



Ruritan

Volume 77, Summer 2012



A Legacy of Ruritan Service

Albert Schweitzer said, "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." As Bill and I have traveled, we have met a very special group of Ruritans who have served our organization faithfully for fifty years or more. It has been a special honor to attend their club anniversaries and present fifty-year name badges to these Ruritans.



Our fifty-year Ruritans have been active on the club, zone, and district levels. They proudly share their clubs' projects and the many fundraisers they have participated in over the years. Many have perfect attendance. One gentleman shared with me that when he thought he was too tired to attend, his wife would remind him of how much he loved his club and how close he was to fifty years of perfect attendance. He would then get dressed up and go. This same Ruritan had his entire family (even his daughter who drove from Florida) present to see him honored with fifty years of membership.

Clubs and families have honored many of our fifty-year members with a Ruritan Forever Endowment (see page 5 for the description of Ruritan Forever). They expressed what an honor this was for them and how happy their service had made them. They then proudly showed me their Ruritan Forever lapel pins.

What a legacy our fifty-year members have left for us! They share memories of past conventions, knowing Tom Downing and other early Ruritan leaders, and the joy of Ruritan service. They share a sense of purpose.

Another very special group of Ruritans I have observed in our Ruritan clubs are our youth members. They are learning how to serve with seasoned Ruritans. For some, becoming a youth member in a Ruritan club provided an opportunity to meet a community service graduation requirement. For others, membership is an opportunity to work with their mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, or grandparents in community service projects. It is wonderful to spend time with these young people and to experience the happiness, excitement, and enthusiasm they have for Ruritan.

Many clubs award their "Build Your Dollars" Scholarship or other club scholarships to their youth members. Some clubs even honor their youth by making each youth member a Ruritan Forever. This means that even when they leave home for college or job opportunities, they will stay Ruritans for



*Robert Perry, charter member of the **Liberty Spring** (VA) Ruritan Club, is honored with a fifty-year name badge at the club's 50th Anniversary. National Director Don Yeargan and National President Phyllis Lewter had the honor of recognizing Robert for his Ruritan service.*

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Magazine of and published by Ruritan National, Vol. 78, Summer Issue, Ruritan (ISSN: 0036-0147) is published four times a year. Ruritan National is a non-profit, incorporated association of Ruritan Clubs in the United States of America. Ruritan National assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed by authors of articles or claims by advertisers. Subscription price for one year is \$8. Single issues are \$2 each.

Periodicals postage paid at Dublin, VA and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
RURITAN NATIONAL, P.O. BOX 487, (UPS) 5451 LYONS ROAD, DUBLIN, VA 24084.



Ruritan

Volume 78, Summer 2012

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Camp Creek (TN) Club donates a memorial stone worth \$10,000. See page 16 for complete article.

Special Features

Zuni Youth member writes essay on Ruritan.....17

The youth must write an essay to qualify for a scholarship with the Zuni club.

President Awards Clubs for Innovative.....18

National President Phyllis Lewter presents awards to three clubs.

Summer Magazine Cover Contest Runners-Up.....19

The runners-up for the Summer Magazine Cover Contest 2012 are pictured on page 19.

Suffolk Club cooks for Wounded Warriors.....28

The club raised \$2,300 for the "Jump for Purpose Event"

On The Cover: The winner of the 2012 Summer Magazine Cover Contest. The action shot shows the **Disputanta, VA Ruritan Club** making a large batch of Brunswick stew. The stewmaster at this event Holman Britt was a member of the club for 35 years and passed away on December 3, 2011. Pictured (l-r) are: Pete Ryan, Ed Wilkerson, Jimmy Thacker, Jr., Holman Britt, Joseph Simmons, and John Mason.

The Answer is in Your Hands

If you have had a chance to visit the website in the last few weeks you already realize that May was Ruritan Awareness Month. Ruritan has always been one of America's best kept secrets. Unfortunately, many of us believe that if we publicize our activities or service projects that we are "bragging" or trying to bring attention to ourselves for the services that we provide. As a result we end up "hiding our candle under a bushel" so to speak.



If you ask people who are not Ruritan members, most will tell you that they know Ruritan is a good organization, but if pressed, they find it hard to explain what we are or what we do specifically. We do good for the sake of doing good. We do good with pure intentions to help people and to make our communities better. Most people understand that. However, when those inside the organization don't tell people what we are doing specifically, they are left with a vague understanding of the impact that we have on people and the community at large. Don't be afraid to publicize the good things that your club is doing.

We have long known that an active club with a great program of service has little trouble recruiting members. When people can see your impact in the community, they will want to be a part of your group. You don't have to look any further than the pages of this magazine to see Ruritan at its best. The following pages are filled with the good things that we are doing in community after community to help people. Visit the website and look at all the ways you can publicize your club and the tremendous impact you have in your community. Just because May was Ruritan Awareness Month doesn't mean that you can't spread the word in the other eleven months of the year. Good things are happening all across the country in every season. Tell your neighbors about it.

One of our former national presidents tells the story of a young man who visits an old wise man. The young man has a bird cupped in his hands. The young man asks the wise man if the bird is alive or dead. The wise man knows that if he says the bird is alive the young man will crush the bird and if he says it is dead the young man will simply open his hands and release the bird. The old man in his wisdom says "the answer my son, is in your hands." If you think about Ruritan, and whether or not our communities know who we are and what we do, the answer is...it is in your hands. The same is true with regard to growth and recruiting. We can print all the information we have available, offer suggestions and strategies, and make motivational speeches, but in the end the answer is in your hands. The members of Ruritan, nearly 30,000 of us, should be disciples of who we are and what we do. The answer is in your hands.



New Clubs for 2012

New Ruritan Clubs, Sponsors, & DRMS*

(January 1, 2012 -- May 1, 2012)

New Club	District	Sponsoring Club	DRM
T. Clay Wood Elementary Rudy Youth Ruri-Teen Club	Rappahannock	Nokesville	Rick McMahon
Marsteller Middle School Ruri-Teen	Rappahannock	Nokesville	Ken Hinkle

*DRM stands for Distinguished Ruritan Member, who is the person most responsible for organizing the new club.



Robert Major Wilkinson, Sr. was honored by the Carson (VA) Ruritan Club for his 50 years of perfect attendance. National President Phyllis Lewter and National Director Don Yeargan were on hand to present the award.

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the rest of their lives.

I feel very blessed to be your 2012 Ruritan National President and have the honor to visit Ruritan clubs throughout America. From our fifty-year members to our youth members, our membership is enriching the lives of others. All are living examples that as Ruritans we are working together for a stronger America. Thank you for your dedication and service to Ruritan.

Phyllis Lewter

Note: "Ruritan Forever" is a plan for the payment of national dues by members who wish to make a long-term investment in Ruritan. The "Ruritan Forever" plan allows a member in good standing to pay \$600 and become a lifetime participant of our national organization. This Ruritan will receive a certificate, a permanent life card, and a lapel pin.



Past National Foundation President and Past National Director Joe Hulver (center) was surprised on his birthday with the distinction of being made a Ruritan Forever. With Hulver are (clockwise from bottom left) granddaughter Allie Campbell, wife Nancy, daughter Theresa Hulver Seddon, and granddaughter Katie Campbell.

Hold an Open House to Attract New Members

Attracting new members is always first and foremost on the minds of all Ruritan Clubs. Your National Growth, Development and Member Retention Committee is always looking for creative programs that can be used to grow, retain, and reclaim members. One such program, an open house, was planned by club president Martin Levering and held by the Great Bridge Club in the Holland District. It was held on a regular meeting night and the club also included local organizations that the club supports.

Club members were encouraged to generate a list of potential members to invite to the open house. Invitations were sent to the potential members asking them to visit the club and to learn more about organizations supported by the club through donations and volunteer hours.

Guests were greeted warmly at the door as they arrived. They were given a nametag and introduced to club members and zone, district, and national officers in an informal setting. While they were waiting for the meeting to begin, there was time to visit the display tables set up around the room.



