

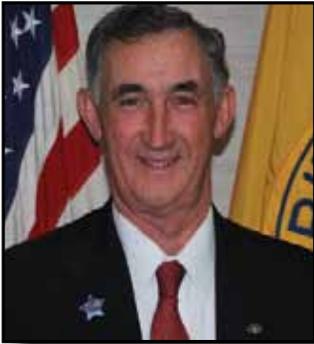


Ruritan

Volume 81, Spring 2016



Convention Installation Speech By 2016 National President Calvin Shelton



Good evening!

I am honored and humbled to stand before you as your National President for 2016. I can tell you that would have been impossible without the support and encouragement that I have received

from my wife, Patsy, and my family.

I can honestly say that I am looking forward to serving you during the coming year in this honored office. I promise that I will do my best to uphold the confidence that you have bestowed on me. I feel confident in the National Board of Directors that you have chosen to work beside me. The directors, along with the home office staff, are the best resources that you, as members, could possibly have for advice and guidance. They stand ready to do whatever is needed to help you grow Ruritan this year.

But make no mistakes, this organization can only prosper if every member is willing to accept the responsibility that he assumed when he joined his club, his zone, and his district. I pledge to work WITH you, from the member at the local level, to the national officer, to the office staff, to try to achieve what is best for Ruritan.

I don't claim to have all of the answers, but together we can find the answers, and answer the challenges. Forty-nine years ago, Bob Bailey stood before you and charged you to go forth and serve mankind. He told us that we must give of ourselves - and then some. Nothing has changed. That is still true today.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's wealthiest merchants, lords and ladies came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition. Some of the obstacles that we face today are the same that we, as Ruritans, have faced for several years. Loss of membership, loss of clubs, disinterest in our clubs and district - these are all obstacles. But we need to look upon them as opportunities. I have found that when everything is going smoothly that we tend to rest on our laurels - we forget what we overcame to get where we are today.



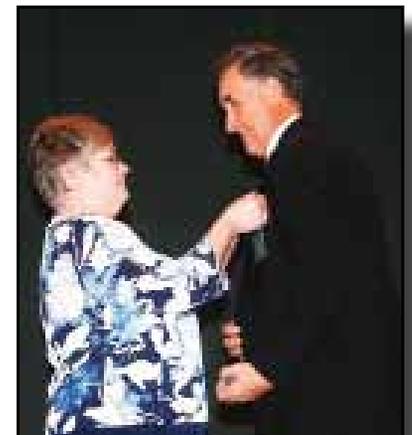
Think about all of the precious stones

National President Calvin installed by 1967 National President Bob Bailey.

that we have today. When they were mined, you could only see the flaws - the impurities. It took a lot of polishing, a lot of work, to see the true beauty of these masterpieces.

Obstacles make us strong. There's an old saying, "If a path doesn't have obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."

Many of you have heard me say this past year that the three most important things we should focus on are communication, motivation, and growth.



First Lady Patsy pinning her husband Calvin as 2016 Ruritan National President.

continue to page 5

Magazine of and published by Ruritan National, Vol. 81, Spring 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 81, Spring 2016

EDITORIAL & MEMBERSHIP STAFF

Michael Chrisley, Executive Director
Crystal Andrews, Publications Manager/Magazine Editor
Amanda Ramirez, Membership Department

MAILING ADDRESS - EDITORIAL OFFICE

Ruritan National
P.O. Box 487
(UPS) 5451 Lyons Road
Dublin, VA 24084
(540) 674-5431 Toll-Free: (877) 787-8727
FAX: (540) 674-2304
Email: office@ruritan.org
Web: http://ruritan.org
Supply Orders Only: (800) 836-5431

Executive Committee

2016 National President
Calvin Shelton – Greeneville, TN

2016 National President Elect

Danny Privott – Hertford, NC

National Treasurer

Dale Bricker – Canfield, OH

National Secretary

James M. Mills Jr. – Dallas, GA

2015 National President

Bobby Burton – North Chesterfield, VA

Executive Director

Michael T. Chrisley – Dublin, VA

National Directors

Terry Call – Gibsonville, NC
Anne Hillard – Frankfort, KY
Joe E. Jaynes – Greeneville, TN
Sarah Kelly – Cross Junction, VA
Frances T. Long – Elizabeth City, NC
Michael W. Morrison – Aylett, VA
Mike Myers – Romney, WV
Larry W. Cassell – Jefferson, MD
Les Hopper – Rome, GA
Nell Jeffries – Athens, WV
Don Ramey – Harrison, TN
Curtis T. Simmons – Albertain, NC
Gary Solomon – Glade Hill, VA
David Thompson – Dinwiddie, VA
Glen Broadwater – Nicklesville, VA
Susan Greisz – Mt. Jackson, VA
Linward Hedgspeth – Rougemont, NC
Carroll Lowe – Wilkesboro, NC
Gary Olinger – Blountville, TN
Howard Tanner – Fairfield, IL
Lee Tomlinson – Jackson, TN

In This Issue:

President's Page.....	2
Executive Director's Message	4
Jacksonville Recap.....	6-8
Hunters for Hungry.....	9
2016 Summer Leadership Conference Information.....	12
Youth Camp Registration Form.....	13
National Foundation News.....	14
Founders' Day Information.....	15
Most Beautiful Ruritan Sign Contest.....	16
Club and District News.....	19-35



Fall 2016 Ruritan Magazine Cover Contest

National President Calvin Shelton's special emphasis this year is "Reach for the Stars." The Ruritan

National Publications Committee is sponsoring a Ruritan Magazine Cover Contest again for 2016. Send in your club activities for a chance to be on the cover of the 2016 fall magazine. Submitted action photos must be in color and high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and include a caption or identification of the members pictured and a brief description of the event. Send your photo by mail or email no later than August 1, 2016, to: COVER CONTEST, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084 or email to media@ruritan.org. For the subject line use "cover contest."

On the cover: 2016 National President Calvin Shelton, First Lady Patsy Shelton, and family. Pictured front (l-r) are Abbi Shelton and Allie Shelton (granddaughters). Second row are Patsy and Calvin. Back Row (l-r) are Cory Swinney, Jamy Shelton (granddaughter), Jason Shelton (son), Rob Shelton (grandson), Randy Shelton (son), and Julie Shelton (daughter-in-law).



Message From Executive Director Michael Chrisley

The Three Legged Stool



Just a few short weeks ago we were in Jacksonville, Florida, at the annual Ruritan Convention. While we had hoped to have a higher attendance in Jacksonville, the convention was a great one. The new board of directors, officers and President were elected and are in place ready to work for the good of Ruritan in

the coming year. Committees are meeting, motions are being prepared, and plans are being made for a great 2016.

One of the highest priorities that we have as an organization is to make sure that we continue to take clubs to new communities that need us. Wayne Bettis, our current Convention Program Chair and 1993 National President has been involved with building Ruritan clubs since the 1980's. He was one of the most successful club builders during the year he served as district governor and has continued to be instrumental in building clubs ever since. Wayne has developed a training module to help interested Ruritans learn to build Ruritan Clubs. He has agreed to travel and present the program at no cost to Ruritan for districts that are interested. If your district (preferably in combination with another district or two) is interested in receiving this valuable training please contact the National Office and we will work with you to coordinate a meeting. You can also contact your assigned national director and ask them to assist you.

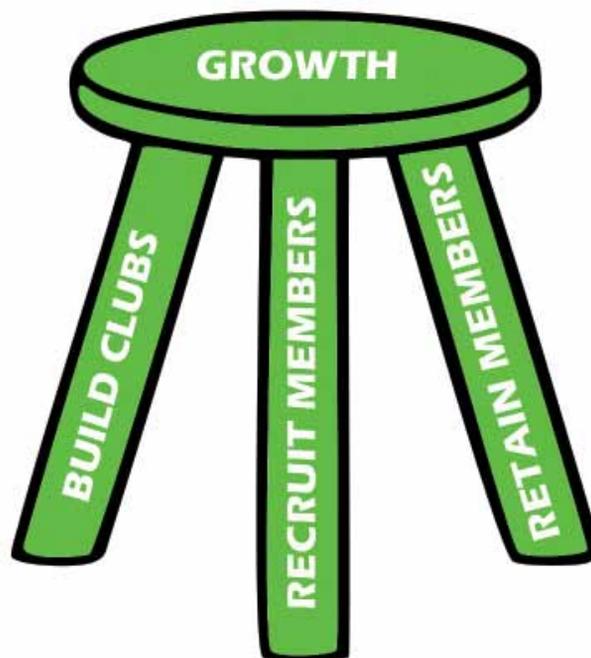
We also need to continue to recruit new members into existing clubs. If every club in Ruritan would set a goal to have one more member at the end of the year than they started the year with we would have a net growth of a thousand members. Just numbers when you read it or say it, but imagine what one

thousand people look like. That is a large group of people. Imagine what a thousand people can do. That is why we continue to recruit. All of us can do so much more than one of us. By recruiting members into existing clubs we strengthen the local clubs ability to provide service to the local community.

