



Ruritan

Volume 82, Spring 2017





“TOGETHER WE AFFECT CHANGE” Because We Believe In Ruritan

Good evening Ruritan family and invited guests. Thank you Ruritan family for your confidence and for allowing me the privilege of serving as 2017 National President of Ruritan,

the number one community service organization in America. Thanks to each one of you for all the service you provide and will continue providing in your own individual communities in the name of Ruritan to make them better places to live. I consider it to be a humbling opportunity and a responsibility I will not take lightly.

It is because I recognize and fully understand that I could never perform at my highest potential without the help and understanding of my Almighty God, I ask that each of you join with me as I ask for His help and guidance.



2000 National President Jim Laflotte installing 2017 National President Danny Privott.

and sound decisions that are in the best interest of all Ruritans.

Help me to lead this great organization in the manner that was the vision of co-founders Tom Downing and Jack Gwaltney which is what You also intended; to love, have compassion for and serve our neighbors. Amen.”

“Heavenly Father, creator of all things and giver of life and strength, guide and go with me and continue to give me the ability to make wise

I will tell you that without the support and encouragement of my wife Linda I know that I would not be here standing before you tonight in this capacity.

She has been with me by my side during this entire amazing journey. Will you join with me in recognizing Linda, our 2017 Ruritan National First Lady. Thank you! Thanks also to members of our family seated down here in front. Will you all stand and be recognized. Thank you! There are so many of you in this great organization that we have made friends with along this journey; way too many to call out but you all know who you are. Thank you!

I stand before you tonight humbled and make this promise, to do whatever I can to demonstrate the confidence that each of you has shown in me. With your help and with the assistance of the National Board of Directors and the home office staff, I will work to do what is best for all of Ruritan. You will notice that this means TOGETHER! We must work together!

As Ruritans, perhaps the greatest attribute we can possess and display to other people is to just be yourself, let the people we come in contact with, many of them potential Ruritan members see us the same every time they see or hear us.

They will be more inclined to listen and accept what we are offering them and also more inclined to join us in the Ruritan activities we present to them. Who knows, they may even want to join our club. The ones of them that are from another community might even wish to go back to their community and organize their own Ruritan club.

You only have one opportunity to make a first impression, so don't waste it. Use it to your advantage and make it positive.

Communication and commitment are two things that I feel our organization needs to improve in if we are to continue to be America's leading community service organization. If we improve in these two areas growth will follow.

How we as Ruritans communicate is important. We must ASK others to join our great organization!

As long as we are satisfied we will not improve and prosper. I ask each of you and me included, are you

continued on page 6



Ruritan

Volume 82, Spring 2017

EDITORIAL & MEMBERSHIP STAFF

Michael Chrisley, Executive Director
Crystal Andrews, Publications Manager/Magazine Editor
Amanda Ramirez, 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
Email: office@ruritan.org
Web: <http://ruritan.org>
Supply Orders Only: (800) 223-2203 ext. 1143

Executive Committee

2017 National President

Danny Privott – Hertford, NC

2017 National President Elect

Clinton Guy Cox – Kingwood, WV

National Treasurer

Dale Bricker – Canfield, OH

National Secretary

James M. Mills Jr. – Dallas, GA

2016 National President

Calvin Shelton – Greeneville, TN

Executive Director

Michael T. Chrisley – Dublin, VA

National Directors

Larry W. Cassell - Jefferson, MD
Les Hopper – Rome, GA
Nell Jeffries – Athens, WV
Don Ramey – Harrison, TN
Gary Solomon – Glade Hill, VA
David Thompson – Dinwiddie, VA
Glen Broadwater – Nicklesville, VA
Susan Greisz – Mt. Jackson, VA
Linward Hedgspeth – Rougemont, NC
Carroll Lowe – Wilkesboro, NC
Gary Olinger – Blountville, TN
Howard Tanner – Fairfield, IL
Lee Tomlinson – Jackson, TN
George Brothers - Durham, NC
Janet M. Kinsey - St. Clairsville, OH
Jonathan LaFollette - Jonesborough, TN
Betty R. Moore - Rustburg, VA
Danny Phillips - Spartanburg, SC
Marty Sewell - Richmond, KY
Stanley Ray Turner- Windsor, VA

In This Issue:

President's Page.....	2
Executive Director's Message	4
Ruritan Forever Application.....	5
Shumsky Ad (Ruritan Supply).....	8-9
2017 Convention Recap.....	10-11
Foundation.....	12
Founders Day	13
Summer Leadership Conference.....	14
Youth Camp.....	15-16
Beautiful Sign Winners.....	17
Club and District News.....	18-43

Rudy Bears can be ordered online at:

***www.ruritan.shumskypromo.com or by
calling Michelle Monhollen at 800-223-2203
ext. 1143.***

You can email her at mmm@shumsky.com.



On the Cover: 2017 National President Danny Privott, First Lady Linda, and family. Pictured in the back (l-r) are daughter-in-law Gayla Privott, son Jeff Privott, and son-in-law T.W. Hurdle. Pictured in the middle row (l-r) are granddaughter Danielle Hurdle, daughter Jana Hurdle, granddaughter Amanda Hurdle and her friend Bradford Ward. Pictured on the front (l-r) are First Lady Linda, granddaughter Cassie Hurdle, National President Danny, and grandson J.T. Hurdle. (Not pictured are granddaughter Lindsay her husband James Rash and their daughter Alyssa Rash.)

Message From Executive Director Michael Chrisley

Invest in a Ruritan Forever



Forever. It's not an easy concept to grasp. Some people struggle with the idea and place limits on it so that it makes better sense to them. Our Ruritan Forever program is not a life membership program. A lot of people put it into the life membership category because it makes better sense to them. Our Ruritan Forever program is designed to be perpetual. Thus the name Forever. Sure, it is to some degree about dues. Anyone who purchases a Ruritan Forever will never have to pay national dues again. They will not be affected by any future dues increase (don't worry, there is no dues increase on the horizon). The

money goes into a trust that pays their national dues from the point that they become a Ruritan Forever until.....well, forever.

I feel so fortunate that the **Holland District** and the **Appomattox District** felt that for whatever reason I deserved a Ruritan Forever. From this point on, I will never have to pay national dues again. I am so thankful to these districts for their generosity. However, my dues is not entirely what it is all about. In fact, it is not even the most important thing about my Ruritan Forever. The money is invested and my dues will be paid until I die. In some programs, that is when the benefit would end. Not with ours. The real benefit will just be beginning. My dues will then become an endowment that transfers funds into the general fund of Ruritan to be used in for whatever is the most critical need of the time.



National Director David Thompson presented Executive Director Mike Chrisley with a Ruritan Forever on behalf of the Appomattox and Holland Districts. Surprised Chrisley is shown "bear-hugging" Thompson in appreciation for this wonderful gift.



2013 First Lady Betty Jo Clemmer received a Ruritan Forever at the National Convention for recruiting 65 members.

on an organization that serves so many communities and people in the community forever. If you would like to become a Ruritan Forever see page 5 of this magazine.

The money can be used to fund growth programs, leadership development and training, publicity and public relations, or all the above. The founder of the program and a good friend of mine John Tyler created the program so that those of us who love the organization would have a way to contribute to its continued success perpetually...forever. So, because of John, and the generosity of Holland and Appomattox Districts, my dues along with many others dues will serve Ruritan long after I am gone.

It is a great feeling to know that you will continue to have an impact



1993 Past President Wayne Bettis pinned Chrisley with his Ruritan Forever Pin.



Ruritan Forever

A Perpetual Life Plan

*Protecting and preserving Ruritan
as a legacy for future generations.*

"Ruritan Forever" is a plan for the payment of **national** dues by members who wish to make a long term investment in Ruritan. The "Ruritan Forever" plan allows a member in good standing to pay \$600 and become a life-time participant of the National Organization. Ruritan National will invest these pre-payments in a special managed fund, transferring the dues quarterly to the business office of Ruritan National. Even after the life participant dies, dues will be transferred quarterly to Ruritan National, thus offering a perpetual memorial to the organization on behalf of the deceased Ruritan.

A "Ruritan Forever" endowment may be purchased by a member in good standing or may be purchased for a member in good standing. A Ruritan Forever endowment may be purchased to honor a non-member provided they are brought into a club as an Associate Member at the same time. In this case the Associate Member's dues would be covered by the \$600 endowment.

The lifetime endowment may also be purchased in

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

Upon payment of the fee, the Ruritan will receive a certificate, a lapel pin, and a permanent life participant card. For endowments purchased for a deceased member a special plaque will be provided for the club to present to the deceased member's family. **National** dues increases will have no effect on participants enrolled in the plan, although the purchase price of \$600 for new enrollees may be adjusted over the years as necessary. There will be no special assessments or charges made to Ruritan Forever participants.

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

Your Name: _____

Your Club Name: _____

Your Address: _____ **Telephone:** _____

This application is for: (check one)

☐ **Myself** ☐ **Current Member** ☐ **Deceased Ruritan** ☐ **NEW Associate Member**

Name of Applicant (If not you): _____

Applicant's Club: _____

Applicant's Address: _____

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

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

satisfied with the effort you are giving to improve and make Ruritan grow? If you answered a resounding “No” then please help by communicating to others and encourage joining our cause.

Tom Downing and Jack Gwaltney were not satisfied or we would not be here as Ruritans. They and others like them continued to spread the news and start new clubs even beyond their areas and into other states. We must also continue to reach out beyond our individual clubs and start new ones.

Someone once asked me what I would change in Ruritan if I could. I said, I’d just like for all of us to work together to help make the changes that will take place in Ruritan positive. Ruritan will change, make no mistake about it, so let’s work together and make those changes positive. If not, it surely will not survive.

Ruritans slogan for 2017 will be:

“TOGETHER WE AFFECT CHANGE” - Because We Believe in Ruritan!

I would ask all of you to join with me to help cause all the changes that take place in our organization to be positive. Change is inevitable, it will happen, so let’s make change in Ruritan beneficial to our organization, our members, and our communities.

As we work together performing our club fundraising events to be able to provide needed service, the Ruritan mission of Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service is accented and emphasized. So, I ask you, don’t you wish this experience for others? If so, we just need to ask.

We all say that Ruritan has a great story to tell, so let’s tell it. Tell others that Ruritan is America’s leading organization for service to others. Ruritans work together side by side to serve their community needs. Since Ruritan’s beginning May 21, 1928, in Holland, Virginia, our members have demonstrated with determined attitude how to love their neighbors by serving the needs of their own individual communities.