There was a table for each community service committee (Business and Professions, Citizenship and Patriotism, Environment, Public Service, and Social Development). The committee chairs manned each table. A photo display of the committee's activities was provided. Additionally, community organizations sent representatives along with brochures to explain how the organization functioned and how they needed community volunteers such as the Ruritans. For example: Social Development had a demonstration of how to knit chemo caps, information on a senior club, and a health care program for at-risk children.

There was a membership table with applications and Ruritan brochures. Club members manned the table to provide information and to answer any questions the guests may have had.

When the club meeting began, a warm welcome was given by the club president. "My Country 'tis of Thee" was sung and then "This Is Ruritan," a 10 minute video was shown prior to dinner being served. This was to enable the guests time to formulate and ask questions while enjoying dinner at their respective tables.



Growth and Development News



The club chose to have a self-serve buffet instead of a plated meal. This allowed for a greater variety and greater quantity of foods since an accurate head count was not available. The club provided meats and members provided covered dish salads and desserts. Members were encouraged to invite guests up to the last minute.

A condensed business session was held after the meal so that potential members could get a feel for a typical business meeting. Announcements of upcoming events and fundraisers were made. The club also was thrilled to have a new member initiated that evening and assigned to a committee.

Throughout the meeting, there was fellowship as guests, potential members, and club members discussed the needs in the community and brainstormed ways to meet these needs through the local Ruritan Club(s).

A membership meeting such as the one just described can provide a breath of fresh air to a club. Potential members can learn about the club's projects and how they can serve their community through the Ruritan Club. Current members get feedback from potential members and learn of new ways to reach out to the community. This is a win-win situation for everyone.

Thank you for all that you do for your communities and for Ruritan. Please do all that you can to help grow Ruritan. If you wish to learn more about a membership meeting such as the one described above or would like additional information about growth programs, please contact a member of the Growth, Development and Member Retention Committee.



Don Yeargan, Chair
Chuck Myers
John Berdine



*Pictured are club members of the new **T. Clay Wood Elementary Rudy Youth Ruritan (VA) Club** at its chartering ceremony.*

Don't Miss These Special Trips and Events

In addition to the wonderful fellowship of a Ruritan National Convention – the 2013 gathering will feature of number of special side trips and events. All of the options are offered on the registration form, in this issue or found on the ruritan.org website.

This would be a great opportunity to bring the family for an extended visit in Northern KY – get settled in town on Tuesday and take advantage of Breakfast with the Penguins at the wonderful **Newport Aquarium** on Wednesday morning. For \$30 you not only get a hot breakfast buffet in Sharky's Café, you also will have a biologist presentation about the penguins and a self-guided view of all of the exhibits – all before the aquarium opens to regular guests. Cost is \$20 for children under 12. Transportation to the aquarium can be by local trolley* or by private car, as there is plenty of parking.



Another tour – on Thursday – will take attendees to the fabulous **National Museum of the Air Force** at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in nearby Dayton. The museum is the Air Force's national institution for preserving and presenting the Air Force story. Each year more than one million visitors come to the museum to learn about the mission, history, and evolving capabilities of America's Air Force. The museum is the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum featuring more than 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display amid more than 17 acres of indoor exhibit space. Thousands of personal artifacts, photographs, and documents further highlight the people and events that comprise the Air Force storyline, from the beginnings of military flight to today's war on terrorism.



Transportation to Dayton is by bus – admission to the museum is free-cost for the trip is \$25. Buses will depart from the convention center at 10 a.m. Thursday and return by 4 p.m. – in plenty of time for the Thursday **Ruritan Celebrates America** opening ceremonies. (Trip requires 40 attendees minimum.)



On Friday afternoon – Ruritans may choose to visit the Cincinnati Reds' **Great American Ballpark**. It may not be baseball season in January



– but there are wonderful things to see on the ballpark tour (weather permitting.) The \$14 admission includes a visit to the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame and Museum. Transportation can be by local trolley* or by private car.

**Trolley transportation is a wonderful way to get around Northern KY and across the river into Cincinnati. Purchase a three-day trolley pass on your registration form and it will be waiting in your registration packet when you arrive. (If you sign up for the Wednesday trip to the Newport Aquarium and order a trolley pass – the pass(es) will be mailed to you two weeks before the convention since you won't have gotten your registration packet by Wednesday morning's event.)*

2013 Ruritan National Convention - Northern KY

(January 24 - 26, 2013)

One form per attendee - please duplicate as needed.

Please print or type and include member # if you are a Ruritan.
(Member # appears on every RURITAN magazine mailing label.)

Attendee: _____ Member #: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

Preferred Badge Name: _____

I need vegetarian meal(s) for these in my party. # _____

Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

I need handicapped accessible seating at meals.

I have 50 years or more perfect attendance. # years _____

This is my first Ruritan National Convention.

Club and District listed below will appear on your name tag.

Club: _____ District: _____

E-mail Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____

GUESTS: As a registered attendee you may bring non-registered guests to meal functions and optional events. Pay under 'Extra Tickets' on reverse. They will only be allowed in events they've paid for and they will not have a packet or a name badge. Their tickets will be in your packet.

Registration Details

- Thursday evening Ruritan Celebrates America opening ceremonies
- Friday Education Day with workshops before and after the All-American Luncheon (for all two meal and Friday package attendees)
- Saturday elections and Business Session ending with the Installation Banquet (for all two meal and Saturday package attendees)

- Optional Friday evening Foundation Dinner and Saturday morning Breakfast With Bill - honoring Ruritan's first-ever First Gentleman Bill Lewter as well as other pre-convention optional trips and events - see reverse.

Appropriate registration package must be purchased in order to attend convention activities including workshops and business

For Office Use Only:

Registration # _____

Group # _____

session. A registered convention attendee may purchase optional meals as well as extra meals for his/her non-registered guests (see reverse). After December 24, 2012, you may only register in person at the convention site.

See reverse to choose your options

MEALS IN NORTHERN KY

While there is not a late fee for registrations to the National Convention this year, there IS a deadline with the Northern KY Convention Center caterer for meal count guarantees. With that in mind – anyone waiting to register on-site in Northern KY (as a walk-in) for the events will not be guaranteed a meal.

We **will** be able to register you for all non-meal events at the base rate of \$105. Plan to send your registration to the Ruritan National Office before the December 24, 2012, cut-off date for advance registration.

How Will You Pay?

Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

NOTE: Aside from some limited special seating, everyone will be seated for meals on a "first come, first served" basis. If you want to be seated with specific attendees, you should send your registration forms in **together**.

Payment made by check Check # _____

Visa/Mastercard Card # _____

Expiration date _____

Check one option below

Bill my credit card now

Bill my credit card December 1, 2012

What Events Will You Attend At The 2013 Convention?

Option 1 - Registration: 2 meal package # _____ @ \$180 =+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday Ruritan Celebrates America opening, Friday All-American Luncheon, Friday workshops, Saturday business session, and Saturday Installation Banquet. **DOES NOT include Foundation meal or Breakfast with Bill.**

Option 2 - Base Fee - no meals # _____ @ \$105 =+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday Ruritan Celebrates America opening, workshops, election, and business sessions. **NO MEALS**

Option 3 - Friday Day Rate # _____ @ \$135 =+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday Ruritan Celebrates America opening, Friday All-American Luncheon, Friday workshops, Saturday business session, election. **NO SATURDAY MEALS; DOES NOT include Foundation meal or Breakfast with Bill.**

Option 4 - Saturday Day Rate # _____ @ \$160 =+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday Ruritan Celebrates America opening, Friday Workshops, Saturday business session, and Installation Banquet. **NO FRIDAY MEALS and DOES NOT include Foundation meal or Breakfast with Bill.**

Sub Total Basic Registrations \$ _____

Extra Tickets and Optional Convention Events: Any fully registered attendee may purchase these items. These tickets will secure entrance to these events ONLY and will be in the host's packet.

