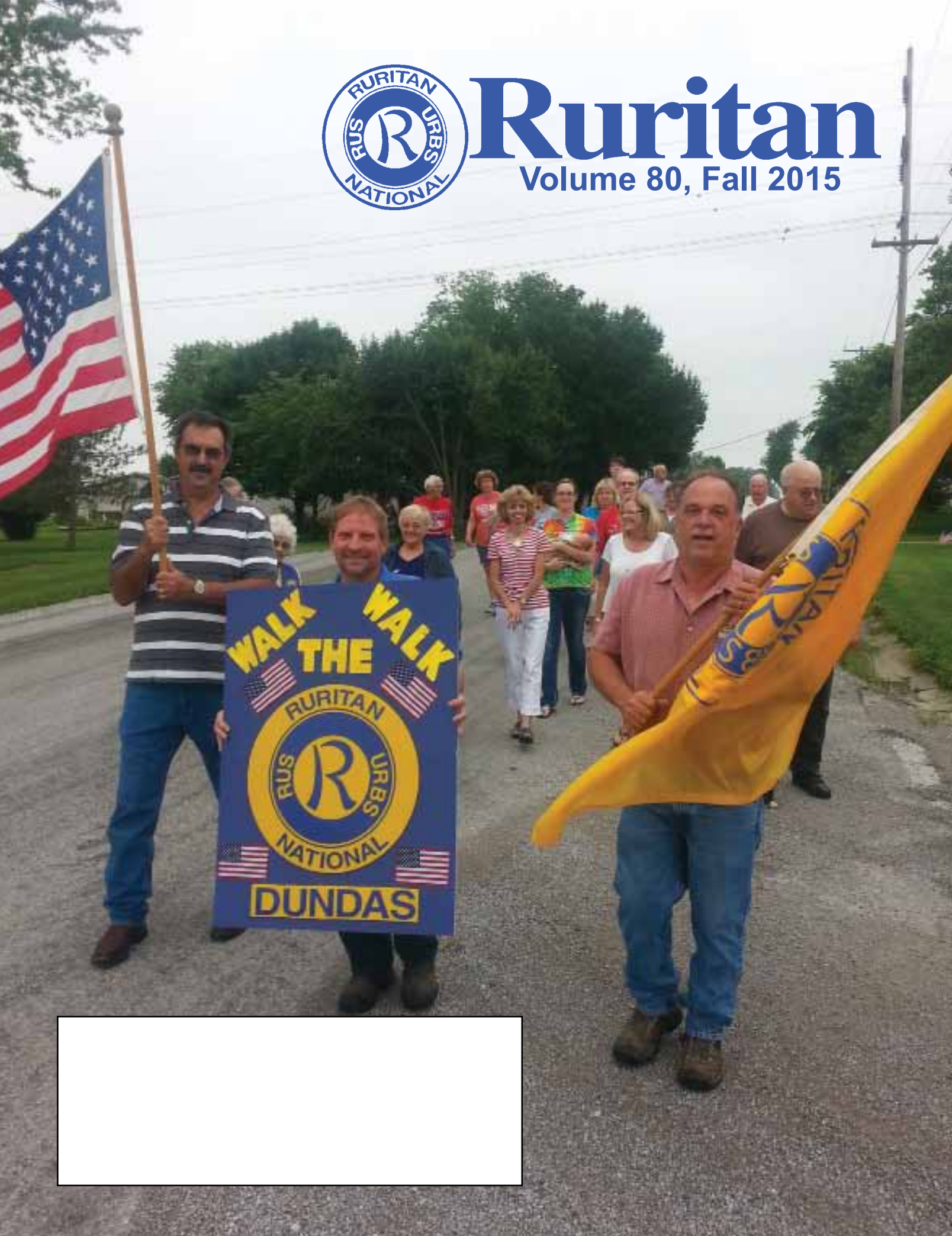




Ruritan

Volume 80, Fall 2015



The "Bush" is Still Burning



While thinking of what to say to you in the Fall Magazine, one thought keeps coming to mind - our "Burning Bush" (Membership). We grow members but then we lose members. I realize much of our loss is due to death and, of course, we can't change that. But we need to get out there and search for folks to join our

group. We also have not grown new clubs this year so always be on the lookout

for possible locations for new clubs.

At the Summer Leadership Conference in June, we spent time on trying to work on changing the fact of "no new clubs". Ideas were exchanged and opinions voiced; however, we seem to still be standing still. There is still time to make these changes, grow new clubs, and increase membership. Look at even restarting clubs in areas where we have had clubs before. Be sure in your travels to "JUST ASK" someone to be a part of America's #1 Community Service Organization.

It was also brought out by the Publicity and Public Relation Committee at the Summer Leadership Conference that we overlook possible members in our communities because we are not willing to diversify.

Remember, "Ruritan does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, national origin, religion, color, political affiliation, handicap, or gender." So go out and communicate and advertise what Ruritan is all about.

First Lady Linda and I have seen first-hand in our travels just how much you as Ruritans are doing in your "Own Backyards" - working at local food banks, running concession stands and keeping up ball fields, hosting community ice cream socials, sponsoring Relay for Life events, picking up trash on highways, participating in county and community fairs, managing a campground, holding holiday parades - this list goes on and on.

Additionally, Ruritans have presented MANY scholarships to many deserving students again this year. These scholarships will pave the way for these young people to further their education and their dreams. It has been my great pleasure to be able to present some of these scholarships and encourage these young people to obtain their goals and, of course, invite them to come back and become Ruritans whenever they settle in the future.

We have also been pleased to attend Veterans programs and show how much we as Ruritans appreciate the service of these folks who put their lives on the line for us and our freedoms we enjoy. Keep on doing all you can to support our Veterans and their families because more than ever before these folks need our prayers and support.

Please consider attending the NATIONAL CONVENTION on January 7-10, 2016, in Jacksonville, FL. Get your rooms and registration in and be ready to have a GREAT CELEBRATION of our accomplishments in 2015. Keep reading our magazine, listening to the information from your National Representative, and checking ruritan.org or "I am Ruritan" on Facebook for updates. Plus, just think, in Jacksonville you can escape the "cold and/or snow back here at home." And, if you really enjoy the warm weather, extend your stay and join me and our Ruritan family on the cruise January 11-16, 2016, in the Bahamas!

I know everyone is working hard on their 2015 club projects and goals.

Keep up all the hard work that you as Ruritans are doing this year and

"KEEP WALKING THE WALK FOR RURITAN."



"Nothing like a bowl of home-made ice cream on a hot July day in Lincolnland." The Jefferson Township (IN) Club made 300 gallons of homemade ice cream for its three-day fourth of July Celebration.

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Ruritan

Volume 80, Fall 2015

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Note voting time at the National Convention has been changed from earlier publications.

Delegate certification closes at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Voting begins at 2:30 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m. (Those with special physical needs and/or handicaps vote first.)



On the cover: The Dundas (IL) Ruritan Club organized a walk in honor of National President Bobby Burton's campaign "Walk the Walk" for Ruritan. The club walked the streets of Dundas and ended at the club building. After a delicious meal, the club honored Robert Berry. Berry served in Korea and is a true war hero. He received the purple heart.



National Board Implements New Growth Program



Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” This is commonly known as the “Golden Rule”. Ask yourself these questions from a Ruritan perspective. “Am I helping others in their time of need? Am I giving back to the community? Am I making an impact on

someone’s life?”

We need people to be able to help others, give back to the community, and make an impact on the lives of others. Ruritan has a number of programs aimed at increasing membership. The National Board of Directors approved a new growth program in the August Board meeting called “Me Minus Five.” This program enhances the already existing “Wanted” program by giving recruiters bonus chances to win with the WANTED PROGRAM when you recruit someone at least five years younger than you. See pages 5-6 for the coupons and contest rules. The “Wanted” program and the new enhancement “Me minus Five” are aimed at recruiting new members into existing Ruritan Clubs.

The Growth, Development and Member Retention committee are working on additional programs that will aid in the retention of members. Curtis Graham was a long time employee of Ruritan National whose strength was building clubs. Curtis always said that membership was a three legged stool. The three legs are

recruiting members into existing clubs, retaining the members already in clubs and building new clubs.

The board also endorsed volunteers going out to districts and training others who are interested in club building. The first of these training sessions was held in the Piedmont District at the end of August. There are more in the planning phase. We hope this program will result in more Ruritan volunteers with the passion and knowledge to build new Ruritan Clubs in communities where there is not currently a club.

Please don’t get so wrapped up in today’s fast paced lifestyle that you forget about Ruritan and what it’s all about. We can talk about recruiting new members and retention and building new clubs— but unless each and every one of us does our part – all this talk won’t matter. I have said this many times before. Growth is not just about numbers. It is about having more people in more communities serving those who need us.

Finally, I want to personally thank you for your patience while I have been out of the office with my mother. I am so thankful that I have a great staff that is filling in the gaps for me during this difficult time in my life. I appreciate all of the prayers from my Ruritan family and all the support of my own club.

As the year quickly moves forward, I challenge you to recruit new members and build new Ruritan Clubs. National 4-H used to have the motto “Make the best better.” Let’s make the best service club in America better. Let’s grow Ruritan.

