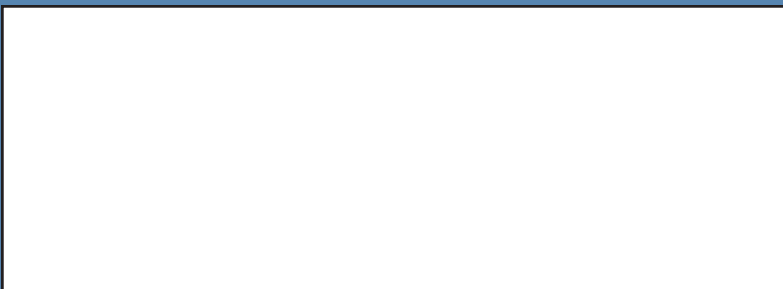




Ruritan

Volume 74, Summer 2009

A Simple Act of Ruritan Kindness



Let's Make a Difference in America's Communities

Summer is here, and I have hit the ground running. I have enjoyed the food, fellowship, and good times of Ruritan meetings, anniversaries, parades, and picnics. It has been a good time to Share Ruritan, and I am excited with what is happening in Ruritanland.



One of the first highlights of my time as Ruritan National President was having the honor to install the officers at the charter meeting of our first college Ruritan club at William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. How fitting it was to be the first Ruritan college club since this college was the first in Virginia and the second in the nation. I thank the Chesapeake District for sponsoring this club, and I thank all Ruritans who are making a difference in their communities.

Summer is a time when people in the community are out and about looking for places to have fun and fellowship. This is a time when the Ruritan fundraisers are planned and activities are numerous. And, it is the time when Ruritans should be active in recruitment. Will you ask the people you see to visit or join your club? Will you show these people how to make a difference in your community? Will you work to organize a club in your community or a community nearby? **Share Ruritan** with others and let them know the impact Ruritan has made in communities across America.

The needs of our communities are constantly changing. Ruritan has improved many communities that it has touched – and it shows. I have plans to engage our Ruritan leaders in strong leadership standards and my expectations are high. Ruritans are changing the way they think and do business with new ideas and new technology that is on the cutting edge – thanks to our new IT Committee.

We are promoting the family membership. We have youth involvement, Ruri-Teen clubs, and college clubs. Diversity in membership has enabled Ruritan to exceed the needs of our ever-changing society.

What role will you take in transforming Ruritan to be the most sought after service organization to join? Join with me in **Sharing Ruritan** and taking the challenge to build a better community through Ruritan.

Share Ruritan!

Donald Worrell
2009 Ruritan National President

SHARE RURITAN!

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Ruritan

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Several Ruritan clubs sponsored Easter egg hunts this spring, even teaming up Rudy Bear with the Easter Bunny. See pages 18 and 30 for more.

Special Features

Responding to Red Cross Needs 7

2009 National President Donald Worrell has asked Ruritans to step up to supply blood. All ready clubs and districts are responding.

April Board Meeting Produces Changes 14

Several actions taken at the April 2009 Ruritan National Board of Directors meeting will have an impact on how clubs do business.

1993 National President Publishes Book 15

Stories — some true and some not — fill a new book by a former National President Wayne Bettis.

New High School Club Charters in Chesapeake 22

Students at Washington and Lee High School in Montross (VA) join the ranks of Ruri-Teens.

Cover Credit: *These pictures tell the story of one club's good deed - much like the many good deeds repeated every day by Ruritan clubs around the country. On the cover of this issue, follow the progress of a wheel chair ramp built by the Goshen Center (OH) Ruritan Club in March. When the need was made known to the club they secured funds from a community source. The concrete steps were moved and construction began. Three and a half hours later, the lady shown in the picture, who has a debilitating illness that will, in time, confine her to a wheel chair, is shown walking down the new ramp. Five of the seven members who built the ramp are also shown in bottom right picture (l-r) John Biery, Bill Martig, Mike Young, Rob Spencer, and Jeff Greeneisen. Not pictured were Brian Craig and David Martig. See page 25 for a photo of a second ramp built by the club about a month later. (Editor's note: We rarely feature one club's activities on our cover - but this set of pictures provided such a well-outlined story on their own that we made an exception!)*

Message from Executive Director Michael Chrisley

Your Kind, Generous Donations Are Appreciated

Thank you so much. We continue to be the beneficiaries of your generosity. On page 15 you will find a listing of additional donations to the Capital Replacement Fund. We have already contracted to have the windows replaced at the national office and work should have begun by the time you receive this magazine (it may actually be completed). These new windows will provide substantial additional insulation from heat and cold, and we're confident that they will reduce both heating and cooling costs at the national office. We have received over \$45,000 for improvements to a quite worn building here in Dublin. We hope that the improvements we will make very shortly will make you proud of your office and make our visitors more comfortable and welcome.



We continue to make progress and improvements to the Membership Management System. We hope that by the fall of this year most, if not all, of our clubs will have access to and begin to use the system on-line if they choose to. Of course, if your club does not have an e-contact or access to the internet we will continue to serve you with printed documents. We do believe that once your club uses the new system, you will love it. The system is very user-friendly and easy to navigate.

We are also working on a series of computer-based training courses so that members can go on-line when their schedule permits and receive important training. In addition to the modules for regular officers in Ruritan such as club president, club vice president and so on, we are developing modules for risk management, insurance, and child protection, as well. With the new system we will be able to deploy training on any subject in a timely manner and track those who have completed the training modules.

As you can see below, we have formed a number of Ruri-Teen clubs so far this year. Young people bring so much to the table: fresh ideas, new ways of seeing things, energy, and enthusiasm. We are pleased that our youth component has seen such success over the last several years. Ruritan is good for Youth... Youth is good for Ruritan. As a matter of fact, Ruritan is good for any age group. We hope that you will continue to share Ruritan with young people and adults as the year progresses. Communities need us.

Yours in Ruritan Service,

Michael Chrisley,
Executive Director

Come Visit Us!

Ruritan National Office

Traveling northbound on Interstate 81, take exit 98, turn left onto Rt. 100 (from southbound Interstate 81 turn right onto Rt. 100). At the second stoplight, turn right onto Rt. 682, cross over Interstate 81 and turn left onto Rt. 662.

Tours can be arranged by calling Debbie Southern at the National Office, toll free at 877-787-8727 ext. 18.

