



Ruritan

Volume 84, Spring 2019



Message From 2019 National President Larry Cassell



*We can't change the direction of the wind,
but we can adjust our sails to always reach our destination.*

As I noted in my installation speech at the 2019 Ruritan National Convention in Hampton, VA, it is time RURITANS adjust our sails. Yes, there have been a lot of changes over the past few decades that have impacted our effectiveness as the leading community service organization. I truly feel that with some adjustments we can continue to be a viable organization that benefits our citizens.

Let's approach this year eliminating those caustic 4 C's: criticizing, complaining, comparing, and competing. These approaches can crush any group or organization. I want to replace these words with an approach modeled after the inspiration provided by a starfish. This marine animal has the unique attribute of being able to regenerate itself. RURITANS, it is time to regenerate ourselves.

My blueprint for us to regenerate our organization is to focus on the following:

- Employ effective strategies to retain, recruit, and regain membership
- Come to the aid of struggling clubs to rebuild instead of disbanding
- Enhance the pool of effective leaders at all levels of RURITAN
- Identify current needs within our changing communities and take action
- Set clear goals for the next ten years

The issue that I constantly hear from Ruritans is the difficulty in getting others, especially the younger people, to join our fine organization. Thus, I am working with the Board of Ruritan National to keep the first two bulleted items above in the forefront of our endeavors.

There are a number of clubs that have demonstrated success in retaining, recruiting, and regaining membership. At the recent convention, over a dozen clubs received awards for greatest percentage of increase in membership: South Central, Marshall, Piney Grove, White Gate, Washington College, Fort Valley, Greenville County, Sumerduck, Burrsville, New Hope (VA), South Norfolk, Jefferson

(MD), and Stonewall District. As noted earlier, competing is not an approach we should be using. We need to share and support each other. Thus, I will be sharing in this and future publications from Ruritan National successful attempts to enhance membership. A short outline along with contact information will be provided for one to gain additional information. Look for the following logo on page 3 and related stories for successful membership programs.



Pictured is First Lady Nelda pinning President Larry during the installation banquet.



Check out ruritan.org for President Larry Cassell's installation speech at the 2019 Ruritan National Convention.

Continued on page 3

Magazine of and published by Ruritan National, Vol. 84, Spring Issue, Ruritan (ISSN: 0036-0147) is published four times a year. Ruritan National is a non-profit, incorporated association of Ruritan Clubs in the United States of America. Ruritan National assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed by authors of articles or claims by advertisers. Subscription price for one year is \$8. Single issues are \$2 each.

Periodicals postage paid at Dublin, VA and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
RURITAN NATIONAL, P.O. BOX 487, (UPS) 5451 LYONS ROAD, DUBLIN, VA 24084.

EXPRESSWAY TO BUILDING RURITAN



Fort Valley Ruritan (VA)
District 9 (Rockingham); Zone 4
Contact: Jeffrey Tidd, Past President
skycycle@live.com
703-217-0026

STRATEGIES

- Encouraged women and families to join
- Targeted youth/seniors for community service projects
- Focused on work projects versus check writing (i.e. building ramps/collecting school supplies)

Lucketts Ruritan (VA)
District 3 (Rappahannock); Zone 6
Contact: James McKenzie, Past President
jhmckenzie@outlook.com
703-963-5816

STRATEGIES

- Held "Sip and Socialize" function at local vineyard
- Surveyed community for feedback on what was needed community implemented some suggestions
- Sponsored Rudy Club at local elem. school
- Utilized Facebook and professional quality community newsletter ("Lucketts News and Notes")

Tomahawk Ruritan (WV)
District 10 (Potomac), Zone 1
Contact: Faith Hall
faithhhs1976@gmail.com
301-730-3801

STRATEGIES

- Ready to disband, one member reached out to Zone Governor and his neighboring club came to rescue (i.e. shared fundraisers)
- Faith Hall sought out family, neighbors and businesses (now above charter strength)
- Worked on community center to make it functional again - got finances back in order

Stay tuned for Ruritan National publications with additional examples of successful activities to enhance membership. Share examples with your National Director or me.



Survey Collection Box
Lucketts Club



Breakfast with Santa
Tomahawk Club



Ruritan

Volume 84, Spring 2019

EDITORIAL & MEMBERSHIP STAFF

Michael Chrisley, Executive Director
Crystal Andrews, Publications Manager
Diane Lawson, 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) 414-8946

Executive Committee

2019 National President
Larry W. Cassell - Jefferson, MD

2019 National President-Elect

Linward Hedgspeth - Rougemont, NC

National Treasurer

David Thompson - Dinwiddie, VA

National Secretary

James M Mills Jr. - Dallas, GA

2018 National President

Clinton Guy Cox - Kingwood, WV

Executive Director

Michael T. Chrisley - Dublin, VA

Directors

George Brothers - Durham, NC
Janet M Kinsey - St. Clairsville, OH
Jonathan Lafollette - Jonesborough, TN
Robin Davenport - Virginia Beach, VA
Danny Phillips - Spartanburg, SC
Marty Sewell - Richmond, KY
Stanley Ray Turner- Windsor, VA
Dennis Bagnell - Clear Brook, VA
Larry Bowman - Lewisburg, WV
Lynn Fillers - Newport, TN
Cassandra Flanagan - Delray, WV
Edward "Ed" Hicks - Lovingsston, VA
Donna H. Poulton - Belton, SC
Timothy Spittler - Hertford, NC
David B. Hartgrove - Gate City, VA
Carroll Lowe - Wilkesboro, NC
Ken Paugh - Keyser, WV
Patsy Shelton - Greeneville, TN
Roy Wallen - Lenoir City, TN
Mike Wright - Robertsville, OH
Cleve Wright - Williamsburg, VA

In This Issue:

President's Message.....	2-3
Executive Director's Message.....	5
Deputy Job Opening.....	6
Hampton Convention Recap.....	7-8
Adoption Awareness.....	9-10
Community Connect Program.....	11
Summer Leadership Conference.....	12
2020 Kingsport Convention.....	13-14
Foundation News.....	15-16
Founders' Day/Ruritan Pledge.....	17
Club and District News.....	18-43

**Ruritan National
Pledge Approved by
National Board.
See page 17.**



On the cover is President Larry Cassell and First Lady Nelda during a family vacation. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Bodie Mass, Brooks Mass, Larry Cassell, Nelda Cassell, AJ Atkinson, and Zak Atkinson. Pictured in the back are JT Mass, Emily Mass, Laura Atkinson, and Randy Atkinson.



Make a Plan and Execute it Now!

Welcome to a new year. It always surprises me how fast a year goes by. It seems like we just get started and the end of the year is upon us. The message in this for us all is, don't wait. Make a plan now and start to execute it. Before you know it, summer will be here and all of the things that go along with it like vacations, kids ball games, family reunions. Now is one of the best times of the year to engage new members in planning for service projects, reaching out to new members, and reaching back to members that were once a part of your club but had to leave for some reason.

Did you know that the Member Management System (MMS) has a list of everyone that has ever been a member of your club? You should periodically review that list to see if there are previous members there that couldn't actively serve in the past but may be able to come back now. Things change all the time. In fact change is constant. Just because they had to leave then...doesn't mean they can't come back now. They may just be waiting for the invitation. Look at all your past members and see if there are some that you could contact and extend an invitation to become active in your club again.

President Larry has a plan. He genuinely believes that Ruritan is the best community service organization in the business. He wants us all to have a passion that causes us to recruit new members, keep the members that we have, and reclaim members that we have lost. Let's support the recruit, retain, reclaim program this year to make Ruritan the best it can be.

We also have a plan to make sure that we are connected and relevant to the communities that we serve. Sometimes we get caught up in our own successes and continue to do the things that we have always done because it worked. Key word here may be worked. We need to continuously look to our communities to make sure that we are providing the service that the community needs. Again, change is constant. Take a look at your community and make sure that the projects you have planned are still relevant to the needs of the people you are serving. Everything works, nothing works forever. I have found that the best way to find out what people need is to ask. Consider having an open house or a community appreciation event and invite non-members to come. Show appreciation for their support and ask them to identify projects in the community that your club might be able to support.

*Don't wait. Make a plan and execute it now!
Have a great Ruritan year!*

Recent Ruritan National Board Action

In August 2018 the Ruritan National Board voted to amend the **Ruritan Club Bylaws** (Article IV Fees and Dues, Section E). The section previously stated "Except for club dues and applicable district dues, members shall not be assessed for contributions for any sole purpose. Proceeds from club fundraising should not be used for meals and dues." The board's motion changed "should not" to "shall not" making the section end with "Proceeds from club fundraising shall not be used for meals and dues."

The **Ruritan Club Bylaws** were also amended by the Board at its January 2019 meeting (Article IV Attendance, Section B). The section previously stated, in part, "... attendance made up in accordance with the rules set forth above, must have been within one (1) calendar month immediately before or following the day of absence." After the Board action that section now reads "... attendance made up in accordance with the rules set forth above, must have been within the entire calendar month before or the entire calendar month after a missed meeting to make up the meeting missed."

WANTED Program Updated

At the January 2019 meeting the Ruritan National Board also altered the WANTED program slightly. Instead of the "Me Minus Five" program granting extra drawing chances for members five years younger than the recruiter - the program will now grant five extra chances for any member brought into the organization who is between the ages of 35 and 55, establishing a target market for Ruritan recruiting. The new WANTED coupons (available on the Ruritan.org website) now ask for only the new member's year of birth.

