



# Ruritan

Volume 86, Summer 2021

# The Ocean Heals Everything..

## Hello, Summer!

*Join us in Myrtle Beach for the  
2022 Ruritan National Convention!*





# Ruritan

Volume 86, Summer 2021

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**Medieval Times**  
DINNER & TOURNAMENT

YOUR ROYAL INVITATION

**First Lady Anne Hedgspeth's Dinner**

JANUARY 7, 2022 5:00PM

**Are you ready to have some fun?**  
**See pages 8-10 for more details.**  
**Let's go to the beach!**

## 2021 National President Linward Hedgspeth



### Do Not Get Discouraged! There are Bigger and Better Things to Come!

It is incredible that we are already into our second quarter of 2021, and the bitter reminder of the coronavirus of 2020 is becoming a distant memory. Day-by-day we

are becoming more confident and eager to get back to holding in-person meetings and life as it was prior to the pandemic.

The past few months have been challenging but also rewarding as we plot our direction for the future.

"When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened." - John M. Richardson Jr.

I believe Ruritans are part of those who are concerned, caring, and eager to make it happen. You are eager to make it happen because you continue to be a part of those who want to contribute to your communities and to make a better life for all. I can assure you this holds true for your National Directors and Staff. They are on board to make the necessary changes to make the future the best it can be for our organization.

The National Board and Committee members learned with an extremely short window how to hold board meetings and manage business virtually. We held the 2nd virtual Board of Directors meeting this year in April. Once again, the Board demonstrated how we can adapt to changes and still cover a phenomenal amount of complex business in one day.

Some changes are temporary. Hopefully very soon we will revert to something more normal, like in-person meetings and having personal fellowship. But there are surely to be some changes that will remain permanent.

Sometimes things come to an end and a door closes to get us ready for something new. Do not get discouraged when things suddenly change. There are bigger and better things to come. New doors, new opportunities, and new relationships to be born.

May was Ruritan Awareness Month, unfortunately, the annual Founders' Day Parade and festivities, sponsored by the Holland Club did not take place because of the pandemic restrictions and precautions. Please join Ruritans across the country that will be conducting special projects by serving others and bringing awareness to our communities. This is a great way to support recruitment of new members and to let people know what great things your Ruritan club is doing in your community.

Youth Camp Is Canceled. The Youth Committee held a virtual conference and voted against holding a Youth Camp for 2021. Their decision to cancel was based on the stringent restrictions and mandates by the Governor of Virginia.

Our Leadership and Development Committee is diligently working to pull together a memorable Leadership Conference this year. The previous venue used for the conference (New River Community College) was not available for rent because of the pandemic restrictions. The conference will be held at the wonderful, newly renovated The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia. Thanks to our National Staff, this venue was obtained at a nominal cost. The date for the Leadership Conference is Saturday, August 14, 2021.

The National Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Friday, August 13 at The Hotel Roanoke (same location) one day before the Leadership Conference.

The National Convention is in the works and will be held at the Kingston Plantation Embassy Suite at Myrtle Beach, SC, ocean-front. The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on January 5, and the National Convention will be January 6 - 9, 2022.

Please mark your calendars for these important events.

Let us plug back into our communities, so they know we are still here and active despite the coronavirus. They will support us even more once they realize we are still a vital part of the community. Let us join hands and ensure that the Ruritan opportunity is open and available to all in our communities.

Finally, there are many Ruritan Districts that have lost members since the pandemic. However, others have grown in membership.

If we focus on our strengths and commend others for the good things they are doing, we will improve our relationships. People improve when you praise them for their good qualities. Encourage them for their good deeds and cheer them on for what they are doing. Be a voice that pushes them forward!

***We are all better and stronger when we "Work Together!"***



Magazine of and published by Ruritan National, Vol. 86, Summer 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.**

To date Ruritans have raised over **\$23,000**  
for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital!

**Give thanks.**

Give to help them live.



**Give thanks for the healthy kids in your life, and give to those who are not.**



**The Hedgspeth Family**

"I am so thankful for each one of you that's helped me exceed my goal. My project will continue through 2021. My family and I are very excited to see what the final total will be. Keep on giving! Let's Give so they can Live!" - Anne Hedgspeth



*"Someday, God willing, we are going to beat all the odds and make childhood cancer a thing of the past." - Danny Thomas, Founder St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*

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

## Executive Director Mike Chrisley



### Let's Rededicate Ourselves to Serving our Communities

Rebirth. Revitalization. Coming back to life. Turning over a new leaf. New beginnings. I believe that we have arrived at a place where we can begin to realize all these things. No matter what you

believe about 2020 I think we are finally turning a corner. Many of our clubs are beginning to meet in person again. We are seeing a renewal of clubs doing fundraising and community service. We are getting back to being the Ruritan we have always been.

Many of our clubs never missed a beat. During 2020 we did things in a different way, but we did things. Many clubs had success in ways that they did not anticipate, but they had success. We made lemonade with the lemons and kept right on serving communities.

Ruritan did not change. We are still the same as we were before 2020. We need to rededicate ourselves to serving our communities. The needs in communities are still there. They may have even more needs now than before 2020. Our fundamental value proposition is what we do for other people. We are built on the ideal that "Service is the basis of all worthy enterprise". We have a proud heritage of putting others before self, helping those who need us. We do not wait for people to seek us out, we go into communities and seek out those who need us.

I was proud of the way you stepped up in 2020 but that was not something new. I have always been proud of who you are and what you do for people. Come back to life. Begin again. Revitalize. That is my challenge to you. Of course, I want you to be safe, but people need us. I worry because if people stop doing things (like meeting) it is difficult to start doing them again. Please do not stop "doing" for others.

We are busy making plans for coming back to life. We are fortunate to be planning a summer conference at The Hotel Roanoke. We encourage any of

you who can to plan to attend. It just might be the shot in the arm you need to continue to excel in your Ruritan journey.

You will see in the pages of this magazine that we are also planning a great convention. It will be a great time of reunion for the Ruritan family. We cannot wait to see you there. There

was a song that was popular 20 years ago that said "the future is so bright I gotta wear shades". I think we should all get out our shades and wear them to Myrtle Beach for our convention. It is up to all of us to make sure that Ruritan's future is so bright we gotta wear shades.

We will take care of all the business of Ruritan, but we will also have a lot of fun. The convention will be a great family reunion with a lot of fun events. I have missed you all so much. I cannot wait to see you.



**"Coming Together is the Beginning."**

**"Staying Together is Progress."**

**"Working Together is Success."**

# 2021 Summer Leadership Conference

## August 13,14 - The Hotel Roanoke

### Roanoke, Virginia

President Elect Glen Broadwater is excited to hold his conference at The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia. He will kick off his conference with a picnic hosted by the Bonsack/Bluebridge Club on Friday, August 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Training will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 14, at The Hotel Roanoke. **Current Lt. Governors are expensed to this conference.**

**Lt. Governors are required to attend this conference to be eligible for reimbursement of one half of their National Convention expenses.**

Current District Governors and Zone Governors are not required to attend this conference but are highly recommended to attend.

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 who will give some useful advice on how you can build your clubs and districts. President Elect Glen and the Leadership Committee are planning the training around the theme: One Team, One Direction, Up." There will be information 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. 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.

1. 2021 District Lt. Governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2022 National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC, provided they complete the requirements below.

2. They attend the 2021 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by the National President).

3. They attend the Governors' Training at the 2022 National Convention.

4. They attend substantially all meetings at the 2022 National Convention.

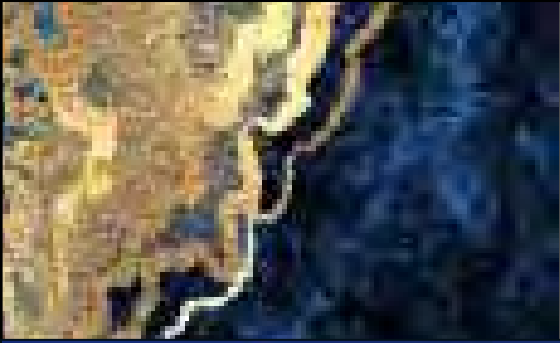
5. Form R-35 must be received by Ruritan National no later than November 10 and Form R-36 must be received by Ruritan National no later than February 10.

