



# Ruritan

Volume 80, Spring 2015



## Stay EXCITED and Walk the Walk for Ruritan



It is a great honor tonight for me to stand before you as your 2015 Ruritan National President. I want to thank YOU, my Ruritan Family, for your support over the years. This support and caring is what got me to where I am today. Also, a big thank you goes to the members of the Appomattox District and my home Club, the Ches-

terfield Club, for encouraging me to achieve all my goals. I also want to thank President Elliott and First Lady Sandra for not only being fellow Ruritans and partners this year but becoming good friends we will cherish forever.

I also need to recognize your new First Lady. But, folks, she has always been MY first lady.

Linda and I have some very special guests here tonight that we want to recognize. Our Son, Donald, his wife, Cami, and their children, Megan and Grant are here from Waynesboro, VA. Our son Cory, his wife Amoreena, and their son Carson, are here from White Bear Lake, MN. It means a lot that they were all able to be here with us tonight.

Also with us tonight are my brothers, Joe and Charlie, and sister-in-law, Vickie from Staunton, VA.

Last, but certainly not least, I am very glad to have my Mom, Charlene Burton, here from Staunton, VA. This lady knows more about me than I want any of you to know. I guess I would have to say she is why I am where I am today.

They are all seated at this table so come by and say hello.

Nearly 87 years ago our Founders, Tom Downing and Jack Gwaultney, and others came together in Holland, VA. They met to help work out problems in their local community to make it better. So as this idea began to work and grow, they saw that FELLOWSHIP, GOODWILL, and COMMUNITY SERVICE could not only work in Holland but everywhere else, thus Ruritan began to grow and is now in 25 states with approximately 28,000 members.

2014 was another year of challenges. Membership is always a challenge and last year we lost several

clubs. But we were still able to remain a strong part of our communities. Our National President was out of office for a time. But as strong Ruritans, we maintained our goals and kept going and did the business of Ruritan. We kept up the Excitement for Ruritan.

Now, is everyone ready to "Walk the Walk for Ruritan" this year?

We need to consider doing more to support the hungry and homeless in our neighborhoods. We as Ruritans are fed a meal and all seem to have adequate housing and clothing. But as we all know there are those in our communities that do not have these privileges we enjoy. Thus, we need to do a lot more in our "OWN BACK YARDS." There are so many ways to help - the Backpack Programs for our school children, feeding at "Soup Kitchens," taking used clothing to places to be delivered to the homeless, and in winter the Coats for Kids Program. See if your area has a Meals on Wheels Program. My club delivers Meals on Wheels and those folks are always happy to see a smiling face at their door. See if your community has a Feed More Program and work with their food pantries to provide food for those in need. These are just a few of the many ways we can help.

On the 3rd Friday of each month, Linda and I go to a church in downtown Richmond and help feed about 200 to 250 people who are a part of the Homeless and people in need



*2015 National President Bobby and First Lady Linda get all dressed up for the Sock Hop at the Greensboro Convention.*

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# Ruritan

Volume 80, Spring 2015

## EDITORIAL & PUBLICATIONS STAFF

Michael Chrisley, Executive Director  
Crystal Andrews, Magazine Editor

## CIRCULATION & ADVERTISING

Sue Ervine, Membership Department

## MAILING ADDRESS - EDITORIAL OFFICE

Ruritan National  
P.O. Box 487  
(UPS) 5451 Lyons Road  
Dublin, VA 24084  
(540) 674-5431 Toll-Free: (877) 787-8727  
FAX: (540) 674-2304  
E-mail: [office@ruritan.org](mailto:office@ruritan.org)  
Web: <http://ruritan.org>  
Supply Orders Only: (800) 836-5431  
[Executive Committee](#)  
[2015 National President](#)  
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## Fall 2015 Ruritan Magazine Cover Contest

National President Bobby Burton's special emphasis this year is "Walk the Walk" for Ruritan and to honor our veterans. The Ruritan National Publications Committee is sponsoring a Ruritan Magazine Cover Contest again for 2015. If your club sponsors a **"Walk"** or **honors veterans**, send photos of those activities for a chance to be on the cover of the Fall 2015 Ruritan Magazine. Submitted action photos must be in color and high resolution (at least 300 dpi) and include a caption or identification of the members pictured and a brief description of the event. Send your photo by mail or email no later than August 1, 2015, to: COVER CONTEST, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084 or email to [media@ruritan.org](mailto:media@ruritan.org). For the subject line use "cover contest."

**On The Cover:** 2015 National President Bobby Burton is a member of the **Chesterfield** (VA) and an Associate member of the **Ivor** (VA) Ruritan Club. The family portrait was taken at the 2015 National Convention in Greensboro, NC. Pictured from the left (front) are his daughter-in-law Amoreena, grandson Carson, grandson Grant, daughter-in-law Cami. Second row from the left are son Cory, granddaughter Megan, and son Donald. Back Row are President Bobby and First Lady Linda.



## Pavers Installed at the National Office



Welcome to 2015 and another year of Ruritan service. As I said to the delegates and attendees in Greensboro in January, "Any year Ruritans are serving their communities is a good year."

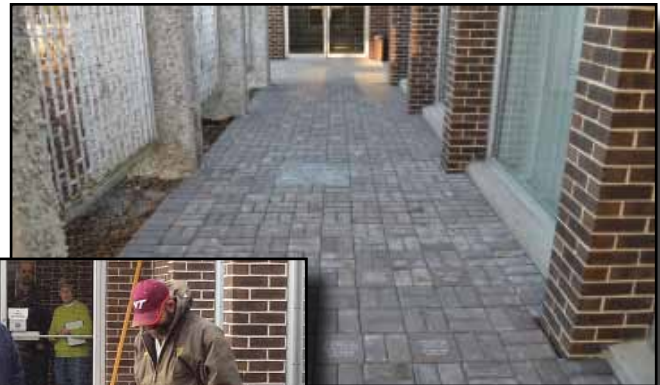
If you joined us in Greensboro you know that while we didn't quite reach our budgeted attendance numbers we were very close. It was wonderful to see upwards of 700 people together on the final night at the Installation Banquet. A full slate of officers and directors were presented and elected. The delegates had two bylaws amendments to consider. The first, an amendment to **Article V** concerning proposed qualifications to run for national office failed and a second to amend **Article XI** allowing electronic meetings passed. (For more detail both were listed in the Fall 2014 RURITAN magazine).

No sooner than we returned to Dublin and unpacked our things – the first shipment of memorial pavers arrived (pictured on this page). The patio is finished with lots of un-engraved bricks holding a place for the many new bricks we will be ordering. I was touched to see the brick that was done in honor of my dad after his death two years ago and the staff and my Ruritan club have informed me they are getting a brick in my honor to be placed near Dad's. On your travels this spring, please schedule a stop in Dublin and see the patio for yourself. Use the link in the information below for the form to purchase bricks to honor others.

As hard as it may seem to believe – we are well into the preparation for the 2016 Ruritan Convention in Jacksonville. 2004 National President John Hancock and President Bobby are directing the planning and many details are falling into place already. At this stage there are always some variables and we have decided to ask you – our potential attendees – for some feedback to help us finalize plans. First of all there has been a grassroots movement to put President Bobby's theme of Walk the Walk into action with a 5K fun run/walk while we are in Jacksonville. Exactly what that event will be is largely up to those who plan to participate. Go to our survey site on the internet before May 1 and tell us what you think <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Jax5K>

There is also already interest in a cruise out of Florida at the end of the convention. Once again – there are several options and we need your feedback to complete those plans. If you think you might want to cruise give us your thoughts at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2016Cruise> before March 30 so that we can secure enough cruise rooms in the Ruritan group.

If you aren't comfortable completing an online survey, both of these questionnaires can be obtained through the national office on paper and we will enter your data when you send the material back to us.



