



Ruritan

Volume 86, Spring 2021

*Growth Begins
With*

YOU!



Ruritan

Volume 86, Spring 2021

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In this issue:

President's Message.....	3-4
Executive Director's Message.....	5
St. Jude.....	6-7
Ruritan Forever.....	8-9
Foundation.....	10
Ruritan Supply.....	11-13
Club and District News.....	14-31

Receive a \$25 gift certificate to Ruritan Supply for every Ruritan Forever purchased through August 14, 2021. See page 8 for more details.



2021 National President Linward Hedgpeth



Communication is Vital for our Success

Much has been said about leaving 2020 behind, but I am encouraged by the accomplishments from decisions we were forced to make. Year 2020 was unique, thanks mostly to the pandemic, but we are looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead in 2021, a new year brings new opportunities.

I am referring to the changes that took place in 2020 from the new experience of managing our Ruritan business from teleworking, a constant cycle of Microsoft Teams, and Zoom meetings. Yet we closed 2020 having served our communities and communicated with our clubs, districts, and national leaders with new innovative ideas. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity to your communities (health caregivers, first responders, sheriff/police, nursing homes, hospitals, and schools). You faced dangerous circumstances, trusted God, worked together, and succeeded.

Are we ready to keep it going by capitalizing on these new experiences and opportunities? I am talking about our goals and direction for 2021.

Goals / Directions for 2021

1. **Communication** is vital for our success. Encourage club members to maintain communication among each other, their districts, and communities by using telephone calls, teleconferencing, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and other means of technology. It is the key to maintaining member interest/involvement when many clubs are still not meeting in person.
2. **The safety and well-being of our members must be a priority.**
3. **Retention** of our current membership is another area of grave importance. Many clubs are not meeting and therefore members may not be communicating. Work with your district and zone governors to ensure they are contacting club members. Inform club members of communication technologies (Teams/Zoom) that are available and can easily allow for communicating and sharing documents. Provide instructions if needed or direct them to the Ruritan National staff.
4. **Growth** – Continue to monitor club growth on MMS by recognizing those that add new members. Send a personal note, email, or call them. Reach out to clubs that have a small membership and to those that need help or encouragement. Continue encouraging members to always be aware of potential new member opportunities. Many folks may have extra time on their hands because of the pandemic.
5. **Restructure** - The team's goal is to refine the preliminary report provided to the National Directors in 2020. The refined report will be available at the 2022 National Convention at a workshop to solicit input from delegates and Ruritan leaders. The mission of the restructuring committee was to study Ruritan data and history, provide findings and make recommendation/suggestions on how our organization can flourish in the current environment. This committee was created as a response to the request of many delegates and Ruritan leaders over the years recommending Ruritan make changes. This mission is a work in progress and is expected to take two or three years to conclude. Any changes made that require a bylaw change will require delegate approval. All Ruritans are encouraged to participate in this process by sharing your ideas. We are all in this together.

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6. **National Directors** - I commend the National Directors for their participation in our all-virtual Board of Directors meeting in January. It was productive and a major cost savings.
7. **Remembering** - we will always remember those caring, dedicated Ruritans that transitioned to God's Kingdom. **Romans 8:28** "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose," Amen.

Each day brings new opportunities for Ruritans to soar. As Ruritans we, rise to the challenges with ingenuity, compassion, resilience, and fortitude. I encourage you to continue to stand TOGETHER!



Youth Leadership Camp

Your Youth Committee Team Ed Hicks, Mike Wright, and David Hogan have nailed down **June 25-27, 2021** for the annual Youth Leadership Camp held at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Center in Wirtz, Virginia.



Summer Leadership Conference

Plans are underway for the 2021 Summer Leadership Conference on **August 13-14, 2021.**

President Elect Glen Broadwater and the Leadership Development Committee Team Cleve Wright, Melody Davis, and Susan Greisz are planning an exciting and motivational conference.



2022 National Convention Let's go to the BEACH!

Join us **January 6-9, 2022** in Myrtle Beach. We will keep you up-to-date as information comes forth.

More information will follow in future publications and announcements from National.

Executive Director Mike Chrisley



Stay Positive! We Are On The Right Track!

As a result of the cancellation of our 2021 National Convention, the Board met in December to determine the right course of action for 2021. The board determined that all National Board of Directors will serve in the same capacity in 2021 as they did in 2020, as will the National President,

National President-Elect, National Secretary, and National Treasurer. Any National Board member who is unable to continue through 2021 may submit a resignation and be replaced. The replacement will be confirmed by a vote of the entire board.

One National Director, Larry Bowman, was unable to serve another year on his term and did submit his resignation. At their January meeting the board members voted to fill his seat for the remainder of this year with Past National Director Susan Greisz.

All candidates seeking office will continue campaigning until the next National Convention in January 2022 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, when an election will be held.

As President Linward mentioned in his article, it is easy to look at the year of the pandemic in a negative light. Like Linward, and everyone else, I am not happy about the pandemic and its effect on our entire world, our country, or on Ruritan. But, in the grand scheme of things it did force us to do things differently and think about ways to remain relevant in a highly unusual year.

We had to learn to meet differently. Ruritan committees met mostly using Microsoft Teams. Once we figured out that we could meet that way and be highly productive in the process, we proceeded to meet. In fact, the Executive Committee has had more meetings this year than any year I am aware of in the past 40 years. This is also true of the special Restructuring Committee, Bylaws Committee and Leadership Development Committee. All three of these committees completed an enormous amount of work meeting virtually.

It was more than just meeting though. The pandemic forced us to look at technology in a whole different way. As an example, the Leadership Development Committee planned and completed 17 training and educational videos that were mailed to members on zip drives, added to the training modules in MMS, and posted on our website. After completing that, the committee continued to work to build training materials so that members could access training in their own homes, at their own pace, in their own time. I have never been prouder of a group of people or what they were able to produce as a part of committee work, almost all done virtually.

