



Ruritan

Volume 90, Fall 2025





Ruritan

Volume 90, Fall 2025

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Growing Together

Ruritan is growing—and it's because of you! This year has been full of exciting new projects, creative membership efforts, and countless acts of kindness that show why our organization is so important. Growth comes in many forms: welcoming new members, expanding our impact, and building stronger connections in our communities. Every new person who joins Ruritan brings fresh ideas, energy, and a passion for making a difference. And just as importantly, we remember the theme from the 2014 Growth Committee: Keep them, don't sweep them—because keeping the members we already have is just as vital as bringing in new ones.

I have an extra connection to this theme, because it was established the same year I joined Ruritan. From the very start, it has stayed in my mind and shaped the way I see our work: growth isn't just about numbers; it's about people, relationships, and making sure no one feels left behind.

I've had the privilege of visiting clubs across Ruritanland, and I am continually amazed by your ability to adapt and try new things. Whether you're hosting community events, starting new service projects, or coming up with ways to connect with others, you are keeping Ruritan strong and relevant. Each club has its own unique personality, but all of you share the same commitment to helping others and building fellowship. And through it all, you're living out "Keep them, don't sweep them" by making sure every member feels valued and involved.

What's most exciting is how you've embraced change while staying true to our mission. You've welcomed new members who bring different perspectives, and you've found innovative ways to meet the needs of your communities. At the same time, you've worked hard to keep current members engaged and connected, showing how "Keep them, don't sweep them" isn't just a slogan—it's a way of making sure everyone feels like an essential part of the Ruritan family. This creativity and openness are what make Ruritan such a vital part of so many lives. It proves that no matter how much the world changes, our values of service and connection remain just as important.

Let's keep this momentum going! Think about someone in your life who might love being part of Ruritan—a friend, a neighbor, or a coworker. Invite them to join us, and share with them the joy of serving others and being part of a group that truly makes a difference. And remember, once they're here, keep them, don't sweep them—help them feel welcomed, valued, and involved in the life of your club. Every new member strengthens our ability to bring hope and help to those in need, and every current member who stays active keeps our clubs strong.



Together, we can continue to grow Ruritan for future generations. Your dedication and hard work make it all possible, and I am so thankful for everything you do. Let's keep working together to make our communities better and brighter—and let's keep living out the theme:

Keep them, don't sweep them!



The Member Who Never Came Back

It amuses me to think that your club spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time.

Don't you remember me? I was the one who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention.

I tried to be friendly, but everybody seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but nobody paid much heed to me.

I hoped someone would ask me to join a committee or to somehow participate, but no one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. No one asked where I had been.

I guess it did not matter whether I was there.

Who am I? I'm the member who never came back.



Keep Them, Don't Sweep Them: Strengthening Community by Valuing Every Member

As we head into the fall season, many clubs prepare for membership renewals by looking at their roster to identify those whom they plan to drop. Every January, we hear the same phrase: “We’re just cleaning our rolls.” But too often, what that really means is: *We’ve lost someone.*

It’s easy to focus on growth by adding new members, but real, lasting growth also comes from holding on to the people who already said “yes,” the ones who believed in us enough to join. This is the heart of the 2014 campaign mentioned by President Becky that still rings true today: **“Keep them, don’t sweep them.”**

We all know the feeling of being left out or overlooked. The poem *“The Member Who Never Came Back”* reminds us that someone sitting quietly at our meetings—or missing a few—might be a member slipping through the cracks—not because they didn’t care, but because we didn’t notice.

So how can we do better? Here are five simple actions your club can take this fall to re-engage members before they’re swept away:

1. **Check in with intention.** Create a list of members who haven’t attended recently. Reach out personally—not just through group emails. A simple phone call or handwritten card can make a big difference.
2. **Ask, don’t assume.** Sometimes, people stop coming because they feel excluded, don’t know how to help, or struggle with scheduling. Ask what they need to feel welcome and involved again.
3. **Make room for everyone.** Don’t let your club become cliquish. Rotate where you sit, invite newer members into conversations, and encourage mixed-age or interest-based teams for projects.
4. **Offer flexible engagement.** Not every member can attend every meeting, but that doesn’t mean they don’t care. Let them know how they can still help—online, behind the scenes, or through one-time service events.
5. **Celebrate every contribution.** Recognize members who show up consistently *and* those who’ve stepped away but are returning. Highlight small wins and acts of kindness, not just big service projects.

As you reflect on your club’s year, ask: Who haven’t we seen in a while? Who might be waiting for someone to notice their absence?

We build thriving communities not just by who we bring in but also by how we keep people connected once they arrive. Be the saguaro cactus not only for your community but also for your members. Let’s live out our values of Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service—not just for the new faces but also for the familiar ones who might need us now more than ever.

Keep them, don’t sweep them. Because every member matters.

Rhythm: A Method for Growth, Training, and Communication

Part 1: Getting in Rhythm – The Basics of Strategic Focus

If you're a district or club leader who's never done strategy planning before, don't worry—you're not alone. Strategic planning can sound intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. This guide walks you step-by-step through using a simple and practical method from Patrick Thean's book *Rhythm*. The goal is to help you grow your club or district by focusing on what matters most and keeping your team on track all year long. When you get in rhythm, your team has clarity, consistency, and purpose.

Step 1: Pick Your Winning Moves

Your "Winning Moves" are the 3–5 top priorities that will have the biggest impact in your district or club this year. These should be meaningful, measurable goals—not just tasks or ideas. Think about where your district or club needs to grow or improve and then choose goals that will help you get there. Some examples include:

- Start new Ruritan clubs
- Train 100% of club officers in your district
- Increase member retention by 15%
- Improve district communication through quarterly newsletters or check-ins
- Launch a district-wide youth initiative

These are your strategic anchors for the year. They should feel exciting and motivating, but also realistic. You'll use them to guide decisions, plan events, and allocate resources.

Step 2: Break It Down by Quarter

Once you've picked your Winning Moves, break each one into smaller action steps for each quarter. Planning this way helps prevent burnout and keeps your team focused. Here's an example of what this could look like for the goal "Start new clubs":

- Q1: Identify communities with potential and make initial contacts
- Q2: Hold interest meetings and begin forming leadership teams
- Q3: Charter the clubs and host kickoff events
- Q4: Provide follow-up support, training, and mentoring

When you chunk the work by quarter, you give your team short-term wins and milestones to celebrate. This helps build momentum.

Step 3: Know What Success Looks Like

For each Winning Move, identify your Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These are the results that show whether you're making progress. They should be:

- Measurable (numbers, dates, outcomes)
- Time-bound (by the end of a quarter or the year)
- Clear and simple

Some KPI examples:

- Add 25 net new members by year-end
- Host three officer training events with 75% attendance
- Start new clubs by October
- Send out one district-wide communication each quarter

These KPIs help you check progress, guide team discussions, and adjust as needed.

Step 4: Write It Down and Share It

Strategic plans don't need to be long or formal. A one-page summary is plenty, especially for club or district use. What's important is that everyone on your team knows what the priorities are and how they can contribute. Post it where people will see it, talk about it regularly in meetings, and make sure new leaders understand it too.

Rhythm: A Method for Growth, Training, and Communication

Part 2: Staying in Rhythm – Building Habits That Stick

Now that your yearly goals and quarterly action steps are in place, the next challenge is execution. Good ideas and strong plans often lose momentum when people get busy or disconnected. Staying in rhythm means creating simple routines that keep your team focused, motivated, and in sync. Here's how.

1. Establish a Monthly Rhythm Meeting

Set a recurring monthly check-in for your leadership team (even if that's just 2–3 people). Keep it to 30–45 minutes, and structure it around these four questions:

- What were this quarter's goals?
- What's going well (green)?
- What's at risk or off-track (yellow/red)?
- What support or changes are needed?

Make it a safe space. Focus on learning, not blaming. Keep the discussion short and action-oriented.

2. Use a Simple Visual Scoreboard

Create a chart or spreadsheet listing your quarterly goals. Add traffic light colors to show progress:

- **Green** – On track
- **Yellow** – At risk, needs attention
- **Red** – Off track, needs immediate action

This helps everyone quickly see where to focus. You can update it before or during your rhythm meetings. You don't need fancy software—just something visible and shared.

3. Stay Focused on the Quarter

Don't worry about the whole year during your rhythm meetings. Just work on what's due this quarter. This prevents overload and makes progress feel more doable.

4. Celebrate Small Wins

Progress builds energy. When you complete a step, meet a goal, or overcome a challenge, take a moment to celebrate. Send a thank-you note. Recognize someone in a meeting. Share it in your district newsletter. Small wins motivate teams to keep going.

5. Make Course Corrections

Not everything will go according to plan—and that's okay. If a goal turns red or yellow, use your rhythm meeting to talk about why. Then decide whether to adjust the timeline, get more help, or shift the approach. Strategic planning is not set in stone—it's a living process.

Consistency is more important than perfection. Stick to the monthly meeting rhythm, even if things feel off-track. That's how you get back in step.

*Coming in Part 3: How to finish the year strong, reflect as a team, and pass the rhythm forward to next year's leaders.

Rhythm: A Method for Growth, Training, and Communication

Part 3: Finishing the Song – Reflecting, Resetting, and Repeating

Finishing well is just as important as starting strong. The end of the year is your opportunity to reflect on progress, celebrate what went well, and identify how to improve next time. This final rhythm keeps momentum alive and sets up future leaders for success.

1. Host a Year-End Debrief

Gather your team—officers, committee chairs, zone leaders, or club presidents—and hold a reflection session. You can do this at a regular meeting or a special planning retreat. Use these questions to guide the conversation:

- What did we plan to accomplish?
- What did we actually accomplish?
- What were our biggest wins?
- What challenges got in the way?
- What should we do differently next year?

Be honest, open, and positive. Focus on learning, not blaming. This is a chance to gain wisdom and insight.

2. Summarize the Year in Writing

Document your work in a one-page year-end report. It should include:

- The 3–5 Winning Moves you set
- Key results (color-coded if possible)
- Specific successes and positive highlights
- Major lessons learned
- Recommendations for next year's team

Keep it simple and useful. This becomes a roadmap for the next group.

3. Pass the Baton

Share your year-end summary with your successor or the incoming leadership team. Sit down with them if possible. Walk them through what worked, what didn't, and what you hope they'll build on. This helps preserve continuity and avoids wasted effort.

4. Start the Next Rhythm Cycle

Use what you've learned to kick off next year's planning. Maybe some goals will carry over. Maybe you'll set new priorities. Either way, begin again with the same rhythm:

- Choose your Winning Moves
- Break them into quarterly steps
- Track progress monthly
- Reflect and reset at year-end

This process isn't just about making plans—it's about becoming a more intentional, effective team. When every district and club uses rhythm, we create alignment, purpose, and sustainable growth.

Final Thought

The Rhythm Method gives you a repeatable way to plan, execute, and learn. It's simple, practical, and proven. If you're consistent with it—even imperfectly—you'll see results.

Strategic planning doesn't need to be overwhelming. With Rhythm, you take it step by step, one quarter at a time. And when you keep going, Ruritan will keep growing.

Let's finish strong—and then begin again.

2025 National Board Committee Reports

The Communication Committee

Don't Forget the Details – They Matter!

Reminders and Tips to Keep Your Club Connected and Visible. As we move through the second half of the year, it's a great time for a few quick reminders to help keep your club strong, visible, and connected—not just locally, but across all of Ruritan.

eContact

Not everyone in your club uses email—but Ruritan National shares important updates, reminders, deadlines, and resources *by email*. To ensure this information reaches **every member** of your club, it's essential to designate an **eContact**.

An eContact acts as your club's official communication link with Ruritan National. It's their responsibility to receive all email communications and **share those updates at club meetings** so no member is left out—regardless of whether they use email or not.

Here's how to get started:

1. **Talk to your club** about the importance of this role. Make sure members understand that the eContact helps ensure **no one misses key information**.
2. **Ask for a volunteer** who is willing to take on this important responsibility.
3. **Log in to MMS** (Member Management System):
 - Find your club.
 - Go to the **Roles** section.
 - Add New Club Officer
 - Select **eContact** from the dropdown menu under Role.
 - Select individual
 - Set the start and end date.
 - Save the entry—done!

Not only does this make sure your club stays in the loop, but it also gives a member the chance to serve in a valuable leadership role.

Keep your Club Connected

Accurate member contact information is essential for staying connected and informed. If your club members' mailing addresses or email addresses are outdated or missing, they may be missing important updates and opportunities.

Action Step: Log in to the MMS and verify that each member's email address and physical address are entered and correct.

Print your club roster and bring it to your next meeting. Ask each member to review and confirm their contact information so your records stay accurate and up to date.

You can also add your club's website or Facebook page in the system. If your club has an online presence, make sure it's kept current—especially as potential new members may be searching for a club near them.

As Gene Burgess reminded us at the Summer Leadership Conference: "It takes about 30 seconds for someone to decide if they want to join a club—and if they can't find yours or see outdated information, they'll move on and join somewhere else."

2025 National Board Committee Reports

National Board Communication Committee (continued)

Don't miss the chance to welcome a future member. A few minutes of upkeep now can make all the difference!

Don't Skip Reporting Dollars, Hours, and Scholarships

Every hour you serve, every dollar your club donates, every scholarship you award—it all matters. Whether your club contributed \$50 or \$5,000, served 5 hours or 500, your efforts are part of the larger Ruritan mission—and we want the world to know about it.

But we can't share that powerful story without your help.

To showcase the amazing work happening in our local communities, districts, and across the country, we need each club to complete their reports and share that data with their districts. Then, your district can report it to Ruritan National, allowing us to paint a complete picture of our collective impact.

Your report is a vital piece of that puzzle.

Make sure to include:

- Total volunteer hours served by your club
- Total dollars donated back to the community
- Number of scholarships awarded
- Total dollar amount given in scholarships

This information isn't just for records—it helps us:

- Promote Ruritan at the local and national level
- Attract new members by showing what we really do
- Tell the world about the power of service, fellowship, and community

As you prepare your reports for your district and your upcoming community service report, be sure to include these key figures. Together, we can share a compelling story of what it means to be Ruritan.