*The first batch of pavers is here and installed! In the center is the large memorial to 2013 National President Dennie Clemmer donated by the **Wadlow Gap** Ruritan (VA) Club. The patio looks great and there are lots of spots for you to place a paver in honor of your favorite Ruritans. Download the Paver Order Form on the Ruritan website <http://www.ruritan.org/library/238.pdf>*

who just want a hot meal. These people always say "Thank You" when they are given their meal. And they always have a smile on their faces no matter what their circumstances might be.

We were asked to do more to support our VETERANS and did a SUPER job. Being that I'm a Veteran myself, I want to continue this program in 2015. Do all you can in your communities to support and aid our Veterans, as well as our active service people and their families. These people are facing many hardships and handicaps. Some are not getting good medical care, some are homeless, and some have a lot of social issues. In a lot of these cases their families need our support. Check in your area for a Wounded Warrior Program and take that on as an



*2015 National President Bobby is shown being installed by 2004 National President John Hancock during the banquet at the National Convention in Greensboro.*

individual or club project. There again you will be "Walking the Walk, not just Talking the Talk." Many of these Veterans are our neighbors and a part of the communities we live in. Find out who they are and let them know "We Care."

In 2015, we will be faced with these, and many other issues, in our communities. As Ruritans, we need to look for more ways to extend "GOODWILL and COMMUNITY SERVICE." We can always Talk a Good Talk but it takes people who are willing to back up their Talk by "WALKING the WALK." They are RURITANS!!!

As an organization we are faced with the issue that has always been the "burning bush" - How do we GROW, KEEP MEMBERS, and start NEW CLUBS in Ruritan? We need to continue to "Just Ask" and ASK AGAIN. We need to start to think outside that

predictable box and be willing to except change, but still hold to our three goals of FELLOWSHIP, GOODWILL, and COMMUNITY SERVICE. Come up with new projects, programs, and anything else to keep our members and prospective members active and involved and excited in serving their communities.

I want to encourage each of our clubs to grow by one or more members this coming year and for districts to see where they can expand the Ruritan legacy. Don't forget that your National Board Members, along with past National Officers, your National Office Staff, and myself are always available to help in any way we can. Please don't hesitate to call on us for help. It has been said many times before, "what you see is what you get" and you need to understand that your Leadership doesn't mind "getting their hands dirty for Ruritan."

As we move in to the future, Ruritan can be a "shining star" in our communities. We must be willing to give it our very best and never except "NO" for an answer. Folks, our world, as we know it, changes every minute of the day. Working closer with our neighbors and other community leaders and other organizations is going to be the way we continue to FELLOWSHIP, promote GOODWILL, and do COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Your table favors tonight are note pads and pencils with "Walk the Walk for Ruritan." My official pin is also there. Wear it this year and show that you are Walking the Walk - Not just Talking the Talk for Ruritan.

As I look out over the room tonight, I am so glad to see SO MANY here. Thank you for being here this week. I hope you have enjoyed this convention. A BIG THANK YOU goes out the ALL those who have worked hard ALL YEAR to put this event together.

And I tell you now I EXPECT TO SEE YOU ALL IN JACKSONVILLE NEXT JANUARY. It is going to be a "long walk" to Jacksonville but RURITANS CAN DO IT.

In closing, lets make 2015 a year that goes down in Ruritan history as one that we renew our FELLOWSHIP, GOODWILL, and COMMUNITY SERVICE, and continue to be AMERICA's LEADING COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION. I wish all of you safe travels back home, and Linda and I look forward to seeing you in our travels through Ruritanland this year.

So stay EXCITED and WALK THE WALK FOR RURITAN.



# 2015 Ruritan National President Burton Installed

During the January 2015 National Convention in Greensboro, NC, Robert F. "Bobby" Burton of North Chesterfield, VA was installed as National President of Ruritan. Burton was elected to the position of President Elect by the delegates in Branson, MO in January 2014 and is the first Ruritan National President to step into the President's position without having to run again for the office. Also elected by delegates in Greensboro and installed



at the Saturday banquet were 2015 President Elect John "Calvin" Shelton of Greeneville, TN (pictured below with his wife Patsy) and National Treasurer Dale Bricker of Canfield, OH.

Frances Long of Elizabeth City, NC was elected to complete a two-year director's term and the seven national directors elected and installed for three year terms

included: Larry Cassell, Jefferson, MD; Les Hopper, Rome, GA; Nell Jeffries, Athens, WV; Don Ramey, Harrison, TN; Curtis T. Simmons, Albertain, NC; Gary Solomon, Glade Hill, VA; and David Thompson, Dinwiddie, VA.

The convention activities started on Wednesday, January 14 with the opening of exhibits and Ruritan Foundation's silent auction. Wednesday night President Elliott Hogge and First Lady Sandra hosted



*Veterans Breakfast Guest Speaker Captain Theodore W. Triebel, U.S. Navy Ret. (left) greets former POW and Ruritan member Paul Dallas of the **Seventy First** (NC) Ruritan Club. Paul carried in the POW/MIA flag during the presentation of flags that opened the breakfast on Friday morning.*



## Delegates Elect National Officers in Greensboro



President Elect  
John "Calvin"  
Shelton (TN)



National Treasurer  
Dale E. Bricker  
(OH)



National Director  
Larry W. Cassell  
(MD)



National Director  
Les Hopper (GA)



National Director  
Nell Jeffries (WV)



National Director  
Don Ramey (TN)



National Director  
Curtis Simmons  
(NC)



National Director  
Gary Solomon  
(VA)



National Director  
David Thompson  
(VA)



National Director  
Two-Year Term  
Frances Long (NC)

a sock hop where many appeared in traditional 50's attire complete with poodle skirts and bobby socks. The convention officially opened on Thursday evening with a flag ceremony and vesper service and continued with business sessions and workshops on both Friday and Saturday.



Optional meals at the 2015 National Convention included a Veterans Breakfast, DRM/Fellowship Lunch, and Foundation Banquet and Auction all on Friday. Saturday opened with a Tickled Pink Breakfast honoring First Lady Sandra and closed with the Installation Banquet. Among the many awards and accolades given out during the three-day convention were the Rudy Youth of the Year, Ruri-Teen of the Year, and Ruritan of the Year.

The Rudy Youth of the Year, Diana Berdine (above center with President Elliott and Youth Committee Chair Clay Byrum (left) of the **Leasburg** (NC) club in the Piedmont District has been a member of Ruritan since 2012. This young person not only attends club meetings, but has also spent over 500 hours on club projects.

The Ruri-Teen of the Year for 2014, Kevin Patrick Stell (above left) of the **Greene Pride** (TN) Ruri-Teen Club has attended all club meetings, visited area clubs, and served as Ruri-Teen club president. He brought in eight new members to the club and spent over 250 hours on 15 club projects. The Ruritan of the Year, Debra Bowman (below with President Elliott) of the **Maxwelton** (WV) Club in the Lower WV District has been a Ruritan since 1998. She has held many club offices, most recently club secretary. She faithfully attends district and national conventions and has spent almost 1700 hours on her club's 22 projects just this year.



### Foundation Officers Installed in Greensboro



Foundation Trustee  
Corky Camin (NC)



2015 Foundation  
President  
David Freshly (OH)



President Elliott greeted Ruri-Teens from the Green Pride Ruri-Teen Club attending the convention. Pictured are (l-r) Hannah Sharpe, Maggie Shelton, Cody Owens, Sponsor Jonathan LaFollette, President Elliott, and Patrick Stell.

1988 National President Willis Overby (center) was surprised during the Saturday business session when he was presented with the Order of Long Leaf Pine. The award is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. The presentation was worked out between the Governor's office, Overby's family, and 2011 Ruritan National President Jayson Duncan (left). Also pictured is 1988 First Lady Jeannette Overby.







Pictures tell the story! A moving flag ceremony (above) started the 2015 Convention off with excitement. Vivian and Max Gibson (above left) got into the spirit of Hogge (Hog) Wild Thursday. Just below (left) Benjamin Irby, **HCMS Ruri-Teen** (VA) president and sponsor

Bonnie Bowen donned crazy ties and scarves for Friday. Below center "Let the auction begin!" with 1993 National President and auctioneer Wayne Bettis on the stage at the Foundation Live Auction. Convention Chairs Gary Taylor and Jimmy Bristow (below right) took a few minutes in the quiet before the convention to compare notes. Some of the best fellowship happens over meals - and this year was no exception. Lower right - a variety of exhibits kept Ruritans browsing and making new friends. And (lower left) the Rocky Hock Opry brought the convention to a spirited close on Saturday.





