



Ruritan

Volume 83, Spring 2018



Message From 2018 National President Guy Cox

I AM . . . RURITAN ! WE ARE . . . RURITANS !



And boy do we have a lot to be thankful for, me in particular. I first want to thank God for this opportunity to possibly make some impact with our organization over the next year.

I would also like to thank you for electing me. It is an immense honor to be standing here before you while following in the footsteps of

some of the greatest men and women in Ruritan.

I want to thank all of the Ruritan clubs and districts for all of the invitations they have given Linda and me to share their celebrations during this year.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face.

So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

One of many honors that I had this year was the re-dedication of the West Virginia obelisk at Valley Forge. Past National President Jerome Rodes from Lower West Virginia worked tirelessly to get funding and organize this event.

While attending the Foundation Weekend in Galax this fall, I was able to share Past President Danny's pin with a couple of boys who gave the Boy Scout salute while saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the rest of us. Past Foundation President Pat Davis called later to tell me that they had decided to join Ruritan.

When we say that all you have to do is "Just Ask" in order to increase your membership, we mean that.

Be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it.

We must "grow" so Ruritan does not "go" from our communities and we can do that.

During the middle of August, we traveled to the Sutherland Community Ruritan Club in Iowa to celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

A shocking occurrence happened later in the year when we were notified that one of their Ruritan members lost his wife in the shooting that occurred in Las Vegas during the Jason Aldean concert.

That was one of the many occasions when the faithful members of Ruritan were asked for prayers and possible financial assistance for our fellow member.

Another heart breaker during last year was the loss of National Director Betty Moore.

We all want to remember her and one way the Foundation is wanting to honor her is by having your district dedicate a fundraiser toward building a fund to support a scholarship dedicated in her name.

These kinds of activities point Ruritan towards a future of growth by staying true to the goals for which Ruritan stands, things I am especially interested in during my tenure as President.

For instance, this year we are trying something new for Ruritan.

We want the new National Directors to have an understanding of what their part of the Ruritan experience is going to be like from the very beginning.

So, we had training for all of the candidates here at the convention rather than waiting until later in the spring.

New National Directors will now be able to better represent Ruritan National at their assigned districts during the first part of the year.

We will also bring these first-year National Directors into the National Office for additional training in March.

Additionally, our first National Board meeting will be held during Founders' Day in Holland this year to celebrate the 90th year of Ruritan.

We want to thank the Holland Ruritan Club and the Holland District for all of the special plans that they are making to allow this new meeting at our founders' location.

Special provisions are being made at the hotel and the Holland clubhouse for this meeting.

I also want to thank those Ruritan clubs and districts who contributed toward the Summer Leadership Conference to make it a special learning experience. This was an outstanding conference and much was learned about Ruritan and ourselves.

We learned that we could start a new club with as few as three or four citizens attending the first meeting.

When the second meeting occurs, if they have brought a friend or two with them, that will give you eight to ten individuals that are interested in starting a

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Ruritan

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**Shipping cost for Ruritan Supply
has been reduced to
\$3.50!
Effective Immediately
(all ground orders)**



On the Cover: Pictured are 2018 National President Guy Cox and family. On the back row (l-r) are brother-in-law Allen, sisters Rita (Cox) Ridenour and Sandra (Cox), and brother-in-law Bob Miley. On the second row (l-r) are oldest son Michael and his wife Kelly with their daughter Rebecca Cox. In the front row (l-r) are First Lady Linda and President Guy Cox with youngest son Darrin Cox.

Ruritan club in their community.

It also means that you have enough people to fill the offices of a new Ruritan club. O.H. Bobbitt and Betty Moore started a new club, the Brookneal 21th Century Club, by thinking outside the book.

We need that kind of leadership to continue growing Ruritan and doing what is right for our communities. I commend them for that action. We could and have also used skype for committee meetings, foundation meetings, and even Board meetings where appropriate.

You may now open the small envelope located in front of you at your table. This is the pin that I want to present to you. This pin was designed by Norman O'Dell, our friend from Tennessee.

You will notice that the pin is dominated in the center with the monument that is located in Holland, Virginia, and is dedicated to our beginning in 1928. Below it is the number 90 which is to represent this coming year being the 90th year of Ruritan and will be celebrated in Hampton, VA.

Around the monument and above it are the words "Return To Our Roots." Many of us feel that Ruritan has lost something along these 90 years and we need to return to the original roots that our organization was based on. We will strive to do that this year.

Many clubs do not report all of the wonderful things that they are doing for their communities through our community service projects.

We are to report these services each quarter to our district governor who will report those services to Ruritan National.

Many of our clubs are not doing this.

They are still doing the work but do not want to spend the time to report their work.

We, as an individual and as a club, need to advertise all of the great things that we are doing for our communities.

It is not a brag, it is just a fact: a fact that will help with recruitment.

You may not want an extra pat on the back, but people need to know what it is that your group is doing because your activities advertise not only your club, but also Ruritan as a whole.

The olive leaves located on the sides of the pin are to represent the peace that we should be sharing with the world.

We hear of the many criminal acts that are occurring everyday within our world.

We must learn to share the peace we find with our Ruritan friends with other individuals we have contact with while sharing the love of Ruritan with others.

The ribbon near the bottom says "Sharing Is Caring," that is what all Ruritan clubs do.

We share the funds that we earn from a fundraiser with members of our communities that have a need for assistance.

We share our funds with the fire department, police department, hospitals, and other organizations.

We share by providing Rudy Bears to these organizations to give to young children and sometimes to the elderly in nursing homes.

Please continue doing that again this year.

We share our time working with youth groups such as scouts and 4-H, giving of our time while helping to instruct and educate them.

We share our funds by giving scholarships to local students that are hard working and well deserving.

The assistance that they receive from us enables these students to further their education.

We share our time to assist veterans and senior citizens, reading for students at schools, recycling projectsthe list is endless.

If you want God to bless you and your Ruritan club, give of yourself, your time, your finances, and all that you have.

We share our finances every year with the Ruritan National Foundation through the Birthday Fund, Tom Downing Fellow Awards, Build Your Dollar Scholarships, Operation We Care, etc.

How many of us give of ourselves through blood donations?

By sharing our blood through these donations, we give of our life to save others.

There are so many more ways that we share with others and give of ourselves, our time, and our finances to assist others less fortunate than ourselves.

We do not need a reason to help people. You just need a caring heart. Ruritan's will always care for their fellow man and share with others.

We do make a difference with our communities and we should be proud of all of this service.

(I now want to introduce your new First Lady Linda who is going to speak about her project and how we can continue to give to others, this time our youth.)

Thank you, Linda, helping these homeless children will be a large community service project which will help your club when you report these hours and funds that your club has donated.

We are interested in how many hours and dollars you have donated for this cause. We are asking you to report those hours to Ruritan National and we will report to you at next year's convention.

What Linda is suggesting is definitely something that we can accomplish because we are Ruritans,

Ruritans are local friends, neighbors, business people, and students all working together to make their community a better place in which to live, work,

continued on page 5

and raise their families.

But more important, Ruritans are people helping people. Whether they are ten years old or ninety years old, we're all together in the same community and helping just one community member helps us all.

Ruritans want YOU to be the best that you can possibly be, and share the many good opportunities in life.

That's the goal of having a Ruritan club in your community.

YOU make a difference, because you care! You ARE important! You became a RURITAN!

It is hard work and time consuming when someone volunteers as a Ruritan, however, working side-by-side with other Ruritan members builds relationships that enrich our lives.

These moments of fellowship and service benefit all individuals that are involved.

Remember, Ruritan clubs are made up of volunteers.

When we take up our cross, it is a volunteer thing, a deliberate cross that we decide to do.

When we fail to follow through on our expectations, we lose the interest of those new members and soon their membership.

Most clubs will say that their clubs do not earn money to keep or horde it for the club.

If that is truly the case, why do many of our clubs have thousands of dollars in our treasury? Why are we not spending this money to grow Ruritan?

It is clear that much of the activity in our world is for monetary profit or applause or recognition, but here is the difference.

People filled with God's spirit seek to be agents of love, hope, and redemption. As we do so, the Holy Spirit is able to glorify Christ through us.

I know that the efforts of your Ruritan club have not gone unnoticed. I have personally seen many Ruritans doing great things and always giving their best to improve life in their communities.

Ruritan needs hope, the hope of growth for the future. I want to work with individuals who are willing to give of themselves to grow this organization.

I want to serve people and that is the initiative that I want to make tonight, to serve and walk among the people of Ruritan.

Not higher than you but right beside you. You may see me serving food at a Ruritan dinner or clearing the table after you have eaten your dinner. That is what a good Ruritan does.

We are not afraid to get our hands dirty. Let me stand beside the person who makes things happen. I am perfectly willing to do that.

As an officer of Ruritan National, we need to be willing to give of ourselves as the members of this great

organization gave of themselves every day working to help others.

We have got to let people know that we care about them and that starts with us, the officers of Ruritan National. We need to lead by example.

The position that we hold as elected officials in this organization is because of the faith others have in us. Let's make those individuals proud of what we are doing for the good of all Ruritans.

We need to show our support and that we do care for others and are willing to work for them and with them. Please, remember one thing, "People do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care."

We have been told by a "wise old man" (O. H. Bobbitt) to "Think outside the book," and "To be the change...Not the conversation!" What was good for Ruritan yesterday is not necessarily good for Ruritan today !!!

The club meeting format in the handbook is a guideline for us, but clubs can conduct their meetings in a way to make their clubs successful. We need to focus on the club's community involvement and projects that they do. Clubs need to do a self-evaluation within their community to make sure they know what is needed by that community. We should be asking, "What can Ruritan do for your community?" In the terms of leadership, we need to encourage members to take a leadership role in everything that they do in Ruritan. Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision.

It is the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results. Teamwork makes the dream work.

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry. Our lives are woven together for a reason. One of the best things to hold onto in this world is a FRIEND. Wise words from National Director Susan Greisz's dad --- "The tender loving care of human beings will never become obsolete. As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands.....one for helping yourself and the other for helping others." A note on the wall of the Willoway Complex where we stayed in Sutherland, Iowa reads "Vision without action is merely a dream, action without vision just passes the time, and vision with action can change the world." You hold a wealth of people sharing; this is Ruritan . . . people caring!

Let's change the world!!!!!!



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.

2018 Charleston National Convention Recap

The 2018 Ruritan National Convention held in Charleston, SC was a memorable, informational, and educational convention. National officers were elected and installed, awards were presented, donations were given, business was conducted, and Ruritans enjoyed fellowship.