Remaining committed to our goal is also important. Commitment is a state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity.

Simply put commitment is a promise to do or give something, a promise to be loyal to someone, something or a cause, a willingness to give your time, talents and energy to something, someone or a cause.

Remain committed and never give up, no matter what the obstacles might be. If you ask someone to join your club and they say no, ask someone else and keep asking until someone answers yes and they ultimately join; we have to show people how good it is to be a Ruritan and help others in their community.

Listen to this story about remaining committed and never give up! It’s entitled, There was an old mule.

There was an old mule. One day accidentally he fell into the farmer’s well. The farmer evaluated the situation and thought to himself, that neither the well nor the old mule was worth the efforts to save them. Thus he decided to haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well.

So the farmer called his neighbors and together they started to shovel dirt into the well. The old mule was terrified and hysterical in the beginning. But soon one hopeful idea came to his mind – every time when a shovel of dirt landed on his back, he would “shake it off and step up!”

He repeated these words to himself again and again: Shake it off and step up.” This way he could struggle through the panic and encourage himself. After some time, the mule had stepped over the well’s wall. Although terribly tired, he was the winner, he saved his own life. He decided to face his adversity positively and not to give up, and thus he won.

What seemed to bury him, actually saved him, owing to his confidence and relentless efforts. He overcame his obstacle.

We all should be that committed to the same goal of making our communities better because of the fact that we did something for someone else to improve their way of life. We also should remain committed to taking Ruritan to other communities that do not have Ruritan Clubs. We not only should but we must in order for our organization to prosper.

I like to think of Ruritan as “Serving others” and “Changing lives,” both theirs and yours and having fun, enjoying it. “Ruritans are just ordinary people doing extra-ordinary things to improve lives of those in their community.”

Dr. Albert Schweitzer said: “the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.”

The last and equally important is growth. Earlier I said positive communication at all levels along with an undying commitment would cause us to grow. We must grow our organization. Yes, we must Recruit, Reclaim, and Retain in our own clubs but we also must charter new clubs in different communities.

During the Area and District Governor’s training each of them committed with me to do “whatever it takes” to charter a Ruritan Club in their District. Each of them was given a yard sign and stand to place in a community / area of their district that has the potential of starting a new club. That equates to about 40 new clubs and I will tell you that with your help and support we can do it because “TOGETHER WE AFFECT CHANGE” and We Believe in Ruritan.

continued on page 7

So, Ruritan's goal for 2017 is: each member get a member and each district add a club. Can we do this? Absolutely we can if we work together. But we all must remain committed to doing it.

On the tables there is an envelope for each of you. Please open it and you will find an "ASK" button and a "TOGETHER WE AFFECT CHANGE" lapel pin. Wear them to remember to ask and to remind you that together we affect change because we all believe in Ruritan!

I would encourage all clubs to support our veterans by having special recognition lunches or dinners. I would also encourage more of you to consider a Ruritan Forever both for yourself, a family member, or friend.

Linda was a high school classmate of Jim "Catfish" Hunter who was a Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher for the Kansas City and Oakland Athletics and then the New York Yankees. He had ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and died at the age of 53 on September 9, 1999. Linda would like to make ALS Awareness her project for 2017. We are encouraging all clubs to support this cause. Detailed information about Linda's project will be made available in the magazine.

In closing I'd like to recite a poem.

This poem epitomizes to me what a true Ruritan is and sort of describes my Ruritan journey.

Listen and you will hear that it captures all three tenets of Ruritan which are: Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service.

It's entitled:

The Friendship Road

Down the road of friendship I journeyed
For one day,
And oh, I found so many stops along
That Pleasant Way,
I crossed the street of Sympathy and
Turned in Loyal Lane
I stood at Goodwill Gate and watched
The Trust –Another Train.
I plucked the flowers of Fellowship,
And drank at Service Spring
And every way I turned, there was some
New and precious thing.
So, won't you join me on Fellowship Road
Some day?
We'll find true happiness, I know, along
The Pleasant Way.

When we as Ruritans are helping others, we shall also help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.

Always enjoy what you do as Ruritans and always

be positive.

Keep your thoughts positive, because your thoughts become your words.

Keep your words positive, because your words become your behavior.

Keep your behavior positive, because your behavior becomes your habits.

Keep your habits positive, because your habits become your values.

Keep your values positive, because your values become your destiny.

If there is anything I can do for you, your club, your zone or district please call on me. Linda and I will be there to help if we can.

One last thing before I close, I'd like to read a short story.

It was the coldest winter ever. Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation decided to group together to keep warm. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the quills of each one wounded their closet companions. After a while, they decided to distance themselves one from another and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. They learned to live with the little wounds caused by the close relationship with their companions in order to receive the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive. Why did I tell this story?

Because the best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people but when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other's good qualities.

As Ruritans, all of us want the best for our organization but none of us is perfect, we all have imperfections and it is when we realize this and utilize the best in all of us we will cause this organization to prosper and grow. "TOGETHER WE AFFECT CHANGE" Because We Believe in Ruritan.

May God bless each one of us.

God bless our military,

God bless our country,

God bless Ruritan!

Thank you all for what you do and will continue to do in the name of Ruritan.



**2017 National President
Danny Privott giving his
acceptance speech at the
Installation Banquet.**

SHOP THE NEW ITEMS

RURITAN SUPPLY



ruritan.shumskypromo.com



Shumsky is a preferred
supplier of Ruritan National

QUESTIONS?

Michelle Monhollen
937.221.7118
mmm@shumsky.com





Shumsky Introduced at National Convention

Ruritan National was thrilled to welcome Shumsky/Ruritan Supply at the 2017 National Convention in Kingsport. Shumsky's history dates back to 1953 when Hy Shumsky and his wife, Elsie, founded Shumsky with \$50, a few catalogs, a card table, and two chairs in a 10-foot square room. Hy believed he should be involved with every order from start to finish - typing and billing orders, collecting payment, and even hand delivering local orders to his clients. Hy continued to work for the company until his death at the age of 98. You can say with no doubt that he was responsible for making this company a great success. Shumsky visits the top industry trade shows throughout the year to find the newest trends and most innovative new product releases for their clients.

"We were honored to be chosen by Ruritan as their promotional partner and to attend the 2017 Ruritan National Convention, as first-time

participants. Our time together was well spent and a true pleasure. Being a part of such a caring organization, learning more about your vision, and collaborating with your team was a meaningful experience for us. We received helpful comments and suggestions, as well as thoughtful compliments from the Ruritan members. We appreciate that you allowed us to take part in this event and it was our pleasure to join in on the fun! See you next year in Charleston, South Carolina," said Shumsky Representative Michelle Monhollen. Pictured with Michelle Monhollen is **Brushy Mountain** (NC) Club member Lee Tedder.

Reserve Your Hospitality Room Through National Office

If your district, club, or candidate is interested in booking a hospitality room in Charleston, contact Craig Whitt at 877-787-8727 #312 or convention@ruritan.org and he will send you the proper form. Please note, these Hospitality Rooms are connected with sleeping rooms.

Get Your Reservations in Charleston, SC Now!

The 2018 Convention begins on Thursday, January 18. To make your room reservations at the Charleston Embassy Suites - visit the Ruritan National website for the link. If you would rather talk to a booking agent about your room, please call the hotel directly at (843) 747-1882. Rates before taxes begin at \$139 for single and double occupancy. For the Ruritan rate use the code: RNI

2017 Kingsport National Convention Recap

The 2017 Ruritan National Convention held in Kingsport, TN was a memorable, informational, and educational convention. National officers were elected and installed, awards were presented, donations were given, business was conducted, and Ruritans enjoyed fellowship.

Conventions activities started on Wednesday, with the opening of the exhibits that included the Ruritan Foundation Silent Auction and Shumsky's, our new Ruritan supply partner. On Thursday morning, President Elect Danny Privott led the training of the 2017 Ruritan

Governors. The convention officially opened on Thursday evening with a memorial/vesper service led by Dr. David Green and a flag ceremony that included the Greeneville High School Band playing each state song as the state flags were presented. The evening concluded with the President's



Pictured (l-r) are Dalton Vest and Calvin Smith who participated in the Flag Ceremony.

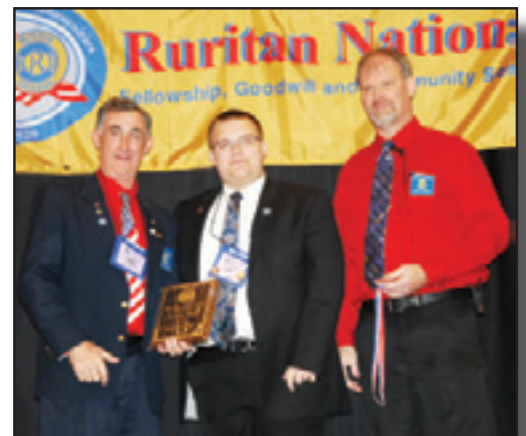
Reception.

Friday's activities began with the Veterans Breakfast. Retired Lt. General Frederick McCorkle from the USMC was the speaker. The first business session was held and reports were given, candidates made speeches, donations of Rudy Bears were made to the Tennessee State Highway, Niswonger Children's



Hospital, and a local nursing home, and awards were presented. The Rudy Youth of the Year Award for 2016

was presented to Nathaniel Riddle, a member of the Keezletown Ruritan Club in the Rockingham District. Nathaniel spent over 400 hours on community service projects, volunteered at Sentara RMH Volunteer Services and Grottoes Food Bank, went on mission trips, and organized the Spotswood High Ruri-Teen Club. The Ruri-Teen of the Year Award was presented to Maggie Shelton from the Greene Pride Ruri-Teen Club in the Davy Crockett District. Maggie has served as club vice president, club director, and social development committee chair. She completed 14 projects for her club, went on a mission trip, and attended zone and district conventions. Additionally, she is active in the music ministry at her church. The Ruritan of the Year for 2016 is Katharine Allen of the Rewastico Creek Club in the Delmarva-NJ District. Katharine has served as her club president, vice president, and secretary for over 20 years. She



has been a zone governor for 20 years and served as district secretary. Katharine has spent 750 hours on community service projects and helped to raise money for the local fire department. She is active in her church, the local Garden Club, and the Farm and Home Show. Friday afternoon activities included the Ruritan Foundation Luncheon and workshops. At the evening Fellowship Dinner, DRM's were recognized for organizing new clubs and guest speaker Steve Siemens provided a motivational presentation. The evening concluded with the Foundation live auction.



