



# Ruritan

Volume 87, Spring 2022



*One Team, One Direction: UP!*



# Ruritan

Volume 87, Spring 2022

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## In this issue:

President's Message.....	3-5
Executive Director's Message.....	6
2022 Convention Recap.....	7-8
2022 Summer Leadership Conference.....	9-12
Ruritan Forever Program.....	13-15
Ruritan Forever Legacy Clubs.....	16
Ruritan Supply.....	17-20
Youth Camp.....	21
Foundation.....	22
Obituaries.....	23-25
Club/District News.....	26-59
National Staff Changes.....	60
Strategy for Effective Change.....	61-63
Ruritan Club Word Find.....	64
Growth and Development Brochure.....	65-66
Kingsport Hotel Information.....	67
Wanted Winners.....	68



Mill Mountain  
Zoo

*Sign up for the Mill Mountain Zoo Community  
Service Project during the Summer Leadership  
Conference! See pages 11-12 for more information.*



### National President Glen Broadwater's Convention Speech

Good evening my fellow Ruritans. What a different world it is. After two years of a roller coaster ride for everyone, and a near death experience for me, everything about the message I had planned on bringing to you has changed.

Lying in hospital bed on my stomach just trying to get another breath it came so clear to me what I needed to say.

You elected me to be your President and leader of this great organization in Kingsport, TN. Most of you know very little about me other than what you have learned in short time we have known each other. Therefore, I am sharing my background so you will know your President.

#### About your new President

I grew up in Rural Southwestern Virginia. My family was poor and very pessimistic. I was the opposite: optimistic. I always saw good in everything and an opportunity in the future. In elementary school I had a goal in life that I never shared with my family. They would not have understood. I wanted to change people's lives, so in my mind my personal goal was to give one million dollars away. I thought I understood the value of money, for we had very little. So, I set my sights on how I was going to accomplish this. I was the first to go to college in my family and I was paying for it myself, so I set out to get the most for my buck. I wanted to become a doctor, for I saw that they had money. I would go to the dean and get permission to take extra classes. I worked all the time when not studying. I majored in biology, chemistry, and math with minor in psychology. I didn't have the best advisors. Anyway, I got on the waiting list for medical school but didn't get in. Linda and I had met and dated all through school. We got married and found out we had a baby on the way three months later so that changed my goal. Being a father had become my most important thing.

At the time, the best money to made was in the coal mine and Linda's father helped me get a job. I always had a high aptitude for the mechanical side of things, so they kept me mostly as helper in maintenance. After a year everyone was required to go for safety training. While at the training center, I asked about getting into the electrical training program. They informed me classes weren't being taught because of the economy and coal was down. I persisted and asked for the books, which they willingly gave to me.



Two weeks later I was back at their door wanting to know how I could take the tests. They informed me I couldn't. "Why not?" because I didn't have the math classes. I asked about the fact that I was a math major, so they told me to get my transcripts, which I did. When they looked at my transcripts, they realized I had taken everything they taught plus a lot

more. They signed off for me and I took the federal tests for "underground and above" for low, medium, and high voltage electrical. I finished my test before everyone else and I saw there were only 20 more questions for in the foreman's test, so I took it also. The next day I took my electrical certificates to the superintendent. He asked why I didn't take the foreman's test? I said I did. He wanted it also. So, I went from being a helper to being a foreman by simply testing out. There are folks today who will say that it can't be done. I am telling you anything is possible by working and setting your goal. The coal industry went on a downward spiral and

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being the newest on the roster, I was laid off. So, I decided to change my direction in life. I was introduced, by a friend, to the financial world. So off I went to the library to find everything I could about it. I joined a company and about two years later I was vice president and moved my family to Minnesota. There I built an agency of 300 people with five vice presidents reporting to me. I have never completely left that work behind – doing a little every now and then. But big changes were going on at the time, so I was becoming frustrated.

A good friend convinced me that I should join him to build a company he was with. Everything was going well but being lax and not having a contract signed before we started caused our 20 percent of the company to evaporate even after we turned them from a struggling company to a very successful company. From there



a couple friends and I bought, sold, and built companies. At that point I decided to move my family back to the mountains and went to work for a sales company, becoming a regional manager for them. A job without all the headaches! I even declined their offer to move to Ft. Worth to be General Manager.

I was able to get the small family farm that I grew up on where I tore the old house down and built Linda a new one. We bought more acreage and today we have about 400 acres and run around 100 head of commercial black angus cattle: cows, calves and four bulls.

So, why have I brought this up? Now you know my background. When I take on a project, I want it to be a success and the best.

#### **What are we going to do to put Ruritan on the top?**

I believe in a team and all working toward a common goal. Our slogan is One Team, One Direction: UP. I attended the Community Service Leaders Conference in Florida mid-November. My goal was to find the magic bullet to put Ruritan on top. I learned a lot but also found disappointments. The organizations that are growing are offshore and in other countries where folks are hungry for community. All the organizations concentrated in the United States are struggling. A lot are selling their assets and downsizing, a sign of an organization, or company, dying. There was no magic bullet. Why?

We have become very satisfied and complacent in our country. We are a country of plenty. That does not mean that our communities don't have a need for our services. They only need to hear about what we can do to help them become a better place to live and work.

We are at a critical point in our organization. If we don't change what we are doing, we will not exist as you know us today. So, it is up to us. I am not telling you anything that you don't already know. We cannot continue to lose clubs and be successful. Even the age of our membership is creeping up on us. We are not invincible.

The answer for our success is no different than it was when our organization was founded. Our founders saw there was a need. They identified communities that had the need. They introduced themselves and ideas to the leaders of the community. Together the leaders of the community and the Ruritan organizer built a club. Did all the clubs they form become a success? The answer is no. Did that stop them from continuing? Again, the answer is no. You elected me to lead. Together we will make Ruritan the greatest community service organization there ever has been.



**Our goal for 2022 is to form 160 clubs.**

Take a deep breath and get over the shock. This is really a very low goal. There are 41 districts and areas in our organization. That is only four clubs per district and area to be created. We have lost this number in the last few years.

I know this can be accomplished and more. Please erase from your mind that you have to hold their hand for five years. Our founders never held their hands. I can assure you that the cream will come to the top. You are leaders here. Let's go together and lead.

I would like for each of you to stand and address your neighbor (spoken to the attendees at the 2022 Installation Banquet). Please say: "I am on the TEAM, and WE will SUCCEED." You may be seated.