Conventions activities started on Wednesday, January 17, with the opening of the exhibits that included the Ruritan Foundation Silent Auction and Shumsky's, our Ruritan supply partner. On Thursday morning, President Elect Guy Cox led the training of the 2018 Ruritan Governors. The convention officially opened on Thursday evening with the Vespers-Opening Dinner. The memorial service was led by Ronald Tomlin, Zone Governor from the Peaks of Otter District, and a flag ceremony was presented by



2018 Peaks of Otter District Secretary Carol Tyler carries the torch with 2017 National President Danny Privott in memory of Past National Director Betty Moore.

Steve Siemens conducted the Vespers Service as well as a workshop during the convention. The evening concluded with the President's Reception.



Pictured (l-r) are 2017 National President's Opening Ceremony escorts Carol Tyler, Foster Parrish, Debbie Parrish, JoAnn Wenger, Joe Jaynes, and Katharine Allen.

Friday's activities began with morning workshops with many great topics such as: Lost Charleston: The Story of how Charleston Became America's Best Preserved Historic City, The ALS Association of North Carolina,



Funding Your Committee Service Projects, and many others. The Friday morning business session was held and reports were given, candidates made speeches, donations of Rudy Bears were made to the North Charleston Police and Fire Departments, and The Rudy Youth of the Year Award for 2017 was presented to Madison Kelly, a member of the Mount Crawford Ruritan Club and the Turner-Ashby Ruri-Teen Club in the Rockingham District. Madison spent over 800 hours on club projects, has served as committee chair, and President of the Turner Ashby Ruri-Teen Club, as well as been very active in her regular club. The Ruri-Teen of the Year Award was presented to Sarah Birkholz from the South Stokes Ruri-Teen Club in the Piedmont District. Sarah has served as club president



Pictured (l-r) are Ruritan of the Year Katharine Allen, Rudy Youth of the Year Madison Kelly, and Ruri-Teen of the Year Sarah Birkholz.



Pictured (l-r) are Foundation Trustee Graham Bryant, 2017 Foundation President Pat Davis, Foundation Trustees Brent Wheeler, Corky Camin, O.H. Bobbitt III, and 2018 Foundation President Jayson Duncan.





Pictured is 2008 National President Joe Pancione installing Clinton Guy Cox as the 2018 Ruritan National President while First Lady Linda looks on.

and as a committee chair for two committees. She completed 10 projects and spent 160 hours on club projects. Additionally, she plays volleyball and softball for her high school and participates in 4-H, FFA, and the Beta Club. The Ruritan of the Year for 2017 is Katharine Allen of the Rewastico Creek Club in the Delmarva-NJ District. Katharine has served as her club president, vice president, and secretary for over 20 years. She has been a zone governor for 20 years and served as district secretary. Katharine has spent 800 hours on community service projects and has completed 62 club projects. She is active in her church, the local Garden Club, and the Farm and Home Show. Friday afternoon activities included the First Lady's Luncheon where First Lady Linda Privott presented a check to the ALS Chapter of North Carolina and to the Jim Catfish Hunter Foundation. The DRM's were recognized for organizing new clubs and guest speaker Jane Herlong entertained the crowd with an inspirational message. Friday afternoon continued with voting and attendees taking the time to visit downtown Charleston. The evening concluded with the

Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration and live auction.

Saturday began with workshops in the morning followed by the second business meeting, a special afternoon workshop, and the Installation Banquet. 2018 National President Clinton "Guy" Cox, President Elect Larry Cassell, National Treasurer David Thompson, seven three-years National Directors (Dennis Bagnell, Larry Bowman, Lynn Fillers, Cassandra Flanagan, Edward "Ed" Hicks, Donna Jo Poulton, and Timothy Spittle), and one two-year National Director (Robin Davenport) was installed. Jayson Duncan was installed as Foundation President and Graham Bryant as Foundation Trustee. The evening ended with a fantastic performance by Rocky Hock Opry.



**Foundation President
Jayson Duncan**



**Foundation Trustee
Graham Bryant**



**National President Elect
Larry Cassell**



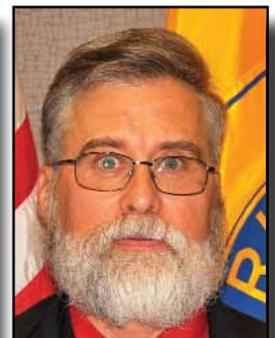
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**National Director
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**National Director
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**National Director
Lynn Fillers**



**National Director
Cassandra Flanagan**



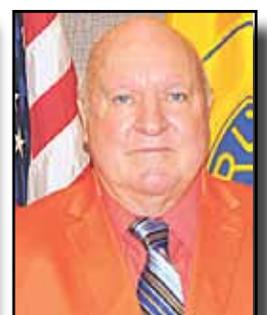
**National Director
Ed Hicks**



**National Director
Donna Poulton**



**National Director
Tim Spittle**



**National Director
2-Year Term
Robin Davenport**

Delegates Approve Bylaw Amendments

Delegates to the 2018 Ruritan National Convention in Charleston SC approved three amendments to the national bylaws.

The first amendment to the national bylaws calls for ARTICLE III, Membership/Members, Section 3. Classifications. Be amended by adding the following after item "G".

H. Affiliate. 1. Ruritan Affiliate Members shall be comprised solely of members who have dropped from a local Club but want to remain affiliated with Ruritan. Affiliate members will not be associated with any Club or District. 2. The purpose of Affiliate Membership is to allow members to maintain contact with Ruritan and continue to support this organization. Affiliate members can choose to change to a regular Club member at any time upon approval of a local Club.

This bylaws amendment creates a new club – Ruritan Affiliate Club – with members who are not connected to any other club or district. The idea is to capture Ruritan members who have dropped from existing clubs by inviting them to remain as an affiliate member in order to maintain them in the Ruritan family.

For example some of the members in the net loss of 848 members in 2016 (at a cost of \$37,312) might have been preserved as affiliate members. Anyone who drops from Ruritan will be contacted by email or mail soon after leaving the organization and offered the option to become an affiliate member.

NOTE: Club secretaries should be careful to note the deceased dates of any members who have died, rather than just dropping them, so we don't inadvertently send correspondence to their homes.

The second national bylaws amendment that passed approved Article V, Officers, be amended by striking text and replacing text as outlined below: Section 1. Elected Officers. Be amended by striking, "The elected officers of Ruritan National shall be a ~~president~~, a president-elect, a secretary, a treasurer, and twenty-one national directors."

Article V, Officers, Section 3. Term of Office. A. President. "~~Shall be elected annually in a manner prescribed in these bylaws and hold office for one (1) year or until a successor is elected and installed.~~"

Article V, Section 3. Term of Office. A. President. Strike all and replace with, "The President-Elect after completing their term, shall be installed as President for a term of one (1) year unless otherwise prescribed in these bylaws."

Article V, Officers, Section 4. Vacancy in Office. Be amended by adding, "In the event of a vacancy of the office of President-Elect, a special election for President will be held at the next National Convention"

This was a housekeeping measure for Sections 1 & 3 and to address the issue of how to fill the untimely vacancy of the President-Elect. Since we do not elect a President but install the President-Elect into the office of President, we would need a special election for the President at the next National Convention.

The third national bylaws amendment that was approved references Article V, Section 3E - National Directors Which currently reads, "Twenty-one directors will be elected for a three (3) year term. Seven (7) will be elected for a full term each year with no more than two (2) elected for full terms from the same state in any one year. ~~No director who has completed a full three (3) year term will be eligible for re-election until a lapse of one (1) year.~~" Strike the last sentence from Article V, Section 3E. National Directors. "No director who has completed a full three (3) year term will be eligible for re-election until a lapse of one (1) year."

This amendment brings consistency to the Bylaws regarding the eligibility for re-election of our National Treasurer, National Secretary and National Directors.

NOTE: If you have youth under age 18 in your pictures Ruritan National requires that you also send the appropriate signed permission forms for their photographs to be published. If you need a copy of the standard Ruritan "photo consent form" please contact our office or check the Ruritan National website.

How to Make Your Embassy Suites Room Reservations for 2019 National Convention - Hampton, Virginia



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Group Rates: Single through Quadruple Occupancy is \$123.00 per suite, per night plus taxes; for occupancy over four adults (adults 18yrs. and older) please add \$10.00 for each additional adult occupant. Taxes are 14% per suite, per night plus there is a city tax of \$1.00 per room, per night on all reservations.

A King maximum occupancy is four people per suite, and a two-double bedded suite maximum occupancy is six people. Each room type has a sleeper sofa in the living room.

Please make your group rate reservation as soon as possible as availability is subject to change. By receiving this information, you are not guaranteed a reservation at the group rate. You must make your individual reservation following the above procedure and receive a confirmation number to have a guaranteed reservation. **Group Reservations Cut Off Date is Friday, December 14, 2018** but availability is subject to change and this block may not have availability at a future date.



Message From 2018 Foundation President Jayson Duncan

Happy 50th Birthday to the Ruritan National Foundation



At the National Convention in 1968, the members voted to start the Ruritan National Foundation. We have spent the past 50 years giving scholarships and grants as our way of community service. The Foundation will continue this journey with your help and support. The Foundation would like to say

“Thank You” for your support in the past and in the future.

As part of the birthday celebration, the Foundation is offering a beautiful 50th anniversary pin (pictured on the right) in exchange for a \$50 donation. This promotion will be limited to this year so contact the Ruritan National Office, your District Promotion Chair, a Foundation Trustee or go to the Ruritan National website.

Your Foundation Trustees are also asking each club to become a \$10 per member “Birthday Club.” You will receive a plaque at your district convention and you can have your donation added to a permanent fund of your choice. This is an opportunity for your club to give back to the Foundation.

We continue to encourage clubs to give the Tom Downing Fellow Award to club or community members who have gone above and beyond to make your community a better place to live. This award cost \$500 and honors a recipient with the highest honor Ruritans can give.

The Trustees are happy to announce that if your club participated in the Build Your Dollar program during 2017, you will receive a \$600 check when you send in the name of your scholarship winner. In order to receive your \$600, your club representative will need



be accompanied by the Build Your Dollar Deposit Form and postmarked on or before October 1, 2018, for your club to be eligible.