Our board met for the first time completely virtually in January.

Like everyone else, I missed the fellowship of coming together. However, we were able to complete the board meeting in just over six hours and executed 17 pieces of business. The number of motions addressed at this meeting was one of the largest in the last five years. The board was able to complete all the business on the agenda in record time at a cost saving of nearly \$10,000 in travel expenses.

The circumstances of the year have also helped our clubs do things in new ways. One member I spoke to said that one of the major fundraisers for his club is a steak supper. The supper was always held in the club building and produced a large crowd. The members of the club decided to have the supper but have it as a drive thru event. Many were worried that the club would not do well. When all was said and done the club raised more money as a drive thru than they did with the in-person event.

Finally, because of the pandemic, and the cancellation of many of our live meetings, we are exploring the possibilities of virtual conferences. Hopefully, we will soon be able to resume live meetings and conferences. However, the pandemic did make us think about those members who even in normal circumstances are not able to attend our conferences and meetings. Many may not be able to attend because of poor health or mobility. Some may not be able to attend because of the cost of the meeting. Whatever the reason, we would like to provide a virtual meeting experience for our members that cannot attend in person. We are working to make that a reality.

Many times, problem situations create just the opportunity that we need to think differently and improve on what we are doing. We try to always operate in a way that makes things better for our members and clubs.

One of the greatest opportunities that we always have is to bring new members and clubs into the Ruritan family. With clubs not meeting, it is difficult to maintain the relationships that you have with your club members and the community. Make sure that you maintain those relationships. Not meeting makes it easy to not meet. Your club is as important to the community as it has always been. Your membership is as important to your club as it has always been.

The Board of Directors is always looking for ways to add value to your membership. In their last meeting they approved an incentive program for Ruritan Forever. If you buy a Ruritan Forever for yourself or someone else, the purchaser will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Ruritan Supply. See information in this issue. President Elect Glen Broadwater and Second Lady Linda are promoting Ruritan Forever this year.



Every Dollar Makes a Difference

Artwork by St. Jude patient Anthony



*First Lady Anne Hedgpeth would like to say,
"Thank You - Thank You - Thank You!!
For helping me not only make my goal of \$10,000 but
doubling it in 2020. Ruritans raised \$20,000! Let's
continue to donate through 2021.
God Bless You and God Bless the children of St. Jude."*

Donate Today!

<http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational>

If you would like to donate to St. Jude but do not use the internet -
NO PROBLEM!

Make your donation check payable to Ruritan National. On the
memo line put St. Jude Donation. We will make sure your
donation gets to our St. Jude Team!



Home Office to Holland Walk Participants Together Walked 21,580 miles So They Can Live!



Ruby Andrews	Debbie Desjardins	Barbara Jungers	M. Ryan Ogle	Sandra Timbrook
Crystal Andrews	Roger Dick	Kimberly Katula	Larry Parker	Robin Turner
James Atkinson	Janet Drake	Kevin Katula	Donnie Parris	Stanley Turner
Karen Baker	Steven Elliott	Sarah Kelly	Marcia Phillips	Gillian Tuttle
Evelyn Bane	Lynn Fillers	Janet Kyle	Danny Phillips	Brenda Wallace
Gary Barger	Cassandra Flanagan	Rebecca Lane	Donna Poulton	Amy Ward
Brenda Barger	Bryan Flanagan	Tucker Lane	Yvonne Scales	Kaitlyn Ward
Carol Ann Bartels	Catelynn Flanagan	Kathy Long	Marty Sewell	Jenna Ward
Debra Bowman	Mary Foster	Sandra Lowe	Mary Lou Shepherd	Mekey Wilmoth
Larry Bowman	Elizabeth Greene	Carroll Lowe	Becky Shifflett	Gloria Winston
Graham Bryant	Mary Anne Griles	Douglas Martin	Joyce Smith	Mike Wright
Felicia Bush	Julius Griles	Zack McCallie	Wanda Sprouse	Cleve Wright
Blaine Cecil	Anne Hedgepeth	Paula McCallie	Ruth Sukow	Linda Wuthrich
Michael Chrisley	Linward Hedgspeth	James Mills	Tim Sukow	Marcia Zehr
Robin Davenport	Bill Hogg	Vicky Mills	Gary Swink	
Rhonda Davis	Les Hopper	Tony Moore	Rose Taylor	
Melody Davis	Betty Johnson	Michael Morrison	David Thompson	

Ruritan National is in the process of planning another St. Jude fundraising event for 2021. Keep on the lookout for event details in the near future. You can still send checks to Ruritan National for St. Jude. Make checks payable to Ruritan National and on the memo line add St. Jude. We will make certain your gift will be added to the total of First Lady Anne's St. Jude Project.

Ruritan Forever A Perpetual Life Plan



Ruritan members who participate in the Ruritan Forever program, either by making the purchase themselves or having been given the Ruritan Forever distinction, are planting trees under whose shade they will not sit. They are guaranteeing the continuation of their beloved Ruritan organization.

With every Ruritan Forever membership, the organization is assured an annual endowment equal to a year of national dues after the member passes on.

In 2021 Ruritan will be focusing on the Ruritan Forever program under the guidance of President Elect Glen Broadwater and “Second Lady” Linda Broadwater. Furthermore, action by the Ruritan National Board at their January 2021 meeting now offers an incentive for the program. Effective immediately through the Summer Leadership Conference August 14, 2021.

Anyone purchasing a Ruritan Forever for themselves or another member will receive a \$25 gift certificate to be used toward Ruritan Supplies. Orders must be made by calling the Ruritan National Office.

Download a Ruritan Forever application from the Ruritan Website or fill out the application on the next page to participate in the program or honor a fellow Ruritan with this very special gift.



What is a Ruritan Forever?