Finally, we need to focus on retention. Curtis Graham who spent the majority of his professional career working for Ruritan to build clubs and recruit members, used to say that growth was a three legged stool, building new clubs in new communities, recruiting members into existing clubs, and retaining members in both. Without any one of the legs the stool will fall down.

Please focus this year on these three areas. Not one of the three or even two of the three, but all three.

Have a great year!



New Clubs for 2016

New Ruritan Clubs, Sponsors, and DRMS for 2016

<u>New Club</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Sponsoring Club</u>	<u>DRM</u>
Hartly	Delmarva/NJ	Kenton	Kyle Virdin
Cyclone Serve Ruri-Teen	Davy Crockett	Unicoi	Norman O'Dell

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

I think these three areas are what is vital to keeping Ruritan alive and well.

We need to learn to talk with each other. We need to be able to look each other in the eye and tell them what we really feel. And then shake hands, and walk away, as friends. As people who are still ready and willing to do whatever is necessary to serve our fellow man.

We need to motivate each other. Everyone needs someone to lift them up, encourage, and support them. Ruritan is a family and that is what we are called to do.

Many of you know that Patsy's mother was quite ill for a time. We sat with her night and day for 33



Member of "American Pride" singing to First Lady Patsy after the Installation Banquet in Jacksonville.

days. During her illness, someone gave her a little book called "Be Encouraged." I sat and read this book several times while we sat with her mother. After she passed, and Patsy was cleaning out her

things, I asked if I could keep this book. I would like to share a quote with you. "The finest gift you can give anyone is encouragement. Yet, almost no one gets the encouragement they need to grow to their full potential. If everyone received the encouragement they need to grow, the genius in most everyone would blossom and the world would produce abundance beyond our wildest dreams."

Always be positive - stay off of the negative!

We can motivate others without saying a word. A smile or a hug goes a long way in saying "I care" and its impact can change a life. When we do something nice for someone, they in turn do good for someone they come into contact with. That's what Ruritans do. We lift people up, do something nice for them, so that they in turn can help someone else. Just try it, it works.

The third thing I want to mention is "growth." I firmly believe that Ruritan is going to have to grow in order to survive. There are several different ways we can do this. We can recruit new members. If every member just recruited one person, just imagine what our membership would be. We need to retain members.

But we are going to have to charter new clubs. We

have a training program that is in effect to help you identify areas that are prime locations for new clubs. This program is available at no cost to you - all you have to do is ask! Take advantage of the resources that are available to you.

Help us grow!

Help us prosper!

Help us make your communities better and make America stronger by giving of yourself! One thing is for certain, if you don't try, there's a 100% chance that you will fail.

Ruritan needs our commitments in these three areas to prosper. The alternative is something we don't want to consider. This is something I refuse to consider. Don't let something you believe in die. One person CAN make a difference.

My wife is a great fan of Thomas Kinkadee, called the Painter of Light. As a young lad, Thom was a latch key kid. He would always come home to an empty, cold, dark cottage because his Mom worked long hours to support her family. Thom vowed that he would never paint a house with dark windows. There would always be a light glowing from inside.

Do our Ruritan clubs shine a light?

Are we welcoming?

Are we inviting?

A great friend of mine always said "If you aim at nothing, you're bound to hit it!" Let's aim high!

My theme for this year is "Reach For the Stars." Do you know who the stars of Ruritan are? You are! The members are what make Ruritan great. Let's shine our lights, and reach for more members, more stars!

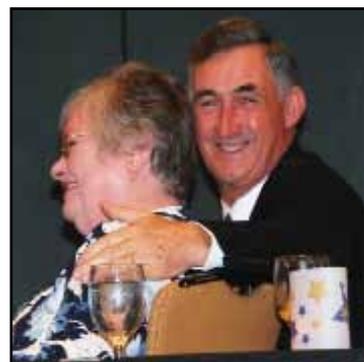
Galatians 5:22 tells us "that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith." Sounds like what we should be striving for, doesn't it?

Build a brighter future for Ruritan and continue the legacy that a few men in the Holland District started in 1928.

I want to leave you with a thought from John Wesley!

Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as you ever can!

Thank you!



2016 Jacksonville National Convention Recap

If you missed the 2016 Ruritan National Convention, you missed a great one! We went to Jacksonville to conduct the business of Ruritan and “Walked the Walk” while there. National officers were elected and installed, awards presented, business conducted, and donations were given to a local homeless shelter, children’s hospital, and the Red Cross.

Convention activities started on Wednesday, January 6th, with the opening of the exhibits, the Ruritan Foundation Silent Auction, and the Ruritan Supply Department. Thursday began with the training of the 2016 Ruritan Governors led by President Elect Calvin Shelton.



The day continued with the first ever Ruritan 5K fun run/walk. Those participating in the 5K enjoyed a nice run/walk along the Jacksonville riverfront while making a donation to the homeless shelter. Thursday’s events also included a computer workshop class on building a club web-



page. Attendees were able to visit the exhibits and Ruritan Supply, pick up registration packets, and participate in the Foundation Silent Auction. On Thursday evening, the convention officially opened with a memorial service, flag ceremony, and President’s Reception.



The Veterans’ Breakfast began Friday’s activities. Trevor May, a member of the **Dundas** (IL) Club, spoke about the video and song he created to honor the veterans in his club and hometown. At the first business session, reports were given, candidates gave speeches, the bylaws issue discussed, and the Rudy Youth of the Year, the Ruri-Teen of the Year, and the Ruritan of the Year Awards were presented. The Rudy Youth of the Year for 2015 is Mikayla Goldizen, a member of the **North Fork** Club in the Upper West Virginia District. Last year, Mikayla spent over 500 hours working on community service projects, volunteered for her local fire department and church, and raised over \$20,000 for the Erie Shriners Children’s Hospital.



The Ruri-Teen of the Year for 2015 is Hannah Sharpe, a member of the **Green Pride** Ruri-Teen Club from the Davy Crockett District. Hannah



spent over 200 hours on club projects and brought in nine new members to her club. She volunteered at her local hospital and nursing home and was a big sister for the Girl Scouts. Hannah is an active member of her church youth group as well as a member of the high school band. The Ruritan of the Year for 2015 is Martha Whitford, a member of the **Vanceboro** Club in the Greenville-Goldsboro District. Martha has been a member for over 20 years and held many club, zone, and district offices. She spent over 1000 hours on club projects last year, volunteered for her church, made numerous hospital and nursing home visits, and helped with transportation, shopping, and chores for the homebound. Friday continued with the Fellowship Celebration Luncheon where representatives from the homeless shelter, the children's hospital, and the Red Cross accepted donations. DRM's were recognized and growth awards were presented. After lunch, Ruritans attended workshops and elected officers for 2016. Friday concluded with the Ruritan Foundation Banquet.



Saturday's breakfast honored First Lady Linda Burton and featured Jane Herlong as the entertainment. During the second business session, awards were presented, reports read, and election results were announced. The bylaws issue on the ballot failed. (See the Fall 2015 Ruritan magazine page 7). Saturday afternoon consisted of workshops and a blood drive. The Installation Banquet highlighted Saturday's activities. Calvin Shelton was installed as 2016 National President, Danny



Privott as President Elect, and James Mills as National Secretary. Seven three-year National Directors (Glen Broadwater, Susan Greisz, Linward Hedgspeth, Carroll Lowe, Gary Olinger, Howard Tanner, and Lee Tomlinson) and a one-year National Director (Ann Hillard) took their oaths of office. 2016 National Board Members are pictured above. Foundation President Fred Payne and the new Foundation Trustee Brent Wheeler were also installed. (Trustees with Executive Director Mike Chrisley are pictured on the left.) American Pride's tribute to the Statler Brothers was a great performance to end the 2016 National Convention. The 2017 Ruritan National Convention will be in Kingsport, TN. Plans are underway to make this another great convention. You will not want to miss it!