The evening concluded with the Foundation live auction.

Saturday began with a breakfast honoring First Lady Patsy Shelton. Entertainment was provided by the Tennessee 4-H Performing Arts Troupe. The day continued with the second business meeting, afternoon workshops, and the Installation Banquet. 2017 National President Danny Privott, President Elect Clinton "Guy" Cox, and seven three-years



National Directors (George Brothers, Janet Kinsey, Jonathan Lafollette, Betty Moore, Danny Phillips, Marty Sewell, and Stanley Turner) were installed. Pat Davis was installed as Foundation President and Ollie H. (O.H.) Bobbitt, III as Foundation Trustee. The evening ended with a fantastic performance by Lee Greenwood known for his patriotic hit, "God Bless the USA."

Plans are underway for the 2018

Ruritan National Convention in Charleston, SC from January 18-21, 2018. This will be another great convention. You will not want to miss it.



Pictured are members with over 50 years that were recognized in King-sport during the Saturday Business Session.



2016 National President Calvin Shelton presented 2016 First Lady Patsy with a 5 pound Gummy Bear for her support during his year as president, at the National Convention Installation Banquet.

Message From 2017 Foundation President Pat Davis

Help Support the Foundation



Congratulations for reaching for the stars and accomplishing the 47 Friends Endowment Funds and attaining the next milestone for your fund(s)! The Foundation Trustees would like to thank the clubs, members, and groups who have contributed to the Foundation and

supported our events during the past year.

As we near our 50th Anniversary, we would love to have ALL clubs take part in using the Ruritan National Foundation as a tool for scholarship building.



2000 National President Jim Lafollette is shown installing Pat Davis as the 2017 Foundation President.

Initially, you will work toward making your fund permanent with a \$1000 balance, followed by the milestone of it becoming a 21st Century Legacy Fund with a balance of \$2000, then working toward making your fund a Cornerstone Fund with a balance of \$5000. When your fund reaches \$10,000+, it will be considered a Friends Endowment Fund. At this point, you have the option to make a contract with the Ruritan National Foundation and start receiving a

perpetual scholarship.

The Birthday Club program is a simple way to participate and will accomplish two things: 1) your club will receive recognition (a certificate for a \$2 per member donation and a plaque for a \$10 per member donation); and 2) growing your fund toward reaching the next milestone. The Build Your Dollars Educational Grant program is one of the major grant programs of the Foundation. This program allows Ruritan clubs to deposit \$300 to the Foundation and get an equal share of the net income of the Foundation the next year.

Honoring your membership through the Foundation's Million Dollar Club is available for a donation of \$36.50 per year for five years. A lovely lapel pin is

Ruritan National Foundation

2017 Board of Trustees

President: Pat Davis

Vice President: Jayson Duncan

Secretary: Corky Camin

Treasurer: Brent Wheeler

Promotion Chair: O.H. Bobbitt III



a symbol of your member's dedication to the youth of your community and your club's appreciation to your member. This donation can be designated to the Foundation Fund of your choice. The Foundation also offers the highest honor in Ruritan, the Tom Downing Award, which is available for \$500. There is no better way to honor your member or friend of your club with this award. Interest accrued through Tom Downing Awards benefits the Build Your Dollar and regular grant programs.

We are very excited as we make plans for the Foundation's Fellowship Weekend to be held September 8-10, 2017, in Galax, Virginia. Highlights for the event include a golf tournament at my golf course with all proceeds to benefit the Foundation, a trip to Mt. Airy, NC (home of Andy Griffith) for a tour and to meet "Thelma Lou," a bus tour of Grayson County, a silent and live auction to benefit the Foundation, and a walk for ALS and Parkinson's disease. Watch for more information in the next issue. I hope you will plan to come celebrate with us as we have a fun-filled weekend planned!

In October 2016, the decision was made to phase out the regular Grant Program. By doing this, we will be able to increase the return amount for your investment to the Build Your Dollar program. We will only be awarding 10 grants in 2017, and the last five in 2018.

We look forward to working with you and your clubs to reach the next milestone for your funds. Please don't hesitate to call one of your trustees with any questions you might have.



Ruby Cassell and Pat Davis share a moment of excitement after Cassell pinned Davis as the 2017 Foundation President.



Founders' Day 2017

Save the Date

Come Celebrate 89 Years of Ruritan!

Join us for the Celebration on May 20, 2017, in Holland!

***Events will include a huge parade, wreath laying,
BBQ cook-off, children's games,
and an evening banquet with entertainment!***



- To enter your float, car, or antique vehicle in the parade, contact Ronald Daughtrey at 757-657-9811 or rcdaughtrey@aol.com.
- Enter a team in the BBQ Cook-Off for cash prizes and the recognition as the best cooks in all of Ruritan! Contact Donald Worrell at 757-657-6425 or donald-worrel@yahoo.com.
- For banquet tickets contact Clay Byrum at aba123321@aol.com. Tickets are \$20.00 each and checks made out to *Holland Ruritan Club* can be mailed to Clay Byrum, 30799 Hunt Club Road, Carrsville, VA 23315.
- Banquet is held at the Holland Community House and begins at 5:30 p.m.
- Guests may book rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn at 100 East Constance Road Suffolk, VA 23434, phone 757-925-1300. Mention Ruritan for special rate of \$89.00.

Come early or extend your stay and visit the attractions in our area including Colonial Williamsburg, Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin in Norfolk, historic Jamestown, and many more.

Plan to Attend the Summer Leadership Conference

All 2017 Ruritan District Lieutenant Governors should plan to attend the 2017 Summer Leadership Conference in Dublin, VA at the New River Community College on June 15-17, 2017.

2017 President Elect Guy Cox would also like to encourage any member of your district cabinet to attend this conference for a nominal fee. One area of concern for all Ruritan members is the growth of the organization. We will have some "experts" that have built Ruritan membership and Ruritan clubs and they will give some sage advice on how you can build your clubs and districts. President Elect Guy is planning the training around his theme: **Sharing is Caring**. There will be classes that will benefit all Ruritans.

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 the responsibilities needed to accomplish a higher position they may wish to seek and encourages them to move up in their leadership roles. Information on the conference's content and cost will be sent to 2017 District Governors and Lt. Governors later this spring. Lodging rooms will be blocked for this conference at the Dublin area hotels.

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. 2017 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 at the conference. Allowances will be made for distance and gender-related exceptions. District officers should also note that 2017 District Lt. Governors (according to policy, only if you become the incoming District Governor for 2018) and the 2017 District Governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2018 National Convention in Charleston, SC provided the following are met:

1. They attend the June 2017 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by the National President);
2. They attend the Governors' Training at the 2018 National Convention;
3. They attend substantially all meetings at the 2018 National Convention;
4. Form R-35 must be received by Ruritan National no later than November 10 and Form R-36 must be received by Ruritan National no later than February 10; and
5. All expense vouchers must be submitted within 90 days after the 2018 National Convention.

RUDY YOUTH OF THE YEAR FOR 2016

DISTRICT

Woodrow Wilson
Rockingham
Rocky Mt/Durham
Greenville-Goldsboro
Spartan
Upper WV
Piedmont
New River
Smoky Mountain

CLUB

Middlebrook
Keezletown
McCullers
Maury
Augusta Road
Capon Valley
Leasburg
Mt. Tabor
East Roane

RECIPIENT

Austin Aylor
Nathaniel Riddle
Nicholas Babb
Daniel Scott Jarman
Jadyn Taylor Cash
Natalie Spaid
Diana Katelyn Berdine
John Wesley Jarels
Kena Holmes

2017 Ruritan Youth Camp!

Make this camp a part of the 2017 summer fun!

Send youth or come as a chaperone!



Date: July 21-23, 2017

**Location: 4-H Conference Center
Smith Mountain Lake in Wirtz, VA.**

Cost: \$145/person



Activities include: wall climbing, fishing, canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, riflery, archery, and swimming.

**For more information or for a registration packet contact Amanda Ramirez
toll free 877-787-8727 ext. 306 or email her at
membership@ruritan.org.**

Deadline for completed registration forms and payment is June 21, 2017.





2017 Ruritan Youth Camp Registration Form for July 21-23



The 2017 Ruritan Youth Camp will be held at the W.E. Shelton 4-H Center.
The W.E. Shelton 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 21, 2017.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Preferred Badge Name _____

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes) Check the box in front of the size needed.

☐ Small _____ ☐ Medium _____ ☐ Large _____ ☐ XL _____ ☐ XXL _____ ☐ 3XL _____ ☐ Other

I am registering as (circle one option on each line)

Ruritan Member	Yes	No
Non-Ruritan Member	Yes	No
Adult Chaparrone	Yes	No
Youth Camper	Yes	No
1 st Time Attendee	Yes	No

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Parent Email _____

Send Registration Packet Via: (Mark 1 Option Below)

☐ Mail ☐ Email

Please do the following:

Complete the registration form above and mail it along with your payment to:
Ruritan National

P. O. Box 487
Dobbin, VA 24084.

Once this form is received by Amanda Ramirez at the Ruritan National Office a Registration Packet will be sent to the parent for completion. Complete packets along with full payment are due no later than **June 21, 2017.**

WHICH SIGN GIVES YOU THE BEST IMPRESSION OF RURITAN?



FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE LASTING IMPRESSIONS!

2016 WINNERS

1st- BELMONT COMMUNITY RURITAN

2nd- BURROWSVILLE RURITAN

3rd- GREYSTONE RURITAN

WHAT KIND OF IMPRESSION DOES YOUR ROAD SIGN PRESENT?



Holland District Clubs Are Active



Cypress (VA) Ruritan Club fixed a spaghetti lunch for 78 needy people at the Salvation Army headquarters. Pictured (l-r) are Charles Howell, Ray Smith, Larry Felton, Robert Brinkley, Tommy Bazemore, Richard Brinkley, Raydell Byrd, David Russell, Denny Smith, Roy Rowell, and John Sharrett. (Not pictured is Landon Howell.)



Deep Creek (VA) Ruritan Club cooked and served lunch for the participants of the Chesapeake City Hall's Wreath Laying Ceremony sponsored by the Chesapeake Mayor's Commission on Veterans Affairs. Over 250 people were served. Mike Studley and John Buddenhagen kept the grill full with hotdogs and hamburgers while many volunteers manned the serving line.