One of my favorite Bible chapters is Luke 19, verses 11 thru 26 - the parable of the ten minas. I am going to paraphrase. Christ was talking about a very harsh man who was going to be king. The man called ten of his servants and gave each a sum of money to take care of. When he returned as King, he called each servant back. He asks the first servant how his money had grown. The servant replied it had grown by tenfold. He put him in charge of ten cities. He asks the second servant the same and he replied it had grown fivefold and he put him in charge of five cities. He called the third servant and the

servant replied that he had put the money in a sack and kept it because he feared the harsh man. The king replied since he knew he was a harsh man, "why didn't you at least deposit it and let it earn interest?" He took the money away from him and gave it to the first servant. The crowd replied but doesn't he have enough? He replied, "isn't it true that those who have more get more, and those who have little soon lose even that." This parable is not about money but about stewardship.



Thank you for your trust in me.

***We Need You!!***

***Please consider  
running for National  
Office. Contact  
Sarah Kelly if you are  
interested.  
877-787-8727***

***We are ONE TEAM,  
ONE DIRECTION: UP!***





## Executive Director Mike Chrisley



### I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together

Seems we just get started and before you know it... Comes the time we have to say so long....

This was the last line of the song used by Carroll Burnette at the end of each of her immensely popular shows. You never really think about the end of things until...the end of things. This will be my last letter to you as Executive Director of Ruritan National. I am retiring and my last day in the office is March 11, 2022. I remember vividly walking into the printshop for my first day of work in August of 1980. I am shocked by how quickly 42 years goes by.

My tenure with Ruritan was filled with an enormous amount of joy. I have made dozens of great friendships in the office. I recently looked back at old employee directories and remembered so many of the people from the past that have been employees. Many are doing other things; many have passed away. I will cherish the memories of all those friends. I will sorely miss my current staff. They are hardworking, resolute people. Not only do they work hard for the office and the members they serve, but they are all members of Ruritan Clubs.

While I was working my way through college, Ruritan was a job. It paid my bills and bought my groceries. Shortly after I graduated and became a manager, I worked the Thanksgiving weekend while the District Advancement Committee judged community service reports. I could have done other tasks while the committee read and judged the service reports, or I could read the reports to pass the time. I read the reports. That was life changing for me. That is when Ruritan became more than just a job. It became more than the means to pay my bills and buy my groceries. That is when Ruritan became part of my heart.

I read the reports. I was amazed. Our clubs do so much and touch so many people who might otherwise fall through the cracks. They do hundreds of thousands of service hours and give millions of dollars away in the

local communities they serve. The work you do is so important. People all over America can rely on Ruritan clubs to meet their needs. Unfortunately, needs tend to outpace our ability to serve and give. I cannot imagine this country without Ruritan.



I have said many times that it is vitally important to grow Ruritan so that the service we provide to those who need us does not end. Please invite your friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors to join your club. Please look to neighboring communities and help us spread the service of Ruritan to a new community.

I am so thankful for my time at Ruritan. I have made lifelong friends all over the country. People that I can count on through thick and thin. It is a wonderful organization with good people doing remarkable things.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have sent well wishes on my retirement. I appreciate so much your cards and letters. I am thankful to all who worked so hard on my reception at the convention in January. I look forward to our paths crossing down the road.

***God bless you all and Godspeed.***



## 2022 Convention Recap



The 2022 Ruritan National Convention held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, was a memorable, informational, and educational convention. National officers were elected and installed, awards were presented, donations were given, business was conducted, and Ruritans enjoyed fellowship. Spartan and Columbia Districts were the welcoming districts.

On Thursday, January 6, the convention opened with exhibits and Ruritan Supply.



President Elect Glen Broadwater led the training of the 2022 Ruritan National District Governors. Thursday afternoon workshops included club officer training as well as Ruritan Finances. A first timers reception was held on Thursday afternoon where 80 first time convention attendees were welcomed by President Linward. On Thursday evening, the official opening of the convention began with the Flag Ceremony and recognition of veterans. The flag ceremony was presented by 2022 Rocky Mt-Durham District Secretary and current National Director Ron Reid. Ron also introduced the Honor and Remembrance Flag and the Gold Star Mother Robyn Dudley. (Ssgt Thomas J. Dudley's mother.) Ending the evening was military speaker, George Lutz who is the founder of the Honor and Remembrance Organization. Past National Director Grover Burkett carried the memorial torch.



Friday's activities began with the business session. 2021 Rudy Youth of the Year Award was presented to Aarons Creek Club member Thomas Overton. 2021 Ruri-Teen of the Year Award was presented to Chattanooga Central High School Ruri-Teen Club member Sarah Latham. 2021 Ruritan of the Year Award was presented to Fran Bristow of the Pineview Club. The Fellowship Lunch was held after the business session. During the lunch over



350 Rudy Bears were donated to the Caleb's Dragonfly Dreams organization. Ashley Edwards, mother of Caden Edward, gave an insightful first-hand experience of how St. Jude Children's Research Hospital cared for her child. Friday night concluded with First Lady Anne's event held at Medieval Times Dinner and Show. Attendees cheered for their knight to win the tournament, ate a meal fit for a king or queen, and watched President Linward and First Lady Anne get knighted.

Saturday began with the second business meeting where the election results were announced, reports given, and awards were presented. The seven (7) bylaw issues that were in the Fall/Winter Ruritan Magazine, pages 22-25, were all passed by the delegates. A St. Jude "No More Cancer" rally was held on Saturday afternoon. This rally was to help raise money for the patients to have a "No More Cancer" party at the end of their treatments. The Installation Banquet concluded Saturday's events. 2022 National President Glen Broadwater, President Elect Mike Morrison, National Secretary James Mills, National Treasurer David Thompson, and seven three-year National Directors (Roger Davis, Cassandra Flanagan, Lynn Fillers, Perry Marshman, Zackary McCallie, Donna Jo Poulton and Ron Reid) were installed. Dennis Bagnell was installed to fill the unexpired term and Josh Adams was installed as Foundation Trustee. The evening ended with a performance by Landau Eugene Murphy Jr.





If you would like a Working Together in Myrtle Beach Convention Tee, or a white Ruritan Hat please call Kory Wirt #310 or email him at [ruritanaccts@ruritan.org](mailto:ruritanaccts@ruritan.org)



White hat with red and blue Ruritan logo  
Velcro back

**\$10**



**\$15**

Available Sizes  
Small - 4x



# 2022 Summer Leadership Conference

## June 17-18 - The Hotel Roanoke

### Roanoke, Virginia



President Elect Mike Morrison is excited to hold his conference at The Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Virginia. He will kick off his conference Friday with a community service project for attendees to participate in at Mill Mountain Zoo. See pages 11 - 12 for more details. After the project is complete, the opening session of the conference will take place and dinner will be provided by Missions BBQ. We will be collecting Rudy Bears for DePaul Community Resources of Roanoke. Their mission is to ensure safety, promote permanency, facilitate healing, and support independence for the children and families they serve. They do this through foster care, adoption, independent living, and community-based services.