Warm Up America Project - Huge Success

Warm Up America is a charity that has warmed people's lives since 1991. Their main project is to collect knitted and crocheted 7 x 9 inch blocks from crafters and have them joined into blankets using 49 blocks for each blanket. When I suggested the Warm Up America project last January, I had no idea what kind of response we would get. But it has been much more of a success than I ever imagined it would be and for that I am deeply grateful to all who knitted or crocheted blocks and for those who took the project one step further and joined the blocks together into beautiful blankets.

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of many Ruritan and friends, our collections in Jacksonville were outstanding. We collected 93 completed blankets and approximately 1100 blocks. We also collected about 670 handmade chemo caps/hats, which was a project started some years ago by 1983 First Lady Martha Amick (pictured top right.) And one other collection we made and donated in Jacksonville was 350 toiletries bags, which was a last-minute project suggested by President Bobby when his "feeding the homeless" project did not work out.

We had hoped that there could have been a representative from Warm Up America at the convention but that did not work out due to a meeting conflict with their staff. A shipment of blankets and blocks has been made to Warm Up America along with a check for \$580 from several donations and from the sale of several blankets that were auctioned at the live Foundation Auction at the Convention. Several blankets were auctioned for the benefit of the Ruritan National Foundation. Thank you to Foundation President Dave Freshly for suggesting we include blankets in the auction and benefit both Warm Up America and the Ruritan Foundation.

About 30 of the blankets were left at the Sulzbacher shelter in Jacksonville along with the 350 toiletries bags. A \$1,000 donation was also made to the Sulzbacher shelter from proceeds of the 5K Walk/Run. A big "Thank You" goes to Betsy Bradley and Megan Saunders for suggesting and coordinating that event. Chemo caps/hats were left at a Children's Hospital in Jacksonville.



Blankets and hats were donated to a shelter in Pulaski (in the National Office area). Blankets and hats were also donated to the McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond

In the bags of hats that came in to the Convention, we found many tiny premie hats and small infant hats. Several of the blankets donated were also small, soft blankets - perfect for the infants in the NICU. So I have taken those to the Children's Hospital at VCU, also in Richmond, VA.

Chemo caps have gone to a Cancer Center in Roanoke, VA. and to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

So, this project was billed as a WARM UP AMERICA project. But it turned out to be a much bigger project and benefited so many. We have made contributions to eight different places - touching the lives of children, homeless folks, veterans, and cancer patients. We have "Warmed Up America" with blankets, hats, and Ruritan Good Will. I hope you will continue this project in your local communities - blocks can be knitted and crocheted and joined into blankets, hats can be made, and all donated to your local hospitals and homeless shelters.

Bobby and I want to THANK YOU for your support of these projects for our Jacksonville Convention. You certainly "Walked the Walk" and left a "Big Ruritan Mark" on the Jacksonville community. Through our Warm Up America project, you have also "Walked the Walk" in other parts of Ruritanland. We should all feel good that someone is a little more comfortable this winter because of our efforts. Thank you for all you do for Ruritan and, please,

**NEVER STOP WALKING THE WALK
FOR RURITAN.**

Article submitted by 2015 First Lady Linda Burton.

Hunters for the Hungry and Ruritan Celebrate 20 Years of Partnership

At the Ruritan National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, Hunters for the Hungry Director Laura Newell-Furniss presented matching plaques to 2015 National President Bobby Burton and Executive Director Michael Chrisley on behalf of all Ruritans. These plaques read, “ We are very grateful to Ruritan and all your members for your commitment to hunger relief and your dedication to serving your communities. Our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the 327 clubs who donated a total of \$834,326 for the



The Appomattox District raised \$324,623, for hunger relief and provided 2,856,682 servings of quality lean meat.

processing of venison for the hungry. This tremendous outpouring of love provided a total of 7,342,069 servings of wholesome lean meat to people in need. Thank you for your kindness and your compassion for the hungry. You truly live your ideals of fellowship, goodwill, and community service.”

Laura also presented plaques to the three districts that had 100% of their clubs give during the 20 years of the partnership. Receiving these awards were 2016 District Governor Jim Frazier of the Natural Bridge District for 100% participation in 10 of the 20 years; 2015 District Governor Roger Gammons of the Dan River District for 100% participation in 13 of the 20 years; and 2015 District Governor Betty Moore of Peaks of Otter District for 100% participation an amazing 19 of the 20 years! Also receiving awards were Bruce Butler for the Downing Ruritan Club which raised an incredible \$236,117 for hunger relief through its annual golf tournament in memory of Hunters for the Hungry Founder, David H. Horne. The final award, presented at the Saturday morning business session, was to 2015 District Governor Don Yeargan for the Appomattox District which raised \$324,623 for hunger relief providing 2.8 million servings.

Hunters for the Hungry also had the privilege of holding a workshop Friday afternoon and to present awards to each of the 13 districts in Virginia, take a picture of those Ruritans that came to the workshop, and give out certificates to the clubs present. These certificates showed the number of years the club had given, the amount given, and the number of servings of venison the club provided for the hungry during our 20 year of partnership.



Pictured are representatives from the Virginia Districts celebrating the partnership. Seated (l-r) are Linda Bradshaw, Jim Frazier, and Bruce Butler. Standing (l-r) are Reggie Snodgrass, Cleve Wright, David Propst, Irene Luck, Jack York, Lonnie Hines, Joe Hulver, Betty Moore, and Roger Gammons.

2015 Club Newsletter Awards	
Lucketts Club	3 rd Place
Rougemont Club	2 nd Place
Abingdon	1 st Place

2015 Club Website Design Award	
Lovettsville-Waterford Club	1 st Place

Ruritans Cruise to the Bahamas

Following the Ruritan National Convention in January a group of Ruritans went on a 5-day cruise to the Bahamas. While the weather was cool and rainy most of the trip, those attending enjoyed relaxing and fellowship. Ruritans on the cruise (not all are pictured) were: Fred Beaver and Joan Beaver; Dale Bricker and Donna Bricker; Rennie Bridgeman and Jackie Bridgeman; Howard Broadwater and Linda Broadwater; Michele Burke and James Burke; Robert Burton and Linda Burton; Larry Cassell and Nelda Cassell; Thomas Davis and Carole Davis; Melody Davis and Lewis Davis; Rose Drake and Zac Drake; Jayson Duncan and Gail Duncan; Douglas Garrett and Mary Scott Garrett; Edison Grizzard and Sandra Grizzard; Chester Hillard and Anne Hillard; James Maitland and Mary Maitland; Mills March and Sharon March; Hunter, Jennifer and Jessica March; Billie McWilliams and Genevive McWilliams; Cathy Morrison and Susan Miller; Mike Myers and Vickie Myers; Jeffrey Privott and Gayla Privott; Danny Privott and Linda Privott; Christy Pugh and Leslie McNiece; Alan Redstone and Beverly Redstone; Linda Reed and Raymond Reed; David Rutherford and Tammie Rutherford; Janice Saul and Patricia Staples; Calvin Shelton and Patsy Shelton; Howard Tanner and Beverly Tanner; William Wheeler and Brenda Wheeler; Craig Whitt ; and Don Yeargan and Judy Yeargan.



Association of Past National Presidents Officers Installed



New officers for the Association of Past National Presidents of Ruritan National were installed at the Jacksonville Convention. 1977 National President Jerry Ellis (left) installed the officers for 2016.

2000 National President Jim LaFollette is President, 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter is Vice President, and 2004 National President John Hancock is Secretary/Treasurer.

1967 National President Robert Bailey Receives "Robert C. Austin Award"



1967 National President Robert H. Bailey, the recipient of the 2015 Robert C. Austin Award for Distinguished Service to the

Community, speaks at the 27th annual Farm-City Banquet held at the Clyde Austin 4-H Center on Dec. 3.

BIB & Ruritan National:

A Partnership to Help You Protect What Matters

BIB is proud to partner with Ruritan National to provide background screening services through our platform, **Secure Volunteer!**

We are dedicated to helping service organizations protect what matters with quality background checks.



- ✓ Inclusive pricing (no additional fees!)
- ✓ Online platforms = NO PAPER!
- ✓ Help with compliance
- ✓ Tracking of who has been screened and when
- ✓ Credential ID cards
- ✓ Professional grade screens (criminal hits always verified)

**In 15 minutes, you can discover how it works
and why it's a better way to manage volunteer screening.**

Learn more at www.securevolunteer.com or call us at 877-439-3900!

About BIB: BIB offers background screening with integrity. We screen, test and verify the backgrounds of your employees and volunteers. Clients love our responsive service and how we accelerate their speed to hire while reducing their costs. With BIB, you get reliable results and easy technology. We're good at what matters and have been since 1995.