# Ruritans Walk The Walk into Jacksonville in 2016



President Bobby and Convention Chair (and 2004 National President) John Hancock are already pleased with the enthusiasm for the 2016 National Convention in Jacksonville, FL. With excitement running high after a successful convention in Greensboro, Ruritans have already made reservations at the Jacksonville Hyatt and a third of the room block has been taken. Get your room soon (see bottom of this page).

President Bobby and First Lady Linda have plans for Ruritan to Walk the Walk in Jacksonville by making a real difference in the community with Ruritan time and

talents. They are even exploring an actual 5K Walk/Run (see below).

It's important to note that the convention is very early in the month of January 2016 - starting on Thursday, Jan. 7. Mark your calendars and help spread the word!



January 2016	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## We Need Your Help! Should Convention Include A Walk The Walk 5K Run/Walk?

The Riverfront just outside our convention hotel and the lovely Jacksonville Landing offer the perfect place for a stroll, bike ride, or run. Would you participate in a 5K **Walk the Walk** event while Ruritans are in Jacksonville in 2016?



We need your help to determine what kind of an event this should be. Should it be for charity? When should we hold the event? Are you interested in helping in some way? Please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Jax5K> and complete a brief interest form. If you don't

have access to a computer and would like to complete the survey call the national office toll free at 877-787-8727 and we will send you a paper copy of the survey. President Bobby would also like to encourage clubs to have walks in their communities to raise money for charities - especially ones that would benefit Veterans. Additional details on a potential event in Jacksonville will be outlined in the summer RURITAN magazine and will be based on the survey responses, which are needed by May 1, 2015.

## Get Your Room Reservations in Jacksonville Now!

The 2016 Convention begins on Thursday, January 7. To make your reservations for the 2016 Ruritan National Convention, please visit: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ruritan2016>. If you would rather talk to a booking agent about your room, please call 888-421-1442 and say you are with Ruritan. For questions regarding hotel amenities and general services, you may call 904-588-1234. Rates before taxes begin at \$114 for single and double occupancy; \$139 for triple; and \$164 for quad.

## Reserve Hospitality Suites Through National Office

If your district, club, or candidate is interested in booking a hospitality suite in Jacksonville, contact the national office at 877-787-8727 or [office@ruritan.org](mailto:office@ruritan.org) and we will send you the proper form. The form requires dates of arrival and departure, who will occupy the room, and how the room will be paid for.

# First Lady Linda's Project Will Warm Up America!

First Lady Linda is hoping that Ruritans will **Walk the Walk** in 2015 through the national program **Warm Up America!** and create blankets and afghans for donation in Jacksonville, FL. All the blankets are based on squares of 7 x 9 inches – simple enough for even a beginner. (HINT: cut a 7 x 9 inch piece of cardboard and use it as a gauge so you know when your square reaches the correct size.)

**Warm Up America!** suggests 49 of the 7 x 9 inch squares be used to assemble an adult sized blanket. If your club, district, or zone can gather up this amount of squares (or multiples of 49), just piece them together (instructions below) and plan to bring them to Jacksonville to be donated at the Friday Luncheon to a local homeless shelter. If you only want to donate a few squares, plan to send the finished squares to the Ruritan National Office by October 1, 2015 and we will get the various donations of squares assembled into a blanket. First Lady Linda said she and President Bobby would be happy to collect finished squares on their club and district visits this year as they travel around Ruritanland.

If knitting and/or crocheting is not something you enjoy, consider holding a fundraiser or collecting donations to purchase yarn for those in your club who are willing to do the knitting and/or crocheting. Basic patterns are listed below but there are variations on the patterns on the **Warm Up America!** website at <http://www.warmupamerica.org/patterns.html>

## Crocheted Square Pattern

Materials: medium weight acrylic yarn, such as worsted weight

Hook: 4 mm/G-6 or size necessary to obtain gauge

Gauge: 9 stitches = 2"

Finished size of each section: 7" by 9"

Single Crochet Section

Chain 30 for the foundation row.

Row 1: Single crochet in 2nd chain from hook, and in every chain in the foundation row. Chain 1 and turn your work.

Row 2: Working under the two top loops of each stitch in the previous row, single crochet across the row.

Chain 1 and turn. Repeat Row 2 until piece measures 9". Fasten off.

## Knitted Square Pattern

Materials: medium weight acrylic yarn, such as worsted weight

Needle: 4.5 mm/7 or size necessary to obtain gauge

Gauge: 5 stitches = 1"

Finished size of each section: 7" by 9"

Garage Stitch Section

Cast on 35 stitches. Knit every row until piece measures 9". Bind off.

## Assembly

To join sections, we recommend making strips first as follows:

Using a yarn needle and yarn, join rectangles by weaving or backstitching the seams together, or crochet them together using a single crochet stitch. To give an attractive, finished appearance to the afghan, many volunteers work two rows of single crochet around the edges.

Volunteers are encouraged to assemble and donate afghans for donation in communities of their choice because **Warm Up America!** is a program of neighbors helping neighbors. For more information visit the **Warm Up America!** Website at <http://www.warmupamerica.org/>.

First Lady Linda added that anyone working on chemo caps in either knit or crochet can continue to create those. A donation of chemo caps will be made to a hospital in Jacksonville at the same time we give out Rudy Bears. You can find patterns for the chemo caps on the Ruritan website.







## Ruritan and Hunters for the Hungry Partnering to Feed the Hungry!

### 213 Clubs Donated \$53,252 for Hunger Relief in Virginia in 2014

### Providing 468,617 Servings

We are pleased to be able to report that 213 clubs made gifts to the Hunters for the Hungry program in 2014. Since our partnership began in 1996, millions of servings of venison have been provided through our work together. Hunters

for the Hungry thanks Ruritan for all that you do for our communities! As 2015 begins we enter our 20<sup>th</sup> year of partnership with Ruritan. We hope your club will join with us in celebrating this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by making a contribution to our work. If you have any questions or would like additional information on Hunters for the Hungry, please contact us at 800-352-4868 or [hunt4hungry@cs.com](mailto:hunt4hungry@cs.com). You can also reach us by writing P.O. Box 304, Big Island, VA. 24526.

Members of the Dan River District gather for a photo at the National Convention in Greensboro, NC. They received awards and certificates for 100% participation with Hunters for the Hungry. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year they have been recognized for their achievement.

Appomattox District Ruritans gather for a picture at the National Convention in Greensboro. The Appomattox District was given a special award because they raised the most money in support of Hunters for the Hungry in 2014 providing a total of \$23,987 for hunger relief. This provided 211,085 quarter pound servings of venison.

Natural Bridge District received awards for 100% participation with Hunters for the Hungry. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the Natural Bridge District has had 100% participation.

The Peaks of Otter District has led the way in support of Hunters for the Hungry. They received an award for once again having

100% participation. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the Peaks of Otter District has achieved this accomplishment.





## 2015 Ruritan Youth Camp Registration Form for July 17-19

The 2015 Ruritan Youth Camp will be held at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Center in Wirtz, VA. The W.E. Skelton 4-H Center is located on Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, VA. Registration forms, all completed paper work, and payment of \$145 per person are due by June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Roommate Choice \_\_\_\_\_  
T-Shirt Size (adult sizes, check one)  
Small Medium Large XL 2XL 3XL  
I am registering as (choose one option on each line) Non-Member Member  
Adult Youth  
Parent/Guardian Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please do the following:**

Complete the registration form above and mail it along with your check or credit card information to Ruritan National, P. O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084. Also, please e-mail Craig Whitt at the Ruritan National Office [service@rurian.org](mailto:service@rurian.org) or call Craig toll free 1-877-787-8727, extension 312 to request the forms that are required. The required forms are:

- A) Registration form (Can be emailed as a fillable form).
- B) Health History form. (Can be emailed as a fillable form. Please note there is a separate form for the adults. This can also be emailed as a fillable form).
- C) Medication form (Can be emailed as a fillable form).
- D) Code of Conduct form (Can be emailed as a fillable form).
- E) Photo Consent form (Can be emailed as a fillable form).
- F) Standards of Behavior Volunteers form (Adults only and can be emailed as a fillable form).