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

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

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

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



Ruritan Forever *A Perpetual Life Plan*

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

Your Name: _____

Your Club Name: _____

Your Address: _____ Telephone: _____

This application is for: (check one)

☐ Myself ☐ Current Member ☐ Deceased Ruritan ☐ Associate Member

Name of Applicant (If not you): _____

Applicant's Club: _____

Applicant's Address: _____

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

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

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

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

Message From 2021 Foundation President Brent Wheeler



Build Your Dollar Applications Accepted NOW!

As we all continue to adjust to our new lifestyle, I would like to assure everyone that the Foundation has been and will continue to work for you. Our mission is to protect the funds you have invested into our keeping.

After virtual meetings with Wells Fargo Investor Scott Carr, we can report that the Foundation continues to be on sound footing and

that we are pleased with Scott's expertise and direction. Following his review, it was agreed by your Trustees that BY\$ will again add \$300 for a \$600 return. Clubs may begin to send in \$300 for the 2022 return. Announcements will be made if date extensions apply for this year.

Ruritan National Foundation

2021 Board of Trustees

President: Brent Wheeler

Vice President: O.H. Bobbitt III

Secretary: Graham Bryant

Treasurer: Phillip Bradshaw

Promotion Chair: Guy Cox



As we work our way through another year of this new normal, we hope that you continue to support the Foundation and its programs. Your Trustees are available to answer questions as is Bessie McCormick, our Foundation Specialist. Please do not hesitate to call, text, or email should you have questions.

It was a great honor to serve as the 2020 Foundation President and a shock to be the 2021 President. As with all Trustees, do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. Until we can again meet in person take care and stay safe.

God Bless America and God Bless Ruritan.

The Foundation Weekend usually held in September can't be scheduled at this time due to COVID-19 Restrictions. More information will follow.

2020 RURITAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION DISTRICT AWARDS			
Highest Percentage of Clubs in District Donating			
1st Place	Echols "Phil" Jeffries	87%	Lower WV
2nd Place	Cassandra Flanagan	33%	Upper WV
3rd Place	Shelia Shanklin	25%	Columbia
3rd Place	Florence Bakke	25%	Rapidan
3rd Place	Fred Payne	25%	Spartan
Most Dollars Donated by Clubs			
1st Place	Florence Bakke	\$12,025	Rapidan
2nd Place	Joe Hulver, Jr.	\$3,900	Rappahannock
3rd Place	Roy Maloy	\$3,600	Chesapeake
Highest Average Donation Per Member			
1st Place	Florence Bakke	\$23.33	Rapidan
2nd Place	Sheryl Begley	\$11.97	Tennessean
3rd Place	Dianne Swink	\$11.42	Natural Bridge

New Ruritan Supply Items

www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan



Ruritans Working Together Eagle Long-Sleeve T-shirt

100% combed ringspun
cotton crewneck t-shirt.
\$24

Since 1928 Navy Blue Hoodie

7.8-ounce, 50/50 soft spun cotton/poly
fleece hoodie featuring the Ruritan
Since 1928 logo.
\$29



If you need help ordering-
Call the National Office
877-787-8727. We will help!

New Ruritan Supply Items

www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan



Long Sleeve Gingham Easy Care Shirt

A fresh alternative to a solid-color shirt, our gingham check pattern is office-ready. Crafted in an Easy Care blend, this poplin style resists wrinkles and features bias-cut details.

\$40



Mens Black and White Tattersall Button-Up

With a classic tattersall pattern, this poplin shirt adds variety to your work wardrobe. Specially finished for wrinkle resistance, it stays crisp from breakfast meetings to after-hours mixers.

\$40

If you need help ordering call the National Office 877-787-8727!

New Ruritan Supply Items

www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan



Ladies 3/4 Sleeve Tunic Blouse

Transition seamlessly from professional life to play in this comfortable and flattering tunic blouse.

\$38



Ladies Game Long Sleeve V-Neck Tee

Winning style that is soft and comfortable. Logo is on the left shoulder.

\$20

If you need help ordering call the National Office 877-787-8727!

Smithfield Presents Farmer of the Year Award



Boroughs Land Farm was presented the **Smithfield** Ruritan Farmer of the Year Award. Pictured are Teresa Frantz, Smithfield Farmers Market Manager, and Jill Boroughs and Julie Hopkins from the Smithfield Club.

The club delivered over 20 holiday food containers to needy families in the Smithfield area. Pictured (l-r) are Smithfield Ruritan President Jeffery Scott, Mike Swecrer, Larry Odom, Skip Sharpley, and young helpers Nick Rudy and Joe Jenkins.

Liberty Spring Cooks Sausage



Liberty Spring Club held their semi-annual sausage fundraiser in October. Pictured counting the 2,500 pounds made are Holland District Governor David Walker (right) and Club Vice President Earl Smith (left). Also pictured (l-r) are Jason Matthews, Club Secretary John Umphlett, and Club President Ronnie Matthews Club seasoning a batch of sausage. Holland District Zone 1 Governor Joey Davis and Holland District Zone 1 Lt. Governor Jim Nelson also helped with the fundraiser.

Creeds Delivers Food Boxes



Creeds Club gathered, assembled, and delivered Christmas food boxes. Recipients received boxes filled with shelf food, fresh food, and gift cards. Chairman

Kurt Fuge organized the event and fellow member Jen Vaughan headed up the shopping at a local Food Lion. An abundant supply of food for 24 families (86 people) was given.



Grassfield Club held its annual Photo with Santa. Pictured are Club President Russell and Anne Gwynn and Vice President Wayne and Sue Abernathy.



Every year the **Rives** Club supports local organizations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season from annual fundraisers. This year \$1,400 was donated to a local food bank.



News From Ruritan: Holland District continued

Driver Cooks Barbeque



Driver Club cooked barbeque ribs and butts in October to raise funds for scholarships and scout camper-ships. This event was drive-thru only. The club members missed their regular eat-in customers, but today we live in a different world and had to adjust.