Let's make sure every act of kindness, every hour of service, and every dollar of generosity counts—and gets counted.

Social Media

Social media is one of the easiest and most powerful tools to let your community know that your club is active, engaged, and making a difference. Whether it's through photos or short videos, your posts can inspire others and help grow the Ruritan family.

Here are a few ways to make your posts stand out:

- Share short videos of all the fun you're having! Use Reels, Instagram Stories, or Snapchat to show behind-the-scenes moments, quick highlights from events, or just the joy of serving together. These quick clips are highly engaging and widely shared.
- Post photos from meetings, service projects, or social events—people love seeing themselves and their neighbors getting involved.
- Use short captions to answer the basic questions: Who, What, Where, When, and most importantly—Why it matters.

2025 National Board Committee Reports

National Board Communication Committee (continued)

- Tag your town or local community pages to increase visibility and spread awareness of your impact.
- Share stories from other clubs to uplift and support one another—and they might do the same for you!
- If your club doesn't already have a Facebook page or group, start one today. Even occasional posts go a long way in boosting visibility and attracting new members.

Sharing is growing. Let's keep telling the Ruritan story—through every picture, post, and video. The little things you share today help build a big, bright picture of service, fellowship, and community for tomorrow.

SHARE, SHARE, SHARE = GROW, GROW, GROW

Communication Committee: Co-Chairs Merlin Scales and Larry Garrison. Committee members Dave Wingett, Raymond Cade, Marty Sewell, Patty Hamilton, Diane Lawson, and Sarah Kelly.



2025 National Board Committee Reports

Training Committee Report

Summer Leadership Conference: A Day of Learning, Inspiration, and Service

This year's Summer Leadership Conference brought together 115 Ruritans for a day packed with both information and inspiration. A big thank you goes to David Thompson, Crystal Andrews, Craig Whitt, Sarah Kelly, and everyone behind the scenes who helped make the event a success.

In true Ruritan spirit, attendees joined forces for a meaningful service project—collecting enough school supplies to fill 120 backpacks for students in Radford Area Schools and Western North Carolina Schools. Special thanks to Brian Grove and Aesha Schneid for organizing and filling the backpacks, along with everyone who donated supplies or lent a hand. This is what Ruritans do best—serving communities with heart.

Training Committee Updates

The Training Committee continues to develop new training modules and videos to equip members for success. Some modules are complete, while others are still in progress, and your feedback is welcome. We encourage members to explore the training materials in MMS by logging in, selecting My Record, and clicking on Training. From there, you can browse the modules for each office and send your suggestions for improvements to jzehr56@gmail.com or billysparc@gmail.com. Your input helps make these resources even better.

Looking Ahead to the National Convention

Planning is also underway for National Convention workshops. Committee Chair Julie Marshall is looking for engaging presenters to share their expertise. If you're interested in presenting, please email jjmarshall2010@gmail.com to learn more.

Together, we're building stronger leaders, stronger clubs, and stronger communities.

- Co-Chairs: Jim Zehr and Billy Hobbs



2025 Foundation President Clinton Guy Cox

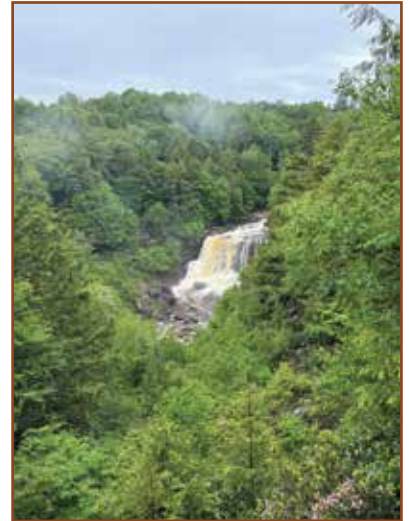


I want to thank everyone who attended the Foundation Weekend in June. We did a lot of traveling from site to site. In visiting these areas, I hope you will have an interest in coming back to see what other beautiful places West Virginia has to offer. I would have liked to have had the time to show you other tourist sites. I am hoping that by visiting these sites folks will want to come back and visit other tourist sites.

The Silent Auction brought in \$732.00 and the Live Auction brought in \$2,060 for a total of \$2,792. We sold seven Foundation pens for \$245.00, 16 "Million Dollar Club" pins for \$80.00 and had an additional \$198.00 in donations. This gave us a grand total of \$3,315 which will help with our "Build Your Dollars" Scholarship Fund.

The Trustees want to thank everyone who attended, donated items for the auctions, prepared and donated food for the Hospitality Suite and the lunch on Saturday.

When contacting Ruritan National Foundation please use the most updated fillable forms from the ruritan.org website. The "Build Your Dollars" Scholarship form is to be returned on or before September 1. Don't forget to include the check for \$300 for 2026. Remember your club will determine the scholarship recipient. Last year we presented scholarships to clubs for a total of \$675.00. Approximately \$77,178 in Contracted/Endowed Funds for scholarships were also given out this year. We have presented 485 checks for \$650 each to clubs for their scholarship recipients this year. 21 clubs missed the deadline and will either roll over their \$300 to the 2026 BY\$ program or ask for a refund. The first three quarters of donations/contributions received totals to \$137,471.10.



Your club may also contribute to the Foundation through the Birthday Club. The club donates \$2 per full member and receives a certificate at the district convention or \$10 per full member to receive a plaque. The form is also located on ruritan.org under Foundation forms.

Please do not forget to honor your members with a Tom Downing Fellowship. We have several older members that have worked for years to make your club a successful enterprise. Wouldn't it be nice to honor them with a Tom

Downing in recognition for their many years of dedicated work. That form is also on the ruritan.org website.

2025 Foundation President *(continued)*

You or your club may also establish a Permanent Fund with a minimum of \$1,000. These funds can be named in honor or memory of an individual or to recognize a club or district. Permanent funds can be funded by a lump sum or through individual gifts over time. As these funds grow and reach \$10,000 you would be eligible for an Endowed/Contract Fund status and be able to choose their own recipient for a scholarship.



Endowed/Contract Funds can also be donated by individual, families, clubs, or districts to memorialize or honor someone with a named, endowed scholarship. The donor who establishes the fund is allowed to select a scholarship selection committee that chooses a scholarship recipient each year.

Another way to donate to the Foundation is through the Walmart Spark Good Round Up. If you are a customer ordering online through Walmart, you can round up to the

nearest dollar and donate the change to the Ruritan National Foundation. Sign up at <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood>.

The last program we have is the Invest Today... Impact Tomorrow. It is a 5-year initiative with a challenge of donating 60 cents a day to your Foundation which is a small sacrifice – less than the cost of a soft drink or a cup of coffee. By the end of the program on our 60th Anniversary, your support will have a profound and lasting impact on the education of young minds and tomorrow's leaders! This will be a total of \$219 per year and will be added to your present fund or you will be starting a new fund to achieve a Permanent Fund. When you complete the program, you will have contributed \$1,095. Use the Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow donation form from the Foundation's forms website.



Members of our Ruritan Clubs have been very gracious in their contributions to the Foundation. We only exist to assist the clubs in helping students to further their education through trade school, junior college, college, or university.

Thank all of you who contribute in some way toward helping students and possible Ruritan leaders in our future.





2026 Ruritan National Convention

January 23-24, 2026
Lexington KY



Rudy Bear Drop
to Benefit the Union City
Ruritan
Volunteer Fire Department



Special Guest Appearance by
HANK THE HORSE and Owner
TAMMI REGAN



Create a Pillowcase to
Support Military Missions,
Inc.





2026 Ruritan National Convention

January 23-24, 2026

Lexington KY

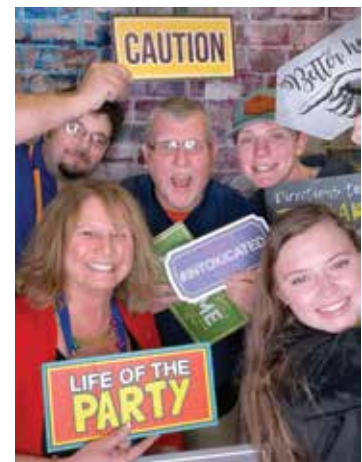


District-sponsored
Food and Snack Tables

Derby Hat Contest



Pottery Wheel - Karaoke - Photo Booth





2026 Ruritan National Convention

January 23-24, 2026

Lexington KY

*Banquet Entertainment
Provided by
JACK and DAVIS REID!*



Jack and Davis Reid, you may or may not have heard of them!

To ring a bell a little faster they are sons of Wilson Fairchild and grandsons of The Statler Brothers! They've been traveling around and playing theaters, fairs and festivals all over , and have grown a strong following !!

They've opened up for artist such as Lorrie Morgan, Gene Watson, Wilson Fairchild, Rhonda Vincent, Black hawk and more!! They have a real country music sound that will get you dancing, and their comedy will keep you laughing all night long!!

They are Virginia born and raised and proud of it!! So basically if you like to have fun, laugh, and listen to some good country music you'll love Jack and Davis Reid!

LEXINGTON CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

January 23-24, 2026



Convention Highlights

Rudy Bear Drop – Purchase Rudy Bears to be given to the Union City Ruritan Fire Department

Make pillowcases to donate to Military Missions



DAY ACTIVITY

Wed	Foundation Trustee Meeting
Thurs	NBOD Meeting Tours and explore Lexington on your own Registration/Vendors/Ruritan Supply Candidate Tables Silent Auction Pre-Convention Workshops Nominating Committee w/Candidates Chair Meeting w/Friday Participants Sgt at Arms Meeting Caucuses
Friday	APNP Meeting Registration/Vendors/Ruritan Supply Outgoing DG/Board Breakfast 2025 Lt. Governor Training Club and District Officers Training Tours and explore Lexington on your own Candidates Tables Chairs Meeting w/Saturday Participants Bylaws/Resolutions for delegates First Timers/New Gold Key reception Opening/Flag Ceremony/Memorial Service Business Session Workshops Derby Day w/karaoke-Live Auction-hat contest/Run for the Roses Award/Photo Booth/District Food Tables/Pottery Wheel Caucuses
Saturday	Registration/Vendors/Ruritan Supply Voting Workshops Business Session Installation banquet/Entertainment
Sunday	Worship Service NBOD meeting

**** Please Note: Registering on Your MMS Profile is Preferred ****

*** In MMS, go to My Record, then Events ***

Ruritan National Convention – Lexington, KY January 23- 24, 2026



Register up to two people using this form. Use more forms for additional people. One attendee below must be a Ruritan member. Confirmation will be emailed to the Ruritan attendee for their party.

Aside from some limited special seating, everyone will be seated for meals on a "first come, first served" basis. You should send your registration forms in together if you want to be seated with specific attendees.

Please print or type

1st Attendee: _____

Member#: _____

Club: _____

District: _____

Phone number: _____

2nd Attendee: _____

Member# (if member): _____

Club: _____

District: _____

Phone number: _____

Check the items below that apply:

☐ I have the following food allergies/restrictions:

☐ I need handicapped-accessible seating at meals.

☐ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

☐ I have 50 years or more of perfect attendance.

☐ This is my first convention.

☐ I expect to be a voting delegate for the

_____ Ruritan Club.

Check the items below that apply:

☐ I have the following food allergies/restrictions:

☐ I need handicapped-accessible seating at meals.

☐ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

☐ I have 50 years or more of perfect attendance.

☐ This is my first convention.

☐ I expect to be a voting delegate for the

_____ Ruritan Club.

Please provide us with the names of your guest who are NOT purchasing a full package but will be attending the convention. We will create them a name badge.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

We honor and thank all those who have served, are currently serving, and military personnel. For special recognition, please provide your branch of service.

Name: _____

☐ U.S. Army

☐ U.S. Air Force

☐ U. S. Marines

☐ U.S. Navy

☐ U.S. Coast Guard

☐ U.S. Space Force

Ruritan National Convention – Lexington, KY

January 23 - 24, 2026

Meals

There is a deadline for meal count guarantees with the caterer. Registrations received after January 1, 2026, will be processed as walk-ins, and meals will not be guaranteed for walk-in registrants. To be guaranteed a convention polo, your registration must be received by December 12, 2025. Kid's meals are available upon request.

You must select Package 1 or Package 2 in order to vote at the convention.

Cancellations received within 10 days of the start of the convention will be eligible for base registration reimbursement only.

Packages include the Derby Party Reception, access to exhibits, business meetings, workshops, voting, and all other convention activities.

Package Options

	Qty	Price	Total
Full Package includes the Saturday Installation Banquet and Derby Party Reception	Package 1	\$255	
Base registration and Derby Party Reception	Package 2	\$180	

Extra Meal Tickets and Items

Must purchase at least one package above to purchase additional meal tickets

	Qty	Price	Total
Derby Party Reception	Reception	\$51	
Saturday Installation Banquet	Banquet	\$75	
Rudy Bears - Donated to Ruritan Union City Fire Department	Rudy Bears	\$12.50	
I want a 2026 Convention Polo Pre-sales Only – Order Now ___S___M___L___XL___2XL___3XL ___XLT___2XLT___3XLT	Polo	\$40	
	Total		

Payment Information

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_____ Please charge my card

*****All credit card transactions will include a 3.5% service fee**

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Mail to: Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

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<https://www.visitlex.com/listing/woodford-reserve-distillery/5810/>

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1922 House Vineyards & Winery | <https://1922housewinery.com/>

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Lovers Leap Vineyards & Winery | [Lovers Leap Vineyards and Winery in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky](#)

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Sedona Taphouse

McDonald's Subway

Cracker Barrel

Red State BBQ

Little Caesars

Jimmy John's

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Eastland Shopping Center | 1209 Winchester Rd, Lexington, KY 40505

Fayette Mall | [Fayette Mall](#) | [Lexington KY](#)

2026 Ruritan National Candidates

National President-Elect

Roger Davis
12101 Yucca Drive
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236
Phone: (804) 914-6827
Email: rajir001@gmail.com



CLUB: Central Chesterfield Club member since 2010; Central Chesterfield Club President 2016-2017; Central Chesterfield Club Vice President 2015; Central Chesterfield Club Secretary 2013.