**\*\*All expense vouchers must be submitted within 90 days after the 2022 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.**

***Ruritan rate is \$104 plus tax per night. Parking is \$5.50 per night. To reserve your room call 866-594-4722 or visit the link below***

***<https://book.passkey.com/event/50195997/owner/9515698/home>***



# Ruritan Summer Leadership Conference

## Registration Form

Registration Includes: Friday picnic hosted by the Bonsack/BlueRidge Club  
Saturday morning and afternoon breaks - breaks include breakfast food until noon and snack items the remainder of the day and a plated lunch

Conference materials are included.

**Complete this form and include \$125 per person which includes both meals.**

**Every attendee will receive a Conference Polo Shirt. Please include your shirt size.**

**\*\*Return this form no later than July 16, 2021 to Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084. \*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

I have \_\_\_\_\_ guests for the Saturday lunch at \$40 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

I have \_\_\_\_\_ guests for the picnic on Friday at \$20 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

I want to order my guest(s) a conference polo at \$25 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

Their shirt size is \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_**

Credit Card Payment

Card Type: Discover ☐

Visa: ☐

Mastercard: ☐

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

# Medieval Times

DINNER & TOURNAMENT



YOUR ROYAL INVITATION

## First Lady Anne Hedgspeth's Dinner

JANUARY 7, 2022 5:00PM



**First Lady Anne Hedgspeth is excited to announce that her event will be held at the Medieval Times in Myrtle Beach.**

**This will be a private event for Ruritans if we have 250 plus guests.**

**Cost is \$55 per person. This includes your First Lady Event Program, dinner, show, personal flag, and special seating.**

**“Join me for food, fun, and fellowship! Let’s have some fun in Myrtle Beach!”**



# Ruritan National Convention – Myrtle Beach, SC

## January 6-9, 2022

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

Please print or type

1st Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Non-Member (circle one)

Member# (if member): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check items below that apply:

\_\_\_ I have these food restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I need handicapped accessible seating at meals.

\_\_\_ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

\_\_\_ I have 50 years or more perfect attendance.

\_\_\_ This is my first convention.

I expect to be a voting delegate for the

\_\_\_\_\_ Ruritan Club.

2nd Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Non-Member (circle one)

Member# (if member): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check items below that apply:

\_\_\_ I have these food restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I need handicapped accessible seating at meals.

\_\_\_ Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

\_\_\_ I have 50 years or more perfect attendance.

\_\_\_ This is my first convention.

I expect to be a voting delegate for the

\_\_\_\_\_ Ruritan Club.

**Please note:** Voting will be Friday only starting at 1:30 p.m. Delegate certification will close at 12 p.m. on Friday for walk-ins. You must pick one of the packages, 1 – 4, in order to vote. Even if you pre-register for Saturday only package you must vote on Friday. Staff will send remote voting instructions prior to the Convention.

We will be honoring Ruritan military veterans during the Convention. Please let us know your branch and era of service for special recognitions.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ (Check one in each column)

\_\_\_ U.S. Army

\_\_\_ U.S. Air Force

\_\_\_ U. S. Marines

\_\_\_ U.S. Navy

\_\_\_ U.S. Coast Guard

\_\_\_ Other (explain)

\_\_\_ WWII

\_\_\_ Korean

\_\_\_ Vietnam

\_\_\_ Desert Storm

\_\_\_ Operation Iraqi Freedom

\_\_\_ Other (explain)

For Office Use Only:

GRP# \_\_\_\_\_

### MEALS IN Myrtle Beach

While there is not a late fee for registrations to the Convention this year, there is a deadline with the Embassy Suites caterer for meal count guarantees. With that in mind, anyone waiting to register on-site in Myrtle Beach (as a walk-in) for the events will not be guaranteed meals. However, we will be able to register you for non-meal events at the base rate of \$175. Send in your registration before the Dec. 6, 2021, cut-off date to be guaranteed meals. Kid's meals are available upon request.

**\*\* Please provide your guest's name on this form so that we may have a name badge made.**

# Ruritan National Convention – Myrtle Beach, SC January 6-9, 2022

Have it YOUR way! Choose one of FOUR package options for the 2022 Convention.

Choose one of these four registration packages. **ALL Packages** include opening ceremony, access to exhibits, access to the business meetings on Friday and Saturday, workshops, voting, and all other convention activities.

## Meal Package Options

*Packages 1 - 4 already include the base fee of \$175*

	Quantity	Cost	Total
Two meal package includes base fee, Friday Fellowship Luncheon, and Saturday Installation Banquet	Package 1 <b>BEST DEAL</b>	\$300	
Friday only package includes base fee and Friday Fellowship Luncheon	Package 2	\$230	
Saturday only package includes base fee and Saturday Installation Banquet	Package 3	\$255	
No Meals - base registration only	Package 4	\$175	

## Extra Meal Tickets and Items

*Must purchase any package above to purchase additional meal tickets*

	Quantity	Cost	Total
Friday Medieval Times Dinner & Show	First Lady Anne's Outing	\$55	
Friday Fellowship Luncheon	Fellowship	\$60	
Saturday Installation Banquet	Banquet	\$85	
Rudy Bears - Added as a gift to Myrtle Beach charities	Rudy Bears	\$8.50	
Donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital	Donation	\$	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL \$</b>		

Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

Check payment type below:

**NOTE:** Aside from some limited special seating, everyone will be seated for meals on a "first come, first served" basis.  
If you want to be seated with specific attendees, you should send your registration forms in together.

\_\_\_\_ Payment made by check      Check# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Visa/MasterCard/Discover/American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date # \_\_\_\_\_

3 or 4 digit code on back \_\_\_\_\_

Check one option below

\_\_\_\_ Bill my credit card now

\_\_\_\_ Bill my credit card on December 1, 2021

# 2022 National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC

Come soar with National President Linward and First Lady Anne Hedgspeth in Myrtle Beach, SC, for another great convention!



**January 6-9, 2022**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach  
Oceanfront Resort  
9800 Queensway Blvd.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572**



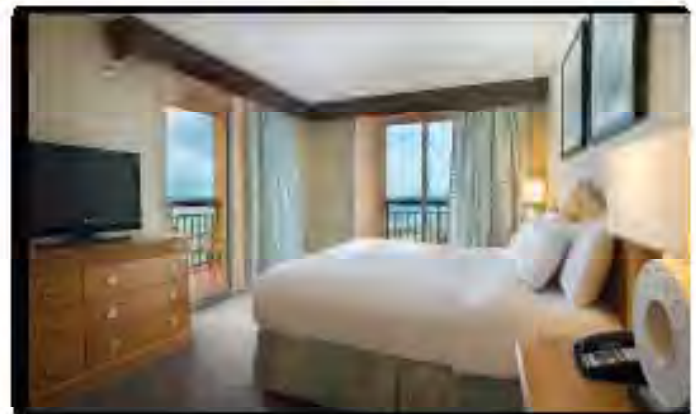
**For reservations please see the link:**

**<https://book.passkey.com/go/RURITANNATIONAL>**

**District Governors, please use this link to book your room:**

**<https://book.passkey.com/go/RURITANGOVERNOR>**

**Room rates for the Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Resort are \$105 (does not include Resort Fee of \$15 per day)**



**You may also find the link at [www.ruritan.org](http://www.ruritan.org)**

**For other information please contact National Office - (877) 787-8727 Ext. 312 or [convention@ruritan.org](mailto:convention@ruritan.org)**

## Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. Joins us in Myrtle Beach!

After being forced off the road by the pandemic, Murphy put his suddenly available downtime to good use, going back to school virtually to earn his high school equivalency diploma. It was a moment of particular pride for Murphy, who holds an honorary Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Charleston but had dropped out of high school almost three decades prior. "I needed to set a good example for my youngest son Logan, and for everybody, that your education is really important and to never give up."

To stay in touch with his fans and friends, Landau performed a series of virtual concerts for fans around the world, capping off the year with his 10th annual "Home For The Holidays Tour", a 10 night run of Christmas concerts broadcast live from the Alban Theater to fans worldwide. Landau also helped kids across his home state of West Virginia get a little extra Christmas cheer with his first-ever "Landau's Kids Joy Toy Drive." Landau's

fans ordered toys and books online, and Landau personally delivered the toys to needy kids across the Mountain State just before Christmas.

