

## Message From 2018 National President Guy Cox



### See you in Hampton!

My Ruritan year is about half way completed. So far, it has been a pleasure to visit the many locations where we have been invited. I am sorry that we have not been able to visit everywhere, but we have tried to accept the first requests that we have been given.

One of the greatest honors was the invitation to introduce Bernard Mire at the Memorial Day wreath laying at the Southwest Virginia Cemetery. Bernard turned six years of age the day before D-Day and he and his family were trapped in their basement due to all of the artillery shells that were falling all around their home. When General Dwight Eisenhower first met Bernard, he apologized for missing his birthday party but he was a little busy that day.

Linda and I have been amazed by the out pouring of love that the many Ruritan clubs and districts are dedicating to the Homeless Student Project. We knew that it was needed and have been amazed how you have accepted this project and how many students will be blessed by your donations, whether monetary or the presentation of school and personal supplies. With school just around the corner, your contributions will give them the assurance that others are supporting their goals to succeed. Please remember that they are great students, their family has

fallen apart and they are trying desperately to be successful in school and continue to further their education. We helped prepare 350 back packs for schools in the New River Valley while at the Summer Leadership Conference. This project needs to continue year after year.

Growth is always a concern of Ruritan. The clubs, district cabinets, and National Directors have been working to retain members and grow Ruritan throughout their clubs, zones, and districts. Although, we are still in the negative numbers for growth, we are less than we were at this point last year. Thanks to Past National Presidents Calvin and Danny for continually stressing the importance of growth during their terms as President. I would also like to thank the Growth, Development, and Retention Committee for all of the ideas they have had during the past few years to accent the importance of growth.

With this in mind, who would not want to win a Ruritan Forever for themselves or someone else? No more Ruritan National dues ever.

Plans for the National Convention have been completed. We have everything lined up and people in place to give you some great training as well as very well-organized business sessions along with great meals and entertainment. A large percentage of our Ruritan membership is within 100 miles of the Hampton Convention Center. Please come out and visit with your old friends, make some new friends, and enjoy all of the activities we have planned for you.

### *Homeless Student Project*

**If Your Club or District Has a Project for Homeless Students in Your Area, call Chris at the National Office toll free (877) 787-8727 to add Your Project to Our List of Ruritan Projects for Homeless Students.**



National President Guy Cox and Holland District Governor Phillip Bradshaw present Holland Club President Joe Simmons with a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary certificate.



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