Great Bridge (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated a successful year at a December banquet at Lighthouse Pointe, a retirement community. They sang carols, installed officers, and had a delicious dinner. Three widows (Maxine Earley, Barbara Kline, Sylvia Rowland) and Lonnie Hines were special guests. They are pictured here with 2012 First Gentleman Bill Lewter.



At the **Holland District** Joint Cabinet Meeting, 2016 Governor David Edwards passed the gavel and leadership of the Holland District to 2017 Governor Nan York.

Liberty Spring (VA) Ruritan Club is a small club and is fortunate that its officers serve faithfully every year. In

2016, Liberty Spring Secretary Emory Nichols, who has been an excellent secretary for many years, announced that he would be unable to serve in 2017. This left a large void in the officers. The club could not get a club member to serve in this key position. What were they to do? They went out and recruited a new club member to join and serve as secretary. New member, John Umphlett, was initiated in November and installed as secretary in December. Liberty Spring Club President Ronald Mathews stated, "This action saved our club because the secretary position is the backbone of any organization. Thank you, John, for joining our great



organization and taking the office of our club secretary." Pictured (l-r) are Liberty Spring Director Duane Eby, Vice President Earl Smith, President Ronald Mathews, Treasurer Jeff Hancock, and Secretary John Umphlett.

News From Ruritan: Holland District continued



Prince George (VA) Ruritans held a festive December meeting at Fort Lee. After a delicious buffet dinner and entertainment, officers were installed and the Prince George Ruritan of the Year was announced. The 2016 Ruritan of the Year was Bob Woods. Pictured (l-r) are Bob Woods, with former Ruritans of the Year Tommy Creager, Past National Director Chuck Myers, David Edwards, Wayne Collins, and A. W. Adams.

Isle of Wight (VA) Ruritan Club held a festive December meeting with a delicious dinner catered by Curvy Girls, door prizes, Christmas carols, and installation of officers for 2017. Pictured (l-r) are Isle of Wight



Director Wayne Arrington, Treasurer Billy Bell, Secretary Kevin Goerger, Vice President Jim Polanosky, President Pete Farmer, 2016 President Michael Hundley, and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter during the installation ceremony.

Ferry (VA) Ruritan Club (formerly known as Hodges Ferry) installed officers at their December meet-



ing. 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter installed the officers. Pictured (l-r) are Ferry Directors Vernon Bloodgood, Sherry Midgette, Edna Midgette, Secretary Beth Hughes, Treasurer Clarence Norton, Vice President Mike Buck, and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter.

Each year at the Holland District Convention, past Holland District Governors, gather for lunch. Pictured (bottom left) are past governors with 2016 Holland District Governor David Edwards.

Meherrin (VA) Ruritan Club contributed \$7,000 to community organizations at Christmas time. Pictured below is 1978 National President Bobby Wrenn with each organization's representative.



Past Chesapeake District Governors Gather for Breakfast



At the Annual **Chesapeake District** Convention, past Chesapeake District Governors gathered for breakfast to reminisce and share ideas to make their communities better

places in which to live. Also during the convention, **Doswell** (VA) Club member Franklin Jones was recognized as the Chesapeake District Ruritan of the Year and **Eastern Henrico** (VA) Club member Melvin Mathews (far left) was recognized for his 67 years of perfect attendance.



Abingdon Holds Children's Christmas Party

The 159 excited boys and girls who attended the **Abingdon** (VA) Ruritan Club's annual children's Christmas party enjoyed lots of cookies and ice cream, played many games, worked on craft projects, and participated in cake walks. Each child received an age-appropriate book and a bag of "goodies." Many of the children won door prizes consisting of bicycles and battery-powered kiddy cars. Of course, the highlight of the day was a visit by Santa Claus.



Warwick (VA) Ruritan Club member Woody Sanders (age 95) was recognized for his 64 years of service and 59 years of perfect attendance. Sanders has attended 21 National Conventions. Pictured is 2016 Warwick Club President Woody Sanders Jr. congratulating Woody Sanders Sr.



News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District continued

King William Donates \$5,400 to Community

King William (VA) Ruritan Club held its Annual Ladies Night Dinner. The club donated \$5,400 to representatives from local fire and rescue squads, King William High School DARE program, and the King William Emergency Ministries. Earlier in 2016, the club gave two \$2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Pictured right is



David Leake presenting checks to King William Fire Marshall Andy Aigner, fire and rescue department representatives Josh Schrum, Caleb Mason, Ashley Gladden, and Bobby Gladden. Club member Jamie Fogg (pictured on the left) is shown presenting checks to King William Sheriff Department Representative Jeff Goodman and King William Emergency Ministries Randy Shank.

Rodgers Brown Receives 50-Year Perfect Attendance Pin



Gloucester (VA) Ruritan Club President Paul Bauer and Secretary Barbara Bauer present Rodgers Brown a club pin as well as a gold pocket protector from Ruritan National for 50 years of perfect attendance. Rodgers has been very active in the club. He has supported all club fundraisers, served as chairman of the annual Fish Fry, helped to build handicapped ramps, and supported the Gloucester County Fair. He was Ruritan of the Year in 2008 and served five times as Gloucester Club President since 1973.



The club held its meeting at Beaver Dam Park. Before the picnic, Paul Bauer led a flag retirement ceremony assisted by Boy Scout Troops 138 and 113. He is pictured demonstrating how Betsy Ross made the five-pointed star when making her flags. Club President Paul Beyea presented Troop 138 with a \$100 check.



New APNP Officers Installed

At the 2017 Ruritan National Convention, 1977 National President Jerry Ellis installed the 2017 officers for the Association of Past National Presidents. Pictured (l-r) are 2002 National President Millard Thacker, Vice President; 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter, President; Jerry Ellis; and 2004 National President John Hancock, Secretary/Treasurer.



Lucketts Elementary Rudy Youth Collect Coats



Through the generosity of the Lucketts, VA community, the 2016 coat drive sponsored by the **Lucketts Elementary School Rudy Youth Club** (VA) was a big success. The club joined the **Lucketts** (VA) Ruritan Club and collected over 225 coats and outer wear. The primary purpose of the drive was to collect coats for 51 students determined by school staff to be in need of winter coats. The Ruritan Club purchased additional coats to make up the difference along with new shoes and gloves for each of the 51 students.

In addition to the school-aged children's coats collected, coats and other outer wear from toddler to adult were also received. Lucketts Elementary School Principal Carolyn Clement stated, "We are so proud of our Rudy Youth Club members and their drive to help others. It demonstrates the commitment our community has to support our families in need. We could not do any of this without the strong partnership and support we receive from the Lucketts Ruritan Club." Pictured right are Lucketts Club members Ava Walters and Steve Hillebrand handing out flyers for the coat drive at the club's weekly trash and recycling collection service.



Steve Early Receives Tom Downing Award



Bealeton-Remington (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 80th anniversary and presented Steve Early with a Tom Downing Award. Early has been a member for 50 years. Others in attendance were Margaret Makowski and Darlene Constant. Pictured is Joe Hulver presenting the Tom Downing Award to Steve Early.

Eugene Larrick Recognized for 54 Years of Perfect Attendance

Eugene Larrick attended his first **Round Hill** (VA) Ruritan Club meeting in 1952. Larrick has 54 years of perfect attendance. He attends every meeting with a joke and a smile. The club enjoys his

stories about the history of the club and the changes that have occurred over 54 years. When asked about the changes he smiles and says, "It just keeps getting better." Pictured (l-r) are Eugene Larrick receiving his certificate of appreciation and 2016 Round Hill Club President Rusty Pugh.

Do you ever wonder what the homeless want for Christmas? The club on Christmas Eve asked Santa (who was played by Round Hill Club member Gill Strosnider). Santa was there to offer some Christmas cheer to the homeless.



The homeless come through a local program called WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter). The homeless have an opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa, a hot meal, a warm place to sleep, and some Christmas goodies. Santa said, "They enjoyed having their picture taken. Some of them send the pictures to family members to assure them they are okay. They want compassion, a warm place to sleep, a home cooked meal and peace on earth." Thanks to the Round Hill Ruritan Club, local churches, other Ruritan clubs, and the community, most of their list were filled this Christmas.



News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District continued

Nokesville-Bristow Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Nokesville-Bristow (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. Over 60 people attended the event. 2016 National President Calvin Shelton and First Lady Patsy were in attendance. Ken Hinkle gave a brief history of the club. The club's fundraising activities included participating in the Nokesville Day in May, Brunswick Stew sales, and tent rentals. The club presents yearly scholarships and pays tuition for students to attend the Medal of Honor, Freedom Foundation, and Ruritan Youth Leadership Camp. The club purchases flags during national holidays,

provides Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for the needy, and donates Rudy Bears to children in crisis. The community service projects include Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Stream clean-up, food pick-up and distribution for the Manassa St. Thomas Food Pantry, working concessions, and cooking for the band at the Brentsville District High School. Pictured (l-r) are Ken Hinkle, Patsy Shelton, 2016 National President Calvin Shelton, 2016 Nokesville-Bristow Club President Mary Ann Williams, and Treasurer Rick McMahon.

News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

Jim Garza Received Scout Leader Service Award

Jim Garza, a member of the **Amelia** (VA) Ruritan Club and leader of Boy Scout Troop 6504, has received the Ruritan National Scout Leader Service Award. This award recognizes Ruritan members who have made a significant contribution to the youth of their communities by volunteering in the program of scouting organizations. Appomattox District Governor Bruce Butler presented the award. Pictured (l-r) are Bruce Butler, Jim Garza, and Amelia Club President Jim Lawson.



Cartersville Honors Law Enforcement



Cartersville (VA) Ruritan Club honored area law enforcement representing Cumberland County Sheriff's Department and the Virginia State Police. In the back row (l-r) are Dispatch Supervisor Grace Fitzgerald, Dispatcher Brittany Anderson, Virginia State Police Sgt. J.H. Madding, Cumberland County Sheriff Darrell Holdges, Virginia State Police Trooper J.H. Wolford, Deputy Mat-

thew Seal, and Dispatcher Jean Dunivan. In the front row (l-r) are Dispatcher Shellie Anderson, Virginia State Police Trooper C.S. Thackston, Sgt. Jimmy Ownby, Dispatcher Joseph Barker, Captain Dennis Ownby, and Virginia State Police Trooper B.S. Davis.