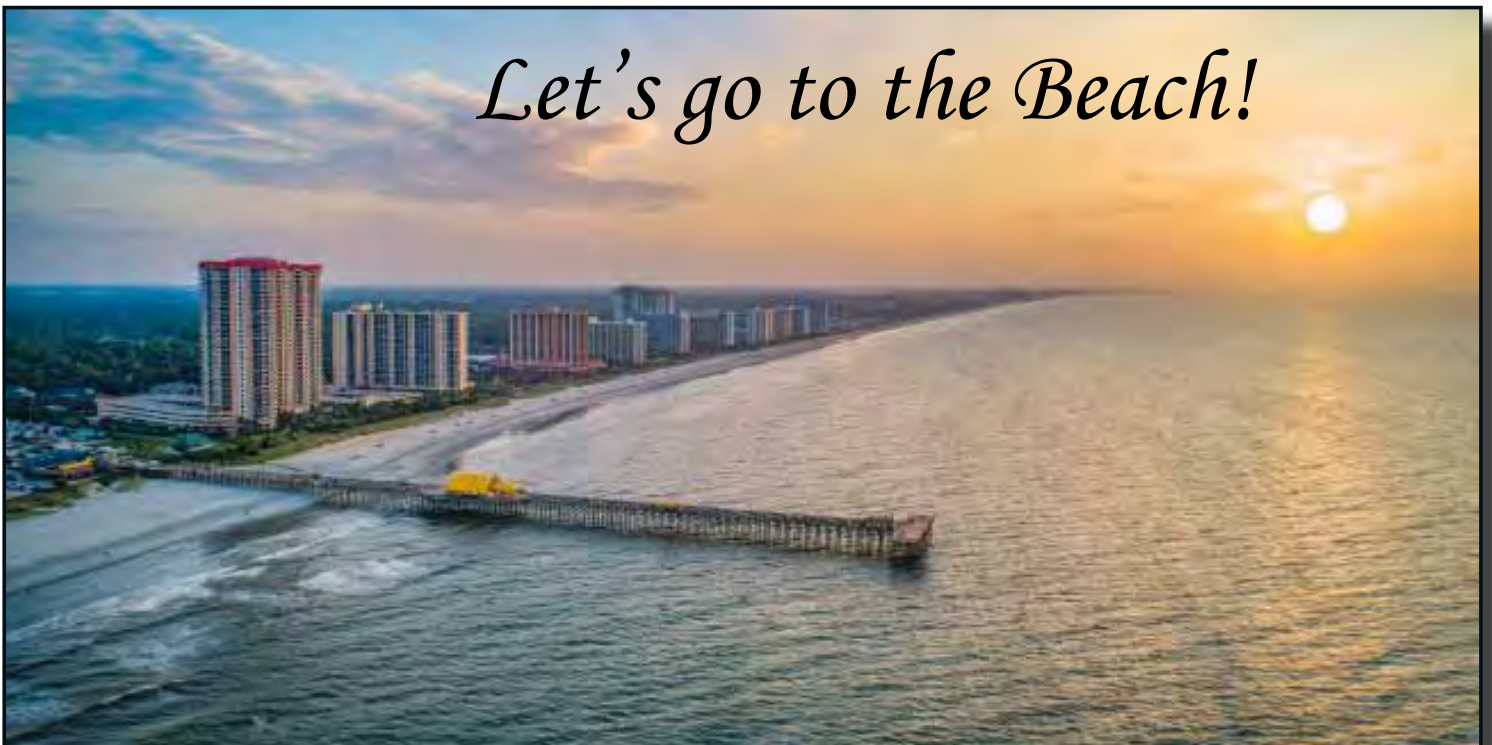


Keeping busy while not able to tour, Landau also completed remix sessions for his upcoming "Landau-Live In Las Vegas at Caesar's Palace" album. The set, recorded pre-pandemic on the famous Las Vegas strip, was due for release in 2020, but like most movie and album releases, has been pushed back to 2021.

Landau, a frequent entertainer at casino resorts in Las Vegas, Atlantic City, and across the U.S.A., was asked to be a presenter at the Casino Entertainment Awards virtual telecast. Landau appeared alongside his fellow Vegas headliners Celine Dion, Wayne Newton, Tony Orlando, and Casino Legends Award winner Lee Greenwood on the Livestream event.

Landau says he's really looking forward to performing for his Ruritan friends in Myrtle Beach in 2022, and hopes it will be safe to visit with folks after the show, take pictures, and give hugs. "I love to meet people who stick around to talk with me. Ruritans are down-to-earth, salt-of-the-earth folks who work hard, take care of their families, and give back to their communities. They're what the best of America is all about, and I am honored to perform for them again."

# *Let's go to the Beach!*



# New Ruritan Forever Recipients



Seth Marshall (age 10) just became a member of the **Aaron's Creek Club** in December but has outdone himself helping with all club activities. He's great at peeling potatoes and chopping onions for stew, singing and keeping members entertained, wiping off cans and opening cans, running cups, and helping customers. He is also quality control for the new playground by helping make sure it's safe. He attends meetings and asks questions and wants to be vice president soon like his Papa. He has watched and learned from the best. For that reason, National Director Melody Davis gave her daddy Michael Davis and her nephew Seth a Ruritan Forever. Melody stated, "I couldn't do for one without the other because they both deserve this honor and are true Ruritan Forevers at heart." There are four generations of Ruritan Forevers in their family: Seth Marshall, Melody Davis, Michael Davis, and the late Ed Murphy.



Past National Director Bob Reece has been a Ruritan Forever since 2011. In 2019 and 2020, Bob won the Wanted Contest for recruiting new members. He opted both times to gift a Ruritan Forever. The first one was presented to Royce Adkins. The plaque was presented to Royce's widow on his behalf in May 2019.

Sharon Wilson of **Happy Valley Club** received the second Ruritan Forever in November 2020. "Sharon is a dedicated hard worker," said Reece. Pictured with Reece and Wilson are husband Mark, daughter Samantha Matheson, Michael Matheson, and grandson Teagan.



Guy Marshall from the Max Meadows Club received a Ruritan Forever from President Donny Dean in April.

Past National Director Howard Tanner presented Lincolnland District Governor Beverly Tanner with her Ruritan Forever. She is shown receiving her pin.

**\*\*Now through August 14, 2021, receive a \$25 gift certificate to Ruritan Supply for every Ruritan Forever purchased.\*\***



# 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.

## Special Feature

# Ruritan Members for Over 70 Years!

They were young men eager to work in their communities when they joined Ruritan between 1945 and 1950. Today they are our most venerated generation of members - remarkable men with 70 years or more of service to Ruritan and their communities. They range in age from 85 to 100 years old and each has a story to tell about his time in Ruritan.

What was the world like in the late 1940s? Turning on the radio you might have heard *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, or *All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth*. Television, which was not a feature in every home by any means, offered shows like *Candid Camera*, *Kukla, Fran & Ollie*, and *Your Show of Shows*. A loaf of bread was 13 cents, and a brand-new Chevrolet station wagon was just a bit over \$1,200.

Many communities were struggling in those years – trying to develop telephone cooperatives, rural electrification, public water supplies, and other crucial infrastructure components. Ruritan clubs were on the cutting edge of many of those projects.

The Bergton Club was involved in just such a



Just this spring, Stuart Whetzel of the Bergton Ruritan Club spoke at a community event for Susan Brown, owner of the Bergton Grocery Store which burned in March. The club has been involved, with the rest of the community, in fundraisers to support Mrs. Brown in the wake of the tragedy. (Photo courtesy Paul Beiler.)

project – raising funds for and installing a furnace in the Bergton Elementary School. **Stuart Whetzel** remembers the project well – which counted on fundraisers and donations from community-minded folks. Stuart was a charter member of the Bergton Club, joining at age 14. Today at 85 he is still actively farming after retiring from



Ruritan's longest living member Marvin Garber received his 75-year membership (l-r) current Bridgewater Ruritan Club President Jim Harlow, Marvin Garber, Marvin's son Rick Garber, and current Club Vice President Glen Thomas. (Photo courtesy Rick Claybrook)

50 years in the sawmill business. He has held all club offices and even served as a zone governor. He still faithfully attends meetings and helps with projects. His advice to younger members is, "Jump in with both feet and get involved! Participate in meetings, say your piece, and vote on the issues." Stuart has no regrets where Ruritan is concerned. "It has been very rewarding," he noted.

Ruritan's longest serving member is **Marvin Garber** of the Bridgewater Club.