All-Day-Break starts at 7:00 a.m. This includes pastries, coffee, soda, and breakfast sandwiches. Training will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, at The Hotel Roanoke's Lecture Hall. **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 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 Mike and the Leadership Committee are planning the training around the theme: **"Put Ruritan in your Heart"** 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.

**\*\*All expense vouchers must be submitted within 90 days after the 2023 National Convention.**

***Ruritan rate is \$119 plus tax per night. Parking is \$11.25 per night. To reserve your room call 866-594-4722 and say I'm With The Ruritan National Conference! Or visit the link below.***

**<https://book.passkey.com/event/50298017/owner/9515698/home>**



# 2022 Ruritan Summer Leadership Conference Registration Form

## June 17-18

Registration Includes: Friday picnic catered by Mission BBQ during the Community Service Project at Mill Mountain Zoo, Saturday All-Day-Break, Saturday lunch buffet, and a conference shirt.

**Complete this form and include \$140 per person.**

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

**\*\*Return this form no later than May 13, 2022 to Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084.\*\***

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
*I am a District Governor, Lt, Governor, Zone, etc...*

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

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

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Zoo Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
*for purchase of project supplies*

I have \_\_\_\_\_ guests for the All-Day-Break at \$35 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

I have \_\_\_\_\_ guests for the Saturday lunch at \$45 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

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

I want to order my guest(s) a conference shirt at \$40 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

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

☐

Yes! I want to Donate Rudy Bears to the Rudy Bear Drop for DePaul Community Resources.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ total  
*\$8.50 each*

Credit Card Payment

Grand Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Card Type: Discover ☐

Visa: ☐

Mastercard: ☐

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

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

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



# Mill Mountain Zoo



Education | Conservation | Destination

Let's Go to the  
Zoo!



**June 17: 3p.m. - 8 p.m**  
**Dinner: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.**



During the Summer Leadership Conference, attendees will be participating in a Community Service Project at the Mill Mountain Zoo. Volunteers will help with painting the buildings and railings throughout the zoo. Food will be provided.

President Elect Mike Morrison is seeking donation of the following items: paint brushes, rollers, drop cloths, painters tape, and paint. We will know the color of paint at a later date.

The square footage of the buildings are listed below.

Pallas Cat: 240 sqft

Red Panda: 65 sqft

Bathroom: 360 sqft

Commissary: 700 sqft

Education Station: 300 sqft

If you would rather make a monetary donation, make checks payable to Ruritan National. Send to PO Box 487, Dublin, VA. 24084. On the memo line please include MILL MOUNTAIN ZOO. We will make sure that your donation is used for purchase of materials.

All volunteers must sign a waiver to participate. Waivers will be emailed to you after your register. Please bring this waiver with you and give to the Zoo attendant at the entry gate. If you do not sign the waiver, you will not be able to enter the zoo.





# Mill Mountain Zoo



**"I want to include a community service project at this year's Summer Leadership Conference. This is what Ruritans are all about. I want to put a Ruritan Stamp on the Roanoke Valley. Let's give back to the community that is hosting our event," said President Elect Mike Morrison.**



***The Mill Mountain Zoo is changing its color scheme.***

***Volunteers will be painting the exteriors of each building and painting the railing throughout.***



**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

# *Ruritan Forever A Perpetual Life Plan*



## *New Ruritan Forever Incentive for 2022*

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 2022, Ruritan will continue to focus on the Ruritan Forever program under the guidance of President Glen Broadwater and First Lady Linda. For this year, each New Ruritan Forever recipient throughout 2022, will receive a Ruritan Forever Polo at no charge. This high-quality Polo has the Holland Monument embroidered and resembles the Ruritan Forever Pin.



If you are already a Ruritan Forever - you can purchase this polo for \$65-\$70 by calling Sarah Kelly 877-787-8727 #313 or email her at [Sarah.Kelly@ruritan.org](mailto:Sarah.Kelly@ruritan.org)

# 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) Applicants Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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.



# *New Ruritan Forever Recipients*



Tom Foster was recognized with a Ruritan Forever Award on October 25, 2021, at the Atlee Club's monthly meeting. The award was given by his family and presented by his daughter, Elizabeth Dowdy, a past club president.

Tom has been in the Atlee Club since 1970 and was instrumental in organizing the Studley Ruritan Club. He has held many offices in both local clubs, as well as on the district and national levels, including District Governor, National Board member, Ruritan National Foundation Trustee, and Foundation President. Tom is also a Tom Downing Fellow.



Sandra Lowe, widow of National Director Carroll Lowe, purchased a Ruritan Forever for Lowe's Technical Services, LLC at the 2022 National Convention. "I want his business to be a Ruritan Forever just like he is," said Sandra.

## *Ruritan Forever*

**Fill out the application in this magazine to participate in the program or honor a fellow Ruritan with this very special gift.**



## **RURITAN FOREVER LEGACY CLUBS**

*At the January 2022 National Board meeting a designation of Ruritan Forever Legacy Club was established for any club reaching sixteen or more Ruritan Forever participants. The clubs that have earned this title are:*

**Bargerton, TN - Hermitage District**

**Creeds, VA - Holland District**

**Dorcas, WV - Upper WV District**

**Pineview, SC - Columbia District**

**Ruritan Road, VA - New River District**

**Washington College, TN - Davy Crockett District**

# ***Ruritan Supply Items***



## **Blue Heather Polo**

Performance Polos now come in heather colors to expand your uniforming options. Made with PosiCharge technology, this snag-resistant and moisturewicking polo will keep you looking polished and ready for anything. 4-ounce, 100% polyester Snag-resistant Moisture-wicking PosiCharge technology Self-fabric collar Self-fabric back neck tape Tag-free label 3-button placket

**\$25**



## **Gray Heather Polo**

Performance Polos now come in heather colors to expand your uniforming options. Made with PosiCharge technology, this snag-resistant and moisturewicking polo will keep you looking polished and ready for anything. 4-ounce, 100% polyester Snag-resistant Moisture-wicking PosiCharge technology Self-fabric collar Self-fabric back neck tape Tag-free label 3-button placket

**\$25**



## **Brick Red Striped Button Down**

This men's poplin shirt has a tattersall print and can be worn casually or under a suit coat. The lightweight fabric is comfortable; stylish and easy care. Looking to change up your team; try this tattersall print. Embroidery and heat transfers easy. Brick red and gray stripe.