The Holland District Cabinet and the Appomattox District Cabinet approved a motion to recognize Ruritan National Executive Director Mike Chrisley with a resolution to honor his service and dedication to Ruritan National. Cabinet members shared examples of how Mike was always available to assist the districts when needed. Those who had worked with Mike on the national level noted his dedication and professionalism to Ruritan National and its members. The resolutions were presented to Mike at the August Board of Directors Meeting by National Director Wally Hudson (left) and National Director David Thompson (right).



WANTED CONTEST

**WITH
"Me Minus Five"
Bonus Chances**

Bring in a member five years younger than you and earn an additional five chances on the cash prizes!



One entry per member - staff will calculate your extra chances. Mail to WANTED, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

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One entry per member - staff will calculate your extra chances. Mail to WANTED, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

Contest Rules

- Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect
- New members must be full, associate or youth
- One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1 + 2 chances. Three members get 1 + 2 + 3 chances and so on.
- If the new member is five years younger than you, earn five extra chances (provide dates of birth for both of you)
- 3 winners each quarter drawn at random after all the extra chances are calculated: **\$200, \$400, and \$600**

Signing Member (print)

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date of birth: _____

New member (print)

Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____

Contest Rules

- Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect
- New members must be full, associate or youth
- One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1 + 2 chances. Three members get 1 + 2 + 3 chances and so on.
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Date of birth: _____

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Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____

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Signing Member (print)

Name: _____

Club: _____

Date of birth: _____

New member (print)

Name _____

Club _____

Date of birth _____

Board Actions Focus on Growth

At the request of the Growth, Development and Member Retention Committee the Ruritan National Board of Directors approved a new facet of the WANTED growth contest that will allow five extra chances for anyone who recruits a new Ruritan who is five or more years younger than the recruiter. The M5 or "Me Minus Five" program encourages members to share the importance of community service with members who will continue to provide important programs into the future. See pages 5-6 for new WANTED and M5 coupons which provide space for the birth dates of both the new member and the recruiter.

In other action the board approved an amendment to the national bylaws **Article V, Officers, Section 2, Qualifications** to read: *To be eligible to serve as a Ruritan National Board member, a person shall be an active member in good standing of an adult club for at least five (5) years and shall have served at least one (1) term as District Governor, Area Zone Governor or National Director. To be eligible for an executive office (i. e. President, President Elect, Secretary, or Treasurer), a person shall be an active member in good standing of an adult club for at least five (5) years and shall have served at least one (1) term as National Director. No one shall serve as a Ruritan National Board member if he/she has been convicted of a felony.*

This amendment will require the approval of the delegates to the national convention.

The board failed to approve a motion establishing a policy about using national candidates pictures in club news in the RURITAN magazine - sending the policy back to the executive committee for further study. Because that motion failed, the past staff practice of not publishing candidate's pictures will not be continued.

The board also approved a new award for "Outstanding Club Secretary." The criteria for the Outstanding Club Secretary includes meeting deadlines for reporting, no net losses in club membership, club representation at various district events and the club remaining at or above charter strength (16 members). Complete criteria will be featured in the 2016 Club and District Officers' Handbook

The board approved a new set of District Bylaws which are available on the Ruritan website at <http://www.ruritan.org/library/27.doc>.

In other action the board approved a motion to allow the Youth Committee to fundraise at the national convention for scholarships for the annual Ruritan Youth Camp. The budget for the fiscal year 2015 -2016 was also approved by the board.

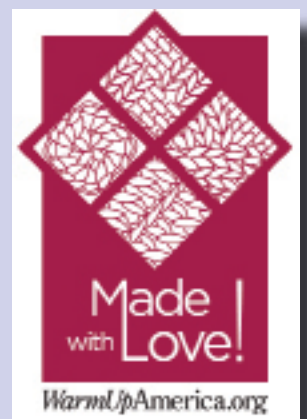
Club Secretaries:

Please watch the mail for your 2016 Ruritan Club Kit. The kits are shipping around September 21st and will come through the U.S. Postal Service to your mailing address.

Warm Up America Project Moves Forward

At the August Board meeting, guests and board spouses presented First Lady Linda Burton with a cash donation toward her project to create blankets and afghans for donation in Jacksonville, FL through the **Warm Up America** program. Anyone wishing to help with this project can create 7 x 9 inch blocks and either form them into an afghan or send them to the Ruritan National Office to be assembled. Warm Up America will also be delighted with blocks that haven't been assembled yet as well as cash donations toward the program. Any cash contributions can be sent to Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084; note that gift is for the Warm Up America project.

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. 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 and the afghan blocks on the Ruritan website. For more information visit the Ruritan website or the **Warm Up America** website at <http://www.warmupamerica.org/>



Candidates Announce For National Office



National President Elect

Danny Privott
677 Ocean Hwy N
Hertford, NC 27944
danny.privott@gmail.com

CLUB: Charter member of Inter-County Ruritan Club (Albemarle District, Northeast

North Carolina), with 23 years perfect attendance; served as Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President; currently serving as Treasurer since 2009.

DISTRICT: District Convention Planning Secretary; Youth Coordinator; Growth and Development Committee; Zone Governor; Lt Governor; District Governor and Foundation Promotion Chair. Served on State level as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President (2009-2010) for Association of North Carolina Ruritans (ANCR).

NATIONAL: Attended 20 National Conventions as Delegate, Sgt.-at-Arms, Flag Ceremonies, Constitution and By-laws Committee, Resolutions Committee; elected as National Director (2000-2002); served on Growth and Development Committee during the time Ruritan Forever program was introduced as a Growth program; served as Co-Chair and Chair of Operation We Care Committee; attended Leadership Conference and served as chaperone for Youth Camp.

EDUCATION: After graduating from high school, attended four-year Apprenticeship program in the Electrical Department at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, VA; graduated as a Master Electrician.

OCCUPATION: After graduating from the Apprenticeship School, was promoted to Apprentice Instructor where I taught classes and gave on-the-job training for about 17 years; promoted to Electrical General Foreman and later to Construction Manager; during this tenure, at various periods of time, managed in excess of 500 various grade employees from Apprentice Helper to Supervisors, and interacted with both Merchant Ship owners/employees and Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) / Supervisor of Shipbuilding (SOS), as well as enlisted seamen to Captain of various types of ships, from submarines to conventional and nuclear aircraft carriers. Retired in 2010 as a Construction Manager after 40 plus years at Northrup Grumman Shipbuilding in Newport News, VA (formerly known as Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock).

OTHER: Longtime member and deacon of Woodville Baptist

Church, Men's Bible Class teacher for 20 years. Married for 49 years to wife, Linda (also a Ruritan member). Children: Jana (husband T.W. Hurdle; granddaughter Lindsay and husband James Rash and great-granddaughter Alyssa); Amanda, Danielle, Cassie, JT and Jeff (wife Gayla). Ruritan Honorariums: Ruritan Forever, President's Gold Key w/ additional members bar; Tom Downing Fellow Award; Foundation Permanent Fund; Foundation \$\$\$Million\$\$\$ Club Award; and Albemarle District Ruritan of the Year Award.



National Secretary

James M. Mills, Jr.
55 Hickory Trail
Dallas, GA 30132
james.m.mills.jr@gmail.com

CLUB: Member of Hiram

Ruritan Club, Hiram GA from 1992-2002; Charter member of the Paulding Ruritan Club in 2002 and Charter member of the Count Line Ruritan Club in 2003. Over these 23 years, I have served in every office at the club level.

DISTRICT: Served as Zone Governor three times for a total of 5 years, between 1996 and the present, in my home Zone (3) of the GA / North AL District (24); Served the Georgia / North Alabama District (24) as Leadership Development Coordinator 4 years; District Secretary 3 years; District Lt. Governor in 1998 and District Governor in 1999; District Ruritan of the Year in 2007; currently serve as the Assigned National Representative since 2013.

NATIONAL: Attended 19 National Conventions and served on the Sgt.-at-Arms Committee, as a workshop presenter, in the Flag Ceremony, and served on the Convention Planning Committee in 2010. In 2011, served as the President's Aide Convention; Elected National Director in 2002, and had assignments as District Director to my home district, as well as the Alabama-Florida and Cherokee Districts and the Central Florida Area. I was Chair of the National Leadership Development Committee in 2004. I have served as National Secretary since 2013 and I am a Ruritan Forever!

EDUCATION: Smiths Station High School, Smiths AL (1979); Phillips College, Columbus, GA (1982) with an AA Degree in Data Processing.

OCCUPATION: Operations Manager for the Marine Rigging and Parts Department at Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA. I have been with Yamaha since 1988, in several positions including Regional Technical Advisor, District Service Representative, National Service Manager and Information Systems Analyst.

*Biographies were printed as submitted
by candidates by July 1*

OTHER: I am married to Vicky for 35 years and we have two sons, James III (wife, Jamie and grandson, Jasper), and Richard. We enjoy boating, fishing and camping. Since 2006, I have served as the CFO for our church, Cross Walk Chapel (a non-denominational Christian Church) in Hiram, GA.