He joined Ruritan in 1945, originally in the New Hope Club transferring to Bridgewater in 1992. Marvin spent his life as a master electrician which proved to be essential to his Ruritan club, as they installed lights at the New Hope ballfield, wired the community for streetlights, and built a doctor's office/home to serve the community. Once Marvin transferred to the Bridgewater Club, he used his skills to work on the electrical operations at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Marvin also became well known for selling ham sandwiches at the Bridgewater Lawn Party, a yearly fundraiser.

Ruritan often uses the slogan "Ask" to encourage inviting potential members to a meeting. That's exactly what happened to Marvin. He was standing



**Continued**

## Special Feature

# Ruritan Members for Over 70 Years!

outside the bank in 1945 when a "Mr. Hensley" approached him about joining the New Hope Club and he agreed. Rick Claybrook, past Bridgewater Club President, noted about Marvin, "We can always count on Marvin's enthusiasm for Ruritan, and with his friendly spirit he has connected with and inspired several generations of Ruritans in the Shenandoah Valley over the past 76 years."

Sadly, **Wallace**

**Beckner**, who joined the Brownsburg Club at age 18, just a few months before Marvin, passed away just this spring. He also had 76 years in the organization. He served in every office in the club and was still a director at the time of his death. Club members note that Wallace's advice was always prized. Wallace was raised on a farm in Rockbridge Baths which he worked all his life and even into his 90s was known to climb on a tractor and rake hay. Over his years in Ruritan, Wallace introduced many in the community to the organization and was personally responsible for many new club members.

**F.J. Brinkley, Jr.**

is known to his fellow Cypress Ruritan Club members as "Effie Doll." At 90 years old, he had some difficulty with a telephone interview, but his wife Betty was delighted to talk about her



*Sadly Wallace Beckner, a 76 year Ruritan, passed away as this article was being prepared. This picture shows Wallace with his family, being recognized at a Brownsburg Ruritan event. (Photo courtesy Beckner family.)*



*70-year-member F.J. Brinkley, Jr. (right) is pictured here as his club honored his service to the Cypress Ruritan Club. Also pictured is Floyd Umphlett Jr. who had 66 years in Ruritan before his death in 2019. (Photo courtesy Thomas Bazemore.)*

too busy farming and with his part time job grading peanuts to take on that responsibility." In fact, in 1952 when F.J. began to court Betty, who was a nurse, he was club secretary and would bring the club postcards to her house and the couple would address the meeting reminders together. Betty and F.J. celebrated 65 years of marriage in January.

The Cypress Club is famous for their twice-a-year chicken dinners and F.J. was proud to help with all facets of the pit cooked chicken meals. In his later years he still stayed active, serving the pork and beans and was lovingly called "the bean man." Betty said that if F.J. could talk to younger members, he would remind them that Ruritan is a wonderful way to help your community. "He has served by that example," she added.

**Arthur Frank**

**"Droopy" Drewery** of the Isle of Wight Ruritan Club turned 96 years old in May 2021 and he will celebrate 73 years in Ruritan in October. Fellow club

husband's years in Ruritan. "He joined the Cypress Club in its second year, so he wasn't a charter member," she recalled. "He joined right out of high school. It met right down the road from him and the guy on the next farm who was a charter member invited him to join."

Betty remembered. F.J. was willing to take every club office over the years, "except President. He was



*Frank "Droopy" Drewery of the Isle of Wight Club has 73 years in Ruritan.*

**Continued**

## Special Feature

# Ruritan Members for Over 70 Years!

member and Club Secretary Robert Cofield had a chance to talk with Frank recently about his experiences in the organization. Again, Frank was a member because *someone asked him to be!*

"One Sunday at church J. Rowell Seward invited me to a supper at Isle of Wight School lunchroom to talk about a club he wanted me to help get started. After supper, Rowell told the group about Ruritan and what it could do to help our community. About 35 men agreed to join as charter members. The Isle of Wight Club was chartered in October 1948." The projects to help raise money over the years included ham suppers, auctions, talent shows, donkey baseball games, Brunswick stews, pork loin suppers, BBQ suppers, and collard sales. Once a year, the club operates a booth at the Isle of Wight County Fair selling pork loin sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, and desserts.

Frank was happy encourage young people to get involved in Ruritan. "If you want to have fun and are willing to work, you will get a lot from Ruritan. We are not just a meet and eat organization. The fellowship is great. The projects we do, such as building ramps for those in need or making donations to rescue and fire departments in the county, are gratifying. The scholarships we give each year to high school seniors help future generations who hopefully will want to become members of Ruritan."

Longevity in Ruritan has great meaning for members who have spent many decades in the organization. 1995 National President Frank Guthrie recently reached out to the clubs in his district to remind them to recognize those members with 50 years of service or more. Guthrie also contacted the Ruritan National staff about recognizing members with over 70 years and he assisted with



*William Simmons of the North River VA Ruritan Club is pictured here presenting the Mary Buck service award to member Joe Horn in June of 2018. In the background is Mr. Simmons daughter. (Photo courtesy Chuck Horn.)*

this magazine feature. He explained why this was important to him, "I became a Ruritan member in January 1971. Throughout my years of service, I have been recognized as a Tom Downing Fellow, honored as a Ruritan Forever, presented with the very prestigious Patrick Henry Award, and served as the 1995 Ruritan National President. However, the achievement of which I am most proud is obtaining 50 years of service."

North River VA Club

Treasurer Chuck Horn is very fond of **Bill Simmons** who has been a member of the club since September 1950. "I have known Bill for over 35 years," Chuck noted, "and he is a true Ruritan in every way. A real role model for us all."

**Henry Green**, who turns 100 this year, is a member of the Leeds Ruritan Club and has been involved in Ruritan since 1949.

**Joseph Ellwood May**, of the Mathias Club, joined the organization in 1950 and served



*Before establishing 70 years of perfect attendance, Ellwood May began his years with Ruritan by taking periodic leaves of absence to play professional baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers and serve in the National Guard. (Photo courtesy Mathias Ruritan Club.)*

**Continued**

## Special Feature

# Ruritan Members for Over 70 Years!

many years as the club treasurer. His son Terry, also a member, was happy to discuss his dad in a recent phone interview. When the Mathias Club was being organized, Ellwood's dad was involved. He and other neighbors urged Ellwood to join, too. Ellwood was playing minor league baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers at the time, and worried that he'd be away too much. However, he was able to join and take a leave of absence when he had to be away. After four years with the Dodgers organization, he came back home and took over the family farm and began what was nearly 70 years of perfect attendance, leaving after that only for National Guard assignments. The Mathias Club is known for the West Virginia Turkey Festival which is going on 65 years. Ellwood was a key player in organizing and managing the annual shooting match connected with the festival. At 95 years old, Ellwood is still attending meetings – or was until the COVID-19 pandemic. Terry said that Ruritan has been a big part of his dad's life and he thinks his dad would urge younger members to stay involved and to invest themselves in making their communities better places in which to live.

**Winston Best**, who turned 100 years old in February, joined Ruritan in 1948 and is a charter member of the New Hope, NC Ruritan Club. He was recognized by the North Carolina State Veterans Home - Kinston with a COVID-safe birthday celebration. At least 10 cars and truckloads of family



*New Hope, NC, Ruritan member Winston Best, with 72 years in Ruritan, was honored with a special drive-by 100th birthday celebration in February. (Photo courtesy The Neuse News.)*

members and friends came by to wish him well from a distance. His great-nieces and nephew sang happy birthday from the back of one of the trucks. Winston served in WWII in the Pacific. He was in the Navy and was a Medical Corpsman.

**E.C. Showalter, Jr.** is a member of the Weyers Cave Club and joined Ruritan in 1950 while **S. Earl Sipe** also joined Ruritan in 1950 and is a member of the Cross Keys – Mill Creek Club.

Another Ruritan with a long history in the organization was **Billy G. Ward** of the Walnut Hill Ruritan Club. He joined Ruritan in 1947 and, sadly, passed away in May 2020.

Today there are over 900 Ruritan members with 50 years of service to the organization. Ruritan National Executive Director Michael Chrisley is grateful for all these dedicated members. "These members are excellent role models for all of our organization. They exhibit dedication, commitment, and a love of their community that is an inspiration. Ruritan was built with members like these, and we will move forward with Ruritans who show the same kind of devotion and enthusiasm."