All the above forms must be turned in by the June 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.



# Plan to Attend the 2015 Summer Leadership Conference



All 2015 Ruritan district lieutenant governors should plan to attend the 2015 Summer Leadership Conference in Dublin, VA, at New River Community College on June 19 - 20, 2015. 2015 President Elect Calvin Shelton encourages all members of the district cabinet and Ruritan leaders in other levels of leadership to attend this conference for a nominal fee. Classes will be tailored to the needs of registered attendees, but there will be classes to benefit all, no matter what their positions.

The conference gives Ruritan leaders the opportunity to learn more about their responsibilities, share ideas, express concerns, and plan for the future of the organization. It also provides an opportunity for leaders to learn about responsibilities of a higher position and encourages them to move up in their leadership roles. Information on the conference content and cost will be sent to district governors and lt. governors later this spring.

The conference brings Ruritan leaders together to discuss concerns and plan for the future of the organization. Attendees will also learn the latest information about Ruritan programs and procedures. 2015 district governors are also invited to attend this training with the stipulation that expenses will be reimbursed for the lodging cost of one person and one travel per district, plus food. Allowances will be made for distance and gender-related exceptions. District officers should also note that 2015 district lt. governors (according to policy, only if you become the incoming district governor for 2015) and the 2015 district governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2016 National Convention in Jacksonville, FL, provided the following are met:

- \* They attend the June 2015 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by National President);

- \* They attend Governors' Training at the 2016 National Convention;

- \* They attend substantially all meetings at the 2016 National Convention;

- \* Form R-35 is received by Ruritan National no later than November 10 and Form R-36 is received by Ruritan National no later than February 10.

- \* Expense vouchers are submitted within 90 days after the 2016 Convention. Lodging rooms will be blocked for this conference at the Dublin area hotels.

## Clubs with the Greatest % Increase in Members in 2014

### LARGE CLUBS

1156 – Suffolk Club	3.75% Growth
3 – Abingdon Club	12.00% Growth
554 – Harrison Club	30.06% Growth

### MEDIUM CLUBS

2085 - Cedar Fork Club	18.75% growth
204 – Cedarfield Club	19.05% Growth
113 - Blue Grass, VA Club	34.69% Growth
942 - Pink Hill Club	34.88% Growth
649 - Kenton Club	47.06% Growth

### SMALL CLUBS

42 – Ayersville Club	46.67% growth
346 – Dortches Club	50.00% growth
190 - Cartersville, Va	60.00% growth
261 – Climax	63.16% growth
769 - Mid-County	187.50% growth

**May is "Ruritan Awareness Month."**  
Visit the [ruritan.org](http://ruritan.org) website for more information.

**Founders' Day Weekend**  
**A Time for Ruritans to Celebrate Their 87<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**May 15-16, 2015 in Holland VA**

**Founders' Day Weekend Registration Options**

**Option 1 Golf Tournament - May 15**

Player 1 (captain): \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_

\$75.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes dinner, drinks on the course, and golf cart)

Friday Buffet Dinner at golf course for those not playing: \$12.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Golf Schedule**

11:00-12:45 Check-in & putting contest

1:00 Golf Tournament (shotgun start)

5:00-6:00 Claim Door Prizes

5:30 Buffet Dinner/Awards Presentation

**Mail Golf Form and check to:**

**Founders' Day Golf**

**7141 Birchwood Circle**

**Prince George, VA 23875**

**email: [mandspr@verizon.net](mailto:mandspr@verizon.net)**

**Lodging**

Guests may book rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn in Suffolk, VA (757) 925-1300. Mention Ruritan Founders' Day for a special rate. Make reservations before May 8, 2015, to get Ruritan Rate.

**Highlights of the Weekend**

- Golf at Nansemond River Golf Club, Suffolk, VA. Format is best ball.
- Those not playing golf can spend Friday shopping or visiting antique shops in the area.
- Saturday Wreath-Laying Ceremony at 9:45 a.m. in Holland, VA, to celebrate the founding of Ruritan in 1928.
- Parade at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Barbeque Cook-off and afternoon entertainment.
- Saturday evening dinner at the Holland Ruritan Club at 5:00 p.m. followed by special entertainment.

**Option 2 Saturday Night Banquet Dinner**  
**Holland Ruritan Club House - May 16**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00X \_\_\_\_\_ Persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Banquet Form and check to:**

**Holland District**

**Clay Byrum**

**30799 Hunt Club Rd.**

**Carrsville, VA 23315**

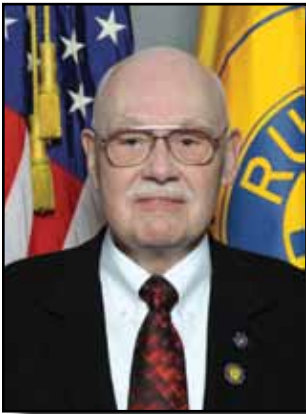
**email: [aba123321@aol.com](mailto:aba123321@aol.com)**





## Message From 2015 Foundation President David Freshly

### We Make Things Happen!



I appreciate the opportunity to serve as president of your Ruritan National Foundation. Your Trustees are moving the Foundation forward by thinking out-of-the-box. In 2014, we initiated the endowment fund approach to increasing assets, whereby money may be added to established multi-level permanent funds at any time in the future.

We appreciate the exceptional support which you give the Foundation. Due to your generosity, we continue to be able to help many students with their post-high school education. The silent and live auctions at the National Convention netted \$11,261.51. We thank the donors, the auctioneers and the bidders for making this possible, as well as the many volunteers who assisted.

One of our goals this year is to encourage those with a non-per-

manent fund (less than \$1,000) to increase contributions in order to establish a permanent fund (minimum of \$1,000). We encourage those with permanent funds to consider an endowment fund to which family members and others may contribute. Endowed funds are funds that use only the interest to support scholarships; the corpus (fund) remains intact.

Let me review our past programs which the Trustees will continue: 1) The Dime-a-Day program (\$36.50 per year - \$182.50 total for the five years) for all who wish to support the Foundation in this manner; 2) The Tom Downing award, an excellent way to honor worthy persons -- be looking for those whom you wish to honor; 3) The long-term goal of achieving a \$5 million corpus; 4) Operation We Care (OWC); and (5) Encourage the creation of new endowment funds. For additional information concerning any of these funds, please contact Bonnie at the Home Office (1-877-787-8727 ext. 302), your District Foundation Chair, or any Trustee.

The Foundation Fellowship Weekend will be held September 11-13, 2015, near the heart of Amish Country. Included in the registration fee is an after-hours visit to the Warther Museum with dinner and the Saturday

evening banquet and entertainment. Hotel registration at the Carlisle Inn in Sugar Creek, Ohio, must be made by August 1 since this is the busiest time of the year in this area. Joe Hulver has agreed to organize the traditional golf tournament on Saturday morning. There are other interesting sites to visit in Holmes, Tuscarawas, and the adjacent counties of Stark and Wayne. Additional information will be in future issues of the Ruritan magazine and Ruritan newsletter.

We make things happen!

