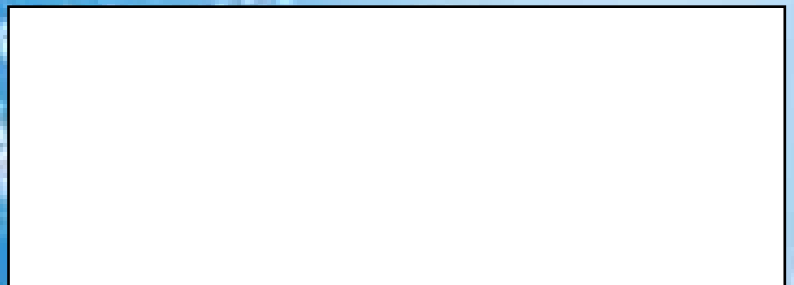




Ruritan

Volume 82, Winter 2017

*May Your Days Be
Merry and Bright!*





TOGETHER ...We Can Make A Difference Helping Others ...We Will

Greetings Ruritan family. Are you doing your part to make a difference? As we have traveled about Ruritanland, Linda and I have seen up close how many of you have made a difference. While reflecting on our travels and experiences we wish to thank you for the opportunity to visit with and share in your fundraising events and club meetings. We have attended club anniversaries where we witnessed the pride of Ruritans as they honored charter members, recognized other members for their long-time service, and recognized others for special and outstanding service to improve their community. We thank you again for your fellowship, your friendship, the fantastic meals, and good Ruritan hospitality you extended to us as we visited with you in your homes, your clubs, and your districts. We thank you for giving

your time, your talents, your money, and all your efforts in the name of Ruritan to make your communities a better place to live, work, and raise families because you care. Ruritans will continue to make a difference in their communities and those efforts will make a difference in our country and thus improve the world. Truly, Ruritans are exhibiting the actions that are described in this saying written by Albert Schweitzer: **“Even if it’s a little thing, do something for those who have need of a man’s help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For, remember, you don’t live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here to.”**

Linda and I thank you for the positive impact you display in your own club and for the ones in your community. As Ruritans we must continue to display and portray a positive attitude because then and only then can we change this great organization for the better. Each of our communities need it and this organization deserves it.

All year long, everywhere Linda and I have visited our veterans and our military have been honored for their service. I ask each of you to honor veterans and military in your own individual community. Thank them for their service, sponsor them by inviting them to attend a meeting in their honor, and recognize them for their service.

Always remember to support your Ruritan National Foundation and the goals set by your Trustees. Come to Charleston and bring items for their auction. Join them on Friday evening for their 50th anniversary birthday party and for the auction that follows. They and the students that will receive scholarships will also thank you.

First Lady Linda and I wish to say “thank you” to all that have made a donation to help find a cure for ALS and for any future donations made due to her ALS Awareness Project this year. Donations by Ruritans through the special website created have exceeded \$11,000.

All year long, my messages have been centered around our slogan of “Together We Affect Change Because We Believe In Ruritan.” I believe each one of us is vital for our great organization to continue successfully



President Danny, First Lady Linda, and our whole family (pictured above) would like to thank our entire “Ruritan Family” for their confidence in us to be their leaders and for the kind hospitality and friendship extended to us throughout the year everywhere we visited.

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*See You in
Charleston for the
2018 National Convention*



Message From Executive Director Michael Chrisley

Have a Blessed Holiday Season



This is the time of year when we give thanks and celebrate. We are so thankful for all our clubs and members. You volunteer in the local community to make the community a better place to live and work. All of our members give of their time and talents to improve the local community. We help people of all races, creeds, faiths, colors and lifestyles. The common denominator for all we do is need. Unfortunately, needs may change, but there are always needs. We work hard to improve the lives of others never expecting anything in return except knowing that we did the right thing and we did our best. So many people need us and in community after community we rise to the call and help. We are an organization that embodies the spirit of the seasons.

Preparations are almost complete for a great convention in Charleston South Carolina. Charleston is a great city with so much to offer. We have several great tours planned as well as buses that will take you into the city so that you can

explore on your own. Our online registration is now open. Please go to the MMS and then to your record. Under the events tab you can register for the convention.

The convention program committee has planned a great convention with a number of activities and events. Please come and enjoy the convention and the city of Charleston. We will be electing our officers and directors and considering changes to the bylaws. Come take part in the decision making process and enjoy the fellowship of new and old friends.

Because you do so much for so many we are always looking for ways to make your membership more valuable. We have just completed an arrangement with Gallagher Affinity to provide a number of valuable discounts and services for you. Please visit Ruritan.org and go to the member resources page for an updated list of our offerings.

As always our staff wishes you the best in the upcoming year and hope that you and yours have a blessed holiday season.

New Clubs for 2017

New Club	District	Sponsoring Club	DRM*
Black Knight Ruri-Teen	35	Clear Springs	Jonathan Lafollette Evie Lafollette
Unicoi Ruri-Teen	35	Unicoi	Jonathan Lafollette Phillip Hensley
DeRuyter Ruri-Teen	55	Tioughnioga	Shea Skeeel Trina Purcell
Brookneal 21 st Century	5	Lyn-Dan Heights	O.H. Bobbitt III
Random act of Kindness Ruri-Teen	10	Jefferson	Larry Cassell

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

Bylaws to be Voted on at the National Convention in Charleston

When the delegates gather in January 2018, in Charleston, SC for the 2018 Ruritan National Convention, in addition to electing national leaders, they will be considering three bylaws amendments, all passed by the Ruritan National Board of Directors at their August 2017 meeting.

The first proposed national bylaws changes calls for ARTICLE III, Membership/Members, Section 3. Classifications be amended by adding the following after item "G."

H. Affiliate. 1. Ruritan Affiliate Members shall be comprised solely of members who have dropped from a local Club but want to remain affiliated with Ruritan. Affiliate members will not be associated with any Club or District. 2. The purpose of Affiliate Membership is to allow members to maintain contact with Ruritan and continue to support this organization. Affiliate members can choose to change to a regular Club member at any time upon approval of a local Club.

Approval of this bylaws amendment will require Article III, Section 4, Dues and Fees be amended to add item H. Affiliate Member Dues. Affiliate member annual national dues shall be equal to those determined by the BOD for Active Adult members.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT: This bylaws amendment will, in essence, create a new class of Ruritan membership. The idea is to capture Ruritan members who have dropped from existing clubs by inviting them to remain as an affiliate member in order to maintain them in the Ruritan family. Example - Net loss of 848 members in 2016 cost \$37,312.

The second national bylaws amendment proposes that Article V, Officers, be amended by striking text and replacing text as outlined below:

Section 1. Elected Officers. Be amended by striking, "The elected officers of Ruritan National shall be a president, a president-elect, a secretary, a treasurer, and twenty-one national directors."

Article V, Officers, Section 3. Term of Office. A. President. ~~"Shall be elected annually in a manner prescribed in these bylaws and hold office for one (1) year or until a successor is elected and installed."~~

Article V, Section 3. Term of Office. A. President. Strike all and replace with, "The President-Elect after completing their term, shall be installed as President for a term of one (1) year unless otherwise prescribed in these bylaws."

Article V, Officers, Section 4. Vacancy in Office. Be amended by adding, "In the event of a vacancy of the office of President-Elect, a special election for President will be held at the next National Convention."

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT: Housekeeping measures for Sections 1 & 3 and to address the issue of how to fill the untimely vacancy of the President-Elect. Since we do not elect a President but install the President-Elect into the office of President, we would need a special election for the President at the next National Convention.

And the final national bylaws amendment references Article V, Section 3E - National Directors which currently reads, "Twenty-one directors will be elected for a three (3) year term. Seven (7) will be elected for a full term each year with no more than two (2) elected for full terms from the same state in any one year. ~~No director who has completed a full three (3) year term will be eligible for re-election until a lapse of one (1) year.~~" Strike the last sentence from Article V, Section 3E. National Directors. "No director who has completed a full three (3) year term will be eligible for re-election until a lapse of one (1) year."

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT: To bring consistency to the Bylaws regarding the eligibility for re-election of our National Treasurer, National Secretary, and National Directors.

Continued on next page

According to the Ruritan National Bylaws these three amendments can be considered by delegates providing they were approved by the National Board of Directors and are published in the Ruritan National Magazine at least 30 days before the opening of the next scheduled Ruritan National Convention. Bylaws amendments voted on by delegates must pass by two-thirds of the delegates present and voting.

National Convention Mini Schedule

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

January Board Meeting
Sgt-at-Arms Meeting
Candidate Certification/Training

Thursday, January 18, 2018

2018 Governors Training
Opening/Vespers Dinner (evening)

Friday, January 19, 2018

Morning Workshops
Morning Business Session
Veterans Service
First Lady's Luncheon

NOTE: Delegate certification closes at 1 p.m.
Voting – 2:00 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Note: those with special physical needs and/or handicaps vote first.)

Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration
Foundation Live Auction

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Morning Workshops
Morning Business Session with Awards
Morning Voting – 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m.