*- Chris Pugh, Staff Writer*



*At the time of his death in 2020, Billy G. Ward of the Walnut Hill, FL, Club had been in Ruritan for 73 years. 2019 National President Larry Cassell was delighted to meet Billy and have his picture taken with him as he visited clubs around Ruritan. (Photo courtesy Larry Cassell.)*

## Message From 2021 Foundation President Brent Wheeler



### Plan to Attend Our Live Auction at the Beach!

As spring turns into summer, it is so wonderful to see our clubs meeting again. Your Foundation is also having regular meetings via our laptops. Our most recent meeting with Wells Fargo Investor Scott Carr showed we are on strong footings with our investments.

By now clubs taking part in Build Your Dollars (BY\$) should have submitted your claim form. The deadline of June 30th is fast approaching. For your \$300 you will once again receive \$600. We appreciate each club who took part in BY\$ and hope more of you will take advantage of this great Foundation program.

Again, this year we have been forced to cancel the Foundation Weekend. Alabama is finally opening back up for events but there is not time to plan our usual Foundation activities. Hopefully, next year will be different.

Many of you have asked about our silent and live auction at the National Convention. It is our plan to have both, but this is subject to change. We will keep you informed of any guidelines that we must follow. Have a wonderful and safe summer and let's all enjoy once again meeting with our Ruritan families.

***God Bless America and God Bless Ruritan.***

### 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



### Past National Presidents James Amick and John Dempsey Pass



James Albert Amick, "JA", of Columbia passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2021. He was born February 26, 1930, in Lexington, SC.

He was the son of the late Jonas and Bertha Amick. James is survived by his loving wife of almost 69 years, Martha Shealy Amick; a daughter, Ginger (Eddie) Hill of Rock Hill; and a son Leslie "Bill" W. (Darlene) Amick of Batesburg-Leesville. He was predeceased by a daughter, Debbie Amick. He had 7 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a special niece. He was predeceased by two brothers and four sisters.

James was an active member of Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church for more than 50 years serving in many capacities, including being a charter member of the Men's Club.

He was also a charter member of the Lower Richland Ruritan Club, a civic organization, 61 years ago and helped organize the first Easter Sunrise Service at Greenlawn Memorial Cemetery.

John Patton Dempsey passed from this life on October 8, 2020, just a few days after celebrating his 100th birthday. John was born in Floyd County, Georgia on September 20, 1920, to Lucille Patton Dempsey and John Reece Dempsey.

A lifelong scholar, John graduated from Model High School in 1937 and University of Georgia in 1941. After serving in World War II, he completed his Masters Degree in Agriculture Economics at UGA. Continually striving for higher learning, he received a Bachelor of Law Degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law in 1962.

As a civic-minded person, John was actively involved in several organizations. With the Travelers Protective Association, he served as State President and National Treasurer. In the American Legion Post 5, John was Post Commander and a member of the Honor Guard. With the Cattlemen's Association, he toured farms and ranches in other states with the Georgia delegation several times. As a member of Ruritan National, John served in several capacities before becoming National President in 1989. John was preceded in death by his wife of 74 years, his parents, and his sister, Margaret Dempsey Heflin. His loving family includes daughter, Marie, and son-in-law, Jim Carney; grandsons, Jeff (Anne Marie), Chad (Jennifer), Kyle (Jessica), and Cabe (Emily) Carney. Great-grandchildren are Kevin (Reana) and Kayleigh Carney; Erin, Emmy, and Tate Carney; Laney, Davis and Dempsey Carney; Emma and Savannah Mae Carney.



# New Ruritan Supply Items

[www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan](http://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](http://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](http://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!**



## Deep Creek Supports Police Officers

**Deep Creek Club** presented a check to Law Enforcement United to help sponsor a rider on the annual "Road to Hope" bicycle ride to raise funds for families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. In the photo, Public Service Chair Mike Kirsch presents the check to Chesapeake, VA police officer Jennifer Powell who will participate in the bicycle ride.



**"Coming Together is the Beginning."**

**"Staying Together is Progress."**

**"Working Together is Success."**

## Mary Cole Receives Citizen of the Year Award



The **Smithfield Ruritan Club** and Smithfield Rotary acknowledge Mary Cole as the 2019 Citizen of the Year for her outstanding Sunday's at Four presentations. Sundays at Four honors musical high school and college students to perform monthly before audiences at Christ Episcopal Church. Danny Webb of the Smithfield Rotary presented the award. Pictured are Ruritan members Mike Swecker, Kirk Ring, Skip Sharpley, Larry Oden, with Mary Cole.



## Grassfield Celebrates 65th Anniversary

**Grassfield Club** celebrated its 65th anniversary with a cake. Members continue to work on projects like adopt-a-spot, food bank, and Meals on Wheels. They have helped five Scout units meet on a regular basis since their charter organizations closed for meetings. Charter member Eddie Vinsek is shown with Club President Russell Gwynn.

The club hosted Champion KC BBQ Master Chiles Cridlin's (pictured) class on competition cooking.



## Barrel Shape Coffee Mug in Matte Finish

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

**\$5**



**3x5 Outdoor Ruritan Flags**

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**\$69**



## News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District



### Montpelier Sells Chili

**Montpelier** Club held its annual Superbowl Chili Sale. Proceeds provided scholarships for Patrick Henry High School seniors. The club made 340 quarts and was grateful for the support from the local community. Club President Charles Stanley (left) and Chili Master Dick Jones (right) prepared the first of two pots for the Superbowl Chili. Joan Jones packaged and collected the proceeds.



### Abingdon Donates Baked Goods

**Abingdon** Club has several members who love to bake. It was a perfect idea for the club's public service committee to donate baked goods to first responders as a small token of appreciation. Members donated dozens of cakes, candy, cookies, cupcakes, and truffles.

Members of the Abingdon Ruritan Club contributed 20.5 total volunteer hours to help paint a hallway at the Abingdon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station #2. Pictured right (l-r) are Mike Ekdahl, Ann Dugas, Lynn Onesty, and Roger Dick.



### Gloucester Cleans Highway

**Gloucester** Club met early Saturday, February 6, to pick up 19 bags of rain-soaked trash for the club's Adopt-A-Highway project. Pictured are Henry "Hurricane" Thompson and Barbara Bauer. Additionally, they donated five bags of recyclable aluminum cans to *The Giving Garden Foundation*.



**\$10**

*Medium profile six panel structured hat. Camouflage twill with matching camo mesh back. Adjustable plastic snap tab.*

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Ruritan Flag/U.S. Lapel Pin

**\$4.50 each**

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## Rappahannock District Clubs Present Awards



**Stonewall District** Club member Steve Cunningham received the Pearl Award. This award started in 1978 and is given to a member that the club feels has offered the most help during the year.

J. Douglas Butler received the C. Irvin Cather Award. This award is named after the first president of the Stonewall District Club and is given to a community member, not necessarily a Ruritan member, who has performed 10 or more years



of service within the community.

The President's Award was presented to Wilson Gilbert for all his work in organizing the "Milk & More" Protein Box distribution to community members.

Joe Hulver was recognized for his 50 years of perfect attendance by National Director Rebecca Lane.

**Stafford** Club members David Watson, Billy Shelton, and Scott Pettyjohn presented Stafford County Deputy Jeremy Hurt with its annual "Rookie of the Year"



award. Deputy Hurt was nominated by Stafford Sheriff David P. Decatur, Jr. Deputy Hurt has been employed with the Sheriff's Office for just under two years. During his training, Deputy Hurt won the top skills award that includes firearms, driving skills, and defensive tactics. "Deputy Hurt demonstrates the Sheriff's Office Core Values through his dedicated work ethics, outstanding attitude, and professional appearance and demeanor," said Sheriff Decatur.

**Aldie** Club recognized Wynne Saffer for his 15 years serving as Club Treasurer. Wynne was presented with a certificate and a Yeti mug with the Ruritan logo.

The club donated \$10,350 to various community groups in 2020, including local food pantries, churches, a therapeutic riding facility, and other community service organizations.



## News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

### Central Chesterfield Swings for Vets

Swing for Vets was a golf tournament that took place March 22, 2021, run by James Dacey and Peyton Jones, both seniors at James River High School. JT Dacey, a youth member in the **Central Chesterfield** Club and his friend Peyton Jones, have had many family members who have served in the military and they are choosing to follow that same path. Currently, they are applying to the Naval Academy where they hope to attend and later serve five years of service. For their Senior Capstone Project, they held a golf tournament. Club members Scott Ford, Julie Marshall, and James Dacey helped cook dinner for this event. Dozens of golfers teed off and helped sponsor the event, which raised more than \$22,000 for the local non-profit *Veterans and Athletes United*.