The Ruritan National website has all the forms you will need to work donate and apply for all the Foundation programs. I encourage you to contact your District Foundation leaders, your Foundation Trustees, or the National Office for information, questions, or programs on the Foundation. Pictured on the left is Fran Bristow receiving a Tom Downing Fellow Award and both Fran and Jimmy Bristow receiving a 50th anniversary pin from Ruritan Foundation President Jayson Duncan. Past National Director Joe Jaynes and current National Director Glen Broadwater received Tom Downing Fellow Awards at the National Convention in Charleston.

Ruritan National Foundation

2018 Board of Trustees

President: Jayson Duncan

Vice President: Corky Camin

Secretary: Graham Bryant

Treasurer: Brent Wheeler

Promotion Chair: O.H. Bobbitt III



to complete the one-page Build Your Dollar Claim Form and submit it to the Foundation by June 30, 2018. To participate next year, your club must make a deposit of \$300 in order to reserve a Build Your Dollar award for your

club’s scholarship recipient. Your club’s check must

Ruritan WANTED Prizes Now Include Lifetime Membership

For the sixth year, Ruritan will continue the WANTED contest - a way for you to bring members into Ruritan and qualify for prize drawings. A drawing will be held at the end of each quarter in 2018 with three prizes. The awards will be a Ruritan Forever lifetime membership for each name drawn (\$600 value). Three names will be drawn each quarter.

Should the winner already have a Ruritan Forever membership, the winner may either use the award for membership in a second club, transfer the Ruritan Forever membership to another person, or choose to take a \$300 cash award.

The new members brought in must be full, associate, or youth in a regular Ruritan club. Participants who bring in more than one member will get exponentially more chances at the quarterly drawing. For example – if you bring in one member you get one chance.

However two members gets you two chances plus the original one chance. Three members gives you three chances, PLUS two chances, plus the original one chance – for a total of **six chances!** Bring in a member at least five years younger than you and earn an additional five chances.

You can print your own Ruritan WANTED money from the Ruritan National website.

If you are not using the WANTED money entry form, the member bringing in the new members must send in the following information for each chance and the new member will be confirmed through Ruritan membership records: sponsoring member's name, club, district, and phone number as well as the new member's name and status (i.e. full, associate, or youth). If you want the extra chances for recruiting a member at least five years younger than you are - be sure and include your year of birth and your new member's year of birth.

Mail each entry to:

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

WANTED CONTEST

WITH
"Me Minus Five"
Bonus Chances

Bring in a member five years younger than you and earn an additional five chances. (Prize details on back.)



One entry per member - staff will calculate your extra chances. Mail to WANTED, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

WANTED CONTEST

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"Me Minus Five"
Bonus Chances**

Bring in a member five years younger than you and earn an additional five chances. *(Prize details on back.)*



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Bring in a member five years younger than you and earn an additional five chances. *(Prize details on back.)*



One entry per member - staff will calculate your extra chances. Mail to WANTED, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

Contest Rules

- Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect.
- New members must be full, associate or youth.
- One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1 + 2 chances. Three members get 1 + 2 + 3 chances and so on.
- If the new member is at least five years younger than you, earn 5 extra chances (provide dates of birth for both of you).
- Three winners drawn each quarter will receive Ruritan Forever memberships. Should the winner already have an RF membership, they either use the award for membership in a second club, transfer the RF membership to another person, or choose \$300 in cash.

Signing Member (print)

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date of birth: _____

New member (print)

Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____

Contest Rules

- Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect.
- New members must be full, associate or youth.
- One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1 + 2 chances. Three members get 1 + 2 + 3 chances and so on.
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- Three winners drawn each quarter will receive Ruritan Forever memberships. Should the winner already have an RF membership, they either use the award for membership in a second club, transfer the RF membership to another person, or choose \$300 in cash.

Signing Member (print)

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date of birth: _____

New member (print)

Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____

Contest Rules

- Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect.
- New members must be full, associate or youth.
- One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1 + 2 chances. Three members get 1 + 2 + 3 chances and so on.
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Signing Member (print)

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date of birth: _____

New member (print)

Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____

Contest Rules

- Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect.
- New members must be full, associate or youth.
- One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1 + 2 chances. Three members get 1 + 2 + 3 chances and so on.
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Signing Member (print)

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date of birth: _____

New member (print)

Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____



Founders' Day 2018

Save the Date

Come Celebrate 90 Years of Ruritan!

***Join us for the celebration on May 19, 2018, in Holland, Virginia!
Events will include a huge parade, wreath laying, car show,
BBQ cook-off, children's games,
evening banquet, beach music concert, and spectacular fireworks display!***



- To enter your float, car, or antique vehicle in the parade, Contact Ronald Daughtrey at 757-657-9811 or rcdaughtrey@aol.com.
- Enter a team in the BBQ Cook-Off for the recognition as the best cooks in all of Ruritan! Contact Donald Worrell at 757-657-6425 or donald.worrel@yahoo.com.
- For banquet tickets contact Clay Byrum at aba123321@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 seating is limited-**please reserve seats early!**
- Banquet is held at the Holland Community House and begins at 5:30 p.m.
- Guests may book rooms at the Hampton Inn, 1017 Centerbrooke Lane, Suffolk, VA 23434 (phone 757-935-5880).
- For car show information contact Curtiss Johnson at (phone 757-621-4961).

Ruritan Supply Shipping Cost Reduced!



Shipping has been reduced to \$3.50 on all ground orders effective immediately!

RURITAN SUPPLY



You Asked & We Listened

As your preferred supplier, Shumsky continues to listen to your feedback and requests. We ensure excellent customer service and continue to enhance the Ruritan Supply Site. Effective immediately, shipping costs have been reduced to \$3.50 on all ground orders.

Take Advantage of these Huge Savings!

ruritan.shumskypromo.com

Questions?

Michelle Monhollen
Customer Service
(800) 414-8946
mmm@shumsky.com



Plan to Attend the Summer Leadership Conference



All 2018 Ruritan District Lieutenant Governors should plan to attend the 2018 Summer Leadership Conference in Dublin, VA at the New River Community College on June 14-16, 2018.

2018 President Elect Larry Cassell would also like to encourage any member of your district cabinet to attend this conference for a nominal fee. One area of concern for all Ruritan members is the growth of the organization. We will have some “experts” that have built Ruritan membership and Ruritan clubs and they will give some useful advice on how you can build your clubs and districts. President Elect Larry and the Leadership Committee are planning the training around the theme: *LET’S GET TALKED ABOUT*. There will be classes that will benefit all Ruritans.

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 the responsibilities needed to accomplish a higher position they may wish to seek and encourages them to move up in their leadership roles. Information on the conference’s content and cost will be sent to 2018 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. 2018 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 at the conference. Allowances will be made for distance and gender-related exceptions. District officers should also note that 2018 District Lt. Governors (according to policy, only if you become the incoming District Governor for 2019) and the 2018 District Governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2019 National Convention in Hampton, VA provided the following are met:

1. They attend the June 2018 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by the National President);
2. They attend the Governors’ Training at the 2019 National Convention;
3. They attend substantially all meetings at the 2019 National Convention;
4. Form R-35 must be received by Ruritan National no later than November 10 and Form R-36 must be received by Ruritan National no later than February 10; and
5. All expense vouchers must be submitted within 90 days after the 2019 National Convention.

President Elect Larry Cassell has requested that clubs send in ACTION SHOTS of club activities. He will be creating a slide-show for the Summer Leadership Conference. Email photographs to publications@ruritan.org or mail to: PO Box 487 Dublin, Virginia 24084. Deadline is May 31.



2018 Ruritan Youth Camp!



Make this camp a part of your 2018 summer fun!

Send youth or come as a chaperone!

Date: June 22-24, 2018

**Location: 4-H Conference Center
Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, VA.**

Cost: \$150/person

Activities include: climbing wall, fishing, canoeing, hiking, horse back riding, riflery, archery, a pool, etc.

Promote this camp by sending as many youth as you can or by donating to this years community service project sponsored by the 2018 Ruritan Youth Camp!

For more information or registration packet, please contact Amanda Ramirez at Ruritan National, toll free 1-877-787-8727 ext. 302 or email her at foundation@ruritan.org.

Deadline for completed registration forms and payment is June 1, 2018.





2018 Ruritan Youth Camp Registration Form for June 22-24th



*W. E. Shelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake
775 Hermitage Road - Wirtz, Virginia - 24184*

Registration forms, all completed paper work, and payment of \$150 per person are due by May 22nd, 2018.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Male Female

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Preferred Badge Name _____

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes, circle the size you need)

Small Medium Large XL

XXL 3XL Other _____

I am registering as (circle one option on each line)

Ruritan Member	Yes	No
Non-Ruritan Member	Yes	No
Adult Chaperone	Yes	No
Youth Camper	Yes	No
1 st Time Attendee	Yes	No

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Parent Email _____

Send Registration Packet Via: (Mark 1 Option Below)

Mail Email

Payment Information:

Check # _____

Visa/Mastercard

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3 or 4 Digit Code on back _____

Full Registration Packet is available online at <http://www.ruritan.org>

2018 Project Focuses on Homeless Students

Getting Started

Contact your local school board and set up an appointment with the designated School Attendance Coordinator and/or the appointed "Homeless Liaison." The purpose is to find out if there are programs already in place and if so, how can your club support their program.

You may also find that no support system is available and in this instance, you are free to create your own, based upon need.

After compiling all the information, report back to the club and begin by setting a goal and creating a strategy that the club can support. Check with the school to see what their students need. Again, meet with the Coordinator/Liaison and develop a system that is acceptable for both parties.

Expenditures for

Homeless Students

- Items of clothing: clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes,
- Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general educational programs,
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks,
- Medical and dental (monetary) needs,
- Eyeglasses,
- Stethoscope for nursing classes,
- Pens, pencils, spiral notebooks, erasers, calculators, glue sticks, zippered binders, book bags, etc.,
- Personal hygiene supplies such as towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, deodorants, combs, nail clippers and files, shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpaste, acne products, etc.

The National Center for Homelessness Education (NCHE) supports educators, service providers, parents, community members, and others interested in the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

NCHE HELPLINE: 1-800-308-2145
<https://nche.ed.gov/>



There are homeless students in nearly every school system in America. In 2018, First Lady Linda Cox is asking Ruritan Clubs to reach out, through the schools in their communities, to provide assistance to these students in the form of:

- **Clothing**
- **School Supplies**
- **Eyeglasses**
- **Medical assistance, and more**

Purpose of Project

To encourage homeless students to participate academically and socially in school in order to better their present and future lives and to relieve some of their stress. We want them to know that people within the community care about them. Our goal is to see them succeed.