New Clubs for 2009

New Ruritan Clubs, Sponsors & DRMS*

(January 1, 2009 -- May 8, 2009)

<u>New Club Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Sponsoring Club</u>	<u>DRM</u>
Providence Middle School Ruri-Teen	Appomattox	Midlothian	Larry Ford
Alexander Ruri-Teen	Western North Carolina	Gwaltney	Shelby Earp
Ooltewah Middle School Ruri-Teen	Cherokee	East Hamilton County	Sherry McCullough
Black River Ruri-Teen	Ohio	Homer	Chuck Scotch
Capon Bridge Ruri-Teen	Upper WV	Capon Bridge	Jeannie Lopez-Smith
Washington & Lee Ruri-Teen	Chesapeake	Westmoreland	Peggy Mothershead
Pennyroyal Ruri-Teen	Ohio	Pennyroyal	Larry Starcher

*DRM stands for Distinguished Ruritan Member, who is the person most responsible for organizing the new club.

G&D News Flash: Growth is a C-H-O-I-C-E in 2009

At this time in the lives of Ruritans all regions are being hit hard economically and we care deeply about our communities, families, and neighbors. We are dedicated to improving communities through human contact or as we say it, "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service." It is a perfect time to make the choice to grow this year by simply sharing Ruritan with: Family, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors – F*R*A*N.

Associate membership in Ruritan is a great way to grow. This provides an opportunity for individuals and businesses that are not available to attend club meetings as a regular member, but who want to be affiliated with Ruritan and show their support of the community-improving work Ruritans do. They may get involved in fundraising events, but just don't have the time to attend one more monthly meeting. The club receives \$4 on the anniversary renewal of the associate member, to be paid yearly in September.

Honorary members have a great wealth of ideas to draw on from their experience over several years, and they would be a great asset to clubs. Don't forget to consider reclaiming them as members. Remember – Ruritan is for everyone.

Are you interested in starting a new club? Contact your local superintendent of schools, school principals, agricultural leaders, Boy and Girl Scout leaders, and various other community leaders. These are good sources for starting Ruri-Teen and Ruritan clubs. Most newspapers will print an article about starting a new club.

Just get a few people together and explain the basics of membership. Clubs can request, from the National Office, a copy of **Basics of Membership**, a flier designed to assist clubs with recruiting members. Also available is a club brochure template, to show the club's activities. Look under the resources tab for growth - where you will also find other growth resources. Another great tool is placing cards or pamphlets on community bulletin boards. Everybody reads while at the doctor's office, so when you go to the doctor's office, take along one or more of your Ruritan magazines to leave in the lobby.

Just remember, **Growth is a C-H-O-I-C-E**. After you have done some of these things, contact the Growth and Development Committee for more information by contacting Ruritan Service at 1-877-787-8727 ext. 13.

Districts Put New Promotional Signs to Use

To offer support for growth and to help publicize the Ruritan message, 2009 National President Donald Worrell gave every district a large vinyl sign at the 2009 National Convention. He asked the governors to take the free signs and put them in places of high traffic in the community – especially in places where increased efforts at growing Ruritan were being undertaken.

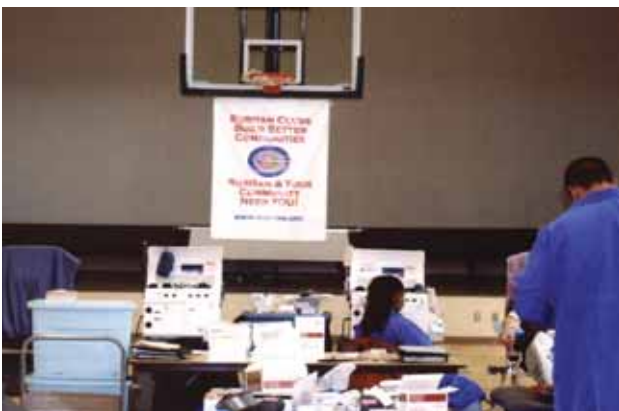
The **Ohio District** posted their sign at their spring rally and it caught the attention of a zone governor who took the sign on to a "cornhole tournament". Pictured at right with the sign are District Governor Robert Lahmers and Cornhole Tournament Director and **Smithville (OH)** Ruritan member Rick Dilyard. The proceeds will go to the Ohio District Ruritan to help with expenses

to administer and promote Ruritan across Ohio. From that tournament the sign went on to be displayed by yet another club in their community.

In the **Natural Bridge**

District the sign was proudly displayed at a Red Cross blood drive hosted by the **Bonsack/Blue Ridge (VA)** club where many visitors learned the message of Ruritan from the sign.

Additional signs are available through Ruritan Supply at a cost of \$80 which includes shipping.



2009 Founders' Day

Founders' Day 2009 – Celebrating Ruritan's Past and Future

By Phyllis Lewter, Past National Director

The quiet community of Holland in the city of Suffolk, Virginia, became filled with excitement on May 16, 2009, as Ruritans from seven states descended on the community to celebrate the birth of Ruritan. At the monument site, across the street from where the old Holland Hotel stood to host the first Ruritan gathering, a formal wreath-laying ceremony was held. Ruritans stood in silence to honor the memories of the thirty-five



charter members, our founding members. Participants in the program included Suffolk City dignitaries, 2009 National President Donald Worrell (pictured), Holland Club President Carol Warren, and Holland District Governor Clay Byrum. Boy Scout Troop 37 from Carrsville (VA) had the honor of raising the flags on three new flagpoles. Jimmy and Mary Alice Bulfin working with Lodge #46 of the Woodmen of the World had recently provided three flagpoles at the monument site. Now the Ruritan flag is proudly displayed at the monument site with the American and Virginia flags.



From a formal ceremony to honor

Ruritan's founders, the event turned into one of excitement when the parade began. Following the color guards there were bands, floats representing Ruritan clubs and community organizations, convertibles carrying National Ruritan officers and city and state dignitaries, horseback riders, tractors, and the Shriners' units, a favorite of the children with their clowns, midget cars, and hillbillies. Residents sat on their porches and visitors brought chairs to watch from the sidewalks. Many just took a seat on the curb to watch a special hour-long parade.

When the parade concluded, a BBQ Cook-off was held. Those attending got to eat award-winning BBQ and vote for their favorite. BBQ cooks, representing Ruritan clubs in the area, had been at the site since the early morning hours to prepare the meat that they coated with their secret sauces. The **Western Branch (VA)** Ruritans (pictured) took home both first place awards (Judges' Choice and Peoples' Choice).

In the evening Ruritans gathered for more fellowship and a dinner. A special guest at the dinner was (pictured) Kitty Lassiter, daughter of Dr. J. M. Bland, the first Ruritan National President. The evening concluded with entertainment and fireworks on the nearby ball field.



The entire day was one of celebration. Founders' Day 2009 was a celebration of our founding and a celebration of Ruritans' presence as a leading service organization to communities throughout America today and into the future.

Holland District Actively Involved with Blood Drives

Ruritan's blood drives are becoming more and more frequent as the organization has accepted National President Donald Worrell's challenge to become actively involved with the American Red Cross.

