

***“Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.” – Benjamin Franklin***

I’m not good at writing fancy speeches and have been told that I am no public speaker and I’ll agree with that, so I hope that what I do is worth writing about. I want to start by saying “Thank You!” to everyone for all that you are doing, have done and plan to do. I know that your communities are grateful and are much better because of it.

There are still many clubs that need and want help, and communities that we can reach out to. What can WE do to help them? WE can work to RETAIN members, RECRUIT new members, and BUILD new clubs in those communities. The Board and I can come up with ideas and plans for growth, but we still need your help to make it happen. We cannot do it alone.

For my project this year, I would ask that we honor and support our veterans and first responders. Many of them give so much and receive very little. Make sure to take pictures of your projects and send them to the home office with a description so they can be shared in the magazine. We will also have a First Family project. For this I am asking that each club try to sponsor at least one child with a college scholarship.

After much thinking during the many miles that I have traveled, I came up with my slogan of “*Put Ruritan in Your Heart.*”

I know that you have Ruritan in your heart because you are already a Ruritan helping your community, but you can help put Ruritan in the hearts of others by doing a little work and asking them to be a part of our great organization. Invite someone to a meeting and/or event and let them participate. I don’t like setting goals, but I want to challenge everyone to grow your club by at least 3% and to start at least one new club in your district.

***YOU can do this. WE can do this! PUT RURITAN IN YOUR HEART!***

*2023 National President Mike Morrison*