Deputy Executive Director Position

Ruritan National is seeking an individual to fill the Deputy Executive Director position at the Ruritan National Office in Dublin, Virginia. This position is full time and would require the applicant to relocate to the Dublin, Virginia area. The Deputy Executive Director will report directly to the Executive Director and will be a **candidate** for the Executive Director position when the Executive Director retires. Job duties may include:

Assist the Executive Director in Supervising Staff and Staff Functions:

- Membership
- Accounting
- Publications
- Convention Planning
- Foundation
- General Office
- Personnel – Employment decisions/compliance

Assist the Executive Director with Board of Director Activities:

- Agenda preparation
- Committees as assigned
- Logistics for Board of Directors meetings
- Budget preparation and analysis
- Execution of board policy

Assist the Executive Director in Organizational Activities:

- Service to clubs and members of Ruritan National
- Maintenance of tax exempt status
- Maintenance of trade marks
- Convention Site Selection
- Contract Negotiations
- Physical Plant maintenance and upgrades
- Information Systems
- Risk Management



An individual with diverse management experience including significant work in the non-profit area either as an employee or volunteer is preferred. Resumes must be received by May 15, 2019. Planned start date October 1, 2019.

Please send resume and salary requirements to:

Michael Chrisley
Executive Director
P.O. Box 487
Dublin, VA. 24084

2019 Hampton National Convention Recap

The 2019 Ruritan National Convention held in Hampton, VA 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.

Convention activities started on Wednesday, January 16, with the opening of the exhibits that included the Ruritan Foundation Silent Auction and Ruritan Supply. On Thursday morning, President Elect Larry Cassell led the training of the 2019 Ruritan Governors. On Thursday night, attendees enjoyed the Caring is Sharing dinner before the official opening of the convention with the Flag Ceremony and Vespers Service. The



memorial service was led by Jeff Pancione, son of 2006 National President and 2019 Convention Co-Chair Joe Pancione. The flag ceremony was presented by 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw. Pastor Charles May of the Otterbein UM Church conducted the Vespers Service as well as the

Sunday morning Worship Service.

Friday's activities began with the business session where reports were given, candidates made speeches, Hampton Mayor Donnie Tuck welcomed our attendees to Hampton, and the Rudy Youth of the Year Award for 2018 was presented to Kathryn Landes, a member of the Mt. Crawford Club in the Rockingham District. Kathryn spent over 300 hours on club projects and has served as committee chair for her club's youth committee. She has also recruited a new member for her club all while managing her school work, playing sports, and serving as a Girl Scout.

The Ruri-Teen of the Year Award was presented to Carly Hall from the South Stokes Ruri-Teen Club in the Piedmont District. Carly has served as presi-



dent and vice president for her club. She completed nine projects and spent 160 hours on club projects. Additionally, she spends her time volunteering at Special Olympics, at a nursing home, at local elementary schools, and at other Ruritan Clubs. She is also involved with the student

body at school and is a member of the Beta and FFA clubs. The Ruritan of the Year for 2018 is Dale Healy of the Geff Community Club in the Lincolnland District. Dale is an Air Force Veteran who served in Vietnam and is a retired coal miner. He completed 30 club projects spending over 1,000 hours working on them. A few of the projects include putting up Christmas lights in the local park, helping two shut-ins, working the fall festival, mowing the lawn at the club building, and taking care of club building rentals. He also has served on the purchasing committee for his club. He has stated that he is not in the club to get awards, but to help others. Veterans Speaker retired Colonel Ward Nickish, member of the Gainesville Club, gave a heartwarming presentation of his military service



body at school and is a member of the Beta and FFA clubs. The Ruritan of the Year for 2018 is Dale Healy of the Geff Community Club in the Lincolnland District. Dale is an Air Force Veteran who served in Vietnam and is a retired coal miner. He completed 30 club projects spending over 1,000 hours working on them. A few of the projects include putting up Christmas lights in the local park, helping two shut-ins, working the fall festival, mowing the lawn at the club building, and taking care of club building rentals. He also has served on the purchasing committee for his club. He has stated that he is not in the club to get awards, but to help others. Veterans Speaker retired Colonel Ward Nickish, member of the Gainesville Club, gave a heartwarming presentation of his military service

2019 Ruritan National Board of Directors



and helping bring closure to those families who had loved ones that were MIA. Friday afternoon activities included the First Lady's Luncheon where First Lady Linda Cox gave a brief report about the homeless student project and thanked all those who participated. The DRM's were recognized for organizing new clubs and the Sounds of Liberty entertained the crowd with great music and singing. Friday afternoon continued with voting and afternoon workshops such as club officers training, club growth, Hampton's history, cards for the military, and many more. The evening concluded with the Foundation reception and live auction.

Saturday began with the second business meeting where the election results were announced,

awards were given, and a few special presentations were presented. The three bylaw issues, which were on the ballot at the convention and found on pages 7-9 of the Winter 2018 Ruritan Magazine, failed to pass. The afternoon workshops included club officers training, club growth, club fundraising, and cards thanking our military, just to name a few. The Installation Banquet concluded Saturday's events. 2019 National President Larry Cassell, President Elect Linward Hedgspeth, National Secretary James Mills, and seven three-year National Directors (David Hartgrove, Carroll Lowe, Ken Paugh, Patsy Shelton, Roy Wallen, Mike Wright, and Robert "Cleve" Wright) were installed. Corky Camin was installed as Foundation President and Phillip Bradshaw as Foundation



Trustee. The evening ended with an incredible performance by Landau Eugene Murphy, Jr, winner of season six of NBC TV's "America's Got Talent."

DISTRICT/AREA GROWTH AWARDS			
District	% Growth	2018 Governor	2019 Governor
SMALL DISTRICTS 500 MEMBERS OR LESS			
Tall Corn	6.80%	Rusty Clayton	Rusty Clayton
MEDIUM DISTRICTS 501-1000 MEMBERS			
Rappahannock	13.07%	Pearl Underwood	Sarah Kelly

OUTSTANDING RURITAN 4-H LEADER	
Member	Club
Cheryl Glover	Coopers (NC)
Anne Hillard	Choateville (KY)
Jane Tyson	Coopers (NC)

COMMUNICATION AWARDS	
2018 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Davy Crockett
2nd	Cherokee
3rd	Holland
2018 CLUB NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Mt. Sidney (VA)
2nd	Augusta Road (SC)
3rd	White Hall (VA)
2018 DISTRICT WEBSITE AWARD	
1st	Holland
2018 CLUB WEBSITE AWARD	
1st	Hall (NC)



First Lady Nelda Cassell Announces 2019 Project

First Lady Nelda Cassell has announced adoption awareness as her national project for 2019. Her special project is one that is dear to her heart. First Lady Nelda is the proud grandmother to four grandsons. Two of these grandsons were adopted. As you read this article, you will read the moving and personal adoption story of President Larry and First Lady Nelda's daughter Emily's and her husband JT's description of the adoption of their two sons.

After several years trying to have a family, JT and Emily decided to consider adoption. They turned to their local chapter of Children's Home Society (CHS) of Florida. CHS is a non-profit agency that works closely with children and families. There had been some connection to this organization from family and friends.

Within nine months, a long awaited call came from CHS. A new life was about to join their family. As per request from the birth parents, JT and Emily met them in a room full of love and tears of joy and sadness. Receiving this gift of life, they and their extended family and friends immediately fell in love with this amazing boy.

It only took a short while before all realized that JT and Emily had more love to give. To grow the family by one more was clear so that the children could share the same path of being adopted. After contacting CHS, it only took 5 months before they received a call that there was a baby safely surrendered at a local hospital through the Safe Haven Law that needed a forever family. With the second boy, some health challenges were evident. However, this did not impede their decision. Over time, only positive things occurred. Their family grew in love for these two young boys. They are growing, learning and exploring more every day. The boys have taught JT and Emily patience, trust, fear and how to love unconditionally. There is a special bond between the boys. While they may not look alike, they have the bond of brotherhood. There have been moments where the boys have corrected adults when it was assumed they were friends. Both boys are quick to respond to those assumptions by stating clearly, "we are brothers." Knowing the birth parents faced challenges, JT and Emily have never faulted either for their choices, but love them for their decision to choose adoption. These birth parents have given the most treasured gift possible to another family.



Today, about 135,000 children are adopted in America every year. These children are adopted from private domestic agencies, from other countries, and from the foster care system.

Here are some surprising facts that you may know about adoption supplied by Adam Pertman, Founder of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency.

One out of every 25 U.S. families with children has an adopted child.

Roughly 40% of adoptions are from the U. S. foster care system.

There are 107,918 foster children eligible for and waiting to be adopted.

81.5 million Americans have considered adoption.

The United States adopts more children than any other country.

How can your Ruritan club be a part of Nelda's adoption awareness project? Consider:

*Having a speaker from your area on the subject of foster care or state adoption

*Working with foster care workers to assist children in foster care by providing clothing, school supplies, and gifts on birthdays and special occasions

*Holding a picnic, party, etc. for children in foster care

*Having parents who have adopted children from other countries visit your club

Supporting 5K runs or other fundraisers for state domestic adoption agencies.

Learning more about adoptions from other countries by inviting parents who have adopted to visit club meetings and share the process involved in adoption.



In future Ruritan Magazines, there will be articles about foster care adoptions, private adoptions, and adoptions from other countries. Please share your adoption stories for inclusions in these articles by contacting First Lady Nelda at pappapcass@comcast.net.

1973 National President Charles Bridwell Passes



Ruritan's 1973 National President Charles G. Bridwell, 93, of Kingsport died on January 27, 2019, at Elmcroft Assisted Living following a period of declining health. Born in Kingsport on April 27, 1925, a son of the late Guy and Beulah Bridwell, he had resided in this area his entire life except for his time in service and when he lived in Knoxville while attending the University of Tennessee.

He graduated from Blountville High School. Charles was a veteran of World War II having served in the U.S. Navy stationed on the destroyer USS Irwin. He graduated from the University of Tennessee. He married Juanita Rose Parris on March 26, 1948, in Kingsport, Tennessee. He retired from Eastman Kodak in 1986 following 31 years of service. He was a member of Bethel Presbyterian Church since the 1980's where he served as Sunday school teacher, choir member and Elder.