National Director

Susan H. Greisz
464 Fleming Park Road
Mount Jackson, VA 22842
shg@shentel.net

CLUB: Member of West Shenandoah Ruritan Club (VA)

since 2001; 13 years of perfect attendance; Ruritan of the Year Award 2005; Club Secretary for 8 yrs.; Vice President 2008; President 2009; Club Director 2010; Gold Key Pin.

DISTRICT: Zone 4 Lieutenant 2010; Zone 4 Governor 2011; District Zone Governor of the Year 2011; District Secretary 2012; District Lt. Governor 2013; District Governor 2014; District Convention Chair 2010 & 2011; District Convention Co-Chair 2012, 2013 & 2015; District Growth & Development Co-Chair 2015; District Regional Scripps Spelling Bee Chair 2015

NATIONAL: Convention Delegate 2012-2015; Sgt-at-Arms 2014; Flag Ceremony 2014; Summer Leadership Convention 2013, 2015.

EDUCATION: Elia Vernon High School, IL; BS, Recreation Administration, University of Panama, Eastern Illinois University; Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

OCCUPATION: Federal Recreation Specialist (Retired); Retail Management (Retired)

OTHER: Licensed ELCM Lutheran Lay Pastor, Member, Council President and Trustee, Morning Star Lutheran Church; Married to Leonard for 49 years; Son - Alan (Heather); Daughter - Babette; Grandchildren - Ivan, Dakota and Rosalind.



National Director

Linward Hedgspeth
2714 Red Valley Drive
Rougemont, NC 27572
lhedgspeth@gmail.com

CLUB: Club Director for 4 yrs.; Committee Chair Citizenship & Patriotism; Also served as Vice President, President and Mentoring Committee; Association of NC Ruritans: Fundraising Chair - 2 yrs.; Vice President 2013-2014, President 2014-2015.

DISTRICT: Cabinet Member; Convention Planning Chair; District Lt. Governor; District Governor.

NATIONAL: Convention Delegate; Convention Chair 2014 & 2015; Flag Ceremony; Summer Leadership Training 2013-2015; Million \$\$\$Dollar\$\$\$ Club.

EDUCATION: Durham Technical College; IBM Quality Institute / NC State University; Professionals & Statistical Black Belt Certification RTP NC

OCCUPATION: Quality Engineering, New Product Manager, Option Foreign & Domestic, IBM - 35 yrs. Retired.

OTHER: Member New Harris Grove AME Church; Served as Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Steward Board Chairman, Board of Trustees Chairman, Choir VP and Man of the Year; Married to Anne; two sons - Daryl and Eric (Latoya) and Grand-dog, Brosco.



National Director

Joe H. Hommel
115 Oak Timbers Road
Telford, TN 37690

CLUB: Served on several committees of the Bloomingdale, TN Club in the Tennessean District; Chairman of the Christmas Parade;

served as Vice President and President. Conklin (TN) Club in the Davy Crockett District; Sgt-at-Arms; Foundation, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President.

DISTRICT: In Tennessean District served as Zone Governor in 1983; Lt. Governor 1984; District Governor 1985. In Davy Crockett District, served as Zone Governor 1990, earned Zone Governor Award 190; Foundaton Chairman 1991; Lt. Governor 1992; District Governor 1993; Di8strict had 3% increase in membership and earned National Award; also the District Convention had 425 in attendance; and Tennessee Rally Chairman in 1995.

NATIONAL: Attended several national conventions; leadership conferences; twice Sgt-at-Arms; flag ceremony twice, greeter and escort.

EDUCATION: Graduate of Shoemaker High School, Gate City, VA; FFA Reporter, Forestry Team; Life Underwriters Training Council, Washington, DC; Graduate Dale Carnegie Sales ad Public Speaking courses and several sales and management courses.

OCCUPATION: Insurance Sales (retired), 4 years in field management; part-time farmer

Biographies were printed as submitted by candidates by July 1

OTHER: Korean War Veteran; Active member of American Legion Post #3, Kingsport, TN for 52 years; Past Master of Masdonic Lodge, 32nd Degree of Scottish Rite KCCH; Member Emmaus Community; Member Gideon's; Volunteer with Meals on Wheels; Volunteer at local healthcare center and hospice as needed; Active member of Mount Wesley United Methodist Church, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent; Assistant Sunday School Teacher; Past Assistant Treasurer; Member of Disaster Response Team; Parish Council member; Delegate to Annual Church Conference; Married for 56 years to Nancy Smit Hommel (deceased).



National Director

Lee Tomlinson
1942 Highway 70 East
Jackson, TN 38305
leetomlinson@bellsouth.net

CLUB: Member of Browns Community Ruritan Club and held various positions in the Club, including

Chairman of the Property Committee for several years, and served as Club President twice; awarded Ruritan of the Year twice.

DISTRICT: Served as Hermitage District Zone Governor 2011; District Lieutenant Governor 2012 and 2013; and District Governor for two terms.



National Director

Stanley R. Turner
17314 Jolly Circle
Windsor, VA 23487
gntlmnstan@aol.com

CLUB: Isle of Wight (VA) Ruritan Club since 1995 (President 1999, 2000 and 2008; Vice President 1998, 2008; Chair or Co-Chair

of Membership and Fellowship Committee for past 14 years; Chair or Co-Chair of Finance Committee for past 12 years); Ivor Ruritan Club member since 2014

DISTRICT: Holland District Zone 5 Lt. Governor in 2009; Holland District Zone 5 Governor in 2010; Holland District Governor 2012 and 2013; Holland District Convention Chair in 2014; Coordinator between Holland Ruritan Club and the Holland District for Founders' Day; Maintain a trailer and equipment to help area clubs with fundraisers and picnics.

NATIONAL: Sgt-at-Arms 2011 and 2012; Flag Ceremony 2013; Ruritan Forever; Permanent Fund; Tom Downing Fellow.

EDUCATION: Smithfield High School (1970); Virginia Tech (1974 – BS Degree in Mechanical Engineering with electives in Nuclear Engineering)

OCCUPATION: Norfolk Naval Shipyard, 33 years (retired as Supervisory Nuclear Engineer and Senior Manager.

OTHER: Member, Isle of Wight Christian Church (Superintendent, Treasurer and Sunday School Teacher); Daughter, Laura and Son-in-Law Rob, Grandson, Owen.



Foundation Trustee

(Mrs.) Brent Wheeler
1573 County Road 326
Flat Rock, AL 35966
brentw50@gmail.com

CLUB: Ruritan member since 1993; Secretary/Treasurer Flat Rock Ruritan 1997-2009; Secretary/Treasurer Kash Ruritan 2010-present.

DISTRICT: Georgia-North Alabama District Zone Governor (Zone 4) 2008-present; Georgia-North Alabama District Secretary (Dist. 24) 2008-present; Georgia-North Alabama District Foundation Chair 2015; twice voted Ruritan of the Year (District Level); Mary Hall Ware Achievement Award 2014; DRM 2011

OCCUPATION: Retired Educator – Media Specialist with Master's Degree in Instructional Media

OTHER: Past President Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs; Vice Director District II GCA; Past Regent DAR – Tidence Lane Chapter; Grant Writer, Flat Rock Community Center; Jackson County Historical Association Secretary (2011-2014); Married to Bill Wheeler for 43 years; Two children – Courtney and Ben, grandson, William.

1-Year Unexpired Term

National Director Maynard Yoh is resigning effective January 7, 2016 for health reasons. There will be an election for this 1-year unexpired term at the 2016 National Convention. Anyone wishing to run for this 1-year position should contact Executive Director Michael Chrisley.

Ruritan National Convention - Jacksonville, FL

January 7-10, 2016

Register up to two people on this form. Use more forms for additional people. One of the people below must be a Ruritan member. Confirmation will be mailed to the Ruritan attendee for his/her party. There are **five options or packages** for registration on the back, where you may also purchase single meals for non-registered guests. You may also register on the MMS (member management system) under events.

Please print or type

1st Attendee: _____

Member/Non Member (circle one)

Member# (if member): _____

Preferred Badge Name : _____

Club: _____ District: _____

Contact phone number: _____

2nd Attendee: _____

Member/Non Member (circle one)

Member# (if member) _____

Preferred Badge Name: _____

Club: _____ District: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Check items below that apply:

☐ I have these food restrictions: _____.

☐ I need handicapped accessible seating at meals.

☐ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

☐ I have 50 years or more perfect attendance.

☐ **At this time I expect to be a voting delegate.**

☐ This is my first convention.

Check items below that apply:

☐ I have these food restrictions: _____.

☐ I need handicapped accessible seating at meals.

☐ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

☐ I have 50 years or more perfect attendance.

☐ **At this time I expect to be a voting delegate.**

☐ This is my first convention.

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) _____

For Office Use Only:

ID# _____; GRP# _____

MEALS IN JACKSONVILLE

While there is not a late fee for registrations to the National Convention this year, there is a deadline with the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront caterer for meal count guarantees. With that in mind, anyone waiting to register on-site in Jacksonville (as a walk-in) for the events will not be guaranteed meals. However, we **will** be able to register you for non-meal events at the base rate of \$113. Send in your registration before the Dec. 7, 2015, cut-off date to be guaranteed meals.