Donations of Time by Club Members

Any club members can donate time by:

- Helping pack bags for distribution,
- Shopping for necessary supplies,
- Tutoring after school, and
- Volunteering to read to grade-school children.

Results of Being Homeless

- Lack of self-esteem
- Poor school attendance
- Poor study habits
- Grades dropping dramatically
- Lack of participation in school activities
- Seclusion
- Lack of self-control (temper)
- Lack of self confidence
- School dropouts
- Emotional issues
- Shunning/shaming due to lack of adequate clothing and/or school supplies

The experiences children have in elementary and middle school affect their readiness and willingness to finish high school and any appropriate post-secondary education, impacting their futures.

Social skills and social networks developed in school provide important supports,

both emotionally and academically, and may help the student finish school even when their lives are difficult.

Results of a Support System

- Improved grades
- Increase in school attendance
- Positive social interaction
- Positive self-esteem
- Desire to succeed
- Development of social skills
- Pride in themselves and their accomplishments
- A strong sense of community involvement for future endeavors
- A desire to "give back" to those less fortunate
- Ultimate Goal: GRADUATE

Download the complete brochure from the Ruritan website at

<http://ruritan.org.temp.realssl.com/library/485.pdf>



Ruritan Forever

A Perpetual Life Plan

*Protecting and preserving Ruritan
as a legacy for future generations.*

“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 life-time participant of the National Organization. Ruritan National will invest these pre-payments in a special managed fund, transferring the dues quarterly to the business office of Ruritan National. Even after the life participant dies, dues will be transferred quarterly to Ruritan National, thus offering a perpetual memorial to the organization on behalf of the deceased Ruritan.

A “Ruritan Forever” endowment may be purchased by a member in good standing or may be purchased for a member in good standing. A Ruritan Forever endowment may be purchased to honor a non-member provided they are brought into a club as an Associate Member at the same time. In this case the Associate Member’s dues would be covered by the \$600 endowment.

The lifetime endowment may also be purchased in

memory of an already deceased Ruritan, ensuring an ongoing contribution to the operation of Ruritan in his or her name. Dues for a living participant must be current through the previous quarter to participate. Ruritan National will administer these prepaid dues in a separate fund with the original amount remaining in perpetuity. Interest on the fund will provide the money paid to Ruritan National for dues.

Upon payment of the fee, the Ruritan will receive a certificate, a lapel pin, and a permanent life participant card. For endowments purchased for a deceased member a special plaque will be provided for the club to present to the deceased member’s family. **National** dues increases will have no effect on participants enrolled in the plan, although the purchase price of \$600 for new enrollees may be adjusted over the years as necessary. There will be no special assessments or charges made to Ruritan Forever participants.

Please detach or photocopy this portion if you would like to participate in this endowment plan to secure the future of Ruritan, in your name or in the name of a fellow Ruritan.

Your Name: _____

Your Club Name: _____

Your Address: _____ Telephone: _____

This application is for: (check one)

Myself Current Member Deceased Ruritan NEW Associate Member

Name of Applicant (If not you): _____

Applicant’s Club: _____

Applicant’s Address: _____

OPTION #1 Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

OPTION #2 Enclosed please find a check/money order for \$600

OPTION #3 Enclosed please find the 1st \$200 installment of the \$600 Ruritan Forever fee.

I understand the perpetual life endowment will not begin until the entire \$600 has been paid.

Graham Bryant Presents Foundation's 50th Anniversary Pin



Woody Dunn from the **Joyner-Gray-Yale** Ruritan Club and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter and First Gentleman Bill Lewter from the **Great Bridge** Ruritan Club received their Ruritan National Foundation 50th anniversary commemorative pins from Graham Bryant, newly-elected Foundation Trustee. Graham explained that this pin is to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Ruritan National Foundation and is available for this year only. Pictured are Woody Dunn with Trustee Graham and Phyllis and Bill Lewter with Trustee Graham.



Raymond Warren Named Waverly Ruritan of the Year



Vernon Teall installed **Waverly** Ruritan Club officers during the club's "Ladies Night." Pictured (l-r) are Waverly Board of Directors (Raymond Warren, Eddie Gilbert, and Bobby Morris,) Club Treasurer Terry Adams, Club Secretary George Collins, Club Vice President Kenny Bell, and Club President Ronnie Nicholson. 2017 Club President Jamie Rosser presented Raymond Warren with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award.



Raymond Warren with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award.

Steve Butler Named Grand Marshal

Steve Butler, a 58-year member of the **Carrsville** Ruritan Club was honored by the club and named the Grand Marshal of the club's annual Christmas parade. Butler served as Carrsville Club Secretary for over 25 years and has served as Carrsville Club President.



Donald Horsley Received 2017 Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame Award



Donald Horsley, a member of the **Creeds** Ruritan Club is an accomplished pork, beef, and crop farmer, a magnetic livestock and agricultural leader, and a model for 4-H youth development. His awards include Sunbelt Virginia Farmer of the Year 2011, Virginia Pork All-American 1986, and Virginia Pork Industry Service Award. He is a dedicated family man and a community servant. His latest award is the 2017 Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame. The City of Virginia Beach and the Creeds Ruritan Club salute Don.

Abingdon Participates in Wreath Laying Ceremony



Abingdon Ruritan Club was one of a number of organizations participating in the Middle Peninsula Detachment #1317 Marine Corps League's wreath laying ceremony at the Gloucester Courthouse on Sunday, November 12, 2017. Citizenship and Patriotism

Committee Chair Yvonne Scales laid the club's wreath. Representing the club at the ceremony are pictured in the front (l-r) Yvonne Scales and Abingdon Club President Mike Davis. Pictured in the back (l-r) are David and Dottie Dea, Allen Scales, and Bunny and Mike Ekdahl. (Not pictured is Sid Dugas.) The club donated \$500 to the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office's "Shop with a Cop" program. Captain John Schick (left) accepted the check from Abingdon Club President Mike Davis.

Montpelier Presents Rudy Bears

Montpelier Ruritan Club member Dan Johnson presented Rudy Bears to the West Hanover Fire, EMS department staff, and to LT. Colonel Allen Davidson of the Hanover Sheriff's Department.



Warwick Sells Dog Biscuits

Warwick Ruritan Club member Dave Gwaltney and his Personalized Dog Biscuit team Hope Churchill, Peggy Tank, Jeanne Laurent, and Chris Gwaltney are shown preparing for their shift.

Gowns for Hounds volunteers Joyce Miller, Lesa Hanlin, and Morgan Shepherd are shown preparing to work Warwick's Ruritan Club's personalized dog biscuit sales.



Give Rudy Bears



Purchase Rudy Bears by calling 800-414-8946 or visit the website: www.ruritan.shumskypromo.com

DISTRICT/AREA GROWTH AWARDS			
District	% Growth	2018 Governor	2017 Governor
SMALL DISTRICTS 500 MEMBERS OR LESS			
Smoky Mountain	7.12%	Curtis Thomas	Lynn Fillers
MEDIUM DISTRICTS 501-1000 MEMBERS			
Woodrow Wilson	1.19%	Elaine Barr	Ed Hicks
LARGE DISTRICTS 1001 + MEMBERS			
Rockingham	1.30%	Carroll Keller	Martha Moyers
AREA			
New York	2.13%	None Listed	None Listed

News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District



Bealeton-Remington Ruritan Club participated in the community's National Night out in July and collected Toys for Tots with the Remington Fire and Rescue. Rudy Bear (Will Ashby) made the event more memorable.

News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

Carol and Franklin Dover Named Clarksville Ruritans of the Year



Clarksville Ruritan Club celebrated another successful year and honored club members at their banquet in December. Loren and Dianne Johnson were given the President's Award for countless hours of work. Dianne volunteers for the Thrift Shop, 4th of July Parade, and helped create this year's award-winning scrapbook. Loren is the club's photographer and chairman

of the Buffalo Road clean-up crew. Carol and Franklin Dover were named Ruritans of the Year for continued work with the Friday night dance, parade, and scholarship committee. The club honored and lit candles for five members who passed away in 2017. Pictured are Scholarship Committee

members Nancy Talley, Chris Bailey, Carol Henderson, and Patricia Jutz finalizing applications for scholarship awards totaling \$75,000.

News From Ruritan: Southwest Virginia District



Rye Valley Ruritan Club won first place for its float in the Sugar Grove Christmas Parade.

CLUB GROWTH AWARDS			
Club	% Growth	2017 Club President	2018 Club President
SMALL CLUBS (16 TO 35 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Karns (TN)	150%	Mike Ray	TBD
Mountain View (NC)	100%	Tommy Sidden	Tommy Sidden
Northeast (NC)	63.6%	Brian Jones	William Hanchey
Lovington (VA)	61.1%	Gary Sherwood	Gary Sherwood
Union (VA)	60%	Dianne Simmons	TBD
MEDIUM CLUBS (36 TO 75 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Glendale (VA)	26.8%	Joseph Osbourne	TBD
Highland Park (TN)	18.8%	Vonnie Myers	Walton Cook
Elmsore Community (KS)	17.8%	Johnny Gillham	Melissa Fewins
North River (VA)	17.6%	Randy Johnson	William Ware
Bloomingsdale (TN)	17.6%	Keith Ragsdale	Rodger Jones
LARGE CLUBS (OVER 76 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Stonewall District (VA)	2.30%	Michael Goode	Wilson Gilbert

News From Ruritan: Natural Bridge District

Robert Rice and Roger Bradley Receive Tom Downing Fellow Awards

Glasgow Ruritan Charter members Robert Earl Rice and Roger Bradley were presented with a Tom Downing Fellow Award. Pictured (l-r) are 2017 Glasgow Club Vice President Lynda Miller, Robert Earl Rice, 2017 Natural Bridge District Governor Jim Frazier, Roger Bradley, and 2017 Club President Jimmy Sampson.



News From Ruritan: Woodrow Wilson District



Beverly Manor Sings Christmas Carols

Beverly Manor Ruritan Club joined by members of the Hebron Presbyterian Church Choir, sang Christmas carols to residents at

Legacy at North Augusta Senior Living Center. Pictured (l-r) are Lynn White, Theresa Moore, Elaine Wyche, Keith Senderak, Sylvia Carter, Bryan Woodward, Shirley Fallin, Mike Fallin, Rob Longacher, Edna Stone, and Robin Ruleman. Not pictured are Chris Senderak and Joan Wright, who accompanied on piano.

