



### Purchase a Tom Downing Fellow Award

Greetings from the Ruritan Foundation President Pat Davis and the Ruritan Foundation Trustees. Over the last several months the Foundation Trustees have taken Ruritan President Danny Privott's message of "Affecting Change" to heart. While the mission of the Foundation remains

"to provide financial assistance to qualified individuals and groups for educational, charitable, and benevolent activities," the delivery method has, and continues, to undergo change.

The **Ruritan Foundation website**, which is accessed through the Ruritan.org site, has a fresh, clean, look. Through the Foundation website, several new items can be accessed including a video by Graham Bryant explaining the impact that a Ruritan Foundation Scholarship had on his life. There is also a link to every form that would be needed for an individual, club, or district to do business with the Foundation. Some of the forms include BYD Deposit and Claim forms, Tom Downing Fellows form, Permanent Fund Addition Form, etc. Take a moment to check out the new website.

The Ruritan Foundation will be celebrating its **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** over the next year. For a limited time to honor the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** the Foundation has created the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund**. The Foundation encourages **ALL** Ruritans to contribute \$50 to the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund**. Every Ruritan who contributes \$50 between now and the 2019 National Convention will be awarded with a unique lapel pin and also recognition in the 2019 Annual Report. The \$50 can be credited to the fund of your choice. The form to make your donation is available on the website or from any Foundation Trustee.

We will be phasing out the \$\$\$Million Dollar Program (dime a day), so now is your opportunity to finish out your fund and receive the \$\$\$ Million Dollar Program pin. Everyone has until December 31, 2017, to finish their \$\$\$ Million Dollar Program. The form to submit your donation can be found at the "Forms" tab on the Ruritan Foundation website.

The Foundation has several opportunities for individuals, clubs, or districts to award additional scholarships. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to any RNF Trustee or the Foundation Office.

We have a goal for this year to add at least **200** more **Tom Downing Fellows**. We hope all clubs will start participating in this program. The additional money gener-

ated by the investment of this money will certainly increase the amount of money that we will be able to use when we calculate the Build Your Dollar Grants. By increasing the Tom Downing Fellows, the Foundation will come closer to the goal of matching the Build You Dollar deposits dollar for dollar.

The **Birthday Club program** is a simple way for your club to participate in the Foundation and will accomplish two things: 1) your club will receive recognition (a certificate for a \$2 per member donation and a plaque for a \$10 per member donation); and 2) growing your fund toward reaching the next milestone.

The October 1 deadline to submit your club's **2018 Build Your Dollar** deposit is fast approaching. There are several key changes this year: (1) there is now a Deposit and Claim form on the "Forms" tab of the Ruritan Foundation website, (2) The Claim form is now one page and the deadline for submission has been extended to June 30. These changes were made to simplify the program and allow more time for clubs to make their scholarship recipient selection.

Also, please encourage your BY\$ recipient to be at a club meeting to accept their scholarship. That is also a good time for the recipient to briefly let your club members know about their future plans. Do not forget to take pictures of the scholarship presentation and submit to the Ruritan National office for publication in the Ruritan National Magazine.

As a reminder, the **Regular Grant Program** will be phased out in 2018. In 2018, the Trustees will award the final five Regular Grants. The phase out of the Regular Grant Program will allow for more participation in the Build Your Dollar Program.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the National Convention, January 18-21, 2018, in Charleston, SC. The Foundation will kick off a yearlong celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a great birthday party followed by a live auction. Everyone is encouraged to bring items and \$\$\$ for the silent auction also.

Your Foundation Trustees are ready to help your district or club become more involved with your Foundation. The Trustees are available to speak at club, cabinet, or other district events.

REMEMBER, if you have any questions about the Foundation, PLEASE feel free to call one of your Trustees. We are here to help you any way we can.