**\$35**

**These items are available at the National Office. If you would like to order, please call 877-787-8727 #310 or email to [ruritanaccts@ruritan.org](mailto:ruritanaccts@ruritan.org).**



## ***Ruritan Supply Items***



### **Navy Blue Track Jacket**

A lightweight top layer this water-repellent jacket takes on unpredictable weather with athletic colorblocking superb functionality and exceptional breathability. Made of 100% polyester shell with 100% polyester jersey lining and mesh insets at gussets for added breathability. This product is transitioning from woven labels to tag-free labels.

**\$35**



### **Navy Blue Hoodie**

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

**\$26**



### **Outdoor Ruritan Flag**

This 3' X 5' brilliantly colored, custom-printed flag looks great in any environment.

**\$69**

**These items are available at the National Office. If you would like to order, please call 877-787-8727 #310 or email to [ruritanaccts@ruritan.org](mailto:ruritanaccts@ruritan.org).**

## ***Ruritan Supply Items***



### **Charging Cable**

The Realm 3-in-1 Charging Cable comes with USB A tip on one side and a Microtip, a type C tip, and 2-in-1 dual compatible tip for both Apple iOS and Android devices. It is 47 inches long. Supports charge of 2A current.

**\$8**



### **US/Ruritan Flag Pin**

**\$4.50**



### **Camo Hat**

**\$10**

**These items are available at the National Office. If you would like to order, please call 877-787-8727 #310 or email to [ruritanaccts@ruritan.org](mailto:ruritanaccts@ruritan.org).**

## ***Ruritan Supply Items***



**Ladies Long-Sleeve Tunic  
50/25/25 poly combed ring spun -  
cotton/rayon  
in smoke black color**

**\$18**



**Ladies Long-Sleeve Baseball Tee  
Hot pink and gray in color**

**\$18**

**These items are available at the National Office. If you would like to order,  
please call 877-787-8727 #310 or email to  
[ruritanaccts@ruritan.org](mailto:ruritanaccts@ruritan.org).**





# 2022 Youth Camp Registration Form July 15-17



*W. E. Shelton 4-H Educational Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake*  
775 Hermitage Road - Wirtz, Virginia - 24184

**Registration forms, all completed paperwork, and payment of \$165 per person are due by June 15, 2022**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male ☐ Female ☐

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes, circle the size you need)

Small Medium Large XL

XXL 3XL Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ruritan Member	Yes	No
Non-Ruritan Member	Yes	No
Adult Chaperone	Yes	No
Youth Camper	Yes	No
1 <sup>st</sup> Time Attendee	Yes	No

Please  
bring  
canned  
goods for  
the food  
drive.



Parent/Guardian Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send Registration Packet Via: (Mark 1 Option Below)

☐ Mail ☐ Email

**Payment Information:**

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Visa/Mastercard

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

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 or 4 Digit Code on back \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Registration Packet is available online at <http://www.ruritan.org>**

## Message From 2022 Foundation President O.H. Bobbitt III



### We Look Forward to a Successful 2022

First, on behalf of the Ruritan National Foundation, I would like to thank Brent Wheeler for serving as President of your Ruritan National Foundation for 2020 and 2021. Though her service was unique, it allowed the Ruritan National Foundation Trustees

to determine that the business of the RNF could be handled effectively and efficiently through Teams meetings and email.

Second, I want to highlight some of the accomplishments of your Ruritan National Foundation in 2020 and 2021.

Through the efforts of the Trustees, many of the exceptions with the Endowed/Contract funds have been corrected. In addition, ALL new contracted funds use one of the two contract options: Perpetual or 20-year limited term.

The RNF Trustees have continue to meet with the Investment Advisor during this time period to protect the principal of the Foundation while continuing to allow growth.

The RNF Trustees realized that the Operation We Care program was not structured to allow the best service to our Ruritan communities. We began discussions with the Ruritan National Board to find a way for the Operation We Care program to be restructured to better serve our communities.

The RNF Trustees strived to be proactive during this unique time over the last two years especially in the education world. As such, we extended several deadlines to allow scholarship awards to be claimed.

In addition, we began discussions around how to make the Build Your Dollar program more attractive for our Ruritan Clubs. Several options are being discussed and will be rolled out over the next several years. BUT for the first time, for 2022 award year the Foundation's BY\$ award will be \$750. This is a 150% return on your club's \$300 deposit. As a reminder, the Build Your Dollar claim form must be returned to the RNF office not later than June 30, 2022.

Tom Downing Fellows continue to be a major funding source for the Ruritan National Foundation. As a

reminder, a Tom Downing Fellowship is an excellent way to recognize a Ruritan or non-Ruritan. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, there are 20 matching grants available to help fund Tom Downing Fellowships. The district, club, or individual who wants to award the Tom Downing Fellowship will need to contact the Ruritan National Foundation office to get details. The matching grant will fund \$250 of the \$500 donation and is on a first come first service basis.

For two years, the RNF Trustees have proactively cancelled Foundation Weekend. It is the intention of the Trustees to have Foundation Weekend in 2022. More information will be coming soon.

### Ruritan National Foundation

#### 2022 Board of Trustees

**President:** O.H. Bobbitt III

**Vice President:** Graham Bryant

**Secretary:** Guy Cox

**Treasurer:** Phillip Bradshaw

**Promotion Chair:** Josh Adams



We would also like to welcome Josh Adams to the RNF Trustees. In addition, Brent Wheeler will be serving as an ex-officio (non-voting) member of the RNF Trustees. Each of the Trustees are available to answer any questions you or your club may have about Build Your Dollar, Endowed/Contract Funds, or any RNF related question. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the Trustees with your questions. The RNF Trustees will also be sending periodic RNF Blasts with timely information.

Last, but definitely not least, we would like to thank Bessie McCormick. Bessie serves in the National Office as the Foundation Specialist. Bessie has made significant advances in maintaining Foundation records and providing timely statements and other information to our Ruritans.

Thanks to each of you, your club, and your district for your past support of your Ruritan National Foundation and we look forward to a successful 2022.

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

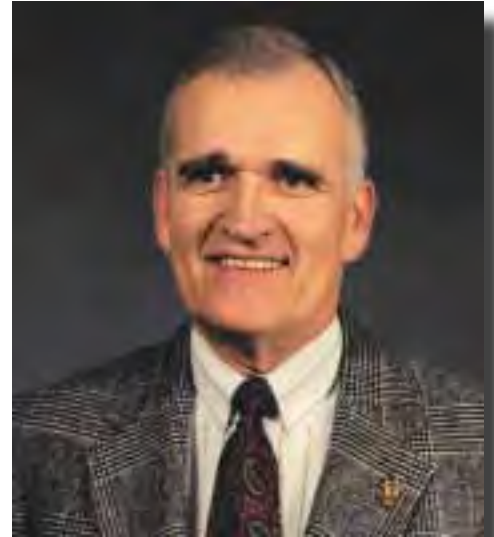
## Past National Presidents Jim McKinney and Richard Weakley Pass Away

**1991 Ruritan National President Richard A. Weakley**, 96, passed away January 31, 2022 in Midlothian, Va. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 66 years, Clara D. Weakley. He is survived by his children, Lynne Weakley Cox and Richard A Weakley Jr.; as well as daughter-in-law, Noriko Weakley. He is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, Maya and Keiden Weakley, Zach Cox and his wife, Ali and their daughter, Virginia.