DISTRICT: Appomattox District Lt. Governor 2020-2021; Appomattox District Growth & Development Chair 2025; Appomattox District Zone 4 Governor 2019; Appomattox District Zone 4 Lt. Governor 2018.

NATIONAL: National Director 2022 - 2025; National Growth & Development Committee member 2022-2024, Chairman 2024; Project Focus Committee 2022 – 2024, Project Focus Committee President 2024; have attended eight National Conventions, several Summer Leadership Conferences; Motivational Speaker at the 2020 Summer Leadership Conference; I am a Ruritan Forever and a President Gold Key holder.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Grundy High School; B.A. in Modern Foreign Languages from Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia (UVA-Wise); Studied Amharic from the Defense Language Institute East Coast; Dale Carnegie Human Relations Course Graduate.

OCCUPATION: Dealer and Field Manager for Snap-on Tools; Distributor and District Manager for Mac Tools, where I received the National Recruiting Award; Manufacturers Rep and Eastern Regional Manager for Alco Manufacturing; Commercial Real Estate Agent for KW Commercial Real Estate; Associate Broker for EXP Realty.

OTHER: Married to Ann for 44 years; have two sons, two grandchildren, and one on the way; Toastmasters International, where I have the Competent Toastmasters Designation and have been Area Governor; Speak four languages: Amharic, French, German and Spanish; Enjoy Reading and traveling, along with Tai-Chi, Ventriloquism, and Puppetry.

National President-Elect

Merlin Scales
3470 Riverside Drive
Mount Airy, NC 27030
Phone: (336) 325-5990
Email: merlinscales@hotmail.com



CLUB: A member of Ararat Club since 2007 and a member of the Red Bank Club since 2023; Ararat Club President in 2011, 2014-2016 and 2021; Ararat Club Vice President in 2019; Ararat Club Director in 2010, 2012 and 2022; Have also served as Ararat Club Secretary and Treasurer; Has served as Chairman for all club committees; Ararat Club Ruritan of the Year twice.

DISTRICT: Dan River District Zone Governor 2022 and 2024; Dan River District Fundraising Chair in 2024; Zone Governor of the Year winner.

NATIONAL: National Director 2023-2025; Member of the Publicity & Public Relations Committee 2023-2024; Co-Chair of the Communication Committee for 2025; Headed the Big Rudy 35th Anniversary fundraiser; Head of the Ruritan Henry Commemorative Rifle fundraiser; I am a Ruritan Forever in the Ararat and Red Bank Clubs; I am a Tom Downing Fellow; President's Golden Key holder; Have attended both National Conventions and Summer Leadership Conferences.

EDUCATION: Mount Airy Senior High; Associate's degree in Electronic Engineering from Surry Community College; Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Surry Community College; Basic Law Enforcement Training at Surry Community College; Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Gardner Web University.

OCCUPATION: Raised on a family tobacco farm; worked in a textile mill; worked on a powerline crew; worked as an HVAC service technician; Worked for 13 years in Law Enforcement, starting as a Patrol Officer and becoming Chief of Police; Former Deputy Sheriff in North Carolina and Virginia; Built and managed "Rabbit Ridge" gun shop and shooting range for 22 years until selling in 2021; Currently a Magistrate in Surry County, NC.

OTHER: Member of Hunters Chappel in Ararat, VA, and have served on the Board of Directors; Member of the Mount Airy, NC, Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star; Life member of the Renfro Masonic Lodge in Mt. Airy, NC; Past Master of Renfro Masonic Lodge 2015 and 2018; Life member of Oasis Shrine; Life member of Shriners International; Life member of NRA and National gun rights association; Certified pistol, rifle, shotgun, personal protection in the home Instructor and Range Safety Officer.

2026 Ruritan National Candidates

National Director

Bonnie Hartman
70 Hartman Road
Greeneville, TN 37743
Phone: (423) 620-3964
Email: hartmanbk65@gmail.com



CLUB: Mt. Pleasant TN Ruritan Club Member since 2014; Mt. Pleasant TN Club President 2019-2025;
DISTRICT: Davy Crockett District Zone 3 Governor 2023 – 2025.
NATIONAL: Attended the National Conventions in 2024 and 2025; Attended the 2024 Summer Leadership Conference; Tom Downing Fellow.
EDUCATION: Graduated High School; Additional courses for work at Walters State Community College Vocational Center, Cosmetology Management Degree; Weld inspection training for US Navy ships; CNA degree.
OCCUPATION: Instructor at the Washington DC Beauty Academy; Quality Inspector for Greeneville Shipbuilders; Instructor at Vocational Center for Mechanical drawing, blueprint reading, and wood carving; Retired from Duramax Tokai Rubber Company after twenty years; Supervisor of the quality lab at Duramax Tokai Rubber Company.
OTHER: I have three children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; Attend the New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church; on the board of elders for the church and serve as treasurer; 2024 delegate from E. TN Presbytery to annual CP General Assembly; Serve as President and Treasurer for the New Bethel B.O.D for the cemetery; DAR member; volunteer Instructor at Roby Senior Center; Business owner; VP for Greene County Genealogy Group.

National Director

Dr. Christopher Poff
640 John Carlyle Street,
Unit 245
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (540) 320-7365
Email: chrispoff9@gmail.com



CLUB: Belmont II Club Member since 2001; Belmont II Club President 2012 and 2013; Belmont II Club Citizen of the Year – Belview Elementary School 2006; Belmont II Club Double Your Dollar Scholarship Recipient 2013.
DISTRICT: New River District Youth Coordinator 2013; New River District Rudy Youth of the Year 2011 and 2012.
NATIONAL: Have attended nineteen National Conventions; Served as the escort to the First Daughter in 2002; I am a Ruritan Forever.
EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Emory University; Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Richmond.
OCCUPATION: Scientist – United States Navy; Process Chemistry Scientist – Vertex Pharmaceuticals; Graduate Teaching Assistant – Emory University; Facility Supervisor – Weinstein Center for Recreation and Wellness; Contractor/handyman – ongoing for Rick Poff, HomeWorx.
OTHER: Happily married to my wife, Dr. Madeline Dekarske, for five years; We have two Bengal cats, Vera and Lily; I am a third-generation Ruritan; I am an Eagle Scout; Order of the Arrow – Ordeal Member; American Red Cross platelet donor with over one hundred donations; In my free time, I enjoy working out (lifting) and running (marathon scheduled for November 2025).

2026 Ruritan National Candidates

National Director

Richard Rambo
180 Lincoln Street
Sterling, NE 68443
Phone: (423) 202-5665
Email: coachrambo2003@gmail.com



CLUB: Charter member of Sterling NE club since 2022; Sterling NE Club President 2022-2024; Greenwood TN Club President 2016 and 2017; Greenwood TN Club Vice President 2007-2008 and 2019; Former member of the Greenwood TN and Jonesborough Clubs; Have served as Sergeant-at-Arms,

DISTRICT: Middle America District Growth & Development Chair 2025; Middle America District Zone 5 Governor 2025; Davy Crockett District Zone 1 Governor 2021.

NATIONAL: Attended the 2023 National Convention; DRM for the Sterling NE club in 2022.

EDUCATION: I graduated from high school; Had logistics training in the US military; Participated in Parts Pro Training; Attended Parts Manager Training in Atlanta, GA.

OCCUPATION: Motor Sergeant for the US Army; Trained as an instructor in the Engine Electrical Division including Test Branch; Experience in the Maintenance field for Heavy Duty Equipment; Part Sales, Outside Parts Sales (auto, HD, off-road construction, refrigeration trailer units); Over the road driver for 12 years and worked in the truck load dispatch.

OTHER: Married to Karen; Long-time member of the UMC Church where I did three mission trips to the Czech Republic; Enjoyed conducting Sunday School, Bible study, singing in the choir, singing solo, and driving the church bus; Currently attend St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling, NE, where I am on the Church Council.

National Director

Kevin Smith
823 Trucker Drive
Ararat, VA 24053
Phone: (276) 229-6493
Email: khsmith1972@gmail.com



CLUB: Member of Ararat Club for 22 years; Charter member of the Stuart and Woolwine Community Clubs; Ararat Club President 2001; Ararat Club Vice President 2000; Ararat Club Secretary 1997; Ararat Club Treasurer 2004-2010 and 2019-present; Scholarship Committee chair, Tom Downing Committee, Bingo Committee and Hunters for the Hungry collection Committee for Ararat Club; Ararat Club Ruritan of the Year for 2001 and 2021; Stuart Club Director 2025; Fundraising Committee Chair and served on the Mental Health Awareness Committee; Woolwine Community Club Bingo Committee and Veteran's Parade Committee member.

DISTRICT: Dan River District Lt. Governor 2023; Dan River District Foundation Chair 2022 and 2023; Dan River District Zone 1 Governor 2003 and 2025. Dan River District Ruritan of the Year 2022 and 2024.

NATIONAL: Have attended eleven National Conventions; Attended the Summer Leadership Conference in 2022, 2023, and 2025; I am a Ruritan Forever and a Tom Downing Fellow; Received the JJ Gwaltney Award; Golden Key recipient with fifteen plus members; Received the Garland Gray Award for Most Dollars Donated by Clubs; DRM for the Stuart and Woolwine Community clubs.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Patrick County High School; Associate's Degree in Accounting from Surry Community College; Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Gardner Webb University.

OCCUPATION: Work for Wachovia/Wells Fargo Bank for 33 years, where I am currently a Senior Quality Assurance Administrator.

OTHER: Married to Pamela for eleven years; Daughter and Son-in-Law Taylor (Timothy), Sons and Daughters-in-Law Trea (Holly) and Jonathan (Ashley); Grandchildren Rhett & Denver; Serve as an election official; serve on the Board for the Patrick County Public Service Authority; Hobbies include NASCAR, Deer hunting and live music.

2026 Ruritan National Candidates

Foundation Trustee

David Hogan
2237 NC Highway 704 W
Lawsonville, NC 27022
Phone: (336) 607-4944
Email: davidhogan74@gmail.com



CLUB: Member of Sandy Ridge Club since 2005 and Lawsonville Club 2022-2025; Sandy Ridge Club President 2020-2021; Sandy Ridge Club Secretary 2014-2019 and 2022-2024; Sandy Ridge Club Director 2010-2012; Served on the Citizenship & Patriotism and the Social Development Committees, where I served as Chair; Lawsonville Club Director 2023-2024; Sandy Ridge Club Ruritan of the Year two times.

DISTRICT: Piedmont District Governor 2019 and 2024; Piedmont District Lt. Governor 2018 and 2023; Piedmont District Fundraising Chair 2018 and 2023; Piedmont District Zone 9 Governor 2015-2021 and 2025; Piedmont District Zone 8 Governor 2022-2024; Current ANCR (Association of North Carolina Ruritans) Secretary.

NATIONAL: National Director 2020-2023; Served on the Youth Committee 2020-2023, Chair of the Committee 2023; Have attended seven National Conventions; Ran the Youth Room at the 2023 and 2024 National Conventions; Served as Sgt-at-Arms/Ambassador in 2019, 2024 and 2025 Conventions; Have attended five Summer Leadership Conferences; I am a Tom Downing Fellow.

EDUCATION: Graduated Newark Valley High School in Newark Valley, NY; Associate's Degree from Alfred State College in Alfred, NY; Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Oswego in Oswego, NY; Received the I Dare You Leadership Award in High School; Was a Who's Who Among American High School Students in 1992 and 1993; Alfred State College Concert Choir Treasurer 1994-1995.

OCCUPATION: Billing Specialist for Thompson-Arthur Paving Company;

OTHER: Member of the Delta Methodist Church; Vacation Bible School Coordinator for Delta Methodist Church; Member of the Sandy Ridge Community Board since 2007, where I serve as Treasurer; Secretary/Treasurer for the Northern Stokes Food, Fun & Friends; Volunteer at Seeds of Hope/Heroes Helping Heroes Day Camps; Mentor to selected children for Seeds of Hope/Heroes Helping Heroes.

2026 Ruritan National Convention

January 23-24 in
Lexington, KY

Plan Your Trip Now!



Visit Lexington!



Scan Here for Marriott Resort 3D Tour!



Scan Here to Book Your Group Rate!

HOW IS YOUR DISTRICT DOING?