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 # _____

3 or 4 digit code on back _____

Check one option below

☐ Bill my credit card now

☐ Bill my credit card on December 1, 2015

2016 Ruritan National Convention - Jacksonville: Jan. 7-10

Have it YOUR way! Choose one of FIVE package options for the 2016 Ruritan Convention

Choose one of these five registration packages. All include opening ceremony, access to exhibits, access to business meetings on Friday and Saturday, workshops, voting, and all other convention activities.

Meal Package Options

These package prices already include the base fee of \$113

		Quantity	Cost	Total
Four meal package includes base fee, Veterans Breakfast, Friday Fellowship Luncheon, First Lady's Breakfast, and Saturday Banquet	Package 1 BEST DEAL		\$295	
Two meal package includes base fee, Friday Fellowship Luncheon, and Saturday Banquet	Package 2		\$220	
Friday Only Package includes base fee and Friday Fellowship Luncheon	Package 3		\$166	
Saturday Only Package includes base fee and Saturday Banquet	Package 4		\$200	
No Meals - base registration only	Package 5		\$113	

Extra Meal Tickets and Items

Must purchase one of four options to purchase individual meal tickets and items.

		Quantity	Cost	Total
Foundation Banquet on Friday evening	Foundation		\$65	
Veterans Breakfast on Friday Morning	Veterans		\$38	
Friday Fellowship Luncheon	Fellowship		\$63	
Breakfast Honoring First Lady Linda on Saturday morning	First Lady		\$43	
Installation Banquet on Saturday evening	Banquet		\$74	
5K Walk The Walk Fun Run/Walk (includes t shirt and donation to Jacksonville charity) Note t shirt sizes below	Thursday		\$25	
T shirt sizes and quantity - one per \$25 5K registration fee: ___ Small ___ Med ___ Large ___ X Large ___ 2X ___ 3X				
How to Build a Club Webpage - 5 hour workshop Thursday p.m. No cost but limited to 25 attendees, first come, first-served. Must be familiar with use of internet browsers and must provide your own laptop computer with wireless access capability. Instructor: Linda Bradshaw	Thursday		No cost. Limited to first 25	
Rudy Bears - to be added to gift to Jacksonville charities			\$5.25	
GRAND TOTAL			\$	

Program of Events *Note the convention is two weeks earlier in the month than in past years.*

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Dinner and entertainment on your own at The Jacksonville Landing

Thursday, January 7, 2016

2016 Governors Breakfast and training

5K "Walk the Walk" Fun Run/Walk (afternoon) See registration form.

Special workshop on designing a club website (Limited to 25 people and bring your own laptop.) See registration form.

Opening Ceremonies (evening)

Friday, January 8, 2016

Veterans Breakfast (must be purchased separately or as part of the package above)

Morning Business Session

Fellowship Luncheon (may be purchased separately or as part of a package above)

Workshops

NOTE: Delegate certification closes at 1 p.m.

Voting – 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Note: those with special physical needs and/or handicaps vote first.)

Foundation Awards Dinner (must be purchased separately)

Foundation Live Auction

***Note voting time has been changed from earlier publications.**

Saturday, January 9, 2016

Breakfast Honoring First Lady Linda (must be purchased separately or as part of a package above)

Morning Business Session with Awards

Workshops

Blood Drive

Installation Banquet (may be purchased separately or as part of a package above)

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Worship Service

Participants will be notified individually about special meetings. Hospitality suites may be open Thursday through Saturday evenings. Watch the bulletin board in the exhibit area for details and room numbers.



First Lady's Breakfast Entertainment *"Jane Herlong"*

If you are attending the Breakfast honoring First Lady Linda Burton, then you are in for a treat! Jane Herlong will be our Saturday morning entertainment. Jane has been with us before and is excited to join us again. Jane inspires people's lives with truth and humor. There are a lot of performers who make people laugh and there are a lot of speakers who give audiences solid principles for living; Jane does both.

Combining humor, truth and her award-winning singing, Jane adds pizzazz to her presentations with life skills helping audiences handle stress, negative people to be more productive. Jane is also a Sirius XM Humorist, Amazon best-selling/award-winning author and professional singer.

Jane's keen sense of humor evolved from being labeled Dyslexic and constantly told, "You can't

do that!" Jane changed the word NO to NEXT and the rest is what dreams are made of. Jane's stories and humor help audiences learn the extraordinary power of humor when handling negative people and circumstances for more positive, productive living.

With a sense of humor and smart work, Jane traveled from the rows of her family farm to the runway of the Miss America Pageant all the way to performing at Radio City Music Hall. She graduated from college with the highest honors voted by her peers and continued on to graduate school. Her successes continued to pile up from there. Today, Jane travels around the world featured at speaking events in New Zealand and Germany as well as countless venues around the United States. Jane has also had the pleasure of sharing the stage with several noteworthy people such as General Colin Powell, Rudolph Giuliani and the late Charlton Heston.

Jane Herlong not only combine's humor with her award-winning singing but is also a best-selling author. Jane has written three books: "Bare Feet to High Heels; You Don't Have to be a Beauty Queen to be a Beautiful Person", "What Ta-Tas Teach Us" and "Bury Me with My Pearls". Simon & Shuster Publishing House says of Jane: Jane Jenkins Herlong's blend of Southern humor and folksy wisdom is just priceless. She deserves to be right up there with Anita Renfroe and Chonda Pierce- in some ways, she's even better. The more suburban and bland our culture gets, the more precious genuine Southern culture like this becomes.

First Lady Linda states, "Jane believes all things are possible. Her life's journey, from the tomato fields of her childhood, to the runway of the Miss America Pageant, to traveling the world to motivate and inspire her audiences, has proved that to be true." Jane says, "Every challenge should be met with grace and humor." She will motivate and inspire us with humor and song. What a great way to start our Saturday.



Which Sign Best Represents the Ruritan Look?



SIGN CONTEST

The Rules of the contest are simple.

1. Send in pictures of Ruritan Signs that have been neglected and in need of replacement.

2. The 20 worst signs will receive a coupon for a new sign to be presented at the national convention in Jacksonville.



3. If you are not there you will still get the coupon.

4. All photos must be received by December 1, 2015.

5. Send photos to the National Office.

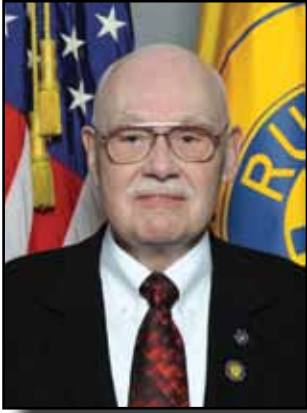
6. One sign per club.



2015 Publicity and Public Relations Committee

Message From 2015 Foundation President David Freshly

We Make Things Happen



Welcome to the Ruritan National Foundation chat room. We have several items to discuss at this time.

First of all we are anticipating several larger-than-normal gifts which will increase the corpus and will allow more students to receive grants. The Trustees are extremely appreciative of those gifts from both individuals and clubs who are stepping up with their support for the Foundation. Thanks to all Ruritans who are supporting the Foundation to help students with their post-secondary education.

Next, we need to do our homework regarding the 1) Build Your Dollar program and 2) Foundation Scholarship/Grant program. We have had requests to make the applications more concise and easier to complete. Regarding both programs, the Trustees will be

revising the paperwork

necessary to participate in these grant programs.

There seems to be some confusion regarding the differences between the Build Your Dollar program and the Foundation Scholarship/Grant program. Following is a short description of each program.

The Build Your Dollar program requires a club to submit \$300 between January 1, 2015, and October 1, 2015. A club may only make one submission per year. When the proper paper work is submitted, the club will receive their \$300 plus an additional amount from earnings received from investments during the year. This year (2015), the additional amount was \$245 for a total return to the club of \$545. Each club chooses its own student recipient.

The Foundation Scholarship/Grant program grants an amount of \$600 to each successful applicant. Applicants for these grants must complete all specified information and send it to the Ruritan National Foundation Office postmarked by April 1, 2016. The Foundation Trustees will choose the recipients based on a fair and specific set of criteria.

Birthday Fund - The club donates either \$2 or \$10 per member and receives recognition at the District Convention.

The D-Day Memorial - The Foundation acts as a holding entity for funds donated to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA.

The Ruritan National Foundation currently has partnership agreements with universities/colleges where the university/college scholarship fund will match the amount of the grant received. The trustees are open to any other colleges that might wish to participate.

For a \$500 contribution to the Foundation, a prestigious award, the Tom Downing Award, may be given to Ruritan members who have demonstrated outstanding Ruritan service. This honors Ruritan members and enables the Foundation to increase its scholarship programs. The Rappahannock District sponsors an annual golf tournament during the week of the Apple Blossom Festival. The earnings provide half of the cost of a Tom Downing Award (\$250) which may be used by individuals, clubs, and districts to honor a Ruritan as long as money is available. Consider contacting your District Foundation Chair to determine if similar programs are being offered in your district. Questions may be directed to Bonnie at the Foundation Office or to any Foundation Trustee.

Remember Operation We Care (OWC). During 2015 no need has been requested. However, we must be prepared if the demand presents itself.

You may remember the Foundation through cash donations, real estate transfers, and/or will bequests.