### Ruritan National Foundation

#### 2015 Board of Trustees

**President:** David Freshly

**Vice President:** Fred Payne

**Treasurer:** Pat Davis

**Secretary:** Jayson Duncan

**Promotion Chair:** Corky Camin



#### HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF CLUBS DONATING

3rd Place	Fred Payne	44%	Spartan
2nd Place	LauraMary Ryan	45%	Rockingham
1st Place	Echols "Phil" Jeffries	100%	Lower West Virginia

#### MOST DOLLARS DONATED BY CLUBS

3rd Place	Pat Davis	\$5,249.80	New River
2nd Place	Bruce Thompson	\$6,650.00	Appomattox
1st Place	Jim McKinney	\$50,683.88	Cherokee

#### HIGHEST AVERAGE DONATION PER MEMBER

3rd Place	Danny Privott	\$8.78	Albemarle
2nd Place	Pat Davis	\$12.34	New River
1st Place	Jim McKinney	\$65.51	Cherokee

# Operation We Care Provides \$27,000 to Community

In June 2014, a flash flood hit the downtown section of Clear Spring, MD. A number of residents were displaced due to severely damaged homes. To this date, several families have not been able to return to their homes. The town was declared a state disaster area warranting assistance. A request was sent to the Ruritan National Foundation for monetary assistance for families in this small community that were struggling to gain normalcy to their lives. Thus, the procedure for obtaining funds from Operation We Care (OWC) was implemented.

Through the efforts of former Potomac District Governor Mike Danley and his home club, the **Maugansville** (MD) Ruritan Club, the town of Clear Spring, and 2014 Potomac District Governor Larry Cassell, funds to



total \$27,000 were received from OWC to aid families in need.

The Rev. Steven McCarty of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Clear Spring Ministerium organized a relief group to coordinate the needs and distribution of funds. After all relief was exhausted from state and other grants, there still remained a need for an additional \$50,000. The availability of an additional \$27,000

from Ruritan Foundation's OWC was a great relief to the town.

Within a few weeks, based on the relief committee's request, families who continue to demonstrate a need to rebuild and move back into their homes will receive aid from the windfall of funds. The town of Clear Water and the Potomac District were most appreciative of the generous funds received. The Foundation and its trustees demonstrated how Ruritan can and will make a difference in the lives of individuals who have a need. 2014 Potomac Governor Larry Cassell has communicated with all clubs in the district to contribute to the Ruritan National Foundation OWC to keep funds available for future needs of communities throughout the United States. Pictured (l-r) are mayor of Clear Spring Paul Hose, National Director Larry Cassell, Maugansville Club President Marvin Wade, former Potomac District Governor Mike Danley, and St. Andrews Episcopal Church Father Steven McCarty.

### Most New Members Recruited in a Calendar Year.

3rd Place- Brenda Brooks (10 members) of the Climax Club

2nd Place- David Brown Jr. (11 members) of the Kenton Club

1st Place Tie- Barbara Knowles (24 members) of the Harrison Club

1st Place Tie- Kay Pearson (24 members) of the Harrison Club



## Carson Celebrates 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**Carson** (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special dinner, beautiful cake, and guests from Ruritan National, the Holland District, and their community. Past National Director Chuck Myers served as master of ceremonies. 1995 National President Frank Guthrie shared memories of charter member John Clements, and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter praised the club for 65 years of service to the community. Club President Richard Johnson presented membership awards to club members and highlighted the service of Millard Pratt (50 years) and Woody Oakley (56 years). Pictured (l-r) are Millard Pratt, President Richard Johnson, and Woody Oakley.

Holland District Lt. Governor David Edwards was honored by his club, the **Prince George** (VA) Ruritan Club, as its Ruritan of the Year. David is pictured on the right with his wife, Debbie, who is **City Point** (VA) Ruritan Club President.



2014 Holland District Governor Rod Mustanski of the **Burrowsville** (VA) Ruritan Club passes the gavel to 2015 Holland District Governor Jack York of the **Smithfield** (VA) Ruritan Club at the Holland District's Joint Cabinet Meeting.

**Hickory** (VA) Ruritan Club held its third annual prime rib dinner fundraiser. Pictured are 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter and 1995 National President Frank Guthrie as they talk prior to the dinner.



## Sappony Honors Fire/EMS Departments

**Sappony** (VA) Ruritan Club recently honored local Fire/EMS departments with a special dinner. Honored were Jarratt Volunteer Fire/EMS Department, Stony Creek Volunteer Fire/EMS Department, and the Old Hickory Fire Department. After a delicious BBQ chicken dinner prepared by club members, monetary donations were made to each department. Pictured (l-r) are Fire Chief Wayne Spiers and Club Treasurer Joe Brucato.



## Varina, Sparta, and Warwick Celebrate Anniversaries

**Varina** (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its anniversary night with a dinner and special presentations. Officer Damien Grant was honored as Police Officer of the Year. Christopher J. Craft, Sr. was honored as Firefighter of the Year, and Sandy and Bob Thompson were named First Citizens of Varina. Another special award was to honor Varina Club Secretary Buddy Whitlow as the Varina Club Ruritan of the Year. Additionally, the club presented 200 smoke alarms to the fire department. 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter presented an anniversary certificate and National President Bobby Burton made remarks. Pictured (l-r) are Varina Secretary Buddy Whitlow, Varina President David Dukes, 2012 President Phyllis, and National President Bobby.



District Governor Otis, 2012 National President Phyllis, and Sparta Club President Kevin Wightman.

2012 National President Phyllis Lewter presents an award to the **Warwick** (VA) Ruritan Club for years of service at its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Sparta** (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner, special anniversary cake, and guests from national and the Chesapeake District. Half of the club are charter members and they shared special events and activities that the club had done to serve their community. As part of the celebration, Zone Governor Aubrey Mitchell and Chesapeake District Governor Otis Hall made remarks. 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter presented the club with a framed certificate. Pictured (l-r) are Zone Governor Aubrey,



## Melvin Mathews and Dick Campbell Recognized for 61 Years of Perfect Attendance



Melvin Mathews of the **Eastern Henrico** (VA) Ruritan Club (left) and Dick Campbell of the King William (VA) Ruritan Club (right) attended the Chesapeake District Convention in November 2014. Both men have 61 years of perfect attendance.

**Short Pump** (VA) Ruritan Club received Chesapeake District Club of the Year for its outstanding community service. Pictured (l-r) are 2012 National Foundation President Cleve



Wright, Club Vice President Bruce Brooks, Club Member Harold Englert, 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter, and 2014 National President Elliott Hogge.



## Skyline High School Ruri-Teen Club Chartered



**Skyline High School (VA)** Ruri-Teen Club was chartered in Front Royal, VA with the help of Rappahannock District Secretary Dennis Bagnell. Students, parents, South Warren Ruritan Club members, district officers, and club sponsor Jessica Priest-Cahill were in attendance. The ceremony was followed by dinner and socializing.

## Eugene Larrick Recognized for 62 Years of Perfect Attendance

**Round Hill (VA)** Ruritan Club presented Eugene Larrick with a certificate for 62 years of perfect attendance. Larrick is a charter member and loves to provide historical details of the club. Larrick entertains with a joke at the end of every meeting. Other club member refer to him a "Mr. Ruritan." Pictured (l-r) are Laura Hicks, Eugene Larrick, and Debbie Racey.



## Cedarville District Delivers Food to House of Hope



**Cedarville District (VA)** Ruritan Club Secretary Tammie Rutherford delivered food to the House of Hope. Pictured with Rutherford are House of Hope representative Sam Sherrill and Robert Thorne.

**South Warren (VA)** Ruritan Club operated a food concession stand at the annual

Festival of Leaves. Proceeds went toward two scholarships and for other non-profit organizations.





## News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

### McKenney Breaks Ground for Club House

**McKenney** (VA) Ruritan Club held a ground breaking ceremony at the McKenney Ruritan Field to celebrate the construction of a new club house. The new club house will be located at the present McKenney Ruritan ball field at 9808 Sunnyside Drive, McKenney, Virginia. The club presently meets at the McKenney Ruritan Building near Sunnyside Elementary School. The building was recently purchased by Dinwiddie County to be used by county residents as a basketball and general recreation facility. The funds generated by this sale will be used to help with the costs of the new structure.



The new building will be a 60 ft. by 40 ft. steel building and will be built by W. A. Stratton Company of Appomattox, VA. McCray Electric Company will install the electrical service. Club members plan to install the plumbing and interior walls.

In addition to holding monthly meetings at the new facility, the club will make the building available for community events.

