

Foundation Speech 2025 – Guy Cox

Well, I finally made it. This is the position I have been wanting since I started making these trips to the conventions.

While working with Past National President Joe Pancione as his Aide and friend, I learned most of the ends and outs of Ruritan and its members.

My goal in the long run was to help with the Foundation, so I could help students get scholarships to help them attend advanced schooling.

We need to help all of the students that we can with our scholarships.

That is where you come in. All of the donations that you give to the Foundation are used to help these students.

The money is not only used for colleges and universities but for trade schools and junior colleges.

Some colleges and universities will even match the money given to students so it becomes a double winner for them.

Whether you invest a large sum of money through the Foundation investment programs such as the Permanent Funds or Contracted Funds or you donate to your clubs Birthday Fund or donate items for the Silent or Live Auctions, you are helping create more scholarships and larger amounts for the scholarships that each student will receive.

Where can you get a better investment for your dollar than the Build Your Dollar Scholarships?

For 2024 your investment percentage was a little lower than last year.

In four more years we will be celebrating the 100th year of Ruritan.

The Foundation started a new investment plan called “Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow”.

For just 60 cents a day, much less than a soft drink or a cup of coffee, you can also give more financial assistance to students.

Let's be proud of the amount of our scholarships and the number of scholarships that we give away every year.

Another way to help grow the Foundation is the Tom Downing Fellowship. That money invested to honor our club or district members also goes into the Foundation funds for Build Your Dollar Scholarships.

Your district governor should have received a letter from me pertaining to a way your club can receive help so your club can award a Tom Downing Fellowship to a well deserving club member.

Your district can help your club honor a deserving member of your club.

We are getting older as club members and we should be honoring our members who have given of their time and efforts to help their communities.

Please consider giving one every year, if possible, to those members that have worked for years to help your Ruritan club grow and thrive while helping in their communities.

Last but by no means least of the ways that you can help grow the Foundation is the “Walmart Spark Good Round Up”. This involves giving a few pennies every time you make a purchase thru Walmart.com and rounding up your purchase to the nearest dollar.

You have to sign up through your computer or phone at Walmart.com.

Please consider helping the Foundation grow so we will be able to help more students with a larger scholarship.

I want to thank Phillip Bradshaw, our Past Foundation President, for the six years of dedication he gave to the Foundation. He was a fantastic leader and was very dedicated to helping the Foundation and the National Board of Directors to work together for the good of Ruritan.

If at any time you need any help or assistance with understanding the works of the Foundation, please contact your Foundation representative.

Will the Foundation members please stand.

Josh Adams will be your new Vice President.

Debra Knesal will be your new Treasurer.

Alex Sowers will be your new Secretary and our newest member O.H. Bobbitt will be our new Promotion Chair.

I want to invite all of you to the Foundation Fellowship Weekend which will be held on June 13th to the 15th .

It will be held at Blackwater Falls State Park in the beautiful state of West Virginia.

We will be visiting the Blackwater River and Falls, Canaan Valley Sky Lift, Seneca Rocks, and the beautiful Seneca Caverns.

You will see some of the most beautiful state parks of the great state of “Best” Virginia. More information will be in your magazine later this year. The Silent and Live Auctions, the Ink Pens, Donations, and the “Invest TodayImpact Tomorrow” program brought in almost \$20,000. We thank all of you for the many items that you brought to be auctioned. Some items were sold and donated back to be auctioned a second time. Our scholarship winners will appreciate it.