Holland Ruritans have been actively involved with the American Red Cross Blood Drives even before it became a priority for the National President. In June 2008, then Zone Governor Chuck Myers organized a zone blood drive, the first in the district. The clubs in the zone agreed to provide a site and the manpower needed to hold the event. The drive was held at the **Disputanta** (VA) Ruritan Clubhouse, a centrally located site. The Red Cross set the quota at 35 units.

Chuck said, "I didn't believe that this quota adequately reflected what we as a zone could accomplish. Through telephone calls and announcements at club meetings, that goal was surpassed. We were able to provide 58 units of life-giving blood to the Red Cross." At the winter zone meeting, clubs received framed certificates for their participation. Chuck (now District Lt. Governor) began 2009 by encouraging all the zones in the Holland District to participate in blood drives in support of National President Donald's goals. **Hickory** (VA), **Wallaceton** (VA), **Smithfield** (VA), **Sedley** (VA), **Hunterdale** (VA), **Courtland** (VA), and **Bethlehem** (VA) have had most successful drives or have drives scheduled. Even the two newest clubs in the district,

Western Branch (VA) and **Hodges Ferry** (VA), co-sponsored a drive. Some clubs have combined with other service clubs or churches in their communities to sponsor drives. Club members are being encouraged to give wherever it is convenient for them and to report their giving. Hunterdale member Ken Porter has been recognized by the Red Cross with his donation of 25 gallons. Pictured is Red Cross worker Belinda Wilson



with blood donor Bill Lewter from the **Great Bridge** (VA) Ruritan Club at the Messiah United Methodist Church Blood Drive in Chesapeake, VA.



Horsepasture Ruritans Hold Blood Drive

The **Horsepasture** (VA) Ruritan Club also accepted the challenge to donate the "gift of life." The club recently held a blood drive with the members participating either by volunteering to work the drive, donating blood, or both. Members of the club who were involved included: Chair Mary Ann Witt, Co-Chair Rodney Witt, Ellen Maxwell, Fern Lawson, Edith Maxwell, Nancy Bradshaw, Dean Boyd, Bill Smith, Tommy Slaughter, and Susan Turner.

Host a Red Cross blood drive this year and tell your district governor the number of pints donated. District totals will be entered in a competition. Awards will be presented at the 2010 National Convention in Virginia Beach.



New King Neptune Chosen for Virginia Beach

The 2009 King Neptune – just announced in March – will welcome Ruritans to Virginia Beach next January. This prestigious ceremonial leadership position is bestowed upon a deserving member of the community and the criteria fits very well into the community service focus of Ruritan. King Neptune is chosen based on excellence in contributions and involvement in the quality of life in Virginia Beach and on being an active participant in the activities of community life.



The King Neptune who will reign this year – and over the Ruritan visit to Virginia Beach – is John Randolph “Randy” Sutton. A long time resident of Virginia Beach, Sutton is the founder, co-owner and president of Waterfront Marine Construction, Inc., a marine construction company that specializes in the construction of marine facilities, bridges and foundation pilings in the Hampton Roads area and beyond. He is also on the Board of Trustees for The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia. He is a past board member of the Associated General Contractors of Tidewater, and a past state director of the Associated General Contractors of Virginia. In addition, he is a past member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tidewater, The Virginia Beach Jaycees, and the Old Dominion Educational Foundation Board. He is also a former recipient of the John H. Kruger Award, which is given each year by the Neptune Festival for outstanding community service.



Your 2009 Ruritan President and Vice President are ready to welcome you to Virginia Beach in January 2010. Pictured are (l-r) Vice President Jerome Rodes and his wife Marsha, 2009 First Lady Roseland Worrell and 2009 National President Donald Worrell.

Items of Interest

1975 National President Uzzle ‘Buddy’ Lee Jr. Passes

Uzzle “Buddy” Lee, Jr., 88, of the McCullers Community, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2009 at Rex Hospital. Buddy was born in Wake County on October 10, 1920 to Uzzle Lee, Sr. and Ellie Ennis Lee. He grew up in Wake County and graduated from Garner High School. He served in the Army during WWII in the North African Theatre and in Italy.



As a young man, he played minor league baseball that included the Tobacco State League. Upon returning to the family farm in 1945, he met and married Naomi Sommerville, a teacher at Vance Elementary School. Buddy and Naomi raised

three children, William Uzzle, Elizabeth Joanne, and Richard Sommerville Lee.

In addition to his lifelong career as a farmer in the McCullers Community and as a real estate broker, Buddy was actively involved in civic activities. He was

a charter member of the **McCullers** (NC) Ruritan Club and a supporter of the McCullers Ruritan Boy Scout Troop 343. He also served as an adult representative to the Oconeechee Council, Boy Scouts of America. Both his sons and two grandsons are Eagle Scouts. He held many positions in Ruritan including District Governor of the Rocky Mount Durham District and 1975 National President. He was honored as a Tom Downing Fellow in 1999, and in October 2007, he was presented the Ruritan Forever Award at the Rocky Mount Durham District Convention.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Naomi; children, William “Billy” Lee and wife, Emily, Elizabeth Joanne Matthews and husband, Gerald, Dr. Richard Lee and wife, Dr. Catherine Lee; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were at McCullers Community Baptist Church. Memorial contributions may be made to McCullers Community Baptist Church Building Fund, 133 Rand Road, Raleigh, NC 27603 or to Rex Hospice.

2010 Convention in Virginia Beach



2010 Ruritan National Convention

Virginia Beach Convention Center

(January 28-30, 2010)



Please print or type

1st Attendee: _____

Club: _____ District _____

2nd Attendee: _____

Club: _____ District _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Badge Name #1: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Preferred Badge Name #2: _____

Check items below that apply:

☐ I need vegetarian meals for these in my party.
(list names below)

☐ I need handicapped accessible seating at meals

☐ This is my first Convention/Name: _____

☐ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

☐ I am a Delegate/Name: _____

☐ I will be using a scooter and will need assistance with transportation at the hotel/convention center

☐ I have 50 years or more perfect attendance. Name: _____ # of Years _____

GUESTS: As a fully registered attendee you may bring non-registered guests to meal functions only. List names below and pay for their meals under "Extra Tickets" on reverse. They will only be allowed in events they've paid for.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Registration Details

Your convention registration includes:

- Wednesday night Social with Entertainment
 - Thursday Evening Opening with Flag Ceremony, Vesper Service, and Memorial Service
 - Friday and Saturday business sessions
 - Friday Fellowship Luncheon with the First Lady
 - Saturday Installation Banquet with Entertainment
 - President's Reception
 - Name badge, printed program, workshops, entertainment, speakers, and more.
- Registration must be paid in order to attend convention activities including workshops and business sessions. A

registered convention attendee may purchase extra meals for his/her non-registered guests.