WE MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

Ruritan National Foundation

2015 Board of Trustees

President: David Freshly

Vice President: Fred Payne

Secretary: Pat Davis

Treasurer: Jayson Duncan

Promotion Chair: Corky Camin



Prince George Celebrates 80th Anniversary



Prince George (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 80th anniversary with a delicious dinner, excellent speakers, recognitions, and outstanding entertainment. The event was held at the Fort Lee Officers' Club. Club member A. W. Adams reviewed the club's 80-year history of community service. 1974 National President Bobby Wrenn, 1995 National President Frank Guthrie, and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter were the speakers. Representative Rick Morris, 64th District Virginia House of Delegates, presented a resolution to the club from the Virginia General Assembly, and National Director Wally Hudson presented a certificate from Ruritan National. Special music was presented by Wayne James. Pictured is Rep. Morris presenting the resolution to Prince George Club President Raymond Clark.

Hickory (VA) Ruritan Club held an auction raising over \$5,000. Monies will be used for scholarship awards. Pictured are donated auction items. 1995 National President Frank Guthrie and District Governor David Edwards (pictured below) attended the event.



South Norfolk (VA) Ruritan Club won the barbeque cook-off at the 2015 Founders' Day Celebration. It was the second consecutive year the club won the contest. Pictured are club members with their winning trophy.



Port Royal and Abingdon Clubs Donate Benches



Port Royal (VA) Ruritan Club has been collecting plastic to be recycled into park benches. The company that makes the recycled benches is called Trex. Two benches have been donated to the community. One bench was dedicated to Oliver Fortune, WWII Veteran and past club chaplain. Pictured is Gladys Fortune sitting on the Oliver Fortune bench.

Port Royal is the proud possessor of the first Little Free Library in Caroline County. It is in the playground on the Town Green and includes an upper compartment for adult readers and a lower compartment for children's books. The idea for the project came from club member Sylvia Sellers. The club completed the project and donated it to the town.



The **Abingdon** (VA) Ruritan Club's Public Service Committee, chaired by Bunny Ekdahl, has been busy raising funds to purchase a granite bench to donate to Woodville Park. On Saturday, June 20th, members of the Lanciano family, representatives of Gloucester Parks and Recreation and of the Abingdon Ruritan Club's Public Service Committee gathered for the official presentation of the bench to the park. Pictured with the bench from (l-r) are Carol Steele; Don Sandridge;



Darwin, Scott, Sherry & Tracy Lanciano, and Taylor. Club members are shown installing a handicap ramp for a resident of Bena. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Mike Ekdahl, Carl Onesty, Dave Kyle, Rupert Thomas, Jimmy Leiffer, and Roy Snowden. Pictured in the back are 2014 National President Elliott Hogge and Jimmy Hogge.



Varina (VA) Ruritan Club sponsored an environment poster and essay contest for elementary students. The club invited the winners, teachers, Principal Terry Larkin, and parents to a meeting where they would give the awards. Pictured are the winners with Principal Larkin. Fleece blanket and pillow sets were delivered to the Massey Cancer Center in Richmond, as a joint project of the club and Bits and Pieces Quilt Chapter. The 126 blanket and pillow sets are given to bone marrow patients and the individual pillows are given to breast cancer patients. This has been an ongoing project since 2002.



News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District

Rappahannock District Clubs Award Students

Ashburn (VA) Ruritan Club President Randy Poland presided at the club's 20th annual "Outstanding Student Citizen Awards" night. Over 150 were in attendance including students, families, teachers, principals, and club members. Honored guest was Chief of Staff for Loudoun County Schools Michael Richards. Twenty-one students received engraved plaques to display at their school, certificates of recognition, and donations in each student's name to the charity of his or her choice. Those receiving awards were Yash Dubey, Tia Mehta, Matthew Detweiler, Reese Brown, Michelle Barry, Emma Bandenburg, Mackenzie Cunnane, Ella Jones, Vicki Vandyke, Eric Rhee, Kylie Perkins, Raahi Chada, Matthew Jurich, Dannielle Webb, Alexander Footen, Kala Passino, Madison Ward, Nandhini Nallamotu, Anne Kickert, Nicholas Romano, and Liam McGrail.



Pictured on the left with **Bealton-Remington** (VA) Ruritan Club President Jack Dunlop and Social Development Committee Chair Chris Wargo are the club's scholarship recipients Katie Fairfax, Maggie Meadows, and Callan Smith. Also pictured is Bealton-Remington Past Club President Steve Early inducting new member Ruth Ann Campagna.

News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District



Pictured is **Glade Hill** (VA) Ruritan Club's \$500 scholarship winner Kelly Keith (center), with Judy Reynolds (left), and Dana Hayes (right).

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

Chesterfield Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Chesterfield (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. 2004 National President John Hancock spoke on the history of the club. National Director

Mike Morrison presented the club with an anniversary certificate. Club president Jerry Bowers, National President Bobby Burton, and President Elect Calvin Shelton cut the anniversary cake. Entertainment was provided by "Jonathan the Juggler."



Clarksville Presents \$75,000 in Scholarships



Clarksville (VA) Ruritan Club stayed busy during the month of July helping the community with three major projects in addition to their weekly programs. The club invited 19 student scholarship winners to a taco dinner and presented checks that totaled \$75,000. Each student expressed their appreciation and told of their anticipated careers and how they would make positive contributions to society.

The club promoted patriotism and recognition of veterans of all wars by being the sole sponsor of the annual July 4th parade and hotdog cookout. The parade has become a welcome and well-attended event for the area. Over 1,000 hot dogs were served.

The club also contributed \$5,000 to help the Lake Country Chamber of Commerce sponsor the 38th Annual Lake Fest. This annual event is one of the largest festivals in Virginia and draws thousands of people to Clarksville during this 3-day event. The grand finale of this event is a huge firework display on the lake.



Ralph Arehart Receives a Ruritan Forever

Ralph "Pokey" Arehart presented a Ruritan Forever to John E. "Slow Jet" Thaxton Jr., during the club's Spouses Night celebration. Pokey was the first Ruritan Forever of the **Central Chesterfield** (VA) Ruritan Club.

News From Ruritan: Woodrow Wilson District

Pleasant View-Spring Hill Provides New Flooring

Pleasant View-Spring Hill (VA) Ruritan Club coordinated with Home Depot and provided new flooring for the Verona VFW Post 10826. Other improvements were also made for these veterans so they can have an improved place to meet and fellowship. Pictured (l-r) are club president Robert "Bob" Straway, Home Depot Representative Larry Haggerey, and Commander VFW-Post 10826 Eugene Chavis.



Beverley Manor Sponsors Contest

Beverley Manor (VA) Ruritan Club sponsored a "What is Citizenship?" essay contest among fourth graders. The winners were invited to a club meeting and read their essays to the members. Each winner received a certificate and a \$30 check. Entertainment of the evening was provided by the Beverley Manor Elementary School's ORFFestra Instrument Group. Pictured are club president Michael Ruleman, Mackenzie Watts, Allison Ruleman, Ashley Ruleman, Logan deVore, Davis McKellop. Pictured is Shi Wells reading her winning essay.



News From Ruritan: Rockingham District



Mt. Crawford (VA) Ruritan Club Chaplain Mervin Diehl is shown installing four new members. Pictured (l-r) are Rex Peters, J.C. Smythers, Randy Campbell, Lurty Campbell, and Mervin Diehl.

Belmont Community (VA) Ruritan Club's Citizenship and Patriotism Chair Rick Keyton is shown presenting a \$100 check to the Girl Scouts.



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.

Lothian Sponsors Fishing Trip for Veterans



Lothian (MD) Ruritan Club sponsored a fishing trip for 15 veterans. Four members of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home staff were able to join. Veteran's era of service included WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq. To make this day a memorable event, Maryland State Police and the Anne Arundel County Police provided a 40-mile, nine motorcycle escort. Firemen saluted the veterans with horns and sirens as they passed a large crowd. Scouts waved flags along the route. Three fishing boats were chartered, and the veterans were fed breakfast. The boats were escorted into the Chesapeake Bay by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Upon returning to dock, veterans, staff, captains, mates, crew, and club members were served dinner at Skippers Pier Restaurant courtesy of owner John Hiser. After dinner, the crew and mates cleaned the fish and packed the fillets on ice for the return home.

Johnsville Celebrates 55th Anniversary

Johnsville (MD) Ruritan Club celebrated their 55th anniversary at their June meeting with guests from National, Potomac District, and the community. National Director Larry Cassell delivered a very inspiring message. National President Bobby Burton congratulated the club on its service to the community. He stressed that we should continue to "Walk the Walk for Ruritan" through fellowship, goodwill, and community service. Club President Howard Spurrier presented awards to charter members Richard Grossnickle and Paul Spurrier and membership awards to other club members. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Entertainment George Bruchey, National President Bobby Burton, National Director Larry Blount, and Club President Howard Spurrier. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Pastor James Benedict, Zone 3 Governor Trevella Foster, National Director Larry Cassell, and District Governor Dave Moser.



Maugansville and New Franklin Award Scholarships

Maugansville (MD) Ruritan Club presented four \$100 scholarships to (l-r) Cole Cunningham, Logan Keith, Benjamin Fultz, and Hanna Gaylor. After the dinner, each student spoke of their plans to further their education.