### Downing Presents Ruritan Forevers

**Downing** (VA) Ruritan Club honored 1991 National President Richard Weakley (right) and 1997 National President Braxton Bell (left) by making them a Ruritan Forever. They both have 33 years of perfect attendance.



## News From Ruritan: Rapidan District



### Albemarle Installs New Officers

District Governor Linda Bradshaw installed **Albemarle** (VA) Ruritan Club's new officers. Pictured (l-r) are President Wade Crawford, Secretary Brian Edson, Treasurer Kenneth Maupin, Director Doris Floyd, and District Governor Linda Bradshaw.

## Brownsburg Honors Wallace Beckner

**Brownsburg** (VA) Ruritan Club's November 2014 meeting focused on celebrating club member Wallace Beckner's 70<sup>th</sup> year of Ruritan membership.

Wallace has been a true American patriot imbued with community service all of his life. He is a military veteran having served in the Army Infantry from shortly after WWII through the Korean conflict. Wallace has said that Ruritan has facilitated his desire to serve his Brownsburg community. Across 70 years he has served on all the service committees and has held officer positions including secretary, vice president, and president. In this his 70<sup>th</sup> year of Ruritan membership Wallace, at the age of 88, has not missed a single meeting and serves admirably as the club chaplain.

Pictured with Beckner (front-center) are members of his family.



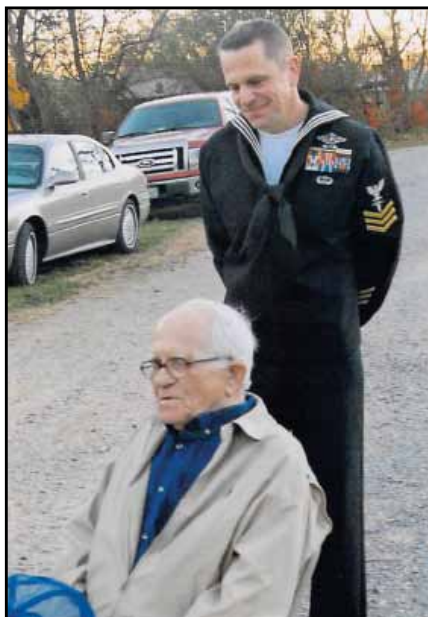
## News From Ruritan: **Woodrow Wilson District**

### Blue Grass Recruits 20 New Members



In 2014, **Blue Grass** (VA) Ruritan Club President Doris Folks launched an intensive recruitment campaign for new members with an emphasis on the younger folks in the community. Doris had great success and several of the new members recruited even more new folks in turn, resulting in some 20 new

members for the year. Pictured are new members and their sponsors at the club's annual oyster dinner.



Program Manager of the Staunton CBOC, US Department of Veteran's Affairs Daniel Fahey presented a flag retirement program on Veterans Day at the **Mint Spring** (VA) Ruritan Club meeting. A piece of the flag was given to all attendees to be placed in a container to be burned. Club President Elaine Barr recognized all veterans, and light refreshments were served. Pictured with Fahey is Veteran John Barr.



**Deerfield** (VA) Ruritan Club members pose showing off their new club shirts.



## News From Ruritan: Potomac District



### New Franklin Dedicates Veterans Memorial

**New Franklin (PA)** Ruritan Club dedicated a Veterans Memorial. An engraved stone is in place at the memorial with the names of the New Franklin area men who gave their lives (1944 WWII U.S. Army Howard B. High, Roy P. Koons, and Galen P. Snider; 1950 Korean War U.S. Army Dennis L. Baker). Guest speakers were County Commissioner Robert Thomas, State Representative Rob Kauffman, and State Senator Richard Alloway II. The color guard was provided by Master Sgt. Louis Montney and the Navy JROTC from the Chambersburg Area Senior High School. Taps were played by Emily Dickerson from the

CASHS.

At right, **Keedysville (MD)** Ruritan Club member Tom Wolfe rings the bell for the Salvation Army Christmas collections in the Valley Mall of Hagerstown, MD.



## News From Ruritan: Rockingham District



**North Shenandoah (VA)** Ruritan Club welcomed two new members, Jacob Stonesifer and his sister Michelle Stonesifer. New member certificates and club information

welcome packets were presented to them by Club President Robert Gnegy.



Past National Secretary JoAnn Wenger and Winston Wenger were presented with the **Rockingham Luncheon (VA)** Ruritan Club's Ruritan of the Year. They have a combined 78 years in Ruritan and a combined 77 years of perfect attendance. Membership Chair Rick Keyton

presented them with the glass plaque. "The club could not recognize one without the other," stated Keyton.

## News From Ruritan: Roanoke District



### Everetts Holds Ladies Night

**Everetts (NC)** Ruritan Club held its annual Community Widows and Ladies Night. Over 50 ladies were in attendance. There were turkey and ham dinners, door prizes, and entertainment by evangelists Mike and Barbara Lestik.



### Bethel Supports FFA

The Perquimans High School FFA made a presentation to the **Bethel** (NC) Ruritan Club as part of their environmental focus meeting. Club member Katelynn Stokely, Caleb Richardson, and Charles Maus represented the FFA chapter well. Stokely and Richardson updated the group on the current courses and opportunities offered through agriculture education and FFA at Perquimans High School. Pictured (l-r) are Charles Maus, Katelynn Stokely, and Caleb Richardson.



Pictured are **Corapeake** (NC) Ruritan Club's "Freezin for a Reason" team during the Special Olympics Polar Plunge event.

### Come Visit the 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 contacting the National Office, toll free at 877-787-8727 or email [office@ruritan.org](mailto:office@ruritan.org)

### Coinjock Presents American Flag

**Coinjock** (NC) Ruritan Club President John Murray presented an American Flag to LTCOL, USAF Ret, and Commanding Officer of the Currituck High School ROTC unit. The ROTC unit reached out to the club for assistance with securing a new American Flag.



**Durants Neck** (NC) Ruritan Club donated five Garmin Nuvi GPS units to the EMS to help them navigate around the community in an emergency. The units were presented to Perquimans County EMS Director Jonathan A. Nixon (center) by Club President Ken Carey (right) and Board Director Dan Gurganus (left.)

## Rougemont Opens Little Free Library



In August 2014, the **Rougemont** (NC) Ruritan Club developed and opened a Little Free Library to serve the Rougemont community. Little Free Library is part of an international effort to create "take a book, return a book." It's also a gathering place where neighbors can share their favorite literature and stories.

Several years ago 2015 Club President Marty Thacker brought the idea to the club and recently to the Public Service Committee chaired by Melody Ann Mininger. For visibility and easy access the committee approached Don and Linda Mason about locating the library at Rougemont Village, which is also the site of the annual Rougemont Easter Parade and Festival. Don and Linda enthusiastically agreed to host the Rougemont Little

Free Library and allowed the Rougemont Ruritan Club to place it near the gazebo within Rougemont Village. The Library was designed by Norman Perry to look similar to the Rougemont Depot, which is being restored by the community under club leadership. Norman and Joe Haenn built the library structure with help from fellow club members David Dohr, John Mininger, and Lynn Van Scoyoc, who is serving as steward of the library.

## Bahama Installs Officers



**Bahama** (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its annual banquet with the installation of officer and welcomed three new members. District Governor Linward Hedgspeth is shown congratulating Club President Ron Williams, Vice President Chuck Hill, Secretary Dennis Shipman, and Treasurer Neil Frank.

The club named Dr. Richard Miller its Ruritan of the Year. Miller obtained a grant from Cornell University's Bird Lab to establish

a bird habitat at Mangum Elementary School for student and teacher outdoor education. Club members built and maintain the habitat. Local donations provided materials, plants, and a birdbath. The habitat will be an ongoing project of the club's environment committee. Pictured is Miller receiving his plaque from 2014 Club President Rick Whitaker.