The deadline to qualify for "early" registration is December 27, 2009. Between December 27, 2009, and January 7, 2010, late registration fees will apply. After January 7, 2010, you may only register in person at the convention site.

Optional Events & Meals

There are several optional events that may be purchased separately for attendees or for their guests. These are listed on the back of this registration form.

We will be honoring Ruritan military veterans during the Saturday Veterans Breakfast. Please let us know your branch and era of service for special recognitions.

Name: _____ (Check one in each column)

☐ U.S. Army

☐ WWII

☐ U.S. Air Force

☐ Korea

☐ U. S. Marines

☐ Vietnam

☐ U.S. Navy

☐ Desert Storm

☐ U.S. Coast Guard

☐ Operation Iraqi Freedom

☐ Other (explain) _____

☐ Other (explain) _____

Lodging

Hotel rooms may be secured using the official lodging form in this magazine and available at <http://ruritan.org> or by going directly to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2010RuritanHousing>

What Events Will You Attend At The Beach?

Convention Registration: Includes Fellowship Luncheon with the First Lady and Saturday Installation Banquet.

Early Registration #____ @ \$155 =+ \$____
Postmarked on or prior to December 27, 2009

Late Registration #____ @ \$185 =+ \$____
Postmarked after December 27, 2009

Sub Total Basic Registration \$____

Optional Meals: These prices are for registered attendees only. Guests who are not registered should purchase their meal tickets under "Extra Tickets" below.

Thursday
Foundation Awards Dinner #____ @ \$55 =+ \$____

Saturday
Veterans' Breakfast #____ @ \$20 =+ \$____

Sub Total Optional Meals \$____

Extra Tickets: For any guests of a fully registered attendee. These tickets will secure entrance to these events **ONLY**. **Names must be listed on front of this form.**

Thursday
Foundation Awards Dinner #____ @ \$55 =+ \$____

Friday
Fellowship Luncheon with the First Lady #____ @ \$30 =+ \$____
Optional Rocky Hock Opry Show** #____ @ \$10 =+ \$____
**Entire ticket price goes to American Cancer Society

Saturday
Veterans Breakfast #____ @ \$20 =+ \$____
Saturday Installation Banquet #____ @ \$55 =+ \$____

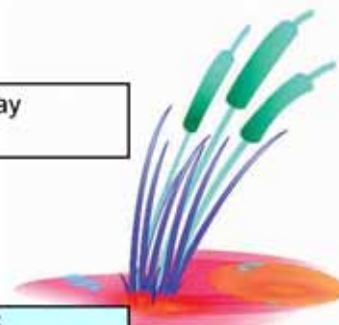
Sub Total Extra Tickets: \$____

Other:

Rudy Bears - Large #____ @ \$8.25 =+ \$____
Rudy Bears - Small #____ @ \$4.95 =+ \$____
Cash donation for food drop \$____
(will be credited to your district total)

Sub Total Other \$____

GRAND TOTAL \$____



Sign up, above, to donate Rudy Bears to the bear drop in Virginia Beach! And If you can't go - send Rudy in your place. Call Ruritan Supply at 800-836-5431 and order a bear to send.

Have you given donations to your local food pantry? Has your club sponsored a Red Cross blood drive? Don't forget to tell your District Governor about your total donations and total pints of blood collected for a contest at the National Convention.

How Will You Pay?

Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

Check payment type below:

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

____ Payment made by check Check # _____

____ Visa/Mastercard Card # _____
Expiration date # _____

Check one option below

____ Bill my credit card now

____ Bill my credit card on December 1, 2009



Earn 50% profit* when you choose
World's Finest® Chocolate for your
next Ruritan fundraiser.



To order custom designed Ruritan chocolate bars
visit www.WorldsFinestFundraising.com/Ruritan
or call 800-WFC-FUND.

* excluding freight cost

Foundation Trustees Continue to Measure Up For “Others”

The Foundation Trustees hold a regular meeting in April of each year during which time we review special, regular and program grant awards. This meeting might be called our “measurement meeting” as it is at this meeting that we determine monies available for the Build Your Dollars Program.

Operating under the Foundation spending policy guidelines it has been determined that each participating club in the program will receive \$290 in addition to the \$300 investment made by the club.



So the question is “how did we measure up?” By any and all standards currently available, we would feel the Foundation measured up very well. Returns of this magnitude simply aren’t available anywhere else. It is hoped that more clubs

would join the program for 2010. Each and every club can join the program by sending \$300 to the Foundation prior to September 1, 2009. Kindly send a cover letter indicating the money is for the 2010 BY\$ grant program.

Please realize that more participants will spread the money available to more participants. The most important way to increase the return is to encourage individuals, clubs and districts to make outright contributions to the Foundation.

The Trustees were encouraged by all of the above actions, but when it came time to score the regular grant applications, we each realized that in this area not only did we not measure up — we failed. One would have to read the applications and realize the true needs of a lot of worthy students who we simply could not satisfy with our limited resources.

This is a situation that can be rectified only by publicizing the Foundation and its financial needs.

The Trustees voted to designate September as Ruritan National Foundation Awareness Month. This would be the theme of the Fellowship Weekend and clubs and districts are encouraged to schedule special meetings and fundraisers highlighting the Foundation. Any special contributions made at the Fellowship Weekend would be greatly appreciated.

Remember the Foundation Fellowship Weekend on September 11-13, 2009 being held at the Lancaster Host Resort at 2300 Lincoln Highway East in Lancaster, PA. The phone number for reservations which must be made prior to Aug. 11, 2009 is 1-800-233-0121. The room rate is \$129 per night plus tax. This includes a FULL breakfast for each guest. As always, please tell them you are with the Ruritan organization.

We will be going to the Sight and Sound Theater on Friday afternoon for the 4:15 p.m. presentation of “In the Beginning”. This will be followed by a buffet

supper for everyone.

Golfers will play on Saturday morning following breakfast. Joe Hulver, Jr. is working on this event. We will have our banquet on Saturday evening and our worship service on Sunday morning. Registration forms are included on the

Ruritan National FOUNDATION 2009 Board of Trustees

President: J. J. Bernard Lerch III

Vice President: Richard Keener

Secretary: Bruce W. Thompson

Treasurer: Robert “Cleve” Wright

Promotion Chair: Norman O’Dell



next page.

There are many interesting places and attractions in the area and we encourage you to consider arriving on Thursday or earlier to enjoy the Pennsylvania hospitality.

Yours in Ruritan Service to OTHERS

J. J. Bernard Lerch, III

2009 Foundation President

Golf Tournament Benefits Foundation

The Rappahannock District held a golf tournament to raise money for the Tom Downing Awards presented by the Ruritan National Foundation. Shown here are the participants getting the rules of play for the day.



2009 Foundation Fellowship Weekend

■ Ruritans registered for the entire weekend will enjoy two dinner buffets (Friday and Saturday).