EXTRA All-American Luncheon (1 included in **2 meal** and **Friday** options) # _____ @ \$35 =+ \$ _____

Friday Foundation Awards Dinner (**Must** be purchased separately) # _____ @ \$50 =+ \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast With Bill (**Must** be purchased separately) # _____ @ \$25 =+ \$ _____

EXTRA Installation Banquet (1 included in **2 meal** and **Saturday** options) # _____ @ \$60 =+ \$ _____

Sub Total Extra Tickets: \$ _____

Optional events and gifts -

THREE DAY trolley pass (Good for three days after it is first used) # _____ @ \$6.00 =+ \$ _____

WEDNESDAY Breakfast at **Newport Aquarium** (travel by trolley or car) # _____ @ \$30.00 =+ \$ _____

WEDNESDAY Breakfast at **Newport Aquarium** (children under 12) # _____ @ \$20.00 =+ \$ _____

THURSDAY **Wright Patterson Air Museum** (includes bus to Dayton) # _____ @ \$25.00 =+ \$ _____

FRIDAY Reds' **Great American Ballpark** tour (travel by trolley or car) # _____ @ \$14.00 =+ \$ _____

Large Rudy Bears - to be added to Ruritan gift to local charities # _____ @ \$8.25 =+ \$ _____

Small Rudy Bears - to be added to Ruritan gift to local charities # _____ @ \$5.25 =+ \$ _____

Cash donation for **Operation Smile** (See pages 11-12) =+ \$ _____

NOTE: See this RURITAN magazine or the <http://ruritan.org> for details on the optional trips and events.

Sub Total Other \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

We will be honoring Ruritan military veterans with name badge ribbons and during the Friday All American Luncheon. Please let us know your branch and era of service.

Name: _____ (Check both branch and era of service)

BRANCH OF SERVICE

ERA OF SERVICE

____ U.S. Army

____ Navy

____ WWII

____ Desert Storm

____ U.S. Air Force

____ U.S. Coast Guard

____ Korea

____ Operation Iraqi Freedom

____ U. S. Marines

____ Other (explain)

____ Vietnam

____ Peace Time Service

Other: _____

Projects for 2013 Include Operation Smile

The cities hosting Ruritan National annual conventions are always the recipients of Ruritan generosity. Each year hundreds of Rudy Bears are delivered to local fire, rescue, and police departments. In 2012, and again in 2013, Ruritan “stitchers” crochet and knit hundreds of caps for cancer patients to be given to local hospitals. Also, again in 2013, a Red Cross Bloodmobile will be a part of the activities

– offering Ruritans an opportunity to donate much needed blood to Covington, KY area blood banks.

In 2013 Ruritan will add a new charity focus to the giving surrounding the national convention – **Operation Smile** – a charity with a special meaning to 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter and First Gentleman Bill.

Founded in 1982, **Operation Smile** is an international children’s medical charity that works in more than 60 countries and is based in Norfolk, VA. A secular non-governmental organization, the charity provides free reconstructive surgery for children and young adults born with facial deformities such as cleft lips and cleft palates worldwide, trains in-country doctors to help build self-sufficiency in developing countries, and works to reduce the incidence of cleft lips and cleft palates. To date, **Operation Smile** has provided two million healthcare evaluations and more than 200,000 free surgeries for children and young adults around the world. Each surgery is made possible at a cost of only \$240 because the doctors are volunteers who donate their time and talents to **Operation Smile**.

The Lewters’ granddaughter Charlotte, adopted from Yang Chung, Guandong China, needed this important surgery when she came to her new home in the U.S. Charlotte is the daughter of Carla and Jay Lewter and while her parents’ insurance covered the procedure for Charlotte – the Lewters’ understand that many such children are not as fortunate.

*National President Phyllis and First Gentleman Bill were greeted by **Operation Smile** Co-Founder and President Kathy Magee (second from left) at the charity’s headquarters in Norfolk as the first \$240 Ruritan donation was made. Also on hand was Charlotte Lewter, granddaughter of the first couple. Charlotte has had the same cleft lip and palate surgery provided by **Operation Smile** to children who cannot afford the procedure.*



Operation Smile exists for just that reason – for children who would not otherwise be able to afford the procedure. Charlotte’s first surgery to close her cleft lip, which took 1 1/2 hours, was in January 2008 when she was 18 months old. A second surgery in June of that year closed her cleft palate. Two more surgeries accomplished additional facial reconstruction.

As with most children undergoing this process, she will require additional surgeries as she grows and matures.

Charlotte’s mom Carla noted, “We had heard of **Operation Smile** before we adopted. Being that the national headquarters are based here, we see events and media coverage often. We contacted a volunteer nurse with **Operation Smile** once we knew about Charlotte to ask a few questions on feeding and such. Charlotte’s surgery was not performed by **Operation Smile**; however, since she was adopted we were able to use our own medical coverage to pay for the surgeries. The team of doctors that worked with Charlotte at Children’s Hospital of the Kings Daughters are the same doctors that work with **Operation Smile** and do amazing work, like what they performed on Charlotte. We loved all of the nurses and doctors we worked with. They are really top-notch.”

Dr. Richard S. Rosenblum from Norfolk was one of those amazing doctors, who also has dedicated hundreds of volunteer hours to **Operation Smile**. In his youth, Dr. Rosenblum was one of the first students to participate on a medical mission with **Operation Smile** when he volunteered in the Philippines. After later attending the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond to further specialize in facial and cosmetic surgery, he completed a fellowship with **Operation Smile’s** Co-Founder and CEO Dr. William P. Magee, Jr. and **Operation Smile** International.

Continued on page 12

Get Your Hotel Room in Northern KY!

The Passkey lodging program for 2013 Ruritan lodging registrations for the two headquarters hotels – the Marriott RiverCenter and the Embassy Suites is now open and taking reservations. Both hotels are across the street from the convention center. The advantage of the Marriott is that it has a covered overpass to access the convention center. The advantage of the Embassy Suites is that all the rooms are two-room suites and there is a complimentary breakfast every morning and a manager's reception every evening! Please do not call these hotels directly. These rooms must be booked through Passkey and not with the hotels. To access the website, go to the Ruritan website (<http://ruritan.org>) and pull down the Member Resources option to 2013 Convention Lodging to get the link or to find printable lodging forms in both Word and PDF. These can be filled out and faxed or mailed in if you are not comfortable with on-line registration.

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In 2007, Dr. Rosenblum returned to the Philippines with **Operation Smile** during the World Journey of Smiles initiative, the largest medical mission of its kind.

Charlotte's parents are thrilled that President Phyllis and First Gentleman Bill have decided to focus on **Operation Smile** as a charity for 2012-2013 Ruritan giving. Carla said recently, "We think **Operation Smile** is amazing; they really give so many children a chance at a more normal life. We were blessed to be able to pay for Charlotte's surgery on our own, but know there are so many children in the world that would not have the surgery without the work of **Operation Smile**. I think it is a very worthy organization and Ruritan National will be changing many lives through this project."

First Gentleman Bill Lewter has made the first donation to the Ruritan Operation Smile Fund - \$240 to fund one surgery. The **Ruritan Road** (VA) Ruritan Club, made up of many staff members at the National Office, has pledged a second \$240 donation. While each surgery costs \$240 – not all gifts must be that large. Donations of any size will contribute to surgeries for patients in the greater Cincinnati area and be added to the total gift from Ruritan to **Operation Smile**. "To think that \$240 could change the life of a child is amazing! \$240 is really nothing to many of us, but the difference it will make for a child is irreplaceable," Carla concluded. Donations may be made on your convention registration form. On hand to accept the donations in Covington, KY will be **Operation Smile** National Director for US Chapters, Lauri Catena.



When Charlotte was adopted by Carla and Jay Lewter from Yang Chung, Guandong China in late 2007 she had a cleft lip and cleft palate that would require multiple surgeries. She is pictured here with her mom Carla around the time of her adoption.



The Lewter's granddaughter Charlotte has had four reconstructive surgeries to repair her cleft lip and palate. As a result, her family understands how these procedures, provided for many children by **Operation Smile**, can make an enormous difference to a child's life and future.