Charles was a member of **Indian Springs** Ruritan. He was a long time member of the Sullivan County School Board and former president of the Tennessee State School Board. He was a member of Whiteside Masonic Lodge #13 F&AM. He was on the Eastman Family Bowling League and the Holston Defense Softball League.

In addition to his parents, Charles was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Frances Ann, and brothers Don Bridwell, and Jeff Bridwell. Charles is survived by his wife of 70 years, Juanita Parris Bridwell; daughter, Janet Carrick and husband, Herman Carrick, Jr. of Blountville; two grandchildren, Nicki Salyer and husband, David of Gray, and Lee Carrick of Blountville; three great-grandchildren, Nolan Salyer, Emily Salyer, and Ava Salyer; and several special nieces and nephews.

Board Adopts Community Connect Program For Club Outreach

In January the Board also adopted a new Community Connect program to assist clubs with their recruiting efforts. The program begins with the club holding a reception to invite community minded citizens to a forum to discuss projects to improve life in the community. If a club holds this initial reception and they notify Ruritan National – their name will be listed in the RURITAN magazine.

Second the club can develop a list of the projects suggested in this forum and recruit some of the participants to help with the project. This list of suggested projects will also be used in the RURITAN magazine to give other clubs ideas for outreach.

Finally, if the club adds five (5) new members following their community reception, they will be given a Ruritan road sign or a customized sign for their community. Use the Community Connect check list on the Ruritan website or in this publication to track your club's progress. The list may be sent after each milestone is accomplished.

Community Connect Program Checklist

Club Name: _____

Date community reception was held: _____

Person completing this report _____

(Milestone One: send this much to Ruritan National at P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084 to have your club's name listed in the RURITAN magazine.)

List of suggested projects:

(Milestone Two: send the report now, with project list, to Ruritan National at P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084 to have your ideas listed in the RURITAN magazine.)

New members as a result of the program:

(Milestone Three: send the report now, with list of new members, to Ruritan National at P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084 to get your road sign.)

Summer Leadership Conference

Coming Together, Staying Together, Working Together

All 2019 Ruritan District Lieutenant Governors should plan to attend the 2019 Summer Leadership Conference in Dublin, VA at the New River Community College in June. Current Lt. Governors are expensed to this conference.

2019 President Elect Linward Hedgspeth would also like to encourage any member of your district cabinet (in addition to the Lt. Governor) 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 useful advice on how you can build your clubs and districts. President Elect Linward and the Leadership Committee are planning the training around the theme: *Coming Together, Staying Together, Working Together*. Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success! 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 that go along with other leadership positions 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 2019 district leaders later this spring. Lodging rooms will be blocked for this conference at the Dublin area hotels.

Send ACTION SHOTS of your club activities to service@ruritan.org or mail to PO Box 487 Dublin, Virginia 24084. Deadline is May 30, 2019. A slideshow will be created for the Summer Leadership Conference.

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. As stated earlier, Lt. Governors are expensed to this conference, others may attend at their own expense and for a nominal registration fee. Special circumstances such as

substitutions will be considered on a case by case basis by the Ruritan National President.

Lt. Governors are required to attend this conference to be eligible for reimbursement of one half of their National Convention expenses. Current District Governors are not required to attend this conference to be eligible for one half of their National Convention expenses but are welcome to attend.

1. 2019 District Lt. Governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2020 National Convention in Kingsport, TN provided they complete the requirements below.
2. They attend the June 2019 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by the National President).
3. They attend the Governors' Training at the 2020 National Convention.
4. They attend substantially all meetings at the 2020 National Convention.
5. 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.

President Elect Linward will be honoring First Lady Nelda's Project on Adoption Awareness. Attendees will be asked to bring items or monetary donations to help with a local adoption agency. This agency will be holding a "Siblings Camp" for kids who have been placed in different homes. More details will be sent out at a later date.



All expense vouchers must be submitted within 90 days after the 2020 National Convention.

Current District Governors are eligible for ½ of their expenses to be paid to the National Convention providing that numbers 4 and 5 above are satisfied.

**PICTURE YOURSELF HERE...
AT THE 2020
RURITAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION**



KINGSPORT, TN



January 9-12, 2020

For registration information, go to Ruritan.org
or consult your Ruritan Magazine.

Speakers and workshops to motivate and inform you

Talented musicians to entertain you

**Activities for fellowship, such as Ruritan Square where you can visit
and relax with friends**

A Main Street area in the hotel to learn about the Kingsport area

**The Meadowview, our comfortable hotel with a friendly staff and newly
renovated meeting space within the hotel**

**An opportunity to tour Bays Mountain Park and Planetarium and the
nearby Country Music Museum and the Bristol Motor Speedway**

**Downtown Kingsport with its antique shops, locally-owned boutiques,
art galleries, and restaurants**

**You will not want to miss the 2020
Ruritan National Convention in Kingsport, TN!**

2020 National Convention in Kingsport, TN

Join 2019 National President Larry and First Lady Nelda Cassell for another exciting convention!

January 9-12, 2020



**Meadowview Marriott Conference
Resort and Convention Center
1901 Meadowview Pkwy
Kingsport, TN 37760**

For reservations by phone please call (423) 578-6600 (group name is: Ruritan National Conference) or you may use the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/kingsport2020>

Room rates at the Meadowview Marriott are \$124.00 a night and the group reservations cutoff date is December 19, 2019.



You may also check www.ruritan.org for the link and/or phone number to book your room.

For other information please contact
National Office - (540) 674-5431 Ext. 312 - convention@ruritan.org

Message From 2019 Foundation President Corky Camin



Everyone,

I am humbled and honored to be your 2019 Ruritan National Foundation President. I thank you for the support you have given me during this journey. As your 2019 RNF President, I would ask that you discuss the following things with your club.

First, now is the time for every Ruritan club to participate in Build Your Dollar Grants. BY\$ grants are a great way to increase your club's support of higher education. We have made the process simpler, easier, and provided an extended time period to claim your grant. With a \$300 deposit each year before Oct. 1st, a club may claim their

grant by submitting a simple claim form found on the RNF page of the Ruritan website. The amount of the grant received by the club is based on the number of clubs that participate and the income available for distribution. For example, clubs submitting a \$300 deposit prior to October 1, 2018 will receive a grant in 2019 of \$600. The amount received by the club will always exceed the amount contributed by the club.

Second, I encourage you to recognize outstanding Ruritan members with Tom Downing Fellow awards. Fewer than 4% of all Ruritans are Tom Downing Fellows, making this a distinctive honor among members. This is the highest award an individual can receive in Ruritan and outstanding Ruritan members deserve this recognition. The cost is \$500.00 and there are opportunities for matching grants from your districts and an individual to reduce your cost to \$250.00 making the award more affordable to clubs.

Third, have your club be an active donor in the RNF by participating in the Birthday Fund. Those clubs contributing \$2.00 per member will receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Those clubs contributing \$10.00 per member will receive a Plaque of Appreciation.

Individual, club and district participation in these programs is essential for the RNF to grow its corpus, thus allowing RNF to finance the charitable, educational and benevolent principles and activities of Ruritan clubs and of Ruritan National.



Women and Men Sizes Available
XS-XL: \$17

2X: \$19

3X: \$21

4X-6X: Pricing upon request.

Plus shipping at cost.

Ruritan National Foundation

2019 Board of Trustees

President: Corky Camin

Vice President: Brent Wheeler

Secretary: Graham Bryant

Treasurer: O.H. Bobbitt III

Promotion Chair: Phillip Bradshaw



Last, this year I would like to invite you to come

cruising with us on the Royal Caribbean *Grandeur of the Seas* sailing from Baltimore to Bermuda Sept 14th-19th. See the cruise info page in this magazine for more details. What a wonderful way to fellowship with Ruritans, make some new friends, and experience the beauty of Bermuda! I look forward to seeing many of you on that cruise.

I would like to thank you for making the Ruritan National Foundation what it is today; a strong part of Ruritan National. Thank you for everything you do for the Ruritan National Foundation!

Order Your Cruise Polo Today!

**Final Order will be placed on
July 1, 2019.**

**Call Amanda to order
877-787-8727 #302.**

2019 Foundation Fellowship Cruise

September 14-19, 2019



5 Night Bermuda Cruise

Aboard the Grandeur of the Seas



**From: Baltimore,
Maryland**

**To: Kings Wharf,
Bermuda**

Reserve your spot in our group today!

Group ID:1956169

Only 30 rooms available at rate of \$489/person* until June 10th.

Deposit: \$500/Room OR \$250/Person (Double Occupancy)

Final Payments Due June 16, 2019

****For Interior Room. Taxes and fees not included.***

Call Royal Caribbean International at

(800) 465-3595 for reservations and/or pricing on rooms for 2,3,or 4+ guests.

Monday-Saturday: 9:00a.m. - 8:00p.m. (EST)

Further Assistance:

Call Amanda Ramirez at Ruritan National Office

(540) 674-5431 Ext. 302

**If you are solo sailor & looking for a roommate,
call Amanda. She will be keeping a list of other
solo sailors.**



SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!



Founders' Day 2019
Saturday, May 18
Holland, VA

Check the Holland District Website for information on events, times, and lodging.

Coming to Founders' Day? Plan to participate in the Holland District Foundation, Inc. Charity Golf Tournament on Friday, May 17 at the Suffolk Golf Course. To register, contact James C. Copeland at jamescplnd@yahoo.com or 757-986-4494 for information.



Ruritan National Pledge **Approved by Board**

The following pledge, proposed by National Director Mike Wright and the Sandy Creek (OH) Ruritan Club, was approved by the National Board in August as the official Ruritan pledge.