New Franklin (PA) Ruritan Club presented \$22,500 in scholarships. The club presented 15 seniors with \$1,500 scholarship checks. Pictured on the front (l-r) are Deanna Frey, Sean Eberly, Hayley Simmons, McKenna Glass, Lily McDowell, Lauren Mellott, Jessica Sensening, and Club President Jesse Reichard. Pictured on the back (l-r) are

Jacob Russo, Eli Tianda, Jeremiah Steigleman, Noel Robinson, and Joline Louis-Charles. Not pictured were recipients Colton Walker, Samantha Lowery, and Jennifer Grove.

News From Ruritan: Potomac District continued



Jefferson Holds Farmers' Market

The **Jefferson Ruritan Club** (MD) started the first annual community farmers' market. The market is held on the grounds of the Ruritan center each Friday 4-7p.m. It will remain open until mid-October. This is a 'producer only' market. Currently seven vendors are participating and more are expected as produce becomes more plentiful. Small fees paid by vendors cover the cost of advertising. Bill Allen, chair of the business and professions committee for the club, coordinates the market.

News From Ruritan: Roanoke District

Everetts Club Celebrates Family Night

A large crowd of Ruritans and family members attended the **Everetts** (NC) Ruritan Club Family Night. Several national officers across the district were in attendance to celebrate a special presentation. National Director Frances Long presented Robert (Bobby) Clark a plaque for 65 years of continued



leadership and community service. Bobby, a retired farmer, is an elder at Everetts Christian Church and he and his wife, Betty Jean, are widely known for their generosity and charitable involvement in many other local activities. A barbeque pork ribs dinner and a great assortment of homemade desserts were enjoyed by everyone. Following the dinner, evangelist and club member Mike Lestik provided a beautiful rendition of many favorite hymns.

News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District



Robersonville (NC) Ruritan Club presented 25 Rudy Bears to the Robersonville Rescue Squad. Pictured are Lieutenant Jonathan Dail and club vice president Loyall Corey, Jr.



District Governor Neil Guin installed 2015 **Neils Creek** (NC) Ruritan Club Officers. Pictured (l-r) are Guin, president Phil Walden, vice president Gary Thomas, treasurer Danny Green, and secretary John Wester.

Albemarle District Clubs Participate in Project Patriot

Albemarle District Ruritan Clubs participated in "Project Patriot" and donated approximately 2,000 pounds of clothing and \$500 to the organization. Pictured in the front (l-r) are **Parksville Township** (NC) Ruritan Club Past Club President Ronnie Pippin presenting the \$500 donation check to Commander Jimmy Rouse from DAV Chapter 64. Pictured in the back (l-r) are **South Mills** (NC) Ruritan Club members Lynn and James Burnham, **Bear Swamp-Beech Springs** (NC) Ruritan Club member Shelton Manning, **Pasquotank** (NC) Club member Charles Meads, **Hall** (NC) Ruritan Club member James Earl Taylor, **Durants Neck** (NC) Club member Dan Gurganus, and **Corapeake** (NC) Ruritan Club member Foster Parrish.



Hall (NC) Ruritan Club held its 28th annual Senior Citizen's Day. A food drive was held during the event bringing in 375 pounds of food for Gates Emergency Ministries. Dinner, door prizes, and entertainment were enjoyed.

Pictured on the left is club president Lisa Story presenting a scholarship check to Le-Anne Greene.



Pictured on the right are **Bethel** (NC) Ruritan Club's scholarship recipients. The



club presented two \$1,000 scholarships each to Katelynn Stokely (l) and Jordan Chappell (r). The club also installed new member Richard Bass. Pictured far right (l-r) is new member Bass and club president Donald Madre.



Inter-County (NC) Ruritan Club presented six \$600 scholarships and Bibles at a recent club meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Build Your Dollar recipients Josh Jennings, Samantha



Ownley, Nicholas Whedbee, Amanda Hurdle, Amber Midyette, and Club Chaplain Edgar White who made the presentation. Not pictured was recipient and club president Josh Armstrong.



Moyock (NC) Ruritan Club and **Shawboro** (NC) Ruritan Club partnered with the Currituck County High School Automotive Technology Department to raffle off a 1977 Ford Maverick refurbished by the students. The winner of the car was Lori Fletcher pictured with club president Eldon Miller, III and some of those who worked on the vehicle. The Automotive scholarship of \$1,000 was presented



to Zach Irving pictured with Moyock Ruritan Club President Eldon Miller, III.

Pasquotank (NC) Ruritan Club sponsored a Golf Tournament at Albermarle Plantation in support of Project Patriot and club scholarships. Pinnacle Auto in Elizabeth City was the sponsor of the winning team. Pictured from (l-r) are winners William White, Bill Summerour, Garland Jones, and Tony Twiddy.

Rocky Mt. Durham Clubs Present Scholarships



Bahama (NC) Ruritan Club President Ron Williams presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Jacob Johnson. Jacob will be attending East Carolina University. Pictured are Jacob with his parents Tara and Willie Johnson.

Williams also initiated new member Priscilla Pearson into the club. For many years the **Bynum** (NC) Ruritan Club has sponsored a \$500 scholarship



for seniors from Chatham County. This year's recipient was Katie Holland (pictured on the left). Katie will be attending Virginia Tech in the fall.

Meadow Creek (NC) Ruritan Club President Sandra Arnold (Rudy Bear) joined Club Secretary Ron Reid at the Southern Alamance High School Senior Awards Ceremony to present the club's Build Your Dollars Scholarship to Kayla Reeves (left) and their Community Service Scholarship to Rachel



Blevins (right.) The club also presented Sarah Davis with an Academic Achievement Scholarship. Sarah was unable to attend the ceremony.

Zeb Vance (NC) Ruritan Club President Winston Kerley presented scholarships to Kendra Simmons and Joshua Boyd. (pictured right)

Sylvan (NC) Ruritan Club held a Rabies Clinic and-



vaccinated 20 cats and 58 dogs. Also,

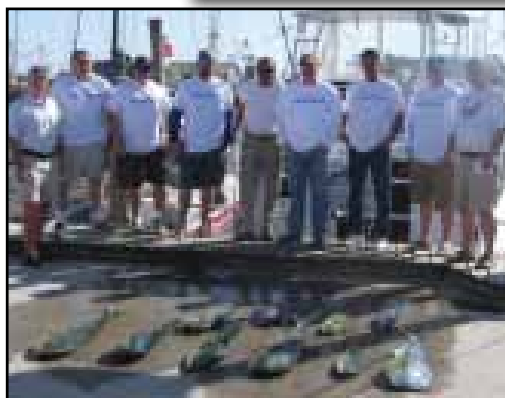
the club had a concessions stand during the commemoration of the Battle of Alamance, held a blood drive, and presented scholarships to high school students. Pictured (l-r) are the scholarship recipients Sean Stewart, Kelsey Durham, Mariah Alfred, and Katie Durham.



Efland (NC) Ruritan Club member Warren Shankle presented \$1,000 scholarship each to Morgan Efland and Cass Michal on behalf of the club.

The club also sponsored seven men who are currently serving in the armed forces to participate in the Offshore Fishing Challenge with the help of a local fishing club.

The challenge is an annual event that is organized by club member Terry Rose specifically for the Wounded Warriors. Dinner was served with entertainment provided by the Castaways Band.



News From Ruritan: Greenville-Goldsboro District



John Worthington Knighted in France Legion of Honor

Pink Hill (NC) Ruritan Club member and WWII Veteran John Worthington has been knighted in France Legion of Honor. Worthington was one of ten North Carolina veterans inducted as knight or chevaliers. Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honor recognizes service to the French republic. To be eligible for the award, a veteran must still be living and have fought on French territory in one or more of the four main campaigns of the liberation of France: Normandy, Southern France, Northern France,

and the Ardennes. Pascal Le Deunff, the Consul General of France in Atlanta, told Worthington, before he pinned red-ribboned medals on him, "You will be our hero forever. We the French, will never forget what you did to restore our freedom." Worthington is also a two-time Purple Heart recipient. (This photograph came in third place with the 2015 Ruritan Magazine Cover Contest.)

The club was recognized for 34% increase of membership by Zone Governor Curtis Rogers. Pictured (l-r) are Rogers and Club President Clay Howard.



News From Ruritan: Columbia District

Pelion Dedicates Veterans Memorial



Pelion (SC) Ruritan Club dedicated its Veterans Memorial. Not only did the club assist in the financing but also community sponsors and brick paver purchases by individuals helped as well. There were approximately 600 people present for the dedication which was led by Pelion Club President Jean Haggard. The flag was raised by the oldest veteran in the community, J. E. Shumpert, and the oldest club member Frank Stover. The front of the memorial consists of the black granite stone with raised eagle and flags. The back of the stone features all the symbols of each of the military branches. The floor of the memorial features 221 engraved interlocking brick pavers of service men and women and a granite band featuring 28

servicemen killed in action. The names of the 43 sponsors are listed on an engraved stone to the right of the memorial. Benny Collings served as the Project Manager and Steve Neese kept all the finances in order. The club is grateful to those who worked long hours during the final phase to be sure the project was completed on time. Those people include Charles and Jean Haggard, Jesse Jeffcoat, Kevin Windham, Benny and Kay Collings, Ron Clamp, and his workers Dillon and Donnie. A daylily garden has been added to the side of the walkway by the Collings. The daylilies were donated from Pastor Bill Bishop's garden.