Plan To Attend The Summer Leadership Conference

All 2016 Ruritan district lieutenant governors should plan to attend the 2016 Summer Leadership Conference in Dublin, VA, at New River Community College on June 16 - 18, 2016.

2016 President Elect Danny Privott encourages all members of the district cabinet and Ruritan leaders in other levels of leadership to attend this conference for a nominal fee. President Elect Danny is planning the training around the theme: **Together We Affect Change**. Classes will be tailored to the needs of registered attendees, but there will be classes to benefit all, no matter what their positions.

The conference gives Ruritan leaders the opportunity to learn more about their responsibilities, share ideas, express concerns, and plan for the future of the organization. It also provides an opportunity for leaders to learn about responsibilities of a higher position and encourages them to move up in their leadership roles. Information on the conference content and cost will be sent to district governors and Lt. governors later this spring. Lodging rooms will be blocked for this conference at the Dublin area hotels.

The conference brings Ruritan leaders together to discuss concerns and plan for the future of the organization. Attendees will also learn the latest information about Ruritan programs and procedures. 2016 district governors are also invited to attend this training with the stipulation that expenses will be reimbursed for the lodging cost of one person and one travel per district, plus food. Allowances will be made for distance and gender-related exceptions. District officers should also note that 2016 district Lt. governors (according to policy, only if you become the incoming district governor for 2016) and the 2016 district governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2017 National Convention in Kingsport, TN, provided the following are met:

- They attend the June 2016 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by National President);
- They attend Governors' Training at the 2017 National Convention;
- They attend substantially all meetings at the 2017 National Convention;
- Form R-35 is received by Ruritan National no later than November 10 and Form R-36 is received by Ruritan National no later than February 10;
- Expense vouchers are submitted within 90 days after the 2017 Convention.





2016 Ruritan Youth Camp Registration Form for July 1-3

The 2016 Ruritan Youth Camp will be held at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Center. The W.E. Skelton 4-H Center is located on Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, VA. Registration forms, all completed paper work, and payment of **\$145 per person are due by June 1st**.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Male Female

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Preferred Badge Name _____

Roommate Choice _____

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes, check one)

Small Medium Large XL 2XL 3XL

I am registering as (choose one option on each line) Non-Member Member

Adult Youth

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Please do the following:

Complete the registration form above and mail it along with your check or credit card information to Ruritan National, P. O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084. Also, please e-mail Bonnie Westfahl at the Ruritan National Office foundation@ruritan.org or call Bonnie toll free 1-877-787-8727, extension 302 to request the forms that are required.

The required forms are:

- A) Registration form (can be emailed as a fillable form)
- B) Health History form (can be emailed as a fillable form. Please note there is a separate form for the adults, this can also be emailed as a fillable form)
- C) Medication form (can be emailed as a fillable form)
- D) Code of Conduct form (can be emailed as a fillable form)
- E) Photo Consent form (can be emailed as a fillable form)
- F) Standards of Behavior Volunteers form (adults only and can be emailed as a fillable form)
- G) Equine Waiver form (can be emailed as a fillable form)

All the above forms must be turned in by the June 1st deadline.

Message From 2016 Foundation President Fred Payne

Let's Be Lights Across America



As the Ruritan National Foundation (RNF) Board begins 2016, your Trustees have agreed that we will work together with all interested Ruritans to pursue a few key ideas. Here are several:

Be Ruritan Lights!

Ruritan Clubs are 1,000

points of light, and our members are like 25,000 sparks. President George H.W. Bush could have been thinking of Ruritan National in his inaugural address, when he proclaimed the need for more light in America. During his four-year term, he recognized over 1,000 points of light – some of them may have been Ruritan Clubs. If Ruritan did not exist, America would need to invent an organization like Ruritan. Let's be lights across America!

Plan for 5 years! Make a stronger impact! Grow RNF value to clubs. Provide more RNF scholarships. Be prudent and trustworthy. Strategic RNF planning began in JAX. Planning is on-going. RNF conference calls will include promotion chairs and other leaders with fresh ideas.

Communicate better! Share updated information. Use online options. Invite input. Listen to ideas from others. Answer questions openly. Be transparent. Do what we say. Use single topic conference calls to exchange ideas, save time, and money.

Increase Ruritan scholarships! Each scholarship lights up one deserving life! RNF funds helped clubs award thousands of BYD scholarships worth millions of dollars. We need to quantify \$ awards.

Double Tom Downing Fund value! Honor a local member. Build unrestricted RNF endowment to produce more BYD scholarships. Some districts give \$250 to match a club or individual \$250 gift to create Tom Downing awards – that doubles the total gift to RNF.

Be prudent! Permanent funds should be protected "until Jesus returns." Trust RNF leaders. They invest prudently and manage funds to protect principle, earn income, and allocate properly.

Emphasize Birthday Fund value! Build Permanent Club Funds in RNF endowment. Some clubs are growing their Club Permanent Funds to reach the \$10,000 Friends level and use RNF earnings to award an annual scholarship to a local student.

Celebrate lights! In 2016, the Foundation wants to recognize and celebrate your lights! As you serve your local communities, please let us know what you are doing with scholarships. Make awards, take pictures, and post on a Ruritan website or send it to RN magazine.

Celebrate in Greenville! September 9-11, 2016 Join us at Embassy Center for fellowship, playing games, recognizing scholarship winners, honoring Friends and Special Donors, sharing, bragging, eating great food, seeing beautiful places, and having fun. For hotel reservations call 800-218-8712 and ask for the Ruritan National group rate - \$129 plus 10% tax and 2.12% Destination fee. For online reservations - go to www.embassysuitesgreenville.com and use GROUP CODE: RUR. More later! Have a great year!

Ruritan National Foundation

2016 Board of Trustees

President: Fred Payne

Vice President: Pat Davis

Secretary: Jayson Duncan

Treasurer: Corky Camin

Promotion Chair: Brent Wheeler



Foundation President Fred Payne installed during the Installation Banquet in Jacksonville.



Founders' Day 2016

Save the Date

Come Celebrate 88 Years of Ruritan!

Join us for the Celebration on May 21, 2016, in Holland Virginia!

Events will include a huge parade, wreath laying,

BBQ cook-off, corn-hole tournament, children's games,

and an evening banquet with entertainment!



- To enter your float, car, or antique vehicle in the parade, contact Ronald Daughtrey at 757-657-9811 or rodaughtrey@aol.com.
- Enter a team in the BBQ Cook-Off for cash prizes and the recognition as the best cooks in all of Ruritan! Contact Donald Wurrell at 757-657-6425 or donald-wurrell@yahoo.com.
- For banquet tickets contact Clay Byrum at clay023321@aol.com. Tickets are \$20.00 each and checks, made out to Holland Ruritan Club, can be mailed to Clay Byrum, 30799 Hunt Club Road, Carrsville, VA 23315.
- Banquet is held at the Holland Community House and begins at 5:30 p.m.
- For Corn Hole Tournament information, contact Donald Wurrell at 757-657-6425 or donald-wurrell@yahoo.com.
- Guests may book rooms at the new Hampton Inn in Suffolk at a special rate of \$89. **Rooms must be booked by April 1, 2016 in order to get the special rate.** There will be a **FREE** full breakfast offered at the hotel. Contact the hotel at 757-935-5880 and mention Ruritan Founders' Day. Visit the website at hamptoninn.hilton.com/Suffolk.



Most Beautiful Ruritan Sign Contest

Contest Rules

All photos must be received by the national office no later than Friday, September 30.

The winning prizes are:

1st Place - 2 registrations to the 2017 convention in Kingsport as well as 3 nights stay in the hotel.

2nd Place - 2 convention registrations and 1 night stay

3rd Place - 2 convention registrations

****Prizes will be awarded to the club.****



YOUR NAME
HERE

MIKE CHRISLEY
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Paver Program for Capital Replacement

At the March 2012 Board of Directors meeting the Board approved a paver program to raise funds for the Capital Replacement Fund.

The paver program will raise funds to use as capital reserves and make improvements to the building. The pavers themselves will be used to make a patio area in the front of the building. The pavers can be purchased in honor of a special person or in memory of a loved one.

Complete this form (front and back) to get your paver today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: *Ruritan National Paver Program*

**Mail to: *Ruritan National Paver Program*
P.O. Box 487
*Dublin, VA 24084***

**To pay with Visa, Mastercard, or Discover
fill out the information below (print clearly)**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Account #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

YOUR NAME
HERE

YOUR NAME
HERE

- I want the 4" x 8" brick paver with 3 lines of text. \$100

Use the squares below to spell out your message - leave a square for each space.

