

## Message From Executive Director Michael Chrisley



### Look at Your Community Now


The national office is located in Dublin, Virginia. Dublin is in Southwest Virginia. As I write this article I am watching it snow out my window. Two days ago it was 60+ degrees and the sun was shining. The moral of the story is change. In Southwest Virginia the weather can change suddenly this time of year. Change is neither good nor bad on its own, it depends on what is changing, how it affects you, and most importantly how you react to that change.

Communities all over America are changing. Some of the change is good and some is bad. Some of the change is just different. Are we changing in a way that allows us to serve our communities in the way we should be serving them? I think one of the most important things we can do as an organization that serves people and the communities that they live in is to keep our finger on the pulse of the community. Newly elected President Linward touches on this in his article on pages 2-3 of this issue.

Another important part of serving the community is leadership. The speed of the leader is the speed of the pack. As leaders in our communities, we should always be on the lookout for other people who show characteristics of leadership to allow for some kind of succession. On that note I am delighted to welcome Sarah Kelly to our staff as Deputy Executive Director. As I have said before, but it is worth noting again, I don't have the authority to hire my replacement. Only the board of directors can do that. The purpose in hiring Sarah as the Deputy Executive Director is to prepare her to be a great candidate for the job when the time comes. She brings a great skill set to the position but more importantly she brings a love for Ruritan. We believe she will be a great addition to our team here at the national office.

Now is a great time of year for clubs to begin to look at their communities with a fresh set of eyes. Try to see the needs that you haven't seen in the past. Really seek to find out what your club can do that will have a great impact on the community you serve. You are so important to the people who need you and your assistance. You should also be looking at the people in your community who have a heart for service and would be good members of your club, perhaps even the next good leaders in your club. They are out there and are just waiting for you to ask them to help with a project or give your club ideas on what the community needs or could benefit from.

***Time goes by quickly.  
Don't hesitate. Look at your community now.  
Ask that individual now.***



***“Taking the time to build  
community, to get to know  
your people will have  
long-lasting benefits.”***

— CLIFTON TAULBERT —