News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

Luray Continues Good Work

Each year **Luray** Ruritan Club recognizes good stewardship of the earth in an award called the Rudy Bear Environmental Award. Environmental Committee Chair Joe Huffman presented a plaque and honorarium to Sheriff Chad Cubbage for his efforts in creating an inmate garden. The club honors one business professional. The Whispering Pines Assisted Living Center on

Leaksville Road was selected for the good work they do every day. Pictured (l-r) are Valley Care Management Randy Atkins, Whispering Pines Administrator Susan Saunders, Luray Club Secretary Irma Housden, and Business and Professions Committee Chair Tim Rocke. The club, along with Rudy Bear, presented dictionaries to grade 3 children at Mt. Carmel Christian Academy and Luray Elementary School. The club has been providing dictionaries to Luray Elementary School for many years and recently added Mount Carmel Christian Academy. Also, five United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) cleaning kit buckets were filled. Members brought items for flood victims to the club meeting. Robert Stevenson, Luray Club President Dave Naser, and Ron Vickers sorted the items and added them to the church collection site.



Bridgewater Presents Awards



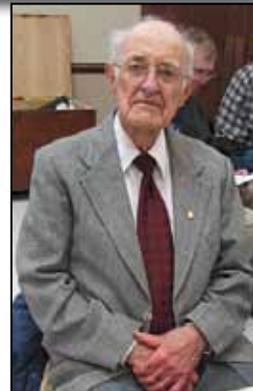
Bridgewater Ruritan Club presented its first "David Evick Fair Volunteer Award" to Linda Vaughan. This award was named after the late David Evick who was a loyal member of the club. Evick's widow Laura and daughter Madison presented the award. Linda is shown working the Fry Shack during the Rockingham County Fair, a major fundraiser for the club. Pictured top right (l-r) are Laura and Madison



Evick, Bridgewater Club member and Fair Association Vice President Ron Williams, Linda Vaughan, and Linda's grandson Peyton.



Harold Good received a pin to celebrate his 55 years of membership in the club. Bridgewater Club President Rick Wampler is shown presenting a certificate of appreciation to Leon Rhodes for serving 18 years as Bridgewater Club Reporter. Rhodes has been a member since 1961 and built the speaker's lectern for the club in 1999. He celebrated his 91st birthday at the club meeting. "Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live," said Rhodes.



Belmont Community and Fulks Run Install New Officers



Past District Governor Dan Brubaker installed **Belmont Community** Ruritan Club's 2018 officers. Belmont Community Vice President Harold Myers, Club President Carol Myers, Secretary/Treasurer Rick Keyton, Club Directors Larry Detamore, Gary Simmons, and Pat Raynes. Rick Keyton was recognized as the Belmont Ruritan Club's Ruritan of the Year.

2017 Rockingham Lt. Governor Carroll Keller installed **Fulks Run** Ruritan Club's 2018 Officers at its annual Christmas supper. Pictured right (l-r) are Fulks Run Club President



Chuck DeHart, Vice President Janna Blosser, Secretary Lena Custer, and Treasurer Larry McNally.



Paula Frazier and Mary Smith Receive Ruritan of the Year Awards

Rockingham Luncheon Club Secretary JoAnn Wenger (c) presented the Club Ruritan of the Year Awards to Rockingham Luncheon Vice President Paula Frazier (l) and Mary Smith (r). The club donated \$50 for each recipient to the Ruritan National Foundation. Past Rockingham District Governor James Driver installed Paula Frazier as the new Rockingham Luncheon Club President.

Attention Club Officers! We Need Your Email Address!

Please call the National Office and speak to Diane Toll free: 877-787-8727 ext. 306

Elkton Middle School Ruri-Teen Club Chartered



On November 20, 2017, the **Elkton Middle School** Ruri-Teen Club was chartered. McGaheysville Ruritan Club was the sponsor. Elkton Middle School Ruri-Teen Club President Ayden Thompson and Vice President Abby Thompson accepted the charter from Rockingham District Governor Martha Moyers. Other club officers include Secretary Emily Eppard, Treasurer Olivia Simpkins, Historian Quinton Hensley, and sixth-grade representative Will Lucas. Also on hand for the charter were advisors Melissa Orndorff, Kelly Connor, and Jessica Kitta, Elkton Middle School Principal Dr. Ramona Pence, McGaheysville Club President Becky Lane, McGaheysville Club member Wayne Pence, Rockingham District Youth Activities Coordinator Jeff Roadcap. The Elkton Middle School Ruri-Teen Club plans to rake leaves, participate in the Elkton Christmas Parade, plant bulbs around the school and community, help the **McGaheysville** Ruritan Club with fundraisers, and power wash the track at the school. Pictured is Club President Ayden Thompson signing the charter.

McGaheysville Holds Veterans Memorial Dinner



McGaheysville Ruritan Club sponsored its 5th Annual Veterans Memorial Dinner. The oyster and seasoned chicken dinner is free to all veterans in the McGaheysville area. Approximately 80 veterans and club members were in attendance. The club was honored to have in attendance Charles Mock and John Schneider, two WWII Veterans who used a Ceremonial Sword for the cutting of the cake.



Starting this year, the dinner was renamed the "Don Hess Veterans Memorial Dinner." This was to honor McGaheysville Past Club member Don Hess who passed earlier this year. Don was a long-time member who chaired this event. Several highlights of this event included posting of colors by the James Madison University ROTC, cake cutting ceremony, and veteran fellowship.

Fort Valley Donates \$17,000 to Community



Fort Valley Ruritan Club's Christmas meeting was a celebration of the club's 2017 fundraising projects. The club donated nearly \$15,000 to the Fort Valley area and volunteered 7,000 hours. In addition, the Fort Valley Volunteer Fire Department received \$2,000 from the club. Rockingham Zone 4 Governor Terry May installed the Fort Valley Ruritan Club officers for 2018. Two new members were inducted, the community citizen of the year was recognized, a donation of \$500 was presented to the Fort Valley Ladies Auxilliary, and they enjoyed holiday entertainment with a visit by Santa and his helper. Pictured (l-r) are Fort Valley Club Directors Terry Plauger and Wayne Orndorf, Treasurer John Gaunt, Secretary Tom Drinkwater, Director Bob Coverstone, Vice President Chris Chow, President Jeff Tidd, and Zone 4 Governor Terry May. Pictured left are Fran Crisman, Tim Stephens, and Larry Cave.

Maugansville and Shady Grove Honor Veterans



Maugansville Club members honored veterans with a free pancake breakfast. Over 700 were in attendance.

Shady Grove Ruritan Club hosted its 12th Annual Veterans Day Banquet on Nov 14, 2017, at the Shady Grove Community Center to recognize and offer their sincere gratitude to veterans for their sacrifice and dedicated military service. Pictured on the left in the front (l-r) are Chet Williams, Daniel Pentz, Allen Schooley, John Hykes, John Baer, and Larry Williams. Pictured in the back (l-r)

are Mike Young, Jack Lynch, Al Jimick, Calvin Farrar, Dick Walck, Don Olding, Travis Young, Hal Myers, Gary Shatzer, Tom Christophel, Bob Snyder, John Myers, Bob Gearhart, Bob Miller, and Jerry Wolf. **Shady Grove** Ruritan and Shady Grove Improvement Association (SGIA) have been serving local residents in the Shady Grove area for over 60 years. Each year the club awards scholarships to local college students, sponsors Cub Scout Pack 95, Boy Scout Troop 95, and Venture Crew 95. SGR and SGIA offer rental facilities to local residents. Facilities include an auditorium, kitchen, a picnic pavilion, children's playground, basketball court, tennis court, and ball fields used by Girls Fast Pitch Softball and the general community. SGIA is in the process of upgrading their children's playground to make it safer and handicapped accessible. SGIA is grateful to Manitowoc and BB&T Bank for contributions toward the project in 2017. Pictured (l-r) are Betsy Yumlu, Sandy Martin, Jerry Harness, Dave Kipp, Allen Schooley, and Marina Barnhart. Not pictured is Scott Slick.



Clubs Donate Generously

Lewistown Ruritan Club held Ladies' Night at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant. Guest speakers for the evening were Bobby Black and his granddaughter Katlyn of Catocin Mountain Orchards in Thurmont. They discussed their visit to Cuba with the National Orchard Growers Association. Annual donations were given to the following organizations (pictured l-r) are 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program

Dick Baseley, Thurmont Food Bank Odale Martin, Lewistown Fire Department Bob Stanley, 4-H Camp Center Jim Brown, Lewistown Methodist Church Ladies Auxiliary Gail Boggs, and Lewistown Elementary PTA Harold Staley. Additional donations were made to Catocin Safe and Sane Committee and RJ Strength, an association that purchases Christmas presents for children who have lost a parent/parents from opioid addiction. Donations were made possible by chicken barbeque sales.

The Pleasant Walk Homemakers of Frederick County and the **Mt. Pleasant** Ruritan Club presented the Frederick Rescue Mission with 24 Christmas stockings for residents. The Homemakers and the children who attended the club's Halloween party made the stockings. Pictured (l-r) are Mt. Pleasant Past Club President Trevella Foster, Rescue Mission Representative Tess Samuels, and Mt. Pleasant Club member Emily Sines.



Rocky Mt. Durham Clubs Give During the Holidays



Bethesda Ruritan Club participated in giving to the Angel Tree gifts for Bethesda Elementary. Pictured (l-r) are Bethesda Club Vice President Frankie Thompson, Club Treasurer Ray Watson, Club Director Danny Tharrington, Club President Norman Stallings, Club Secretary Joann Lee, National Director George Brothers, and Club Director Freddie McBroom. Not pictured are Club Directors Jan Hight and Charles Lee.

Bynum Ruritan Club held its holiday dinner at the Flame Restaurant. Club officers in attendance were Jerry and Judy Felinczak, Martha Collins, and Barney Collins. Robert Elmore and Barney Collins were recognized for having 30 years

of service to the club.

Each year during the Christmas holiday the **Coopers** Ruritan Club prepares fruit trays to distribute to elderly, shut-ins, and the sick. "This is a great community service that keeps club members involved with neighbors within our community," said Coopers Club Treasurer Jane Tyson.