Clarksville Voted Best Float

Clarksville (VA) Ruritan float was voted best in the Christmas parade. Treasurer Rose McMahon (Rudy Bear) is joined by Clarksville Past President Julie Ames (elf.)



News From Ruritan: Appomattox District continued

Keysville Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Keysville (VA) Ruritan Club celebrates its 50th anniversary by honoring Reverend Coan Agee for his 50 years of service and 50 years of perfect attendance. Agee has served in all positions and is currently serving as the Keysville Club Chaplain. Appomattox District Governor Bruce Butler and Keysville Club Secretary presented him with his 50-year pins. Pictured above (front and center) are Reverend Coan Agee and his wife Velda surrounded by his family. Public Relations Chair Gerry Pettus presented Rudy Bears to the Keysville Volunteer Fire Department, Charlotte County Rescue Squad, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Department.

Pictured top left (l-r) are Keysville Club Director Ron Graves, Appomattox District Governor Bruce Butler, Public Relations Chair Gerry Pettus, Vice President David Watkins, President Gary Elder, Secretary Betty Watts, and Treasurer Danny Flynn.

News From Ruritan: Southwest Virginia District

Janelle Hamric Plays at District Convention



The **Southwest Virginia District** Convention was hosted by the Rye Valley Club at the Sugar Grove Elementary School. The guest speaker for the evening was 1999 National President Rick Poff. Janelle Hamric (age

100) played "America." A memorial table was set up representing the deaths for 2016 in the district. After the installation of officers, the convention ended on a high note with a drawing of door prizes and an auction.



Betsy Gibson Named Yuma Ruritan of the Year

Betsy Gibson (pictured on the left) received the **Yuma (VA)** Ruritan Club Ruritan of the Year Award. Pictured with Gibson is 2016 Yuma Club President Chuck Bullock.



News From Ruritan: Southwest Virginia District continued

Seven Mile Ford Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Seven Mile Ford (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. National Director Gary Olinger presented the club with an anniversary plaque. Others in attendance were National Director Glen Broadwater and Southwest Virginia District Governor Jesse Choate. The first club president of Seven Mile Ford is shown holding the plaque.



News From Ruritan: Woodrow Wilson District

Middlebrook Hosts Veterans Day Program



The **Middlebrook** (VA) Ruritan Club hosted a Veterans Day program. Mike Kirsch, a member of the **Deep Creek** (VA) Ruritan Club served as the Master of Ceremonies for the program. Mike is a retired Navy Senior Petty Officer, Surface Warfare Specialist. He served in a variety of assignments, including aviation squadrons and shipboard duty. He also served on staff duty in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations and was assigned to the White House during the early years of the Reagan presidency. He retired from the Navy in 1990. The

Clemmer-McGuffin Post 13 of the American Legion assisted with the program. Approximately 35 local veterans attended the program and were given a free banquet meal, individual recognition, and a memento for their service. The club also hosted its 17th Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting with music from area choirs and a barbershop quartet, free refreshments, tree

lighting ceremony, and a visit from Santa played by Kirsch. Santa had three youth members helping with the elf duties. Hannah Krzastek, Isabella Krzastek, and Ashlyn Clemmer gave out goody bags from the club to the children. The club received front-page coverage in the local newspaper for the event. Youth member Alex Nichols (left) talked with Santa, as well as many other children in attendance, to make sure Santa knew what they wanted for



Christmas. The club built a display and participated in the Festival of Lights around Gypsy Hill Park. The club received front-page newspaper coverage for this display as well. Estimates were that thousands of people rode through the park to see the displays.



News From Ruritan: Woodrow Wilson District continued

Spottswood-Raphine Holds Horse Show



The 91st Annual **Spottswood-Raphine** (VA) Ruritan Club Horse Show was held at the Spottswood Community Center. There were 53 classes with 212 entries and 20 horses representing Hunter/Jumper over fences, English, Western, and Gaited Horses on the flat. Special recognition to the following folks who helped make the Horse Show a success: Judge- Ashley Owens, Veterinarian Dr. Brent Hall, Horse Show Managers Todd and Amy Fretwell, Ring Master Todd Fretwell, Announcers Pete Martens and Donald Clark, Secretary Alice Martens, Farrier Benji McCrown, Program Sue Brooks, Photographer Amanda Green, 2016 Spottswood-

Raphine Club Officers: President Hedley Coffee, Vice President Karen Reeves, Secretary Stanley Benson, and Treasurer John Arehart. The club also prepared and sold barbecue chicken halves as well as chicken barbecue dinners under the leadership of E.R. Brooks and Charlie May. Food could also be obtained at the club's concession stand. Members of the Ruritan Club secured ads from community businesses to support the Horse Show Program.

New Hope Officers Installed

Woodrow Wilson District Governor David Propst installed **New Hope** (VA) Ruritan Club's 2017 officers. Pictured (l-r) are Propst, New Hope Director Robert Riner, Treasurer Diane Whetzel, Secretary John Morse, Vice President Marie Cull, and President Charlie Bill Fretwell.



News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

Linville-Edom Gains Three New Members

Linville-Edom (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 80th anniversary. Approximately 70 guests were in attendance including 2016 National President Calvin Shelton, National Director Larry Cassell and his wife Nelda, National Director Susan Greisz and her husband Leonard, National Director Glen Broadwater, Rockingham District Governor Reggie Snodgrass and his wife Cyndi, Rockingham Lt. Governor Martha Moyers, Rockingham Zone Governor Dink Keller and his wife Bonnie, Past National Director Perry Marshman, members' spouses, widows, and past club presidents and their families. Music was provided by the Linville Edom Elementary School Fifth Graders and by local musician Doyle Moats and Friends. Following a brief presentation on the club's 1942-1945 history, Shelton

inducted three new members and installed the club's 2017 officers and board of directors.

Pictured are Shelton, new members Lois Hinkle, Hardy Hinkle, and Wilma Grimm. Pictured on the left (l-r) are 2016 National President Calvin Shelton, Linville-Edom Club President Chad Good, Treasurer Jeff Roadcap, Vice President Shannon Good, Board Member John Myers, Secretary Cherie Roadcap, Board Members Chuck Rogers and Bill Baldwin.



Cross Keys-Mill Creek Works with Ruri-Teens



How do you properly introduce the new year and the newly-organized **Spotswood High School Ruri-Teen Club**? Why that's easy and fun. The **Cross Keys-Mill Creek (VA) Ruritan Club** held its first Community Breakfast with the help of a dozen Ruri-Teen members. Both clubs prepared and served sausage gravy and biscuits, pancakes, applesauce, apple butter, and drinks to over 150 hungry patrons. Cross Keys-Mill Creek Club President John Cuellar said, "This was a perfect opportunity to meet and work with the Ruri-Teen Club. The event also brought the community together for some delicious food and fellowship. The event was a success, with all proceeds going to the Spotswood High School Ruri-Teen Club."

Patricia Koontz Receives Award



Luray (VA) Ruritan Club presented its Business and Professional Award to Director of Page County Department of Social Services Patricia Koontz. Koontz has been with the local Page Office for over 30 years. She oversees the needs of Foster Care, WIC Program, Medicaid, Auxiliary Services, etc. A certificate of appreciation was presented to her by Luray Ruritan Club Committee Chair Jon Sisler. In addition to the award a \$50 stipend was also presented. Koontz requested the check be sent to the Martinsburg Veterans Hospital.



The club had a float in the annual Christmas Parade. Members got together to show Ruritan service by handing out over 100 stuffed animals collected through the year. For the second year, the Luray Club has made boxwood Christmas tree table decorations. The club sold over 45 trees for \$30 each which makes a very profitable fundraiser.

Maur-Brook-Olive Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Maur-Brook-Olive (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. National Director Larry Cassell presented Maur-Brook-Olive Club President Debbie Keller with an anniversary certificate. 2016 First Lady Patsy Shelton spoke about why Rudy Bear was wearing purple. 2016 National President Calvin Shelton auctioned off a Rudy Bear during the celebration. Others in attendance were Rockingham Zone 4 Governor Dennis Morris, Rockingham District Governor Reggie Snodgrass, Rockingham Lt. Governor Martha Moyers, and National Director Susan Greisz.



Harold and Carol Myers Receive Belmont Community Ruritan of the Year Award



News From Ruritan: Rockingham District continued



North Shenandoah Presents Awards

North Shenandoah (VA)

Ruritan Club held its annual awards night. Community Service Awards were presented to (l-r) Jimmy and Billy Hockman of J.C. Hockman and Son and to Holly Brumback with Woodbine Farm Market. North



Shenandoah Club President Von

Himelright presented donations to the fire departments and rescue squads.



Rockingham Luncheon Installs New Officers

The **Rockingham Luncheon (VA)** Club installed its 2017 officers. Larry Huffman had the honor of installing Rockingham Luncheon Club President Rick Keyton, Vice President Paula Frazier, and Secretary JoAnn Wenger. (Not pictured are Treasurer Winston Wenger, 1-year Director Wilma Grimm, 2-years Susan Huffman, 3-years-Mary Smith.)

News From Ruritan: Potomac District

John Kinney and Robert Merrell Receive Tom Downings



John Kinney is a charter member of the **Maugansville (MD)** Ruritan Club and its second president. He has been president of the club four times. He and his wife Helen started the Christmas wreath project. He also started the blue bird project and with Ralph Tracey the veterans recognition program. He also was the President of the local Rotary Club, President of the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce, and was an 18-year member of the Greencastle-Antrim School Board serving as its president for six years. John also has a love of Scouting. He was a founder and first committee chairman of Boy Scout Troop 99 in Greencastle and served as its second Scoutmaster for 14 years.

He is a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. He is a 60-year member of his Masonic Lodge. John is a veteran of World War II, piloting B-25s in the Caribbean where he shares credit with disabling and the subsequent capture of a German submarine. Later he piloted B-24s with the 446th bomb group of the 8th Army Air Corp. Flying out of Bungay, in the East Anglia area of England he successfully completed 30 bombing missions over Nazi-held Europe. Pictured are Maugansville Club President Matt Berger presenting John Kinney with a plaque inducting him as a Ruritan Tom Downing Fellow.

Robert Merrell received a Tom Downing Award from the **Keedysville (MD)** Ruritan Club. He has been a member for over twenty years and is always available for club projects including basket bingo.