■ Fully registered attendees will also attend the 4:15 Friday afternoon show at Sight and Sound of "In the Beginning."

■ There will be an on-site hospitality room at the hotel which will be open 4 - 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

■ A golf tournament will be held on Saturday on the 18-hole golf course which has a 43-year history of hosting the likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead. The course provides fast greens, perfectly manicured fairways, and a gentle terrain for easy walking. There are target and practice greens, and a bunker as well. They also have a night-lit putting green and four sets of tees (championship, men's, men's senior, and women's) providing a challenge for any skill. Several picturesque lakes enable water to come into play on seven of the eighteen holes. Golf organizer is Past Foundation President Joe Hulver.

■ To make your reservations at the full-service hotel call 800-233-0121 and mention the Ruritan National Foundation for the group rate of \$129 per night. That nightly fee includes a full breakfast. The resort also features a large outdoor pool with family activities and poolside grille (seasonal), large indoor pool, game rooms, 319 spacious guest rooms and suites, two restaurants, and lounge. The location is in the heart of the area's great attractions – hundreds of outlets, American Music Theatre, and the famous Dutch Wonderland® Family Amusement Park are all less than one mile from the resort.

■ Many other area attractions are just a few minutes away. Mail completed registration (below) and payment to: Ruritan National Foundation, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084; Fax (540) 674-2304. Make your reservations by August 15, 2009, to qualify for the early registration fee.

Full registration fee includes Friday afternoon Sight and Sound production of "In The Beginning" and a deli buffet dinner at the hotel following the show. A Saturday evening buffet banquet is also included.

Registration Options

Two options: Full package OR register for events separately. Choose ONE.

Full Package Registration

(\$8 savings over registering separately for meals)

Pre-Registration Fee: \$120 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Late Registration: \$80* X _____ persons = \$ _____

(After August 15, 2009) *Does NOT include Sight and Sound Show

Separate Meal Option (for those **not** registering for entire weekend)

Sight and Sound Show \$53 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Friday Buffet \$30 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Saturday Banquet \$45 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Special Events

Saturday Golf: \$60 X _____ persons = \$ _____

(Includes 1/2 golf cart, green fees, and a \$10 voucher for lunch)

Golf Handicap: _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Deadline for registration is August 15, 2009. Pre-registration before August 15, 2009, is **\$120** per person. Late Registration after August 15, 2009, is **\$80** per person and **does NOT include the Sight and Sound show**. Registration Fee includes registration packet, Friday dinner buffet, Saturday dinner buffet, Sunday breakfast buffet, and entertainment.

Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone + Area Code: _____

Club: _____

District: _____

Enclosed is my payment:

Check No. _____

Visa # _____

Visa Expiration Date _____

Mastercard # _____

Mastercard Expiration Date _____

Board Approves Youth Associate Member Category

During their April meeting the Ruritan National Board of Directors approved a new category of member: the **Associate Youth Member**. These youth members of regular Ruritan clubs, aged 19 and under or full time students, will pay an annual dues rate of \$15 per year or \$3.75 per quarter and will not have the attendance requirements of an active youth member. (*Ruritan National collects all associate dues on a quarterly basis - see below.*)

The Board also approved collecting Associate Member dues from clubs at a rate of \$10 per quarter, just like the dues of an active member. The club may still collect the \$40 annual dues up front. The new computerized system of billing will work more smoothly with quarterly statements to clubs that collect all forms of dues at an equal rate – quarterly.

National Bylaws Amendments

Amendments to the Ruritan National Bylaws were also approved by the board and will be presented to the delegates at the 2010 Ruritan National Convention. The first amendment will change the voting procedure at the National Convention – allowing officers, directors and trustees to be elected with a plurality of the vote, rather than a majority of the vote on the first ballot only. The proposed change in wording for the bylaws is:

*Section C. Election: **Currently States***

(1) The election shall be held at the National Convention by ballot vote using paper ballots or voting machines. The official program of the convention shall indicate the day and hours of election. Each certified delegate shall have one vote for each office to be filled. Election of Officers and Foundation Trustees shall require a majority vote. In case no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, a second ballot will be conducted for the unfilled vacancies. On the second ballot, delegates shall only vote for the two top vote getters from the first ballot.

(2) Director candidates not receiving a majority of votes on the first ballot shall be declared elected to the available vacancies by a plurality vote on the second ballot provided the provisions of Article B are followed.

*Section C: Election: **Proposed Change***

The election shall be held during the National Convention by ballot vote using paper ballots or voting machines. The official program of the convention shall indicate the day and hours of election. Each certified delegate shall have one vote for each office to be filled. Election of Officers, Directors and Foundation Trustees shall require a plurality vote.

The second amendment will clarify the process for amending the Bylaws. This action will also have to be

ratified by a vote of the delegates at the National Convention.

*Move to amend Article XIX Amendments from **current***
(Amendments to these bylaws shall be made only at the National Convention of Ruritan National by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting, provided that the proposed amendments shall have either
a) been first presented to and approved by the Board of Directors or

b) shall be submitted by a delegate at the National Convention provided any proposed amendment submitted a delegate shall have first been reviewed by the Convention Bylaws Committee. Notice of any proposed amendment submitted by the Board of Directors shall be published in the Ruritan Magazine at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the convention.)

*to the **following change***

(Amendments to these bylaws shall be made only at the National Convention of Ruritan National by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates present and voting, provided that the proposed amendments shall have either:

a) been first presented to and approved by the Board of Directors. Notice of any proposed amendment submitted by the Board of Directors shall be published in the Ruritan Magazine at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the convention or

b) shall be submitted by a delegate at the National Convention provided any proposed amendment shall have first been reviewed by the Convention Bylaws Committee.

The Board also established separate requirements for Ruritan Clubs and Ruri-Teen DRMs (Distinguished Ruritan Members). The Ruritan Club DRM will remain the same and the requirements will specify for “new Ruritan clubs.”

Continued on page 28

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Military personnel who are also Ruritans and who might be unable to attend regular meetings should not be counted as absent according to the Ruritan National Board of Directors.

If your club has a member currently serving in active duty, your club secretary should count him or her as “present” at meetings so that his or her absence doesn’t penalize the member or cause the club to fall short on attendance percentages.

The Board cited the National Constitutional provision for using “four hours of community service” as the equivalent of a make-up meeting - a substitution that members of the U.S. Military are surely qualified to use.

Items of Interest

Campaign to Improve National Office Hits \$44,000

Gifts Since March 17, 2009

(To see earlier gifts go to pages 12 and 13 of the Spring Ruritan magazine.)