1 - HOLLAND (4 POINTS)

2 - CHESAPEAKE

3 - RAPPAHANNOCK (10 POINTS)

4 - APPOMATTOX

5 - PEAKS OF OTTER

6 - SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA (2 POINTS)

7 - NATURAL BRIDGE

8 - WOODROW WILSON

9 - ROCKINGHAM (6 POINTS)

10 - POTOMAC (6 POINTS)

11 - ALBEMARLE (2 POINTS)

12 - ROANOKE (2 POINTS)

13 - ROCKY MT-DURHAM (8 POINTS)

14 - GREENVILLE-GOLDSBORO

15 - CAPE FEAR (8 POINTS)

16 - SPARTAN (2 POINTS)

17 - COLUMBIA (2 POINTS)

19 - UPPER WEST VIRGINIA

20 - LOWER WEST VIRGINIA

21 - BLUEGRASS (2 POINTS)

22 - TENNESSEAN (6 POINTS)

23 - CHEROKEE

24 - GEORGA-NORTH ALABAMA

26 - HERMITAGE

27 - ALABAMA-FLORIDA

28 - OHIO (2 POINTS)

29 - WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

30 - DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY

31 - PIEDMONT* (10 POINTS)

32 - DAN RIVER (6 POINTS)

33 - LINCOLNLAND (4 POINTS)

34 - NEW RIVER (42 POINTS)

35 - DAVY CROCKETT (20 POINTS)

36 - SMOKY MOUNTAIN (6 POINTS)

37 - MIDDLE AMERICA (2 POINTS)

39 - RAPIDAN (4 POINTS)

40 - TALL CORN (2 POINTS)

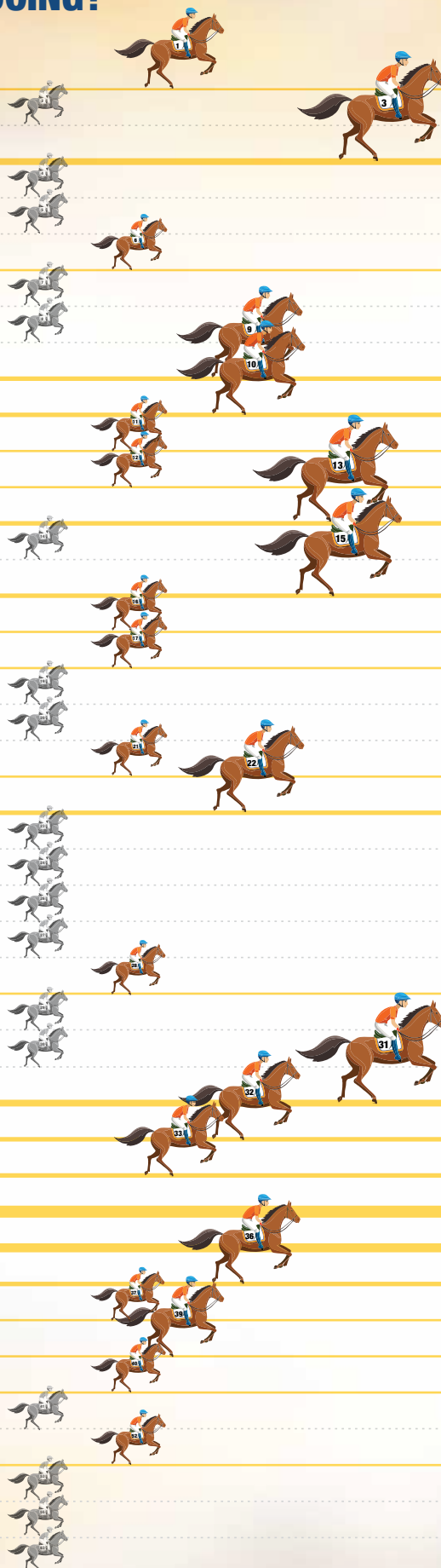
41 - OPPORTUNITY LAND

52 - GREAT PLAINS AREA (2 POINTS)

53 - GULF AREA

55 - NEW YORK AREA

63 - AFFILIATE AREA





GALLOPING TOWARDS GROWTH



HOW TO WIN POINTS PER DISTRICT

Every 5 net new members per club =
2 POINTS

Each individual member in your district
that earns the 2025 new member bar =
2 POINTS PER MEMBER PER 5 NEW MEMBERS

Every new adult club =
10 POINTS

Every new Ruriteen club =
5 POINTS

Districts submitting your hours/dollars/scholarship
information to President Becky by 10/30/2025 =
5 POINTS

Every person in your district that is registered
to come to the 2026 National Convention
in Lexington by 12/20/2025 =
2 POINTS

Districts that have all their club officers
entered into MMS by 12/31/2025 =
5 POINTS

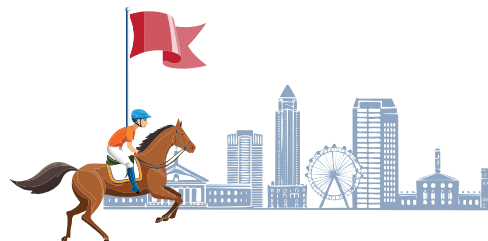
Districts that have all their district officers
entered into MMS by 12/31/2025 =
5 POINTS



The winning district will be awarded
the galloping towards growth

RUN FOR THE ROSES AWARD

at 2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION
in Lexington, Kentucky



BETHLEHAM, CARROLLTON, AND ZUNI HONOR GRADS

Bethlehem celebrated two 2025 graduating seniors and their families at their June meeting. Club President Bill Rissell presented scholarships Emily Mizelle, granddaughter of club members Fred and Janet Brinkley, and Ava Clark, granddaughter of club members Bill and Cathy Rissell.



Carrollton recently awarded four \$1200 scholarships. Pictured with Scholarship Committee Chair Jim Henderson, and Club President Dale Jones, are (l-r) Charlise Albers, who will attend Old Dominion University to pursue Nursing; Noah Gearey,

who will attend Hampden-Sydney College to pursue Politics; Abigail Worrell, who will attend University of Virginia to pursue Elementary Education; and Leah Koeppen, who will attend Tidewater Community College to pursue Child Care. Scholarships are funded by the Club's annual Fish Fry, donations from members, Ruritan National Foundation endowment, and the Carrollton Ruritan Educational Fund (CREF).



Zuni hosted their 2025 scholarship winners and families at a June dinner meeting. Scholarship Committee Chair Darryl Palmer presented certificates to Emma Moore and Conner Walters.

DEEP CREEK KEEPS IT COZY

Deep Creek Social Development Committee Chair Joe Noha presented the club's donation of children's pajamas and Rudy bears to the Chesapeake Fire Department, in conjunction with the Department's



"Trauma Pajama Drive." Often, when children are involved in a traumatic situation, their clothing is cut off at the hospital during a medical evaluation. To help restore some dignity, the hospital's emergency and trauma departments often provide children with something soft and comfortable to wear during their hospital stay and on the way home.

GRASSFIELD SHARES TRASHY HOLIDAY

Grassfield past presidents Betty Johnson and Sue Abernathy celebrated Memorial Day weekend with a community service clean-up project on Vincek Way, named after Iwo Jima veteran and former Ruritan member Eddie Vincek.



Club President James Ramsey and Scholarship Committee Chair Wayne Abernathy presented Molly Marie Casey with the Grassfield annual scholarship and Sydney Caroline Stull with the first Eddie Vincek Scholarship.



HOLLAND DRIVES ON TRADITION

The 7th Annual **Holland** Custom Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show took place on May 10, with over 120 entries. Thirty-six trophies were awarded, with “Best in Show” going to Allen Jackson and his 1969 Dodge Charger. A special shoutout goes to Club President Calvin Jones and Show Coordinator Curtiss Johnson.

The club awarded two scholarships for 2025. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Cameron Worrell and Kara Russell, with Club Secretary Ronald Daughtrey. Cameron will pursue a degree in elementary education, and Kara will study nursing.



ABINGDON SUPPORTS NEW COMMUNITY EVENT

Abingdon was proud to support the Gloucester community as a sponsor of the first annual Gloucester Food Truck Frenzy, organized by the Gloucester Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Attendees enjoyed a display of new boats and lively music. Many local artists showcased their crafts for sale, and there was a wide variety of foods prepared by talented local food truck chefs. Pictured (l-r) are Betsy Tuttle, Annibelle Neal, (back row) Rick Taylor, John Snyder, and Carl Roy.



GLEN ALLEN CELEBRATES 60!

Glen Allen celebrates its 60th year in 2025. They started the year with the March Stew and Que, their first major fundraising event. The weather cooperated and they sold out of both stew and "que." Club President Gail Wood recognized their three local scholarship recipients at their June picnic.

Pictured (l-r) are Meredith Hopkins, Emma Sicat, and Libby Brewton.



Planning began in the Spring for the Glen Allen Day celebration in October, a joint venture between the Glen Allen Ruritan Club and Henrico County Parks and Recreation. The celebration will kick off with a parade in the morning, with over 100 vendors, food, live music, and games for kids.



GLOUCESTER HOSTS BIG “DILL”

Gloucester recently hosted Carlos Morales at their meeting at Anna’s Italian Pizza Restaurant. Carlos, pictured (left) with Club President Henry Thompson, is a PPR-certified coach for USA Pickleball and promotes the Gloucester Pickleball Club.

The club also hosted scholarship recipient Lilly Riffe, who will be attending Coastal Carolina University to major in Marine



Science. Last year, she was the Salutatorian for the Chesapeake Bay Governor School, received first place in the Virginia Science Symposium, and works at VIMs. Lilly shared her passion for marine life and stated that her goal is to find something small and portable for different substrates on which oysters can settle.

SHORT PUMP CHARTER MEMBER HONORED

At 93, Norwood Nuckols is the oldest member of the **Short Pump** club. He is also a 60-year charter member who serves as Director Emeritus and leads the Pledge of Allegiance at every meeting.

The club recently hosted guest speaker Greg McQuade, an anchor and reporter for WTVR-TV CBS6 in Richmond. Greg is known for profiling interesting people, so when he met Mr. Nuckols and learned that his family has lived in the Short Pump area for over a hundred years, he decided to do a feature story about him.

During its annual awards dinner in June, the club honored three Henrico County first responders and a local businessperson and awarded scholarships to ten area high school students.

Firefighter Lauren Challis, police officer Michael Taylor, and sheriff’s deputy Yvonne Duncan received 2025 First Responder Awards. Each recipient was nominated by their respective county department for outstanding service to the community and received a framed certificate and a \$100 cash gift.



Gary Glover, President of Puritan Cleaners, was recognized as Businessperson of the Year for his company’s long history of giving back to the Greater Richmond region through the annual Salvation Army Coats for Kids Campaign, partnership with FeedMore for the 100K Meals Campaign, and other charitable endeavors.

(CONTINUED)

News From Ruritan: CHESAPEAKE District #2



Scholarships of \$1,500 were presented to the following high school graduates: Taylor Clingenpeel (IB Center at J.R. Tucker High School), MaLeah Cowan (Goochland High School), Cary Dodson (Hermitage High School), Ella Griffon (Hermitage High School), Cierra Harrison (J.R. Tucker High School), Smriti Murali (Glen Allen High School), Druthi Ravishankar (Glen Allen High School), Alex Scroggins (Hermitage High School), and Sydney Wilson (Glen Allen High School).

WEST POINT SHARES SUPPORT THROUGH FOOD

West Point has actively supported the local Little Free Pantries, which serve individuals and families in need of food. These pantries are sustained through the generous efforts of volunteers, churches, businesses, and civic groups. The club has contributed both food and financial assistance to help maintain the two local Little Free Pantry locations. As part of their fundraising efforts, the Club held a successful Spring



Smoked Pulled Pork Brunswick Stew sale, with proceeds going toward this initiative. Additionally, a Spring Food Drive was organized to support the Little Free Pantries and other community food pantries, receiving a strong response from the community.



In June, the club partnered with the West Point Chamber of Commerce to serve food at the Jammin' on the Point event. Their efforts raised \$2,247, which will benefit the Children's Christmas program.

The club also continues to invest in the future of local youth through their "Build Your Dollars" Scholarship. This year's scholarship was awarded to Katie Walden-Jenks, a student in Diesel Mechanics Technology at Rappahannock Community College. The presentation included RCC President Dr. Shannon Kennedy and Ruritan members Rae and Stan Brewer.



News From Ruritan: CHESAPEAKE District #2

MECHANICSVILLE SUPPORTS PROJECT LIFESAVER

Mechanicsville Club President Paul Dorn presented a donation to Hanover Deputy Sheriff Barry Bland for Project Life Saver.



News From Ruritan: RAPPAHANNOCK District #3

SHAWQUON AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Shawquon awarded two scholarships for 2025. Recipient Geog Twigg will attend Virginia Tech to study Animal Science. Caleb Greene will also attend Virginia Tech. He will be taking a two-year Agriculture program.

The club held a food drive for a local food bank in Stephens City, VA. They collected a supply of canned goods and pantry staples. They also hosted Diane Herne with Quilts of Valor as a guest speaker.

Club members Marshall Shiley, Pam Shiley, Sam Fauble, and Debbie Fauble, along with the Faubles' grandsons Braden and Carson Stern, participated in Middletown, Virginia's 4th of July Parade.



SHAWNEE SHINES WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE

Shawnee had a busy and rewarding quarter, filled with community service and fellowship. In March, members partnered with Greenwood Fire and Rescue for a spaghetti dinner and later attended the President's Reception at the Stonewall Club. They stocked the "frig" with sandwiches to help feed the homeless and honored veterans with the Field of Honor on Memorial Day.



The club also joined forces with the local Subaru dealer to collect food for C-CAP and worked alongside Winchester Volunteers in Policing to gather food, cleaning supplies, towels, and blankets for local animal shelters. They hosted a lively Picking Party, free for the community, and prepared a special dinner for the Kitchen of Hope.



In July, Shawnee Ruritan treated seniors at Senseny Place to an Ice Cream and Dessert Social on the 13th, followed by a cookout on the 27th. To top off the quarter, Rudy Bear, the club's mascot, made a new friend—McGruff the Crime Dog—proving that bears and dogs really can be friends!



SUMERDUCK SHARES BUSY SEASON

Sumerduck hosted an Easter celebration for the young and young at heart. They offered an Easter egg hunt, light refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny, pictured with Laura Smith.

The club awarded MVP status to members Jo Fox, Heidi Grove, and Regina Baucom to recognize their volunteer contributions. The club continues to host its popular "Pickin' Parties" and recently held a karaoke get-together. Pictured are Judy and Mike Mueller serenading the group.

The club recently held its first car show fundraiser and had 71 entries. Pictured are some of the trophy winners.



SOUTHERN FAUQUIER REWARDS GROWTH

Southern Fauquier members Brenda Hisghman and Bill Rohwer were recently awarded Golden Key awards.



STERLING REWARDS ACADEMICS

Sterling was proud to award over \$14,000 in scholarships to 29 outstanding students in local elementary, middle, and high schools. The awards were based on academic excellence and community service. The club also awarded a Trade Scholarship to a student pursuing an education in a trade-related field. New this year were two scouting awards for community service, with one going to a scout with Scouting America and another to a Girl Scouts USA recipient.



The club also hosted a craft fair and raised over \$1,000 for one of the Title 1 high schools.



BURKEVILLE PRESENTS SKINNER

Burkeville presented their 2025 scholarship to Eli Skinner. Eli graduated from Nottoway County High School as one of the top three students in his class. He plans to attend Hampden-Sydney College and major in foreign affairs. Pictured (l-r) are Georgia Arnold, Eli, his father, David Skinner, and his mother, Erica Skinner.



