



Grow Our Organization - Serve More People

It seems like only a few days ago we returned from a great convention in Charleston, S.C. The convention was well attended and the delegates elected new officers and directors and made important changes to the bylaws of Ruritan. See

the convention recap beginning on page seven of this issue. Scattered throughout the magazine are listings of the awards earned by hard-working Ruritan clubs and individuals at the convention. Look for your club and members in the yellow highlighted sections throughout this issue.

One of the most important things the delegates did at this convention was to approve a bylaws change that will hopefully allow us to keep many of the members that we lose each year. The delegates overwhelmingly passed the affiliate membership. This membership category is not available to current members of Ruritan. Members who wish to remain connected to their local club should continue using the Associate membership. This category is only for members who have dropped from the rolls of Ruritan and have not joined another club or members that belonged to clubs that were dropped from the rolls.

We need to embrace new categories of membership. We know that the lifeblood of Ruritan is our active member category. Our hope is that by allowing us to retain members through alternative memberships we can continue to provide service to our active members and avoid frequent dues increases while maintaining relationships with those members who can't serve as active members in Ruritan clubs. Alternative membership types like the Associate

Membership, Ruritan Forever (see page 21), and others continue to grow as our active membership declines. They already provide support for our clubs and members and help keep your dues lower.

The bottom line is that we need to focus our attention on membership every day. The growth and development committee recently made changes to one of our incentive programs that supports the Ruritan Forever program. The wanted program has been modified so that winners receive a Ruritan Forever membership for recruiting (see page 12).

If you look at the statistics we currently have just under 1000 Ruritan clubs. Over 200 of those clubs are under charter strength of 16 members. We realize that many of the under charter strength clubs still do amazing things in local communities. However, what if all those clubs had more members? I believe they could do more of what we are all about, which is providing service to people in need at the local level.

Our focus should be recruiting new members into our existing clubs, strengthening our under charter strength clubs, and looking every day for new communities to build a Ruritan club.

So many exciting things are happening. We have a great new first lady's program (see page 20). We have been able to negotiate a reduction in shipping charges from our supplier of Ruritan promotional merchandise (see page 16), our youth camp is in the planning stages (see page 18), our Foundation celebrates 50 years (see page 11), and last but not least we celebrate 90 years of serving communities as an organization (see page 15).

Please ask your friends and neighbors to be a part of your club and help us grow our organization and serve more people.

Items of Interest

Past National Directors Glenn Morgan and Karen Palette Pass

Ruritan Past National Director James Glenn Morgan, 84, of Huntingdon, TN passed away Thursday, December 28, 2017. He is survived by one daughter, Delano Miller (companion Donald White) of Huntingdon; two sons, Bruce Morgan (wife Gayle) of Jackson and, Steve Morgan (wife Tracye) of Huntingdon. He also leaves six grandchildren, Robbie Miller (wife Jennifer) of Huntingdon, Rhnea Reagan (husband Brad) of Maryville, Trevor Morgan (fiancée Cyndi Trout) of Holladay, Cassidy Belew (husband Cale) of Huntingdon, Randy Miller of Knoxville, and Kyle Morgan of Huntingdon, five great grand-children, Brady Morgan of Holladay, Dayton Miller, Brock Miller and Rhett Miller all of Huntingdon, and Elisha Dallas Reagan of Maryville.

National Director Karen D. S. Palette passed away on January 10, 2018. She was 63. She is survived by her husband and fellow Ruritan Steve Palette. Karen was a member of Knotts Island (VA) Ruritan Club where she served as president in 2005. She was Holland Governor in 2008 and held several other district level offices. She was a Ruritan Forever. Karen graduated cum laude from Tidewater Community College with an AS degree.