Message From Executive Director Michael Chrisley

Service is the Basis of all Worthy Enterprise

How do you look at need? There are a number of ways to see it and address it. They are as varied as the communities we serve. I see need as an opportunity for us to be valuable to our brothers and sisters. Almost everything we do as Ruritan’s is based on some perceived or real need. When we look at our programs of service they are all needs based. While need is mostly unfortunate it does provide a platform for us to serve.

One way I believe we can stay in touch with our community, is to always have a true understanding of the needs in our community. At Thanksgiving and at Christmas we pay a lot of attention to need. That doesn’t mean when the holidays are over, the need goes away. I would challenge you to look at your community all year long and make sure you plan of service is always relevant to the community you serve. Sometimes we get in the pattern of doing the same thing over and over. The needs may change faster than our approved projects do. Try to find a way to keep your finger on the pulse of your community. Many times, that just means we have to ask. Be present in your community.

It is also interesting that no matter how much service we provide, more need still exists. It is difficult to out give the increasing demand. I believe that is why we are so important. We exist to help others and the value it brings to communities is enormous. From examining our community service reports it is obvious that we bring thousands of hours of direct manpower to communities all over this country on a yearly basis, not to mention millions of dollars in financial assistance. When I speak to a club or a group of clubs I always ask the question “if not for the service you provide to people in need in the community, where would they turn?” Important question. You provide good things to people every day. Spend some time reading the club news section in this issue if you don’t believe it. What you do is critical to your community.

Our governing documents say that “service is the basis of all worthy enterprise”. That means everything that is worth doing should have a component of service to others. I see local businesses, government agencies, school systems all going above and beyond what is expected of them to higher service. Especially, when they have an example. Your Ruritan Club is that example. When others see what you do it inspires them to serve.

Your staff here in Dublin hopes you have a great holiday season and that you will join President Larry and First Lady Nelda in Kingsport TN for our annual convention January 9-12. Come see your extended family of Ruritan and enjoy the fellowship of convention.