Time to Consider a Donation to OWC

Dear Fellow Ruritans,

We are rapidly approaching that time of year when we enjoy outdoor activities with our families and friends. Unfortunately, this is also the time of year when we incur many natural disasters such as tornados, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc. The loss of property and life can be truly enormous.



*Cleve Wright
2012 Foundation
President*

That is where our Operation We Care (OWC) Program comes into play. Last year we distributed over \$144,000 in disaster assistance in response to requests from the Roanoke, New River, Davy Crockett, Tennessean, and Georgia-North Alabama Districts. As a result, our available funds were significantly depleted. Hopefully, there will not be as great a need for assistance this year. However, we need to be prepared and ready to respond should that need develop. Once FEMA and the American Red Cross, as well as insurance policies, have completed their responsibilities, OWC will join in to assist as much as possible to fill in the gaps the other agencies leave behind. Should such disasters occur, district governors are asked to assess

the situation in their district and file a report with the Foundation requesting assistance. The Trustees will then review the requests and approve assistance to the extent that funds are available. Only through the generous support of caring Ruritans like you, will we be sure that adequate funds are available to provide disaster assistance should it be needed. Therefore, we sincerely ask you and your clubs to remember OWC and consider a donation this year. All donations for this purpose should be marked for OWC. Individuals are reminded that donations to OWC and the Foundation are income tax exempt under our 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service designation. We thank you in advance for your support and consideration.

Your Ruritan Foundation Trustees met in mid-April for their annual review and distribution of funds for the Build Your Dollar and Scholarship Grant Programs. I'm pleased to report that this year, we awarded \$250 to each of the 356 qualifying clubs, who submitted their \$300 deposits and required applications. This will equate to a \$550 scholarship for these clubs, a \$15 increase over last year. In addition, we awarded 30 Scholarship Grants (29 Regular and 1 Non-Traditional) of \$600 each. The good news is that this represents 10 more Scholarship Grants than awarded last year. Unfortunately, there were still many more well deserving applicants that did not receive scholarship grants. Our ability to provide educational assistance is limited to the revenue we generate from our corpus (fund base or principle), which currently is insufficient

to generate the revenue necessary to meet all of our demand or requests. Ruritan National Foundation has several programs in place to encourage and assist our

Ruritan National FOUNDATION

2012 Board of Trustees

President: Robert "Cleve" Wright
Vice President: Norman O'Dell
Secretary: David Freshly
Treasurer: Danny Privott
Promotion Chair: Fred Payne



\$\$\$MILLION DOLLAR CLUB\$\$\$

Donation Amount \$: _____ Name of Fund to Credit: _____
 From: _____ Club: _____
 Address: _____ District: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

Pay by check or Credit Card (Visa/Master Charge)

Credit Card # : _____

Expiration Date: _____

Mail to: Ruritan National Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084-0487

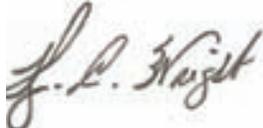
Ruritan National Foundation News

membership (and friends) in supporting our Foundation. Our newest fund raising program, the “\$\$\$Million Dollar Club\$\$\$” has now contributed over \$45,000. We are looking forward to additional participants joining this program. This is an easy way to get started in making an annual contribution to the Foundation. It is our goal to get more and more Ruritans consistently involved in supporting and contributing to the Foundation on an annual basis. If we could get just 25% of all Ruritans contributing \$100 per year, we would bring in an additional \$750,000 towards our corpus annually and be able to double our current corpus in just five years. This is a big challenge but, also a very reasonable goal. Only through your continuous support will we be able to reach out and provide educational assistance to the many students who desperately need our help.

I personally want to thank those who have signed up to join us on this year’s Foundation Bahamas Cruise in September. This year’s cruise will replace our traditional Foundation Weekend. It will be a 4 day - 5 night cruise departing Charleston, S.C. on September 10, 2012, and returning September 15, 2012. We have had a very good response and look forward to what is certain to be a fun and exciting event.

Finally, we want to again remind all Ruritans that you are also valued members of the Foundation. We need your support and involvement to be successful in achieving our goals. We ask and encourage each of you and your clubs to kindly consider a gift to the Foundation, whether it is to the Foundation Scholarship Program or OWC Program. Many clubs have already informed us of their intentions to hold “special” fundraisers this year with all proceeds being ear-marked for the Foundation. To those clubs and the many Ruritans that have faithfully supported the Ruritan National Foundation in the past and all of those that will in the future, I extend my sincerest “Thank You!!!”

Yours in Ruritan Service,



“Cleve” Wright
2012 Foundation President

2011 COMMUNICATION AWARDS

2011 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER AWARDS

<u>Place</u>	<u>District</u>
1 st	New River
2 nd	Davy Crockett
3 rd	Delmarva-New Jersey

2011 CLUB NEWSLETTER AWARDS

<u>Place</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>District</u>
1 st	East Orange	Rapidan
2 nd	Spottswood Raphine	WoodrowWilson
3 rd	Wilson Memorial	Dan River

2011 DISTRICT WEBSITE AWARDS

<u>Place</u>	<u>District</u>
1 st	Holland
2 nd	Ohio
3 rd	Delmarva-New Jersey

2011 CLUB WEBSITE AWARDS

<u>Place</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>District</u>
1 st	Rougemont	Rocky Mt.-Durham
2 nd	Leasburg	Piedmont
3 rd	Forestburg	Albemarle

2011 DISTRICT ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

<u>Place</u>	<u>District</u>
1 st	Cherokee

2011 CLUB ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

<u>Place</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>District</u>
1 st	Rougemont	Rocky Mt.-Durham
2 nd	Forestburg	Albemarle

Resolution Proclaiming May as Ruritan Awareness Month in Shenandoah County



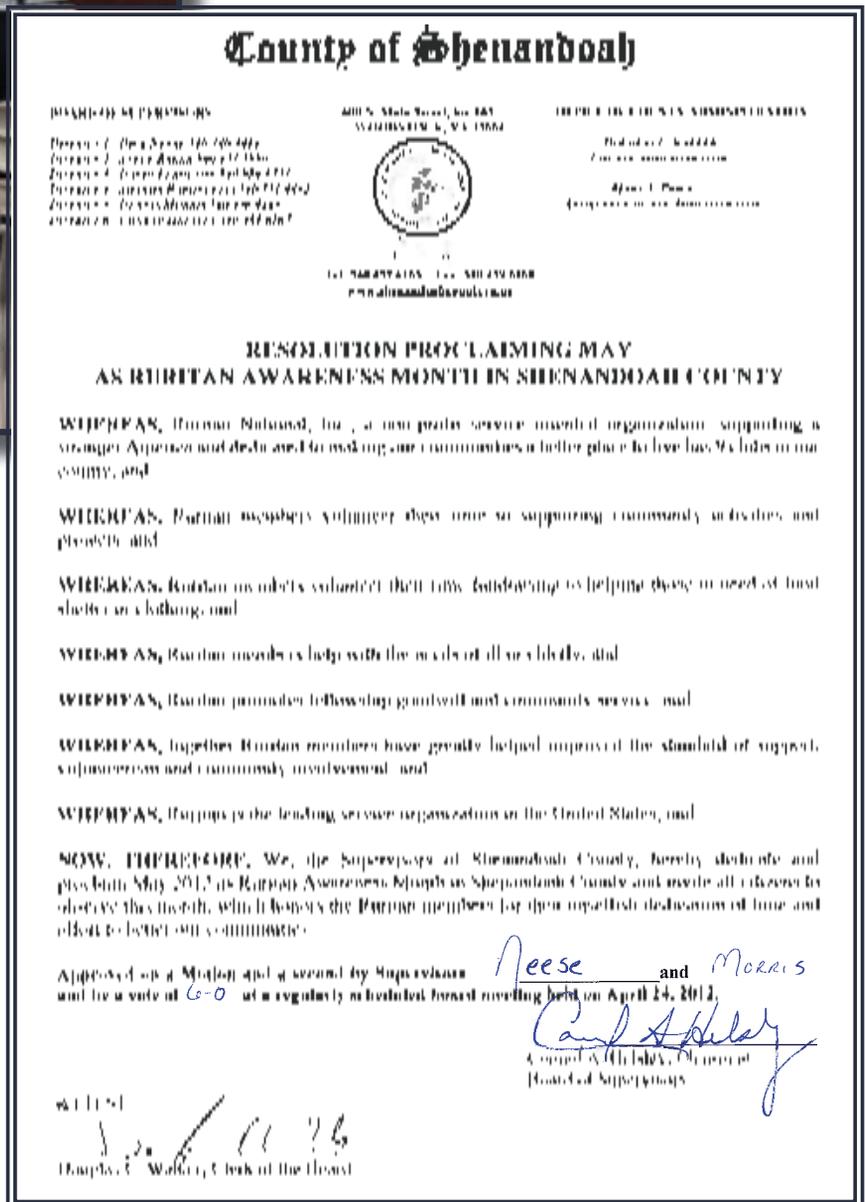
Rockingham Lt. Governor Lori Ryan (pictured above) took it upon herself to write the resolution (pictured right) for the Shenandoah County Supervisors meeting in April. After reading the resolution, the board unanimously approved.

