



I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together

Seems we just get started and before you know it... Comes the time we have to say so long....

This was the last line of the song used by Carol Burnette at the end of each of her immensely popular shows. You never really think about the end of things until...the end of things. This will be my last letter to you as Executive Director of Ruritan National. I am retiring and my last day in the office is March 11, 2022. I remember vividly walking into the printshop for my first day of work in August of 1980. I am shocked by how quickly 42 years goes by.

My tenure with Ruritan was filled with an enormous amount of joy. I have made dozens of great friendships in the office. I recently looked back at old employee directories and remembered so many of the people from the past that have been employees. Many are doing other things; many have passed away. I will cherish the memories of all those friends. I will sorely miss my current staff. They are hardworking, resolute people. Not only do they work hard for the office and the members they serve, but they are all members of Ruritan Clubs.

While I was working my way through college, Ruritan was a job. It paid my bills and bought my groceries. Shortly after I graduated and became a manager, I worked the Thanksgiving weekend while the District Advancement Committee judged community service reports. I could have done other tasks while the committee read and judged the service reports, or I could read the reports to pass the time. I read the reports. That was life changing for me. That is when Ruritan became more than just a job. It became more than the means to pay my bills and buy my groceries. That is when Ruritan became part of my heart.

I read the reports. I was amazed. Our clubs do so much and touch so many people who might otherwise fall through the cracks. They do hundreds of thousands of service hours and give millions of dollars away in the

local communities they serve. The work you do is so important. People all over America can rely on Ruritan clubs to meet their needs. Unfortunately, needs tend to outpace our ability to serve and give. I cannot imagine this country without Ruritan.



I have said many times that it is vitally important to grow Ruritan so that the service we provide to those who need us does not end. Please invite your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors to join your club. Please look to neighboring communities and help us spread the service of Ruritan to a new community.

I am so thankful for my time at Ruritan. I have made lifelong friends all over the country. People that I can count on through thick and thin. It is a wonderful organization with good people doing remarkable things.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have sent well wishes on my retirement. I appreciate so much your cards and letters. I am thankful to all who worked so hard on my reception at the convention in January. I look forward to our paths crossing down the road.

God bless you all and Godspeed.