News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District

Varina Presents Awards

Varina Club presented several awards this past quarter. Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Brad Bishop. He has been a firefighter since 2012 and achieved CDP Rank Career Firefighter. Police Officer of the Year Award was presented to Michael Marshall of the Henrico Police Department. First Citizen of Varina Award went to Sandra "Pinky" Dowdy who is a lifelong Varina resident and founder of Varina

Rising Stars 4-H Club in 1985. She is a long-time member of Hardy Central Baptist Church and a two-time Grand Marshal of the Varina Toy Parade.

Club members who participated in the Adopt-A-Highway Program were Michael Yardley, Kevin Wagner, Chris Finley, Maurice Shelton, Everett Cannon, Doug Singlemann, Jonathan Schmick, and Buddy Whitlow. Pictured are workers Buddy Whitlow, Jonathan Schmick, and Kevin Wagner.

The Second Annual Car Show was held. Over 60 cars showed up to compete for six trophies that were made by Varina Club member Kenny Doustout. Brunswick Stew and other foods were available to purchase.

Sid Dugas Named Abingdon Club's Ruritan of the Year



Abingdon Club's Sid Dugas was presented the club's 2019 Ruritan of Year Award for his enthusiasm for community service and for establishing and maintaining the club's historical scrapbook. His wife, Ann, is now the recipient of the same award for 2020. Ann has served as the Abingdon Club Treasurer for the past 10 years. In addition, she has worked tirelessly this year to sanitize the club after each meeting and event.

Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge presented President's Golden Key Awards to John Snyder, Yvonne Scales, Jeff Grant, and Mary Lou Shepherd.



News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District continued

Gloucester Delivers 248 Christmas Gifts



Members of the **Gloucester** Club met at the American Legion building during the holidays to wrap presents for residents of nursing and assisted living facilities. The ladies wrapped while Santa (Tom Swankler) and helper Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge delivered a total of 248 gifts. Included in the packages were 130 knitted/crocheted items that represented thousands of hours contributed by Beverly Thomas, Susan Barbary, Gloria Longest, and Sarah Fary. Some of the hats will be given to the RCC nursing program for chemotherapy patients. Pictured (l-r) are Tom and Janie Swankler, Janet Leigh, Beverly Thomas, Rachel Serio, and Barbara Bauer.

News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District

Frank Castelli Publishes Book



During the times of COVID-19 **Warrenton** Club President Frank Castelli found time to write and publish a new book entitled *Just Show Up*. In this highly personal memoir, Castelli presents an antidote to the corporate Kool-Aid. He reflects on his life, his career, his shortcomings, and his successes by offering readers principles, pearls of wisdom, alternative behavior, and ways to achieve both professional and personal goals. This book is about sharing a lifetime of experiences that molded him into the person he became. He hopes his story will be informative, inspirational and motivational for readers, and that sharing his journey will allow them to view their own experiences a little differently and help make sense of what might be happening in their lives. Pictured (l-r) are Vice President Earl Browning, Club President and author Frank Castelli, and Treasurer John Shiflett.

News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District



Amherst Monroe Club President Ron Tomlin (right) presented a check for \$1,000 to Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Amherst County Representative Gary Friend. Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Amherst County is a service organization which meets the needs of many hungry families.

CLUB GROWTH AWARDS			
Club	% Growth	2020 Club President	2021 Club President
SMALL CLUBS (16 TO 35 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Covington (VA)	66.67%	Joe Hubble	Joe Hubble
Chuckey (TN)	50.00%	Gary Cole	Gary Cole
Pilot NC (NC)	47.06%	Donna Sutphin	Owen Fulk
Bergholz (OH)	30.77%	Don Lyons	Don Lyons
Ringgold (MD)	26.67%	Charles Vickery	Charles Vickery
MEDIUM CLUBS (36 TO 75 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Red Bank (VA)	20.00%	Roger Gammons	Roger Gammons
Johnsville (MD)	18.60%	Richard Grossnickle	Paul Dotterer
Headsville Countryside (WV)	18.52%	Walter Johnston	Walter Johnston
South Berkeley (WV)	17.65%	Bobbi Jo Anderson	Bobbi Jo Anderson
West Mount (NC)	15.00%	J. Wayne Outlaw	William Causeway
LARGE CLUBS (OVER 76 MEMBERS ON JAN 1)			
Jefferson (MD)	5.38%	Mary Handley	Bryan Heath

News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District continued

Elon Holds Open House



Elon's Club building was struck by a tornado in 2018. The damage was beyond repair. The club has worked non-stop on finishing the new building since that date. In November, 2020 the club was able to hold an open

house to thank all businesses for their contributions. On-hand for the celebration was National President Linward Hedgspeth, First Lady Anne, and Zone Governor Tomlin.

Visit <http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational> to make your St. Jude Donation.



News From Ruritan: Natural Bridge District

Roger Lees Named Citizen of the Year



Effinger Club member Roger Lees gave a cheerful holiday grin as the club gathers outside his home just before Christmas to present him with the group's Citizen of the Year Award. The club surprised Lees with the award at the Christmas caroling visit.



Barrel Shape Coffee Mug in Matte Finish

www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan

Unique, attractive, and appealing barrel shaped ceramic mug featuring the Ruritan Since 1928 logo.

\$5



COMMUNICATION AWARDS	
2020 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
1st	Davy Crockett
2nd	Cherokee
2020 CLUB NEWSLETTER AWARDS	
None	
2020 DISTRICT WEBSITE AWARD	
None	
2020 CLUB WEBSITE AWARD	
None	

DISTRICT AREA GROWTH AWARDS			
District	% Growth	2020 Governor	2021 Governor
SMALL DISTRICTS 500 MEMBERS OR LESS			
Lincolmland	1.97%	James Zehr	Beverly Tanner

Woodrow Wilson District Clubs Donate Dictionaries



Clubs in the **Woodrow Wilson** District have donated a total of 936 age-appropriate dictionaries for use by third-grade students at elementary schools throughout the district. The **Churchville, Middlebrook, Mint Spring, North River, and Stuarts Draft** Clubs in Augusta County, as well as clubs in Nelson and Highland counties, all participated in the program. Students at Churchville, Craigsville, Riverheads, Stuarts Draft, Wilson Memorial, and other elementary schools received new dictionaries. The picture shows Elaine Barr of the **Mint Spring** Club and (l-r) Tom Engle, Jerry Seager, and Jerry Jarvis of the Middlebrook Club presenting dictionaries on behalf of the district to Riverheads Elementary School Principal John Matherly (not pictured) in a brief ceremony in Greenville, VA on February 4, 2021.