Richard was born on June 22, 1925 in Lynchburg, Va. to the late Pelham and Ethel Weakley. His life was marked by service to his country and community. He was a veteran of World War II who served in the Navy on the U.S.S. Poughkeepsie, earning an honorable discharge in 1946. He went on to obtain his master's degree in Education from the University of Virginia and used this to help shape the lives of students, first as a classroom teacher and ultimately, as Director of Title I Programs for the City of Richmond.

His commitment to service continued throughout the remainder of his life, serving as a member of both the Rotary Club, as well as the Ruritan Club, the latter of which he served as National President. He had a passion for helping organizations benefitting fellow veterans and educational scholarships among others. He may be best remembered by many for his time spent as a camp counselor at Camp Virginia. For 53 summers, Richard and his wife, Clara, made the trip to the mountains surrounding Goshen, Va., where they would leave an indelible mark on lives both young and old from across Virginia and other states.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the burial will be private with a Celebration of Life to follow at a later date.



\*\*\*\*\*

**2005 National President Jimmy Ray McKinney**, 81, passed away peacefully at home on December 16, 2021. Born and raised in Birchwood, TN, Jimmy was the youngest of nine children. He graduated from the University of Chattanooga, eventually earning a Master of Education degree in 1969. He retired in 2000, after nearly 40 years of teaching in the Hamilton County Public School System. Another important part of his life began when he joined the Harrison Ruritan Club in 1968.



Other honors include the Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year Award, Honorary Life Member PTA (reaching the highest level in the Tennessee Career Ladder Program), and President of the Hamilton County Education Association. Jimmy was preceded in death by his mother, Willie Samples McKinney, and father, James Ernest McKinney.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Judy; children, Teresa, Kathy, Angela (Jon Oliver) and Ray; grandchildren, Melissa, Paisley (Marvin Crockett), Diego and Jared; great-grandchildren, Savannah and Damien, and great-great-grandchild, Perseus. A funeral service followed in the chapel with Pastor Glen Jones officiating. Jimmy was laid to rest in McInturff Cemetery in Birchwood.



# Ruritan Loses Four Past National Directors

**Ruritan National Director 2008 - 2010 Frank "Frankie" Dodson**, age 73, husband of Linda Hawkins Dodson, and a resident of Jackson, TN passed away Tuesday morning, February 1, 2022, at his residence. He was a 1967 graduate of Santa Fe High School where he was very active in FFA. Following graduation, he attended Columbia State Community College and received his BS and MS degrees from Austin Peay State University. He did additional graduate studies at Louisiana State University.

He began his 39-year career in higher education at Dyersburg State Community College as professor of biology and later transferred to Jackson State Community College where he taught science courses and served in many administrative positions before his retirement as Provost of the College in 2011. Upon his retirement, he was honored with the science auditorium being named Frank Dodson Science Lecture Hall.

He was a member of **Browns Ruritan Club** where he served as an officer numerous times. He was instrumental in organizing the Browns Ruritan Tractor Show. He served as district governor of the Hermitage District Ruritan three times and was elected and served two terms on the Ruritan National Board of Directors. He was a Tom Downing Fellow. Recently he and Linda were honored by the Browns Club when they named their meeting room The Dodson Ruritan Activity Center. He enjoyed all aspects of farming, especially tractors.

Survivors include his wife, Linda of Jackson, daughter Jennifer (Jonathan) Roland, granddaughters, Shley and Lindsey Roland of Milan, sister, Zonelle (Stan) Kozich of Fairview, brother, George (Annette) Dodson, and special double first cousins, Sharon (Elton) Sisk and Vicki (Eddie) Scott of Santa Fe, niece, and nephews. A funeral service was Saturday, February 5, 2022. Burial followed in Browns Cemetery.



\*\*\*\*\*



**Ruritan National Director 2003-2005 Carole Maxine Himmler Davis**, age 78, of Cameron, NC, passed away Monday, November 1, 2021 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

She is survived by her loving husband, of 62 years, Past National Director Thomas Davis; daughter Shawn Hickman (Frankie) of Cameron; son Thomas Davis Jr. (Lee Ann) of TX; sister Linda Sills Kudrick (Joe) of MD; brother Terry Himmler (Tommy Jo) of MD; granddaughters Amanda N. Smith (Michael) of Sanford, Kimberly Strange (Michael) of Morrisville, Natalie & Rebecca Zarzabal, of TX; Grandsons Thomas Z. Davis, of WA, Travis Hickman, of Cameron. She is also survived by 5 great-granddaughters, 1 great-grandson, and 3 great-great-granddaughters.

Carole was born and raised in Cumberland, MD. After her husband Tom retired from the Air Force she worked for Pope Federal Credit Union ten years starting as a loan officer in the Mortgage Dept then working her way up to serve as President for four years. Leaving there she attended Central Carolina Community College completing her degree in Business. Carole worked for Van Groce Real Estate and then opened her own business, Carole Davis Real Estate, retiring from that after 21 years. Carole was a member of Cameron Baptist Church and the **Johnsonville Ruritan Club** wearing many hats.

Carole was a breast cancer survivor and courageously fought against Multiple Myeloma for the past 3 years all while still enjoying the outdoors by traveling in their RV and visiting family and friends. The family received friends Sunday, November 7 at Cameron Baptist Church and other times at the family home. The funeral service followed with Pastor Jared McNeill and Pastor Wayne Greene officiating. The burial was held Monday, November 8th at 2:00 PM at the State Veteran's Cemetery in Fort Bragg, NC.

## Ruritan Loses Four Past National Directors

**Ruritan National Director 2007 - 2009 Mills Arnold March**, 82, went to be with the Lord on November 10, 2021. He was born in Suffolk, VA to the late Mills and Margaret Copeland March. He is also predeceased by his brother, Dr. Billy March. He was principal of Forest Glen High School and later went on to be an insurance agent for Nationwide Insurance. He was a member of Holy Neck Christian Church where he attended the Men's Fellowship and taught the Men's Class. He was a charter member of the Box Elder Hunt Club, member of McAlister Lodge #185, and a member of the **Holy Neck Ruritan Club**.

Mills is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Sharon Hutton March; sons, Frank Arnold March (Sarah), Mills Hunter March (Jennifer) and David Hutton March (Jeanette); grandchildren, Jessica, Will, Matt, Millie, Tucker and Tanner March; sister, Paige M. Thomas (Randolph); brother, Norman K. March; and several nieces and nephews.