- I want the 8" x 8" brick paver with 5 lines of text. \$200

Use the squares below to spell out your message - leave a square for each space.

- I want the 8" x 8" brick paver with 3 lines of text and a logo. \$210

Use the squares below to spell out your message - leave a square for each space.

Replica bricks for the home or office are also available at an additional cost. This is a nice remembrance for honorees or their families.

- 4" x 8" replica \$45

- 8" x 8" replica \$80

YOUR NAME
HERE

News From Ruritan: Holland District

Prince George Honors A.W. Adams

Prince George (VA) Ruritan Club honored A. W. Adams as their 2015 Ruritan of the Year at their Spouses Night Dinner. Vice President Sonny Sawyers (left) presented the award and said, "A. W. is an exceptional Ruritan, who participates in all our events and fundraisers. He led our successful raffle where \$4,400 was raised for the new building site project. Our club is so proud to have him as a member." In addition to honoring A. W., the club meeting featured a delicious buffet dinner and excellent entertainment.



Isle of Wight Installs New Officers



The Isle of Wight

(VA) Ruritan Club welcomed its new officers with a special catered dinner prepared and served by Curvy Girls Catering. After the delicious dinner, door prizes were presented, a group singing was held, and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter installed the 2016 officers. Pictured (l-r) are Isle of Wight 2015 President Bob Cofield, Director Micky Stallings, Treasurer Billy Bell, Secretary Kevin Goerger, 2016 President Michael Hundley, and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter.

Deep Creek and Great Bridge Serve Veterans

For several years the Deep Creek (VA) Ruritan Club has been serving the veterans at the Hampton VA Hospital. Monthly they sponsor Bingo Night and bring sandwiches, snacks, and desserts. In the summer, a cook-out is held. At Christmas, a special party is held. The visits to the VA Hospital are greatly appreciated by the residents. Deep Creek Club member Joe Gargaro shared this special veterans project with the Great Bridge (VA) Ruritan Club and invited them to participate. Great Bridge agreed to try it for a month. When



they saw how much the resident veterans appreciated their visit, the veterans project became a quarterly event for Great Bridge. Pictured (l-r) below Great Bridge Ruritan Club members Marty Levering, Dawn Levering, and Bill Lewter during Bingo Night. Also

pictured (l-r) are club members Faye Hollowell, Bob Hollowell, Phyllis Lewter, Alton Brinkley, and Joan Pitts serving refreshments to the residents.



Hodges Ferry Honors Tommy Midgett

Hodges Ferry (VA) Ruritan Club honored Tommy Midgett as their 2015 Ruritan of the Year. Hodges Ferry Ruritan Club President Alton Brinkley (r) presented the award. In his remarks, he stated, "Tommy is a faithful member who completes club projects and inspires other club members."

Waverly Donates to USO

Waverly (VA) Ruritan Club members Bill Lane and Bob Gunnell presented a donation to the USO at Richmond International Airport. Lane is an Air Force veteran of 41 years and Gunnell served 31 years in the Army. At its annual ladies night, the club donated toys for less fortunate children in the community.



Cypress Supports Salvation Army

Cypress (VA) Ruritan Club has been supplying food for the Salvation Army Spaghetti Lunch for over eighteen years. This year, 52 people received the meal. Fourteen members prepared and served the food. Pictured front (l-r) are John Sharrett, Melvyn Holleman, Roy Rowell, Roger Williams, and Raydell Byrd. Pictured standing (l-r) are Richard Brinkley, Ray Smith, Bobby Brinkley, Landon Howell, Charles Howell, Britt Brinkley, Larry Felton, Steve Russell, and Carey Copeland.



Meherrin (VA) Club members cooked over 200 Boston Butts for fundraising. Pictured (l-r) are Mike Strickland, Al Reavis, George Seif, Richard Slagter, Floyd Hobbs, Dave Randolph, Tom Grenell, and Spencer Anderson.



Get Your Room Reservations in Kingsport Now!



The 2017 Convention begins on Thursday, January 19. To make your reservations for the 2017 Ruritan Convention, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/KingsportRuritan>. If you would rather talk to a booking agent about your room, please call 1 (800) 228-9290 or by calling the hotel directly at (423) 578-6600. Rates before taxes begin at \$114 for single and double occupancy.

Reserve Hospitality Room Through National Office

If your district, club, or candidate is interested in booking a hospitality room in Kingsport, contact Craig Whitt at 877-787-8727 #312 or convention@ruritan.org and he will send you the proper form. Please note, these Hospitality Rooms are not connected with sleeping rooms.

Glendale Installs 17 New Members



2015 was a watershed year for the **Glendale** (VA) Ruritan Club. The club was small in membership, though not at heart. Club members understood that increasing the membership was needed. The first half of the year was filled with many tried and true fundraising events, but the members were stretched to the limit. By June, the terrible reality had to be faced. Something must be done. The few members that were left couldn't continue serving the community as needed by overworking them. The club decided to have a membership social. The concept of the event was simple. **P**rovide an evening of entertainment with good food and fellowship; **I**nvoke people from the community that club members would like to see involved; **E**ducate in a relaxed, conversational format on the satisfaction of being a Ruritan.

Easy as **PIE**, right? Invitations were hand delivered. A local band was hired for entertainment. The evening was filled with laughter, dancing, and lively conversation. The club welcomed 17 new members! Pictured are some of the new members.

Abingdon Holds Year-End Celebration

Throughout the year members of the **Abingdon** (VA) Ruritan Club worked hard raising funds with seafood festivals, clam chowder sales, and other activities. At its December meeting, representatives from 38 charitable non-profit organizations were invited to enjoy a nice dinner and to receive a donation check. \$32,500 was donated at the event.

In addition to the year-end donations, the club participated in many community projects by providing money and volunteering labor throughout the year. Some individuals with financial emergencies were also helped.



During 2015 the club donated a total of \$62,272 and provided many hours of community service.

The evening ended with National President Calvin Shelton installing the newly elected officers. Those being installed were Abingdon President Rose Taylor, Secretary Roger Dick, Treasurer Ann Dugas, and Director Jimmy Leiffer. Vice President Carl Onesty was not able to attend the meeting.

Pictured from left are Shelton, Taylor, Dick, Dugas, and Leiffer.

May is "Ruritan Awareness Month." Visit the ruritan.org website for more information.

News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District continued

Varina Celebrates 80th Anniversary



Varina (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 80th anniversary by honoring the following: Policeman of the Year

Aaron M. Lancaster, Firefighter of the Year Julian T. Lipscomb, Varina Club's Ruritan of the Year Waverly "Coal Train" Payne, and First Citizens of Varina David "Sawbill" Duke and Elsie "Mama" Duke. To



cap off the evening, Henrico Fire Department presented a plaque to the club for its continued support of their organization. 2015 National President Bobby Burton and 2014 National President Elliott Hogge attended the celebration.

News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

Clarksville Donates Over \$196,000 in 2015

Clarksville (VA) Ruritan Club aided over 40 organizations and numerous individuals in the community with donations totaling over \$196,000. Money was generated by members working hard at bingo, the thrift shop, stew sales, and Friday night dances. The club honored three members who helped to



make 2015 a successful year. Wanda Duncan was installed by District Governor Don Yeargan. Bill LaRose was named Ruritan of the Year for his outstanding service to all aspects of the club, especially the thrift shop. Two President's Awards were given to Dianne Johnson and Allen Griffin. Johnson was honored for her service to community projects, the thrift shop, and the award-winning scrapbook. Griffin was recognized for

his 39 years of membership in the club and his leadership with bingo and the maintenance of Ruritan Park.

Outstanding Ruritan Scout Leader	
Coleen Bridges	Gray Club
Gerald James "Jim" Doyle	Leitersburg Club
David Folsom	Carrsville Club
Allison Green	Seventy-First Club
Rodney Huffman	Mt. Pleasant Club
Timothy Rife	Carrsville Club

Chase City (VA) Ruritan Club conducted a "Buy a Can for Ruritan" food drive for Christmas boxes at the Chase City Food Lion. The club received 70 cans of food and an additional \$140 in cash. Pictured is Delmer Aylor.