NOTE: Delegate certification closes at 1 p.m. on Friday

Installation Banquet

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Worship Service

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



Veterans Service Speaker

President Danny Privott is delighted to announce that Major General R. Steve Siegfried, U.S. Army Retired, will be speaking at the Veterans Service at the 2018 National Convention. The Veterans Service will be on Friday, January 19th, following the morning business session. The following information is quoted from his biography: "Steve Siegfried retired from the U.S. Army on 1 October 1995 after thirty-four years of service. He enlisted in 1961, rose to the rank of Sergeant, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry from Officer Candidate School in 1963 and subsequently rose to the rank of Major General. From December 1991 to March 1994 he was the Commanding General of Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His last position in the Army was as Deputy, The Inspector General and finally as Acting, The Inspector General, U.S. Army. During his thirty-four years of service he served overseas tours in Panama, Germany, Great Britain and two combat tours in Vietnam. He proudly wears two Distinguished Service Medals, the Silver Star, The Soldiers medal for Heroism, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts, as well as twenty-seven other personal awards for bravery, achievement and service. He also has earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, American and British jump wings and the Army Staff and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. In 1985 he was inducted into the Officers' Candidate School Hall of Fame. He was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by the Governor of South Carolina in 1995, and in 1997 he was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice, the highest recognition the Infantry can confer on one of its own. Steve was the recipient in 2002 of the SGT William Jasper Freedom Award, presented by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce."



Please join us after the business session on Friday to hear this exhilarating veteran's speaker.

**Together We
Affect Change**



Ruritan Convention 2018

January 18-21 in Charleston SC.



Shumsky will be set-up for 3 days at the convention. We will be having a one-hour session on Saturday morning at 7:30 am, to discuss the website, give information, and listen to needs and wants of the members. Stop by our booth to see what's new. We will be giving out a free gift with purchase.

You Asked & We Listened

Shumsky has added several new items to the Ruritan Supply Site. These items were requested by the members.

Did You Know?

- 9/10 recipients remember the branding on a promotional product
- 83% are more likely to do business with that brand



Questions?

Michelle Monhollen
Customer Service
(800) 414-8946
mmm@shumsky.com



ruritan.shumskypromo.com

Candidates Announce for National Office

As of November 1, Ruritan National had the following candidates for national office. They are: **President Elect** - Larry Cassell; **National Treasurer** - Larry Blount and David Thompson; **National Directors** - Dennis Bagnell, Lynn Fillers, Cassandra Flanagan, Edward "Ed" Hicks, and Donna Jo Poulton; **Foundation Trustee** - Graham Bryant. Only candidates declaring between July 1 and November 1 are featured in this issue. They are: **National Directors** - Larry Bowman, Donna Bricker, and Tim Spitler, and **Two Year Unexpired Term** - Robin Davenport.



National Director

Larry Bowman
265 James Stuart Road
Lewisburg, WV 24901
Phone: (304) 645-4709
Cell: (304) 661-2403
ldbowman84@hotmail.com

CLUB: Member of Maxwelton (WV) Ruritan Club since 1995; served as Vice President (1998); President (1999); Secretary (2001-09); and Director (2012-present).

DISTRICT: Lower West Virginia District, Zone 7 Governor (2001); District Secretary (2015); District Lt. Governor (2016); and District Governor (2017).

NATIONAL: Served as Sergeant-at-Arms and Flag Ceremony

EDUCATION: Marsh Fork High School; Associates Degree, Electrical Engineering Technology, National Institute of Technology.

OCCUPATION: Operational Excellence Engineer at ABB, Inc., Lewisburg, WV; Green Belt Six Sigma; Certified Quality Auditor – ISO 9001; Certified Health & Safety Auditor – OHSAS 18001; Master Trainer/Coach – 4Q Problem Solving Methodology.

OTHER: Deacon at Grassroots Church (Southern Baptist); Awana Commander (Children's Ministry); avid golfer, hunter, volunteer umpire, and Elk member; Wife, Debbie, and daughter, Jennifer, are both Ruritan members (Debbie was 2014 National Ruritan of the Year).



National Director

Donna Jean Bricker
2978 Lynn Road
Canfield, OH 44406
Phone: (330) 507-2046
donnab256@aol.com

CLUB: Ruritan member since 1994, currently member of Beaver Township (OH) Ruritan Club; served as Club Director, Membership Chair; Vice President and President.

DISTRICT: Ohio District Zone 10 Governor (2014-16); District Lt. Governor (2011); District Governor (2012); District G&D Chair (2013).

NATIONAL: National Youth Camp Chaperone and Youth Camp Volunteer Nurse; Delegate at 18 National Conventions; Flag Ceremony; Sergeant-at-Arms; Workshop presenter; Tom Downing Fellow; Ohio Ruritan of the Year 2001; DRM Ruritan National.

EDUCATION: Youngstown State University; Kent State University; Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital; Western Reserve University; MSN, RN, CNS, APRN.

OCCUPATION: Nursing Faculty, Indiana Wesleyan University

OTHER: Member Canfield United Methodist Church, Lay Speaker, Sunday School teacher; President UMW; participated in seven mission trips through USA, Russia, Ireland and Mexico; member of Rising Above the River (obtain & furnish homes for homeless veterans); member Canfield Rotarian; Mahoning County Library fundraising committee; Past International President of the Carnegians; happily married to Attorney Dale E. Bricker; 8 children (5 boys / 3 girls); 10 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Biographies are printed as
submitted by candidates.

Candidates Announce for National Office



National Director

Timothy L. Spittler
124 River Shore Drive
Hertford, NC 27944
Phone: (252) 264-3763
Cell: (252) 862-7253
atspittler@gmail.com

CLUB: Member of Parksville Township (NC) Ruritan Club; served as club Secretary and club President.

DISTRICT: Served as Lt. Zone Governor (Albemarle Dist. Zone 2) (2015); District Lt. Governor (2016) and District Governor (2017)

NATIONAL: Attended the National Convention in Kingspot, TN (2017)

EDUCATION: Oscar Smith High School; Tidewater Community College

OCCUPATION: Norfolk Naval Shipyard (Ret.), Facilities Director; Civilian Meritorious Service Award.

OTHER: Deacon at Whiteville Grove Baptist Church; married 32 yrs. to Angie; three children (Bobby, Jake & Joy); and five grandchildren.

Biographies are printed as
submitted by candidates.



National Director (2 year Unexpired Term)

Robin D. Davenport
623 Blackwater Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23457
Phone: (757) 374-7961
rdduke@cox.net

CLUB: Member of Creeds Ruritan Club since 1980; held offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; served on all standing committees as member and chair; served on Scholarship committee.

DISTRICT: Served in the Holland District as Zone 4 Lt. Governor; Zone Governor; Lt. Governor, District Governor and District Foundation Chair. Also served as Secretary, Vice President and 2017 President for the Association of Virginia Ruritans.

NATIONAL: Ruritan National Foundation Trustee (5 yrs); 1999 Foundation President; Non-Board Member Publications Committee (2016-18); Non-Board Member Constitution and Bylaws Committee; participated in Flag Ceremony; served as Sergeant-at-Arms; attended over 25 Ruritan National Conventions as a Delegate; Tom Downing Fellow.

EDUCATION: Kellam High School; Virginia Wesleyan University (Elementary Education K-7); Old Dominion University (Masters of Education with endorsement in School Administration).

OCCUPATION: 42 years in Education (20 yrs as 3rd and 4th Grade Teacher; 22 yrs as School Administrator); Har-Bess Farms Permanent Scholarship Fund; Davenport Family Endowed Scholarship at Virginia Wesleyan University.

OTHER: Member at Cava Christian Church; Past Board Member of International Alliance for Invitational Education (5 yrs.); Board Member of Sentara Community Advisory Board; Board Member of Pungo Strawberry Festival.

See pages 12-15 in your Fall 2017 Ruritan magazine for other candidates.

serve our communities. The three comments listed below emphasize the message I have been highlighting. "It's amazing how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." We must work together as a T.E.A.M., communicate ideas to each other and we will accomplish great things and the winners will ultimately be the ones we help.

"No one of us is as smart as all of us." Again, the T.E.A.M. approach applies, we need to involve everyone in all our projects and events – we need to listen and learn from all members of our clubs. If it is to be, it is up to you and me **TOGETHER!** We must work together as a T.E.A.M. if we are to be successful.

Please don't forget our goals for 2017: every member recruit a member and each district charter a new club. Our communities are counting on you to succeed because more members in existing clubs and clubs in other communities would mean that more people would receive help. Remember, If you think you can't, you can't; If you think you can, you can! Always think positive, always think you can!

Ruritan will be celebrating 90 years of service to communities in 2018. Plan now to attend and let's help make the May 19th, 2018 Founders' Day special for all Ruritans to celebrate, participate in, and recognize the original founders of this great organization. Planning is now being done to assure that all that attend will have a very enjoyable time to fellowship with others, meeting new friends, and renewing past acquaintances. In August the NBOD unanimously voted in favor of moving a meeting to Holland, VA during the week prior so this will be a good opportunity for Ruritan members to meet their National Board members. Detailed information about the 2018 Founders' Day will be available at the National Convention in Charleston.