District Growth Awards			
District	% Growth	2017 Governor	2016 Governor
SMALL DISTRICTS-500 MEMBERS OR LESS			
Middle America District	13.70%	Raymond George	Alan Stewart
MEDIUM DISTRICTS-501-1000 MEMBERS			
Upper WV District	1.49%	Ken Paugh	Clinton Guy Cox
LARGE DISTRICTS-1001+ MEMBERS			
Delmarva- NJ	2.79%	George D. Knotts	Linn Harris

News From Ruritan: Potomac District continued

Shady Grove Honors Veterans



Veterans were honored at the **Shady Grove** (PA) Ruritan Club meeting. Pictured in the back are Jack Lynch, J.D. Rinehart, Robert Carper, Robert Miller, Allen Schooley, Robert Snyder, Robert Norris, John Myers, Alen Jimick, Hal Myers, Robert Gearhart, Frank Schieb, John Hykes, Travis Young, Brian Eichman. Pictured in the middle row are Larry Williams, Chester Williams, Reed Burke, Glen Haugh, Clint Pentz, John Baer, John Kinney, William Smith. Pictured in the front row are Stephen Milback, and Mike Young.

Lothian's Fundraiser Huge Success

Who says burning burgers, grilling hot dogs and sausages, and serving barbeque does not pay off? The **Lothian** (MD) Ruritan Club netted \$8,914.11 during three weekends at the Greenstreet Garden Center Fall Festival. The festival included spooky wagon rides through barns and forest and ended at a corn maze and play area. Families returned hungry for charcoal broiled burger, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausages, and hot barbeque straight from the grill. The dining area was located near the pumpkin patch. Members and students affiliated with a local church provided the service. The check was presented at the annual Christmas party where officers for the 2017 year were installed, Ernie Shepherd was presented Lothian Ruritan of the Year, and Frank Gouin was awarded the Tom Downing Fellow Award.



Burkittsville Donates to FFA

Burkittsville (MD) Ruritan Club donated \$500 to the Brunswick High School FFA for five students attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. These students represented the State of Maryland on three judging teams (dairy, livestock, and horticulture.) Pictured (l-r) are Burkittsville Club President Wayne Leatherman, Burkittsville Student member Mikayla Stockman, FFA Club members Todd Allen and Claire Edwards, Burkittsville Student member Megan Pelan, FFA Club member Jill Allen, and Burkittsville Program Chair Carroll Huffer.



News From Ruritan: Albemarle District



Bethel (NC) Ruritan Club installed its 2017 club officers. Pictured (l-r) are Bethel Club Director Tommy Spivey, Treasurer Lois Saunders, Secretary Janie Proctor, Vice President Willis Proctor, and Club President Donald Madre.

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

News From Ruritan: Roanoke District

Gold Point Raises Money for Cancer Patient



Gold Point (NC) Ruritan Club held a turkey shoot to raise money for Ciera Scott who is battling cancer. The event raised \$750. Proceeds went towards Scott's medical bills. The club presented Hamilton Fire and Rescue Department with Rudy Bears. Pictured are Hamilton Fire and Rescue representatives Travis Scott and Stephen Swearinger and Gold Point Ruritan Club President Elliott Chapman.



News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt. Durham District

Bahama Inducts Three New Members



Bahama (NC) Ruritan Club completed a successful year of service to the community. A recent club meeting provided the opportunity for the club to receive a \$1,500 donation in recognition for its service contribution to the 2016 Bahama Day celebration, the induction of three new members, and the presentation of a cash donation from the club to a



Boy Scout troop. Bahama Club President Chuck Hill presided over all of the activities. The club assembled in early November for its annual photo and recognition of club officers. The December banquet provided outgoing Bahama Club President Chuck Hill and incoming Bahama Club President Nancy Williams the opportunity to share all of the great work conducted in 2016. Jim Bock received the Ruritan of the Year Award. The club completed the 2016 year with its annual presentation of Christmas lights and the annual Christmas parade.



Efland (NC) Ruritan Club Members



Important Publication Deadlines

May Newsletter – April 30, 2017

Summer Magazine – May 1, 2017

July Newsletter – June 30, 2017

Fall Magazine – August 1, 2017

October Newsletter – September 30, 2017

Winter Magazine – November 1, 2017

NOTE: If you have youth under age 18 in your pictures Ruritan National requires that you also send the appropriate signed permission forms for their photographs to be published. If you need a copy of the standard Ruritan "photo consent form" please contact our office or check the Ruritan National website.

News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt. Durham District continued

Redwood Honors Veterans

Redwood (NC) Ruritan Club honored veterans and family with a meal. The speaker for evening was US army Chaplain Luke Redmond. Entertainment was provided by Scottish Bagpiper Jerry Hudson who played patriotic songs for the group. Pictured (l-r) are Luke Redmond (US



Army Chaplain- Afghanistan), Ray Dickerson (US Army, Vietnam/Desert Storm), Tony Lopez (US

Army, Japan/Korea), George Woods (National Guard, USA), Oliver Krahwinkel (US Marines, Japan), Terry Stephenson (US Army, Vietnam), Jackson T. Glasgow (US Navy, Korea), Wayne Watson (US Army National Guard, USA), Floyd Pearce (US Air Force, USA), J. Morris Jones (US Navy Reserve 8 yrs), Mike Cifers (US Army, USA), Jerry Husketh (US Navy, Vietnam), Gary W. McLean (US Navy, USA), and Bandon Lemons (US Army, Iraq/ El Salvador/ Korea). Club members pick up litter on the assigned area of Cheek Road four times a

year. They have picked up an average of 10 bags each time and recycled plastic, glass, aluminum, tin, cardboard, and paper. The club also collected drink tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Durham and worked with NC Litter Sweep.



Hugh H. Johnson Receives Tom Downing Award

Ruritan National Foundation Trustee Corky Camin, presented **Silk Hope** (NC) Ruritan Club member Hugh H. Johnson with a Tom Downing Fellow Award. As a charter member, he has also received awards for 46 years consecutive perfect attendance and 53 total years perfect attendance.

The club held its annual Christmas awards banquet. 2016 Silk Hope Club President Jimmy Thomas presented the awards. Pictured (l-r) are Silk Hope Club President Jimmy Thomas, Lori Teague (Volunteer of the Year), Wanda Crawley (Silk Hope Ruritan Woman of the Year), Janice Dixon (Volunteer of the Year), and Neil Matthews (Agribusiness of the Year.)



News From Ruritan: Greenville-Goldsboro District

Rickie Pearson Named Deep Run's Ruritan of the Year

Deep Run (NC) Ruritan Club Secretary Lori Murphy presented Rickie Pearson with a plaque for the club's

Ruritan of the Year. New club officers were also installed. Pictured are Deep Run Club Treasurer Glenn Griffin, Deep Run Club Vice President Clint Smith, Deep Run Club President Cristy Smith, Deep Run Club Chaplain Earl Green and Deep Run Club Secretary Lori Murphy.



News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

Back Swamp Celebrates its 50th Anniversary



Back Swamp (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pictured (l-r) are Cape Fear District Governor Roger Peterson presenting Back Swamp Club President Linda Hunter with a Ruritan certificate recognizing the club and its members (past and present) for service to the club and its community. Club President Linda Hunter presented Donald Huffman Jr. with a certificate recognizing him as a charter member and thanking him for his service to the club and community. Huffman is currently the only charter member left in the club.



Cedar Fork Presents Rudy Bears



Cape Fear District Governor Roger Peterson presented NC-SHP Trooper A.C. Westmoreland with a certificate of recognition for 12 years of community service with the Cedar Fork (NC) Ruritan Club. Westmoreland is serving the North Carolina Highway Patrol Troop B District II Sampson County along with Sgt S.F. Cotton. Peterson also presented both with Rudy Bears.



Westmoreland is serving the North Carolina Highway Patrol Troop B District II Sampson County along with Sgt S.F. Cotton. Peterson also presented both with Rudy Bears.

Communication Awards	
2016 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Davy Crockett District
2nd	Chesapeake District
3rd	Lower WV District
2016 CLUB NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Abingdon Ruritan Club (VA)
2nd	Mt. Sidney Ruritan Club
3rd	Madison Ruritan Club
2016 CLUB WEBSITE AWARD	
1st	Abingdon Ruritan Club (VA)



Pictured are Anderson Creek (NC) Ruritan Club's 2017 Officers. In the back are Justin Ray, Johnny Reeves, Jimmy Raynor, and Cape Fear Zone Governor Polly Boldin. In the front are Marilyn Donovan, Anderson Creek Club President Steve Rigby, and Yvonne Driver. (Not pictured is Holt Felmet.)

News From Ruritan: Columbia District

Lucille Baillie Celebrates 100th Birthday



Lucille Baillie of the **Sandy Run (SC)** Ruritan Club celebrated her 100th birthday on December 15, 2016. A drop-in was held in her honor at Beulah United Methodist Church. 2015 Sandy Run Club President Becky Starnes presented her with a Certificate of Recognition from Ruritan National. Club members that helped Lucille celebrate this milestone were (l-r) Sheila Shanklin, Betty Geiger, Herbert Geiger, Lucille Baillie, Michael Hill, Becky Starnes, Howard Pees, Sandra Pees, Kay James, Evelyn Williams, and Ersie Vasseur. (Not pictured were Roger Hill and Dennis Shanklin.)

News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District



Headsville Countryside (WV) Ruritan Club presented gifts to two families during the Christmas season. Pictured are Headsville Countryside Board of Director Judy Paugh and Club President Russ Haggerty.

Most New Members Recruited in a Calendar Year

Name	# New Members	Club	District
Priscilla Burge	33	St. Clair/Colerain	Ohio
Harold Pearson	23	Harrison	Cherokee

News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District

Margaret Crookshanks Named Williamsburg's Community Champion



Williamsburg (WV) Ruritan Club honored Margaret Crookshanks as a Community Champion for her many years of volunteer service. A life-long resident of West Virginia, Margaret's community volunteer involvement is an ongoing commitment. After she retired from the school system, she utilized her incredible cooking skills to help with church and community functions. Since then, no function is complete without her food being a part of it.

She always has a smile and a good word. She joined the club a couple of years ago and has been a huge asset to the organization. She is a member of the Community Action Group, which has many fundraisers during the year, including the annual community fair in July. Also she is a member of the Williamsburg Area Emergency Response Team and the Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Tom Vance Named Maxwellton's Ruritan of the Year



Maxwelton (WV) Ruritan Club President Lee Godbey presented Tom Vance with the club's Ruritan of the Year for 2016. The club also gave donations to "Shop with a Cop" and provided lunch for the workers at the "Toys for Tots" distribution center.