“We are Ruritans. We are dedicated to improving communities and building a better America. By showing goodwill toward others, we are improving the attitudes of many. Through fellowship, we are gaining friendships that last a lifetime. Through community service, sharing and caring for those around us, we are striving to reach our common goals together. May God Bless the Ruritans!”

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.

Cypress Celebrates 70th Anniversary



In recognition of **Cypress** Ruritan Club's 70th anniversary, Foundation Trustee Phillip Bradshaw and President Elect Linward Hedgspeth presented a certificate of appreciation to 2018 Cypress Club President Terry Ticky. Also pictured are Floyd "Bump" Umphlett who is the club's oldest member and has 65 years of service and F.J. "Effie" Brinkley who has 69 years of service.



Driver Collects Toys

Driver Ruritan Club collected toys for needy children in the Suffolk, area by placing Toys-4-Tots collection boxes in three Driver area churches. This annual project of the club generates many toys for the Toys-4-Tots program. Parishioners at Glebe Episcopal, Berea Christian, and Beech Grove Methodist churches contributed toys by filling collection boxes in their churches.



Arnold Vincent Goes to Hampton

Arnold Vincent (with 60 years of perfect attendance in the **Greensville County** Club) attended the Ruritan National Convention in Hampton after an absence of several years due to health problems. He was greeted by 1978 National President Bobby Wrenn and First Lady Ann and 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter. Ann Wrenn and Arnold were high school classmates. Pictured (l-r) are Ann Wrenn, Phyllis Lewter, and Bobby Wrenn with Arnold Vincent.

Deep Creek Donates \$10,000

Deep Creek Ruritan Club held a golf tournament exclusively for the EDMARC Children's Hospice in Portsmouth, VA. Thirty-nine teams played in the tournament which raised \$10,000 for the hospice. Golf Tournament Chair Joe Noha presented the check to EDMARC Children's Hospice Executive Director Debbie Stitzer-Brame.



Smithfield Delivers Baskets

Smithfield Ruritan Club delivered Holiday baskets to local families.

Pictured (l-r) are Mike Swecher, Tom Lightfoot, Glen Schlickemeyer, Zach Lightfoot, Skip Sharpley, Jeffery Scott, Larry Odom, and Herb Jones.



Great Bridge Gains Three New Members

Great Bridge Ruritan Club is starting the year with three new members. Pictured (l-r) are Bob and Wendy Queen; 2012 National President Phyllis Lewter, who initiated the new members; and Mary Ann McDermott.



Burrowsville Collects Tabs



Burrowsville Ruritan Club collected 15 five-gallon containers of drink tabs and donated them to the Richmond, VA Ronald McDonald House. This will allow one family to stay one week at the house free of charge. The collection was a result of a two-year project in which members, churches, and other individuals took part. Pictured are House Coordinator Bridie Stehly and Project Chair Bob "River Bob" Winfree.

Windsor Donates to Toy Drive

Windsor Ruritan Club Chair Bentley Richardson presented a check to Sherriff Riddle for the annual toy drive. The club also presented Rudy Bears to the Volunteer Rescue Squad. Club member R.A. Howell received the club's Ruritan of the Year Award.



South Norfolk with Eddie Hodges



South Norfolk Ruritan Club Charter member Eddie Hodges wanted to have a group shot with his South Norfolk Club brothers. All members were honored to be able to do this for him. South Norfolk 2018 Club President Rusty Barath presented Scott Fager and Gary Burdette with President's Golden Key Awards.

Surry County Distributes Food

Surry County Ruritan Club member Billy and Lewis Epps worked the foodbank distribution center and helped distribute food to 133 families. Billy presented a \$500 donation to the foodbank to help with costs.



News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District

Gloucester and Abingdon Install New Members



Gloucester Ruritan Club President Jackie Beyea welcomed new member Susan M. Barbery. Beyea also presented Sarah Fary a President's Golden Key Award. To date, Sarah has recruited six new members.

Abingdon Ruritan Club 2018 Club President Tony Dziadul welcomed new members Arica Saunders and Sandra Speers. Pictured in the front (l-r) are Speers and Saunders. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Dziadul, Shepherd, and Stevens. The club also welcomed new member Tereasa Zaruba. Pictured (l-r) are husband Dan Zaruba, Teresa Zaruba, Club President Mary Lou Shepherd, and Barbara Priest.



Warwick Celebrates its 69th Anniversary

Warwick Ruritan Club celebrated its 69th anniversary. Special guest were 2018 Chesapeake District Governor Steve Wright, 2018 Zone 8 Governor Sewell Rowley, and National Director Cleve Wright. Widows of deceased members were also present. Entertainment was provided by Nick Caffacus.

News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District

Bealeton-Remington Wins Prize

Bealeton-Remington Ruritan Club participated in the community holiday parade with a float. Rudy Bear participated as well. The float won 1st place for best non-profit. Club members assisted with the parking and setup of the parade. This year, winning 1st place has the members already scrambling to come up with a theme for next year's float.



Clarke County Presents Award



If you ask members of the **Clarke County** Ruritan Club what is their greatest asset they would say Thomas "Tommy" Cather. Tommy has been a member of the club for over 42 years. Tommy assists with the events and is the first to volunteer. Tommy was named the Clarke County Ruritan of the Year for his outstanding service and dedication.

Round Hill Funds Bite Suit

Round Hill Ruritan Club President Rose Knickerbocker presented a check to Director of the Winchester/Frederick County Law Enforcement Foundation Dr. Graham, Officer Neek, and K9 Jax for the purchase of a bite suit. An officer will be fitted for the bite suit to assist with training of Jax and the other K9s that are used in the community.



News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District continued

Stonewall District Remembers Margaret Ann Makowski



Stonewall District Ruritan Club held a Celebration of Life for the late Margaret Ann Makowski. National Officers, Ruritan members, friends, and family shared memories of Margaret Ann, who had a love for Ruritan and has forever touched our hearts and souls. 2018 National President Guy Cox and wife Linda not only shared memories but donated the first \$100 toward a Ruritan Forever. Within less than a minute the full amount for a Ruritan Forever was collected. Margaret Ann's husband Al Makowski

accepted the plaque in her memory. Margaret Ann was a member of Stonewall District Ruritan for over 17 years with 17 years of perfect attendance. She was the secretary for the club as well as the Rappahannock District Secretary. Margaret Ann served as District Governor in 2016.

The club delivered over 600 poinsettias to the local nursing homes in Winchester, Frederick County, and Clarke County on Christmas Eve. The residents were thrilled with the delivery especially from the children. Each year Weber's Nursery and Garden Center in Winchester, Virginia, donates the poinsettias to over 15 Nursing Homes and their residents. Members of the Stonewall District Ruritan make the delivery to those nursing homes. Past National Foundation President Joe Hulver checked off the list of nursing homes and the number of poinsettias that were being loaded in each vehicle to assure that each resident would receive a poinsettia.



Lovettsville-Waterford Participates in Oktoberfest



Each year **Lovettsville-Waterford** Ruritan Club participates in the Oktoberfest in Lovettsville with German-style food. Oktoberfest in Lovettsville is recognized as one of the top Oktoberfest Celebrations in the world. Lovettsville celebrates their rich German heritage with authentic German cuisine, live music, Bavarian dances, and of course, beer. This two-day event is free and over 15,000 visitors attended the event in 2018.

News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

Keysville Donates Generously

Keysville 2018 Ruritan Club President David Watkins presented Annie Sandridge with a \$500 scholarship. Annie attended Randolph-Henry High School where she was taking dual enrollment classes and juggling her rigorous academic schedule with an athletic one. She also played a vital role in the Model General Assembly as a lobbyist. She is now attending Virginia Tech. Also, the club donated to the Keysville Volunteer Fire Department and Charlotte County Rescue Squad. Pictured (l-r) are Fire Chief Lynn Duffey and Keysville PR Chair Gerry Pettus. Pictured (l-r) are Amanda Rowland, Larry Newcomb, Gina Newcomb, Gerry Pettus, and Captain Bill Mahew.



Amelia Celebrates its 80th Anniversary



Amelia Ruritan Club celebrated its 80th anniversary. About 60 people attended the celebration including members, their spouses and guests. Special guests included 2018 National President Guy Cox and First Lady Linda, 2015 National President Bobby Burton and wife Linda, 2004 National President John Hancock, and Past National Director Susan Greisz and

husband Leonard. President Cox presented a plaque honoring the club for its 80 years of service to the community. He also presented a West Virginia pin to Warren Anderson who has been an active member of the club for 53 years. He installed new club officers. They are Ame-



lia Club President Don Shreffler; Secretary Paul Folliard; Treasurer Robin Gough (not shown); Directors Ruth Anne Lawson, Bill Childress, and Kermit Shaffer; and advisor Terri Barker. Susan and Leonard Greisz presented Jim Lawson a Tom Downing Fellow Award. Jim was selected as the Appomattox District Ruritan of the Year at the Appomattox District Convention.

Clarksville Has Successful Year

Clarksville Ruritan Club celebrated another outstanding year at their annual awards banquet. President Janice Edwards congratulated members for logging over 26,000 hours volunteering in order to give the community over \$182,000 in 2018. The club continues to support 38 local groups and numerous individuals to improve education, environment, public service, recreation, social development, and living conditions. In December, they continued another tradition by filling gift bags for 130 residents of the local Sentara Meadowview Nursing Facility. The presents fulfilled the individual wish lists requested by the recipients. Wanda Duncan, who has been a Ruritan since 2001, was recognized as the 2018 Ruritan of the Year. She served as the club's 2018 treasurer while volunteering with Tuesday bingo, Friday night dances, the thrift shop, and stews. Allen Griffin was presented the President's Award for his continued work with calling bingo every Tuesday night, maintaining the Ruritan Park, and directing the 4th of July Parade. Allen has been a loyal, diligent member of the club for over 40 years. Additionally, Steve Roberts was remembered with the lighting of a memorial candle to recognize his life and many years of service to the club.