Warrenton Donates Flags

Warrenton (VA) Ruritan Club donated five American flags as part of its citizenship and patriotism project to Fauquier Community Action Head Start. Club member John Reid said, "These are young minds and they didn't have flags. This is where you start the basics of being a citizen and patriotic child. The children are the future and we depend on them." Members Roger Sites, Bill Benner, Earl Browning, Raymond Maguire, and Reid presented the flags and a \$500 donation. Following the presentation, the group of three- and four-year-old students led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pictured are Jairo Alvarez-Lopez (age 3), Reid, and Dion Adams (age 3).



Santa Visits Sumerduck



Each Christmas, the **Sumerduck** (VA) Ruritan Club invites families in the community to enjoy a festive evening with a visit from Santa. Each child talks to Santa and receives a gift, candy, and fruit. Family portraits were taken with Santa. Approximately 60 people attended the event.

Rock Hill Honors Deputy Jason P. Aubry

Rock Hill (VA) Ruritan Club honored Deputy Jason P. Aubry, who

was nominated by Sheriff Jett as the Stafford County Sheriff's Rookie of The Year. The club has recognized a first-year officer for the past 18 years. The picture shows Deputy Aubry accepting the award from club president John Schumaker.



Rappahannock District Convention Holds Memorial Service

Rappahannock District Convention was held at Shenandoah University on Saturday, November 07, 2015. Sonny Larrick presided over the memorial service that honored 17 Ruritan members who passed away in 2015. Mr. Larrick stated that those that died were pillars of the community and active in Ruritan for years. They were all fighting for the same cause.



News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District

Brenda Solomon Earns President's Golden Key

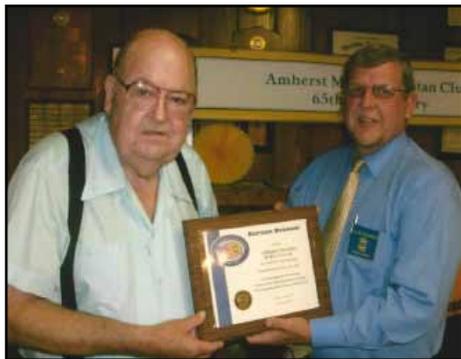


Glade Hill (VA) member Brenda Solomon (center) earned a President's Golden Key for bringing in new members. With her are (left) secretary Sharon Ferguson and (right) vice president Eddie Prillaman.

The club collected items for the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) this year. Here David Cuff, commander of chapter 60, accepts the items to be shared with area nursing homes.



Amherst/Monroe Celebrates 65th Anniversary



The **Amherst/Monroe (VA)** Ruritan Club celebrated its 65th anniversary last fall with a well-attended dinner at the club building. Guest speaker was National Director David Thompson. Also present were 2015 district governor Betty Moore and current district governor Carol Tyler. Thompson presented an anniversary plaque to president William Bryant. Special recognition was also given to Clarence "Jack" Lyons and Thomas Coleman with 37 and 32 years of perfect attendance respectively. The club has sponsored five other clubs in the area over

the years: Madison Heights, Elon, Clifford, Pedlar, and Temperance. The idea for the club came from charter member Rev. I. L. Llewelyn of Monroe Methodist Church.

Cavalier Ruri-Teen Club Chartered

On Thursday, December 10th, the **Cavalier (VA)** Ruri-Teen Club was chartered at Jefferson Forest High School. Anna Jennings and Cara Anderson, co-president of the new club, accepted the charter from district governor Betty Moore. Other club officers include secretary Corinne Gorda, treasurer Jeanine Minnick, fundraising chair Juliana Foster, and marketing chair Morgan Camper. Also, on hand for the charter meeting was the club's sponsor Goode Ruritan Club President Larry Montecino and Treasurer Tim Jennings and school sponsor Chela Rue.



News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

North Fork Donates to School

Pictured are most of the members of the **North Fork (TN)** Ruritan Club in the Tennessean District with supplies they donated to Kepler Elementary School. They also made donations in December by bringing in non-perishable food items for both the Shepherd's Center in Rogersville and the Food Pantry in Church Hill, TN.



2015 District Website Design Award	
Woodrow Wilson District	1st Place

News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

Ron Smith Named Rockingham Luncheon's Ruritan of the Year



Rockingham Luncheon (VA) Ruritan Club held its December meeting at the Thomas House Restaurant. District governor Jeff Roadcap installed the 2016 club officers. Membership committee chair Rick Keyton presented the club's Ruritan of the Year Award to Ron Smith. Entertainment was provided by The Hatcher Boys.



Luray Club Presents Awards



Luray (VA) Ruritan Club presented James Gander with a plaque for his 54 years of service to the club. Gander has helped with all fundraisers, worked with the Luray Ruritan Club Horse Show, and volunteered in the club's food booths. Lin-

da Minke received the club's Rudy Bear Environmental Award. A plaque was presented to Minke. Minke chose The Wounded Warrior Project for her monetary donation. Lois Shaffer was presented a plaque for Professional Business Person of the Year.

Marvin Garber Recognized for 70 Years as Club Member



Marvin Garber (right) was recognized for 70 years as a member of the **Bridgewater** (VA) Ruritan Club. Other club members were recognized for five-year increments of service and presented with pins or bars.



Linville-

Edom (VA) Ruritan Club honored veterans. Pictured (l-r) are Woodrow Secrist, Chick Rodgers, Glenwood Reubush, and Garland Shull. Veteran Jeff Roadcap is not pictured.

Come Visit the Ruritan National Office

Traveling northbound on Interstate 81, take exit 98, turn left onto Rt. 100 (from southbound Interstate 81 turn right onto Rt. 100). At the second stoplight, turn right onto Rt. 682, cross over Interstate 81 and turn left onto Rt. 662.

Tours can be arranged by contacting the National Office, toll free at 877-787-8727 or email office@ruritan.org

Jefferson and Hunterstown Celebrate 60th Anniversary



During an ice storm on December 29, 1955, the **Jefferson** (MD) Ruritan Club, was chartered with 79 members. Today, the club has maintained its high level of membership currently at 101. A 60th anniversary celebration was held with 120 in attendance. Five charter members



who have remained active as club members were honored: John "Jack" Lakin, Ralph Brown, Arthur "Artie House," George Lakin, and past National Director and Past National Foundation President Charles C. Smith. A commemorative 60th Anniversary Celebration book was compiled by the anniversary planning committee. Pictured top left are 2015 National President Bobby Burton and Linda receiving a Jefferson town print from club president Scott Easton. Pictured top right (l-r) are John "Jack" Lakin, Ralph Brown, Arthur "Artie" House, George Lakin, Charles Smith, and National Director Larry Cassell.



Hunterstown (PA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 60th anniversary. Club members reminisced about the first club activities. The most popular activity continues to be the operation of a go-kart track that started in 1962. Today, the track has been upgraded to a professional track that draws crowds on Saturday nights during racing season. Special guests included district governor Linda Haulman and 2015 National President Bobby Burton. Haulman presented 2015 club president Larry Blount with a plaque. Pictured (l-r) are Blount, Haulman, and Burton.

Lewistown Donates Generously



At the annual banquet of the **Lewistown** (MD) Ruritan Club held at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant, donations were made to and accepted by the benefactors. Pictured are (l-r): Ron Demory, club president; Dick Baseley, 4-H Therapeutic Riding Club; Ginger Fisher, Thurmont Food Bank; Gail Boggs, Lewistown Methodist Church Auxiliary; Bob Stanley, Lewistown Fire

Department; Harold Staley, Lewistown PTA; Charles Smith, 4-H Camp Center; and Richard Rippeon, Thurmont Safe and Sane. The funds for these donations were derived from the 2015 Lewistown Ruritan Chicken BBQs. Guests included **Jefferson** (MD) Ruritan Club members Charlie and Jane Smith, who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary; Rick Bricker and his wife, who actively support Ruritan with their annual fundraisers; Trevella Foster, zone governor and her husband Don Foster; and the ladies of the Lewistown Methodist Church Auxiliary. Musical entertainment was provided by Harold Staley, a member of the Lewistown Ruritan Club.

Shady Grove Hosts Veterans Day Banquet

Shady Grove (PA) Ruritan Club hosted its 10th annual Veterans Day Banquet. Club president Jeff Shank gave welcoming remarks that were followed by a catered meal. An aca-pella quartet of veterans called "Old Friends" was the entertainment. They performed patriotic and gospel songs blended with humor.



News From Ruritan: Roanoke District



Robersonville Celebrates 60 Years

Robersonville (NC) Club held an annual Christmas banquet in December. National Director Frances Long (right) presented a certificate to the club commemorating 60 years of service. Accepting the certificate is club treasurer Al Cochran. The club was chartered in 1955 and holds an annual consignment sale every year to raise money for community service projects.