Also in the picture above (l-r) are Steven A. Baker, Zone 4 Governor and **Forestville-Quicksburg** (VA) club member Dick Neese, Chair Dr. Helsley, Vice Chair and **Maur-Brook-Olive** (VA) club member Dennis Morris, and Sharon Baroncelli.

If your club, zone, or district joined in the celebration of Ruritan Awareness Month in May send pictures of the activities to the Ruritan magazine (before August 1) for inclusion in the fall edition.

Ruritans across the country were encouraged to conduct special projects to serve others and bring awareness in their communities for the month of May.

Examples of celebration activities were to present Rudy Bears to local police and fire departments, contact the media to inform of club's service projects, make state and local government officials associate members, hold a community food drive, distribute Ruritan brochures, present Ruritan Forever membership to honor Ruritans for their service, and request proclamations from state senators, governors, mayors, board of supervisors, etc.



Camp Creek Club Dedicates a Memorial Stone

Camp Creek (TN) Ruritan Club was featured in the news for dedicating a memorial stone worth \$10,000 to those who died in April 2011 due to the devastating tornadoes. See article below.



Last April 27 and 28, two EF-3 tornadoes claimed the lives of eight people in Greene and Washington counties near Camp Creek. The tornadoes damaged hundreds of homes and set off a rebuilding process that is still going to this day.

The Camp Creek Ruritan Club dedicated a memorial stone worth \$10,000 to honor those who died. The Greene County Board of Education voted unanimously to deed property for the memorial which sits right next to the Camp Creek Elementary School, to the organization.

The club said the memorial will stand as a

powerful symbol in the town.

“We wanted to close out the tornadoes and bring a new future in,” said Club President Donald Mace. The club has helped rebuild over 100 buildings in the community.

The memorial holds the names of those who died during the storms.

After the memorial service, ground breaking of the Camp Creek Ruritan Memorial Building took place.



Zuni Youth Member Writes an Essay on Ruritan

The letter below was written by **Zuni** (VA) Ruritan Club Youth member Lauren Arrington. The youth must write an essay about Ruritan to qualify for a scholarship. Lauren was the winner of the essay contest.



The word "Ruritan" has been mentioned many times in our community, but I never really knew what the true meaning behind the word was. It has taken hands on learning and experiences to uncover the true definition of a Ruritan. I realized through the chicken dinner fundraiser that the purpose of a Ruritan club is to solely give back to the community.

Growing up, I remember my parents and grandparents purchasing different dinners several times a year. Whether it was chicken or pork, they were always packaged in white styrofoam containers and distributed by our local Ruritans. As I sat in church, I would also hear Ruritan members announcing the sale of these wonderful plates. Therefore, my perception growing up has always been that the Ruritans do "things", but what those "things" were I was not quite sure. However, Mr. Hardison soon ensured me that all the funds coming in are going right back out into the community.

Therefore, Ruritan community service is much more than just helping out; it is directly putting all time and effort into projects that will give back and provide for the betterment of our community and the people living in it.

Over summer break I was able to volunteer at the Western Tidewater Free Clinic. I have also participated in the Mt. Carmel Food Distribution with my school's BETA club. Through these experiences, I gained the feeling of really helping someone. On that Friday night in March as I prepared green beans and potatoes, I not only saw a successful fundraiser, but also the abundant fellowship of the smiling people who had contributed to the betterment of the community. Through this Ruritan event, I was also able to personally feel the effect of community service. I was helping serve others while accompanied by the most loving and welcoming group of individuals. Altogether, I had the feeling of goodness in my heart when I walked out of that building, as I'm sure every other member of the Ruritan club had. I felt like I had captured the real meaning of a Ruritan and the service involved.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude toward all things that the Ruritans do. The Ruritans sponsored me to attend Girls State 2011 and have now given me the opportunity to meet many new people and experience the Ruritan community. From these experiences, I have gained a whole new perspective on helping others. I want to get out and provide for the community and the people. Times are hard and we need to give back and help each other just as our Ruritan community has done for many years. The Ruritan community has been a very influential organization who has provided for many throughout their time of operation. I applaud the Ruritans for all that they do to help the community and provide for a better place to live. I hope if my dream to go into medicine comes true, that one day I will be able to give back to the wonderful community that we live in just as the Ruritans have taught me to do today. This experience has been influential both personally and to all others involved.

Innovative Service Awards Presented to Three Clubs

National President Phyllis Lewter has awarded Innovative Service Awards to three clubs for the first quarter of 2012. The clubs are **Clarksville (VA)**, **Rougemont (NC)**, and **Boonsboro (VA)** Ruritan Clubs. The Clarksville Ruritan Club operates the Clarksville Flea Market in a building that was a former supermarket. The flea market has been most successful with \$100,000 going back to their community annually. On Friday nights, the flea market items are pushed aside, the band sets up, and the senior citizens from Clarksville and the surrounding area have a great time at a dance.

The **Rougemont** Ruritan Club holds holiday events for their community. Annually an Easter Parade and Festival is held. After the parade a festival is held that includes live music, egg hunts, face painting, games, and food. Each Fourth of July, an ice cream social, with homemade ice cream and cakes is served to the community at their clubhouse. These annual events are well attended by the community.



Clarksville (VA) Dance Committee Chair Franklin Dover and Carol Dover are pictured with National President Phyllis Lewter.



2011 Rocky Mt.-Durham Governor Jim Sears, 2012 Rocky Mt.-Durham Governor, National President Phyllis Lewter, and 2010 Rocky Mt.-Durham Governor Ron Reid wait on the Rougemont (NC) float for the Easter Parade to begin.

The **Boonsboro** Ruritan Club is recognized for its environmental efforts. Through the efforts of club member Dr. Saami J. Shaibani, the club has begun an Adopt-a-Street Program in Lynchburg, VA. The city of Lynchburg included the club's web address for their Facebook page on each of four Adopt-a-Street signs. This environmental project can also be a tool for recruiting members and notifying the community about club activities.



Innovative Service Awards will be made each quarter of 2012. Send a brief description and photo to media@ruritan.org or mail to Innovative Service Award, Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA. 24084.



The community gathers at the town courtyard for the Rougemont Easter Festival.



First Gentleman Bill Lewter dances with Clarksville member (and former Radio City Hall Rockette) Bobbie Jo Dunagan at the club's Friday night dance for seniors.

Summer Cover Contest Runners-Up



**2ND
PLACE**



**3RD
PLACE**

The Ruritan summer cover contest was won by the **Disputanta** (VA) Ruritan Club. The action shot on the cover of this issue shows the group hard at work making a large batch of Brunswick stew. This annual tradition is held by the club to raise funds for club activities. One special note: Holman Britt, the stew master of the event, was a member of the club for 35 years. Holman is pictured in the center. He passed away in December of 2011. Pictured (l-r) are Pete Ryan, Ed Wilkerson, Jimmy Thacker Jr., Holman Britt, Joseph Simmons, and John Mason.