Donation of school dictionaries has been a popular district project for several years. Principal Matherly expressed his school's appreciation for the donation, noting that the dictionaries would be provided to individual students to keep, and that students have put books donated by the clubs to good use over the years. Woodrow Wilson District expects to continue the program in the coming years.

News From Ruritan: **Rockingham District**

Dennis Turner and Ken Reeves Receive Tom Downing Fellows

Broadway-Timberville Club honored long-serving members Dennis Turner and Ken Reeves with Tom Downing Fellows at the November meeting. Dennis, a member since 2012, has been vital in the club's continued support of the Salvation Army Kettle Drives in both the summer and winter months by organizing and staffing bell ringers. December 2020 marked the



35th year in which the club coordinated bell ringing. Totals through this year included 6,372 hours and over \$267,000 in money raised. Ken, a member since 1991 and president in 1993, 2017, 2020, and 2021, has also been an indispensable asset to the club helping with any and all tasks. Ken recently organized the club's efforts in community fundraising and constructing a home in Timberville with Habitat for Humanity.



OUTSTANDING RURITAN SCOUT LEADER

Member	Club
Hayden Guevara	Gray (TN)

Leitersburg Builds Clubhouse



Leitersburg Club was chartered in 1955 and has never had their own club house. Site work for the new Leitersburg Ruritan Community Center was started in October 2019 at the Ruritan Park with ground-breaking on March 1, 2020. Construction has been completed at the price of \$1.8 million dollars. The center was opened for use on January 1, 2021. The 12,000 foot building features a full size gym that is able to feature sporting programs such as basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and indoor practice of other sports. Beside the gym there are two meeting rooms, one dedicated for youth programs such as Boy Scouts, Ruri-teens, and other groups. The building will be available to rent for group functions both private and public. The warming kitchen will allow catered events and sporting concessions.

Jim Smith Recognized for 60 Years of Service



Tuscarora Club member Jim Smith was recognized for his 60 years of service to the club. Smith joined the club in 1960, one year after its founding. Since then he has served in a number of capacities as an officer, chair of numerous committees, and most recently as its unofficial historian and the scheduler for hall rentals. At the recognition ceremony Club President Hartley Tetro stated, "Jim Smith is an example of the kind of dedication to community involvement and good works that should be an example for all of us. He faithfully attends meetings, volunteers his time, and puts forth the effort to make his club and community better. We have been blessed to have him as a member."

Lothian Collects Trash



Lothian Club continues to maintain its roadside pick-up project. Various automobile parts were collected along with nine large trash bags. Club members that participated were (l-r) Sonny Tucker, Bill Lerch, John Ball, Allen Kammer, Don Arthur, and Bill Krebs. Not pictured is Frank Harrison.



South Jefferson Club's Charter member Warren Larue celebrated his 100th birthday. He is shown supervising Chicken BBQ at the Jefferson County Fair.



Tomahawk Club President Faith Hall is shown accepting her President's Golden Key for recruiting members.

Durants Neck Club Supports Families at Christmas



Durants Neck Club (DNRC), although it only has 30 members most of whom are seniors, has strived to do its part for the community during Christmas. In a normal year, the club would collect a couple of dozen toys for a local toy drive and, if resources allowed, would assist a local family who had fallen on hard times.

This has not been a normal year for the club or for most Americans. There have not been any club meetings since March. All their fundraising efforts for the entire year were

cancelled due to the pandemic. They also had to cancel their annual auction, chicken BBQ fundraiser, and the OBX raffle. Cancelling these fundraising events made giving back to the community even more difficult. However, a little creativity, an abundance of fortitude and a lot of love turned this Christmas season into one of the club's biggest Christmas giving to the community.

It started with a newsletter asking club members to donate an unwrapped toy for a toy drive conducted by the Hertford Police Department. Since some club members are not able to get out to shop, an option to give cash was provided. Club President Joyce Gurganus decided to extend the opportunity to her neighbors in Deep Creek Shores to help with this toy drive. The toys, games, books, and checks began to arrive in big numbers from club members and from her neighbors. The money collected was used to purchase more new toys, games, and books. All in all, 118 toys, games and books (pictured) will be delivered to the Hertford Police Department to be given to local children. Who says there is not a Santa Claus! The club found a local family that could use a little help during Christmas. With the help of local churches and social services, they identified three other families who also needed assistance. Altogether, the four families had 22 children ranging in age from a few months to teenagers. Again, they reached out to their members who did not disappoint. Along with a contribution from the club, members made additional contributions resulting in \$1,250 to help these four families. The club found a few elves willing to do some quick frugal shopping. They were able to buy hoodies and socks for the kids as well as gift cards and toys. With the remaining resources, along with some from the elves themselves, a spiral ham, pies, a bag of potatoes, a bag of apples, and new toothbrushes were purchased for everyone.

**IF WE AS A
COMMUNITY DON'T
STEP UP TO HELP
EACH OTHER, THEN
WHO WILL?**



Nixonton Club members Martina Ruetten and Leonard Hoppe made Christmas Decorations out of recycled material.

Past National Director Joe Walker Passes



Rocky Mount/Durham District and West Edgecombe Ruritan Club member Joseph "Joe" Francis Walker, age 77, passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. During Joe's 49 years as a Ruritan he served in various positions within the West Edgecombe Ruritan Club, Rocky Mount/Durham District, and Ruritan National.