This organization that we all call Ruritan has a great tradition and was begun for the purpose of having fellowship with one another, creating goodwill, and serving others. Through the continued efforts of all our members**TOGETHER** we will keep that great tradition alive. Ruritan is America's leading community service organization. When we work **TOGETHER** toward our common goal we support one another and we will accomplish more.

It has been our honor and privilege to serve as your 2017 National President and First Lady. During each of our visits, your friendship and fellowship has been overwhelming. May God continue to bless Ruritan and each deed performed by Ruritan members, our veterans, our military, our first responders, and law enforcement personnel.

Linda and I are looking forward to **WELCOMING** each of you to Charleston as you come to attend your 2018 Ruritan National Convention. Safe travels to all who come.

Danny and Linda

Items of Interest

1966 Ruritan National President "Buddy" Ragsdale Passes



1966 Ruritan National President, the Honorable Edwin Harris "Buddy" Ragsdale, 87, of Richmond, VA, died September 13, 2017.

Born in DeWitt, VA in 1929, Buddy began his career as a young police officer for Henrico County and then became a successful real estate developer. During his tenure on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, to which he was elected for multiple terms, he served as Chair. He was instrumental in bringing the first public library to Henrico County. Buddy also served multiple terms in the Virginia House of Delegates. He was a member of the Providence Forge (V) Ruritan Club since 1953 and served at district and national levels, serving as both National Vice President and President.

He was a member of the Thomas N. Davis Masonic Lodge 0351 for 64 years. He was a member of Sandston Baptist Church. Buddy is survived by his wife of 66 years, Juanita Helfert Ragsdale; his daughter, Lynette R. Spence (Jerry); and his son, Duane Harris Ragsdale (Tracey); grandchildren, Jordan Lee Spence (Ashley), Edwin Harris (Jake) Ragsdale II and Carrie Davisson Ragsdale; great-grandchildren, Darrius, Brice, Trevor, Bentley and Abigail Spence; brothers, A. Coleman Ragsdale (Ann) and Julian H. Ragsdale (Alice); numerous nieces and nephews; a "sister-in-law and brother-in-law" Bernie and David Nelson; and Gertrude, the stuffed tundra swan. Buddy was preceded in death by his sister, Eugenia (Jean) Van Alst; and brother, John G. "Happy" Ragsdale and his wife, Emma.

A memorial service was held on September 17, at Sandston Baptist Church, followed by a reception. Buddy had a Ruritan Foundation Fund in his name if anyone desires to make a contribution.

(taken from printed obituary)

2017 National President Danny and First Lady Linda's Club Visits



2017 National President Danny presents a check from the **Inter-County** (NC) Ruritan Club to Helen Hunter (widow of Jim "Catfish" Hunters) to sponsor her to walk for ALS in memory of and for The Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

Pictured below he helps stir apple butter at the **Nickelsville** (VA) Ruritan Club's fundraising event.



He had the honor of initiating new member Connie Polk (First Lady Linda's cousin) into the **Deep Gap** (NC) Ruritan Club.

The first couple stands with Macia Zehr at the entrance to the **Dubois** (IN) Community Ruritan Park in the Lincolnland District.

Danny enjoys seafood with **South Norfolk** (VA) Ruritan Club members during the club's Seafood Festival.

Galax, VA Hosts 2017 Fellowship Weekend

The 2017 Foundation Fellowship Weekend was held September 8-10, in Galax, VA. Pictured (top right) in line for the picnic food are three of the current Foundation trustees: President Pat Davis, Secretary Corky Camin, and Promotion Chair O. H. Bobbitt III. On Friday night the attendees were treated to “Blue Ridge Backroads Live” at the historic Rex Theater.

There was an optional tour of the Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Company and a chance to meet John Bassett III, the subject of a 2014 bestselling book **Factory Man: How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local – and Helped Save an American Town**. He’s pictured signing copies of the book and being presented with a Tom Downing Fellowship by 2017 Foundation President Pat Davis (who retired from Vaughan-Bassett herself.) John Bassett III is recognized as a hometown hero for saving hundreds of jobs and an entire Virginia community from foreign competition.

Pictured at the bottom of the page are all the Tom Downing recipients presented during the Saturday night banquet.

*Photos courtesy
Foundation VP Jayson
Duncan.*



Deep Creek Participates in “Feed Virginia Day of Action”



Virginia's First Lady, Dorothy McCauliff, designated September 29th as Virginia Food Access Network's first ever "Feed Virginia Day of Action." The **Deep Creek** (VA) Ruritan Club participated by co-hosting a food drive for a Chesapeake food pantry that feeds low-income seniors and the homeless. The club also partnered with Healthy Chesapeake, a coalition that advocates for a healthier lifestyle for Chesapeake residents. Club member Kimi Stevens, who coordinated the effort, said "Bargain grocery shopping is a sport, but when you do it to give it all away, it's priceless!"



Pictured top left (l-r) are Executive Director of Healthy Chesapeake Jenny Fertig, Director of the Chesapeake Health Department Dr. Nancy Welch, Past National Director Mike Kirsch, and Deep Creek Ruritan Publicity Chair Kimi Stevens. The club also held bingo games at the Hampton Veterans Administration Hospital. Several Ruritan youth took time to help out.

Liberty Spring Installs Pollinator Garden



Liberty Spring (VA) Ruritan Club and Suffolk Master Gardeners recently teamed to install a pollinator garden at Liberty Spring Ruritan Park. The groups intentionally planned the garden's debut to coincide with National Pollinator Week, which was recognized this year on June 19-25. Pictured (l-r) are Duane Eby, Jeff Hancock, John Umphelt, and Emery Nichols. (Courtesy of the Virginia-Pilot)

Great Bridge Holds First Responder Night

Great Bridge (VA) Ruritan Club recognized the brave and courageous service of first responders during its annual First Responders Night. The recipients and their families were hosted with a dinner and awards ceremony. Pictured (l-r) with their plaques are Von Gaines, Virginia State Trooper; Korby Cattrell, Chesapeake Firefighter/ EMT; Chesapeake Sheriff Deputy Alexander Jennings; Chesapeake Chief of Police K.L. Wright accepting for Chesapeake Police Officer Heather Bishop; and Great Bridge Ruritan Club President Hank Pitts.

Give Rudy Bears

Purchase your Rudy Bear by calling 800-414-8946 or visit the website: www.ruritan.shumskypromo.com



Abingdon Participates in Fall Clean Gloucester Day



Abingdon (VA) Ruritan Club's Environment Committee chaired by Allen Scales participated in the Fall Clean Gloucester Day. The drizzling rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the club's 17 members as they collected 43 bags of trash along Guinea Road, Tidemill Road, and Kings Creek Road. Pictured in the front row (l-r) are Carl and Joyce Onesty, Dianne and Julianna Woolley, Yvonne



Scales, Andrea Crawford, and Roy Snowden. Pictured in the back row (l-r) are David Simmons, Allen Scales, Jimmy Leiffer, Dave Kyle, Frank Gillerlain, and Roger Dick. Not pictured were Lynn and Dave Onesty, Dick Beasley, and Sid Dugas.

The unusually cool day contributed to the sell-out crowd at the club's Seafood Festival. The money will be donated to about 35 charitable and non-profit organizations in the area. Matt Roane of Doswell, VA is pictured getting ready to enjoy some steamed crabs. As the sun began to set, many were dancing to the music by The Soul Intent Band.

James City Holds Blood Drive

The Red Cross, along with the **James City** (VA) Ruritan Club, has collected 4,843 units or 605.375 gallons of blood. Ninety-nine blood drives have been held over the past 22 years. This is a source of pride for the club.

Port Royal Meets Mary



Port Royal (VA) Ruritan Club had a demonstration of drug-detecting dogs. Major Scott Moser and Patrol Sgt. Chris Wright of the Caroline County Sheriff's Department brought Mary, a retired 10-year-old German Shepherd, to display her abilities in finding opioids. Training starts at 10 months old and requires 460 hours of training. In the first picture Mary found the box of drugs. In the second, she was rewarded with a toy.



Marion Arrowood Receives Warwick Club's Ruritan of the Year

Marion Arrowood received the **Warwick** (VA) Ruritan Club's Ruritan of the Year Award. Marion is a dedicated Ruritan, a faithful worker, a board member for many years, and believes in the work that Ruritans do.

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.

Keysville Donates Generously



Keysville (VA) Ruritan Club President presents George Sandridge with a \$500 scholarship. George has attended Randolph-Henry High School and the Governors School of Southside Virginia. He also distinguished himself at the 2017 Virginia YMCA Model General Assembly. He is attending Virginia Tech.