CENTRAL CHESTERFIELD AWARDS TWO

Central Chesterfield awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding local students. Owen Brooks will continue his education at Randolph-Macon College, while John Campbell will attend Liberty University.



*Tucker says,
"Make sure to register for the 2026
National Convention!
We're gonna have lots of fun!"*

BOONSBORO TURNS 75!

Boonsboro recently celebrated their 75th Anniversary. 2024 National President Robin Davenport was on hand to present the anniversary certificate.



GLADYS WELCOMES CHANGE



Gladys Club President Scott Horseman welcomed Sarah Monroe as the first female club member. Sarah has already taken on the role of Club Secretary and is coordinating club fundraisers. The club also host a monthly pancake breakfast that is free to the community, and recently held a spaghetti fundraiser.

LONG ISLAND CONTINUES COMMUNITY TRADITION

Long Island hosted its 49th Annual Fun Float Day in July, a beloved tradition and major fundraiser for both the club and the community. The weekend festivities included a Friday night dinner, Saturday morning breakfast, Saturday evening dinner, t-shirt sales, raffles, and a youth-led silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction support local projects, including providing Rudy Bears to area schools.



This year's 50/50 raffle benefited the William Campbell School Band program. The club also donated shirts to the Future Men of Brookneal program at Brookneal Elementary School, which mentors young boys on leadership and character. Presenting the donation were Club President Ryan Kerr, Vice President Vanessa Lambert, Treasurer Amy Hale, and a youth member of the club who also participates in the Future Men of Brookneal program.



News From Ruritan: PEAKS OF OTTER District #5

LYN-DAN HEIGHTS SUPPORTS FUTURES

Lyn-Dan Heights Club Secretary Karen Floyd and Club Vice President Margie Maddox presented two scholarships for 2025.



RUSTBURG SUPPORTS LEGACY



Rustburg recently made two meaningful contributions to the community. A donation to BARCC, a local nonprofit raising funds for a new Campbell County animal shelter, was given in memory of Jeannie Isaacs—one of BARCC's founders and wife of club member Steve Isaacs. Accepting the gift were Katie Lane and Jeannie's son, Travis Isaacs.

The club also presented a donation to the local food bank, made possible by a vendor and her grandchildren from the

Rustburg Ruritan Community Farmers Market. Rustburg Ruritan member and food bank coordinator Pam Booth accepted the contribution.



Send Club and District News to:
diane.lawson@ruritan.org

Magazine Submission Deadlines:
Spring - February 1
Summer - May 1
Fall - August 1
Winter - November 1

News From Ruritan: SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA District #6

ATKINS GROWS AND SHOWS

Atkins recently welcomed new members Sherry Dennison and Roger Dennison. The club also awarded their 2025 scholarship to Lola Shupe. Lt. District Governor Lester Owens (right), participated in the community Memorial Day Parade.



News From Ruritan: NATURAL BRIDGE District #7

NATURAL BRIDGE MAKES AN IMPACT

Natural Bridge member Scott Hannah attended the Natural Bridge Elementary School's 5th Grade Graduation Ceremony to present \$50 awards to the winners of their essay competition. The winners were Charlotte Woody for her essay on Citizenship, Kaleb Dudley for Patriotism, and Nyjah Brown for Environment. Pictured (l-r) are Scott Hannah, Charlotte, Teacher Ms. Sommer Truslow, Kaleb, Nyjah, and Teacher Ms. Kerstin Shafer.

The club awarded two \$3,500 scholarships. The recipients were Brooklyn Kerr, heading to Bridgewater



College to study Education, and Andrew McCoy, heading to Campbell College, NC to study PGA Golf Management. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Committee member Drake Breeden, Club President Tim Manning, Committee member Garnette Teass, Brooklyn, Andrew, Club Vice President Jimmy Black, and Committee members Dane West, Russ Orrison, and Scott Hannah.

News From Ruritan: NATURAL BRIDGE District #7



Several club members recently joined ladies from Lexington Baptist Church to make comfort blankets. The blankets will be donated to local fire departments, rescue squads, and women's shelters.

Club and family members braved the heat to cut and stack wood for the Glasgow Hiking Shelter. They also



contributed "survival" bags containing band-aids, sunscreen, and other essentials for hikers passing through. Club members Scott



Hannah, Larry Owen, and Tim Manning partnered with Robbie Robertson (pictured center) from Mission Next Door, to complete an extensive home ramp.

News From Ruritan: WOODROW WILSON District #8

WEYERS CAVE RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Weyers Cave hosted guest speakers Landon Yoder and Nash Lakin (pictured with members Dennis and Donna Houff) at their May 2025 meeting. Landon and Nash are volunteers and student leaders for Young Life at Fort Defiance High School. In July,



the club hosted guest speaker Wandi Maseko, Coordinator of Career Services at Blue Ridge Community College, and his wife, Vezaida Rodriguez-Maseko.

Jennifer Aulgur, legislative assistant for Senator Mark Obenshain, recently met with Club President Dale Roller, at the Weyers Cave

Community Center to deliver a resolution from the Virginia Assembly recognizing the Weyers Cave Ruritan Club for 85 years of community service.



BRIDGEWATER CELEBRATES FUTURES

Bridgewater celebrated 'Son/Daughter Night' by welcoming new members Cathy Simmons, Bonnie Snook, and Matt Robinson (pictured with Zone Governor Becky Wright (left) and Club President Larry Elkins). They also awarded scholarships to Avery Purdham and Kimberley Warner, graduating seniors from Blue Ridge Christian



School (pictured with Jim Tongue, Ron Williams,

and Robbie McCammon). The program was provided by Cory Davies, Executive Director at RMH Foundation, who described the challenges of upcoming tariffs, funding cuts, and nursing shortages, while providing cancer care with the Twila Showalter Supportive Care Clinic.

At their July meeting, the club recognized five of their 2025 scholarship winners. Isaac Arenas is a Turner Ashby High School

soccer player and graduate who has helped in the food booth at the county fair. He will be attending Bridgewater College. Clay Shantz was active in 4-H and Turner Ashby FFA and will be attending Virginia Tech. Brisel Valdez was active in Turner Ashby FCCLA and will be attending James Madison University. Reagan Warner was a Turner Ashby Softball standout and will continue her softball career at James Madison University. Joseph Coddington, a National Honor Society member and Blue Ridge Christian School graduate, will attend Taylor University in Indiana. Joseph was represented by his parents.



MAUR-BROOK-OLIVE HOSTS FUNDRAISER



Maur-Brook-Olive took advantage of some nice weather in July and hosted a yard and bake sale fundraiser.



News From Ruritan: ROCKINGHAM District #9

FORT VALLEY SHARES WITH COMMUNITY

Fort Valley conducted the annual community Memorial Day program, and club member Jim O'Hara spoke at the event.

Club members partnered with Oak Hill Church to build a ramp for a long-time Fort Valley resident. The club also organized the July 4th Community Parade, followed by games and food sales at the fire hall. Club members also volunteered at the annual Ice Cream Social, benefiting the Fort Valley Museum.



LURAY MAKES 75 LOOK GOOD!

Luray celebrated its 75th anniversary in June. The celebration included a message from National President Rebecca Lane and a presentation by District Governor David Grimm. A large display of club activities and other historical documents was on display. President Becky also recognized members Bill Amonette, Mark Bauserman, Steve Cave, and Jon Sisler for having over 30 years of service.



News From Ruritan: ROCKINGHAM District #9

CROSS KEYS-MILL CREEK HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE



Cross Keys-Mill Creek recently partnered with the American Red Cross to sponsor a blood drive.

ZONE 5 BRINGS THE HEAT

Zone 5 members from **Luray, Rileyville,** and **Newport-Grove Hill** got together on a Saturday morning to cook BBQ chicken for the Weekday Religious Education (WRE) annual banquet.



News From Ruritan: POTOMAC District #10

JEFFERSON STANDS ON TRADITION

Jefferson continued its 48-year tradition of supporting local students by awarding six scholarships for 2025. This year's recipients are Audra Asbury and Alexander "AJ" Atkinson, both headed to West Virginia University, Taylor Fry, University of Delaware, Rachel Johansen, Frederick Community College, Alexyah Partyka, University of Texas at Arlington, and Sydney Williams, University of Maryland. Four of the scholarship winners attended a recent meeting with their families, shared their plans for the future, and expressed their gratitude for the support that will help them pursue their educational goals.



The 69th annual Jefferson Ruritan Carnival, which ran from July 21st to July 26th, was once again a huge success. The carnival offered nightly entertainment, including an "Elvis" night, dinner platters served in the dining room, bingo, outside concessions, and carnival rides. It is the club's largest fundraiser and attracts people from the tri-state area.

DOWNSVILLE HONORS SERVICE

Downsville member Leroy 'Pat' Shank was presented with a Tom Downing award by Lt. Governor Brad Kegarise in recognition of 55 years of service to Ruritan and his community.



JOHNSVILLE HOSTS 65TH CELEBRATION

Johnsville celebrated its 65th anniversary in June. Mountain Gate restaurant hosted the event, which had over 40 members and guests in attendance. District Lieutenant Governor Brad Kegarise and District Growth & Development Chair Randy Huffer were also in attendance. Special recognition was given to Charter members Paul Spurrier and Richard Grossnickle.

At their July meeting, club members honored local veterans and their scholarship winners.



MAUGANSVILLE HOSTS WINNERS



Maugansville has awarded four scholarships for 2025. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Braxton Farris, Chloe Gee, Madison Haupt, and Leah Fornwalt. The club hosted the recipients and their parents for dinner, and each shared their plans for the future.



MAUGANSVILLE, MT. PLEASANT, NEW FRANKLIN PRESENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Maugansville has awarded four scholarships for 2025. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Braxton Farris, Chloe Gee, Madison Haupt, and Leah Fornwalt. The club hosted the recipients and their parents for dinner, and each shared their plans for the future.



were funded through the club's annual golf tournament.

New Franklin PA Vice President Rodney Black (far right) presented 13 scholarships at the May club meeting. The recipients were Nolan Dupont, Eli Droneburg, Dere Katherina, Ben Etter, Lydia Willson, Connor Miller, Gabrielle McClister, Kaleigh Stickell, Zoe Dereef, Morgan Shaner, Juliana Mora, Kylee Watkins, and Heaven Robinson.



Mt. Pleasant MD recently presented five scholarships for 2025. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Makenzie McGraw, Garrison Abrecht, Henry Bray Van Orden, Rachel Beckman, and Dave Hammer accepting on behalf of his son, Jonathan Hammer. Not pictured is Ahjelique Taylor. The scholarships



St. THOMAS AREA WELCOMES GROWTH

St. Thomas Area presented two scholarships at its June meeting. Scholarship Committee Chair Shellie Veirtz recognized recipients Donovan Williamson, who will major in Graphic Design at Juniata College, and Jason Blackett, who will major in Environmental Science at Shepard College. Additionally, Club Secretary Tom Iacona welcomed new member Sheryl Snider.



News From Ruritan: ALBEMARLE District #11

FENTON TOWE EURE

Past National Director Fenton Towe Eure, Jr., 81, of Greenhall Road, Edenton, NC passed away on Monday, April 7, 2025 at ECU Health Chowan Hospital in Edenton, NC.

He was a past member of Durants Neck Ruritan Club and Advance Ruritan Club. He was a current member of Rocky Hock Ruritan Club. He served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, District Governor and National Director during his more than 60 years with the Ruritans.



He is predeceased by his parents; his daughter-in-law, Lisa Eure; his brother, Garland Eure and wife, Sadie; his sister, Margaret Chappell; and brother-in-law, Julian Harrell. In addition to his wife, Margie, he is survived by his son, Fenton Towe Eure, III and friend, Melody, his daughter, Amy Eure Floyd and husband, Dodd, both of Edenton. His bonus daughter, Bethany Payne and husband, Bo of Pooler, GA. His grandchildren, Towe Eure and wife, Allison, Caroline Eure Farmer and husband, Adam, both of Edenton, Matt Floyd and wife, Taylor and Jon Floyd and wife, Haley, both of Tyner. His bonus grandson, Daniel Payne and wife, Jessie of Utah. The lights of his life, his seven great grandchildren, Sydney Eure, Fenlee Eure and Ainsley Farmer, all of Edenton and Aubrey Floyd, Evelyn Floyd, L.J. Floyd and Jon Henry Floyd all of Tyner. His sister, Carolyn Harrell of Hertford. His brothers-in-law, Ronnie Chappell of Elizabeth City and Johnny Corprew and wife, Mary of Hertford, and sister-in-law Amanda Harrell and husband, Fahey of Elizabeth City, and many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

News From Ruritan: ROANOKE District #12

ROBERSONVILLE HONORS VETERANS

Robersonville members celebrated Memorial Day by placing flags on veterans' graves in their local cemetery.

The club recently awarded five scholarships. Pictured are Jessica Bryant and Club President Victor Long. Hudson Roberson, President Long, and Landon Stalls are also pictured. Not pictured are recipients Molly Andrews and Justin Bryan.



COOPERS CLEANS UP

Coopers members participated in a trash pick-up project on July 12th, picking up 16 bags of trash in their community.



MEADOW CREEK CELEBRATES 44TH

Meadow Creek recently celebrated their 44th anniversary and hosted their three scholarship winners - Andrew Day, Noah Butler, and Ryan Dodson, along with their families.



WEST EDGECOMBE HOSTS FIRST RESPONDERS

West Edgecombe hosted their annual First Responder Appreciation Dinner in May. Representatives from local law enforcement, EMS, and fire departments were in attendance. The club also donated \$400 to Southwest Edgecombe High School for graduating seniors who needed help with purchasing their caps and gowns.



The club presented scholarships at their June meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Gerald Pipkin, Cameron Parker, Logan Wainright, Jacob Walker, Thomas Bradley, Garrett Lewis, Ramzie Bryant, and Club Member Tim Harris.