Joe was passionate about getting individuals involved in the community and club functions. For years Joe was the "Keeper of the Recipe" for the club's delicious Brunswick stew. His dedication to Ruritans and the community will continue to be a great inspiration to many within Ruritan.



Darold Hoff Recieves Tom Downing Fellow



West Edgecombe Club member Darold Hoff, surrounded by family, received a Tom Downing Fellow. Club President Rusty Proctor had the honor of presenting the gift. Community Leader of the Month went to Club member Janet Bradley. Club President Bruce Lancaster created this 2021 monthly award to honor community-minded individuals.



James Suggs was the recipient of the club's Ruritan of the Year Award.

Lynn's Crossroads Sells Barbeque



Lynn's Crossroads Club held a successful Drive-Thru Barbeque fundraiser, selling out by 2:00 pm. Club members built a ramp to make it easier to exit from the take-out lines. A picnic table was built so customers could stay and eat if they chose. A Concealed Carry Class was held and all members passed the practical test.



Silk Hope Club hosted its first annual Ruritan Country Christmas event starring Santa. Festivities included a Santa trailer, where guests took their very own pictures, a Christmas movie, tree lighting, Christmas tunes, live animals, cookies for sale, and door prize drawings. Additionally, the club took in canned food donations and raised 224.2 pounds of food for the local food bank. Rocky Mt/Durham District Cabinet Adviser Harold Rogers is with Santa.



C O M M U N I T Y

Johnsonville Gives Back

Johnsonville Club demonstrated their “giving” spirit by sharing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets with their less fortunate neighbors and gathering toys for Toys for Tots. They were found sharing candy in the Cameron Annual Christmas Parade and hot cocoa packets, cookies, and goody bags



at their own Christmas Cruise-By. Santa and Mrs. Claus, Rudy Bear, and elves all greeted those who “cruised” by, sharing some much needed joy and interaction with our community.

In January, outgoing Cape Fear District Governor Polly Bouldin installed the 2021 Board of Directors: Candace Edwards, Vice President; CiCi DelPrado, President; Rodger Nicely, Secretary; Beth Broeker, Board Member; Merlene Anderson, Treasurer; Larry Taylor, Board Member; Dianne Christiansen, Board Member; and Bouldin.

New members Susan McGovern and Jarrod Gozy were initiated by Bouldin, and Nancy Lancaster was honored with a plaque for being chosen 2020 Cape Fear District Ruritan of the Year for her work as Johnsonville Publicity Chair.



“Coming Together is the Beginning.”

“Staying Together is Progress.”

“Working Together is Success.”

MOST NEW MEMBERS RECRUITED IN A CALENDAR YEAR

Name	# New Members	Club	District
Wayne Outlaw	10	West Mount	Rocky Mt.Durham

Growth Begins
With
YOU!

News From Ruritan: Columbia District

Sandy Run Celebrates 30th Anniversary



Sandy Run Club celebrated its 30th anniversary by donating homemade cupcakes to drive-by citizens in the Sandy Run community. A tri-fold poster of photos and a list of the many projects the club does yearly was on display. Pictured left

(l-r) are Jill Crim, Lena Stabler, Teresa Helms, Kelly Roche-Sanders, Sheila Shanklin, Jimmy Shivers, Kay James, Ginger

Hardee, and Marshall Stabler. Pictured right (l-r) are Becky Starnes, Amber Hardee, Jill Crim, Ginger Hardee, Kelley Roche-Sanders, Lena Stabler, Teresa Helms, Sheila Shanklin, and Jimmy Shivers.



Pineview Club was named 2020 Adopt-A-Highway of the Year. The club participated in the AAH litter program since 1991. AAH Group Leader and 1998 Ruritan National President Gary Taylor are passionate about making a difference through community service.

News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District



Romney Club purchased and delivered Christmas gifts to families in the Romney area. Pictured are Club Secretary Nachama Miller and Club Director Brenda Ganoe.

**3x5 Outdoor Ruritan Flags
Available NOW!**

www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan

\$69



Ruritan Flag/U.S. Lapel Pin

\$4.50 each

www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan

News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District



Williamsburg Cleans Community

Williamsburg Club spent a long cold day using a special chemical and a lot of elbow grease to clean the gravestones at Andrew Chapel in Williamsburg. They hauled water to the cemetery, wiped and sprayed each marker, and treated for mold and lichen. They had previously reset the stones that had been toppled or leaning. Many of the workers are not pictured as they were working in several different areas. Pictured (l-r) are Matt Simmons, LauraAnn Tiller, Bill Zumpfe, Jack Goodman, Ray Phillips, Doyle Owens, and Denver Tiller.



Celebrating 29 years of participation in the West Virginia Adopt-A-Highway litter clean-up, members picked up 11 bags of trash. Pictured (l-r) are Denver Tiller, LauraAnne Tiller, President Jack Goodman, Treasurer Doyle Owens, Ray Phillips, Debra Zahorenko, John Rucker, Rudi Rucker, Jason Hedrick, and Vice President Bill Zumpfe. Not pictured is Patricia Zumpfe.

News From Ruritan: Bluegrass District



Finchville Club President Keith Raisor presented member Harold Sutton with 50-year pin and thanked him for his service to Ruritan.



Don't forget that you will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Ruritan Supply for every Ruritan Forever purchased through August 14.

News From Ruritan: Tennessean District



Bloomingdale Club held its annual community Christmas Parade on December 12th. There was good weather, good participation, and a great crowd.



Bloomingdale Club's New Officers are Gary Collier, President; Alan Pope, Vice President; Tim Dunn, Treasurer; Jim Smallwood, Secretary; Kyle Perdue, Director; Darline Inscoe, Director; and Josh Collier, Director.