Downing Rings Bell



Downing Ruritan Club members Jim Edwards and Zeb Saunders worked to raise money for the Salvation Army on the first snowy day of December 2018. The club provided bell ringers for two days at a local shopping mall.



News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District

Glade Hill Donates to Fire Department

Glade Hill Ruritan Club donated \$300 to representatives of the Glade Hill Fire Department. Pictured are Allen Richards, Glade Hill Club Treasurer Alise Fralin, and Mike Smith. The club also recognized Nancy Hodges for bringing in two new members. 2008 Ruritan National President Wayne Outlaw (right) presented the President's Golden Key to Nancy (center) and her husband Barry Hodges (left). New club officers were installed in December including (l-r) President Ann Altice; Secretary Carrie Waldron; Treasurer Alice Fralin; and board members David Ferguson, Gary Solomon, and Oliver Fralin; and installing officer 2008 National President Wayne. (Not pictured is Vice President Eddie Prillaman.)



Brookville and Clifford Present Ruritan of the Year Awards



Brookville Ruritan Club presented Brookville Club Secretary Melissa Robertson with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award for her outstanding commitment to the club. She is always ready and willing to help with any and all projects. Club members Vance Driskill and Thomas Patrick presented



the award. The club had the privilege of honoring veterans with a buffet style dinner for over 120 guests. Guest speaker for the evening was Darryl Haden (Air Force) and entertainer was Gary Witt (Marine). Boy Scout Troop 148 presented the colors. Donations were accepted for needed supplies for



the VA Hospital.

Clifford Ruritan Club presented JJ Montgomery with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award and recognized Amherst County Public Safety Director Gary Roakes for his service. Also, new club officers were installed.

Magazine Deadlines

Summer - May 1, 2019

Fall - August 1, 2019

Winter - November 1, 2019



Send all club news to Crystal at media@ruritan.org



See You In Kingsport!

Nicklesville is Making a Difference



Nicklesville Ruritan Club presented 20 Rudy Bears to the Niswonger Children's Hospital. Pictured are Amanda Ward, Conner McKinney, and Past National Director Glen Broadwater.

Broadwater and Past National Director Gary Olinger presented a Ruritan Forever to 2018 Southwest Virginia District Governor Charles Bullock. Bullock's wife Linda pinned him.

The club honored veterans with a dinner. A menu of beef roast, corn, cream



potatoes, slaw, green beans, rolls, and an assortment of desserts were served to over 75 in attendance. The guest speaker for the evening was the Assistant Director of Veterans Cemeteries of Virginia. A gold-star mother was in attendance and presented Vietnam Veterans with pins and certificates.

Atkins Gains New Business Member

Atkins Ruritan Club President Lester Owens (right) presented a business plaque to new club member Gillespie Monument Company in Atkins. The club also honored one of their youth members, seventh grader Shinji Leonard, as the Spelling Bee winner at Marion Middle School.



Pictured with Southwest Virginia District Treasurer Linda Broadwater (left) is Jessica Vencill the winner of the 2018 Biltmore trip raffle. After expenses, the district profited \$1,044.



Kingsport Bound!

News From Ruritan: Woodrow Wilson District

Massies Mill Honors Veterans



Massies Mill Ruritan Club hosted veterans for dinner prepared by the Bethlehem Methodist Church Women of Roseland. Music was provided by "Smoother with Age," Ray Van Wagner of Roseland, also a veteran. Members Bill and Trish Berghorn prepared the patriotic table decorations. Massies Mill 2018 Club President David Ponton presided and Tom Nelson organized the veteran recognition. Each veteran shared his service history with some detailing interesting moments of service to include those nearly

giving their lives for our country. Pictured in the front are Roy T. Wright, Sr. (Army); William H. Thompson, Jr. (Army); Carl Coffey (Army); Arthur "Buck" Stratton (Army); Paul Saunders (Army); Bill Turner (Army); William Fortune (Army); Lynwood "Lyn" Wright (Navy); and Scott Evans (Army). Pictured in the middle row are Ray Van Wagner (Air Force); Donald E. Weide (Navy); Thomas W. Thomas (Navy); Tony Smith (Navy); Neal Motley (USMC); Steve Cummings (Army); and William R. Berghorn (Navy). Pictured in the back are Harry White (Navy); Bob Hight (Navy); Alvin Stratton (Air Force); Bill Downs (Navy); H. T. Brown (Navy); L. B. Moody (Air Force); and Thomas P. Nelson, Jr. (Navy).

Churchville and McGaheysville Make Apple Butter

Churchville Ruritan Club made apple butter with **McGaheysville** Ruritan Club's assistance. Sixty bushels of apples were used. The club also collected nine bags of trash as they adopted a section of highway.

New Hope Installs Officers



Woodrow Wilson Zone Governor Gary Huffman installed **New**

Hope Ruritan Club's 2019 officers. Pictured (l-r) are New Hope Directors Bob Wise, Rob Riner, and Angie Caracofe; Secretary Phyllis Fretwell; Vice President Stephanie Ramsey; President Larry Swisher; and Treasurer Dianne Whetzel.



News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

Fulks Run Presents Scholarships

Fulks Run Ruritan Club member Matt Krantz hands out dictionaries to third graders at the Fulks Run Elementary School. This is an annual event and very popular program as demonstrated by student interest in the books. The club has supported the school in many different ways since the school was opened in 1961.



Fulks Run Ruritan Club Secretary Lena Custer (center) presented the Fulks Run Scholarship to Torrie Smallwood (l) and the Build Your Dollars Scholarship to Troy Fink.

Cross Keys-Mill Creek Donates to BBBS



Cross Keys-Mill Creek Ruritan Club members Judy Shirey, Larry Wheeler, Richard Shirey, and Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) Executive Director Lindsey Douglas are pictured together for a community breakfast fundraiser. All proceeds were donated to BBBS of Harrisonburg-Rockingham County. The club serves a hearty breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, and biscuits and gravy on the second Saturday of each month from December through March. Each month a different community organization will receive all proceeds from the breakfast.

Fort Valley Honors Veterans



Fort Valley Ruritan Club members Thom and Eileen Drinkwater, who are also active in the VFW and American Legion, toured nursing homes and provided veterans with certificate of appreciation for Veterans Day. The club welcomed two new members Kelly and Kyleigh Spinks.

Forestville-Quicksburg Holds BBQ Fundraiser



Forestville-Quicksburg Ruritan Club held a BBQ chicken fundraiser to fund the construction of a pavilion in support of the Triplett Technical School career and technical programs. Triplett Technical School Principal Connie Pangle accepts a donation from Forestville-Quicksburg Ruritan Club Vice President Scott Proctor.

Hamburg Picks Up Trash



Hamburg Ruritan Club held a Fall Trash Pick-Up Day. Pictured (l-r) are Alan Dodson, Roy Nilson, Ann Follansbee, Bill Funkhouser, and Dottie Farley. (Not pictured is Judy Green.) Rudy Bear Ann Follansbee and driver Joe Bowman represented the club during the Edinburg Christmas Parade.

Bob Wheatley Receives Award



Bridgewater Ruritan Club's Membership Committee Glen Thomas (left) and John Harsh (right) presented Bob Wheatley with the Glen and Nancy Thomas Ruritan of the Year Award. Appreciation was expressed for Bob's leadership with the club's Fry Shack during the Rockingham County Fair. The David Evick Fair Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Donna Pettit in appreciation for the time she and grandsons Brandon and Tyler contributed to the Fry Shack.

Randy Lee Huffer Receives Ruritan Forever Award



Burkittsville Ruritan Club honored Randy Lee Huffer with a Ruritan Forever Award. Huffer has been a member of the club for 50 years and has served one year each as president, vice president, and treasurer. He has also served as club secretary for over 40 years. Randy served six years as zone governor and two years as Potomac District Governor. Shown presenting the award to Huffer (right) is Potomac District Lt. Governor Wade Clem.

Five New Members for Lewistown

Lewistown Ruritan Club recently held Ladies Night at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant in Frederick. Dick Basely, Lewistown Ruritan President, welcomed the guests and thanked the ladies of the Lewistown United Methodist Church for preparing the meals for their monthly Ruritan meetings. Rick and Tamra Bricker, strong supporters of the club, were also recognized.

Jim Rada, Jr., award-winning author who has written many works of historical fiction and non-fiction history, was the guest speaker. Rada did a presentation on the Spanish flu pandemic and how it affected the residents of Frederick County as World War I was winding down in October 1918. This flu caused an estimated 100 million deaths world-wide and was the deadliest disease the world has ever faced according to Rada. Mr. Rada also graciously provided one of his books to be given as a raffle prize.

The club presented donations to the following organizations: Thurmont Food Bank, 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program, 4-H Camp Center, Lewistown District Volunteer Fire Department, Lewistown Elementary School PTA, Lewistown United Methodist Women, Ca-



tocton High School Safe & Sane Program, and Team Hope for Breast Cancer. These donations were made possible through support of chicken barbecues held during the summer. In addition to these donations, the club donated \$5,200 towards scholarships for local students. These funds were made from the annual golf tournament. Pictured (l-r) are 2018 Lewistown Club President Dick Baseley, Rich and Tamra Bricker, 2018 Program Chair Harold Staley, and Jim Rada.



The club welcomed five new members. Pictured left (l-r) are Loberta Staley, Pat Quynn, and Susan Springer with 2018 Club President Dick Baseley. Pictured right are new members Cindy Kokoski and Patricia Goff with long-time club member and father Buddy Moore.



Can't Wait!

We're Going to Kingsport!

I'll Be There!

News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

Hall Welcomes Two New Members

Pictured are **Hall** Ruritan Club's new members Daniel Haggitt (left) and Michael Savage. Club member Perry Eure was named Albermarle District Ruritan of the Year at the Albemarle District Convention. The club donated dictionaries to third graders in Gates County Elementary Schools. A community open house was held in honor of the club's 40th anniversary.