Mills' graveside service with Masonic rites was held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at Holy Neck Christian Church Cemetery with Dr. Dave Meadors officiating.



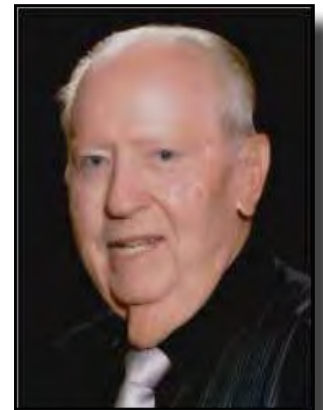
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**Past National Director Grover C. Burkett**, 84, of Olney, Illinois, passed away February 13, 2022 at Carle Richland Memorial Hospital. He served two terms on the national board, 2002-2004 and 2013-2015.

Grover was born September 26, 1937 in Rural Edwards County to Grover Cleveland Burkett and Elizabeth (McBride). He married Rena Leota (Williams) on November 30, 1957 in Mt. Carmel, IL. Leota preceded him in death on October 25, 2017. Grover met Leota through her former pastor. They were united in marriage on November 30, 1957 in Mt. Carmel, Illinois, by Pastor James Eastman. Grover was a retired educator, including serving as an agricultural teacher, elementary teacher and principal, special education administrator, and school superintendent. He recently served as president of the Richland County Retired Teacher Association. Grover was active in the **Dundas Ruritan** as well as Lincolnland District as well as on the national board. He was a member of the Olney Free Methodist Church.

He is survived by daughter, Vivian (John) Barber; daughter, Cheryl (John) Wall; son, Chuck (Kim) Burkett; daughter, Teresa (John) Yarbor; grandchildren, Rachel (Kyle) Cummings, Michael (Mayra) Barber, Devin Wall, Kayle Wall, Kirk (Reagan) Wall, Ian Wall, Matthew Burkett, Laura Burkett, Lindsey Burkett, Andy Yarbor, and Alex Yarbor; great grandchild, Grace; sister, Wilma Moore; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, seven sisters and three brothers.

A visitation for Grover was held on Friday, February 18 with a funeral service on Saturday, February 19 at Kistler-Patterson Funeral Home in Olney. Burial was at Highland Memorial Cemetery, Mt. Carmel, Illinois.



*Your world will change with every day that passes, but the love that you have and the memory that you keep in your heart will never fade away. – Unknown*

## Miss VA High 2021 Volunteers with Carrollton Club Fish Fry

**Carrollton** Club held a fish fry in November. Sarah Archer and Elizabeth Hernly volunteered. Elizabeth is a member of the **Possum Hollow** Club and earned the title of Miss Virginia High 2021. Over 500 meals were sold making it a very successful fundraising event. Pictured (l-r) are Elizabeth Hernly, Sarah Archer, Club Treasurer Jan Clark, Club Vice President Georgette Phillips, Club Secretary Laurie Mercer, Club Director Sharon Schmincke, and Gina Baker.



## 'Giving Thanks' Meal Hosted by Carrollton

**Carrollton** Club held a "Giving Thanks" meeting in November. A delicious Thanksgiving meal was served thanking our local firefighters/EMS, law enforcement, military, medical, and school employees for what they have done and continue to do in serving our community. In attendance were Isle of Wight Sheriff James Clarke, Carrollton Volunteer Fire Department Board President George Rawls, CVFD Fire Chief Tim Nunez, and school representative Christy Archer. Pictured (l-r) are George Rawls, Laurie Mercer, Jan Clark, Tim Nunez, Marcie Spoonhoward, Christy Archer, and Sheriff James Clarke.



## Deep Creek Golf Benefits Hospice for Children

**Deep Creek** Club held a golf tournament in October to benefit the Edmarc Hospice for Children. Joe Noha, chairman of the tournament, presented Mary Helan from Edmarc with a check for \$10,464.54 from the proceeds of the tournament.



## Carrollton Earns Hammy Award

**Carrollton** Club was honored to receive the Hammy Award 2021 for best civic club. Over 81,000 votes were cast for the best civic club in Smithfield, Surry, and Isle of Wight.



## Deep Creek Donates to Toys For Tots Program

**Deep Creek Club** held a “Breakfast with Santa” in December for the benefit of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. They provided a free breakfast to over 100 people and collected toys valued at over \$3,000.

David Jarvis receives the **Bethlehem Club Ruritan of the Year** award.



## *Driver Celebrates Christmas*

**Driver Club** held a family Christmas dinner where President Bill Wulfkuhle was recognized for 15 years of Ruritan service. Bill is moving to Kansas with his job and will be greatly missed. Bill reactivated the club several years ago and was instrumental in recruiting 20 new members. He has led the club with several new fundraisers that have benefited many deserving organizations in the area. The club also completed their 2021 Toys for Tots campaign.



**Grassfield Club** collected toys for the Chesapeake Toys for Tots campaign. Pictured are Club President Russell Gwynn and Club Secretary Betty Johnson.



The **Waverly Ruritan Club** inducted its first youth member (Ruri-Teen) at the October 2021 meeting. Pictured above is Raymond Warren with teen Chase Rosser.



## ***Smithfield Presents Scholarships, Hosts Quilters***

**Smithfield** Ruritan Club presented five \$1,000 scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are Smithfield Ruritan Club President Jeffrey Scott; Ryan Hines - Old Dominion University; David Lemon - James Madison University; and Macy Hutchinson - Virginia Commonwealth University. Not pictured are Elliott Walker - Tidewater Community College; and Ricky Goodwynn - James Madison University. The Angel Quilters of Trinity United Methodist Church were the guest speakers at the Smithfield Club and received a donation for their charity. In picture are Smithfield Club President Jeffery Scott and Angel Quilter Julie Hopkins.



## ***Holland Club Helps Feed the Community***

Members of the **Holland Club** assisted the Salvation Army and prepared 150 meals to be served in the community. Club members participate on a regular basis. Pictured (l-r) are Calvin Jones, Curtiss Johnson, Jim Thorsen, and Terry McGahee.