News From Ruritan: Columbia District

Sandy Run Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Sandy Run (SC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 25th anniversary. 1998 National President Gary Taylor and 2007 National President Jimmy Bristow served a delicious meal. Zone 2 Governor Albert Amick presented a 25-year certificate to club president Becky Starnes.

Eastover (SC) Ruritan Club members Jimmy Hiott and Bill Wannamaker presented 25-year pins and certificates to charter members Herbert Geiger and Roger Hill. Hill spoke about the history of the club. Kay James, Howard Pees, and Lena Stabler presented a memorial for all members who have passed.



Benny and Kay Collings Named Columbia District Ruritans of the Year

Benny and Kay Collings of **Pelion** (SC) Ruritan Club were nominated as the Columbia District Ruritans of the Year. Kay said, "It was a very humbling experience and a great honor."

The club laid a wreath at the Pelion Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day.



News From Ruritan: Potomac District continued



New Leopard Ruri-Teen Club Chartered

The new **Leopard** (MD) Ruri-Teen Club was chartered on October 18, 2015. The club plans to help the Humane Society, Tabitha's Table Food Bank, and the Salvation Army.



News From Ruritan: Natural Bridge District



American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area (VA) Ruritan Club hosted a blood drive collecting 36 units. Pictured is a participant of the event.

News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

Rudy Bear Goes to Ecuador

Nixonton (NC) Ruritan Club donated Rudy Bears to Pastor Alex who is with the "Hearts 4 Kids" organization. "Hearts 4 Kids" is a non-profit organization that aims to reach out to



less fortunate children. Its goal is to contribute to the development of the lives of children from depressed communities in Ecuador and around the world. When Pastor Alex got home to Ecuador, he sent the club pictures of him with Rudy Bears. The first recipient of a Rudy Bear in Ecuador was a 13-year-old girl. (pictured left)



Gates Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Gates (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. Pictured are 2015 National President Bobby Burton and National Director David Thompson presenting Gates Club President Cody Brinkley



with an anniversary certificate.

Rocky Hock (NC) Ruritan Club donates dictionaries to local school children.



Pictured is **Bethel (NC)** Ruritan Club's new member Crystal Bass being installed by club president Donald Madre.

News From Ruritan: Gulf Area



Ella Lyles of the **Linwood Circle (MS)** Ruritan Club is shown presenting 2015 National President Bobby Burton with a plaque. Adams County

Supervisor Calvin Butler made October 16, 2015, Bobby Burton Day.



Coltin Hendrick Made Honorary Member



Coltin Hendrick (age 8) won a bicycle at the **Efland** (NC) Ruritan Club's Rodeo and in a selfless act gave it to a friend's brother. The club voted unanimously to make Coltin an honorary club member for 2016. They felt that Coltin exemplifies the spirit of a Ruritan. Coltin was presented a plaque by club president Johnny Cates (right) and treasurer Tim Sukow (left). Club president Johnny Cates welcomed new member Miguel Castaneda.

Rougemont Celebrates 65th Anniversary

Rougemont (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 65th anniversary. Ruritan leaders attending the celebration included 2016 National President Calvin Shelton and First Lady Patsy, 2002 National President Millard Thacker and wife Marty, Foundation Trustee Corky Camin, National Director Linward Hedgspeth and wife Anne, and Oak Grove Club President Davey Jones and wife Crystal. The club was honored to have Roxboro Mayor Merylyn Newell and Durham County Commissioner Wendy Jacobs, who presented resolutions recognizing the club for its 65 years of community



service. This service included returning to the community hundreds of thousands of dollars as well as thousands of man-hours on projects and partnerships. Successful fundraisers for the club include Bruns-

wick stews, pancake and sausage breakfasts, donkey softball games, golf tournaments, concession sales, chili sales, and spaghetti suppers. Pictured (l-r) are Millard and Marty Thacker and Patsy and Calvin Shelton. Commissioner Wendy Jacobs is shown reading the proclamation.

Dortches (NC) Ruritan Club made a donation to the Nash County Social Services Foster Care Christmas Drive to help the organization provide Christmas gifts for children in foster care. The agency currently has around 45 children. Pictured (l-r) are club members Sammy and Emily Bass, Nathan Lindeman, and club president Kirby Brown making the presentation to Nash County Social Services Foster Care Christmas Drive Coordinator Norma Boyd.



Redwood (NC) Ruritan Club honored veterans and families with a meal. A CD documentation of WWII bombing of Pearl Harbor was presented by club member JT Glasgow. Veterans Russell Kernechel and Dallas Champion were honored as Purple Heart recipients. Pictured (l-r) are Frank Wyatt, Terry Husketh, George Woods, Jerry Husketh, Bob Rogers, Bud Flamion, Dallas Champion, Jackson T. Glasgow, Bob Milback. Veterans not pictured are Russell Kernechel and Wayne Watson.



Clay Howard Honored as Pink Hill's Ruritan of the Year



Pink Hill (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its great year at its annual Christmas party. Club president Clay Howard was honored as the club's Ruritan of the Year. In his second year as president, the club was able to raise and donate \$11,500. Rod Smith was installed as the 2016 club president. Other club officers installed were vice president Neal Beirise, treasurer Rodney Smith, secretary Elaine Howard, and directors Sue Jones, Lester Tyndall, and Roy Pittman. Sergeant at Arms is John Mohrfeld and reporter is Susan Myers. Pictured is Sammy Howard presenting Clay Howard with the Ruritan of the Year Award.

The club's Memorial Garden celebrated Veterans Day with 60 American flags. The memorial garden of pink roses was planted by the Pink Hill Ruritan Club in conjunction with the Pink Hill Flower Fund. The flags were mounted by GI Joe's Military Museum. (See page 16 for picture.)

Southwood Honors Veterans



During **Southwood (NC)** Ruritan Club's 57th anniversary celebration, the club honored members that were veterans and presented them with a flag Christmas ornament. Pictured (l-r) are Reginald Stroud, Harry Osborne,

and George Fordham. Stroud was also recognized for his years of service to the club. District Governor David Mooring presented him with a plaque.



Ponzer Installs Tim and Laura Coleman as New Members



Ponzer (NC) Ruritan Club installed two new members. Club vice president Cathy Clayton presented new member kits to Tim and Laura Coleman. Barbara Van Essendelft was nominated as the club's Ruritan of the Year. Club treasurer Teresa Collier presented her with the plaque.

Pinetown Provides Food for Families



Pinetown (NC) Ruritan Club provided boxes of food for 12 families during the Thanksgiving holiday. Each box contained the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal as well as additional canned/package food. The club adopted nine children for Christmas. Each child received a winter coat, socks, shoes, under garments, and toys.

Old Ford and Bunyan Clubs Donate Rudy Bears



Old Ford and Bunyan (NC) Ruritan Clubs donated Rudy Bears to the Chocowinity, NC, EMS. Pictured are Curtis Rogers, Captain Shane Grier, and Lt. Adam Culbertson of Chocowinity EMS.



News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

Jimmy Raynor Honored as Anderson Creek Ruritan of the Year



Jimmy Raynor is **Anderson Creek** (NC) Ruritan Club's Ruritan of the Year. Raynor is a long-time member and is instrumental in making the calendar sales program a success. Pictured is past club president Tim Rowe presenting Raynor with the award.



New club officers were installed. Pictured on the front (l-r) are zone governor Polly Bouldin, president Jason Ray, secretary Yvonne Driver, vice president Steve Rigby. Pictured on the back (l-r) are co-treasurers Johnny Reaves and Holt Felmet, board member Jimmy Raynor, past president Chris Rowe, board member Marilyn Donovan, National Director Curtis Simmons, and district governor Roger Peterson.



Boone Trail Holds County Fair

The Annual **Boone Trail** (NC) Ruritan Club Fair was a huge success. Over 1,000 kids enjoyed the festivities that included nine inflatables, hay rides, and rock climbing. Traditional fair foods were served. The gym was filled with church and school exhibits and local agricultural produce. Student art displays lined the hallways. Local fire and rescue vehicles and personnel were on site. The fair chair David O'Quinn said, "Even though the fair is a lot of work, it's also a whole lot of fun for kids and families. It brings the community together." The club raised approximately \$9,000 which will be used for school and community needs.

News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District



Victoria Hopson Received Scholarship

Greystone (TN) Ruritan Club presented a scholarship to Victoria Hopson who was a graduate of Chuckey-Doak High School. Pictured (l-r) are Jerry Hopson, Judy Harrison, Victoria Hopson, and Roy and Geraldine Weems.