The Publications Committee had no knowledge of the story behind the picture while judging. Committee Chair Karen Palette said, "What an honor for this club to have Mr. Britt on the cover." Other members of the committee include Earl Cook, Linda Melton, non-board members Gail Duncan and Guy Cox.

Second place is a photo of a handicap ramp being built by the **Corapeake** (NC) Ruritan Club. In the picture were Marvin Barnes, Foster Parrish, and Tom Morgan.



**4TH
PLACE**

Magnolia (VA) Ruritan Club came in third place with the action shot of club members preparing Boston butts for their fundraising activity.

Central Caswell (NC) Ruritan Club participated in the Caswell County Christmas Parade. This photo came in fourth place. Pictured (l-r) are Nancy Bush, Addie Cook, Maxine Foster, and Sharon Yarbrough.

Environment Committee Chairman Joe Fitzpatrick and youth member Andrew Levering decorate one of three **Great Bridge** (VA) Ruritan Club Adopt-a-Spots with flags for Presidents' Day. Flags are also added for Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, Labor Day, and Veterans' Day. This photo came in fifth place.



**5TH
PLACE**

Leasburg (NC) Club Presents Ruritan Forever

Leasburg (NC) Ruritan Club along with Beverly, Tyffanie, Lee-Anne, and Diana Berdine surprised National Director John Berdine with a Ruritan Forever endowment at a recent club meeting. The Berdine family purchased the endowment to honor their husband and father. 2002 Past National President Millard Thacker and wife Marty were on hand to present the endowment. Pictured (l-r) are Beverly, Lee-Anne, John and Diana Berdine, and 2002 Past National President Millard Thacker.



Central Caswell Builds Ramp



Central Caswell (NC) Ruritan Club built a ramp for 99 year old Mary Stroud. Stroud was a resident at the Brian Center and was unable to come home until the ramp was built. Pictured working are Bruce Stanfield, Don Bush, and Elmo Talbert hard at work.



West Iredell (NC) Ruritan Club members Bobby Bell and Tommy Bell are shown delivering 30 boxes of food to Sharon Elementary School.

Sandy Ridge Club Awards Scholarships



Sandy Ridge (NC) Ruritan Club presented four scholarships to 2012 North Stokes High School graduating seniors in April. After a delicious meal, Stoke County Sheriff Mike Marshall gave an inspirational speech to the seniors. Then the club presented each senior with a Bible. The seniors had the opportunity to introduce themselves and spoke on their future goals. Pictured (l-r) are three of the scholarship winners: Emma McKinney, Ashley Lawson, and Jose Hernandez. Not pictured is G.W. Wilkins.

News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District

Marsteller Ruri-Teen's Help Raise Money to Find Cures

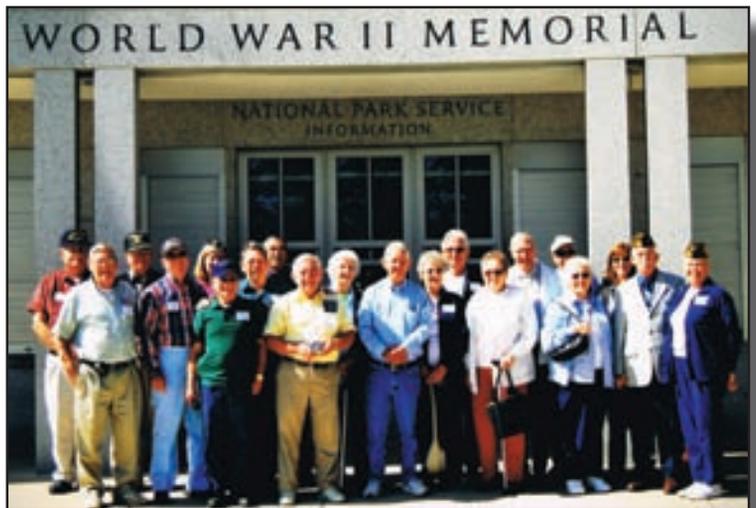


Marsteller (VA) Middle School Ruri-Teen Club answered the call to be heroes. The club teamed up to volunteer at this year's St. Baldrick's event – to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer, but more importantly, to raise money to find cures. The St. Baldrick's Ambassador Kids represent the thousands of kids touched by childhood cancer. Coming from all areas of the country, ages, disease types, and treatment statuses, they are a reminder that childhood cancer doesn't discriminate and that one in five kids diagnosed in the U.S. will not survive. One of the club's members was diagnosed with cancer, so this event became very personal to the club. The club has raised over \$6,000 for a cure. Pictured (l-r) are the club officers Kayla Fyock, Abby Graham, and Brett Shiflet.

News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

Buckingham County Visits World War II Memorial

Buckingham County (VA) Ruritan Club sponsored a bus trip to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC for the veterans of Buckingham County. The Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy were represented and stories were shared by all.



Powhatan (VA) Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Powhatan (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 75th anniversary in March. National President Phyllis Lewter attended the celebration and spoke briefly to club members and guests. Also in attendance were Past Presidents Braxton Bell, Richard Weakley, and John Hancock. Pictured (l-r) are Braxton Bell, Richard Weakley, Phyllis Lewter, and John Hancock.

News From Ruritan: Dan River District

Dry Fork Celebrates its 20th Anniversary



Pictured above are the Dry Fork Ruritan Club members.

Dry Fork (VA) Ruritan Club enjoyed a cook-out in recognition of its 20th anniversary. A large turnout of members, friends, and county officers made for a nice celebration. Charter members were recognized and deceased members were memorialized.

The club provides financial assistance to many in need, provides scholarships, helps the physically impaired with chores, and helps the less fortunate at Christmas. One of the club's most meaningful endeavors was establishing a volunteer fire department. Pictured on the left are members of the Dry Fork Volunteer Fire Department grilling for the club's celebration.



Mt. Laurel (VA) Club Honors Widows

Always a premier event, the Mt. Laurel (VA) Ruritan Club's annual widow supper, strives to bring joy to those special ladies in their community. This year was no different as club members cooked and served a tasty meal, with door prizes and entertainment.

News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District



Callaway (VA) Ruritan Club partnered with an organization called Rebuilding Together Roanoke. The organization helps homeowners such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and single parent families who can't afford the maintenance an older home requires. The

club helped install two new windows and two new doors for the Turner family of Roanoke.

News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District



Lincolnland and Cherokee District Send Shirts to Tornado Victims

Past National Secretary Rusty Clayton and National Director Linda Melton helped send T-shirts to **Lincolnland** and **Cherokee** Districts for tornado victims. The project is called Operation Purple. Approximately 800 shirts were sent to the Cherokee District for distribution.

Dundas (IL) Ruritan Club voted to pay the shipping for one case of shirts to be sent to areas that were hit by the tornadoes.

Turner Ashby Ruri-Teens Do The Chicken Dance



Turner Ashby (VA) Ruri-Teen Club members are shown doing a chicken dance on the side of the road to bring customers into the **Mt. Crawford** (VA) Ruritan Club's barbecue chicken fundraiser. Pictured back row are Kenneth Allman, and front row (l-r): Caitlyn Davis, Turner Ashby Ruri-Teen Club President Allison Cook, and Jesse Showalter.



2011 National President Jayson Duncan is shown presenting **Linville-Edom** (VA) Club President John Myers a certificate as the club celebrated its 75th anniversary. 2011 National Secretary JoAnn Wenger, 2011 Foundation President Bruce Thompson, and 2011 Rockingham District Governor Rick Keyton were also on hand to congratulate the club.