Shawboro Delivers Christmas Bags to Elderly



The Ladies of the **Shawboro** Ruritan Club led by Committee Chair Amie Beickert assembled and delivered Christmas bags filled with puzzle books, writing pads, pens, cookies, zucchini cake, candy, and a poinsettia plant, for the elderly and disabled. Forty bags were delivered to residents that were simply overjoyed and amazed. Pictured (l-r) are Tanya Hoefer, Sue Laumann, Amie Beickert, Christine Beaumont, Connie Clark, Linda Boldt, and Becky



Ray. The club also participated in Wreaths Across America by sponsoring 85 wreaths. Club members Fred and Theresa Schwarzrock participated in the laying of wreaths at the Arlington National Cemetery.

News From Ruritan: Roanoke District

Robersonville Builds Ramps



Conway Club President Phil Deloach (l) is shown accepting an 80th Anniversary certificate from National Director George Brothers.

Redwood Honors Veterans



Redwood Ruritan Club honored veterans with a catered meal and recognized their service. 2018 Redwood Secretary May Ann Keith presented each veteran with a commemorative key chain. The club donated \$375 for 25 wreaths for the Wreaths Across America program to decorate veterans cemeteries. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission is to remember, honor, and teach



by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad. Club members J.T. and Shirley Glasgow were proud to assist on December 15 when the wreaths were placed at the veterans' graves at Raleigh National Cemetery. The club made a second donation of 70 quarts of Brunswick stew to assist in feeding citizens of eastern North Carolina. Ricky and Wanda Allen made the delivery to Samaritan's Purse. Pictured top left are veterans Raymond Thurston, Mary Thurston, Roy Dickerson, Robert Rogers, Morris Jones, JoAnn Bullock, Wayne Watson, Paul Rigsbee, Harold Rigsbee, Sammy Clark, Oliver Krahwinkel, Gary McLean, Jerry Husketh, Rick Pareis, George Brothers, Danny Taylor, Jackson T. Glasgow, and Bud Flamion.



Silk Hope Presents Awards

Silk Hope Ruritan Club presented Mike Smith with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award and Rita Rogers with the Volunteer of the Year Award.



Pictured are new club officers President Neill Lindley, VP Ned Gaudette, Assistant Secretary Daniel Rickard, Secretary Paula "Missy" Thompson, Assistant Treasurer Johnny Johnson, Past President Mike Braxton, and Board members Mike Smith and Conner Tomlinson. Not pictured were Treasurer Cheslea Gaudette and Mike Hecken.

Coopers Delivers Baskets



Coopers Ruritan Club prepared and delivered over 70 fruit baskets to shut-ins and others in the community. This is an annual event that takes place during the club's December meeting.



News From Ruritan: Greenville Goldsboro District

New Hope Hosts Christmas Party



New Hope Ruritan Club hosted the Wayne County Special Populations Christmas Party. The club provided food and gifts. Pictured left (l-r) are Gloria Johnson, Paul Copeland, Bruce Wolfe, Holly Crocker, John Crocker, Seanna Copeland, Kevin Reeves, JoAnn Davis, Nancy Dawson, Barbara Walker, Jackie Warwick, and David Trivette. (Not pictured is Julie



Trivette.) Pictured above (l-r) are the 2019 club officers: Secretary John Crocker, Director Steve Radford, Treasurer Bruce Wolfe, Director Seanna Copeland, President Nancy Dawson, Vice President Kevin Reeves, and National Director George Brothers. (Not pictured is Director Barbara Walker.) John Crocker received the club's Ruritan of the Year Award. Pictured (l-r) are VP Kevin Reeves, Secretary John Crocker, National Director George Brothers.

News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District



Piney Grove Ruritan Club delivered 40 fruit baskets to local shut-ins and nursing homes in the Piney Grove area for Christmas.



News From Ruritan: Spartan District

Duncan Presents Quilts to Veterans

Duncan Ruritan Club set aside a day to honor the club veterans. Club members Marvin Dobson (left) and Marvin Coggins (right) have a combined 12 years of military service. They were presented with Quilts of Valor. The mission of the program is "to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor." Making the presentation was South Carolina Quilts of Valor coordinator Ken Hinkle. Also included in the presentation is a plaque for each veteran.



News From Ruritan: Columbia District

Sheila Shanklin Receives Garland Gray Award



National Director Danny Phillips is shown presenting **Columbia District** Foundation Chair Sheila Shanklin the 3rd place Garland Gray Award during the Columbia District President's Night. Special guests for the evening was National President Elect Linward Hedgspeth and wife Anne.

Pelion Honors Veterans

At the January meeting, the **Pelion** Ruritan Club had as their guests the SC Patriot Guard Riders. Mr. L.Z. Harrison from Post 6 spoke about their organization and how they support the military heroes, first responders, and honorable discharged veterans. This organization is a 100% volunteer, nonprofit organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services. They attend funeral services of American heroes who died on the battlefield as well as those service men and women who served and died in peace time. They come from all walks of life, some are Veterans but some have not served. Most ride motorcycles but some drive four wheelers. They are highly appreciated and have one thing in common – they fully support the men and women who are serving or have served in our military by protecting our country and our way of life. The Patriot Guard Riders “stand the flag line” at places of services. The SC Patriot Guard Riders have supported the Pelion Ruritan Veterans Memorial Service since its completion in 2015. The club also welcomed Zone Governor, Jeremy Mitchell. A meal prepared by Charlie Haggard was enjoyed by all.

News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District

Williamsburg Holds Bear Bash



Williamsburg Ruritan Club donated 20 Rudy Bears to The Seasons Place for its 14th Annual Bear Bash - The Teddy Tree. The Seasons Place will be collecting new teddy bears, stuffed animals, coloring books, and crayons for Children's Shriners Hospital in Lexington, KY. Pictured (l-r) are Office Manager Rondell Stump-Pack, club member Debra Zahorenko, and Marketing Manager Stephanie McCutcheon. (Not pictured is Stan Zahorenko.)

The parking lot in front of the community building has been paved using the grant money and donations from Seneca Trail Charitable Foundation, five local benefactors, and the club.

This building is in constant use by the club and other community groups such as the Food Pantry, 4-H, and Girl Scouts and for reunions and other celebrations. It also serves as a Williamsburg area emergency response building. When the power goes out or floods or other disaster occur this building is used for shelter because of its generator, kitchen, toilets, and convenient location. Williamsburg Club President Jack Goodman coordinated this project.

Bluegrass Serves Breakfast



Bluegrass Ruritan Club treated area veterans and their spouses to breakfast in November at Trinity United Methodist Church in Pickaway, WV. Pictured are the guests enjoying the meal and fellowship.

News From Ruritan: Bluegrass District



Cropper Honors Veterans

Local veterans gathered at Cropper on Sunday, November 11th to celebrate Veterans Day. The **Cropper** Ruritan Club sponsors the annual event which includes a potluck meal, a history of area veterans, and door prizes.

The event kicked off with State Representative Rob Rothenburger reading a resolution by the Kentucky House of Representatives which marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day

of the eleventh month of 1918. The resolution, in part, said the following: The members of the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Protection honor and remember the many brave men and women who gave their lives in this most terrible conflict, and express their gratitude to all who served to protect the freedoms and ideals of democracy. To close out the event, a beautiful rendition of *America the Beautiful* was sung by Rep. Rothenburger's granddaughter, Addison. A good time was had by all!



News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

Volunteer Donates Treat Bags

Volunteer Ruritan Club provided a fish dinner for veterans on Veterans Day. Club members held a Children's Christmas Party. Gifts were purchased and wrapped making children of all ages smile. The club donated treat bags and toys to the Carters Valley Fire Department during its "Santa Run."



News From Ruritan: Cherokee District



Cherokee District held a fundraiser for a handmade quilt by Cherokee District Secretary Jean Pierce. The quilt top was donated by Past National

Director Don Ramey from his mother's estate. Pictured (l-r) are Delores Watson and Nicki and Don Ramey.



**We will Celebrate
Ruritan
in Kingsport!**

News From Ruritan: Alabama Florida District

Bleeker Cooks Ham and Turkey



Bleeker Ruritan Club donated 25 smoked turkeys from its Christmas Smoked Ham and Turkey Sale to help County Commissioner and Ruritan Robert Ham's charity which fed 25 needy families and provided children with Christmas gifts. District Governor Marc Whaler was present and assisted. 2018 Bleeker Ruritan Club President Don Verner said, "It's what we do in and for our local community." Pictured (l-r) are John Henderson, Paul Verner, Robert Ham, Ronnie Brooks, and Don Verner.



2017 National President Danny Privott had the honor to swear in **Alabama Florida** District Governor Marc Wahler and District Secretary Kelly Wahler. Both are members of the Bleeker Ruritan Club. Marc is also known as the Bleeker Ruritan Club Pitmaster for being responsible that the Christmas Turkey and Ham Sales is a success.

Walnut Hill Installs New Officers

Walnut Hill Ruritan Club installed new officers.

Pictured (l-r) are 2018 Walnut Hill Club President J. D. Powell, 2019 Club President Edward Hudson, Vice President Jake Brandenburg, Treasurer Ken McLeod, Secretary Larry Walker, and Directors Robbie Ferguson and Lonnie Wilson.



News From Ruritan: Ohio District

Winona Welcomes New Member



Winona Ruritan Club installed 2019 officers in December with Ohio Ruritan Governor Charles Pierce performing the installation. Pictured are (l-r) President Rob Doyle Jr., Past President



Homer Huprich, Vice President Homer Althouse, Governor Pierce, Secretary Elmer Lee Stamp, Treasurer Robert Doyle Sr., three-year director John P. Heinbuck, two-year director Thom Ewing, and one-year director Buster Rogowsky.

