

2020 National President Linward Hedgpeth



We Will Get Through This Together

What a delightful start for the Ruritan National Organization for the year of 2020. It began 16 weeks ago with an exciting Ruritan National Convention in Kingsport, TN. This was followed in February with a club eighth-year and two seventh-year anniversary celebrations, a growth award presentation, and a first-year National Directors training class.

In March we held our first Ruritan National Board of Directors Meeting, a Nash County District Convention, and a fantastic Tennessee Spring Rally. Unfortunately, that was the last Ruritan public event attended before the Coronavirus began to move into the US. In early April, our federal government gave an official stay-at-home order.

Your Ruritan Executive Committee met via Microsoft Teams and unanimously agreed to comply with the federal and state government guidelines. We recommended all Ruritan events and public gatherings be postponed until further notice. As we move forward guidance may change, and we will keep you informed. Decisions will be made based on the best information available. We will be guided by the facts, not fear.

Alternative plans are being developed and evaluated for implementation by your Executive and Leadership Committees to facilitate training without risking exposure to participants. The Executive Committee continues to meet regularly to monitor the situation regarding the pandemic. As a result of the current Governmental Guidelines and the risk to our members and patrons, Ruritans have unfortunately had to take action to cancel or postpone some of Ruritans major annual calendar events.

LEADERSHIP: Good leadership is necessary to enhance a good growth and development program. Our 2020 goals to strengthen our leadership involves working with our Nominating Committee Chair to help develop a Candidate Leadership Plan and a Process - To identify and encourage club and district leaders to want to become candidates for a national leadership position in 2021 and in the future. We believe having a full slate of officers at the start of the convention will strengthen our national leadership by giving delegates more choices from which to choose. We increased the nominating committee from three to five members for an opportunity to reach more potential candidates and started recruiting earlier in the year. This should help get more candidates prior to the convention and help promote competition. Competition appears to strengthen the interest and quality of candidates for leadership. "A Four Corners Plan" design will assign each committee member a geographical area to contact the district governors in the North, East, West, and South. Nominating Committee meetings are being held monthly.

RESTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: This committee, appointed in March, will first look at the current makeup of the organization. Their primary focus will be on the needs of the organization. They are tasked with, not only restructuring, but on how we may enhance leadership and develop an organizational growth plan. The committee consists of eight members from different experiences in Ruritan, two senior advisers, and two staff personnel.

NON-RURITAN ANNUAL EVENT

Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, VA has been canceled.



(I have my pink and green outfit but have nowhere to wear it!!)

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