (Decatur, AL) made their regular trip to be at the meeting. They have missed only one meeting since they started coming two or three years ago. **Lewis Steele**, having recovered from knee surgery, was able to be with the group after missing a few meetings. Also, **J.W. Travis** is another of our members who seldom ever miss our get-togethers. He, along with the rest of the “Heavy Eaters” enjoy the “all you care to eat” at the Golden Corral.

Len encourages any and all to provide **Bill Webster** with their full support. Len is looking forward to sitting in and “Listening” for a change. Y’all come now ya hea!!

The meeting attendees were: **Leonard (LD) & Muriel Coble, Bill & Ann Webster, Ernest Sutton, Tom Thrasher, Lewis Steele, Ben Pendergrass, Elsie Fugate, Lenny Pisarski, Jim Baker, P.W. Davis, Charlie Brown, J.W. Travis, Bob & Jean Beck, D.R. & Irene Brown** and, last but definitely not least!!, **Maxine Sedman**.