Jonathan Lafollette Installed as District Governor

Jonathan Lafollette was installed as 2016 Davy Crockett District Governor by his father 2000 Ruritan National President and 1997 Foundation President Jim Lafollette at the **Davy Crockett** District Convention.

Washington Builds Pavilion



Washington (OH) Ruritan Club donated \$3,500 in addition to a \$500 annual pledge to Beech Creek Botanical Gardens. Project Manager Dave Socotch lead other club members in construction of the pavilion. A total of 165 man-hours have been contrib-

uted to this project thus far. The goal for the pavilion is for it to be enclosed for the community to hold activities and educational programs.



Winona Installs New Officers

Winona (OH) Ruritan Club installed officers and directors for 2016. Pictured (l-r) are Ohio Governor Wayne Holston, treasurer Bob Doyle, Sr., secretary Lee Stamp, vice president Homer Huprich, president Rob Doyle, Jr., one-year director Buster Rogowsky, two-year director Larry Sanor, and past president Rich Mumford. Not pictured is three-year director John Heinbuck.



Charter Members Recognized



Bruce Henderson and John Feisley were recognized as charter members of the **St. Clair** (OH) Ruritan Club at the club's Christmas party. Both received sweatshirts to commemorate their years with Ruritan.

2015 District Newsletter Awards	
Woodrow Wilson District	3 rd Place
Chesapeake District	2 nd Place
Davy Crockett District	1 st Place

District Growth Awards	
Small District – 500 Members or Less	
Georgia – North Alabama	10% Growth
Medium District – 501-1000 Members	
Greenville-Goldsboro	0.4% Growth

Most New Members Recruited in a Calendar Year
1 st Place Rita Woods (24 members) of the Mt. Erie Club

News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District

Headsville Countryside Adopts Family



Headsville Countryside (WV) Ruritan Club members adopted a family and with the help of Santa were able to fill many of the wishes and needs of that family for Christmas. Gifts were purchased for each family member. The two young children received bikes. A gift certificate for Christmas dinner was purchased from Martins for everyone to enjoy. The club also contributed to the Food For Thought Program.

They provide bags of snacks and easy to prepare foods for less fortunate students. Pictured are club president Ken Paugh presenting a check to Food For Thought Founder Dinah Courier.

News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District

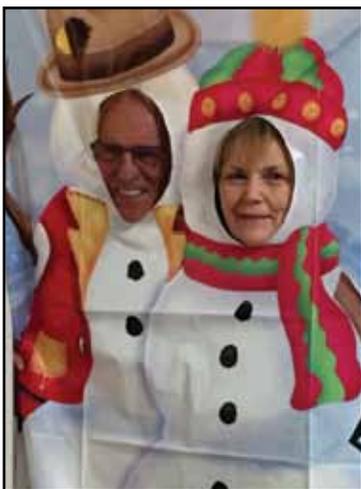
Bethlehem Donates to Food Bank



Bethlehem (NC) Ruritan Club donated 181 pounds of food and 12 cases of other items to the Alexander County Food Bank prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Pictured are past club presidents Jim McManus, Terry Rairdon, and Food Bank Director Martha Starnes.



News From Ruritan: New River District



Baywood (VA) Ruritan Club had a fun-filled evening at the home of club members Gene and Wanda Cox for its annual Christmas party. Club members discussed activities. They delivered over 1,600 Thanksgiving dinners, donated to Community

Chest, helped pack food boxes for 550 families, donated to the Angel Tree program, gave fruit baskets to elderly, served families in need, and sponsored Cub Scouts.

Clubs with the Greatest % Increase in Members in 2015	
Large Clubs	
3 – Abingdon Club	.73% Growth
1156 – Suffolk Club	1.22% Growth
Medium Clubs	
1148 – Stonewall Club	14.14% Growth
119 – Bolar Club	17.65% Growth
456 – Fort Valley Club	18.92% Growth
576 – Holland Club	20.41% Growth
1131 – Spout Spring Club	22.22% Growth
Small Clubs	
1875 – Five Forks Club	50.00% Growth
622 – Jamesville Club	55.56% Growth
328 – Deep Run Club	57.14% Growth
1292 – White Oak Club	73.33% Growth
618 – Ivor Club	350.00% Growth



Eldora and Brushy Mountain Honor Veterans

Eldora (NC) Ruritan Club hosted its second annual Veterans dinner with 112 veterans in attendance. Surry Central High School Junior ROTC gave the presentation of the colors. Music was provided by club members Billy and Frankie Smith and Billy Smith's former Country Playboys bandmate Doug Reeves. Several veterans had the opportunity to speak. Pictured is Pete Welborn, a veteran of the U.S. Marines in Vietnam, singing along with fellow veterans. Also pictured is O.G. "Pete" Carroll (age 99), a veteran who served under General Patton. (Article and pictures courtesy of Terri Flagg with The Mount Airy News)

Pictured left are 24 veterans who were honored on Veterans Day by the **Brushy Mountain (NC) Ruritan Club**.



Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. The club was chartered in 1965 with 33 members. Of those original members, eight are still living and six attend the club's festivals. Pictured are Bobby Triplett, Homer Eller, Bill Wood, Ward Eller, James Richardson, and Max Eller.



Windsors Cross Roads Supports Hospice Facility

Windsors Cross Roads (NC) Ruritan Club dedicated its final breakfast fundraiser of 2015 to support construction of a hospice facility. Community involvement allowed the club to donate \$2,500 to the building fund. Pictured are club president Steve Mosteller and Hospice Representative Marty Driver.



News From Ruritan: Cherokee District



Morrison Receives Five Gold Awards

Morrison (TN) Ruritan Club received five gold awards for community service. Pictured (l-r) are committee chairs: Wes Williams, environment; Sue Anderson, social development; Moe Gallagher, business and professions; Lavell Whitehead, public services; and Mike Holland, citizenship and patriotism.

Shirley Driver is shown receiving a Tom Downing Award from club president Todd Shewmaker.



Club members judged decorated pumpkins at Morrison School. Kindergarten through grade eight students entered the contest. Pictured are judges (l-r) Jill Stbblefield, Wanda Gann, Kay Holt, and Phylliss Covert.

Pictured on the right (l-r) are **Taylor's** (TN) Ruritan Club's new club officers: Heath Jordan, Elizabeth Kalabus, W.W. Johnson, Ronald Wallace, and Denise Montgomery.



News From Ruritan: Dan River District

Union Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

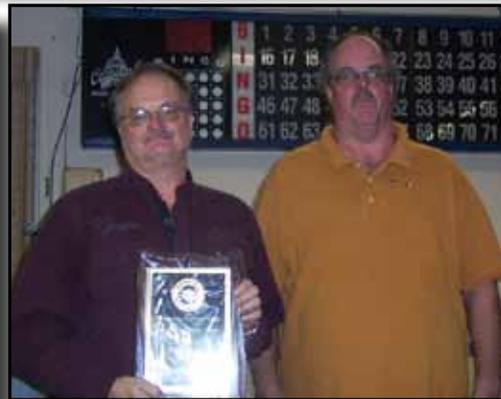
Union (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a reception and open house.

Photos, awards, activities, and community service photos were on display. Pictured (l-r) are National Director Mike Morrison, Kenneth Martin, Elizabeth Harris, Debra Matthews, Brenda McDannald, Elaine Hunt, Mac McDannald, Dianne Simmons, Mary Eanes, and Fred Eanes.



Fontaine Presents Awards

Barbara Williams of the **Fontaine** (VA) Ruritan Club received a Tom Downing Award. Pictured (l-r) is her daughter-in-law Lisa Williams, Barbara Williams, and son Mike Williams. Mike received the club's Ruritan of the Year Award. He is pictured with club president John Elliott.



**MACK ED
WILLIAMS**

*and the accomplices
below have earned their
awards for recruiting
new Ruritan members!
Congratulations!*

THE \$600 WANTED WINNER FOR THE
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015 WAS
MACK ED WILSON OF THE GRAY (TN)
RURITAN CLUB IN THE DAVY CROCKETT DISTRICT



REWARDED \$600

GERRY MOYER

THE \$200 WINNER IN THE WANTED CONTEST
FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015 WAS
GERRY MOYER OF THE GRAY (TN) CLUB
IN THE DAVY CROCKETT DISTRICT.



**REWARDED
\$200**

WILLIAM CARNY

\$400 WAS PRESENTED TO WILLIAM CARNY OF
THE ALDIE (VA) CLUB OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK
DISTRICT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER.



**REWARDED
\$400**

