

**O.H. Bobbitt, III**  
**2022 Ruritan National Foundation President**

*First, on behalf of the Ruritan National Foundation, I would like to thank Brent Wheeler for serving as President of your Ruritan National Foundation for 2020 and 2021. Though her service was unique, it allowed the Ruritan National Foundation Trustees to determine that the business of the RNF could be handled effectively and efficiently through Teams meetings and email.*

*Second, I want to highlight some of the accomplishments of your Ruritan National Foundation in 2020 and 2021.*

- Through the efforts of the Trustees, many of the exceptions with the Endowed/Contract funds have been corrected. In addition, ALL new contracted funds use one of the two contract options: Perpetual or 20-year limited term.*
- The RNF Trustees have continue to meet with the Investment Advisor during this time period to protect the principal of the Foundation while continuing to allow growth.*
- The RNF Trustees realized that the Operation We Care program was not structured to allow the best service to our Ruritan communities. We began discussions with the Ruritan National Board to find a way for the Operation We Care program to be restructured to better serve our communities.*

- *The RNF Trustees strived to be proactive during this unique time over the last two years especially in the education world. As such, we extended several deadlines to allow scholarship awards to be claimed.*

*In addition, we began discussions around how to make the Build Your Dollar program more attractive for our Ruritan Clubs. Several options are being discussed and will be rolled out over the next several years. **BUT** for the first time, for 2022 award year the Foundation's BY\$ award will be **\$750**. This is a **150%** return on your club's \$300 deposit. As a reminder, the Build Your Dollar claim form must be returned to the RNF office not later than June 30, 2022.*

Tom Downing Fellows continue to be a major funding source for the Ruritan National Foundation. As a reminder, a Tom Downing Fellowship is an excellent way to recognize a Ruritan or non-Ruritan. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, there are 20 matching grants available to help fund Tom Downing Fellowships. The district, club, or individual who wants to award the Tom Downing Fellowship will need to contact the Ruritan National Foundation office to get details. The matching grant will fund \$250 of the \$500 donation and is on a first come first service basis.

*For two years, the RNF Trustees have proactively cancelled Foundation Weekend. It is the intention of the Trustees to*

*have Foundation Weekend in 2022. More information will be coming soon.*

*We would also like to welcome Josh Adams to the RNF Trustees. In addition, Brent Wheeler will be serving as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the RNF Trustees. Each of the Trustees are available to answer any questions you or your club may have about Build Your Dollar, Endowed/Contract Funds, or any RNF related question. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the Trustees with your questions. The RNF Trustees will also be sending periodic RNF Blasts with timely information.*

*Last, but definitely not least, we would like to thank Bessie McCormick. Bessie serves in the National Office as the Foundation Specialist. Bessie has made significant advances in maintaining Foundation records and providing timely statements and other information to our Ruritans.*

*Thanks to each of you, your club, and your district for your past support of your Ruritan National Foundation and we look forward to a successful 2022.*