The club welcomed new member David Gilliss, pictured (left) with Club President Rob Doyle, Jr. (center) and Ohio District Governor Charles Pierce (right).



Al Lutz Receives Tom Downing Fellow Award



Damascus Ruritan Club member Al Lutz was presented a Tom Downing Fellow Award from 2018 Ohio District Governor John

Biery (left) and 2018 Damascus Club President Paul Given (right). The club honored veterans with a dinner.



Goshen Center and Fairfield Give Rudy Bears



Goshen Center Ruritan Club donated 28 fifty dollar food cards and 54 Rudy Bears to area families through West Branch Local Schools. Pictured are 2018 Goshen Center Club President Crist Martig, Director Kevin Martig, School Secretary Cori Sands, and Club Treasurer and 2018 Ohio District Governor John Biery.



Fairfield Ruritan Club held its 25th anniversary car show. Spectators flooded the streets for this huge event. Fairfield Club Secretary Mary Ann Flesse is shown presenting a check and presenting Rudy Bears to officer Brian Granchie and Csuti Columbiana K9 Unit and Safety Services.



Smithville Presents Scholarships

Smithville Ruritan Club awarded academic scholarships to four Green Local School seniors (who graduated in May 2018) at the Smithville Ruritan Christmas Dinner at the Smithville Inn. These students are now attending college and were invited to talk about their first semester experience. Noah Riggensbach attending University of Akron received the Ruritan Build Your Dollars Scholarship for \$500. Nicole Schaffer attending Ashland University received the Ruritan Feusier Scholarship for \$500. Emily Daniels attending Taylor University received the Ruritan Maynard Yoh Scholarship for \$500. Anna Muntin attending University of Akron received the Ruritan Academic Scholarship for \$500. Recipients (l-r) are Noah Riggensbach, Nicole Schaffer, and Emily Daniels. (Not pictured is Anna Muntin.)



Knox Ruritan Club installed new officers and directors at its annual Christmas party at Bethel United Church of Christ.



News From Ruritan: Ohio District continued



Lodi Serves Community



Lodi Ruritan Club presented Sandi Garver, owner of Evergreen Acres, with the club's Service to the Community Award for her assistance in fundraising and for projects that the club has completed over the years. The club also put a display at Lodi Library showing volunteer and

community projects of the club. Projects include ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign and assisting with serving meals at the Lodi Methodist Church. Eric Lucius and Paul Emerson are shown with the display featuring the club.

News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District

Larry Richardson Receives Ruritan Forever Award



Collettsville Ruritan Club celebrated its 65th anniversary. Approximately 20 people attended. 2018 National President Guy Cox and National Director Jonathan LaFollette were among the guests. Long-time club member Larry Richardson was presented a Ruritan Forever plaque as a special gift from the club. He also received a Ruritan Forever pin placed on his jacket by his wife and fellow club member Patsy Richardson.

Gerald Sprinkle Recognized



Gamewell Ruritan Club had a Veterans Day Celebration. A free buffet was served to over 40. Veterans Marvin Eller Jr., Gerald Sprinkle, and Howard Bennett, who are active club members, helped cook the meal. Gerald Sprinkle recognized WWII Veterans Bill Icenhour (right) and Steve Cardwell (left) who are pictured holding the flag. Also, the program recognized deceased veterans including the late WWII Veteran Robert Houck from Gameville, who was 102.

The club awarded eight scholarships totaling \$7,200 to West Caldwell High School students. Students received \$800 to \$1,200 in scholarships. A covered-dish dinner was provided for the students and their families. Everyone enjoyed the meal and gifts. Each year the club has a special fundraiser breakfast in October to help fund these scholarships. The club members sell 100 tickets at \$100 each. Those that purchase tickets are asked to attend



the breakfast and bring their families. In addition to the meal, monetary prizes from \$100 to \$1,500 are drawn. Gamewell Ruritan Club has given a total of \$143,000 since starting this fundraiser.

Pictured are recipients Lacy Baker, CarlAzia Hood, Katie Bolic, Dakota Ramsey, Avery Clark, Hunter Vines, Preston Hawkins, and Kayla Shives.

Hartly Supports Homeless Student Program



Hartly Ruritan Club supported 2018 First Lady Linda's homeless student programs by helping three local school districts. For the Smyrna School District the club put together packs of laundry supplies that included a roll of quarters to be used at a laundromat. They also donated \$300 for 10 gift cards to a local shoe store. Pictured with the Smyrna gift cards are Community



Outreach and Homeless Coordinator Pam Griffiths (left) and Special Services Coordinator Tracy Zlock.

The Caesar Rodney School District received more than \$200 in supplies including underwear, socks, toiletries, snacks, and bottled water. Pictured are Caesar Rodney



District Superintendent of Schools Kevin Fitzgerald (far right) and McKinney-Vento Homeless Act Liaison Michelle Handy (far left) with club members President Pete Morris, Secretary Betsy Beamesderfer, and Director Jim Beamesderfer.

The Capital School District was given a \$300 donation that they chose to use on an "as needed" basis for supplies and expenses. The district had no other resources for these needs.

The club held a seafood raffle and Earl Ward, pictured here with Club President Pete Morris, was the winner. He won a bushel of crabs, five pounds of shrimp, two dozen ears of sweet corn, and a 45-quart cooler. Each Thanksgiving the club prepares boxes of food with all the ingredients for Thanksgiving dinner for needed families referred to the club from the local elementary school. In 2018 they put together five boxes. Pictured are club member Richard Kisner and guidance counselor Jackie Collins.

Lower Alloways Creek Honors Veterans

Lower Alloways Creek Club hosted its annual Veterans Dinner. The club treasured its time with each guest as veterans shared their experiences. The fellowship and camaraderie among the veterans made it a memorable evening.



Mike Boyle Receives Man of the Year Award

Tri-County Ruritan Club presented Mike Boyle its Man of the Year Award. The award was presented at the 43rd annual ladies night dinner at Cordova Volunteer Fire Hall. This award recognizes Mike's 40 years of community service in the Tri-County area. Pictured (l-r) are Eddie Boyle, Mike Boyle, and 2018 Tri-County Club President Bill Callahan.



Holly Springs Donates to Organizations



2018 **Holly Springs** Club President Anne Roberts presented \$100 donations to Dixie Ratliff of Yokefellow ministries, Surry County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Jason White, and Shepherds House representative Teddy. Jake Tate received the club's Ruritan of the Year Award. Piedmont District Zone 3 Governor Mark King installed Holly Springs Ruritan Club's 2019 officers: Holly Springs Club President Catherine Tate, Vice President Doug Marshall, Secretary Denise Horn,

Treasurer Mabeline Marshall, and Board members Karen Lewis and Jake Tate.



Sandy Ridge and V Point Honor Veterans

Sandy Ridge Ruritan Club hosted its 11th annual Veterans Appreciation Meal. The colors were presented by the Sandy Ridge Boy Scout Troop #465, Cub Scout Pack #465, and Girl Scout Troop #2072. Scouts served the attendees their meals and desserts. (Special thanks to Eddie Bullins for preparing the meat.) Scouts held a US Flag Retirement Ceremony and asked veterans to participate. Each veteran received a gift made by the Girl Scouts.

Club President Andrea Finch welcomed new member Blake Melvin. Finch was also presented the club's Ruritan of the Year Award.

V-Point Ruritan Club sponsored a Veterans Dinner. The guest speaker for the evening was Major Denise Holland.



Millbridge Donates Coats

Millbridge Ruritan Club donated 12 winter coats to the Millbridge Elementary School. Pictured (l-r) in the back are Trish Ritchie, Millbridge Assistant Principal Angela Lingle-Linder, Christa Graff, and Peggy Bostian. Pictured in the front are Millbridge Club members Paul Rogers and Monica Becker and Millbridge School Principal Jordan Baker.



Dan River District Assembles Homeless Student Bags



Dan River District Convention attendees packed 108 bags for the Homeless Student Project. Over \$500 was collected for these items (cinch sac bag, notebook, zipper pouch with pen, pencils and eraser, shampoo, washcloths, soap, comb, and deodorant). The 27 bags were distributed to each of the four counties in Dan River District (Halifax, Pittsylvania, Henry, and Patrick). 2018 First Lady Linda Cox was overjoyed at the enthusiasm Ruritan Clubs had with this project.

Chestnut Knob and Union Receive Gold Awards



Dan River District Governor Melody Davis is shown presenting **Chestnut Knob** Ruritan Club President Nichols Rucker with a certificate for receiving three community service gold awards.

Union Ruritan Club Secretary Elaine Hunt (l) and Club President Dianne Simmons (center) proudly show off the clubs 2018 community service awards with Dan River District Governor Melody Davis.



James R. Shough Receives Citizen of the Year Award

Patrick Springs Ruritan Club honored James R. Shough by selecting him as Citizen of the Year. "He has a huge heart for others in the community - especially the elderly, veterans, and the needy," said club members during the annual awards banquet.



Rangeley and Aarons Creek Present Ruritan of the Year Awards



Rangeley Ruritan Club President Jim McMillan (right) presented Curtis Tilley with the club's Ruritan of the Year Award.

Aarons Creek Ruritan Club President B.A. Bowen presented Travis Howerton the club's Ruri-Teen of the Year Award and Drew Anderson Ruritan of the Year. Dan River Lt. Governor Barry Sides presented both with the Dan River District Ruri-Teen of the Year and Ruritan of the Year Awards.