Gifts From Ruritan Clubs

Newport-Grove Hill Ruritan Club
Rocky Hock Ruritan Club in honor of Clarence Bass
Gloucester Ruritan Club
Ottway Ruritan Club
King George Ruritan Club
Flint Springs Ruritan Club
Hopewell-Hollis Ruritan Club
Brightwood Ruritan Club, Inc.
Cedar Creek Valley Ruritan Club
Piney (VA) Ruritan Club
Peak Creek Ruritan Club
Forestville Quicksburg Ruritan Club
Midlothian Ruritan Club in honor of Midlothian Ruritan Club
Hardin's View Ruritan Club
Independence Ruritan Club

Amelia Ruritan Club in memory of Samuel S. Watkins
Rolling Hills Ruritan Club in memory of Gene Wells, Ira Stapp, Clarence Reich, and Bill Schumacher
Aarons Creek Ruritan Club
Eastern Henrico Ruritan Club
Dan River Ruritan Club
Durants Neck Ruritan Club
Briery Branch Ruritan Club
Fountain Ruritan Club
Poquoson Ruritan Club in memory of Conrad Willis and Warren Belknap
Pleasant Valley Ruritan Club
Baileytown Ruritan Club
Bluegrass (WV) Ruritan Club
Shawquon Ruritan Club
Upper King and Queen Ruritan Club for the purpose of replacing windows
Sumerduck Ruritan Club
Seven Mile Ford Ruritan Club
Rileyville Ruritan Club
Studley Ruritan Club for the purpose of replacing windows

Gifts from Districts

Rapidan District

Individual Gifts

Jayson and Gail Duncan in honor of all Ruri-Teens
Bruce and Joanne Thompson
Herman and Laurice Hohlt
W. Curtis Rogers
Betty J. Lind in memory of Joseph S. Lind

Other Gifts

Tennessee Ruritan Rally Commission

Gifts from Past National Presidents

Millard and Marlene "Marty" Thacker
Charles and Juanita Bridwell
Frank and Janet Guthrie
J. Thomas Benfield, in honor of Past National Presidents
Jim and Lou Rader
David and Anne Freshley

1993 National President Pens Book of Stories

1993 Ruritan National President Wayne Bettis has written a book – a collection of inspirational stories. The 252-page, soft-cover book, entitled "The Eagle Has Landed" was released April 23 and is now available at \$10 per copy by contacting Wayne directly at wbettis@visallc.com.

In a recent newspaper interview Bettis said of the stories in the collection, "Some of them are true, some I've witnessed, some I've lived, some I've heard and the rest I've read." He noted that he has changed the names of people in the stories to protect their identities. "These stories have inspired me and many others," he wrote in preface to his book. Bettis, who said all proceeds from sales of the book will go to charity, noted that he collected the inspirational stories featured in the book over the last 30 years and has used most of them in public speaking engagements.

He founded Volunteer Industrial Services & Associates more than 30 years ago and currently is both a motivational speaker and certified leadership trainer. Bettis

also is president of Tennessee Valley Auction Company and Calico Hills Development, LLC. He holds a master's degree in business administration and is both a licensed auctioneer and a pilot.



1993 Ruritan National President Wayne Bettis gave a keynote address on Saturday at the 2009 Ruritan National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC.

We Regret the Error!

In the Spring issue of Ruritan an article about the **Buffalo** (TN) Ruritan Club was mistakenly attributed to the Buffalo Gap (VA) club.

The **Buffalo** (TN) club had dedicated a memorial park on Veterans Day 2008 and members of the club and the Tennessean District were pictured.

We are very sorry for this error.

Holland Service Projects Benefit the Great Outdoors!

Thanks to the **Great Bridge** (VA) Ruritan Club less fortunate children ended up having a Merry Christmas. The club provided more than 550 children with much needed clothing at Christmas time. The club held BBQ dinners throughout the year to fund this event. The members picked angel tree cards that identified the age, sex, and clothing size from the Salvation Army. Shopping was done at Sears department store and discounts were given to ensure that the club and children got the most for their money.

This spring the club members of the Great Bridge club and their families participated in the Great American Clean-Up by cleaning the bypass at their Adopt-a-Highway area. Pictured at right are Bill Kline, Katherine West, Leah West, Herman West, and Nancy Lehnus.



The club also recognized community workers at a recent meeting. They make it an annual event to recognize and honor those in their community who give daily to the citizens of Chesapeake. Each honoree was introduced and presented with a plaque to honor their service. Family members were present to share in the dinner and program.

After years of fundraising and many revisions of the site and building plans by the county, the **Surry** (VA) Ruritans have broken ground for a club house. Club President David Holdsworth said, "This is a special celebration. We have been working on this since the 1990s. If everything goes as planned, we will be in our new clubhouse for our 80th anniversary." A picnic followed the ground breaking. Pictured below are members of the club with Past President George Winslow and district guests.



McGaheysville (VA) Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Pictures tell the story of a day of special celebration for the **McGaheysville** (VA) Ruritan Club. In the first picture Charles Kyger, chair of a new funnel cake building, is pictured cutting the ribbon with Scott Miller, contractor. With the expertise of Charles, this building became a reality for the club. The ribbon cutting ceremony was coupled with the club's 70th anniversary celebration. 2005 Rockingham District Governor (and club vice president) Luther "Pat" Raynes said the day was a triple hit for Charles, who was also a charter member of the club.



Delores Marshall is shown at right presenting Club President Ron Uthus with a \$5,000 check in support of the new building. Mrs. Marshall's daughter, Madonna Spencer, who is a member of the club, is shown looking on.

2009 National Vice President Jerome Rodes (above) presented McGaheysville Club President Ron Uthus with a certificate of congratulations from the 2009 National President Donald Worrell.

During the festivities, Vice President Jerome and his wife, Marsha joined other attendees as the building was blessed by Wayne Pence, chaplain of the club.

Everette Smith, another charter member, reflected on his 70 years of membership during the anniversary celebration. He shared a story that at the time he helped charter the McGaheysville club, one of the requirements for a new club was that one third of the members had to be farmers. He noted that would be a difficult feat today.



News From Ruritan: Greenville/Goldsboro District

Greenville/Goldsboro Clubs Exhibit Ruritan Goals



*Reginald Stoud of the **Southwood** (NC) Ruritan Club is shown receiving his President's Golden Key Award (left) for bringing in two new members to Ruritan.*

*Harold Jones (right), a member of the **Wheat Swamp** (NC) Ruritan Club, presented 33 Rudy Bears to Hattie Applewhite, a nurse in the Lenoir Memorial Hospital Pediatrics Unit. The bears are given to the children to help comfort them while they are in the hospital.*



News From Ruritan: Tall Corn District

Ruritan Club Named Iowa Volunteers of the Year

Iowa Lt. Governor Patty Judge presented the Iowa Volunteer Award to Roger VanErseveld, president (l) and Don Lastovka, vice president (r) of the **Brooklyn** (IA) Ruritan Club at a ceremony this past fall. The club was nominated by the City of Brooklyn for its continued service to the community for over 30 years, including contributions of more than \$300,000.