Redwood Honors Veterans

Redwood Ruritan Club honored veterans with a catered meal. Redwood Club President Aaron Walker recognized each veteran individually. Past Redwood Club President Shirley Glasgow presented a commemorative coin to each veteran. Military Missions in Action Representative Mike Dorman was the speaker. Veterans in attendance were J.T. Glasgow, T.J. McCorkle, Morris Jones, Bobby Ray, Paul Rigsbee, James Ryan, Oliver Krahwinkel, Michael Dorman, Wayne Watson, Paul Pipkin, Harold Rigsbee, Tommy Shepherd, George Woods, Danny Taylor, Gary McLean, Rick Peareis, and Billy Battles.



Silk Hope Installs Club Officers

Silk Hope Ruritan Club opens the door for youth to become leaders in Silk Hope Ruritan Club by appointing them to serve as Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer positions. These appointments provide the youth the opportunity to be mentored into a leadership role. 2002 National

President Millard Thacker installed 2018 Silk Hope Club Officers which included Assistant Club Secretary and Assistant Club Treasurer.

Johnny Johnson (left) was selected as Silk Hope Club Ruritan of the Year. He serves as the Rocky Mt.-Durham Zone



1 Governor and Silk Hope Club Treasurer.

News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt. Durham District continued

Awards Presented at District Convention



2017 Rocky Mt. Durham District Governor Jeff Neese, Lt Governor Harold Rogers, and Zone Governor Johnny Johnson are shown giving **Tri County** Ruritan Club President Bernard Purvis and Club Secretary Bethany Nichols five Gold Community Service Awards at their District Convention. Neese also presented Tri County Charter members Debbie Hussey and Bernard Purvis with an



anniversary plaque for the club's 20th anniversary. **Rocky Mt. Durham** District Lt. Governor Harold Rogers is shown receiving his new Governor's pin from his wife Rita as National Director Carroll Lowe (left), Rocky Mt. Durham 2017 District Governor Jeff Neese, and Piedmont District Secretary Ron Reid looks on. District Governor Jeff Neese and Lt. Governor Harold Rogers



are shown presenting **West Edgecomb** Club President Ricky Pitt five Gold Community Service awards. They are joined by club members Gerald Pipkin and his wife Carla.

Neese presented Fran Bunn with a Ruritan Forever Award. Fran is accompanied by her husband Bob Bunn.

News From Ruritan: Greenville-Goldsboro District

New Hope Hosts Christmas Party



New Hope Ruritan Club hosted the Special Populations Christmas for the Goldsboro Parks and Recreation Special Development Department. The club provided refreshments. While Santa delivered his gifts, the attendees danced, ate, and socialized. This annual project brought special joy to those in attendance as well as the club members that participated. Pictured on the left in the back (l-r) are Bruce Wolfe, John Crocker, Kevin Reeves, Jackie Warrick, David Trivette, Eric Johnson, Gloria Johnson, Dewey Powell, and Nancy Dawson. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Barbara Walker, JoAnn Davis, and Holly Crocker. Pictured on the right

are 2018 club officers. In the back (l-r) are Greenville Goldsboro District Governor Curtis Rogers, New Hope Club

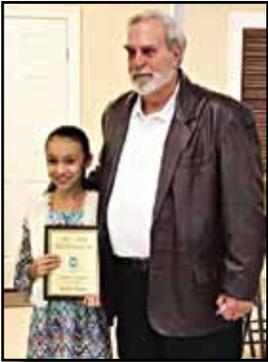


President Nancy Dawson, Secretary John Crocker, Vice President Kevin Reeves, and Past Club President Gary Smith. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Director Barbara Walker, and Treasurer Bruce Wolfe. Not pictured are Directors Seanna Copeland and Steve Radford.

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

News From Ruritan: Greenville-Goldsboro District continued



Pink Hill Holds Essay Contest

Pink Hill Ruritan Club's Citizenship and Patriotism Committee held its annual essay contest for fifth graders at Pink Hill Elementary School. Pink Hill Citizenship and Committee Chair Tom Yates presented first place to Jasmine Raines and runner-up to Skyler Pope.



News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

Piney Grove Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Piney Grove Ruritan Club celebrated its 40th anniversary. Approximately 60 people were in attendance. Special guests included 2017 National President Danny Privott and First Lady Linda Privott, 2017 Cape Fear District Governor Neil Guin and wife Lori, Greenville Goldsboro District Growth and Development Chair Jamie L. Keeter, Meadow Ruritan Club member David Godwin,



Bath Club member Elwood Swain, and several charter members from the Piney Grove Club. Community service projects such as the organization of the local fire department, community swimming pool, college scholarships, senior citizen service projects, and sponsorship of youth camp were discussed during the evening. Privott presented Piney



Grove Club President Roger Peterson with an anniversary plaque. Pictured top left is the head table. Pictured on the right (l-r) are Amir Corbett, Club President Roger Peterson, and Martin Holloman. Pictured left in the front (l-r) are Francis Clifton, G.J. Sullivan, and J.C. Oates. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Peterson, Wilbert Massey, Privott, Wilson Spencer, and David Oates.

Pictured bottom left are **Anderson Creek**

Ruritan Club's 2018 Club Officers. In the front are Secretary Yvonne Driver, President Donna Rigby, and Vice President Steve Rigby. In the back are Board members Jimmy Raynor and Marilyn Donovan and Co-Treasurers Holt Felmet and Johnny Reeves.

COMMUNICATION AWARDS	
2017 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Cherokee District
2nd	Chesapeake District
3rd	Upper WV District
2017 CLUB NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Mt. Sidney Ruritan Club (VA)
2nd	Rougemont Ruritan Club (NC)
3rd	Abingdon Ruritan Club (VA)
2017 CLUB WEBSITE AWARD	
1st	Abingdon Ruritan Club (VA)

News From Ruritan: Spartan District

Wren-Powdersville Celebrates 60th Anniversary



Wren-Powdersville Ruritan Club celebrated its 60th anniversary. 2017 National President Danny Privott presented Wren-Powdersville Club President Donald Gambrell with a 60th year anniversary certificate. Also joining the celebration was National Director Danny Phillips.

Most New Members Recruited in a Calendar Year			
Name	# New Members	Club	District
Pricilla Burge	38	St. Clair/Colerain	Ohio
Glen Broadwater	11	Nickelsville	Southwest VA
Phillip Bradshaw	10	Carrsville	Holland

Cannon's Camp Ground Celebrates 65th Anniversary



Cannon's Camp Ground celebrated its 65th anniversary. As part of the celebration, past presidents were honored and presented with handmade Ruritan ornaments, (pictured top left).

News From Ruritan: Columbia District

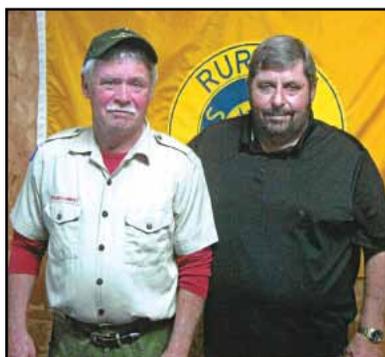
Pelion Participates in Fort Jackson's Ceremony



Pelion Ruritan Club received a gold award in all five categories at the Columbia District Convention. This is the second year in a row that the club has received five gold awards. A Christmas dinner was held with the Pelion High Choral Group presenting Christmas music before the dinner. Beverly Jackson won a ceramic Christmas tree door prize. Club members participated in Wreaths Across America held in December. Sam and Beverly Jackson, Phil and Barbara Carey, Tom Peele, and Benny and Kay Collings met at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery for the ceremony and then had the honor of placing wreaths on the veterans' graves.



Pomaria Presents Eagle Scout Awards



Pomaria Ruritan Club hosted the Boy Scout Troop #76 in recognizing its 95 Eagle Scout award recipients. Harry Harmon was the first to receive the award in 1968. The troop's goal is to reach 100 award recipients over the next few months. Pictured (l-r) are Scoutmaster Eddie Stuck and Harry Harmon.



News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District



Headsville Country-side Ruritan Club supported two families this past Thanksgiving by providing all the necessary items needed for a meal. Pictured (l-r) are Judy Paugh and Patty Leasure holding a Martin's gift card for the purchase of a turkey or ham.

OUTSTANDING RURITAN SCOUT LEADER

Member	Club
William Joseph Belmonte Jr	Courtland
David Reginald Benton	Hunterdale
Eric A. Cooke	Courtland
Martin Dove	Catlett-Calverton
Maurice Etienneble	Driver
Horatio 'Horry' Kent Sr	Gamewell
Stuart R. Lamm	Coopers
Karen Laws	Kings Creek
Liz Mayo	Pinson
Robert Jeffrey Ward	Driver
Lester Ward	Driver

OUTSTANDING RURITAN 4-H LEADER

Member	Club
Dennis Bagnell	Stonewall District

News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District

Mike Williams Named Lower West Virginia District Ruritan of the Year

C. Michael (Mike) Williams from the **Maxwelton** Ruritan Club was named Lower West Virginia District Ruritan of the Year. He is currently the Maxwelton Club Treasurer and an avid supporter of the Greenbrier East High School Marching Band. He volunteers in the concession stand and announces all the halftime performances. He is active in 4-H in Greenbrier County, West Virginia 4-H, all stars, GEHS FFA, and his local church. Pictured (l-r) are C. Michael Williams and National Director Larry Bowman.



Williamsburg Holds Christmas Party



2017 RURITAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION DISTRICT AWARDS

Highest Percentage of Clubs in District Donating

3rd Place	Patricia Davis	54%	New River
2nd Place	Reggie Snodgrass	66%	Rockingham
1st Place	Echols "Phil" Jeffries	100%	Lower WV

Most Dollars Donated by Clubs

3rd Place	Patricia Davis	\$5,412.85	New River
2nd Place	Donnie Perry	\$5,516.00	Rocky-Mt. Durham
1st Place	Reggie Snodgrass	\$7,987.00	Rockingham

Highest Average Donation Per Member

3rd Place	Florence S. Bakke	\$21.71	Rapidan
2nd Place	Brent Wheeler	\$55.23	Georgia-N. AL
1st Place	Patricia Davis	\$71.72	New River

Williamsburg Ruritan Club joined with Trout Baptist Church and Williamsburg Community Action and held an annual community Christmas party. Activities included games, crafts, singing, snacks, and a gift for all from Santa. Pictured are Kloey, Kinsey, and Karson Brammer. Santa was played by Williamsburg Club member Ray Phillips.