### Amelia Makes Brunswick Stew

Amelia Club held its annual Brunswick Stew fundraiser in March to raise funds for scholarships and other community projects. Selling out at 467 quarts of stew. Club member Glen Henkle (l) and Club President Don Shreffler stirring the pot.

*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: Southwest Virginia District

### Atkins Welcomes New Member Ernie Atwell



Atkins Club President Trish Daugherty welcomes new member Ernie Atwell into the club. Lester Owens (right) was presented his 10-year membership pin from Daugherty. Club member Jennifer Leonard made shawls and presented them to nursing home residents.



**If We Work Together as One Team,  
We will Make a Difference in  
Our Organization!**

## James McCray Receives Citizen of the Year Award



**Millboro** Club honored James McCray as the club's 2020 Citizen of the Year. James is very active in the community by working with local churches, participating in Meals On Wheels, and supporting local food pantries. He and his wife Naomi shop, load, and deliver. He is a valuable member of the community and the go-to guy to get things done. Millboro Club President Eddy Hicklin presented James with the award at his home.

## Falling Spring Stays Active

**Falling Spring** Club received gold certificates in Social Development, Public Service, and Environment and two silver certificates in Citizenship and Patriotism and Business and Professions for their hard work. Pictured left (l-r) are the new Falling Spring Club Officers: Vice President Janie Tyree, Treasurer Laura Kyle, President Debbie Henderson, Secretary Marian Paxton, and Natural Bridge District Governor Cindy Durham.



On Saturday, March 20th, 14 volunteers from the Falling Spring Club made a portion of Jackson River Road a cleaner America by picking up 40 bags of trash between Petticoat Junction and the swinging bridge. Pictured are Marian Paxton, Libby Nicely, Natural Bridge District Governor Cindy Durham, Lauren Wright, and Nathan Manspile.



On April 24th as part of National Trash Pickup Day, seven members volunteered to pick up 25 bags of trash on Falls Road. Pictured left (l-r) are Club President Libby Nicely, Marian Paxton, Pam Morgan, Joyce Martin, and Gary Morgan.

## We Have Aprons!



\$12.75

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



\$8.50

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.





### Ricky Lambert and Bob Blosser Receive Awards

**Fulks Run** Ruritan Club was able to meet in April 2021 for the first time since November. Despite COVID, the club was still able to preserve some of its service traditions by sending cards and gifts to local shut-ins during the holiday season, providing holiday gifts to the students of Fulks Run Elementary, and distributing dictionaries to third graders. This spring, they were able to support several chicken barbeque fundraisers.

Vice President Lena Custer presented Ricky Lambert with the 2020 Citizen of the Year award for his commitment to service and support of the club's chicken barbeque fundraisers and other activities. Bob Blosser received the 2020 Ruritan of the Year for his leadership and dedication to club events and activities.



### Bridgewater Supports Fire Department and Rescue Squad

In April, the **Bridgewater** Club presented \$1,000 each to the Bridgewater Rescue Squad and the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured are Bridgewater Ruritan Club Treasurer Keith Spitzer, Rescue Squad President Laura Clark, Fire Department President John Berry, and Bridgewater Club President Jim Harlow.



### Luray Donates Flags

**Luray** Club donated US flags and Constitution/Declaration of Independence Handbooks to fourth grade students. "I appreciate the club's help in educating our students about the important principles and symbols upon which our country was founded and uses to symbolize our freedom. We are grateful for your generous donation," said LES Principal Dr. Terry Witta. Pictured (l-r) are Gary and Mark Bauserman; Citizenship and Patriotism Committee, Dr. Terry Witta; LES Principal, Tommy Pitts; LES Assistant Principal, and Tim Rocke; Club President.



### Hamburg Installs Officers

**Hamburg** Club member Barry Sweitzer installed officers for 2021. Barry is a most dedicated, true Ruritan, and has served almost every office in the club and district. He served as district governor and zone governor and many other positions. He is currently a 3rd year Director. Pictured (l-r) are Jerry Gochenour, 2nd year director; Karl Rosenbaum, 1st year director; Dottie Farley, treasurer; Joe Bowman, secretary; Orville Smoot, vice president; Bill Funkhouser, president; and Barry Sweitzer, 3rd year director.



*Staying Together is Progress  
Working Together is Success!*

**"ALONE WE CAN  
DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER WE  
CAN DO SO MUCH."  
- Helen Keller**

## News From Ruritan: Potomac District



### Johnsville Makes Sandwiches



**Johnsville** Club members held its spring sub-sandwich fundraiser selling over 1,200 sandwiches making it a successful event for the club.

The club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and plans to have a great fundraising year.



**Mount Pleasant** Club partners with local Parkinson Group to provide a creative meeting space. A parking lot meeting was held using car radios.



## News From Ruritan: Albemarle District



### Durants Neck Stays Strong

The **Durants Neck** Club did not let the pandemic shutdown or fundraiser cancellations stop the club from meeting the needs of its community. The annual scholarship program continued awarding \$6,000 to four area students. Regular donations to the Durants Neck Fire Department, Project Patriot, and the Albemarle Food Bank were made. Four families including

22 children were "adopted" during Christmas. A Toy Drive was conducted with 118 toys donated to the Hertford Police Department. Partnering with the New Hope United Methodist Church, a food drive was conducted with food baskets provided to nearly 50 needy families. Pictured (left to right) are club members distributing food. (Dale Trevors, Chuck Olean, Dan Gurganus, Kim Harcum, Joyce Gurganus, Rose Thomas, Lynn Mathis, Cindy Berrio, Rich Lodge, Jerry Harcum, Nancy Lodge, and Dan Trevors).

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

## News From Ruritan: Roanoke District



### Como Club Holds Fish Fry



## News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt. Durham District

### Lynn's Crossroads Club Donates Gift Boxes to Health Care Workers



### Sign UP!

Summer Leadership Conference  
**August 13-14, 2021**

President Elect Glen Broadwater and the Leadership Development Committee Team Cleve Wright, Melody Davis, and Susan Greisz have planned an exciting and motivational conference at The Hotel Roanoke.

### Efland Club

Vice President Tim Sukow presented a Ruritan of the Year Award to Efland Club President Chip Gill.



## News From Ruritan: Greenville Goldsboro District



**Pink Hill Club** member Jerry Taylor received a 40-year membership plaque.



**Pink Hill Club** Sammie Howard received a Tom Downing Fellow.



**Pink Hill Club's** Past President Neal Beirise presented club members Connie



Johnson, Brandon Batchelor, and Lesley Smith-Batchelor with a 10-year membership plaque.



**To purchase a Tom Downing Fellow  
contact Bessie McCormick  
877-787-8727 #302**

## Johnsonville Sells Hot Dogs

**Johnsonville** Club always makes sure Spout Springs Emergency Services have a supply of Rudy Bears on hand to share with children in scary situations. Pictured are Public Service Committee Chair Larry Taylor (center) presenting the latest contribution to Chief Alan Jarvis and Assistant Chief Arnold Holder.



The first fundraiser of the year was the traditional hot dog sale and yard sale joined by eight other vendors. Lots of people came, an abundance of hot dogs were sold, and it was a fun, profitable day. Pictured are Ruritans John Schneider tending the cash box; Louise Taylor, Lori Owen and Beth Broecker selling drive-by hot dogs; and Carole Schneider, Merlene Anderson, and Karen Cox filling hot dog combo bags.



## Carolina Lakes Holds Golf Scramble

**Carolina Lakes** Club held its annual Golf Scramble at Carolina Lakes Golf Course. First place went to the team of Brandon Farlow, Ed Snyder, Jamie Marden, and Pete Martinez. Second place team was Robbie Currin, JT Thomas, Ryan Patterson, and Rylan Patterson. Third place team was the team of Ed Chambers, Jason Peach,



Colorado Sitz, and Bryan Marines. Fundraisers like this helped to improve playgrounds, held community events, and met clothing needs for a local school. With the success of this year's fundraiser, the club installed a new veteran's memorial to honor those who served. The club has been fortunate to offer two scholarships per year to those pursuing higher education.