Ray Satterfield Receives Tom Downing Fellow Award

Since 1988, clubs in the Dan River District has awarded 168 Tom Downing Fellow Awards. Pictured on the left is Dan River District Leadership and Development Chair Charlie Bowman presenting the award to Ray Satterfield. (right)



News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District

Dubois Breaks Ground for Club Building

Dubois Ruritan Club broke ground for the new Dubois Community Building. Total estimated cost of the new building is \$410,000 with a completion date of May, 2019. Pictured (l-r) are Sue Striegel, Rachelle Beckman, Dubois 2018 Club Treasurer Brandi Dodd, Mary Bauer, Past National Director Howard Tanner, Lincolnland District Secretary Beverly Tanner, Lt. Governor James Zehr, Charter member Mary Lou Zehr, Steve Kalb, Vanessa Zehr, Kirby Pierce, Youth member Brooklyn Dodd, Dubois 2018 Club Vice President Erin Kalb, and Dubois 2018 Club President Jason Hagen.



Dale Healy Receives Ruritan of the Year Award

Past National Director Howard Tanner is shown presenting **Geff Community** Ruritan Club's 2018 Ruritan of the Year Award to Dale Healy.



News From Ruritan: New River District

Ruritan Road Hosts Fireball Charity Golf Challenge



Ruritan Road Ruritan Club hosted its first "Annual Fireball Charity Golf Challenge," as a fundraiser for the volunteer fire departments of Pulaski County, Virginia. Although the club had to dodge a couple of hurricanes, the day turned out beautiful and the event was a great success. Cash prizes were awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, as well as



prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin. Lots of great door prizes were given out. In November, representatives from the eight volunteer fire departments were invited to the club for dinner, where they were each presented with a \$500 donation (pictured are 2018 Ruritan Road Club President Craig Whitt and Event Coordinator Diane Lawson.) The

club is already planning for a "2nd Fireball Charity Golf Challenge" and hope to make this event an annual fundraiser.

Ceres Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Past National Director Glen Broadwater presented **Ceres** Ruritan Club President Freida Hanshew with a certificate recognizing 70 years of service to the community.



Ottway and Limestone Honor Veterans



Ottway Ruritan Club held their annual Veterans Day Program with 58 veterans in attendance. Veterans were treated to a dinner, served by the youth members of Ottway Ruritan Club and Ottway United Methodist Church. Veterans were delighted to see the red, white, and blue decorations and artwork and letters that were made by the Kindergarten and Grade 8 classes at Ottway Elementary School. President Roger Carter welcomed the 115 present and gave a brief history of Veterans Day. He noted that out of 20.4

million veterans in the United States, 5,960 live in Greene County. Kim Carter read a poem, and Richard Gosnell, Chaplain for the American Legion, gave the invocation. The Greene County Honor Guard presented the colors, and Charlotte Snyder sang the National Anthem. State Representative David Hawk and Greene County Mayor Kevin Morrison thanked the veterans for their service. Specialist 4th Class Fred "Frog" Parker called the roll of veterans with the branch of service, rank, and war in which the veteran served. It was noted that Charles Vaughn, who served in the Navy in World War II in the South Pacific, was the only WW II veteran present. At the conclusion of the program, each veteran received a special door prize to thank them for their service.



Limestone Ruritan Club honored veterans by co-hosting a Veterans Day celebration with the Limestone Free Will Baptist Church. The club fed about 32 veterans during their monthly breakfast and fish fry events. The local law enforcement, EMT, and volunteer fire departments were also recognized and honored for their service to the community.

The club purchased wreaths, ribbons, cards, and easels to place on veterans' graves. There were four cemeteries that were decorated. The club is a proud sponsor of the Wreaths Across America program and decided to remember veterans during the Christmas holidays.



Camp Creek Participates in Trunk or Treat



Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Club's new officers were installed. Charter club member W.H. Whaley (far left) conducted the installation. Pictured (l-r) are Mt. Pleasant Club President Bonnie Hartman, Vice President Jim Yehl, Secretary Amy Harrison, Treasurer Connie Click, and Directors Shirley Yehl, William Grubb, and William West.

News From Ruritan: Smoky Mountain District

Don Erts Receives a Ruritan Forever

Parrottsville Ruritan Club honored long-time Club Secretary Don Erts with a Ruritan Forever at the club's Christmas Party. The club honored the Parrottsville Volunteer Fire Department at their November meeting. Pictured is Don Erts presenting a check to Chief Ronald Fowler. Pictured is Erts presenting a plaque to Brad Reece naming him Fireman of the Year.



News From Ruritan: Middle America District

Middle America Making a Difference



Middle America District Governor Mark Warren (left) and National Treasurer David Thompson (right) presented **Elsmore** Ruritan Club member Johnny Gillham (center) with the 2018 Middle

America Ruritan of the Year Award. Darla Henderson (center) received a Tom Downing Fellow Award from Warren and Thompson. Darla's husband Eddie Henderson (right) will celebrate 40 years as an Elsmore club member this year.

Citizens of Cherokee and Weir, Kansas, attend an informational meeting to promote Ruritan in the Middle America District and rebuild the Cherokee,

Ruritan Club. Scott Sutton (pictured right,) vocational agriculture teacher and member of the Uniontown Ruritan Club, talks to community citizens in Cherokee, of the importance of Ruritan in the Uniontown area, possible projects to do, and why he chose to become a Ruritan. Jim Kimball (bottom left,) Growth and Development Chair for Middle America District and Stan Pearce, Cherokee Ruritan Club member visited with the mayor of Weir and Cherokee Kansas City council member about becoming a part of Ruritan.



News From Ruritan: Rapidan District

Louisa County and Cove Garden Make Brunswick Stew



Louisa County Ruritan Club cooked and sold 400 quarts of Brunswick stew. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts helped pre-sell tickets for the event. All monies raised will be used for scholarships.

Cove Garden Ruritan Club along with 19 other volunteers participated in making the 2018 Apple Harvest Festival in North Garden, Virginia, a great success. It was a clear, breezy beautiful fall day as cauldrons of Brunswick stew and apple butter were made and sold. Three tractors pulled happy riders in hayrides all day. The apple



pie contest entries were sold for additional funds. A record estimated 4,000 plus guests attended the event, raising a grand total of \$5,900.

Jefferson Donates Over \$11,000 Toward Scholarships



Jefferson Ruritan Club donated \$11,755.51 to the Culpeper Ruritan Foundation for the purpose of awarding scholarships to Culpeper County students. This is a result of the Jefferson Ruritan Foundation terminating its scholarship activity in Jefferson Magisterial District. This will now be funded by the Culpeper Ruritan Foundation. The Jefferson Ruritan Club has granted over \$30,000 in scholarships to the local community since 1982.

News From Ruritan: Opportunity Land District

Western Yell County Ruri-Teens are Staying Active



Western Yell County Ruri-Teen Club participated in the Wreaths Across America program by placing memorial wreaths on graves at the Little Rock National Cemetery. Also, club members visited the local nursing home, hosted a community Christmas tree lighting ceremony, volunteered with the local food bank, and participated in the foster children assistance organization, "The Call." Pictured (l-r) are Western Yell County Club President Joslyn Kearn and Club President Ethan Ridenour.



Come with us to Kingsport!

Linwood Circle Holds “Make a Difference” Day



On “Make a Difference Day” **Linwood Circle** Ruritan Club prepared a spaghetti dinner for the elderly in St. Francis Apartments. Mrs. Jones is shown accepting her dinner. The club donated \$400 to its school system to help youngsters with school supplies. Presenting the check is 2018 Gulf Area Zone Governor Ella Lyles, School Principal Mrs. Marsalis, and 2018



Linwood Circle Club Secretary Jannie Dunbar. Linwood Circle’s 2018 Vice President Lynette Stewart and Club Secretary Jannie Dunbar delivered canned goods to help support The Stew Pot.



Kingsport Bound!

CLUB GROWTH AWARDS			
Club	% Growth	2018 Club President	2019 Club President
SMALL CLUBS (16 TO 35 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
South Central (TN)	84%	Daryl Broyles	Daryl Broyles
Marshall (VA)	72%	Jan Sickel	Jan Sickel
Piney Grove (NC)	61%	Roger Peterson	Roger Peterson
White Gate (VA)	59%	Evelyn Bane	Evelyn Bane
Washington College (TN)	56%	Nancy Hall	Maurice Stagle
MEDIUM CLUBS (36 TO 75 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Fort Valley (VA)	37%	Jeffrey Tidd	Thomas Drinkwater
Greensville County (VA)	27%	Mark Mitchell	Jim Sampson
Sumerduck (VA)	19%	Ed Fox	Ed Fox
Burrsville (MD)	16%	Richard Collins	Frank Bradley
New Hope VA (VA)	15%	Charles Fretwell, Jr.	Larry Swisher
LARGE CLUBS (OVER 76 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
South Norfolk (VA)	9%	Rusty Barath	Rich Wethington
Jefferson MD (MD)	9%	James Morgan, Jr.	Price Kaler
Stonewall District (VA)	3%	Wilson Gilbert	Allen Sibert

OUTSTANDING RURITAN SCOUT LEADER	
Member	Club
Jayson Duncan	Pine Hall (NC)
Charles Ethridge	Coopers (NC)
Linda Ethridge	Coopers (NC)
Jessica Mallory	Gray (TN)



MOST NEW MEMBERS RECRUITED IN A CALENDAR YEAR			
Name	# New Members	Club	District
Jan Sickel	10	Marshall	Rappahannock

WANTED: WINNING RURITAN RECRUITERS

FIRST QUARTER 2019



WINNER NANCY HODGES
OF THE GLADE HILL
RURITAN CLUB IN VA



WINNER FAITH HALL
OF THE TOMAHAWK
RURITAN CLUB IN WV



WINNER JOHN BAILEY
OF THE MIDWAY-ASBURY
RURITAN CLUB IN TN

**BRING IN NEW MEMBERS FOR CHANCES AT
RURITAN FOREVER (LIFETIME) MEMBERSHIPS**

More members means extra chances. Get five extra chances for every new member between the ages of 35 and 55!