## ***Holland Club Helps With Community Food Giveaway***

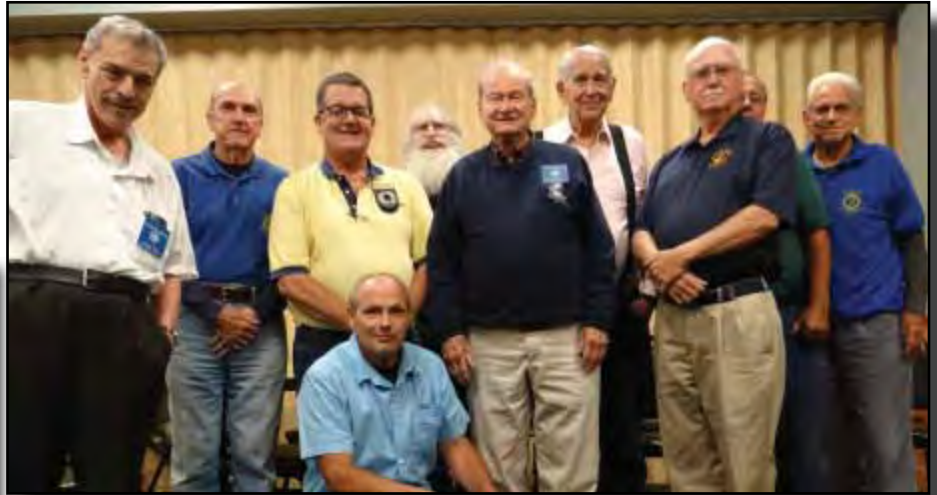
The **Holland** Ruritan Club participated in a drive thru community food give away on December 18, 2021. This event was sponsored by 15 community churches and 2 other organizations; 250 bags of food were prepared and distributed in the community. Pictured are Lovey Lyons and Ronald Daughtery Holland Ruritans along with Madison and John Schmeling future Ruritans.



# Warwick Celebrates 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

One of the oldest clubs in Ruritan, the **Warwick Club**, chartered in November, 1929 celebrated 72 years of Ruritan service last fall.

Pictured right are the current members. Below - one of their local projects, trash pick-up.



## Gloucester Recognized for Community Service

2021 Chesapeake District Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge (below right) presented 2021 **Gloucester Club** President Lou Serio with five gold certificates from Ruritan National. Sandridge installed Gloucester Ruritan Club 2022 officers (right) during its December meeting at Olivia's on the Main. Pictured (l-r) are Don Sandridge; Tom Swankler, 3-Year Director; Paul Bauer, 2-Year Director; Treasurer Ron Searls; Bob Beyea, 1-Year Director; Secretary Barbara Bauer; President Jackie Beyea; and Past President Lou Serio. Not pictured is Vice-President Henry Thompson.



## Sparta Member Recognized

Longtime member of the **Sparta Club**, Don Penney, was recognized for being the 2021 winner of the Bayer Award for Farmers Growing Communities. Don and his father, the late Maynard Penney (charter member), have dedicated their lives to farming and serving Caroline County. The funds will be used to increase the local scholarship for a Caroline High School senior and the funding of other projects. Pictured (l-r) are David Chewning - President; Don Penney; and Frankie Gee - Charter Member and Treasurer.





## Abingdon Club Wraps Up Busy 2021

**Abingdon Club** welcomed three new members at its September membership meeting. Pictured (below right) I-r are Vickie Roberts, Mary McCracken, Walter McCracken, and President David Onesty. Vickie Roberts was sponsored by Club member Julie Woolley and Mary and Walter McCracken were sponsored by Club member Mary Lou Shepherd.



Abingdon Club installed its 2022 officers in December. Pictured above (I-r) are President Frank Gillerlain, Vice President Mary Lou Shepherd, Secretary Dianne Woolley, Treasurer Ann Dugas, and 5-Year Director, Roger Dick. Perfect Attendance pins were presented during the **Abingdon Club's** November meeting. Notable recipients with the most years were (I to r): Rupert Thomas, 39 years; L.T. Wells, 40 years; John Beck, 48 years; and Graham Blake, 57 years.



## Varina Club Blesses Local Charities

**Varina Club** wanted to help some local charities for the Christmas holidays so at the meeting on Tuesday, December 14, they presented \$500 checks to charities.

Pictured (I-r) are Von Brown – Blessing Warriors RVA; Club President Buddy Whitlow, Ann Ragland – Henrico Christmas Mother; and Vickie Martin – Eastern Henrico FISH.



**BE THE REASON SOMEONE  
SMILES TODAY**



## Sterling Earns Award for Advocacy

**Sterling** Club was presented the 2021 National Council on Independent Living Region 3 Advocacy Award in recognition of their support during the pandemic. This award is presented to an individual or organization that has significantly supported and advanced independent living and the rights of individuals with disabilities in Region 3, which includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

The club donated the use of their building for several weeks, which enabled the Endependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV) to conduct COVID vaccination clinics targeted at people with disabilities, and their caregivers. Daily, for two months, Club members volunteered to set up tables and workstations, and donated beverages and lunch to medical staff, pharmacists, and others associated with the vaccine program. The Sterling Ruritan Club members, and their support to the ECVN, were integral to facilitating the provision of more than 4,000 vaccines to their targeted audience.



## Bealeton-Remington Aids Local Library

Thanks to a generous donation from the **Bealeton-Remington** Ruritan Club, Fauquier Public Library will upgrade furnishings at the Bealeton branch library and add new resources for school age children. The Ruritan's donation will fund numerous items on the library's "wish list," including new tables and activity boards for young children, STEAM kits for school age students, incentives to encourage teens to sign up for library cards and the addition of numerous books to the library's collection. Now in its 85<sup>th</sup> year, the Bealeton-Remington Ruritan Club began in 1936. The recent donation is an example of the club's continual efforts to support programs that fulfill the needs of the community. "We are thankful for the Ruritan's long-standing support of the library and its unflagging dedication to the Southern Fauquier Community," noted Lawrie Parker, Chairman, Fauquier Library Board of Trustees. *Photo courtesy Lisa Pavlock – Fauquier Public Library*



## Warrenton Sponsors Play

**Warrenton** Club sponsored a Christmas theater production "Gift of the Magi" a musical, with performances by the Fauquier Community Theatre. Tickets for this event are donated to families and children with special needs. Actors stated that the audience provided by the club at the show was wonderful. Club member John Schenkler along with his committee organized this event.



## Central Chesterfield Names Outstanding Servants

The **Central Chesterfield** Ruritan Club recently named their Outstanding Public Servants of the Year for 2021. "Trombone" Gregory presented the awards to the first responders. Club members appreciate his attention to this project. He thanked these public servants for all they do for the community. Each of the volunteers pictured were given ten Rudy Bears.



Manchester Volunteer Rescue Squad Member of the Year: Sean Quish being presented by Kathy "Full Package" Eubank.



Outstanding Chesterfield County Deputy Sheriff Master Deputy George M. Laffoon being presented by Sheriff William Wise.



Outstanding Chesterfield County Police Officer of the Year Career Officer Sean Norman being presented by Captain Tim Kehoe.