News From Ruritan: ROCKY MOUNT-DURHAM District #13

ZONE 1 SUPPORTS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Several Ruritan clubs were represented at Southern Alamance High School's Annual Awards Day. **Eli Whitney Club** Secretary Lynn Bare presented their Build Your Dollar Scholarship to Sydney Crawford and additional scholarships to Karter Cornwell and Andrew "Bo" Day. **Meadow Creek Club** Secretary Ron Reid presented their Build Your Dollar Scholarship to Andrew Day. Officer William Lowe, from **Mountain View**, presented scholarships to Ann Crawford, Madilyn Clanton, and Andrew Day.

Eli Whitney and Meadow Creek were also represented at the new Southeast Alamance High School's Senior Awards Night. Lynn Bare presented scholarships to Noah Butler and Brandon McAdoo, and Ron Reid presented scholarships to Ryan Dodson and Noah Butler.



News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR District #15

CAROLINA LAKES CREATES LASTING HONOR

Beginning with a vision in 2015, **Carolina Lakes** worked diligently to raise the funds for a memorial recognizing all the military services, as well as police, fire, and rescue personnel. In May 2021, the monument was finally completed and put into place at Carolina Lakes Memorial Point. The club continues to maintain the monument and has seen attendance at their Memorial Day services quadruple over the last four years.



News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR District #15

BUNNLEVEL HONORS EDUCATION AND HERITAGE

Bunnlevel Club Secretary Tammy Johnson presented scholarships to Jordan Lee and Spencer Owen. The club also held a Boston Butt fundraiser, and club members continue to clean, maintain, and restore grave stones and markers in community cemeteries.



JOHNSONVILLE SHINES THROUGH SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Johnsonville celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day by providing breakfast and small handmade gifts for Johnsonville Elementary School staff. The club continues to support the teachers, staff, and students throughout the year.



The Memorial Day program was provided by historical reenactors from the 2nd South Carolina Regiment. Pictured are Lt. Cody Anglin, Pvt. Derek Howard, Ruritan member and reenactor Shelby Webb, and Kadience Howard. Pvt. Howard, who spoke in Old

English as a Revolutionary War soldier, reminded the audience that many patriots from our area fought in the Revolutionary War. Local Scout Troop and Pack 713 presented the colors and members placed flags on the graves of veterans at five local cemeteries. On Flag Day, Scout Pack 713 solemnly and respectfully retired community flags. In July, the club brought Fourth of July cheer to local dialysis patients with goody bags sporting red, white, and blue stars.



News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR District #15



Scholarship Committee members Rodger Nicely, Merlene Anderson, Ashley Holmes, C.C. Del Prado, and Lori Owen, awarded \$3500 in scholarships. Bella Goddard received the Tom and Carole Davis Community Service Scholarship. Additional recipients were Kelsey Marie Fitzpatrick, Madison Salmon, Allyson Bennett, and Alana Moore.

News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District #17

GILBERT PROMOTES STUDENT AND FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Gilbert presented scholarships to two graduating Gilbert High School seniors. Pictured with Club President Todd Long (center), Hudson Lake Williams (r) received the \$2,000 Central Carolina Community Foundation Scholarship. He plans to attend Clemson University. Matthew Dawson (l) received the Foundation's Build Your Dollars Scholarship. He also plans to attend Clemson University.



The club has also donated to the American Legion Palmetto Boys State to sponsor an area student, to Blue Star Mothers of America, and provided financial help to a Gilbert community member.

Club members enjoyed an exciting day at the 65th Lexington County Peach Festival, held on July 4th in Gilbert, SC. Assisted by Scout troop volunteers, they dipped 222 gallons of peach ice cream—over 3,500 cups, and sold over 250 bushel boxes of fresh peaches during the day-long event. Proceeds from the sales support the scouts, student scholarships, and other community projects throughout the year.



SANDY RUN HONORS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Sandy Run members Debra Harmon and Kay James took snacks to Sandy Run K-8 and Foundation Christian School for Teacher Appreciation Month.



The club recently held a banquet to honor their five scholarship recipients (Pictured with Club President Sheila Shanklin (left) and Scholarship Chair Teresa Helms

(right)). Recipients in attendance were Anslea Brook Aaron, who plans to attend Erskine College, Anna Jeannette Mack, who will attend the University of South Carolina, Brooke Gabrielle Kohn, who will attend the University of South Carolina, Palmer James Larkin, who will attend Coastal Carolina University, and Ryan Doyle Lowder, who will attend Clemson University. Guest speaker, Cassie Thomas, a previous winner from Furman University, shared practical advice on how to be successful in college.



The club also welcomed new member Sage Davis, pictured center with Club President Sheila Shanklin, District Governor

Ginger Hardee, his mother Breeah Stabler, and Social Development Chair Teresa Helms.



News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District #17

PINEVIEW FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Pineview members enjoyed worshipping on Ruritan Sunday with the congregation at First Church of the Nazarene. The club also supports the church's food bank.



In May, the club welcomed new member Ruby Catledge. They also presented a donation to their local American Legion post to help send students to Boys and Girls State, which is a summer leadership and citizenship program for high school juniors that focuses on exploring the mechanics of American government and politics.



News From Ruritan: LOWER WEST VIRGINIA District #20

MAXWELTON SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION

Maxwelton recently awarded scholarships to outstanding local seniors. Gavin Cherry, Seneca Trail Christian Academy, received \$1,000 for the new 100th Anniversary State Fair of WV Scholarship. Alyssa Carpenter, Greenbrier East High School, earned the Henry Lindsey Scholarship, and Parker Hale, also from Greenbrier East, received the Build Your Dollar Scholarship. Club President Bill Zink presented the awards at the high school assembly in May. Pictured (l-r) are Gavin Cherry, Club President Bill Zink, and Alyssa Carpenter.



News From Ruritan: BLUEGRASS District #21

CHOATEVILLE OFFERS HELP WITH RELIEF

Choateville presented a check for \$1000 to Franklin County Judge Executive Michael Mueller to help with flood relief in Frankfort, KY. The funds were collected through fundraisers, with a generous donation from Mt Pleasant Ruritan Club.



FINCHVILLE SERVES THROUGH CELEBRATION AND SUPPORT



Finchville once again partnered with Finchville Baptist Church to present “A Night in Bethlehem,” a community Christmas celebration featuring live Christmas displays and a chili dinner. The club hosted fish dinners throughout the Lenten Season and held the annual Highway 55 Yard Sale in April.



All fundraising activities allowed the club to support other community organizations such as the Shelby Stars Special Olympics team, The Crusade for Children, and a local cheerleading camp. Club President Keith Raisor presented the Build Your Dollars scholarship to Opal Best.

News From Ruritan: TENNESSEAN District #22

BLOUNTVILLE FUNDS TOWN RECOGNITION

Blountville partnered with the Sullivan County Department of Archives and Tourism to install a new town welcome sign. Pictured are club members with the Tourism Director.



BLOOMINGDALE OFFERS GOOD FOOD AND GOSPEL GROOVES

Bloomington recently sponsored a community Gospel Fest. Performers included Joey Strickler & Friends, Brian & Paula McClellan & Family, Jerry & Anna Taylor, Ever-Present, The Virginia Boys, and The Mason Dixon Boys. They also enjoyed The Kickin' Chicken, Gumpy's Dawgs, Smoky Mtn Eatery, and Easy Squeezy Lemonade food trucks.



CEDAR GROVE MARKS FIRST-YEAR MILESTONES

One-year-old **Cedar Grove, TN**, awarded its first scholarships at the June meeting. The recipients were Leste'na Carpenter, a third-year student at East Tennessee State University, and Drew Tolley, a freshman at Sam Houston College in Texas. Drew could not be present, so her grandfather, Andrew Tolley, accepted on her behalf.



The club's "Road Crew", Andrew Tolley, Jim Smallwood, and Gary Collier, recently installed the first of four road signs at the intersection of Bloomington Road and Coley Street in Kingsport TN. Plans are being made for the installation of the remaining signs.



Club members continue to volunteer at the Vermont United Methodist Church's free community breakfast and food pantry on the first Saturday of each month. With their help and monthly donations to the food pantry, the club has become an integral part of this mission.



News From Ruritan: CHEROKEE District #23

CROSSROADS IS MAKING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Crossroads TN continues to make a big difference in Marion County through a variety of community projects. Earlier this year, members led a cereal drive that collected hundreds of boxes for the local food bank. They also organized a clean-up at Nickajack Lake, removing bags of trash to protect wildlife and keep the shoreline beautiful. Funds from the club's quarterly dinners were used to support a local spay-and-neuter program for stray animals and a community program that offers meals and showers for unhoused individuals. In addition, the club awarded scholarships to local students, encouraging academic success and community service.



News From Ruritan: GEORGIA-N. ALABAMA District #24

BEULAH MEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR DEDICATION

Beulah recently honored club member Phillip Troglin for 30 years of service to the Douglas County Challengers Special Needs Baseball Team and Beulah Ruritan Park. The Douglas County Challengers are a baseball team for children with special needs, ranging in age from 5 to 21. The Challengers play every Saturday morning during the Spring and Fall seasons. There is no fee, and uniforms are provided. The team has been playing for 30 years, led by Coach Phillip.



ARMUCHEE OFFERS SMOKE AND HONOR



Armuchee recently held a barbeque fundraiser, selling 150 smoked Boston butts. Proceeds will help fund scholarships for Armuchee High School seniors. Pictured are Past National Director Steve Mullis, Event Chairman Lary Smith.

In honor of Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day, the Citizenship and Patriotism Committee put up

207 American Flags along Highway 27. Pictured are Club Treasurer Randy Bowen and Scott Mullis.



News From Ruritan: GEORGIA-N. ALABAMA District #24

BRYANT HOSTS DISTRICT

Bryant recently hosted the District Cabinet meeting. Club President Al Sigler received a plaque proclaiming “Bryant Day” from District Governor Mark White. Past National Director and District Governor Bill Wheeler was recognized for 52 years of service to his community through Ruritan. Pictured (l-r) are Bill, Brent Wheeler, and District Governor Mark White.



Club members later completed landscaping work at Bryant Elementary as part of their community service and outreach.



KASH CONTINUES CARING TRADITION

Kash member Bill Wheeler delivered knitted caps to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, SC. Over the past years, the club has knitted and delivered more than a thousand caps.



News From Ruritan: OHIO District #28

NORTHWESTERN MAKES IMPACT WITH STUDENT SUPPORT



Northwestern awarded their 2025 scholarships to graduates of Northwestern High School (West Salem, Wayne County, Ohio). Pictured (l-r) are Will Hamey, Gabe Nicholson, Isaac Beun, Kayla Cutter, Ella Hartsel, Kelli Kearney, McKensie McCoy, Sydney McConahay, Danyel Hyatt, and Mallory Gilbert. This brings their 40-year scholarship total to \$189,230.00, awarded to 473 students.

BUCKEYE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIVE

Buckeye recently awarded their Build Your Dollar scholarship and four additional scholarships. Recipient Grace Browning, pictured with Club Secretary Tammy Yanssens, grandfather and charter member John Wetherell, and Club President Brian Yanssens is attending Ohio State University. Shayleigh Hornyak, pictured with her grandfather and long-time Ruritan member, Don Brannon, continues at Bethany College. Dayne Carter is attending the University of Cincinnati. Lindsey Best is heading to Bethany College, and Tatum Walker will attend Ohio University Eastern.



LAKER MAKES WAVES WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

Laker awarded eight \$1000 scholarships to two schools in the Pymatuning Lake area. Pictured (l-r) from Pymatuning Valley High School are Gabriella Poole, Dinae Moore, Cecelia Hall (not pictured), Abigail Miller, Landon Paul, with Club President George Graham. Pictured (l-r) from Joseph Badger High School are Elizabeth Logan, Austin Mariani, and Ian Tricker.



WASHINGTON WELCOMES NEW SENIOR CLASS

Washington OH recognized their four Rising Seniors for 2025. They were each presented with flowers, a certificate, a Ruritan backpack, and a \$1,500 scholarship. As Rising Seniors, the students spent a year as members of the club and were involved in several service projects. Projects include ringing bells for the Salvation Army, participating in squirt gun battles from the Ruritan float at local parades, teaching Scouts how to bowl, and learning how to work with others to achieve group goals. The Rising Seniors thanked the club and Rising Senior Advisor Chris Leasure for their encouragement throughout the year. Pictured (l-r) are Marion Rummell Award recipient Trent Lofland, Build Your Dollar Award recipient Lea Collins, Dwight Ickes Award recipient Jacob Dine, and Don Krabill Award recipient Matthew Frederick.



The club also welcomed their Rising Seniors members for 2025-2026 from Marlinton High School and Louisville High School. Pictured (l-r) are Natalie Norden, Kaden Tucker, and Quinn Cernansky. Rising Seniors are asked to attend six club meetings, one board meeting, and bring an adult and a student guest to a meeting. They will also participate in 20 hours of club service projects. At the end of their senior year, they will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

As an annual public service project, the club donates 25 Rudy Bears to Akron Children's Hospital, which is ranked among the best pediatric hospitals by U.S. News & World Report. Pictured with a hospital representative are Larry Zank and Paul Chervenak.

WINONA HOSTS ANNUAL BARBEQUE

Winona held their annual Steak and Chicken Barbeque dinner in June. During the dinner, they presented their scholarships for 2025. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Maddox Andrea, Jace Medure, Dally Meek, Myah Howell, and Jenna Marhefka. Not pictured is Cali Bohannon. Proceeds from their sausage sales and pancake breakfasts helped to fund the scholarships, which this year totaled \$6,000.



COLLETTSVILLE MAKES MOTHER'S DAY WILD

Collettsville members taught students at Collettsville Elementary (PreK–5th grade) how to make “seed bombs”—a fun and easy way to grow wildflowers. The students combined compost, clay, water, and wildflower seeds to form small balls, which they set aside to dry. Once dried, the seed bombs were given to their mothers as a Mother’s Day gift. Moms were encouraged to toss them into a yard, field, or meadow and let Mother Nature take care of the rest. The students enjoyed learning how to measure and mix ingredients, and they discovered the important role wildflowers play in supporting nature.