## Sylvan Donates to American Legion

**Sylvan** (NC) Ruritan Club prepared food at the Blue Grass Festival held by the American Legion Post 305. Hot dogs, barbeque sandwiches, drinks, and sweets were served. The proceeds of \$500 were donated to the American Legion to help with repairs on their building. Pictured left to right are Kitty Wright, Harold Wright, Jo Ann Garrett, Rhonda Neese, Leslie Sharpe, and Liz Baird.





## Southwood Names Katherine Pierce Ruritan of the Year



Katherine Pierce was named **Southwood** (NC) Ruritan Club's Ruritan of the Year. Pierce is a lady that does not let her own sickness get her down but continues to do work for others. She has three different kinds of cancer but the way that she does volunteer work for others you would never know it. She has cut out over \$88,000 worth of coupons that the Ruritans have sent overseas to a base in Turkey for the families of enlisted men. She has helped to make pillow cases and blankets that have been sent overseas for our troops. She is a volunteer at the local Veterans Nursing Home. Pictured (l-r) are Pierce and 2013 Southwood Club's Ruritan of the Year Alease Rouse.

## Pink Hill Donates Toys



**Pink Hill** (NC) Ruritan Club donated over 100 toys that will be distributed by teachers to needy children at Pink Hill Elementary School. Pictured (l-r) with the toys are the 2015 Club Officers, Rodney Smith, Elaine Howard, President Clay Howard, Rod Smith, Sue Jones, and Lester Tyndall. (Not pictured is Susan G. Myers.) The club donated over \$8,000 to the Pink Hill community in 2014.



Linda Jenkins was named the club's Ruritan of the Year for her hard work throughout 2014. Pictured above (l-r) are J. Mac Daughety, Jenkins, and Past President Kenneth Jones.



**Wharton Station** (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Club projects include Rudy Bear distribution, scholarships, and building material for handicap ramps. Club Treasurer Harold Tyson, Carlton Manning, and Buddy Harris are three remaining active charter members.



**Wheat Swamp** (NC) Ruritan Club is shown participating in the town's Christmas parade. Pictured sitting (l-r) are Club Vice President and Club Secretary/Treasurer Macon Wooten.

Standing (l-r) are Ed Dasher and Sean Allen. J.C Braxton was the driver with Club President Carlena Braxton.



## News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

### Boone Trail Names David O'Quinn Ruritan of the Year



**Boone Trail (NC)** Ruritan Club held its annual Ladies Night. 125 were in attendance. Joey Lasater reported that the club had installed several handicap ramps, presented scholarships, donated \$2,400 to eight needy families, \$2,500 to the school for PE equipment, and sponsored the county fair. 2013 Club Ruritan of the Year Albert Jenks presented 2014 Ruritan of the Year to David O'Quinn. O'Quinn is a past president of the club and served as Boone Trail Ruritan Fair Chair. Pictured (l-r) are Jenks and O'Quinn.

### Robert Butler Honored for 47 Years of Perfect Attendance

Robert Butler, Past President of the **Anderson Creek (NC)** Ruritan Club was honored for 47 years of perfect attendance at a reception attended by more than 60 friends and family at the Greenleaf Care Center in Lillington. Pictured on the left (l-r) are his brother Tom Butler, Robert Butler, and his sister Carol Daskal.



### Benhaven Presents Scholarships



**Benhaven (NC)** Ruritan Club President (left) is shown presenting scholarship checks to Joseph Duggan, Elizabeth Street, and Madeline Holder.



### Johnsonville Donates Rudy Bears

**Johnsonville (NC)** Ruritan Club President Louise Jensen is shown presenting Rudy Bears to Harnett County Deputy Aaron Meredith who was the program speaker.

## News From Ruritan: Columbia District

### Pelion Prepares Veterans Memorial Site



**Pelion (SC)** Ruritan Club is in the process of building a Veterans Memorial site. In preparation for the project, members visited 23 cemeteries and recorded 420 names of veterans

buried. The club's goal is to raise funds through brick sales and sponsorship of businesses and churches and have the site complete by Memorial Day 2015. Pictured are club members preparing the flag base.

## News From Ruritan: Upper WV and Lower WV Districts



**Headsville Countryside** (WV) Ruritan Club donated food and \$25 gift cards to two families. Pictured with the food donations are Judy Paugh and Shirley Tasker.



**Williamsburg** (WV) Ruritan Club recently reset and straightened over 100 grave markers at a local cemetery. Pictured (l-r) are Junior Mullins, Jack Goodman, Jason Hedrick, Doyle Owens, and Elmer "Jr." Hedrick. Not pictured is Gregory Hurd.

## News From Ruritan: Cherokee District

### Charles Kirkland Named Cherokee District Ruritan of the Year



Zone Governor and **Ball Play** (TN) Ruritan Club President Charles Kirkland presented the District Ruritan of the Year Award to John Bearlepp. John competed against 21 other clubs with 778 members to achieve the top spot in 2014. "We are very proud of John and his dedication to helping humanity through volunteer service," said Kirkland.

### Morrison Collects Food



**Morrison** (TN) Ruritan Club filled 60 boxes of food for the needy. Enough food supplies are packed in each box for one breakfast and one dinner. Bill Hall helps load the vehicles. Pictured from (l-r) are Lee Baker, Wilma Cathey, Sue Anderson, and Kay Holt.





## News From Ruritan: Tennessean District



### McPheeter's Bend Welcomes President Elect Calvin Shelton

**McPheeter's Bend** (TN) Ruritan Club welcomed National President Elect Calvin Shelton at its club meeting. Pictured (l-r) are charter member Harold Patterson, Shelton, Club President Terry Yankee, and **Yuma** (VA) Club Member David Hartgrove.

## News From Ruritan: Georgia N. Alabama District



### Kash Honors Veterans

**Kash** (AL) Ruritan Club honored veterans with a full course breakfast. The club hosts breakfast twice a year as part of their service to the community. Everyone had a great meal, rekindled friendships, and enjoyed stories about the pictures shared by those in attendance.



## News From Ruritan: Hermitage District



### Perry Carter Honored for 47 Years of Service

**Gadsden** (TN) Ruritan Club Member Perry Carter is shown holding his 47-year service certificate. Pictured with Carter are Club Vice President Joyce Thomas and Club President Edward Wilson.

#### 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 Bylaws 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.



## News From Ruritan: Ohio District

### Great Divide Won First Place for Veterans Float

**Great Divide** (OH) Ruritan Club "Honoring Veterans" float won first place in the town's Homecoming Parade. Pictured (left) is 97-year-old Earl Carlton who is a charter member of the club. Carlton served in the U.S. Navy. He was a minesweeper in the Pacific during World War II. His caretaker and fellow club member Freda Luyster is pictured beside him.



## News From Ruritan: Western NC District

### Collettsville Honors Veterans



**Collettsville** (NC) Ruritan Club honored 25 Veterans. A program entitled "Celebrate America" was presented by two local church choirs. A drawing was held for a paver to be placed at the Veterans Memorial in Lenoir, NC, and Roy McGee won the drawing.

The club also honored Cory Houck as 2014 Citizen of the Year. A lifelong resident of Collettsville, Houck serves as chief of the community's Volunteer Fire Department.



### Steve Morehead Honored

**Oak Hill Burke** (NC) Ruritan Club recognized Steve Morehead for serving as its president. Pictured (l-r) are Morehead, Club Secretary Kaye Taylor, Directors Dorothy Ann Pascall and Buddy Harris, Club Treasurer Lewis Pascall, and Director Howard Searcy.

## Kenton Funds “Shop with a Cop” Program



When Michael Hibbert became Police Chief of Kenton, DE Police Department, community service was one of his priorities. He was interested in a program called “Shop With A Cop” initiated by Target Stores. Chief Hibbert states, “It is a community outreach to underprivileged children, who for one reason or another were not going to have a very good Christmas due to finances or a tragedy they experienced in their lives, through no fault of their own.”