Bluegrass District Presents Awards



The **Bluegrass District** held its annual convention at the **Bagdad Ruritan Club**. Markus Stephens was presented the Rudy Youth of the Year Award. He has been a Ruritan member for nine years and helps with all club projects. He is involved in church, 4-H showing cattle at county fairs, and assisting at the state fair, and serving as a volunteer firefighter. When a neighboring farmer was injured in a farming accident, he helped milk cows for the farmer

for several months. Pictured is **Cropper Ruritan Club's** Youth Committee Chair Tabitha Browning presenting the award to Markus. Past National Director Chester Hillard received the District's Ruritan of the Year Award. Chester has been a faithful **Choateville Ruritan Club** member for 33 years. Bluegrass District Governor Bryan Franklin presented the award.

Bagdad Holds "Christmas in Bagdad"

Bagdad Ruritan Club, Bagdad Fire Department, and the Bagdad Baptist Church worked together to have "Christmas in Bagdad." This included vendors at the fire house, live nativity scene at the church, and free chili at the Bagdad Club. Over 350 people were served chili and sandwiches. Santa and Mrs. Claus rode on the fire truck during the parade, then stopped by the club to listen to all the children's Christmas wishes. Each child also received a bag of candy from the club.



Finchville Honors Veterans



Finchville Ruritan Club honored local veterans with a breakfast and dinner held on Veterans Day weekend. The club honored the oldest living veteran from Finchville – Steve Howerton. Howerton was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his service during World War II by Finchville Club President David Bohannon. Club members who were veterans were also presented with certificates of appreciation. Pictured are Finchville Club members Harold Sutton, Harmon Smith, and Bill Jones.



Join in the celebration of Ruritan Awareness Month in May! Ruritans across the country will be conducting special projects to serve others and bring awareness in their communities. This is a great way to support recruitment of new members and to let people know what great things your Ruritan club is doing in your community.

News From Ruritan: Tennessean District



McPheeters Bend Holds Turkey Shoot

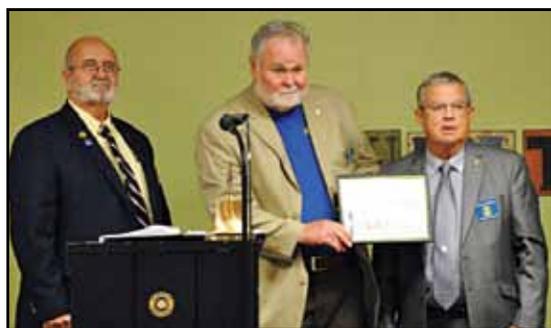
McPheeters Bend Ruritan Club held its annual turkey shoot and rifle raffle. Turkeys and country hams were given away as prizes. Joe

Lindsey was the winner of the 30 Golden Boy Rifle. Harold Patterson was presented with the club's Ruritan of the Year.



News From Ruritan: Cherokee District

Harrison Celebrates 65th Anniversary



Harrison Ruritan Club celebrated its 65th anniversary with National President Danny Privott as the speaker. Privott and National Director Les Hopper presented a 65th year anniversary plaque. National Foundation Trustee Brent Wheeler presented a Tom Downing Fellow Award to Glen Jones. Tennessee State Senator Bo Watson presented a plaque from Governor Bill Haslam to the club congratulating them for 65 years of public service to the Harrison Community. County Commissioner and Harrison Club Associate Member Chester Bankston presented a plaque from the Hamilton County Commission praising the club for outstanding community service. The club presented First Lady Linda with a check for \$200 for her ALS project. Also in attendance were long-time member and Harrison Past Club President Terry Bohannon who served as MC, Past National President Jim McKinney, Cherokee District Governor Ryan Ogle, Lt. District Governor Marie Mosley, National Director Don Ramey, and Past National Director Kay Pearson. Entertainment was provided by the group "Just Us Girls." During the club's Christmas



dinner, Past National Director Les Hopper installed Harrison Ruritan Club's new officers. Pictured on the left (l-r) are Hopper, Harrison Club Officers Glen Jones, Marie Mosley, Marilyn Williford, and Mimi Lowrey. Club President Larry Henry presented a plaque to outgoing Club President Terry Williford.



Pictured bottom right is Hopper installing Harrison Club President Larry Henry.



*To purchase a Tom Downing Fellow Award contact Amanda Ramirez in the Foundation Department.
877-787-8727 #302*

News From Ruritan: Cherokee District continued



Ball Play Community Ruritan Club President Joe Leta was one of eight members delivering Christmas food baskets to needy neighbors.

As of June 1, 2016, the New Member Kits are no longer available for purchase. Ruritan National now sends out a New Member Packet to every member entered into the MMS. The packet includes a Foundation brochure, a Ruritan Forever brochure, a window cling, a Member Handbook, a certificate, Ruritan National Bylaws, Office Staff Directory, summary of Community Service Committees, Invitation to Membership, a current Ruritan Magazine, and a New Member Card. If the club would like to provide their new members with a Ruritan Lapel Pin they are available for purchase with our new supply company Shumsky. You can order online at <http://ruritan.shumskypromo.com> or call (800) 414-8946.

News From Ruritan: Georgia-North Alabama District

Armuchee Ruritan Club Refurbishes Amphitheater



As one of its community service projects for 2017, the **Armuchee** Ruritan Club undertook the task of refurbishing the outdoor amphitheater behind the Glenwood Primary School in the Armuchee community. The amphitheater was originally constructed as part of an Eagle Scout project by two local teens, Josh Baker and Chip Cox in 1998. According to Baker, he was responsible for constructing the stage, and Cox installed the 40 benches. The facility was used extensively by the school until recent years when the wood began to deteriorate. The club was first approached in late 2016 about the possibility of restoring the venue so it could be put back into use. Working with Kenneth Storey at Storey

Lumber Company, the club removed the original stage floor and installed new deck boards and replaced all benches. All wood products were #1 grade Osmore Nature Wood treated lumber. The original wooden lattice backdrop was changed to a vinyl product. Club members donated over 50 hours to the project at a cost of just under \$1,900.



Rich Burton and Thomas Stermer Recieve Tom Downing Fellow Awards



Washington Ruritan Club members Dave and Anne Freshly surprised Washington Ruritan Environment Committee Co-Chair Rich Burton with a Tom Downing Fellow Award. Dave and Anne chose Rich Burton for his countless hours he dedicates towards Habitat for Humanity. Pictured on the left (l-r) are Anne Freshly, Rich Burton, and 1986 National President Dave Freshly.

During the **Guilford Lake** Ruritan Club's annual Christmas Party, Thomas Stermer was presented a Tom Downing Fellow Award by Ohio District Governor John Biery. Stermer has been a member for 30 years and attends all club functions. He is responsible for recruiting several new members.



Lodi Presents Awards



In December, Jim Rice of Lodi Lumber received the **Lodi** Ruritan Club 2017 Service to the Community Award. Over the years, Jim has assisted the club with supplies to be used for building picnic tables for local parks as well as helping many other community groups. Pictured left (l-r) are 2017 Lodi Club President Karl Hagelin and Jim Rice. The club also gave two \$500 scholarships. Recipients were Heidi Cartwright (l) who is attending University of Toledo and Megan Brandt (r) who is attending Liberty College. Both graduated from Cloverleaf High School.



Chesterfield Holds Free Christmas Supper



Chesterfield Ruritan Club held a free Christmas supper with country ham, yams, green beans, slaw, rolls, and cake for over 95 senior citizens. The supper concluded with the singing of Christmas carols, and fruit/candy gift bags were given to attendees. The club has been sponsoring this supper to honor senior citizens for over 35 years.



Magazine Deadlines

Summer Magazine - May 1, 2018
Fall Magazine - August 1, 2018
Winter Magazine - November 1, 2018
Spring Magazine - February 1, 2019

Bella Brooks Becomes Deep Gap Ruritan Member



Ruritan National received permission to reprint the article from Sherrie Norris of HCPress.com.

When 7-year-old Bella Brooks' parents joined **Deep Gap** Ruritan Club last year, it was only natural for her to accompany them to the meetings at the fire department/community center next door. Her presence

became expected at the monthly gatherings, as her youthful interest and energy brightened the spirits of the older members. She became especially close to club president Billie Rogers and decided she wanted to be more involved in the club.

Fast forward to the group's January 11 meeting when Bella, at 7, made history as she was installed as the club's youngest member ever and led the group in its pledge of allegiance at meeting's end. "I'm really happy that Bella has joined Ruritan and hopefully she will invite her friends and their parents, too," said Rogers. "I love having her around and I think it's good for her to be exposed to and learn about the mission of Ruritan." Shelby Earp, Ruritan's Western North Carolina District Youth Coordinator from Hiddenite, made a special trip to the Deep Gap meeting to perform Bella's installation into the club, much to the delight of Bella's parents and fellow club members. Already a community-minded youngster, Bella is a first-grade student at Parkway Elementary School and is involved in the day-to-day activities and chores at her family's de la Cruz Farm in Deep Gap, which includes playing with and feeding the animals. She also enjoys cooking and drawing. Bella

will join her fellow club members in their annual community service projects, including fundraising, assisting with various needs of her neighbors, landscaping projects and more. Her parents said they joined the Ruritan club as a way to "give back to the community and help our neighbors." Bella said she joined the club "because Mommy and Daddy did and I can help, too." Also, at the same meeting, several faithful club members were recognized for perfect attendance. Husband and wife team Johnny and Joan Hampton topped the count with 19 years each of perfect attendance. They were joined by the following: Steve Idol with 18 years; Joyce Rhymer, Loretta Gentry, Leslie Gentry, Sammy Critcher and Gloria Critcher, all with 17 years; Stewart Rhymer, 16 years; Harold Eller, Wayne Davis and Elaine Davis, eight years each; Mary Wallace, seven, Jimmy Hodges, four, and Kathy Watson with two years perfect attendance. When asked about the club and her vision for same in the coming year, Rogers responded, "I really like that our club is small enough to do good for our Deep Gap community, but large enough to step outside our immediate boundaries, too."

In an effort to increase public awareness and club membership, Rogers plans to invite local public servants into the monthly meetings, including pastors and law enforcement officers and others. "We do so much good for the community, but unless you are friends with a member, I don't think that most folks outside Deep Gap even know that we exist," she added. Rogers said that while the club is strong and viable with 32 members currently on the roster, the need for younger members is ever present "to help with the labor and to carry the torch." Bella Brooks, age 7, is pictured with her mother, Bencita Brooks, and Shelby Earp, Ruritan's Western NC Youth Coordinator, who recently installed Bella as the newest and youngest member in the Deep Gap Ruritan Club.