## Cedar Fork Sells Barbeque

The **Cedar Fork** Club is holding monthly drive-thru barbeque fundraisers along with the annual gun raffle. Secretary Hilda Southerland and Director Jimbo Simmons are shown assisting drive-thru customers. Cape Fear District Governor Roger Peterson and his wife, Juanita are on-hand to greet the customers. President Ken Brinson and Vice President Charles Westmoreland assisted Roger and Juanita Peterson with customers. Director Nancy Elston, Virgil Davis, Pamela Priest, Shirley Davis, Ray Nishimura, Yvonne Nishimura, and Director Freddie Pickett are on the inside serving up the barbeque.



**Piney Grove** Club member David Amir Corbett (right) received the 2020 Cape Fear Rudy Youth of the Year Award. He has been very active in this club by opening meetings, leading in the pledge, and participating in the Ruritan



Youth Camp. Pictured with Corbett is Cape Fear District Governor Roger Peterson.

## News From Ruritan: Columbia District



### Chapin Honors First Responders

**Chapin** Club honored first responders, police, and the sheriff's office with a free meal at the Ballentine Chick-fil-A. Thanks to an advertising agreement between the Ballentine Chick-fil-A and Chapin Media Group, the club provided digital cards which entitle the recipient to a choice of a Chick-fil-A chicken sandwich meal or eight piece nugget meal. The cards will be offered to 116 first responders

who serve the Chapin community, including members of the Lexington County Fire Service, Lexington County EMS, Lexington County Sheriff's Office, Chapin Police Department, and 911 Communications officers. Club President Stan Shealy said, "The members of the Chapin Ruritan Club are deeply grateful to all of those who unselfishly serve the citizens of our community in times of need. They are our local heroes. We are pleased to be able to offer these meals as a small token of our appreciation." Pictured are Chapin Ruritan President Stan Shealy, Ballentine Chick-Fil-A Manager Steve Arnold, and Chapin Media Club CEO Wendie Svoboda (who is also a member of the Chapin Ruritan Club).

Two cases of Girl Scout Cookies were delivered to the residents of Generations of Chapin, an assisted living facility. Generations of Chapin Director Tim Slice said, "Thank you to the Chapin Ruritan Club for donating 20+ boxes of Girl Scout Cookies for our residents! They are definitely going to enjoy them!"



## News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District



### Rylee Adams Receives National Rudy Youth of the Year



National Director Steve Kidwell presented the National Rudy Youth of the Year award to Rylee Adams of the **Landes** Club. Kidwell also presented **Headsville Countryside** Club President Rick Johnston an award for largest growth among medium-sized clubs. This is the second year in a row the club won this award.

## News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District



**Clintonville** Club has been collecting diapers for six years and donating them each quarter to *Right from the Start* Organization in Meadow River Valley Rainelle to help mothers and their babies. A total of 21,600 diapers have been distributed from the club.



## News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

### Bloomingtondale Raises \$8,000 for Service Dog



**Bloomingtondale** Club raised funds for a service dog for a nine year old child diagnosed with autism. Fundraising events included a mail in campaign, roadside fundraiser, and pasta for a purpose. Over \$8,000 was raised and the family was able to get Douglas the Dog to assist their child.



### \$9 Blue Ruritan Hats

Get your Ruritan low profile six panel structured cap. This hot item is available at Ruritan Supply.

[www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan](http://www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan)

If computers are not your friend. No Problem! Call the National Office 877-787-8727 we will be glad to help you with your order.

## News From Ruritan: Western North Carolina District

### Gamewell Welcomes New Member Cheryl Bare



Cheryl Bare was welcomed as a new member of the **Gamewell** Club by 2020 Club President Pedro Crump.

The club presented scholarships to five students from West Caldwell High School. The students were first told they would receive \$500 but were surprised when they received



\$1,400. Tickets were sold for the annual breakfast fundraiser. Pictured (l-r) are Jaleah Battle, Jordan Bowman, Logan Lovins, Savannah Longo, and Kylie Reid.

### Chesterfield Presents Awards

**Chesterfield** Club Vice President Mike Smith presented a Ruritan of the Year award to Shandy Gossett and Volunteer of the Year to Margaret Duckworth.

Members held a drive-thru Ham Supper selling over 150 meals. Ralph Ballew is pictured frying ham.



**Salem Club** honored members who were veterans. Each received a handmade quilt. Pictured (l-r) are Salem Club Veterans Wayne Turner - Army; Ralph Dale - Air Force, and Past National Director Earl Cook - Air Force.





## Cori McMillian Receives Ruri-Teen of the Year Award

National Director Carroll Lowe (right) presented Cori McMillian with the 2020 National Ruri-Teen of the Year Award. Pictured with Cory is her grandpa and 2011 National President Jayson Duncan.



## Sandy Ridge Presents Scholarships



**Sandy Ridge Club** hosted 2021 graduating seniors for a celebration of their accomplishment. The group was served a delicious meal by members. Club member Derrick Vickers spoke to the students about how the choices they make now can impact their future success. The students were presented a Bible and asked to share with the club their future plans. National Director David Hogan presented the following students with scholarships from the Club: Elizabeth Anne McBride, Maegan Cheyenne Heath, Katherine Grace Byerly, Christian Michael Shemo, Skylar Madison Amos, and Madelyn Rose Briggs.



Members Andy Ferguson and Bev Ernst delivered MedAssist bags to residents of Sandy Ridge. MedAssist is a free mobile pharmacy which gives over the counter medicines to local residents. Club member Derrick Vickers has been instrumental in this event through his job. Pictured with Andy is a local resident.

The community was visited by the Easter Bunny on Saturday. He visited numerous residences and businesses during the day. Approximately 75 children and numerous adults were thrilled to see the Easter Bunny riding by distributing candy. Pictured with the Easter Bunny is long-time Sandy Ridge Ruritan member Wanda Shelton.



**SIGN UP TODAY!  
JOIN ME FOR FOOD,  
FUN, AND  
FELLOWSHIP!**

*First Lady Anne Hedgpeth*

## News From Ruritan: Dan River District

### Aaron's Creek Gains New Members



Newly installed **Aaron's Creek Club** members, Karen Overton (right front) and son Thomas Overton (middle front) are shown working hard with National Director Melody Davis by preparing stew cups for the **Aaron's Creek Spring Stew**. Youth member Seth Marshall is shown stirring the stew pot while other members assist him. Melody Davis is shown presenting Betty Smith with the 2020 Dan River District Ruritan of the Year Award.



Club member Sandra Rister is shown presenting Club President BA Bowen with a Tom Downing Fellow.



## News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District



Growth Begins  
With  
YOU!



**Lincolnland District** held its Spring Banquet. The district received the National Growth Award for 2020. Awards were given to: Sherry Jungwirth, 2nd place Outstanding President - Geff Club; Billie Moyer, Attendance award - Geff Club; Marcia Zehr, Outstanding District Treasurer - Illiana Club; Britt McNeely, 1st place Outstanding Club Treasurer - Geff Club; Beverly Tanner, 2nd place Outstanding Club Treasurer - Illiana Club; Beverly Tanner, 1st place Outstanding Secretary - Geff Club; James Barger, 2nd place Outstanding Secretary - Allendale Club; Sharon White, 3rd place Outstanding Secretary - Bluford; Richard Porter, 3rd place Outstanding President - Bluford Club; Rita Woods, 1st place Outstanding President - Illiana Club; Grover Burkett, Growth Award - Griffin Club.

## News From Ruritan: New River District



### Gavin Faulkner Receives Award

**Mount Tabor** Club President Gavin Faulkner was selected the 2020 Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club of Blacksburg. This came with a \$500 donation to the nonprofit of his choice. He chose the Mt. Tabor Club's Scholarship Fund. For more than 30 years, Rotary has selected one citizen (non-Rotarian) in Montgomery County (VA) who lives the Rotary motto: Service Above Self. Selection for this prestigious award is based on ethical business behavior and service to the community.



### Pembroke Cleans Highway

**Pembroke** Club participated in VDOT Adopt-A-Highway. Five members of the club managed to pick up eight bags of trash. Pictured (l-r) are Leon Law, Ted Butler, Bill Hogg, Denise Davis, and Monroe Blevins.



## News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District

### Baileytown Donates Pillows to Cancer Patients



**Baileytown** Club assembled 50 pillows and 60 drain tube bags for mastectomy patients. Greenville Community Hospital East Nurse Navigator Ann Williams accepted the gifts.