Browns Community Club Proclamation

Whereas, since moving to the Browns community, Frank and Linda Dodson have been active, service oriented persons concerned daily about the welfare and well being of their neighbors and friends; and

Whereas, Frank and Linda have been long time active members and leaders of the Browns Ruritan Club joining soon after the club was organized in 1976; and

Whereas, both have had a remarkable record of perfect attendance for club meetings with Frank currently at 36 years and Linda at 29 years; and Whereas, both have served the club in almost every leadership role including multiple official terms as president and Frank's unofficial roles as parliamentarian, historian, and legal counsel of "Ruritan law" and Linda's service as "Quartermaster" and the detail oriented go to club member; and

Whereas, the Annual Tractor Show was a community summer highlight for a number of years largely because of Frank's leadership along with lots of help from other members; and

Whereas, Frank and Linda have spent countless hours working on renown Browns Ruritan Stews that always bring customers from miles away seeking the

tasty, old fashion stew; and

Whereas, the Dodsons have traveled thousands of miles across the state and country to fulfill the service mission of Ruritan; and

Whereas, both have served the Hermitage District in numerous leadership roles including Frank's three terms as president in 1989, 2003 and 2006 and Linda's two terms as president in 2014 and 2018; and

Whereas, Frank and Linda have continually extended their service across Tennessee through service to the annual Tennessee Ruritan Rally including Frank delivering the message for the morning church service; and

Whereas, Frank and Linda have willfully fulfilled responsibilities on the national level on numerous occasions, even to the highest level of Frank being recognized as a Tom Downing Fellow, serving as a National Director, and delivering the National

Convention vespers message;

Therefore, through a unanimous vote of the members of the 2020 Browns Ruritan Club, the club's meeting room will be from this 25th day of November 2020 forward be known as...

The Dodson Ruritan Activity Center



Please visit <http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational>



News From Ruritan: Ohio District



Laker Club President George Graham presented \$1,000 scholarships each to Adam Romanko, Andrew Ostavitz, and Stuart Struna for their outstanding academic achievement and community service.



The Smithville Club held a Christmas Food Drive in December and collected

123 pounds of dry/canned goods and \$1,555 in cash which was donated to People to People Ministries in Wooster.

News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District

Gamewell Installs New Member



Gamewell Club welcomed new member Lisa Haney. She was presented a membership pin from Club President and Gamewell Town Mayor Pedro Crump.

Club member Van Griffith received his longevity award for 50+ years of serving the community through Ruritan. District Governor Gary Barger and Crump made the presentation.



Collettsville Presents Citizen and Ruritan of the Year Awards

Collettsville Club named Jeff Gragg Citizen of the Year. Gragg is a lifelong resident of Collettsville and owner of North 40 Nursery. He has a heart for giving to others and has been a supporter of the club and its functions for a number of years. The club also selected Ronald Vance as Ruritan of the Year. Vance has supported the club and volunteered for club activities for much of his life; however, he officially became a member in 2011. Now, he is always looking for ways to improve the club and his community.

We are Ruritans!

Pungoteague Delivers 150 Boxes of Food



Pungoteague Club helped deliver 150 boxes of food to needy families as part of the 61st annual Bank of Cheer on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The club has been helping with this project for 18 years and had 11 members to volunteer in 2020. Pictured (l-r) are Ruritan members Herman Hohlt, Danny Lyle, Paul Custis, Bill Sterling, Sam Sellard, Jean Sellard, George Rams, John Denton, and Ed Lampman. Not pictured are Doug Wehner and Malcolm White.

Kenton Donates to Kay's Foundation



Kenton Club donated \$3,000 to Kay's Foundation. This Foundation was established in June 2007 as the Kaylyn Elaine Warren Foundation to fulfill the dream of their daughter who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on October 15, 2005, at the age of 17. Kay's Dream was to help other kids suffering from all types of childhood cancers through awareness and by opening Kay's Kamp - the First Oncology Camp in Delaware. At Kamp, kids battling cancer can experience some "normal" in their not-so-normal lives! Presenting the check is President Earl Collins. Pictured are Laurie Warren, Earl Collins, and Bill Warren.

We Have Aprons!



Two large pockets and adjustable neck strap. Long ties for back or front closure.
Size: 34" L x 23" W.
Machine washable.



This apron has three divisional pockets, long ties for back or front closure, and bar tacking for extra reinforcement.
Size: 11" L x 23" W.
Machine washable.



News From Ruritan: Piedmont District



Piedmont District Clubs Hold Blood Drive

Stokes County Ruritan Clubs held blood drives in three different areas to honor Roe Tucker, a young lady with leukemia. A total of 134 units were collected. Showing his support by donating blood is 2011 National President Jayson Duncan and

members of the **Chestnut Grove** and **Pine Hall** Clubs.

The club donated back buddies for chairs to kindergarten and first grade students at Pine Hall Elementary. These allow students to keep their own supplies and to help stop the spread of germs. Dictionaries were also presented to third-grade students. Pictured on the right is **Pine Hall** Club member Gail Duncan.



Semora Delivers Fruit Baskets



Donate To
St. Jude Today!



Sandy Ridge Cleans Highway



News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District

Lincolnland Holds Fall Convention

The **Lincolnland** Ruritan District held their Annual Fall Convention at Olde Tyme Steakhous. District Governor James Zehr presented the Lincolnland District Ruritan of the Year Award to **Geff** Club member Billie Moyer. Darla Abrams of the **Wayne City** Club won the Lincolnland District Membership Drive Contest by recruiting six new members. National Director Mike Wright installed the 2021 District Officers: Governor Beverly Tanner, Lt. Governor Michele Zehr, Treasurer Marcia Zehr, and Secretary James Barger.



Photo of District Officers: Governor Beverly Tanner, Lt. Governor Michele Zehr, Treasurer Marcia Zehr, and Secretary James Barger.

News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District

Camp Creek Helps Distribute Food

Camp Creek Club gladly offered their building to the Second Harvest Food Bank for food distribution. Members arrived early morning to make sure the vehicles lined up in an orderly manner. Members directed traffic.

There were approximately 80 cars in line to receive the food boxes.