When Chief Hibbert inquired if the program was still ongoing with the Target Store in Dover, DE, he was told that their grant funding for the program had already been exhausted for 2014. He then turned to his Ruritan club, the **Kenton** (DE) Ruritan Club for fund his community service effort, and he received an overwhelming vote of support. The next step was to contact nearby Hartly Elementary School. A first grader, who needed assistance due to an emergency situation in his young life, was identified. Chief Hibbert reported, “I met him about two weeks before Christmas and later shopped with him and his guardians at Target before Christmas. With the help of the club and Target Program Co-ordinator Ricki Harris Thompson and the approval of her Supervisor/Team Leader Eric York, the ‘Shop With A Cop’ Program for the Kenton Police Department was a great success.”

Chief Hibbert plans to expand the program next year to sponsor a second child with the assistance of the club and Target.

## Rockawalkin Cleans Highway



Members of the **Rockawalkin** (MD) Ruritan Club prepare to kick off their Adopt-A-Road Project recently in front of the Rockawalkin Community Hall. The group has adopted several miles of roadway in the area and plans to pick up trash four times a year as part of the club’s mission to improve their community. Pictured from the left are Tom Miller, Marion Payne, Bob Miller, Dave Snyder, Travis Miller, Julie Lewis, Ernie Conner, Tom Field, and Dave Winslow.



## Eldora and Sandy Ridge Honor Veterans



**Eldora** (NC) Ruritan Club was featured in its local newspaper for holding a Veterans Appreciation Dinner. The club had anticipated 20 veterans to participate but the event grew to involve more than 80 veterans and their spouses. Participants included Pearl Harbor Veteran Jack Leach, Purple Heart Recipient Eddie Tucker, and 90-year-old World War II Veteran Pete Carroll, whose tour of duty brought him in close contact with Nazi concentration camps at the close of the war. Pictured is World War II Veteran Pete Carroll receiving a plate of food from Club President Mickey Venable. Pictured below are club members



that helped assemble the dinner trays.

**Sandy Ridge** (NC) Ruritan Club, assisted by the Sandy Ridge Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts, sponsored

the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Appreciation meal. After a hardy welcome, Veteran Troy Brown along with Scouts held a very moving POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony. Scouts posted the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A delicious meal was served followed by three short DVD presentations. The last DVD was a medley of service branch songs, and veterans stood for their branch of service. Cub Scouts presented the veterans with key chains made of rings from retired US flags. Scouts presented "Foundations of Freedom" books. Girl Scouts presented veterans with an eagle craft. Cub Scouts announced a "Day of Service" for the oldest veteran present, Cleo Lemons. Lemons was also given a blanket from the club.

## East Bend Presents Scholarships



The Town of East Bend, NC has an annual God and Country Celebration with a parade the Saturday before July 4<sup>th</sup> each year. **East Bend** (NC) Ruritan Club President chauffeured the local club's scholarship winners. Thad Webb and Ashlyn Vestal, winners of the Steve Coram Memorial Scholarship, represented the club in the God and Country parade. Winners must exhibit academic excellence, involvement in school activities, and be active in community service. Each winner is awarded \$1,000 to the school of his/her choice. Webb, son of John and Dena Webb of East Bend will attend Virginia Tech. Vestal, daughter of Lisa Vestal of Yadkinville will attend Gardner Webb.

## Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes Sponsors Scouts



**Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes** (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its first full year of chartering Cub Scout Pack 325 and Boy Scout Troop 325 by holding a special ceremony involving leaders from both units, Ruritan members, and the Wilkes District BSA. The Assistant District Commissioner Scott Church and Unit Commissioner Parker Huffman presented the charter for the second year to 2014 Club President Matthew Holbrook.

Many leaders from both units have joined the club and are going to hold positions of responsibility in the coming years. Pictured (l-r) are club member and Troop 325 Scoutmaster Mitch Griffin, Club Vice

President Elect and Troop 325 Scoutmaster Rodney Huffman, Unit Commissioner/Wilkes District BSA and Venturing Crew 325 Associate Advisor Parker Huffman, Assistant District Commissioner/Wilkes District BSA Scott Church, Club President and Cub Scout Pack 325 Den Leader Matthew Holbrook, member and Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 325 Thomas Perry, Club President Elect and Chartered Organization Representative Billy Joe Parsons, and member and Cubmaster Cub Scout Pack 325 Brian Huffman.



## Rock House Celebrates Anniversary

**Rock House** (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Zone Governor Larry Ferguson introduced guest speakers 1988 National President Willis Overby and 2011 National President Jayson Duncan. They presented a plaque to 2014 Club President Claude Williamson. Club Treasurer and charter member Don Bennett gave a brief history on the club. Charter

member Todd Gordon read the names of the deceased members and Club Secretary Nancy Speaks gave a report on club activities. Pictured above are club members at the celebration.



## Farmington Displays Flags to Honor Veterans

**Farmington** (NC) Ruritan Club member John Caudle strongly believed his community deserved an American flag displayed to honor veterans. He brought his beliefs to his club and the club members voted to fund the project. Members Robert Caudle, Terry Spillman, Bill Spillman, and Jim Snyder donated materials. A flag raising ceremony was held with speakers and patriotic songs. Members of the Sugar Valley Civil Air Patrol presented each military flag. "It was a way for us to honor those that have given their service to protect our country," said John Caudle.



## Carver Road Celebrates Anniversary

**Carver Road (VA)** Ruritan Club celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Club President and Charter Member Mcgrave Spencer reminded the guests of the purpose of Ruritan and what Ruritans do to help communities. The club erected a new sign, is making improvements to the club house parking area, and improving the interior of the club house. Club Secretary Memphis Keen was presented a Tom Downing Award. Pictured are club members during the anniversary celebration.



Pictured cutting the **Horsepasture (VA)** Ruritan Club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake is Club member Bill Smith.



## Garland "Doc" Ashworth and Elmer Hall Honored for 50 Years of Service

Garland "Doc" Ashworth and Elmer Hall were presented certificates, pins, and gifts for their 50-year memberships in the **Stanleytown (VA)** Ruritan Club. Each club member was also presented with a certificate of membership and 13 members received membership pins at the meeting.

Pictured are Club Secretary Mike Bollinger, Ashworth, Hall, and Club President Mike Kodenski.



## Ruritan Forever Purchased for the Late Curtis Graham



A Ruritan Forever was purchased in loving memory of the late Curtis Graham by the members of the Association of Past National Presidents of Ruritan along with Executive Director Michael Chrisley. Presenting the award is 1999 National President and 2014 New River District Lt. Gov. Rick Poff. Accepting the award is Curtis' daughter-in-law Jamie Graham, of the **Dublin-Radford** (VA) Ruritan Club during the annual Christmas dinner.

**Pembroke** (VA) Ruritan Club presented Eastern Elementary/Middle School with a donation to help with community activities. Pictured are Principal Greg Canaday, Denise Davis, Debbie Law, and Tammy Barnett.



*Please detach or photocopy the portion below if you would like to participate in the Ruritan Forever 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 ☐ NEW Associate Member ☐

Name of Applicant (If not you): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **OPTION #1** Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CVC code (3 digit code on the back of your card) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **OPTION #2** Enclosed please find a check/money order for \$600

☐ **OPTION #3** Enclosed please find the 1st \$200 installment of the \$600 Ruritan Forever fee.

I understand the perpetual life endowment will not begin until the entire \$600 has been paid.



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## SYLVIA SIVELY

*and the accomplices  
below have earned their  
awards for recruiting  
new Ruritan members!  
Congratulations!*

THE \$600 WANTED WINNER FOR THE  
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2014 WAS  
SYLVIA SIVELY OF THE EAST RIVER (WV)  
CLUB IN IN THE LOWER WV DISTRICT.



# REWARDED \$600

## WALLY HUDSON

RURITAN NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
WALLY HUDSON HELPED REVIVE THE  
IVOR (VA) CLUB IN 2014 BY BRINGING IN 16  
NEW MEMBERS AND HAS DONATED HIS \$200  
WINNINGS TO THE IVOR CLUB TREASURY.



# REWARDED \$200

## RICHARD WILLIAMS

\$400 WAS PRESENTED TO  
RICHARD WILLIAMS OF THE PEKIN CLUB  
IN THE TALL CORN DISTRICT.



# REWARDED \$400