News From Ruritan: Ohio District

Ohio Clubs Staying Strong

December 11, 2011, marked the 15th Anniversary of the **Tri-Valley** (OH) Ruri-Teen Club. While annual



membership has varied from 50 to 75 members, the number of volunteer hours has steadily

increased each year. Members have donated over 60,000 recorded hours to serve their community. Donations of nearly \$70,000 have been made to a multitude of community service projects. Club



Advisor John Furek said, "A true sign of the significance of Tri-Valley Ruri-Teen is the number of former members who are now volunteering in the respective communities. They are definitely changing the world, one little step at a time." A banner was given to the club in recognition of its accomplishments. Pictured are 2012 Zone Governor Dee Brown, Club President Hailey Jenkins, North Muskingum Club President Max Hittle, and Club Advisor John Furek.

Washington (OH) Ruritan Club named its service scholarship after club members Marion and Vera Rummell at a recent club meeting. A proclamation was read citing Marion's leadership and service to the community. Marion is a charter

member and has 34 years of perfect attendance.

The highlight of the evening was four scholarships awarded to deserving students. Pictured (l-r) are Vera Rummell, Marion Rummell, Brandi Biddle, Alex Schaeffer, Greg Margida, and Adam George.

Mt. Pleasant Collects Denim Used for Insulation



Mt. Pleasant (MD) Ruritan Club's Environmental Committee Chair Trevella Foster is shown delivering 150 pairs of jeans to the Frederick, Maryland Habitat for Humanity. The denim is converted to its fluffy cotton state, treated to become fire and mold resistant, and then made into sheets of insulation for use in Habitat homes. It takes 500 pairs of jeans to insulate one house. The Frederick office collected over 2500 pairs of jeans in two months that culminated on Earth Day. The club also donated money to help defray the cost of shipping the jeans.

Lewistown (MD) Club Presents Donations

Lewistown (MD) Ruritan Club held a successful chicken barbeque fundraiser and was able to present donations to several organizations. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Ron Demory; Catocin High Safe and Sane, Brenda Woelfel; Lewistown Elementary PTA, Harold Staley; Thurmont Food Bank and Lewistown United Methodist Women, Pastor Elza Hurst; Lewistown Fire Department, John Poston; Team Hope, Gail Boggs; 4-H Therapeutic Riding, Dick Basely; and 4-H Camp, Past National Director Charles Smith.



Jefferson Adds New Member to Club Roster



Jefferson (MD) Ruritan Club gained a new member in March. Ashley Putman is the youngest member of the club and also represents three generations on the club membership rolls. Club member Hueston Putman (great grandfather) and Larry Putman (grandfather) are pictured with Ashley.

News From Ruritan: GAIN Alabama District



Pictured are **Cohutta** (GA) Ruritan Club members cooking chicken at their annual Chicken Que fundraiser. The club has

held this event the last week of April for the past 50 years. All proceeds go toward various community service projects.



From the Kitchens of Ruritan Cooks

Ramen Noodle Salad

2 packages of Ramen noodles-chicken flavor, crush in bag save seasoning

1 pkg. broccoli slaw

1 cup sunflower seeds

1/2 cup slivered almonds

3 fresh green onions-tops only

1/2 cup sugar

1/3 cup white vinegar

3/4 cup vegetable oil

-Layer ingredients in a 9x13 pan and combine season packages with sugar, white vinegar and vegetable oil. Then pour over salad and refrigerate 24 hours.

Submitted by Betty Alley of the Ruritan Road (VA) Club.

Rougemont Club Gains Two Youth Members

2002 Ruritan National President Millard Thacker is shown initiating two new youth members of the **Rougemont (NC) Ruritan Club**. Shawn Mancour (l) and Lana Daye (r) became the fifth and sixth youth member of the club. The youth's advisor is Todd Hinson who meets with the youth an hour before the regular club meeting. The youth have their own projects such as selling coffee, biscuits, and lemonade at the Easter Parade. They also decorate cards for shut-ins.



The club also held its ninth annual Easter Parade and Festival in April. The event started with a parade followed by floats, high school band, antique and classic cars, fire trucks, veterans, motorcycles, police, and horses. Special guest included Rudy Bear, Booker the Fox, Hamburgler, Grimmace, Woolly Bull, and families from the Ronald McDonald House. The parade ended at the Rougemont Village Courtyard where the fun and fellowship continued with egg hunts, moonbouncing, face painting, sidewalk art, games, live music, and food. Pictured (l-r) are National Director Foster Parrish, 2011 District Governor Jim Sears, 2012 District Governor George Brothers, National President Phyllis Lewter, and District Secretary Ron Reid.

Bahama Members Raise Flags in Community

Bahama (NC) Ruritan accepted the responsibility of placing American Flags throughout the community during all patriotic holidays. Approximately 70 flags are placed on community light poles. The club designed special tools that allowed the flags to be placed on the poles without using bucket cranes or ladders.

The club also prepared approximately 1,000 quarts of Brunswick stew to support their local fire department.



Chesapeake District is Making a Difference



Chic-fil-A employee Jane Anderson (pictured left) is shown receiving a gift of appreciation for hosting **Five Forks** (VA) Ruritan Club's February Bingo games, from Club President Donna Murdock.

The club was honored to host Dean Nowotny, an employee for the Sentara Hospice Care House at the club's April meeting. After his presentation, Club President Donna Murdock, presented Mr. Nowotny with a certificate of appreciation for taking the time to talk with the club about Hospice Care.

Warwick (VA) Club President Steve Laurent (pictured right) is shown presenting a \$200 check to Dee Hall Train Depot Site



Coordinator Mary Kayaselcuk. She brought the club up to date on the progress of the restoration of the Train Depot.

Members of the **Abingdon** (VA) Ruritan Club (pictured left) received an informative update on the Gloucester County's D.A.R.E. program from Master Deputy Cindy Saulman at the club's April meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Marshall Butler, Gloucester County Sheriff Darrell Warren, Deputy Cindy Saulman, and 2008 Club Past President Don Sandridge.



Chesapeake District Governor Michael Morrison was so impressed with what he saw at the National Convention with the chemo caps, that he challenged all his clubs to make 12 caps to present to local medical facilities. **York** (VA) Ruritan Club (pictured bottom right) accepted the challenge and are shown proudly displaying the caps. Pictured kneeling (l-r) are Lou Tosti, Jim Funk, Club President Charles Noll, and Ken Woodman. Standing are Vice President Ed White, Thomas Nelson, Jeff Olsavicky, Phil Presson, Bill Jones, Sewell Rowley, Club Secretary Bob Haas, and Dennis Yaskowsky.



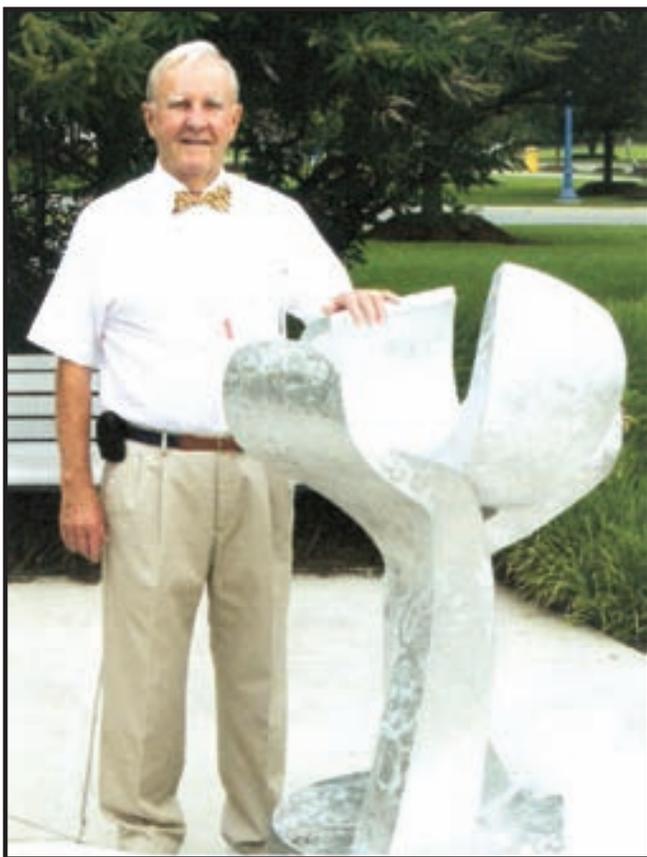
Southwood Cooks For Ronald McDonald House

In August, members of the **Southwood** (NC) Ruritan Club gathered at Southwood Memorial Christian Church to spend most of the day cooking for residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville. Cooks were in the kitchens as well as outside cooking chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, potatoes, beans, and various desserts. Pictured are Club Vice President Len White (l) and club member Jay Robinson (r) supervising the grill.