The club donated to the Keysville Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured are (l-r) Fireman Trent Goodrich, Fire Chief Lynn Duffey, PR Chair Gerry Pettus, and Fireman Trent Campbell. The club also donated to the Charlotte County Rescue Squad, Meals on Wheels, and the Randolph-Henry After-Prom Party.

Ronnie Alley Receives a Project Lifesaver Transmitter Bracelet



Ronnie Alley of A.M. Davis Elementary School has been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. His family needed help from Project Lifesaver for their son's safety. Project Lifesaver is the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children with the propensity to wander due to a cognitive condition. Ronnie likes to run and be the first one to every location. His parents worry that he will one day run too far, too fast, and get lost. He is currently considered nonverbal but is working to develop some communication with a picture communication system. At this

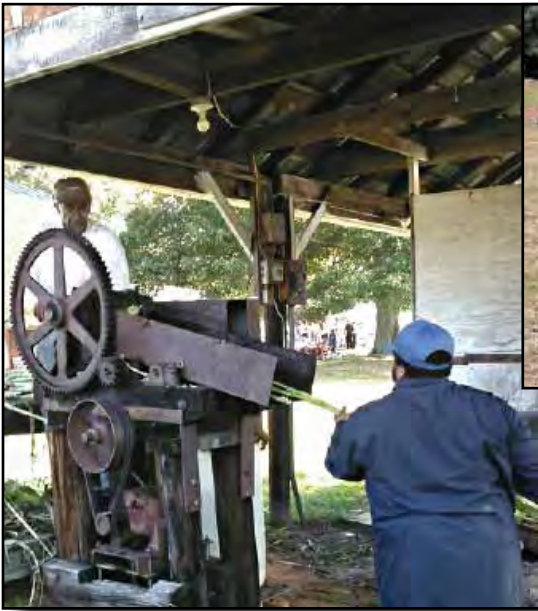
time he is not able to communicate his wants and needs or tell his name or phone number. The Chesterfield County Police Department charges a one-time fee of \$350 for the monitoring equipment. In a coordinated effort between Speech Pathologist Leslie Dulay and Office Manager Emma Bean at A.M. Davis Elementary help was received from community members. They include 2011 Ruritan National Foundation President Bruce Thompson, Franke and Mary Lou Paulett, **Midlothian** (VA) Ruritan Club, 2004 Ruritan National President John Hancock, **Chesterfield** (VA) Ruritan Club, Marion and James Trent, Leslie Dulay, and Emma Bean. Because of the generous donations of the organizations and community, Ronnie Alley in Mrs. Ragland's Early Childhood Special Education Class was able to receive a Project Lifesaver transmitter bracelet. Pictured are Bruce Thompson, Emma Bean, John Hancock, grandmother Patty Duke, father Ronnie Alley Sr., grandfather Raymond Duke, mother Kimberly Duke, Ronnie Alley, teacher Elizabeth Ragland, principal Kenya Batts, Leslie Dulay, and A.M Davis Assistant Principal Cynthia Patey.

Clarksville Donates \$12,400 to Teachers

The **Clarksville** Ruritan Club gave 124 elementary, middle, and high school teachers \$100 to spend on supplies for their classroom. Clarksville Ruritan Club member Nancy Talley, with her grandchildren Thomas and Mitchell Elliott is pictured with Clarksville Elementary School teacher Sherry Walker.



News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District



Clifford Holds Sorghum Festival

October has been a very productive month for the **Clifford (VA) Ruritan Club**. The annual Sorghum Festival was held. The festival consisted of lots of food, fun, sorghum making, and a jousting tournament.

News From Ruritan: Southwest Virginia District

Yuma Installs Three New Members



National Director Glen Broadwater installs three new members into the **Yuma (VA) Ruritan Club**. Pictured are new members Joy Chapman and Scotty and Tina Lucas.

Atkins Celebrates 55th Anniversary

Atkins (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 55th anniversary by sponsoring a community event. The club provided



food, a dunking booth, bouncy house, horseshoes, corn hole, and a cake walk. In attendance were Atkins Fire Department and Richardson Rescue Squad. Ginger Johnson from the Sheriff Department provided finger printing for the children. The club was honored to have charter mem-



bers Charles Atkins and Howard McGhee attend. 2016 National President Calvin Shelton, Past National Director Joe Jaynes, and 2016 Southwest Virginia District Governor David Hartgrove joined in on the fun.

News From Ruritan: Southwest Virginia District continued



Rye Valley (VA) Ruritan Club spent a day cleaning out the shrubbery and spreading mulch on the Sugar Grove Elementary School grounds.

News From Ruritan: Natural Bridge District

Natural Bridge Celebrates 75th Anniversary



Natural Bridge (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 75th anniversary. Special guests were National Director Gary Solomon, Natural Bridge District Governor Jim Frazier, and Natural Bridge Zone Governor Lynda Miller. Natural Bridge Club President Robert Gilbert received the club's certificate of commemoration of its 75th anniversary from National Director

Gary Solomon. Joe Perkins was recognized as the longest active member of the club. He has served 64 years.



Beverley Manor Works Bicycle Events



Beverley Manor (VA) Ruritan Club worked three bicycle events as part of its annual fundraising activities. These events draw hundreds of enthusiastic bicyclists. The club participated with Bike Virginia and hosted rest stops on June 26th at Natural Chimneys Regional Park and on June 28th at the Middlebrook Fire House. Fruit, snacks, and water were served at both events. Pictured right from (l-r) are Keith Senderak, Robin Ruleman, Debbie Yancey, Marilyn Long, Michael Ruleman, Mildred Ruleman, and Joanne Lam. Pictured (l-r) are Rob Longacher, Marilyn Long, Maggie Powers, Janet Rhodes, Teri Sumey, Robin Ruleman, Elaine Wyche, Keith Senderak, and two bicyclists. In October, the club prepared and served lunch to approximately 700 bicyclists at the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Festival.

Broadway-Timberville Rings Salvation Army Bell



Thirty-one years ago, on December 8, 1986, **Broadway-Timberville** (VA) Ruritan Club member Richard Funkhouser hung a red kettle and rang the first bell for the Salvation Army at Whitmore's Grocery Store in downtown Broadway. According to his records, \$4.86 was collected. Christmas Eve 2016, the club completed another year of bell ringing in the community that increased Richard's bell ringing total to \$221,779.90. Sadly, Richard passed away in 2013, but his passion and legacy for supporting the Salvation



Army lives on. Pictured are Lee Kipps and Richard's widow Catherine Funkhouser.

The club worked its food booth during the Rockingham County Fair. The booth features favorites such as catfish, pork tenderloin, shrimp, and potatoes. Profits from the food booth go toward funding community projects.

Fort Valley Holds Pancake Breakfasts



Fort Valley (VA) Ruritan Club has held 12 pancake breakfasts since 2014. The fundraiser has made nearly \$30,000. Pictured are various club members diligently working to prepare the breakfasts. Funds go to charitable causes including helping individuals fighting cancer, Christmas gifts to children, and the latest was supporting the Faith Lutheran Preschool. Pictured is Fort Valley Club Treasurer

John Gaunt presenting a \$1,600 check to Faith Lutheran Preschool Director Ginger Neal.



Bridgewater Presents Ruritan of the Year



Bridgewater (VA) Ruritan Club presented Dennis Rawley with the club's Glen and Nancy Thomas Ruritan of the Year Award. Rawley and his family have actively participated in major club projects such as the spring fruit sale, the Bridgewater Lawn Party Bingo Booth, and the Fry Shack at the Rockingham County Fair. Rawley and his wife Mary Jane are shown receiving the award from Glen Thomas (pictured left).



Weyers Cave (VA) Ruritan Club member Steve Landes presented **New Hope** and

Bridgewater (VA) Ruritan Club member Marvin Garber with House Joint Resolution #833 commending him for his service as a Ruritan member.

The resolution states that "in addition to maintaining 67 years of perfect attendance at monthly meetings, he has also served as club president three times." Delegate Landes was the patron of the resolution, which was adopted by the 2017 Virginia General Assembly. Bridgewater Mayor Ted Flory joins Delegate Landes in presenting the Resolution to Garber.

Forestville-Quicksburg Sells 500 Dinners



Forestville-Quicksburg (VA) Ruritan Club held its annual Open Pit Barbeque Chicken Dinner fundraiser. Over 500 dinners were sold. Profits are used to help the community and assist non-profits in Shenandoah County. Pictured are Charlie Haggerty and James Wellard cooking the chicken. On the right are Donnie Ryman and his son John taking a break after cooking 500 ears of corn.



Bergton and McGaheysville Make Funnel Cakes



The biggest fundraiser of the year for the **Bergton** (VA) Ruritan Club is selling French fried chicken, French fries, and funnel cakes at the Bergton Fair. It is said that people come for chicken from miles away, and the event is known as the "Biggest Little Fair Anywhere." Pictured top right are



Carroll Keller, Carroll Moyers, and Greg Lamma monitoring the batter as it forms a funnel cake.

Since 2000, the club has presented college students over \$90,000. Jessica Lamma was one of four students who received a \$1,000 check this year. Pictured is Bergton Club Scholarship Chair Dennis Lantz giving Jessica her scholarship certificate as her parents, Tanga and Greg, stand with her.