Morrison Delivers Food Boxes

Morrison (TN) Ruritan Club distributed food boxes to the less fortunate for Christmas for the past 20 years. Each box contains enough food for a family of four to have Christmas breakfast and dinner. The club handed out 70 boxes this year. Pictured is Ashley

Freeze Jr. who helped carry the heavy boxes.



Taylors (TN) Ruritan Club's 2017 officers were installed by Past National Director W.W.

Johnson at its January meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Taylors Club Director Dan Wargo, Treasurer Tonya Dunn, Secretary Elizabeth Kalabus, Vice President Brad Jordan, President Heath Jordan, and W.W. Johnson.

As of June 1, 2016, the New Member Kits are no longer available for purchase. Ruritan National now sends out a New Member Packet to every member entered into the MMS. The packet includes a Foundation brochure, a Ruritan Forever brochure, a window cling, a Member Handbook, a certificate, Ruritan National Bylaws, Office Staff Directory, summary of Community Service Committees, Invitation to Membership, a current Ruritan Magazine, and a New Member Card. If the club would like to provide their new members with a Ruritan Lapel Pin they are available for purchase with our new supply company Shumsky. You can order on-line at <http://ruritan.shumskypromo.com> or call (800) 414-8946.

Other Awards

Outstanding Ruritan Scout Leader	Club
Charles R. Allen	Mannington Township
Joseph Carlton Braxton II	Wheat Swamp
James Garza	Amelia
Stanley Earl Lucas	Wheat Swamp
Outstanding Ruritan 4-H Leader	
Lockart Arbuckle	Maxwelton
Richard M. Funkhouser, Jr.	Maur-Brook-Olive
Teresa Funkhouser	Maur-Brook-Olive



Pictured are the 2017 Ruritan National Board of Directors promoting President Danny's sign project.

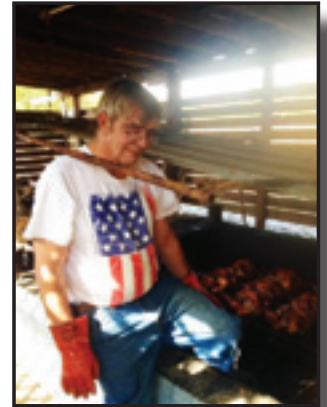
News From Ruritan: Alabama-Florida District

Bleeker Starts Rudy Bear Project



Bleeker (AL) Ruritan Club member, Rhonda Brooks is excited about the new club project called the "Rudy Project." When a child, grandchild, great grandchild, of club members or children of other family members from birth to 12 years of age is hospitalized or seriously ill the club will give them a Rudy Bear as an expression of their prayers and love.

Club member and Alabama-Florida District Governor Marc Wahler checks on the smoked turkeys during the club's annual Thanksgiving Smoked Ham and Turkey Sale. Funds raised will be used to feed the needy, award scholarships, and donate to other charitable organizations.



News From Ruritan: Ohio District

Frank Kurtz Jr. Named Beloit's Ruritan of the Year

Beloit (OH) Ruritan Club held its annual Christmas dinner with members and guests in attendance. The highlight of the evening was awarding the club's Ruritan of the Year to long-time member Frank Kurtz Jr. Frank has been in the club for 42 years. The award was presented by outgoing Beloit Club President Charlie Pierce. In attendance were Frank's parents Frank Kurtz Sr. and Peggy Kurtz.



Kyle Hart Earned Eagle Scout Award



Fairfield (OH) Ruritan Club Student member Kyle Hart has earned his Eagle Scout Award. He constructed a 12'x12' pavilion with picnic tables at the Headwater's Nature Trail. Kyle has shown great leadership skills as he has helped with club projects. The club will present him with a \$2,000 scholarship when he graduates high school. Pictured is Kyle with Ohio District Governor Wayne Holtom.

Don Peden Received Lodi's Community Service Award

The **Lodi** (OH) Ruritan Club presented Don Peden, Manager of Miller's Grocery Store, with the 2016 Community Service Award. "Don has been in the grocery business for 25 years and has been in Lodi for the last four years. He has been very helpful to the club by letting them ring the Salvation Army Bell at Miller's store for several years," stated Lodi Club President Larry Cray. The Salvation Army Bell is manned by volunteers from the club with some help from other local clubs. More than \$5,000 per year has been collected and the money is used to help local residents with emergency utility funds.



National Trail Donates to Food Pantry

National Trail (OH) Ruritan Club had a food booth at the 2016 Celebrate New Programs event. National Trail Club Treasurer Rick Morrison presented a \$975 check to Pastor Anne Weirich for the food pantry housed at the College Drive Presbyterian Church. Monies raised was able to purchase 3,860 lbs. of food.



News From Ruritan: Ohio District continued

Freda Hathaway Receives Tom Downing Award



2015 Ruritan National Foundation President David Freshly and Anne Freshly of the **Washington** (OH) Ruritan Club surprised Washington Ruritan Club's Finance Committee Co-Chair Freda Hathaway with a Tom Downing Award. Freda has crocheted numerous blocks and blankets for the Warm Up America project. She spearheaded a project called the Taste of Alliance which is one of the most successful projects for the club. Freda dedicates countless hours on the planning of the Taste of Alliance. Freda also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and numerous other community service projects. Pictured on the left (l-r) are David Freshly, Freda Hathaway, and Anne Freshly. The club presented a check for \$4,900 to Alliance Community

Pantry President Glenn Rupp. The money was raised from the Taste of Alliance fundraiser. The other \$600 profit from the Taste of Alliance was presented to the Greater Alliance Foundation for the annual July 4th Festival. Pictured are Alliance Community Pantry President Glenn Rupp, Washington Ruritan Club members Freda Hathaway, Kay Zank,

Larry Zank, and Club President Jerry Haynam. Haynam presented a \$300 check to the Washington Elementary STEAM Club. This year, Washington Elementary created a new "makerspace" for students to create, assemble, achieve, invent, produce, craft, and build different types of projects. This club allows students to use imagination and engineering that mixes all aspects of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). Pictured is Haynam presenting the check to STEAM coordinator Aubrie Horning.



Smithville Presents Scholarships

The **Smithville** (OH) Ruritan Club honored four 2016 Smithville Seniors with scholarships at its Christmas dinner at the Smithville Inn. Emily Horst received the Smithville Leroy Feusier Scholarship for \$500 and is attending Ohio State University studying animal science. Zoe Lin Bates received the Smithville Ruritan Scholarship for \$500 and is attending Kent University studying biology. Madison Waller received the Smithville Ruritan Scholarship for \$500 and is attending Akron Wayne College studying nursing. Jaret Woodward received the Ruritan Build Your Dollars Scholarship for \$515 and is attending Ohio Northern University studying computer science. Pictured are Emily Horst, Zoe Lin Bates, and Madison Waller. (Not pictured is Jaret Woodward.)



West Branch Area Ladies Install New Officers

Ohio Zone 6 Governor Dave Wingett installed the 2017 **West Branch Area Ladies** (OH) Ruritan Club

Officers. Pictured (l-r) are West Branch Area Ladies Club Secretary Sandy Bates, Treasurer MaryBelle Metzgar, Director Shirley Logsdon, Director Patricia Marty, Director Viola Blanchard, President Beverly Yaggi, and Vice President Leona Reichenbach. Blanchard presented Bates with a certificate of appreciation for her dedication to the club.



News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District



Collettsville Honors Veterans

Collettsville (NC) Ruritan Club honored 26 veterans with a meal followed by entertainment. In attendance was the Caldwell County Veterans Service Director/Officer.



News From Ruritan: Delmarva-New Jersey District

Mike Hiner Receives Tri-County Citizen of the Year Award

Tri-County (MD) Ruritan Club hosted its 40th Ladies Night. One highlight of the evening included the Citizen of the Year Award to Mike Hiner. Mike is the Willow Construction President and has been active in helping with hospice, homeless shelters, and Habitat for Humanity. He has served as a board member and held leadership positions in the Talbot Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of Rotary and the Chesapeake College Foundation. He volunteers with Talbot mentors and assists and coaches several youth athletic teams. Also presented that evening were 39-year attendance awards for charter members, Richard Sump, Jim Boyle, and Bill Callahan. The evening concluded with the installation of new officers. Over 60 were in attendance.



Rockawalkin (MD) Ruritan Club installed its 2017 Club President Kevin Jenkins and Club Treasurer Tammy Jenkins. Pictured are Kevin, Tammy, and Carson Jenkins. Carson (son) was the first one of the family to join.



Pictured are the 2017 Ruritan National Foundation Trustees.



News From Ruritan: Piedmont District

Lawsonville Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Lawsonville (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Since chartered, the club has contributed much to the community. Some projects have included building and remodeling over 30 homes for needy families, building handicap ramps, cutting and delivering wood for winter heat, supporting local Boy and Girl Scouts and Little Leagues, sponsoring blood mobiles, and financially assisting families devastated by events not planned. 2016 National President Calvin Shelton commented how times were tough 50 years ago, and it took hard working farmers and other businessmen who were willing to come together to make their community a better place to live. The highlight of the evening was Willis Overby, first president of the club and 1988 National President, receiving a 50-year perfect attendance plaque. Pictured are 2016 National President Calvin Shelton and Lawsonville Ruritan Club President Steven Bingman. Seated on the right is 1988 National President Willis Overby.



Doris Cook Celebrates 100th Birthday



Leasburg (NC) Ruritan Club's new officers surround the oldest member of the club, Doris Cook. Doris turned 100 earlier this year. Pictured (l-r) are Leasburg Treasurer Wanda Richmond, 2017 Vice President Ron Richmond, 2016 Vice President Dixie Vernon, Secretary Barbara Berdine, and Leasburg Club President and past National Director John Berdine. In other



news, Barbara Berdine received Leasburg Club and Piedmont District's Ruritan of the Year. Deana Berdine received Leasburg and Piedmont District's Rudy Youth of the Year.



Andy Turner receives Tom Downing Award. Pictured on the right (l-r) are Piedmont District Zone 12 Governor James Baily, Andy Turner, and Bob Beeson.

Andy Turner Receives Tom Downing Award

Piedmont District honored its 2016 District Governor Andy Turner with a Tom Downing Award. Through significant personal loss, he was very active and attentive to the needs of the district.