Wheat Swamp Club Member Donates Sculpture

Wheat Swamp (NC) Ruritan Club member J. Harold Jones donated a sculpture in memory of his wife Norma to the Lenoir Memorial Hospital. He made the donation as a symbol of his volunteerism. The helping hands themed piece is a beautiful addition to the hospital and a fitting tribute to the volunteers who work tirelessly there.



News From Ruritan: Bluegrass District



Choateville (KY) Ruritan Club served hot dogs and soup to the Boy Scouts of America Troop 36. Sheriff Pat Melton presented a program to the scouts with a “mock” demonstration of how a taser works.

Holland District Clubs are Staying Busy

Adams Grove-Grizzard (VA) Ruritan Club (right) held its annual Shrimp Fest to raise funds for community projects. Pictured are club members serving guests. Holland District Governor Stan Turner (left) and Club President Will Sledge (second from right) are shown working the serving line.

Smithfield (VA) Ruritan Club (below) and the Smithfield Rotary Club honored Jim and Elaine Abicht as Citizens of the Year. Pictured (l-r) are Elaine and Jim Abicht, Club President Denise Galante, and Rotary Club President Elizabeth Pasieczny.



Suffolk (VA) Ruritan Club (right) and the Suffolk Elks Lodge teamed together to cook smoked barbeque and fixin's plates to sell at the Wounded Warrior "Jump for a Purpose" event at the Suffolk Airport. This event joined wounded service members with Navy Seals and others who tandem jumped with the wounded veteran. The event raised \$2,300 that was donated to the Wounded Warrior Program.

South Norfolk (VA) Ruritan Club (bottom left) volunteered in Chesapeake's Paint Your Heart Out



by sending a team of workers to repair, clean up, and paint homes in their community.

Deep Creek (VA) Ruritan Club received TV coverage for holding a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for the family of Carolyn "CeeCee" Walker. More than \$3,000 was raised in donations and raffles to assist with funeral expenses. A fund to accept donations was also set up at all Wells Fargo Banks.

News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District

Baton Members Receive Perfect Attendance Awards

Baton (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated perfect attendance of members during the annual Sweetheart Banquet. The event was held at Cahah's Mountain Town Hall.

Following the meal, Club President Fredric Beane made the presentations. Fred McCall and Fredric Beane received awards for 55 years, Don Jensen 36 years, Ben Pearson 35 years, and Jack Pritchard 22 years. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Fredric Beane, Fred McCall, Don Jensen, and Jack Pritchard.



News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

Corapeake Club Members Receive Awards



National President Phyllis Lewter visited the **Corapeake** (NC) Ruritan Club in March. Lewter praised the club's excellent work in the community. During the meeting club members Terry Boone received the President's Golden Key award, Marvin Barnes received a three-year perfect attendance pin, and Tommy Baines received a four-year perfect attendance pin. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Terri Ambrose, Marvin Barnes, and Tommy Baines.

News From Ruritan: Woodrow Wilson District

North River (VA) Club Donates \$10,000



North River (VA) Ruritan Club donated \$10,000 to Weekday Religious Education President Jeff Rawley to help with the construction of their new facility (pictured left). The old facility was destroyed by fire.

Pictured below is a record-breaking crowd for the **Deerfield** (VA) Ruritan Club's spaghetti supper.



Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area Celebrates its 60th Anniversary



National President Phyllis Lewter (center) greets Past National Bridge District Governor Eddie Keith and his wife Ginny.

The **Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area** (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated 60 years of community service with a special dinner on their regular club meeting night May 1st. President Jim Frazier hosted the event with the assistance of Past National Director (and 1982 Ruritan First Lady) Lou Rader, who is also serving as the club's vice president this year.

2012 National President Phyllis Lewter was the keynote speaker for the event and brought a message of praise and support. She recognized the qualities of a successful Ruritan club and pointed to specific projects and programs of the Bonsack/Blue Ridge club that exhibited those qualities. Also attending was National Secretary JoAnn Wenger, her husband Winston, and Bill Lewter, former Holland District Governor and First Gentleman of Ruritan for 2012.

Lou Rader and President Phyllis reminded attendees of life in 1952, when the Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area club was char-

tered. They painted a picture of a rural area with party line telephone systems, \$1 per hour minimum wage, and 20 cents per gallon gas. The need for service, however, is as great now as it was 60 years ago, and over the years the Bonsack/Blue Ridge club has met that need again and again. Advances in technology and increases in population have

only challenged club members to find new ways to be of assistance.

During the meeting, member Charles Wimmer was made an honorary member and letters of appreciation were presented to two area churches who have partnered with the club over the years to better serve the community – the Bonsack Baptist Church and the Bonsack United Methodist Church. The Rev. Tim Tate of the Methodist church also presided over a memorial service for members who had passed away in the past 60 years, including 1982 Ruritan National President Jim “Corky” Rader.

Each service committee of the club decorated tables with memorabilia from projects and committee chairs spoke briefly about service performed in the community. Scot Finley, minister to senior adults at the Bonsack Baptist Church, also congratulated the club on a long partnership providing for the area food bank housed at the church.



Megan Seibel (center) and Susan Kilpatrick (left) cut and serve anniversary cake.



*Do members of your club have a surplus of the Ruritan “neck wallets” used each year for the National Convention? Here’s an idea copied from the **Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area** club – repurpose the name badge holders for club members to wear at meetings and special events! Just create inserts to fit the neck wallets and keep the name badges, stored alphabetically, near the door of each meeting.*

Bloomingdale Club Raises \$16,000



Bloomingdale (TN) Ruritan Club and Brookside Elementary School raised \$16,000 to help with medical expenses for Trinity Berry. Trinity is nine years old and was recently diagnosed with Myofibroblastic Cancer. Pictured front is Trinity then pictured (l-r) are Jim Smallwood, Joy Smallwood, Trinity's mother Dawn, and grandparents Tim and Wanda Dunn.

South Holston (TN) Sends Dresses to Africa

South Holston (TN) Ruritan Club and Sullivan County 4-H Club joined together and made 160 dresses to send to little girls in Uganda and Ethiopia, Africa. Pictured right (l-r) front row are 4-H members Sara Case, Karen Couch, Crystal Nunley, Janae Davis, Brittany Nunley, and Rayne Davis; back row are 4-H Leaders Debbie Carrier, Windy Davis, and South Holston Club member Clara Thomas.



News From Ruritan: Cherokee, Delmarva/NJ, and Southwest Virginia Districts

Clubs Across Ruritan in Action



Morrison (TN) Ruritan Club held its annual Fish Supper in March. Cash donations were over \$1,100. All proceeds went to the Warren County Relay for Life. Pictured left (l-r) are Ted Stoffle and Josh Smart.

Easton (MD) Ruritan Club was featured in their local newspaper for restoring a landmark windmill. Club members Carlton Whaley, John Trax, Harry Henkel, Bill Barnes, and John Bayliss refurbished the metal, primed, and painted it battleship gray.

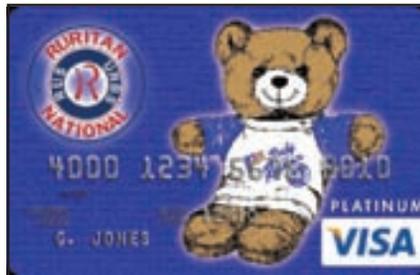
Yuma (VA) Ruritan Club held an apple butter fundraiser. With the funds raised, Rudy Bears and



ictionaries were presented to Yuma School District children. Pictured right (l-r) are Doyle Alley and David Hartgrove.

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