GLENWOOD HOSTS 5K FOR COMMUNITY

Glenwood held its annual Gold Rush 5k run in June. The funds raised go towards community service projects and helping local students.

Club President Kyle Settlemyre recently presented the club’s two \$2,000 scholarships. Recipients were Mason Brewer and Deklin Gilliland.



News From Ruritan: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA District #29

GAMEWELL PINS NEW MEMBER

Gamewell has welcomed a new member, Isaac M. Church, pictured with Club President John Card.



HOPEWELL-HOLLIS OFFERS FOOD AND FUN

Hopewell-Hollis recently held its annual barbeque fundraiser. The barbeque was cooked by Club President Rick Urban and his son-in-law, Greg Chapman. In addition to the good food, they had good entertainment! Proceeds will be used to fund a scholarship and other community service projects.



News From Ruritan: DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY District #30

ROCKAWALKIN ASSISTS WITH CLEANUP

Rockawalkin assisted a local widow with some yard clean-up and maintenance. Club members trimmed trees and shrubbery, cleaned debris from her roof and gutters, picked up twigs, and raked leaves. Pictured (l-r) are Club Vice President Bob McCrory, District Governor Kevin Jenkins, and Club President Rick Klebon.

Members were recently hosted by Sheriff Lewis and Captain Wiersberg for an informative tour of the brand new, \$40 million Wicomico County, MD Sheriff's Office.



GALESTOWN COORDINATES CLEANUP EFFORTS

District Governor Kevin Jenkins, **Rockawalkin** Club President Rick Klebon, President Kay Littleton, and members of the **Galestown** club joined others in the Galestown, MD community to help clean up after a recent tornado. Thank you to President Kay and the Galestown Ruritan Club for leading the clean-up and continuing to help with recovery.



PUNGOTEAGUE PARTNERS WITH HOUSING MISSION

Pungoteague members volunteered to help the ESVA Housing Mission build a 32-foot wheelchair ramp for an elderly resident. The club has long made building wheelchair ramps for low-income families its key service project in the area it serves. The ESVA Housing Mission, still less than a year old, provides critical home repairs for those in need in Accomack and Northampton County.



Pictured (l-r) are (front row) Adam Hamilton, Paul Custis, William Cathell, Malcolm White, Ed Lampman, Bill Dougherty, Eddie Mears, (second row) Jim Gillett, Lana Pavlick, Jean Sellard, Ellis Dukes, homeowner Virginia Weeks, (back row) Ted Sturgis, Mike Pavlick, David Shaw, Donnie Davis, Taylor Dukes, and Michelle Spray. Not pictured is Construction Supervisor Rick King. Also pictured are Club members Lana and Mike Pavlick working on the ramp.

BURRSVILLE HONORS GRADUATES

Burrsville has awarded six scholarships to local graduates for 2025.



COOL SPRING TAKES THE LEAD IN RELIEF EFFORTS

In September 2024, Hurricane Helene brought devastating floods to the mountain communities of Crumpler, Lansing, and Creston in Ashe County, NC. Torrential rains caused rivers and streams to overflow, destroying homes, businesses, and infrastructure. The damage was severe—Lansing's entire downtown was affected, Riverview Missionary Baptist Church lost its basement, and Creston's fire department saw its equipment destroyed. Many families were displaced, some permanently, with little to no insurance coverage. When the waters receded, thick layers of mud and debris were left behind, and residents faced rebuilding largely on their own.



In Iredell County, NC, Billy Hobbs of the **Cool Spring** Ruritan Club inspired a relief effort for

the three flood-ravaged mountain communities. His idea to serve barbecue chicken plates quickly gained support from other area clubs, local churches, and businesses, including the **Troutman** Ruritan Club, Cool Spring Community Church, and Grill 4 God.



On November 23, 2024, volunteers braved freezing temperatures, wind, and snow to serve nearly 1,200 barbecue chicken plates in Creston, Crumpler,

and Lansing. Set up at local churches, the fire department, and downtown, the effort brought not only warm meals but also comfort and hope to flood-affected families. Many volunteers said they left a piece of their heart in these communities.

Following the devastating floods in Ashe County, NC, Welcome Home Baptist Church and the Creston Fire Department became key distribution hubs for food, clothing, and supplies. Inspired to help, the Cool Spring club connected with Riverview Missionary Baptist Church, providing electrical



and technology repairs and securing an \$8,000 Project Focus grant to aid reconstruction. The club also partnered with Cool Spring Community Church to support the Creston Fire Department, raising an astounding \$57,000 through fabric and yard sales. Donations totaled nearly \$70,000 in monetary aid and up to \$18,000 in goods, materials, and labor. As Vice President Billy Hobbs said, "This has been the perfect example of Community Service!"

FRANCISCO SHARES BUSY QUARTER

Francisco has awarded their 2025 scholarship to Paxton Lawson.

The club also partnered with Our Communities of Northwest Stokes County to plant 200 milkweed plugs and 1/2 acre of mixed wildflower seeds. The plantings create a Monarch Butterfly Waystation, which helps support the community's conservation vision for the future of Francisco Park.

In June, a road clean-up hosted by the club collected 150 pounds of trash.



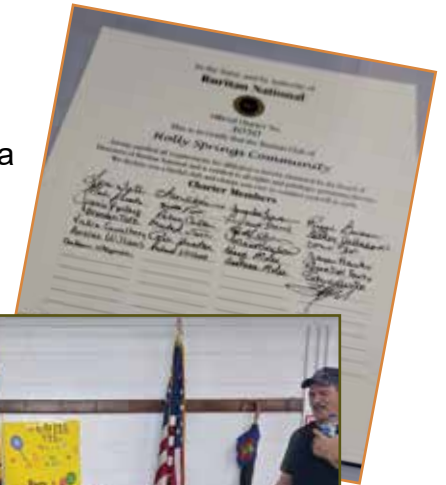
The club sponsored an ice cream social celebrating local Veterans on July 6th. Military services represented were the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. Several club members volunteered to help their neighbor, Sandy Ridge Ruritan. The club, in partnership with Northeast Stokes Fire & Rescue, hosted their first annual Summer Bash and Fireworks on July 5th.



News From Ruritan: PIEDMONT District #31

WELCOME HOLLY SPRINGS CLUB!

The **Holly Springs Community Ruritan Club** was chartered in June, and with 30 new members, they were ready to help out with a community event.



UNION GROVE WELCOMES SPRING WITH FLAIR

Union Grove held their 2025 Spring Festival in April. The event featured a parade, live music, vendors, and family fun, including cow patty bingo and a cake walk.



SANDY RIDGE CATERS TO THEIR COMMUNITY

Sandy Ridge continued their annual tradition of providing a catered meal for the teachers and staff of Sandy Ridge Elementary School. This year, the event took place in May, during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Club members sold raffle tickets for a 4' x 6' American-made US Flag. The drawing was held on Saturday, June 14th (Flag Day). Proceeds from the raffle were donated to assist with the community Independence Day fireworks event.



The club recently provided a meal for the Northeast Stokes Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc., to honor the hardworking individuals who spend numerous hours training and running calls to keep the community safe. Fire Chief Ryan Clark, stated, "We couldn't do half of what we do for our community without the Ruritans... because Sandy Ridge wouldn't be anywhere near as great without them."



The club held its quarterly trash pickup on June 28th. Several members participated in the project. The club planned the event for the weekend before the July 4th holiday to beautify the community for residents and visitors.



Club members, Northeast Stokes Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad members, residents of northern Stokes County, and Ruritan members from Lawsonville and Francisco, planned and hosted the 2025 Summer Bash/ Fireworks Event on Saturday, July 5th. The event included activities

for children, such as bounce houses, face painting, water slides, and several food vendors. A highlight of the event was the cake walk, featuring cakes and desserts donated by Francisco, Germanton, Sandy Ridge, and Lawsonville Ruritans, fire department and auxiliary members, and local residents. Three well-known entertainers performed, and Grand Marshal Collin Carter did an amazing job. The highlight of the evening was the fireworks show, which was enjoyed by all.



News From Ruritan: PIEDMONT District #31



Club members volunteered with a monthly community food bank, working with the food bank sponsors to provide necessary essentials to families in our area. The club also assists with a mobile food pantry held bi-monthly in the community at the Northeast Stokes Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc.

TROUTMAN RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The three-year-old **Troutman** Ruritan Club has made an impressive mark on its community, earning the Town of Troutman's Organization of the Year award at the May 8 Town Council meeting. This recognition, given for the club's dedicated service to citizens and nonprofits, was celebrated with members participating in the town's 20th Annual Independence Day Parade.



In April, May, and June, the club logged an incredible 417.5 volunteer hours. Highlights include President Mariah Johnson awarding three \$1,000 scholarships to South Iredell High School graduates who overcame significant challenges, and members traveling

to Lansing, NC—still recovering from Hurricane Helene—to serve 200 BBQ chicken dinners donated by partner Case Farms. On National Ruritan Day, the club supported the LIFESPAN Fun Day, hosting participants for crafts, games, and refreshments. They also contributed \$2,700 to help a western NC family complete vital insulation work so their home could be approved for occupancy.

June brought a mix of service and community-building events. Members gathered for a lively potluck, cleaned four local streets for the Adopt-A-Street program, and hosted their first craft fair and membership drive, which drew 94 vendors and raised over \$5,100 for future projects. The club also continues its partnership with LIFESPAN, maintaining a garden that provides fresh produce for cooking classes, and is seeking sponsors for nature therapy path benches and a porch swing. Hands-on service projects included mowing lawns, building wheelchair ramps, clearing brush, and even replacing a



News From Ruritan: PIEDMONT District #31

broken washer and dryer for local seniors in need. One large-scale yard cleanup revealed a beehive that will require a return visit once it has been removed!



PILOT PANCAKES FUND PROJECTS

Pilot NC held a benefit pancake supper for victims of a house fire. They were able to help with donations of over \$6,000.00!

Funded by another successful pancake supper,



Club President Donna Sutphin (right) presented a donation to Elizabeth White and Jay McDougall, both Financial Aid

Counselors in the Veterans Affairs Division of Surry Community College. SCC contributes matching funds for veterans.



DISTRICT HONORS VOLUNTEERS

Pine Hall, Germanton, Lawsonville, and Sandy Ridge joined forces to provide an appreciation meal for the East Stokes Outreach Ministry volunteers. A large group of volunteers enjoyed a BBQ meal, door prizes, and received recognition for their service. As Past National President Jayson Duncan is fond of saying, "Volunteers serving Volunteers" is a great experience for all involved.



BASSETT CELEBRATES MOTHERS

For Mother's Day, several **Bassett** members delivered 3-D-printed roses and handmade boxes filled with candy to all the women residents of Stanleytown Health Care Center. Members also delivered boxes filled with candy to the men residents for Father's Day.



The club refurbished their upstairs auditorium and regularly hosts jam sessions with local musicians.



RANGELEY HAS FOCUS ON FUTURE

Rangeley recently awarded scholarships for 2025. John and Wendy Luther (pictured with Club Treasurer Bruce Severance) accepted on behalf of their son, Gavin Luther. Also pictured is Kim Reynolds, accepting on behalf of her daughter, Olivia Mason.

The club also welcomed new members Jackie Smallwood and Sherri Mitchell.



CHATHAM HONORS VETERANS AND VOLUNTEERS

Chatham partnered with Foster Insurance in Danville, VA, to provide pizza, homemade desserts, and fresh, sweet, and unsweet tea for the veterans and volunteers at the National Center for Healthy Veterans.



HYCO ROAD RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Senator Tammy Mulchi was a guest at the June meeting of the **Hycro Road** club. Sen. Mulchi presented Club President Bob Ford with a Certificate of Commendation recognizing the club's 20 years of supporting their community through the Frazier Pool and Ricky Pool Memorial Scholarship Fund, which has provided more than \$68,000 in scholarships to local students.

This year, the club presented a total of 16 scholarships, which included two Kenneth E. Irby Memorial Scholarships, presented by his son, Scott Irby (pictured with recipients Cade Watts and Francesca Potenza), and a Build Your Dollar scholarship. The scholarships are primarily funded through the club's Spring Vidalia onion sale.



News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District #33

DISTRICT STEPS UP TO SUPPORT STUDENTS



Bluford's Build Your Dollar scholarship was presented to Maia Schultz by her Grandfather Ruritan member David Schultz.



Dieterich Treasurer Fred Bray presented the Build Your Dollar scholarship to Briar Hardick, District Governor Howard Tanner presented three Lincolnland District Scholarships to Ella Kreke, Lyla Brummer, and Edward Davis.



National President Becky Lane and **Dundas** President Bill Corry presented the Build Your Dollar scholarship to Kyra Spieth.



National President Becky Lane presented the Build Your Dollar scholarship for **Wayne City** to Rylyn Anderson.

News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District #33



Geff President Howard Tanner presented their scholarships to Ashton Stine and Lily Jamic.



Illiana President Marcia Zehr presenting the Build Your Dollar scholarship to her Granddaughter Leanne Graves.



Skillet Fork President Richard Carter presented their scholarship to Ava Kreiter.



Hymera President Ann Case and District Treasurer Marcia Zehr presented their BY\$ scholarship to Luke Zink. They also presented the district's scholarship to Isabelle Harris.