Pine Hall Goes Christmas Caroling



Pine Hall (NC) Ruritan Club started a new Christmas tradition. After its Christmas meeting, the club visited the home of a charter member that was shut-in and visited several other nearby shut-ins and sang Christmas Carols. Club members carried food, poinsettias, and the gift of song. 2011 National President and current Foundation Trustee Jayson Duncan said, "It was a blessing for all."

West Iredell Distributes Food Boxes

West Iredell (NC) Ruritan Club held its Annual Food Box Distribution. Over 140 boxes of canned goods were packed for needy families chosen by five local schools. The club has helped families with food over the holidays for more than 15 years. This year approximately \$4,000 was spent.



Sandy Ridge and Union Grove Honor Veterans



Sandy Ridge (NC) Ruritan Club helped host the 9th annual Veterans Appreciation Night. The Flags and Colors were presented by the Sandy Ridge Cub and Boy Scouts. After prayer the Ruritans and Scouts served the meal to the attendees. The entries for the



club's annual Veterans Day Contest from Sandy Ridge Elementary School students were acknowledged. A very moving video was presented using pictures from past meals. Veterans and their branch of service were acknowledged. Sandy Ridge Girl Scouts prepared gifts for the veterans, as did the Ruritans.

Union Grove (NC) Ruritan Club held its annual Veterans Day Dinner with over 100

veterans in attendance. Pictured are veterans of the Korean War and World War II. New club officers were installed. Pictured above on the left (l-r) are Union Grove Club President Wayne Mayberry, Vice President Stephen Tulbert, Secretary Gene Shaver, Treasurer Kimberly Mayberry, Directors Carol Tulbert and Alec Grant, and Piedmont Zone Governor Ronnie Williams.

V-Point Club Is Staying Busy



Pictured are **V-Point (NC)** Ruritan Club's December activities. Pictured left (l-r) are Waylan Holland and Ed Cartner ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Pictured right (l-r) are Sandra Femister and Jerry Sharpe. Joyce Rogers, Harmony Mayor,



presented V-Points Club Director Rayvon James with a check for the best float in the Christmas parade. Betty James and Waylan Holland are pictured with the fruit gift baskets.

Zephyr Installs Nine New Members



Zephyr (NC) Club member Johnny Collins prepared chopped barbeque, slaw, and hushpuppies as a membership recruiting meal. Pictured with Collins are seven of the nine new members of the club.

Club President Tanya Jones presented Collins with the President's Golden Key Award. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Allen Edwards, Susan Edwards, Adale White, Becky Cox,



Jeff Cox, and Johnny Collins. Pictured in the front (l-r) are William Edwards and Samantha Cox.

News From Ruritan: Dan River District



Fontaine Presents Rudy Bears

The **Fontaine** (VA) Ruritan Club gave Rudy Bears to Major Eric Winn of the local sheriff's department, Shane Clifton of the Virginia State Police, and Andy Powers of Martinsville EMS. Pictured (l-r) are Major Eric

Winn, Shane Clifton, and Andy Powers. The club installed its 2017 officers. Pictured are Fontaine President Barbara Arthur, Secretary Amy Mills, Treasurer Debbie Martin, Director Vicki Blair, and Vice President John Elliott.

Ridgeway Honors Marvin East and Buddy Plybon

Ridgeway (VA) Ruritan Club honored two members with an award named after one of its deceased members. The "Robert C. Martin" award went to Marvin East. Marvin has been in the club for 32 years. He is also the last charter member from the **Red Bank** (VA) Ruritan Club. Also getting this award was Buddy Plybon. Buddy has been in the club for 40 years. Pictured with Marvin and Buddy are Robert C.(Billy) Martin, Dan River Zone 3 Governor Barbara Arthur, Ridgeway Club President Robert Lackey, and Dan River Zone 1 Governor Charlie Bowman.



Turbeville Sells Barbeque

Turbeville (VA) Ruritan Club members Gail Hardy and D. H. MacDowell worked the fall barbecue fundraiser. Over 70 pounds of barbecue were served with desserts, drinks, baked beans, hush puppies, and slaw.



A special "THANK YOU" to the Dan River District for providing a hot dog supper with all the fixings, for many years, on Friday night of the Youth Camp.

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. Please contact your National Office for more information.

News From Ruritan: New River District

Edwin and Carrie Cole Presented Membership Pins



Check (VA) Ruritan Club presented Edwin Cole with a plaque and membership pin for his 41 years of service and Carrie Cole with a certificate and a 20-year membership pin. Veterans honored and presented with a veteran pin were Jim Feltner, John Hale, Vester Manning, and Mick Smith (Army); Melvin Gearhart (Coast Guard); Buddy McMin-



nis (Marine); and Mark Allen, Frank Hancock, and Jason Rutledge (Navy). Membership pins were presented to Melvin Gearhart, Vester Manning, and Sherrell Poff (30 years), and Brenda Gearhart, Frank Hancock, Alma Lou Manning, Barry Smith, Cindy Smith, and Mick Smith (10 year.) Others in attendance were 2016 New River District Governor Dave Bockes, 2011 New River District Governor Ben Crawford, Carol Crawford, New River Zone 5 Governor Wayne Smith, and Shirley Smith.



Belmont II (VA) Ruritan Club member Fredene Poff made and delivered 251 chemo caps to the Blue Ridge Cancer Center in Christiansburg, Virginia.

Join in the celebration of Ruritan Awareness Month in May! Ruritans across the country will be conducting special projects to serve others and bring awareness in their communities. This is a great way to support recruitment of new members and to let people know what great things your Ruritan club is doing in your community.

News From Ruritan: Smoky Mountain District

East Roane County Celebrates Awards

East Roane County (TN) Ruritan Club received five Community Service awards for the first time in club history at the Smoky Mountain District Convention. In addition the club honored Rudy Youth of the Year Kena Holmes. East Roane County Club President Zack McCallie stated, "This group is an honor to lead and work with to help better our community."



Calendar of Events On Website

Ruritan National is maintaining a calendar of Ruritan events and committee meetings as well as information on office closings and staff availability. This calendar, developed through Google Calendars, can be found under the "Events Calendar" link at <http://ruritan.org>. Clicking on many items provides additional detail and directions.

Districts are invited to submit items to include on the calendar by emailing office@ruritan.org.

Belmont Prepares Christmas Baskets



Belmont (VA) Ruritan Club worked with the Belmont Club of Women to prepare a total of 23 Christmas baskets for those in need and to offer some good cheer. Twenty persons participated in the packing of the fruits and candies in beautiful large bowls. The work was done in a well-coordinated and fun-filled assembly line. A lot of enthusiasm, shared stories, background music, and wonderful leadership accompanied the designing of each basket. Baskets were wrapped in cellophane and topped with a red ribbon. Belmont Ruritan Club member Bernie White and Belmont Club of Women member Bonnie Lambert served as the team leaders.

Jefferson Installs Wayside Bench

Jefferson (VA) Ruritan Club installed a wayside bench at Spilman Community Park in Culpeper County in memory of 10-year member Marcy Bade who passed away last year. Marcy had dedicated her early years to teaching elementary children. Therefore, the bench was set to overlook the children's playground at the park. The sturdy construction of the bench is designed to last for decades.



Monticello Presents Rudy Bears



Every year the **Monticello** (VA) Ruritan Club gives Rudy Bears to the local Toy Lift program. For the third year in a row, some of our youngest members have been our club's representatives. They enjoy giving back as much as their parents and grandparents.



2016 Ruritan National Foundation District Awards

Highest Percentage Of Clubs in District Donating

3rd Place	Chris Cartwright	43%	Natural Bridge
2nd Place	LauraMary Ryan	49%	Rockingham
1st Place	Echols "Phil" Jeffries	100%	Lower WV

Most Dollars Donated by Clubs

3rd Place	Perry Marshman	\$3,225	Rapidan
2nd Place	Glen Davis	\$4,597	Upper WV
1st Place	J.J. Bernard Lerch III	\$4,857	Potomac

Highest Average Donation Per Member

3rd Place	Pat Davis	\$9.30	New River
2nd Place	J.J. Bernard Lerch III	\$10.54	Potomac
1st Place	Perry Marshman	\$13.41	Rapidan

News From Ruritan: Opportunity Land District

Western Yell Hosts Worship Service



The **Western Yell** (AR) Ruritan Club hosted the 41st annual Independence Day community worship service and lunch. Over 150 were in attendance. This annual service brings together individuals, families, and churches to worship God and celebrate our nation's freedom. Each year an offering is taken for a benevolent organization in the area. This year an offering of \$650 was collected and donated to "The Call" (**Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime**). This organization is a faith-based ministry that helps meet needs of child foster care and assists in the process of adoption.



News From Ruritan: Gulf Area

Gulf Area Clubs Making a Difference



Positive Action (MS) Ruritan Club sponsors a coat and school uniform drive. The club collected the coats and then takes them to Simmons Steam Cleaners and Laundry to have them cleaned. Other clothing items were also donated for the cause. The club gave away over 400 clothing items. Pictured on the right (l-r) are Mrs. Simmons and Posi-



tive Action Club member Hattie Harris. Pictured top left are club members

that worked the activity. The club also has its own community garden and delivers vegetables to people in the community. The pick of the day was okra. A lot of okra was delivered that day.



are Positive Action Chaplain Barbara Bruce, Treasurer Hattie Harris, Secretary Vickie Alexander, Linwood Club Secretary Janie Dunbar, Positive Action Assistant Secretary Debra Smith, Positive Action Vice President Jason Jones, and Linwood Club President Thelma Daniel.

National Director Don Ramey installed new club officers for the Positive Action and **Linwood Circle** (MS) Ruritan Club. Pictured are Positive



**ARLETTA
CLUTTEUR**

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

THE \$600 WANTED WINNER FOR THE
FOURTH QUARTER OF 2016 WAS
ARLETTA CLUTTEUR OF THE
LINVILLE-EDOM RURITAN CLUB
IN THE ROCKINGHAM DISTRICT



REWARDED \$600

MARVIN ELLER, JR.

THE \$200 WINNER FOR THE FOURTH
QUARTER WAS MARVIN ELLER JR.
OF THE GAMEWELL RURITAN CLUB
IN THE WESTERN NC DISTRICT



**REWARDED
\$200**

HAROLD PEARSON SR

\$400 WENT TO HAROLD PEARSON, SR.
OF THE HARRISON CLUB IN THE
CHEROKEE DISTRICT



**REWARDED
\$400**