Club members built a ramp for Tracy and Linda Bishop.



### Gerry Sensanbaugh Receives Ten Year Pin

**Camp Creek** Club President Tim Smithson presented Gerry Sensanbaugh with her 10-year pin. "Gerry is a great asset and inspiration to our community and club. She volunteers her time freely without complaint. She is always there to lend a helping hand or just make your day a little better with her welcoming smile," said Rita Phillips.

New officers are President Tim Smithson, Vice President Reta Phillips,

3-year Director Robin Tullock, Past President Alan Brown, 2-year Director George Lewis, Secretary Betty McCue, Treasurer Bob Johnson, and 1-year Director Tami Collins.



## Past National Directors Don Ramey and Keith Hall Pass



Past National Director Donald Bruce Ramey died on April 15, 2021. Don had been a member in both the Harrison and the Cherokee Too clubs and served as Cherokee District Governor in 2013. He became a national director in 2015 and served until 2018. While he was a national director Don was assigned to serve both the Smoky Mountain and Opportunity Land Districts as well.

Don is survived by his spouse of 28 years, Nicoletta Ramey, sons Brandon (Kristen) Prince and Brent (Michelle) Grizzard, stepchildren Teresa (Andy) McGarrity and Jason Grizzard, mother-in-law Gladys Chambers, and grandchildren Maddy, Aidan, and Keira Prince, Aria, Kai and Cade Grizzard, and Justin and Dakota McGarrity. Don was preceded in death by parents Jack and Sue Ramey, father-in-law Albert Chambers, as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of life was held at the Harrison Ruritan Club on Friday, April 23, 2021. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be mailed to 6459 Solitude Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416, for the Don Ramey scholarship fund.



Past National Director Keith Edward Hall, age 55, of Old Fort, North Carolina, died on September 10, 2020 at the New Hanover Medical Center in Wilmington. A native of McDowell County, he was born on April 05, 1965 to the late Edward Lee Hall and Mary Ann Grant Hall. He retired after 30 years of service as a corrections officer. He was very involved in his community, including promoting many town events of Old Fort. He served as a local law enforcement officer for the town and was a member of the Ruritan Club for 30 plus years, as well as serving as a district governor and national director for Ruritan. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by an aunt, Nina Ledford; and an uncle,

Coy Lee Hall. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 33 years, Melissa McKinney Hall; two children, Michael Derrick Bessent and Anissa Dawn Hall; his mother and father-in-law, Larry and Kathy McKinney; a special granddaughter he thought of as his own, Taelyn Dallas Ogle; and a niece, Elizabeth Pearl McKinney; and many other members of family and friends. A celebration of life was held on Monday, September 14, 2020 in the chapel of Beam Funeral Memorial donations may be made in Keith's honor to the National Kidney Foundation by visiting [www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org) or Ruritan National.

### ***Opt-Out of Ruritan Solicitation Communications***

Ruritan partners with Gallagher Affinity so that businesses such as Office Depot, Lifeline Screening, Choice Hotels, and Hertz may offer special benefits to Ruritan members as an extra "thank you" for what Ruritan members are doing in their communities. The mailings come from Gallagher; the Ruritan mailing list is never given directly to these businesses.

You are under no obligation to respond but if you would prefer not to get those mail offers at all – you can let us know by calling us toll free 877-787-8727 ext. 303 and leaving a message to take you off those mailing lists. Just leave your name and your club name. Or email us at [service@ruritan.org](mailto:service@ruritan.org).

Ruritan staff may also send email blasts to Ruritan leaders about other offers – supply sales, donation opportunities (i.e. St. Jude's Children's Hospital) etc. You can also opt out of those email blasts by calling the same number and leaving a message or emailing us at [service@ruritan.org](mailto:service@ruritan.org).

\*Note that there is a lead time on mailings and it could take 30 - 60 days to update mailing lists.

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

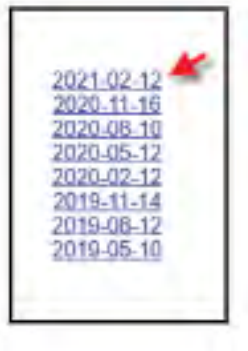
Make your donation check payable to Ruritan National. On the memo line put St. Jude Donation. We will make sure your donation gets to our St. Jude Team!

## Using the MMS

# View Your Club Invoice On-Line

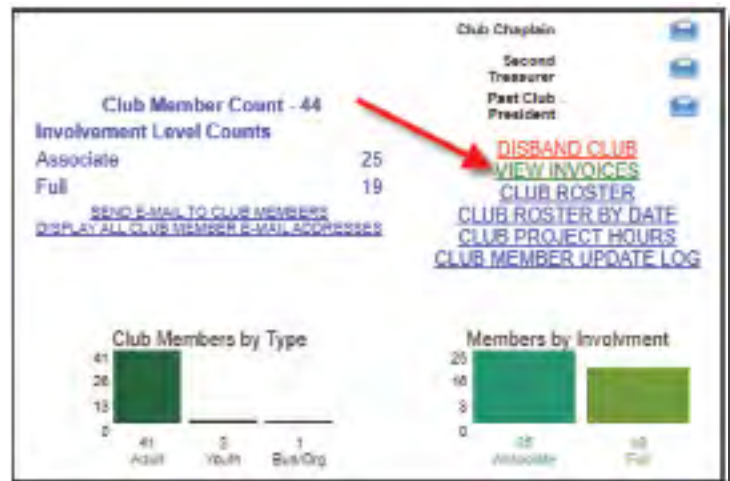
A fairly new development to the MMS (Member Management System) is the ability, at any time, to log into your club account and view your invoices. Any current or former club officer who can access the club's home page\* can navigate to a list of quarterly invoices. (District and national officers may also do this for any club.)

The steps are simple. Log into the MMS and go to the club home page. Once there, click on the "view invoices" option which takes you to a list of quarterly invoice dates. The oldest (from 2019) is at the bottom and the most recent is at the top.

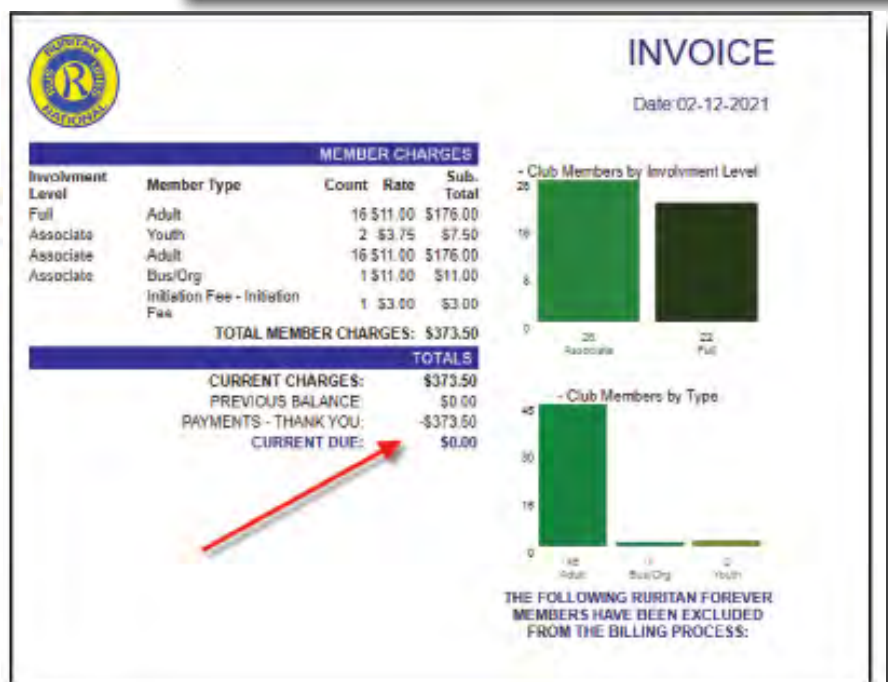


If you click on the top invoice date you can see what your current balance is as well as any recent payments. The invoice shows your quarterly dues, broken down by type of member. Any Ruritan Forever in your club, who are not charged national dues, are shown in a listing at the bottom right of the invoice.

*\*If you haven't used the MMS before we can get you set up. All Ruritan members are entitled to view and edit their own data in the system and officers can make other changes and updates. Just call toll-free (877) 787-8727 and staff will help you access the system*



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Staying Together Is Progress.  
Working Together Is Success.**



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