Each year during the week of the Rockingham County Fair, the **McGaheysville** (VA) Ruritan Club man the funnel cake stand. This six-day event grosses over \$40,000, which funds 100% of the club's community projects. These projects include \$6,000 in scholarships, \$10,000 for Emergency/Disaster Relief, and the McGaheysville Community Street Light Project.



Mike and Robin Costello Share WWII Memorabilia

Maur-Brook-Olive (VA) Ruritan Club members Mike and Robin Costello shared Mike's collection of WWII memorabilia of rifles, handguns, swords, American Signal Corps field telephones, military tableware/mess ware, currency, medals, and documents/letters during the club meeting at Strasburg Library. The library had a special free admission day. Mike was on-hand to talk to visitors about his special collection while sporting his Maur-Brook-Olive Club shirt and name tag to help promote Ruritan. Also pictured along with Mike and Robin is their daughter Catherine Costello.



Attention Club Officers! **We Need Your Email Address**

Please call the National Office and speak to Diane at ext. 306 if you have not given us your email address. Toll free: 877-787-8727

John E. Kinney Celebrates 100th Birthday



Forty-two members and guests of the **Shady Grove** (PA) Ruritan Club celebrated the 100th birthday of longtime Shady Grove Club member John E. Kinney. Dinner was catered by Bit-O-Catering. On hand to honor Mr. Kinney were Pennsylvania's 90th Legislative District Representative Paul Schemel who presented him with a commemorative citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Potomac Zone Governor Missy Heintzelman and National Director Larry Cassell were also in attendance. Dr. Jerome Harness presented a short biography of Kinney's WWII service in the 8th Air Force in Germany and his extensive service to numerous civic organizations. He cited Kinney's leadership in Ruritan, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Greencastle-Antrim School Board, church, Masonic Lodge, and Veterans' organizations. Pictured (l-r) are Melissa Heintzelman, Larry Cassell, son's Jay Kinney and Ross Kinney, Shady Grove Club President Dave Kipp, Shady Grove Club Secretary Dr. Jerry Harness, and John Kinney (seated).

Warren Larue Named "Oldest Chicken Flipper"

South Jefferson (WV) Ruritan Club's Charter member Warren Larue (age 96) is the club's oldest "chicken flipper." He hasn't missed an in-county chicken event in 50 years.



Lewistown and Wolfsville Present Scholarships



Lewistown (MD) Ruritan Club presented nine scholarships at its annual picnic in August. Funds for these scholarships were derived from the Lewistown Ruritan Golf Tournament. Pictured (l-r) are Megan Jenkins, Salisbury State University; Alexandra Lea Wright, West Virginia University; Luke Staley,

Hood College; Allison Rippeon, Frederick Community College; Alexandra Miller, University of Maryland; and Lindsey Stanley, Frederick Community College. Recipients not pictured are Matt Gartrell, Frederick Community College; Megan Edwards, Frederick Community College; and Elaine Saxton, Frostburg University.

Wolfsville (MD) Ruritan Club presented scholarships. Pictured on the right (l-r) are Wolfsville Club President Billy Vanover, recipient Kirsten Beckner who will be attending Penn State, recipient Catherine Toms who



will be attending Stevenson University, and Wolfsville Scholarship Chair Dale Wolf. The club also celebrated its 60th anniversary. Honored speakers were National President Elect Guy Cox, Wolfsville Club President Billy Vanover, and Past National Director Dennis Barthlow. Pictured bottom left are Wolfsville Past Club Presidents Ken Frushour, Robert Lee Grossnickle, Bob Con-



don, Kevin Spade, Joe Hawkins, and Billy Vanover.

Zone 2 Holds Special Olympic Award Picnic



Potomac District Zone 2 clubs hosted an annual "End of Competition" picnic for the Special Olympics. Special Olympics Area Director Marva Davis is shown presenting awards.



Random Acts of Kindness Hosts Halloween Party

Members of the newly formed **Random Acts of Kindness** (MD) Ruri-Teen Club, sponsored by the **Jefferson** (MD) Ruritan Club, coordinated a community Halloween party for the children of the Jefferson area. Games, candy, and great costumes were part of the event. Phil Brohawn (left) is the Ruri-Teen Adviser. Stacey Bentley (4th from left) is the school advisor. Jefferson Club Secretary and National Director Larry Cassell (right) helped charter the Ruri-Teen Club.



News From Ruritan: **Albemarle District**



Shawboro (NC) Ruritan Club completed a handicap ramp for a disabled veteran. Financial assistance for some materials was provided by the Albemarle District's Project Patriot Committee and the Providence Baptist Church. Pictured (l-r) are Marv Alphin, L. Jepsen, Lyle Boldt (kneeling), and Jim Courtney. The picture was taken by Harvey Roberts.



Durants Neck (NC) Ruritan Club presented five scholarships totaling \$5,000. The scholarships were made possible from a successful chicken and barbecue dinner along with an auction. Gifts and gift certificates were donated by businesses in Hertford and Elizabeth City. In addition to scholarships, the club supports the volunteer fire department, meals on wheels, senior bingo and lunch, Boy Scouts, 4-H, Wounded Warriors, food bank, and much more. Pictured are Durants Neck Club President Mack Nixon and Club Secretary Carol Olean presenting scholarships to Tarea Mallory, Madison Loftis, Jonathan Glover, and Kaleb Darnell. Not pictured is Gevin Chase Nixon. (Photo by Dan Trevors.)



Aulander Installs New Member

Joyce Freeman is the newest member of the **Aulander (NC)** Ruritan Club. Pictured (l-r) are Joyce Freeman and Aulander Club President Billy Drew.



Robersonville Builds Wheelchair Ramp

Robersonville (NC) Ruritan Club built a wheelchair ramp for a young man that had fallen off a ladder and broke his leg. The club builds several ramps each year for those in need. Pictured are members of the club and the recipient of the ramp.

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Mountain View Has Successful Year



Mountain View (NC) Ruritan Club had a successful year. The club held the following fundraisers: Vidalia onion sales, pork chop and chicken dinners, and the club's first annual car show. The proceeds allowed the club to present three scholarships and to help support a Future Farmers of America chapter event. Club members service hours include four quarterly trash pickups, volunteering with the community Meals-

On-Wheels program, and helping with the harvest festivals for local churches. The club will complete the year with its annual banquet.

Club members picking up trash (l-r) are David Mansfield, Ken and Diann Gonzalez, Scott Prochaska, and Enrico Mitchell. Pictured top left are club members George Mansfield, Debbie Ingle, and Annie Bridges registering participants for the first annual car show. David Rich is shown positioning his "Cool Mobile" for judging.



Lynns Crossroads Club Profits From Barbeque Sales

Lynns Crossroads (NC) Ruritan Club presented nine scholarships from the profits of its March barbeque. The club's September barbeque helped fund the Lynns Crossroads Christmas Community Outreach. Fruit and assorted gift baskets were delivered to shut-ins.

The annual **Rougemont** (NC) Ruritan Club "R.E.A.P." Golf Tournament was a success with many participants. Pictured are winners Matt Ross, Marshall Ross, Melvin Chandler, and Thomas Ross.



Redwood Installs Five New Members



Redwood (NC) Ruritan Club President Aaron Walker installed five new members in September. Pictured are Walker, Marissa Ivester, Pastor Andrew Ivester, Jean Ferrell, Sandra Hicks, and Joyce Glasgow. On behalf of the club Walker presented \$1,000 scholarships to Anna Nicole Garrett, Matthew Taylor Wiggins, and Chase Anders Dane Elliot.

Bath Holds Fundraiser for Evan Cornelius

Bath (NC) Ruritan Club held a benefit fundraiser for Evan Cornelius who is need of a bone marrow transplant. The club sold 700 plates of chicken, slaw, potatoes, and rolls. The club raised \$13,700.

Pictured top (l-r) spreading the seasoning are Todd Boyd and Doug Boyd. Pictured right is Doug Boyd. The club made history by preparing 350 chickens, 32 gallons of slaw, 300 pounds of potatoes, and 700 rolls. The support of the schools, community, and families made this a memorable event. Gordan Pippin Jr. said, "What an awesome day!" Pictured left is Evan Cornelius and his mother Jennifer Cornelius.



Eureka Presents Scholarships

Eureka (NC) Ruritan Club presented \$500 scholarships to Trae Perry and Stormie Bass at its annual family night in July. Trae is attending Wayne Community College, and Stormie is attending East Carolina University.

In addition to awarding annual scholarships, the club honors its local veterans and senior citizens and assists needy families.



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.

News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

Piney Grove Holds Youth Night



Piney Grove (NC) Ruritan Club held youth night. Youth Amir Corbett welcomed everyone and sang the first verse of America. Amir and Martin Holloman briefed the club on their experiences at the Ruritan Youth Camp at Smith Mountain Lake, VA. Both thanked the club for allowing them to go. Both said that they had a blast. Pictured (l-r) are Piney Grove Club President Roger Peterson, Martin Holloman, and Amir Corbett.



