

## Message From 2019 National President Larry Cassell



### A Family Connection

During the months of May and June we take time to reflect on the importance of FAMILY celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day. With the First Lady's project regarding adoption, the need of a family is always forefront for those adopting and those who were adopted. Traveling about visiting Ruritan Clubs, it has become quite evident that family involvement in our organization has been on the rise. From my knowledge of other service organizations, there are no others that are more suited toward family membership. The presence of families within our membership has not only enhanced our numbers, it has benefitted the communities served. But more importantly, family involvement as a unit in our service-oriented organization has greatly strengthened the families who have become part of our Ruritan Family.

There are numerous examples of family units within our clubs - too many to note every case. Thus, I have asked two specific families to share what it has meant to be Ruritans. First, I introduce to you David and Tamara Moore and their children James, Jonathan, Joshua, and Julia, all members of the **West Shenandoah Ruritan Club** (Rockingham District).



*I was recently asked what it meant to have my family in Ruritan. As Christians, Tamara and I believe in loving our neighbors as ourselves, and part of that is serving our community for no other reason than to serve and show God's love for others. Ruritan has offered us a great opportunity to teach that action to our children, as well as by putting words into action. We have been able to experience many amazing side benefits from participating as a family:*

*We get to spend time doing things together. Time that is not in front of the TV or just in the same room, but actually working together.*

*We are to bless others and are blessed by it. I admit as a parent this is selfish on my part, but Ruritan offers an opportunity to work side by side teaching children how to have a good work ethic and its importance in our community.*

*It is fun. Yes, there are times when the children (or adults) initially grumble about the task at hand, but at the end of the day we all admit we had a good time.*

*Finally, our family enjoys lots of good meals together with fellow Ruritan members.*

*Having my family in Ruritan has been a blessing. We have made friends, my children found summer work from other members, we get to see and experience different areas of our community, and we get to do these things as a family.*

*-- David Moore*

On the next page is another example of a family unit directly involved in Ruritan is Roy Wallen's family. Roy is currently the Governor of the Smoky Mountain District and a Ruritan National Director. Zach McCallie, president of the club, shared the following with me regarding having seventeen of his family members of the **East Roane County Ruritan Club**.



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## 2019 National President Larry Cassell continued



*Having family involved in Ruritan is important. In today's age, families do not spend a whole lot of time together due to busy schedules. Having family in Ruritan ensures that we see each other often and the relationships stay strong. Being able to work on projects together gives families a source of pride. Families can look back and be proud of the awesome work they did to help others. Having multiple generations working together is almost unheard. With my family it is just something we all grew up knowing how to do. Always help someone because one day you might be that person needing help.*

*-- Zach McCallie*

No need for me to elaborate any further on the value of families in Ruritan. If a family is looking for an activity to enjoy, why not be a volunteer as a member of a Ruritan Club. Volunteering can be a dynamic rewarding experience. Volunteering as a family amplifies the impact on a cause and provides quality time together. Consider reaching out to families in your area, or your own, to become members.

Pictured in the front (l-r) are Roy Wallen holding granddaughter Bella, Kate Wallen with children Andrew and Shelby, Brenda Wallen, Kena Holmes holding sister Addie, Ashlee Holmes, and Thomas Holmes. Pictured in the middle (l-r) are David Wallen, Linda Parton, Melissa Sifford, and Paige Sifford. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Jennifer Wallen, Patrick McCallie, Joseph McCallie, Zack McCallie, Paula McCallie. Not pictured are Tommy McCallie and Brian Yawn.



## Ruritan National Pledge Approved by Board

*The following pledge, proposed by National Director Mike Wright and the Sandy Creek (OH) Ruritan Club, was approved by the National Board in August as the official Ruritan pledge.*

**“We are Ruritans. We are dedicated to improving communities and building a better America. By showing goodwill toward others, we are improving the attitudes of many. Through fellowship, we are gaining friendships that last a lifetime. Through community service, sharing and caring for those around us, we are striving to reach our common goals together. May God Bless the Ruritans!”**