News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District #33

DISTRICT CELEBRATES CLUB MILESTONES

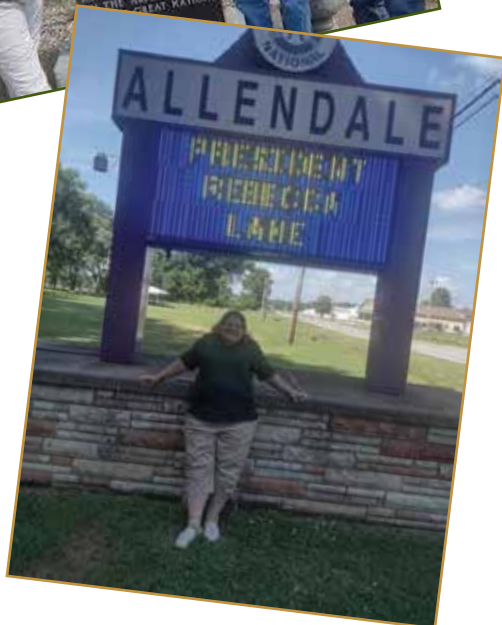
Ruritan leaders recently traveled across Indiana and Illinois to honor clubs for their decades of service. National President Becky Lane, National Director Jim Zehr, and Lincolnland District Governor Howard Tanner presented certificates marking milestone anniversaries. In **Haysville** and **Montgomery**, Indiana, clubs celebrated 65 years of service, with Montgomery's lone living charter member, Joe Trayler, present for the occasion. The **Hymera** Club shared a thoughtful gift of locally made products, while **Jefferson Township** proudly welcomed national leaders during their spirited Fourth of July parade.



News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District #33

(District Visit - continued)

Illinois clubs were also recognized for their long-standing commitment to community service. The **Griffin** Club marked 55 years, highlighted by charter member Sidney Nelson, and the **Dieterich Community** Club received recognition for 40 years of service alongside their Veterans Memorial. Leaders also joined members in **Bluford** at their Veterans Memorial and visited the **Allendale** and **Johnsonville** clubs. These visits celebrated the enduring legacy of Ruritan's fellowship, goodwill, and community service across the region.



BARREN SPRINGS HOSTS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Barren Springs Community has been staying busy, hosting fundraisers and helping at the school. They had the honor of judging a local talent show and sponsoring their first community Easter Egg Hunt. They also celebrated club member Peyton Hill on his high school graduation.



BAYWOOD BUBBLES OVER WITH FUN

Baywood recently sponsored a “Foam Party” for children in the Baywood community. It was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone, old and young!



WYTHEVILLE SWEETENS THE DAY

Wytheville recently participated in the Chautauqua Festival by selling funnel cakes.



RURITAN ROAD RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

The T.G. Howard Community Center Inc. chose **Ruritan Road Ruritan Club Inc.** as the recipient of their 2025 Community Impact Award. This award showcases the altruistic nature of the individual/ organization serving the New River Valley. The club was recognized for their support for numerous projects and organizations in Pulaski County, as well as their contributions to law enforcement, first responders, and firefighters. The club has collaborated with the T.G. Howard Community Center Inc. and the Town of Pulaski for their Back-to-School Program, which has provided nearly 1,000 book bags and school supplies to the children of the New River Valley. The club has also provided resources to assist with Easter and Christmas programs facilitated by the T.G. Howard Community Center Inc. Outreach. Pictured, club member Sonya Ramsey accepted on behalf of the club.



MOUNT TABOR SHARES 60TH CELEBRATION

Mount Tabor has celebrated its 60th anniversary. Special guests Blacksburg Vice Mayor Michael Sutphin (pictured with Club President Robin Cooley) and Montgomery County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Steve Fijalkowski presented resolutions of thanks and appreciation for the club's service to the community. Other guests included National Secretary Juliann Poff, and Past Foundation President Pat Davis, who presented long-time member Ben Crawford with a Ruritan Forever.



CAMP CREEK OFFERS HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Camp Creek is celebrating 70 years of service. Club member Tim Smithson recently shared the fascinating history. The club, chartered on May 23, 1955, began with 32 members representing a cross-section of the Camp Creek community —primarily farmers, along with teachers, local officials, merchants, and other tradesmen. Though their professions varied, at least 22 of the original members farmed in some capacity. At the time, Camp Creek was a rural, agriculture-focused area where tobacco and dairy farming were common, and the newly built school served as a central community fixture. The formation of the Ruritan Club was a timely and fitting development to support and uplift this tight-knit farming community.

Over the decades, the Club initiated numerous impactful projects, including organizing sports leagues, establishing the local fire department and utility district, and aiding in community infrastructure such as the school's athletic facilities and Kinser Park. Several key decisions shaped the Club's longevity, such as allowing women to join, listening to advocates during low membership periods, and constructing a pavilion to serve as a permanent home base. In more recent years, the Club has remained active by leading the effort to bring a medical center to Camp Creek, supporting the local school, maintaining a tornado memorial park, awarding scholarships, and contributing to flood recovery efforts in 2024. Through it all, the Camp Creek Ruritan Club has played a vital role in sustaining and enhancing the well-being of its community.

In July, the club celebrated Friends and Family Day. During the celebration, they recognized Betty McCue with her 10-year pin, Lynn Fillers with his 25-year pin, and Bea Brown with the "Bea Brown Community Service Award". The Bea Brown Community Service Award was a special award from the club to honor Bea for being such an amazing part of the community, serving in Ruritan since 2012, retiring after 30 years of teaching as one of the most loved teachers in the Camp Creek School, and being someone the entire community can look up to and trust.



LIMESTONE SUPPORTS MEDICAL ASPIRATIONS

Limestone presented their Build Your Dollar Scholarship to Gracie Elizabeth Monk. Gracie is a certified and licensed CNA who currently works at a local nursing and rehabilitation facility. She will be entering Northeast State Community College to pursue her nursing degree. Upon graduation, Gracie plans to continue in the nursing field and be a medical missionary. Pictured (l-r) are Karen Bailey, Club Secretary Marion Bailey, Club President Tom Houston, Gracie Monk, Gail King, and Vance King. Also present but not pictured was Club Vice President David Shipley.



TELFORD PROMOTES RURITAN SPIRIT

Telford recently used a Project FOCUS grant to help victims of the devastating flooding and destruction caused by Hurricane Helene. The club contacted Appalachia Service Project (ASP), a local agency serving the Central Appalachia area. The grant will allow ASP to supply full sets of appliances for three new homes, plus a microwave and dishwasher for a fourth home. The check was presented to ASP Regional Director Ani Boyd. Pictured (l-r) are Ani Boyd, Club Treasurer Susanna Chinouth, Club Director (and District Governor) Rick Chinouth, Club Secretary Janet Daniels, and Club President Carl Daniels.



The club celebrated “Ruritan Awareness Month” by hosting a “Touch-A-Truck” event for their community. The three-hour event gave children the opportunity to play on and around first responder vehicles, including Sheriff’s



cruisers and K9 units, a fire truck, and an EMS crash truck. Meade Tractor supplied a farm tractor and an excavator, and children got to take two free books each from the

local county school system’s Book Bus. The K9 Ambassador dogs, Phoenix and Daisy, were huge hits with children and adults alike. Hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks were also offered at no charge. Club members also gave visitors a tour of the



News From Ruritan: DAVY CROCKETT District #35

building, handed out club brochures, and answered questions about Ruritan's history and mission.

In June, they presented their "Build Your Dollars" scholarship to David Crockett HS senior Bella Ferguson. Bella will attend the University of Kentucky and study Marketing. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Committee members Gayle Hendricks, Lauri Toms, and Susanna Chinouth, Bella, Club President Carl Daniels, and Club Vice President Linda Dunn.



From May through July, the club's Citizenship and Patriotism Committee honored veterans and the nation by displaying American flags along a mile of road leading to the Ruritan building.

News From Ruritan: SMOKY MOUNTAIN District #36

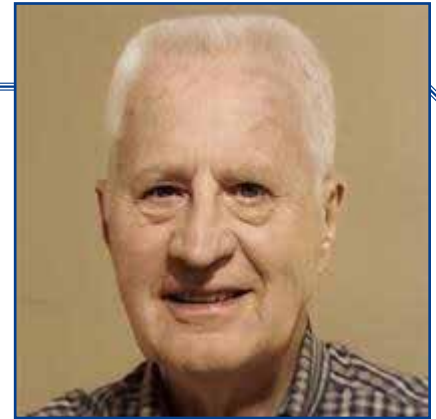
PARROTTSVILLE HONORS ACHIEVEMENTS

Parrottsville TN recently held their awards ceremony. The club recognized scholarship recipients Olivia Lewis, Emerald Ottinger, and Enda Santiago with \$1,000 each. They also awarded Sgt Rodney Hazelwood as their Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Marion McKinley Chiles

Marion McKinley Chiles was born on May 11, 1930, in rural Winston County, MS, and passed into eternal glory on April 6, 2025. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Jean Love Chiles, his father and mother, James William and Virdie Lee Chiles, his brother James W. Chiles Jr, and sisters, Jessie Lee Cooper, Rubye Yarbrough, and Lucille Hudgins.



He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Kendall and Starr Bennett Chiles, grandson Parker Chiles, his wife Amber, granddaughter Lauren Chiles, and many nieces and nephews. Marion graduated from Noxapater High School in 1948 and was elected senior class president. He graduated from East Central Junior College in 1950 and from Mississippi State University in 1953 with a BS in Physics. After college, he served in the U.S. Army as a radar technician. He then worked for RCA in Lancaster, PA, until he joined Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1957. That same year, he met his wife Jean, and they married in 1958. He worked as a nuclear physicist and became a specialist in radiation detection. During his career, he was awarded four patents for detector designs and did work for various D.O.E. locations, D.O.D., and NASA.

Marion was a current member of Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church. Since the mid-1960s, he had been active in the civic organization Ruritan National. He served in every capacity of the organization, culminating as National President in 1990, and was a current member of the Highland Park Ruritan Club in Lenoir City. He was a man of sincere faith in Jesus Christ. He was a true patriot who loved this country and the freedoms that the Constitution provides. He was a man of character, integrity, principle, and conviction. He was known for his signature flat-top haircut and was old school to the max.



DISTRICT HOSTS NATIONAL PRESIDENT

National President Becky Lane attended a meeting of the **Sterling NE** club during Memorial Day weekend. She also attended a new member information meeting with others hosted by **Uniontown**.

President Lane addressed the Zone 4 and 5 attendees at **Pottawatomie** in Lane, Kansas, including Pottawatomie's youngest member. The youngest and newest members of **Bronson**, Kansas posed for a picture with President Becky at a new member orientation. Pictured (l-r) are Bryson Couchman, Chloe Couchman, President Becky Lane, Colt Couchman, and Trace Couchman. The Bronson Ruritan Club was the first Ruritan club established west of the Mississippi River in 1966. President Lane presented Glenn Smith with his 50-year name badge. Glenn is the only surviving 1966 charter member of the Bronson club.



President Lane also addressed attendees of the Zone 1, 2, and 3 meeting at **Hepler Community**. She presented **Cherokee** member, Brent Imhoff (left) and Raymond "Skeet" George (right) member of both **Uniontown** and **Redfield**, with their 50-year name badges.



News From Ruritan: RAPIDAN District #39

WOLFTOWN SERVES UP SUPPORT

Wolftown was busy cooking lunch for their community's annual Madison Day event. The club was presented with a cutting board by members of the Madison County High School FFA as a gesture of appreciation for a recent donation.



News From Ruritan: OPPORTUNITY LAND District #41

WESTERN YELL HOSTS COMMUNITY SERVICE

Western Yell held its 50th annual community worship service on Sunday evening, June 29th, at the Havana First Baptist Church. Special guests included charter members Johnny Foster and Bill Beatty, along with family members from 15 of the original 27 members. This service started 50 years ago with the vision of two men, Rev. Edward O. Tackett and Mr. Richard Guthrie, to organize a yearly gathering of area churches for a joint service during the Independence Day holiday. Rev. Tackett's son, John Tackett (left), and Mr. Guthrie's grandson, Richard C. Guthrie (right), were both present. Several local pastors and church members took part in the service. Pastor Seth Drewry delivered the message, and the offering was given to the Havana Food Bank. Attendees enjoyed fellowship afterward, with the club providing ice cream and cookies.



What is a Ruritan Forever?

"Ruritan Forever" is an endowment program that replaces the payment of **national** dues by members who wish to make a long term investment in Ruritan. The "Ruritan Forever" plan allows a member in good standing to pay \$800 and become a life-time participant of the National Organization. Ruritan National will invest these pre-payments in a special managed fund. Even after the life participant dies, funds will continue to generate income, thus offering a perpetual memorial to the organization on behalf of the deceased Ruritan.

A "Ruritan Forever" endowment may be purchased by a member in good standing or may be purchased for a member in good standing. A Ruritan Forever endowment may be purchased to honor a non-member provided they are brought into a club as an Associate Member at the same time. In this case the Associate Member's dues would be covered by the \$800 endowment.

The lifetime endowment may also be purchased in memory of an already deceased Ruritan, ensuring an ongoing contribution to the operation of Ruritan in his or her name. Dues for a living participant must be current through the previous quarter to participate. Ruritan National will administer these prepaid dues in a separate fund with the original amount remaining in perpetuity. Interest on the fund will provide the money paid to Ruritan National for dues.

Upon payment of the fee, the Ruritan will receive a certificate, a lapel pin, and a permanent life participant card. For endowments purchased for a deceased member a special plaque will be provided for the club to present to the deceased member's family. **National** dues increases will have no effect on participants enrolled in the plan, although the purchase price of \$800 for new enrollees may be adjusted over the years as necessary. There will be no special assessments or charges made to Ruritan Forever participants.



Ruritan Forever

A Perpetual Life Endowment Program

Please detach or photocopy this portion if you would like to participate in this endowment plan to secure the future of Ruritan, in your name or in the name of a fellow Ruritan.

Your Name: _____

Your Club Name: _____

Your Address: _____ Telephone: _____

This application is for: (check one)

☐ Myself ☐ Current Member ☐ Deceased Ruritan ☐ Associate Member

Name of Applicant (If not you): _____

Applicant's Club: _____

Applicant's Address: _____

☐ OPTION #1 Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

☐ OPTION #2 Enclosed please find a check/money order for \$800 CVV: _____

☐ OPTION #3 Enclosed please find the 1st \$200 installment of the \$800 Ruritan Forever fee.

I understand the perpetual life endowment will not begin until the entire \$800 has been paid.