Michael Smith Receives Tom Downing Fellow Award

Western North Carolina District presented past District Governor Michael Smith with a Tom Downing Fellow Award. This award was given in recognition of Michael's two years service as District Governor.



News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District continued



Collettsville Honors Veterans

Collettsville Ruritan Club honored veterans at their monthly meeting. West Caldwell High School NJROTC presented the colors during the ceremony. Entertainment was provided by TMS band. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Roy McGalliard, Gene Bryson, Kenneth Vance, Leon Madison, Clell Hartley (WWII), and Ray Vance. Pictured in the second row are Gary Jones, Richard Myers, Denny Key, Harem Triplett, Ralph Triplett, Leslie Gentry, Dallas Gragg, and Jack Davis. Pictured in the third row are Larry Richardson,

David Davis, Steve Scruggs, Melvin Chandler, Otis Vines, Ed Watson, Wayne Parson, Greg Duncan, Clarence Hart, Sam Murphy, Roger Webb, and Dick Chapman.

Bill Digh Sr. Remembered

Salem Ruritan Club presented a certificate to Bill Digh Jr. and Pat Brunette in memory of their father the late William "Bill" Digh Sr. Digh had 60 years of perfect attendance from 1957-2017. Pictured (l-r) are Pat Brunette, Bill Digh Jr., and Salem Club President Doug Beam.



News From Ruritan: Delmarva-New Jersey District



Kent Presents Scholarships

Kent Ruritan Club presents six \$1,000 scholarships. Pictured in the front are recipients Morganne Blazejak and Maddie Taylor. Pictured on the second row are Melody Sharp, Abby Crockett, and Daniel Parent. Pictured in the back is John Henry Myers III.



In a Declared Disaster: How to Activate OWC

District/Area Governors should call the Ruritan National Office toll free at (877) 787-8727 ext. 302 for program details if their district is struck by a state or federally declared disaster. A disaster situation report will be sent to the caller immediately.

The Ruritan National Foundation will review the needs listed on the report as soon as possible.

Sandy Ridge and Union Grove Honor Veterans



Sandy Ridge Ruritan Club held its 10th annual Veterans Appreciation Program. Sandy Ridge Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop #465 presented the colors and helped serve the attendees their meals. A poem was read in honor of all veterans. Sandy Ridge Elementary School Veterans Day Contest winners were announced. Prayer Boxes were made by the Sandy Ridge Girl Scout Troop #2072 for the veterans. After the meal the Scouts held a US Flag Retirement Ceremony with several veterans assisting.

Union Grove Ruritan Club held the annual Veterans Day Dinner with over 100 in attendance, including veterans, North Iredell JROTC, Mount Vernon Baptist Church Youth, and Ruritan members.

Pictured are Union Grove Club members Wayne Mayberry and Stephen Tulbert, Congressman Ted Budd, and Union Grove Club members Gene Shaver and Kimberly Mayberry. A meal of roast pork tenderloin,



green beans, cole slaw, mashed potatoes, rolls, and dessert was served. Veterans spoke of their military service, and Congressman Ted Budd delivered remarks praising the veterans. Also, the club renovated the landscaping at the welcome sign on Highway 901 in Union Grove. Pictured are Stephen Tulbert, Douglas Prevette, and Alec Grant.



Holly Springs Collects Tabs



Members of the **Holly Springs** Ruritan Club delivered aluminum can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Winston-Salem. The recycled tabs help pay for expenses for families that have children in the hospital. Past Club President Bobbie Easter presented Catherine Tate the club's Ruritan of the Year Award. Zone 3 Governor Wanda Crabb installed club officers.

Pictured (l-r) are Holly Springs Club President Anne Roberts, Vice President

Doug Marshall, Secretary Denise Horn, and Treasurer Mabeline Marshall.



Mulberry-Fairplains Celebrates 50th Anniversary



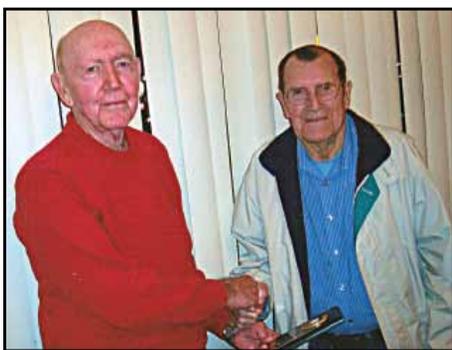
Mulberry-Fairplains Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Special guests were National Director Carroll Lowe, Sandra Lowe, Piedmont District Governor Donna Sutphin, Piedmont Lt. Governor Don White, Past National Director Avalon Potts, and Piedmont Zone Governor Debi Davis. The club continues to provide help for those in need for payment of utility bills, medical bills, and food. Fruit baskets are provided for shut-ins and the elderly at Christmas. The club sponsors Science Fairs, little league baseball teams, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and scholarships are given every year. Pictured (l-r) are Mulberry-Fairplains Charter member Dean Francis, Club President Jennifer Ledford, National Director Carroll Lowe, and Charter members Henry Souther, F. A. Absher, and Minter Cleary.



Wentworth Ruritan Club purchased American Flag lapel pins and distributed them throughout the community and at the Piedmont District Convention. A queen-size quilt, donated by Willie Mae Morgan, raised the **Greater Whitsett** Ruritan Club \$1,200 during its fundraising event. Pictured is the winner of the quilt Mary Elizabeth Dick.



Rangeley Presents Awards



Rangeley Ruritan Club Secretary Bruce Severance is shown (right) presenting Vice President Pearlie Reynolds with a President's Golden Key Award for recruiting five new members. Club Treasurer Bill Hutchinson presented Earnest Moore with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award. New of-



ficers pictured in the front (l-r) are Directors George Me-haffey, Brenda Young, and Ronnie Culler, and Secretary Bruce Sever-

ance. Pictured in the back (l-r) are President Jim McMillion, Vice President Pearlie Reynolds, and Treasurer Bill Hutchinson.



At the annual Christmas Party Aaron's Creek Ruritan Club decorated its Christmas tree with ornaments to honor deceased members. The club lost three members in 2017.

Leesburg Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Leesburg celebrated its 50th anniversary. A spaghetti dinner was served by MLB Umpire Dale Ford and family. Tennessee State Senator Rusty Crowe presented the club with a proclamation honoring its 50th anniversary. Past club presidents including 1967 National President Bob Bailey were in attendance to celebrate the milestone. Yearly club activities were collecting 36 pairs of shoes, 112 pairs of socks, and 30 pairs of undergarments for homeless veterans. Fifty blankets were knitted and

donated to the Niswonger Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Turkeys were provided to a local school to provide Thanksgiving dinner for 30 families. The club sponsored angels from the angel tree at Christmas. The club is excited to announce that they gained eight new club members in 2017. Pictured top left are Leesburg Past Presidents with National Director Glen Broadwater. Pictured right (l-r) are Leesburg Club Treasurer Diane Barker, President Carl Barker, Vice President Eddie Barker, and Secretary Larry Vatale.



Randy Stanton Receives a President's Golden Key Award

South Central Ruritan Club held a free dinner for veterans and posted pictures of past and present veterans in the area. Randy Stanton was presented a President's Golden Key Award by Hontas Bailey for bringing in new members. Club members held a Halloween Bash. Children came to play games, make crafts, and decorate pumpkins. New club officers are pictured (l-r) South Central Club President Daryll Broyles, Vice President Randy Stanton, Secretary Shirley Stanton, Treasurer Dodie Whitmer, and Board of Directors members Hontas Bailey, Dennis Whitmer, and Dan Landers.



Reserve Hospitality Room Through National Office

If your district, club, or candidate is interested in booking a hospitality room in Hampton, 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 connected with a sleeping room and there are a limited number of them.

Calendar of Events On Website

Ruritan National is maintaining a calendar of Ruritan events and committee meetings as well as information on office closings and staff availability. This calendar, developed through Google Calendars, can be found under the "Events Calendar" link at <http://ruritan.org>. Clicking on many items provides additional detail and directions.

Districts are invited to submit items to include on the calendar by emailing office@ruritan.org.

News From Ruritan: Rapidan District

Jefferson Presents Awards



Rapidan District Governor Fulton Payne presented long-time member David Rowe with the Rapidan District Ruritan of the Year Award during the **Jefferson Ruritan Club's** annual Christmas party (pictured



right). Earlier in the year Rowe was presented with the Jefferson Club's Ruritan of the Year Award. Perry Cabot was presented with a Tom Downing Fellow Award and Jefferson Club President Jamie Dovell accepted a plaque honoring the club's 70th anniversary from Payne and National Director Susan Greisz.

News From Ruritan: Opportunity Land District

Linda McCourt Remembered



Western Yell Ruritan Club held a memorial ceremony for Linda McCourt who passed away in September. Linda was the wife of Past National Director John McCourt. She was the first female member of the club. She served as the Opportunity Land District Governor, Western Yell County Club Secretary, and Treasurer. John and Linda were married for over 55 years. Pictured are Past National Director John McCourt and Western Yell Club President Gary McCourt.



News From Ruritan: Gulf Area

Mt. Hermon Celebrates 70th Anniversary



Past National Director W.W. Johnson presented a plaque to **Mt. Hermon Club** President Beryl Schilling in honor of the club's 70th anniversary. Pictured (l-r) are new officers Richard Foley, Billy Ray Gill, Beryl Schilling, Ellery Givens, Donna Givens, and W.W. Johnson.

Positive Action and Working Together Clubs Donate to Nursing Home



Positive Action Ruritan Club and **Working Together Ruri-Teen Club** donated gift bags full of toiletries to the Adams County Nursing Home patients. Pictured (l-r) are Positive Action Club Secretary Vicky Alexander, Morgan, Aisa, and Chaplin Barbara Bruce. Positive Action Club Treasurer is shown handing out Father's Day Gift Baskets to Glenburney Nursing Home patients.

THE \$600 WINNER FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2017 WAS JACK GRAY OF THE NORTH FORK RURITAN CLUB IN THE TENNESSEAN DISTRICT.

JACK GRAY

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



REWARDED \$600

DEBBIE YATES

\$200 WINNER WAS DEBBIE YATES OF THE RENICK CLUB IN THE LOWER WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT.



REWARDED \$200

ED HICKS

\$400 WENT TO NATIONAL DIRECTOR ED HICKS OF THE LOVINGSTON CLUB IN THE WOODROW WILSON DISTRICT.



REWARDED \$400