News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District



Spruce Mountain (WV) Ruritan Club presented a \$600 scholarship award to Kristy Rexroad. Kristy will be attending the University of Akron's School of Nursing.



Capon Valley (WV) Ruritan Club President Cheryl Anderson was presented a Golden Key Award complete with a five-member bar from past club president Harry Spaid.

News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District

Williamsburg Installs Playground Equipment



As a community service project, the **Williamsburg** (WV) Ruritan members installed playground equipment (obtained with partial grant funding) at the Williamsburg Community Building. The extra heavy duty equipment will complement the already installed play fort with slide and the enclosed basketball court. The members dug the holes, cemented the anchors, placed the equipment, and then mulched the play area. This created a perfect example of land use, lush green grass, and a safe play area for children and parents.

Bluegrass Sponsors Exchange Student

an exchange student from Zimbabwe. Nyasha Chibwe is a student at Africa University studying agriculture. She is spending eight weeks with club member Jim Allen.



Kellen White is the club's scholarship recipient. Kellen will be attending Bridgevalley Community College and will transfer to West Virginia State University to study elementary education.



News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District continued



Pipestem Initiates Yvonne Kelly Into the Club

Zone 5 in the Lower WV District held a picnic and an auction to raise money for the **Pipestem** (WV) Ruritan Club. Auctioneer and Zone Governor Blaine Cecil kept everyone laughing during the auction. After the auction National Director Nell Jeffries (left) initiated new member of the Pipestem Club, Yvonne Kelly (right). Speakers for the evening were district governor Phil Jeffries and club president Joe Garcia.



News From Ruritan: Tennessean District



Gravely Presents Scholarships



Gravely (TN) Ruritan Club presented two \$545 scholarships. Samantha Starke plans to attend East Tennessee State University and will major in Biology. J.D. Brickey plans to attend East Tennessee State University and will major in education to teach Spanish. Pictured with Samantha is club president Bobby Brooks. Pictured with J.D. is Past Foundation President Gene Austin.

News From Ruritan: Cherokee District

Morrison Presents Awards

Morrison (TN) Ruritan Club presented six scholarships. Hannah Smith received a \$600 scholarship because her GPA was higher than

4.0. The other five received \$500. Pictured (l-r) are Hannah Smith, Hana Bess, Ashley Dyer, Cierra Holt, Kelsey Pepper, and Grace Reins.

The club also presented a "Teacher of the Year" awards to April Murphy and Valerie Tidwell. Sue Anderson and Principal Kim Cantrell presented the awards. Pictured (l-r) are Murphy, Anderson, Cantrell, and Tidwell.



Flint Springs

(TN) Ruritan Club Members Jim and Marilyn Laub are shown presenting a donation to Sharon Westfield of the

Senior Activity Center in Cleveland, TN. Pictured are Jim Laub, Marilyn Laub, and Sharon Westfield.

News From Ruritan: Hermitage District

Gadsden Celebrates 60th Anniversary



Gadsden (TN) Ruritan Club celebrated its 60th anniversary. The speaker for the evening was President Elect Calvin Shelton. Club charter member Fred Ferguson gave a brief history of the club. Four service awards were presented by Shelton to Joyce Thomas – 10 years; Maude Ferguson – 20 years; Becky and Larry Todd – 20 years. Fred Ferguson received a 60-year certificate. Kevin “Drake” Mosier received a \$545 scholarship award. Pictured are Ferguson receiving his 60-year certificate, Mosier receiving his scholarship award, and club members who attended the event.



News From Ruritan: Western NC District

Hopewell Hollis (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated the 87th Anniversary of Ruritan National.

Pictured are club members with the anniversary cake they enjoyed in honor of the event.



Eastview (TN) Ruritan Club donated a new slide to the Eastview City Park. Pictured (l-r) are club members Alan Leonhard, Terry Pearson, Jackie Suggs, and Billy Hunter who assembled the slide.

Dr. Walt Skroch Inducted Into the Western North Carolina Hall of Fame



Peak Creek (NC) Ruritan Club Member Dr. Doug Worsham nominated and inducted club member Dr. Walt Skroch into the Western North Carolina Agriculture Hall of Fame. Both men are retired

professors from North Carolina State University and past presidents of the club. Thirteen other club members traveled several hours to attend the ceremony.

Pictured (l-r) are club members Don Tucker, Bill Henson, Roy Mabe, Dymyse Bowlin, Ruth Robertson, Bob Robertson, Gerald Bebbler, Irene Bebbler, Doug Worsham, Carol Tucker, Linda Worsham, Walt Skroch, and Carole Skroch.



Pennyroyal Honors Veterans

The **Pennyroyal** (OH) Ruritan Club invited veterans to the Middlebourne Methodist Church for a free breakfast to honor them for their dedicated service. The Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard were all represented. Kenny Keylor, the oldest veteran in attendance, served in the Navy, as his three sons. Special guest speaker was Mental Health Counselor Julie Higgins. Julie served eight years in the National Guard. Club members served biscuits, sausage gravy, sausage patties, scrambled eggs, pancakes, donuts, orange juice, and coffee. The room and table decorations were provided by Betty Whitsell and Wanda Keylor. Also in attendance were Middlebourne Methodist Church Pastor Karen Rawlins and husband Scott. The club is grateful to Shirley Smith (Smith Feed) and Riesbeck's for the donations. Pictured (l-r) are Pastor Karen Rawlins, club vice president Linda Fitzgerald, Navy Veteran Kenny Keylor, and Mental Health Counselor Julie Higgins.



St. Clair Club Members Place Flags on Graves



St. Clair (OH) Ruritan Club placed American flags on veteran's graves at Warnock and Glencoe Cemeteries. The American Legion Post 632 presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the club for their service to the community. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Dean Harper, Aiden Harper, Adreanne Harper, Priscilla Burge, and JoAnn Wirics. Pictured in the back (l-r) Billie Jean Harper, American Legion members, and Billie Jo Wirics.

West Branch Area Ladies and Washington Present Scholarships



West Branch Area Ladies (OH) Ruritan Club's Build Your Dollar recipient was Joseph Hollback. Hollback plans to attend Westminster College to study agricultural science. Club member Viola Blanchard presented the check and sang, "God Will Take Care of You" to him.

Washington (OH) Ruritan Club presented three scholarships. Since 1986, the club has presented over \$55,000 to graduates from Marlinton High School. This year's recipients were Build Your Dollar recipient Rachel Husk, Dwight Ickes Scholarship recipient Kasey Cowgill, and Marion and Vera Rummell Scholarship recipient Alec McDaniel.



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, 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.

News From Ruritan: Piedmont District

Leasburg Recognized Tracy Kirby



During the Caswell County Memorial Day celebration the **Leasburg** (NC) Ruritan Club furnished and served refreshments to some 200 area veterans. Pictured back to front are Dixie Vernon, Margaret Ann Williamson, Brenda Bender, Wanda Richmond, Brenda Richmond. Not pictured are Barbara Berdine, Scott Berdine, and John Berdine, photographer.

The club recognized Tracy Kirby for her accomplishments during the Caswell County Special Olympics. Tracy participated in the tennis throw, standing and running broad jump, and two different walks. Tracy received medals in all four events. Tracy is a member of the club and is extremely instrumental during the club's fundraising dinners.



East Bend Presents Scholarships

The Town of East Bend, NC, has an annual God and Country Celebration with a parade the Saturday before July 4th each year. The **East Bend** (NC) Ruritan Club Scholarship winners always participate. Build Your Dollar Scholarship winner Thomas Matthews (left) and the Steve Corma Memorial Scholarship winner Bryson Lee are pictured just prior to the parade. Thomas will attend UNC-Asheville in the fall to study psychology. Bryson will major in exercise science at Appalachian State University.



News From Ruritan: Dan River District

Chatham Presents Scholarships

Chatham (VA) Ruritan Club presented three scholarships. Andrew Meadows received the Red Giles Scholarship and he will be attending Ferrum College pursuing a career in health services. Hunter Crews received the Fuller Motley Scholarship and will be attending Ferrum College. Caroline Maxey received the Larry Newby Scholarship and will be attending Ferrum College pursuing a degree in animal science.



Dan River Community Celebrates 42nd Anniversary

Dan River Community (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 42nd anniversary in April. Eighteen members received perfect attendance awards. Zone Governors Conway Goodman and Jean Goodman congratulated Wallace Stevens and Kennerly Elliott for having 34 years of perfect attendance. Pictured (l-r) are Conway Goodman, Wallace Stevens, Kennerly Elliott, and Jean Goodman.



News From Ruritan: Dan River District continued



Hunters for the Hungry representative Laura Newell-Furniss visited the **Mount Olivet** (VA) Ruritan Club and shared updates and more insight on the program. Pictured (l-r) are club president Joe Bryant, Laura Newell-Furniss, and vice president Mike McPeek.

Paver Program for Capital Replacement

Consider purchasing a brick paver for the Ruritan patio to honor a special person or in memory of a loved one. The paver program will raise funds to use as capital reserves and make improvements to the Ruritan National Office.

