

## Executive Director Mike Chrisley



### I am Encouraged by the Renewed Energy in Ruritan.

The last 18 months have been difficult. Now I am starting to see new life. Our clubs are busy serving communities, holding fundraisers and meeting on a regular basis. It is so nice to see life coming back to something that resembles normal. I am hoping and praying for a mild flu season and that there is not a resurgence of the pandemic this fall.

We were able to hold an in-person board meeting in August as well as an exciting Summer Leadership Conference. We had to delay holding the summer conference until August because there were no venues available earlier due to the pandemic. The schedule for almost everything else has been pushed forward. For that reason, we have combined the fall issue of Ruritan magazine with the winter issue. This magazine has information about the convention and dozens of additional pages of club news and information. We hope you enjoy it.

On a personal note, I just lost a great friend to the COVID-19 pandemic. So did Ruritan. Carroll Lowe passed away at the end of September. Carroll was a sitting board member. He had served on the board for three separate terms and was in his tenth year of service at the national level. During his tenure he made significant contribution to setting policy that will serve Ruritan members well into the future. In addition to his board service, he designed and implemented the Member Management System that the entire organization uses. He also is responsible for designing and installing the server system and network at the national office. He spent countless hours managing our network, servers, and camera system at the office. He was responsible for the maintenance of our PCs, automated and worked to make sure our elections at National Conventions were smooth and had integrity. We would have spent tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars paying for the services that Carroll has provided for free over the last 15 years. He deserves our gratitude. He will be sorely missed not just for what he did, but for the kind, caring person that he was. Thank you, Carroll.

Planning for the convention is underway and we believe we have a great show in store for you. As always, we will be conducting the business of Ruritan. There are several bylaws changes that are outlined on pages 22-25. Candidates are on pages 16-21. Please come to convention and help us set the stage for the future of Ruritan.

We have top notch entertainment and speakers, a great facility and good food and fellowship waiting for you in Myrtle Beach. It's been a while. Come celebrate what we have accomplished in 2020 and 2021 and get excited for what we will accomplish in 2022.

