



### 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!**