The pavers come in a variety of sizes and price ranges. You can even order a replica as a gift for the honoree. Find the complete paver order form on the Ruritan website at <http://ruritan.org.temp.realssl.com/library/238.pdf>.

News From Ruritan: New River District

New River District Sponsors Memorial Day Ceremony

The New River District partnered with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services to sponsor a Memorial Day ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin. Approximately 380 people attended the event. Major General Randal Fullhart, Commandant of the VT Corps of Cadets, was the featured speaker. 1999 National President Rick Poff and **Mount Tabor** (VA) Club member Ben Crawford were the emcee's of the ceremony. Ten organizations, including the **Snowville** (VA) and **Gladeville** (VA) Ruritan Clubs, laid wreaths. Others in attendance were President Elect Calvin Shelton, Patsy Shelton, National Director Gary Solomon, and Southwest VA. District Governor Glen Broadwater.



News From Ruritan: Tall Corn District



Peking and Eddyville Present Scholarships

Pictured are the **Peking** (IA) Ruritan Club's rising seniors presenting a \$2,000 donation to Terri Stull, mother of Bethanne Cooksey, for the Bethanne Cooksey Memorial Scholarship Fund. Bethanne was an underclassman at Peking High School who was killed in a tragic car accident in March.

Eddyville (IA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 40th anniversary by selecting scholarship recipients. Each recipient received a \$500 scholarship. Pictured (l-r) are club president Pat Powers, Paige Shafer, Emma Haselhuhn, Sean Fowler, Katelyn Herr, and Bailey Edmonds. Not pictured are Cayla Glosser and Blaire Moore.

Camp Creek Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Camp Creek (TN) Ruritan Club celebrated its 60th anniversary. Through the years the club has helped establish the Greeneville-Greene County Emergency and Rescue Squad, assisted in the first road signs and historical markers, sponsored Scouting and Little League programs, helped with the construction of the school's football field and track area, maintained the baseball field and grounds, and built a community center with a memorial park in memory and honor of the tornado victims in 2011. National President Bobby Burton and President Elect Calvin Shelton were in attendance. State Representative Mike Harrison (R-9th) of Rogersville and David Hawks (R-5th) of Greeneville presented resolutions from both



chambers of Tennessee General Assembly. Governor Bill Haslam presented to Social Development Chair Gerry Sensabaugh a recognition for the club on its anniversary. Greene County Mayor David Crum called the club the backbone of the community. Representative Bill Darden congratulated the club on its dedicated service. The evening concluded with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Camp Creek Medical Center. The club and Free Will Baptist Family Ministries helped make the clinic a reality. Entertainment for the evening was provided by Maple Swamp Bluegrass Band.



Past National President Bob Bailey and another WWII Veteran at the Korean War Memorial. (This photograph came in second place with the 2015 Ruritan Magazine Cover Contest.)



Ottway (TN) Ruritan Club presented \$500 scholarships to Katlyn Lawson and Julie Anna McDonald. Katlyn maintained a 3.9 GPA and will be attending Milligan College. Julie Anna has enrolled in the nursing program at North East State. Prior to being accepted at North East State she maintained a 4.0 GPA at Walter State Community College and is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Pictured (l-r) are Past National Director Roger Carter, Katlyn Lawson, Julie Anna McDonald, and club president Norma Hoyt.

News From Ruritan: Smoky Mountain District

Parrottsville Presents Awards

Every year the **Parrottsville** (TN) Ruritan Club presents three \$1,000 scholarships to students based on their scholastic achievements, community service, and financial need (Perry Tate, Build Your Dollar; Tate Messer, JR Kinser Memorial Merit Scholarship; Kellie Thornton, NJROTC Billy Hugh Sparks Memorial Merit Scholarship). The club also presents a Law Enforcement of the Year Award based on the supervisor's recommendations, (Cocke County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Brian Holt). Pictured (l-r) are Leanne Tate, Perry Tate, Randy and Margaret Messer, Tate Messer, social development chair David Ottinger, and scholarship committee Steve Balch. Pictured (l-r) are citizenship and patriotism committee chair Fred Lee, Kellie Thornton, and Pat Spark, widow of the late Billy Hugh Sparks. Pictured (l-r) are Cocke County Sheriff Armando Fontes, Administrative Captain and club president Derrick Woods, Sgt. Brian Holt, Edna Holt, and Fred Lee.



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: Spartan District



Westview (SC) Ruritan Club is proud of their brand new Adopt-A-Highway sign. They celebrated their new sign with seven club members conducting a trash pickup on a warm Saturday morning in June.

Rapidan District Clubs Honor Veterans



In honor of Veterans' Day, the **Barboursville** (VA) Ruritan Club recognized their members who are veterans. Club member Andy McWilliams presented each with a framed certificate and a "Veteran" tab. Pictured (l-r) are Robert "Buck" Estes (in his original Marine uniform), Ernest Awkard, Andy McWilliams, Tom Czelusta, and Tim Baker.

Belmont (VA) Ruritan Club hosted a visit and presentation by Colonel David Rowe, former Commander of the British Royal Marines Poole and Chief of Staff, Royal Marine At-tache and Assistant Defense Attache

in the British Embassy, Washington, DC, and deputy Head of Mission to the United Nations in New York City. After a brief review of his 41 years of military operations and Attache service, Col. Rowe delighted the members with an upbeat accounting of a formal visit by the Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, and the Royal Family entourage to his command base some years ago. The accounting was done with great pride and interlaced with quite humorous anecdotes of what went wrong at the not-so-right times. The Ruritan members showed the greatest of respect with a standing ovation for Col. Rowe for his presentation and in recognition of his numerous military encounters and patriotism to both of our countries. Col. Rowe is a member of the **Jefferson** (VA) Ruritan Club and is an active member of the Royal Marines Association, United States of America. Pictured are club president Bobby Goodwin and Colonel Rowe. Goodwin presented Rowe with a Ruritan coffee mug.



The Rapidan District Ruritan Cabinet honored the military veterans of the **Rochelle** (VA) Ruritan Club by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation during a visit by the Rapidan District Governor Linda Bradshaw.



The club presented \$6,000 in scholarships. Awards were given to Matthew Hamlett who will be attending Radford University majoring in computer science; Alexius Houchens who will be attending Virginia Commonwealth University majoring in nursing; and Nicolle Wooten who will be attending The University of Virginia majoring in English. Although unable to attend the ceremony, awards were also given to Trevor Talley who will be attending Virginia Tech University majoring in agricultural business; Kali Lynch who will be attending Christopher Newport University; and Noah Jones who will be attending The University of Virginia majoring

in computer engineering. Pictured (l-r) are Matthew Hamlett, club president Bobby Goodwin, Alexius Houchens, scholarship chair Steve Fritz, and Nicolle Wooten.





The First Couple Visits Lincolnland District

National President Bobby Burton and First Lady Linda visited clubs in the Lincolnland District (**Hymera** (IN), **Montgomery** (IN), **Jefferson Township** (IN), **Dieterich** (IL), **Mt. Erie** (IL), and **Wayne City** (IL). Burton participated in four radio interviews and two newspaper interviews. The first couple were recognized in the Otwell and West Union Counties. Past National Director Howard Tanner coordinated the Wayne County,

IL, day. One of the highlights of the visit was Mary Peeple of the **Hymera Club** presenting Linda with 100 knitted caps for the cancer project this year.



Dr. Stephen E. Reid Jr. Becomes an Associate Member

In 2014, Dr. Stephen E. Reid Jr., of Olney, IL., performed a serious cancer surgery on Leota Burkett. He removed a lymph node in 2015. He also removed a cancer from National Director Grover Burkett's nose in 2014. In appreciation of his service, the Burketts presented Dr. Reid with an Associate Member Plaque for the **Dundas** (IL) Ruritan Club. One of the nurses assisting was the Burketts' son-in-law, John Wall. Pictured (l-r) are Leota Burkett, Dr. Stephen Reid, and Grover Burkett.



Geff Community Receives Awards

District Governor Marilyn Bledsoe presented a Blue Ribbon Award to Past National Director Beverly Tanner on behalf of the **Geff Community** (IL) Ruritan Club. 2014 District Governor Rita Woods presented 2014 club president Billie Moyer with an Outstanding President Award.

THE \$600 WANTED WINNER FOR THE
SECOND QUARTER OF 2015 WAS
LYLE BOLDT OF THE SHAWBORO (NC)
CLUB IN THE ALBEMARLE DISTRICT PICTURED
HERE WITH HIS WIFE LINDA, ALSO A CLUB MEMBER

LYLE BOLDT

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



REWARDED \$600

SUSAN GREISZ

THE \$200 PRIZE WENT TO
SUSAN GREISZ OF THE WEST
SHENANDOAH (VA) CLUB IN THE
ROCKINGHAM DISTRICT.



REWARDED \$200

JEFF NEESE

\$400 WENT TO JEFF NEESE OF THE
SYLVAN (NC) CLUB, ROCKY MT.-DURHAM
DISTRICT, HE'S PICTURED HERE WORKING
AT THE CLUB'S ANNUAL JULY 4TH PARADE



REWARDED \$400