The club serves the community through various fund raisers, donating to worthy causes, teaming with other non-profit organizations with benefits, assisting with youth and community projects. Members also contribute countless volunteer hours in support of the people of Brooklyn community and surrounding areas.



News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

Rudy Bear and the Easter Bunny Team Up

Rudy Bear (two of him) and the Easter Bunny together caused smiles to appear on children's faces at the **Bloomington** (TN) Ruritan Club's Easter Egg Hunt. Several hundred kids attended, age infant to 12 years old with lots of parents (pictured below.) Prizes contained in the 8,500 eggs included bicycles, tricycles, and Easter baskets.



News From Ruritan: Rapidan District

Monticello Holds Membership Night



The **Monticello** (VA) Club in the Rapidan District held a membership night in March. Brothers, Larry and Wayne Shifflett were inducted into the club by National Director Dennie Clemmer. Rapidan District Governor Fulton Payne presented a program on the value of membership. The club has prospects of several more members. Pictured (l-r) Fulton Payne, Monticello Club President Billy Bratton, Larry Shifflett, Wayne Shifflett, and Dennie Clemmer.

Getting Youth Involved in Ruritan Club Meetings



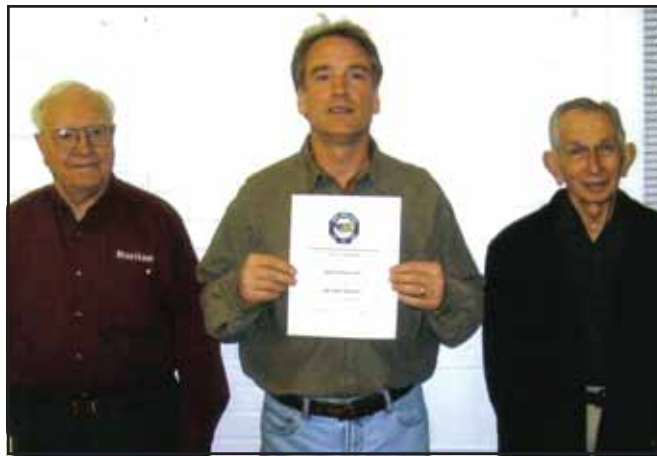
Keeping the youth involved in club meetings is on the agenda for the **Triangle** (VA) Ruritan Club. Several youth hosted the club's February and March meetings. Harlei Jade Pollard (left), read interesting facts about when, how, and why Valentines Day is celebrated. Caleb Stump (center), gave each one in attendance a new "plastic heart", and read about how to keep your heart healthy because February is American Heart Month. Natalie Wilson (right) gave memorable facts about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln whose birthdays are celebrated in the month. Shown with her assistant, 'Grandpa' Harold Price, is Karina Hughes during the Triangle Ruritan February meeting, Karina held up a pic-



ture, earlier, of George Washington Carver, a historical African American figure in the late 1800s, her assistant read about Black History Month, when it is celebrated and that Martin Luther King and President Obama were two other famous African Americans.

Celebrating 45 Years of Ruritan Service

The **White Gate** (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 45th Anniversary at the March meeting. On hand to honor them was New River District Governor Daniel Dean, and Lt. District Governor Susan Lilly. They presented the club with a certificate of appreciation for years of service to the community.



News From Ruritan: Alabama - Florida District

Bleeker (AL) Receives Thanks from U.S. Army

The **Bleeker** (AL) Ruritan Club recently received a certificate of appreciation from Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. on behalf of the U.S. Army. The certificate, held here by Club President Elenore Parker, stated, "For outstanding contribution to the United States Army. The Army greatly appreciates your support of soldiers fighting in the Global War on Terrorism and is proud to recognize your personal sacrifice in preserving the freedom and security of our nation." The club has been active for four years in sending boxes of needed items to soldiers in the Middle East war zones. The club also sent 100 pillows and cases to a returning unit of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg in gratitude for their outstanding combat performance and in appreciation of the hardships they had endured. The club's 2006 president had even stepped up to assume military duty. Sgt. First Class Marc Whaler left for combat during his term of office with the club and was gone for 13 months, returning in time to attend the Ruritan National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC.

SFC Whaler also has three sons who are serving in the war zone.



One Ruritan's Story of 50 Years of Service

More and more Ruritans are reaching that important milestone of 50 years of perfect attendance. **District 12 (MD)** Ruritan Club is proud of one of their members who has accomplished that goal.

When Charles Barkdoll joined the local Ruritan club, doctors still made house calls, and telephone party lines were as common as computers and cell phones are today.

The year was 1959 when Charlie, as everyone knows him, joined Ruritan club located in Fairplay, MD and attended his first Ruritan meeting. After 50 years, Charlie Barkdoll has become known locally as the Cal Ripken of Ruritan.

At 91 years old, Charlie's hearing isn't quite what it used to be, but his fellow club members say he's sharp as a tack and a quick wit when you talk with him. He gets around with the ease of a man much younger and is an inspiration to all that know him. His wife of sixty-four years has passed, and his four children have grown and gone their separate ways, but his Ruritan family remains a large part of his life. He recalls the many good people he's met through his Ruritan commitments over the years, and he still enjoys rekindling acquaintances at the club's monthly fundraisers.

In years past, Charlie has led as the club's Vice President, but he never wanted the presidency role. He presently holds the rank of Sergeant at Arms, which he takes seriously, making sure that the meetings are run according to the book.

When asked of his favorite thing to enjoy with Ruritan, he replies, "All the fundraisers." One might think that in the many years that have gone by that Charlie might slow a little, sit back, and let the younger generation keep the club going. But fellow club member Rick Knepper observes that Charlie and his best friend Lee Snyder participate in the fundraisers and work hard in any area that has a need.

"He will quickly tell you that he is a humble man and will do anything that's asked of him for the good of the club and the community it serves. He enjoys helping people and whatever the direction that leads him, he's willing to follow," said Knepper.

Charlie has lived a full life. He once managed a men's baseball team in the Independent League and

belonged to a bowling team. All Ruritan clubs used to have bowling teams and they competed weekly in their own league. He said, "I really enjoyed the

bowling league. It was a time to see friends and have a little competition."

Retiring 25 years ago, Charlie has been involved in many trades. He's worked on the railroad and in the farm implement business as a young man he helped his father farm and during the tough years, his family ran a dairy.

He remembers the tough times during the Depression and recalls times his family would give others free dairy products without ever expecting anything in return. Surely from his family's example is how Charlie learned to help others in his community.

Through his Ruritan service, memories of projects including repairing lawn mowers, helping people paint, and assisting with home projects are ones that come to mind. He stresses the point that he has always helped anywhere he's needed.