Once the truck arrived the Ruritan members helped load the food into the cars so everyone could get through the line quickly. Pictured (l-r) are Jodi Lewis, George Lewis, Betty McCue, Bea Brown, Tami Collins, and Alan Brown. Not pictured is Deryl Hodgins who provided unloading assistance with his tractor.



Telford Holds Christmas Bazaar

Telford Club recently renovated the Community Room of their 1939 original schoolhouse and held their first annual Christmas Bazaar to showcase the building to the community. Over 20 vendors were invited to rent booths throughout the building to display various crafts and goods, while the Telford Club sponsored a fundraising baked sale table. Participants and visitors were masked and crowd numbers were controlled for safety. The funds were earmarked for game equipment and additional upgrades in the Community Room. Children enjoyed free hot chocolate and a visit from "socially-distanced" Santa, who handed out candy canes. The fundraiser was successful and vendors are already looking forward to another event next year. Pictured is Santa (member Dan Westbrook).



White Hall Club Forms “Safe and Ready” Committee

Courtesy from Crozet Gazette

Mike Marshall, Editor and Publisher

In 2019, the 60-member, 59-year-old White Hall Ruritan Club completed a two-year self-examination of the club's community activities. The goal of the study, named A Better Place, was to assure that club resources were being used effectively. Sixty-three new ideas and programs were suggested in the areas of community service, educational support, expanding uses of the historic clubhouse, and—a new topic—disaster/emergency preparedness. Prophetically, the latter topic was added before the current pandemic exploded.

It is known that resilient, prepared communities experience major disasters more successfully than the unprepared. A resilient community—as noted in Albemarle County's Disaster Preparedness Report—is an informed, reactive, and trained community. In response to this need, a new club committee has been formed: the Safe and Ready Committee. The mission of this committee is to prepare the White Hall Ruritan Club, its members, their families, and the White Hall community to anticipate, plan for, and successfully respond to local emergencies.

Robert Hodge and Curtis Peterson are co-chairs of the Safe and Ready committee, whose members include Joe Adkins, Cleve Campbell and Ann Mallek. “Preparedness is not a single activity or event, nor does it ever stop. Our first goals have been to improve our ability to communicate with club members and to link members to existing county alert systems, specifically the Code Red program. Some members are taking online FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) programs,” said Peterson. Bill Baer, Club President, recently organized the display of signs urging the wearing of masks during the pandemic around the community. Kim Taylor, a Ruritan Club member, designed the posters. They are hoping to inspire other local communities.

Bob Hodge, co-chair of the Safe and Ready Committee of the White Hall Ruritans, stands behind a large sign in front of the White Hall Ruritan Club at the intersection of Garth Road and White Hall Road. Photo: Sandra Hodge.



Using the MMS

How to Reset Your MMS Password

Knowing how to reset your password for the Member Management System (MMS) is important for anyone who regularly uses the system. From time to time a user will be prompted to reset their password, just to preserve the highest level of security. A user who has forgotten his or her password may also need to reset it. The process is fairly simply – following these steps:

- Go to <https://mms.ruritan.org>.
- Click on FORGOT PASSWORD link and the following page will come up (figure 1).
- Enter in the email* associated with your membership record and click on VERIFY E-MAIL. The MMS will email you an 8-digit control code (figure 2).
- On the next page you will need to enter in the 8-digit control code and press the CONFIRM RESET CODE button (figure 3).
- On the next page you will see the following screen (figure 4).
- Click on LOGON link (figure 5).
- Enter in your member ID and the password displayed on that previous screen in step 5. If the password matches you will get the screen below (figure 6).
- Enter in your new password and click UPDATE button to save it (figure 7).
- If you were successful in setting the password the following message will show up (figure 8).
- Click on the HERE link in blue to go back to the login page and use your new credentials to log in.

**If you share an email address with another Ruritan also using the MMS, the system will not process this request. If that happens, give the staff a call (toll free) at 877-767-8727 and they can provide you with a new temporary key word that will enable you to reset your secure password.*



Figure 1



Figure 2

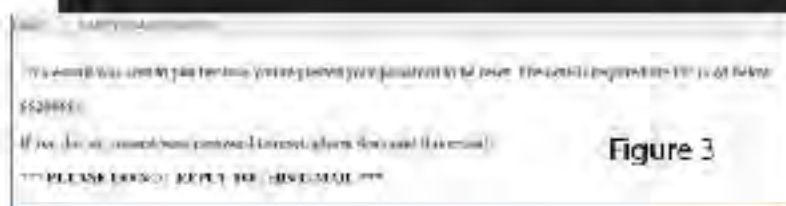


Figure 3



Figure 4

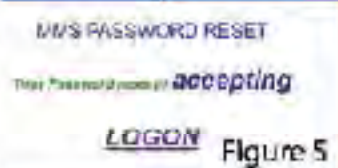


Figure 5



Figure 6

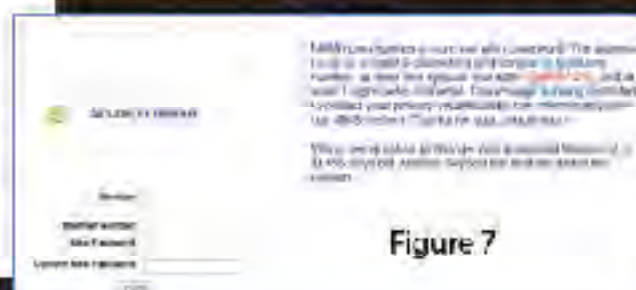


Figure 7

Security Information updated. Please click [here](#) to login with your new password

Figure 8

WANTED: WINNING RURITAN RECRUITERS

FOURTH QUARTER 2020



WINNER GINNY YAMIOLKOWSKI
OF THE KNOTTS ISLAND
CLUB IN VA



WINNER JUDY EMERSON
OF THE STONEWALL
DISTRICT CLUB IN VA



WINNER DONNA POULTON
OF THE AUGUSTA ROAD
CLUB IN SC

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