News From Ruritan: Spartan District

Highland Honors Kenny McKeown

Highland (SC) Ruritan Club presented an award to Kenny McKeown in honor of his 35 years of loyal and dedicated service. Kenny became a member of the club on February 1, 1982, and though he has to depend on others to transport him, he rarely missed any meeting or special functions. Pictured (l-r) are Spartan District Governor Isiah Wilson, Kenny McKeown, and Highland Club President Brian Kreider.



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: Columbia District



The **Pelion** (SC) Ruritan Club toured Fort Jackson and the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. Club members were guided by DS Bebee and Driver Franklin. They attended graduation with VIP seating, toured the museum, and were shown a presentation by Col. Shade. The group engaged in EST2000, a laser training exercise which taught techniques of shooting an M16. "The group had fun trying to hit the target when half of us couldn't even see the target," said Kay Collings. Pictured are Tomas Peel, Carolyn Bocock, Beverly Jackson, Sam Jackson, Mary Catherine Spires, Charles Haggard, Jean Haggard, Rhonda Grimes, Beth Cravens, Kay Collings, Gail Corley, Benny Collings, Jerry Williams, and DS Bebee.

Eastover Has Fundraiser on July 4



Eastover (SC) Ruritan Club cooked and sold over 40 Boston butts for the 4th of July. Pictured are Howard Brazzell, Phil Stewart, and David Smith. (Assisting but not pictured was Way Scott.) Club members Jane Wannamaker, Christy Smith, and Joyce Sawyer packed and delivered school supplies to the Webber Elementary School.



Pomaria Learns About Seeds



Pomaria (SC) Ruritan Club hosted a program on the topic of seeds. Roger Winn's presentation included a history of seeds such as butterbean (native of South America), Sea Island peas (native of Africa), and green beans (native of Appalachia), and many others. He added that all vegetables and fruits we enjoy today were originally brought to the U.S. by immigrants from other countries.



The club sponsored Katie Connally and D.J. Sims to attend the Boys and Girls State event. This event provides opportunity for students to learn how the state government operates. Pictured (l-r) are Katie, Pomaria Club President Carroll Wicker, and D.J.

North River Hosts Community Picnic



North River (WV) Ruritan Club hosted a "Community Picnic" at Central Hampshire Park, with the proceeds going to The Children's Home Society of West Virginia (Romney Site). This first-time event had a great response from the surrounding communities. Over 55 items were donated for raffles. Door prizes were given away every half hour. There were games such as a sack races, 3-legged race, and egg race. The community contributed multiple donations making it possible to give



away lots of prizes for the children and adults that participated in the games. Pulled pork, hot dogs, and hamburgers were served with several tasty side dishes and drinks. Shenandoah Country Q102 and local DJ Tim Kesner were the entertainment. North River Club Director Robin Wright is shown presenting a check to Sally Johnson for the Children's Home Society.

Mathias Purchases 14 Pavers for Club Members

When Upper WV District Governor Ken Paugh visited the **Mathias** (WV) Ruritan Club earlier this year among the things he shared with the members was the paver program, which provides commemorative bricks on a special patio at the Ruritan National Office. When he was invited back to the club

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.

again later this year, little did he know he would be presented with the money and applications for 14 pavers honoring Mathias members past and present. Governor Ken hand delivered the paperwork and payment to Dublin and Member

Service Coordinator Chris Pugh (pictured here with Paugh) was delighted to accept on behalf of the Ruritan National Office.



Maxwelton Honors Bob Hefner



Maxwelton (WV) Ruritan Club honored first-year member Bob Hefner with the Gold Scoop Award. This award honors a member for hard work and dedication for the successful operation of the ice cream concession stand at the West Virginia State Fair. Pictured (l-r) are Bob Hefner and Maxwelton Club President Lee Godbey.

Williamsburg Presents Plaques

Several plaques were given out during the **Williamsburg** (WV) Ruritan Club meeting. Williamsburg Club Secretary presented Lower WV Zone 7 Lt. Governor Beth Stidom and

District Lt. Governor Roy Mullins with plaques thanking them for their hard work. The club also received the Blue Ribbon Award for 2016.



Frankford Makes Apple Butter



Frankford (WV) Ruritan Club members gathered together at Lowell's Bakery to peel apples for apple butter making. The club sold 540 pints. Pictured (l-r) are Gloria Neely, Sandy Coleman, Kay Reynolds, and Calvin Reynolds.



Ruritan Members Fighting To Keep Clubs Alive

Some people can still remember the days when they spent their evenings on the front porch and greeted their neighbors by name. Everyone watched out for their neighbors and helped each other out. Whatever happened to the spirit of community? Is it a thing of the past?

Not according to local service organizations that are still making a difference in their communities. The **Fordtown** (TN) Ruritan Club, for example, is still working hard to benefit its community.



Each December, they provide fruit baskets and food boxes to the needy or elderly. They pick up trash along the main roads in their area, donate food to Meals on Wheels and allow local youth to use their ball field. The **Holston** (TN) Ruritan Club has built ramps for handicapped people in their community, provided several college scholarships and sponsored Scouts, Bible schools and mission trips.

However, service clubs such as these have suffered declining membership in the past 30 years. Most clubs will agree that their greatest challenge is the lack of members. The original club founders and members are dying off, and young people are not joining the ranks. Why are young people not interested? [National Director] Gary Olinger, treasurer of the Holston Ruritan Club explained, "Everyone is too busy now. Husbands and wives are both working and have kids to support. It's difficult to get young people to join now. It's too bad because they're missing out in the long run."

Since Americans now connect more online, they may not feel the need of a weekly or monthly meeting in order to network. But despite the social changes in our communities, there is still a need to connect on a personal level. Many believe that it is the face-to-face, person-to-person kindness and caring that makes a difference in people's lives.

Ruritan National President Danny Privott is pleading communities to support their 2017 goals of increasing membership and chartering new clubs.

"Do this not just to increase our membership but because, with more people working doing things together to accomplish a common goal of helping someone else, much more can and will be accom-

plished," [Privott] wrote in the latest Ruritan magazine issue. According to Olinger, membership is only \$44 per person per year, but multiplied by many members can make an important difference in the lives of community members.

Clubs continue to hope for new members, while performing various fundraisers to keep afloat. The **Fordtown** Ruritan Club held a successful soup supper this year, along with manning a food booth at the Appalachian Fair. Their building is also available to rent for events, with two large meeting rooms and a fully-equipped kitchen.

Most service club members agree that change is needed, and they are working on a solution. But meanwhile, the brave few remaining members continue to struggle to keep up all of the worthwhile commitments they have made over the years.

If things don't change, however, service clubs could continue to shut down across the country.

"Sadly, if a club cannot continue without members, it will have to be dissolved," Olinger said.

Many Ruritan members are fighting to keep that from happening, and are saddened at the general decline of service clubs. Marlin Hamilton, president of the **Fordtown** Ruritan Club, is a second-generation member. His father, James Hamilton, and brothers, Charles and Freddy Hamilton, were all charter members when that club began in 1957.



"Ruritan is a great organization that helps a lot of people. I hope it never ends," Marlin Hamilton said.

Articles and pictures by Deborah Peterson and reprinted here with permission from the Kingsport (TN) Times-News.

St. Clair Hosts Appreciation Events



In June the **St. Clair (TN) Ruritan Club** hosted a dinner at their monthly meeting honoring their scholarship recipient, Madison Davis from Cherokee High School. Madison was in the NJROTC and achieved the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Commander. She received the Governor's Volunteer Star Award, one of two given in each county in Tennessee for 469 hours of community service. She was also a recipient of the Ladley Family Naval Aviation Award and Scholarships. Pictured with her is St. Clair

Club President Bob Palmer. Madison is the daughter of Brian and Kelly Davis.

The club hosted an appreciation event for all veterans, law enforcement officers, and first responders. Club members expressed sincere THANKS for the dedication shown by these men and women. Pictured are honored guests of the event.



Ball Play Community Staying Active



Ball Play Community (TN) Ruritan Club held a ramp festival. Proceeds went to Pastor of Friends Scott Knight. Ball Play Community Club President

Joe Leta and Club Treasurer Kim Schlueter are shown presenting a \$500 scholarship check to Jarrod Jones (center picture) and Tanner Thomas. Cherokee Zone 5 District Governor Charles Kirkland presented a President's Golden Key to John Bearlepp, Jr. John has now accumulated a total of 15 new members (pictured left). New member Steve Christopher is shown on the right receiving his lapel pin from Ball Play Community Club President Joe Leta.



News From Ruritan: Georgia North Alabama District



Vicky Mills and Carlton McDaniel Receive a Tom Downing Fellow Award

Ruritan National Secretary James Mills presented his wife and Georgia North Alabama District Governor Vicky Mills with a Tom Downing Fellow Award on behalf of himself and the district during the Ruritan National Board meeting in August. Pictured left (l-r) are National Board member Les Hopper, Vicky Mills, James Mills, and Ruritan National Foundation President Pat Davis.