Knepper concludes, "Charlie is a simple, easy-going man who is in excellent shape for his age. He knows how blessed he is, takes nothing for granted, and has high hopes of continuing his meeting longevity with perfect attendance. Spending his life helping others, Charlie Barkdoll is considered the definition of what Ruritan is all about."



News From Ruritan: Colorado Area

Colorado Club Receives Gift to Continue Patient Transport Project

The **Archuleta County (CO)** Ruritans from Pagosa Springs were recently notified of the death of one of the dialysis patients that they had transported to Durango weekly for treatment. In grateful appreciation to the club for providing weekly transportation for treatments for their loved one, the family contributed \$400 to the club to help with transporting dialysis patients.

There's Always Something Happening in Appomattox!

Richard Weakley Honored: 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw is shown presenting an award to 1991 National President Richard Weakley recognizing his efforts on behalf of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and the annual Medal of Honor Adventure. The award was presented during an **Appomattox District** cabinet meeting. The plaque notes, *"This certificate expresses deep appreciation to Richard Weakley for his leadership and support of the partnership between Ruritan National and Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge – a joint effort to help America's young people understand and appreciate the service and sacrifice made for them by American heroes of all kinds."* To find out more about Freedoms Foundation At Valley Forge, visit their website at <http://www.freedomsfoundation.org/>



Speaker Recognized: Dr. Bill Holland received a certificate of appreciation from Ron Graves, president of the **Keysville** (VA) Ruritan Club for speaking at a recent club meeting about the founding of Ruritan.

Quilt Provided to Police Department: Steve Israel, vice president of the **Kenbridge** (VA) Ruritan Club and Helen Barnes, president of the Sew Fine Quilters presents a child's quilt to the Kenbridge Police Chief Jan Myers. The quilt program was started as a result of a recent incident in Kenbridge where an unattended toddler was brought into the Police Department and the only thing available to wrap the child in was a bath towel. The quilts will be carried in police cars, and used to provide warmth and comfort for children at accidents and other police response situations.



Rooster Wagon Serves Good Food: At a Christmas parade in 2008 the **South Hill** (VA) Ruritan Club manned the Rooster Wagon named for late Ruritan A. G. "Rooster" Wells who was instrumental in getting the cooking events established for the club the last few years. The club sold beverages and hot dogs to participants lining the streets to see the parade. Wells recently lost a battle with cancer and the club named the cooking van after him.





New Washington & Lee High School Ruri-Teen Club Charters

The **Westmoreland** (VA) Ruritan Club in the Chesapeake District is proud to announce the formation of a new Ruri-Teen club with the official chartering of the Washington & Lee High School Ruri-Teen Club in Montross, VA. The club was chartered on April 29 under the leadership of Westmoreland President Peggy Mothershead and Dr. Joseph Pisani, principal.

Some of the 16 club members and visiting guests gathering for the event (above) are (l-r) 2009 National President Donald Worrell, National Director Roy Maloy, Ruri-Teen President Shane Allen, Holden Oliff, Molly Reed, Cody Reed, Shannon Carpenter, Ed Grimes, Rachel Dyer, Westmoreland President Peggy Mothershead, Chesapeake Governor Betty Lee Stanley, Principal Joseph Pisani, and National Director Carson Stanley. Not pictured were club members Alicia Allen, Victoria Burton, Karston Coates, Nathan Johnson, Alexandra Jones, Samantha Jones, Claire Latane, and Ellen Mavillia.



Clubs Work Together on Benefit

When a tragic accident killed a young father, leaving behind a wife and twin one-year-old children, the Ruritan clubs in the Chesapeake District came together and held a benefit spaghetti dinner. **Mechanicsville** (VA), **King William** (VA), **Doswell** (VA), and **Montpelier** (VA) clubs hosted this event for the family of young Charles Martin. Over 1000 tickets were sold prior to the event with many more being sold each night at the door. A check for \$16,000 was presented to Martin's widow Sherry to be placed in an educational fund for the twins. Volunteers participating in the project are pictured here with the family.



Charles City Cleans Up

Cleaning up the roads was on the agenda for the **Charles City** (VA) Ruritan Club. The club picked up 33 bags of trash to make the Ruritan section of the road clean for spring. A special thanks was extended to the county for supplying the t-shirts, vests, bags and trash grabbers.

News From Ruritan: Western NC District

Hopewell Hollis Extends A Hand

Hopewell Hollis (NC) Ruritan Club has had a busy year in 2008! They delivered nearly 400 pounds of food to needy families, took bags of fruit to shut-ins in the community, and recognized member Geraldine Hodge as Ruritan of the Year. Pictured at right are Club President Hoyt Hodge and Vice President Gary Melton in the Ellenboro Christmas Parade.



News From Ruritan: Dan River District

Ruritan is Making News in the Dan River District

Fontaine (VA) Ruritan Ray Martin was featured in his local newspaper the Martinsville Bulletin. The news item pointed out that Ray was most proud of the new level of youth involvement he's been able to encourage in the Ruritan organization. Several years ago Ray and fellow Dan River District Ruritan Ray Bowen suggested a pilot program to bring youth into Dan River District clubs at a reduced dues rate. By 2007 all of Ruritan had accepted the program and offer the reduced dues to young people. Ray was also involved in helping start Ruritan's Youth Leadership Conference. "I still believe in giving back, and the good Lord has blessed me," said Ray who is now trying to start a Ruri-Teen Club in Henry County, VA.

Three scholarships were presented at the **Rangeley** (VA) Ruritan Club meeting recently. Amy Mills and Laura Lee Thomas will be using their scholarships to continue their education at Patrick Henry Community College while Stacey Moore plans to finish her education at Radford University.

Halifax County Sheriff Stanley Noblin and Investigator Keith Tribble spoke to the **Mt. Laurel** (VA) Ruritan club recently. Both emphasized the importance of public involvement in crime prevention. The club donated Rudy Bears to the law enforcement officers while they were visiting.

News From Ruritan: Upper WV District

Don Biller Named Tom Downing Fellow

Don Biller, member of the **Mathias** (WV) Ruritan Club was honored with a Tom Downing Award through the Ruritan National Foundation at his club meeting recently. Don is the third Mathias Ruritan member to receive this award. In attendance to present the award was Ruritan National Vice President Jerome Rodes (left) from Dawson, WV and Upper WV Foundation Director Glen Davis (right) from Capon Bridge, WV. Also in attendance were Ruritan National Secretary JoAnn Wenger from Broadway, Va., past National President Joe Pancione from Augusta, WV and Upper WV District Governor Eugene Tasker from Fountain, WV. Over 30 family and friends were in attendance as special guests and several spoke on the church activities and other deeds and activities by Don over the years which led to his receipt of the award.



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