Carlton McDaniel has been a member of the **Spring Place** (GA) Ruritan Club for 60 years. He was honored with a Tom Downing Fellow Award by his club and family. McDaniel has served as club president, director, and treasurer. Ruritan National Foundation Trustee Brent Wheeler and husband Bill made the presentation. McDaniel is pictured with his children Wayne, Nancy, David, and Jodi.



News From Ruritan: Hermitage District

Nakiya Tisdale Receives Scholarship



Nakiya Tisdale was awarded the **Grand Junction** (TN) Ruritan Club's 2017 scholarship. Nakiya graduated from Middleton High School with a 3.9 GPA. She was extremely active in extra-curricular activities as a member of the Beta Club, HOSA, DECA, Criminal Justice Club, and ASPIRE. She is a member of the Rivers of Life Church. She will be attending Middle Tennessee State University where she will major in Aerospace Dispatch. Her career goal is to become an Air Traffic Controller. Pictured (l-r) are Grand Junction Scholarship Chair Billie Gatewood, Nakiya Tisdale, and Past National Director and Grand Junction Club President Earl Smith.

News From Ruritan: Alabama Florida District

Lt. Colonel Booty Brown Speaks to Bleeker



The special guest of the **Bleeker** (AL) Ruritan Club was Lt. Col. Retired Booty Brown. (age 97) Brown is a WWII Army Air Corp Veteran. He flew 30 special missions over France and Belgium. In 2001, he received The Belgium Cross Award. Pictured on the left with Brown who is seated is Bleeker Club President Don Verner.



Bleeker Club Charter member Neil Koon was presented a U.S. Congressional Declaration for his 90th birthday and all his wonderful life accomplishments. As his wife Grace of over 60 years, looks on. The presentation was made by Lee Vanoy, the Constituent Services Representative for Congressman Mike Rogers for the Third District of Alabama.



The club's newest teen member and scholarship winner is Justin Chedrick. Justin is pictured with his new name badge.



Maynard Dale Rennecker Named Smithville Club's Citizen of the Year

Maynard Dale Rennecker was honored by the **Smithville (OH)** Ruritan Club as its 2017 Citizen of the Year. Rennecker is a charter member of the club with 47 years of perfect attendance. He has served as Smithville Club Treasurer and served in the United States Army. He is a member of the Smithville Historical Society, Farm Council Northeast #6, and a deacon of Smithville Brethren Church.

Greenford Raises \$26,000 from Barbeque Sales

Greenford (OH) Ruritan Club raised nearly \$26,000 at its 58th annual chicken barbecue concession at the Mahoning County Fair. The club served around 1,700 chicken dinners during the six days of the fair. Members and spouses join together each year to barbecue the chicken in an outdoor pavilion, make side dishes such as salad and coleslaw from scratch, prepare sandwiches to order, and provide hospitality to thousands of customers



they serve for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Net income for 2017 was \$25,959. The funds support high school scholarships which have exceeded \$110,000 since the year 2000. Greenford Club member Roy Houser poses with Rudy Bear, played by Tristin Toy. Jack Velk shows off golden brown barbecued chicken. The club honored police, Green Township Volunteer Fire Fighters, and EMT personnel. Greenford Club President Jeff Guy (left) presented a \$1,000 check to Green Township Volunteer Fire Chief Todd Baird (center) and a \$500 check to Chief of the Goshen Police District Steve McDaniel. The chiefs updated the club on recent purchases and other improvements to their departments.



Homer Presents Dictionaries

Homer (OH) Ruritan Club presented dictionaries to Black River third-grade students. This is the third year the club has been able to provide this gift.

Kenneth Steer and Walter Lautzenheiser Receive Tom Downing Fellow Award



Damascus (OH) Ruritan Club President Dave Wingett presented a Tom Downing Fellowship Award to Kenneth Steer (56 years) and Walter Lautzenheiser (41 years) for their service to the club.

*To purchase a Tom Downing Fellow Award contact Amanda Ramirez in the Foundation Department.
877-787-8727 #302*



Old Fort Refurbishes Sign

Old Fort (NC) Ruritan Club refurbished the "Betty Says" sign recently. The club first erected this sign in 1992 with the help of Tony and Eddie Bingham. Pictured with the sign is Hardee's Manager Ashley Freeman and Old Fort Club member Tony Yacovelli.

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 online at <http://ruritan.shumskypromo.com> or call (800) 414-8946.

Noah Blanton Receives Hopewell-Hollis Scholarship

Noah Blanton was presented the 2017 **Hopewell-Hollis** (NC) Ruritan Club Scholarship by Social Development Committee Chair Kim Callahan and Club President Rick Urban. At the same meeting the club hosted a meal for the Ellenboro Volunteer Fire Department. The club received a Blue Ribbon Award, and Tim Callahan received the Outstanding Club President Award.

Glen Alpine (NC) Ruritan Club announced its raffle winners following the Glen Alpine Independence Day parade. First prize was a 42-inch John Deere riding lawn mower won by Tina King. Second prize was a Toro push mower won by Dr. Earl Walker. Third prize was \$100 cash won by John Parks.



WANTED CONTEST

WITH
"Me Minus Five"
Bonus Chances

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



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

Wanted Program M5 Contest Rules

**Drawing will be at the end of each quarter that the contest is in effect.*

**New members must be full, associate, or youth.*

**One member earns you one chance. Two members get 1+2 chances. Three members get 1+2+3 chances and so on.*

**If the new member is five years younger than you, earn five extra chances. (provide dates of birth for both of you)*

**Three winners each quarter drawn at random after all the extra chances are calculated: \$200, \$400, and \$600.*

Tri-County Donates to Lady Patriots of Eastern Shore



Tri-County (MD) Ruritan Club's Vice President Bill Callahan presented a \$500 check to Lady Patriots of Eastern Shore. This contribution will go toward purchasing a track wheelchair for a disabled veteran or firefighter enabling them to participate in outdoor activities such as hunting.

The club held its annual youth night. The highlight of the evening was a performance from a local magician. Shown is a levitation illusion wildly cheered by all except for the brother who yelled,

"See if you can make her disappear!" "A good time was had by all," said Fred Meers.



Pungoteague Presents Scholarships



Pungoteague (VA) Ruritan Club presented \$1,000 scholarships to Taylor Sterling Wallace and Decola Custis. Wallace is a student at

Christopher Newport University majoring in cellular, molecular, and physiological biology. She has been accepted to the Eastern Virginia Medical School and plans to return to the Eastern Shore and practice medicine. At CNU, she has been active in a number of campus activities, including Campus Activities Board



and the President's Leadership Program Ambassador. Decola Custis currently works in the intensive care unit of Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital. She has two associate degrees from Eastern Shore Community College and a third degree from Old Dominion University with a major in human services and a minor in psychology. She has a 3.57 grade point average and was on the Dean's List. After delivering a premature baby, Custis now is seeking to attend Salisbury University to earn a degree in nursing with the goal of working with pediatrics. Pictured with Wallace are her parents Danny and Cheryl Wallace and Scholarship Chair Bill Mapp. Pictured with Custis (center) are Pungoteague Club President Wayne Valentine and Scholarship Chair Bill Mapp.



Magazine Deadlines

Spring Magazine - February 1, 2018

Summer Magazine - May 1, 2018

Fall Magazine - August 1, 2018

Winter Magazine - November 1, 2018

Piedmont District Donates to School



The Piedmont District presented a \$5,000 check to Courtney Elementary School for its gym fund. The gym was hit by a tornado. With the funds, the school will be able to complete upgrades that the insurance company would not pay. Upgrades include handicap accessible restrooms, new concession stand, and air conditioning. Pictured (l-r) are Past Piedmont District Governors Carol and Steve Tulbert, Courtney Elementary School Principal Amy Rankin, 2017 Piedmont District Governor Donna Sutphin, Past Piedmont District Governor Andy Turner, and Piedmont District Treasurer Curtis Oliver.

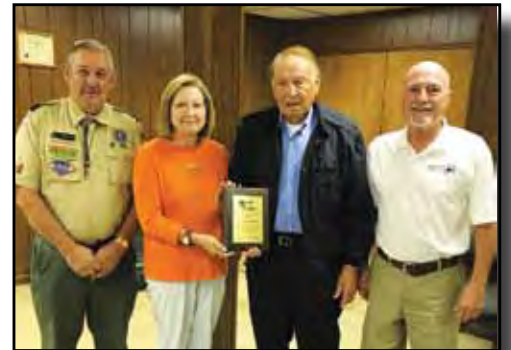
Holly Springs (NC) Ruritan Club donated bears to the Mount Airy Fire Department. Pictured (l-r) are firefighters Matthew Fink, Josh Owens, and Patrick Branch.



Leasburg (NC) Ruritan Club presented James Blalock with a scholarship. James was an honor student in the 2017 Bartlett Yancey High School's graduating class. Pictured (l-r) are James Blalock and Leasburg Scholarship Chair Brenda Bender.



Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes (NC) Ruritan Club was recognized by North Carolina Transportation on October 5, for participating in the Adopt-A-Highway Program since 1991. Ward Eller initiated the project when he was president of the club. Steve Gentry from DOT presented a 25-year plaque in recognition of this service. Pictured (l-r) are Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes Club members Thomas Perry, Patsy Eller, Ward Eller, and DOT representative Steve Gentry.



The 11th annual "Ridge Fest" was held at the NE Stokes Fire Department in Sandy Ridge. The **Sandy Ridge (NC)** Ruritan Club plans, coordinates, and provides the manpower for the event which is hosted by the Fire Department. Local businesses donated money for the expenses. Free stew, drinks, cookies, and music was provided. Various vendors set up to sell their wares. Numerous community groups attend to provide information about their organization. A car show was held and three trophies were given out.



Template for Some Certificates Available Online

Anyone with a computer, internet access, and a printer (color or black and white) can download templates for certificates, fill in the blank fields with the appropriate information, and print Ruritan certificates on their own. The Ruritan website (<http://ruritan.org>) now features templates for new member certificates and club anniversary certificates. Coming soon: general appreciation certificates and perfect attendance certificates. Go to the library search function (also the magnifying glass on the home page) and search for the word "template" to see what is available for you to personalize and print.

Aaron's Creek and Fontaine Present Awards

Aaron's Creek (VA) Ruritan Club hosted a Men and Women's Home Run Derby. Softball League Coordinator Joyce Howerton (left) is shown presenting winnings to Kim Harlow. Softball League Coordinator Chuck Newcomb (right) is shown presenting Bradley Weston with his winnings. The club also presented scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are Lisa Long (standing

in for recipient Kayleigh Long), Grace Eckler, Sydney Bowen, and Lindsey Stone. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Aaron's Creek Club President Michael Davis, Tracy Clark (standing in for Benjamin Clark), Stephen Wall, and Aaron's Creek Scholarship Committee Chair Joyce Howerton.



The **Fontaine** (VA) Ruritan Club held its annual service awards meeting. Awards were given to outstanding fire, rescue, and police officers in the Martinsville and Henry County area. The recipients pictured in the front (l-r) are Mike Williams, Fontaine Ruritan Club; Jeremiah Mabe, Virginia State Police; Mark S. Winn, Henry County Sheriff's Office; and Gary Ayers Henry County Dept. of Public Safety. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Ronald "Jeff" Miller, Ridgeway Rescue Squad; Chief Cotton Trent, Ridgeway Fire Department; Alan Walker, Martinsville City Sheriff's Dept.; Sgt. Michael Harris, Martinsville City Police; and Wesley Brooks, Martinsville Fire and EMS.

Cluster Springs Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Cluster Springs (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 60th anniversary. Pictured is Cluster Springs Club President Bruce Waller receiving an anniversary certificate from National Director Gary Solomon.

In a Declared Disaster: How to Activate OWC

District/Area Governors should call the Ruritan National Office toll free at (877) 787-8727 ext. 302 for program details if their district is struck by a state or federally declared disaster. A disaster situation report will be sent to the caller immediately.

The Ruritan National Foundation will review the needs listed on the report as soon as possible.



News From Ruritan: New River District

Ruritan Road Supports Veterans

Ruritan Road (VA) Ruritan Club is winding up the year with several major projects. Using the money made from a weekly bingo game the club spent nearly \$5,000 in September to take a bus of area veterans and their families to Dayton, Ohio to tour



the huge Museum of the Air Force. The two-day trip included the bus fare, meals along the way, and overnight stay in Dayton, all for the bargain price of \$25 per traveler. Some of the group is pictured here at dinner in Dayton. This is the fourth annual veterans trip for the club which has also visited the National D Day Memorial, Virginia War Memorial, and the Airborne and Special Operations Museum near Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

In October the club added a "Kids Korner" to the local fall festival treating local children to a bouncy-obstacle course (pictured), ladder golf, corn hole, bowling, and face painting. Local middle school choir members assisted with the event.

Belmont II Operates Food Booth at Virginia Tech Stadium

1999 Past National President Rick Poff and wife Julianne are shown in front of the **Belmont II** (VA) Ruritan Club Food Booth at the Virginia Tech Stadium. The club sells barbeque sandwiches, nachos topped with barbeque, chips, nachos and cheese, sodas, and hot chocolate. It is not unusual for the club to profit \$5,000 during the games. All proceeds go to scholarships and to non-profits in the New River Valley.



News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District

Lamar Supports Community



Through the years the **Lamar** (TN) Ruritan Club has provided sports activities for kids, supported schools, and helped neighbors in time of need. Current projects include presenting high school scholarships, donating dictionaries to third-grade students, presenting awards to eighth grade students, adopting

children at Christmas, and helping to feed sport teams. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Gene Treadway, Luke Cole, Wade Cole, John Ford, Allen D. Jackson, Stephanie Cole, and Lamar Club Charter member Jim Kilby. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Lori Kyte, Carlos Peterson, Alice Ford, and Susan Jackson.

News From Ruritan: Smoky Mountain District

Highland Park Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Highland Park (TN) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Lenoir City Mayor Tony Aikens presented the club with a proclamation and key to the city. State Representatives Jimmy Matlock and Kent Calfee were also in attendance to speak about the importance of the club. National President Danny Privott presented Highland Park Club President Vonnie Myers with a 50-year perfect attendance pin. National Director Don Ramey stopped in to present an anniversary certificate.

News From Ruritan: Middle America District

Elsmore Community Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Elsmore Community (KS) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at the community building. The club was the third club chartered in Kansas on April 17, 1967, as part of the "Project 3 Expansion" of Ruritan to Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. This club continues to be one of the strongest clubs in Kansas today. Pictured are Elsmore Club President Johnny Gillham, Elsmore Past Club President



Karen Price, Elsmore Club Treasurer Hellen Welch, Betty Hawley, and Zone 1 Governor Brenda Boyle receiving certificates for having 74% growth from January 2015 through April 2017 and for the clubs 50th anniversary. Charter members Martin Henderson



and Max Ludlum received their 50-year pins. Joanne Wolfe is pictured (bottom left) receiving husband Gene Wolfe's 50-year pin from Middle America District Foundation Chair Ed Henderson as her son Glen Wolfe looks on.

Monticello Lends a Helping Hand



On the evening of July 22, a storm blew through and downed many trees in a yard neighboring the **Monticello** (VA) Ruritan Club. The club assembled a ten-person team to help with clean up. They cleared the home owner's driveway and removed most of the tree debris. This remains an ongoing project.



Belmont Celebrates Its 70th Anniversary

Belmont (VA) Ruritan Club celebrated its 70th anniversary. Members and guests enjoyed a pot-luck dinner and entertainment by Keith Walters and his country band. Speakers included National Director Susan Greisz, Rapidan District Governor Fulton Payne, Belmont Club of Women President Pam Luttner, and Belmont Club President Bobby Goodwin. The club has supported many scholarships, volunteer fire and rescue, Christmas baskets, school supplies, dictionaries, church charities, road clean-ups, Hunters for the Hungry, chemo-caps for cancer patients, and a home for unwed mothers and children. Pictured is National Director Susan Greisz as she expresses gratitude to the club's 70th year of community service.

The club held a successful fundraising dinner serving over 200 patrons. Nearly \$2,000 was raised. Fried fish, chicken, and side dishes were on the menu. Help from members of the Belmont Club of Women resulted in many fine compliments from the attendees. The funds raised will go directly into the club's support of scholarships for the 2018 graduates of the Tri-County High Schools.

Three Chopt Visits Arlington National Cemetery



Three Chopt (VA) Ruritan Club took a bus trip to Arlington National Cemetery and the National Mall. While at Arlington National Cemetery club members Steve Elliott, Fulton Payne, and Gene McDonald participated in a public/private laying of the wreath ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Linwood Circle Donates to Stewpot



After reading an article in the local newspaper that the Natchez Community Stewpot Organization was very low on supplies the **Linwood Circle** (MS) Ruritan Club donated large cans of vegetables. The Stewpot has served over 65,000 meals this year.

**THE \$600 WANTED WINNER FOR THE THIRD
QUARTER OF 2017 WAS JOSPEH BARBER
OF THE MID-COUNTY RURITAN CLUB
IN THE ROANOKE DISTRICT.**

**JOSEPH
BARBER**

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



REWARDED \$600

O.H. BOBBITT, III

**\$200 WINNER WAS O.H. BOBBITT, III
OF RUSTBURG CLUB AND BROOKNEAL
21ST CENTURY CLUB IN THE
PEAKS OF OTTER DISTRICT.**



**REWARDED
\$200**

ANNE HILLARD

**\$400 WENT TO PAST NATIONAL
DIRECTOR ANNE HILLARD
OF THE CHOATEVILLE CLUB
IN THE BLUEGRASS DISTRICT.**



**REWARDED
\$400**