## Forest Hill Makes Holiday Donations

**Forest Hill** Club provided gifts of \$200 each for eight children from the Angel Tree. A donation of \$200 was also given to American Red Cross (Historic Virginia Chapter), Hunters for The Hungry, Salvation Army, Churches For Urban Ministry, Interfaith Outreach Association, Feeding With Faith, Forest Road UMC Good Samaritan Fund, Meals On Wheels, Parkview Community Mission, Habitat For Humanity, Miriam's House, Lynchburg Daily Bread, and Red Truck Ministry.

Also, the club donated 27 food baskets to families in need.

### Important Note About Ruritan Club Awards and Attendance

The National Advancement Committee is getting questions about club attendance requirements for awards this year. In previous years attendance requirements have been adjusted because of COVID. As of right now, the attendance requirements for awards stand at the pre-COVID levels. However, the committee will re-evaluate and make a final decision in August 2022.



## Atkins Club Welcomes New Members

**Atkins** Club President Jerry Umbarger welcomes new members Michael Burton (left) and Mickey Jones (right)

The Southwest Virginia District was recognized for outstanding growth in 2021 at the 2022 Ruritan National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC in January. Members of the District are pictured with the banner below.



## Brownsburg Supports Christmas Program

**Brownsburg** Club supported the annual Rockbridge County Christmas Baskets Program. Club members delivered 57 food boxes and 23 toy bags to 28 addresses in the Brownsburg, Raphine, and Fairfield areas.

Pictured (l-r) are David Whipple, Mike Sandridge, Vice President Boyd Brown, Adam Sandridge, John Conlon, and Club President John Coleman. Not pictured but helped were Dick Fletcher, Gabriel Rogers, Roger Billings, and Bryan Tolley.



Natural Bridge District Governor Cindy Durham installed Brownsburg new club officers. Pictured (l-r) are Governor Durham; Bryan Tolley, Secretary; Barry Chewning, Treasurer; Boyd Brown, Vice President; and John Coleman, President.

The club thanked outgoing President Mike Snider for his strong and exceptional leadership during a very challenging 2021.



## *Effinger Carries On Despite Pandemic Challenges*

**Effinger** Club installed four officers and three directors on December 9 in the Palmer Community Center in the Effinger area of Rockbridge County. Roger Lees was installed as president, Chris Cartwright as vice-president, Ellen Arthur as secretary, and Stewart Fleming as treasurer. Directors installed were Mitch Wapner, Rich Davis, and Joseph Martinez. All directors and officers were sworn in by District 4 Ruritan Governor Lynda Miller.

The club is well-known for its annual Ice Cream Supper, which until the pandemic, had been held every August for 30 years. It attracted over 1000 guests and was supported by the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Palmer, and many other volunteers from the County. The event featured homemade ice cream, hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, fresh tomatoes, cole slaw, corn-on-the-cob, barbecued pork, fresh-squeezed lemonade, and local live music.

It was held in the side yard of the Palmer Community Center, which is a restored 1902 schoolhouse on Blue Grass Trail in Rockbridge County. Half of the proceeds from this event was donated to support the community center every year and the remainder was donated to local charities by the club.

Despite the pandemic, the club cleaned up local roads, gave out \$5,000 in scholarships to high school seniors, regularly mowed the Palmer lawn, dedicated a picnic shelter at Lake Robertson to the memory of Nelson Hall, donated to the Collierstown learning pod during the school shut-down, and held a vaccination clinic in the yard at Palmer in 2021.



## **Falling Spring Celebrates Veterans, Installs Officers**

Curtis A. Smith Post 1033 Veterans of Foreign Wars honors **Falling Spring** Club Veterans – Dale Comer, Commander, Dr. Paul Linkenhoker, Chaplain, and Marian Paxton, Auxiliary Secretary along with other veterans in the community.

The Falling Springs Club officers were installed by Natural Bridge District Governor Cindy Durham. Pictured (l-r) are Cindy Durham, Eddie Smith, 3-year director; Laura Kyle, treasurer; Marian Paxton, secretary; Dwain Tyree, vice president; and Debbie Henderson, president.





## Falling Spring Club Hosts District Convention

Falling Spring Club hosted the Natural Bridge District Convention at the Discovery Center in Covington, VA. The business meeting was held prior to dinner with emphasis on membership.



2020-2021 National President Linward Hedgpeth and First Lady Anne, and National Director Susan Greisz were in attendance.



Falling Spring Club President Debbie Henderson received Community Service Awards on behalf of her club (left.)

Pictured above (l-r) are Natural Bridge District Officers. In the front are Marian Paxton, 1st governor; Lynn Zangari, treasurer; and Susan Greisz. In the back are Tom Hunter, secretary; Cindy Durham, governor, and Linward Hedgpeth.

## *Sam Houston Celebrates 60th Anniversary - A Year Later!*

**Sam Houston** Club celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, albeit a year late due to COVID. The club is proud to support community service projects such as: scholarships for local seniors; Buena Vista and South River (Fairfield) Fire Depts.; Fairfield and Buena Vista Rescue; Toys for Tots (Glasgow); Rockbridge Christmas; Hunters for the Hungry; Dictionaries for third graders; Rockbridge Area Transportation (RATS); Building & Trades at Rockridge County High School/Vo Tech; Rudy Bears for law enforcement agencies to provide cheer and comfort for children in crisis; (State Police, Lexington City, Buena Vista and Rockbridge City); trash pick-up to keep roadways clean; and other support for those in need.



## North Shenandoah Builds Ramp for Member

**North Shenandoah** Club completed a ramp project for one of its members. The club's youngest member Riley Adams received his Eagle Scout Badge. Riley is pictured with his mother and father Doug and Michelle Adams.





# Bridgewater Club Has Much to Celebrate

**Bridgewater Club's** Citizenship and Patriotism Committee Chair Frank Will presented the 2021 "Citizens of the Year" award to Shane and Xan Stevens. Shane recently retired from 39 years of teaching and coaching at Bridgewater College and is a long-time council member and current Vice-Mayor of the Town of Mt. Crawford. Xan is a commended Senior Communicator at the Harrisonburg - Rockingham Emergency Communications Center.

At the club's November membership meeting, Austine Roudabush was recognized as the 2021 David Evick Fair Volunteer of the Year. Austine helped with food prep in the mornings and ran the cash register in the evenings, all week long. Bridgewater Fair Committee Chair Bob Wheatley presented the award.

Bridgewater Club recognized Club President Jim Harlow as the club's "Glen and Nancy Thomas Ruritan of the Year". Jim kept the club active in very challenging times, guiding the club through the pandemic and leading them through the biggest year financially in the club's history. The club also installed Bridgewater Resident Dan Lonce as the newest member and recognized the following members for their five-year service milestones: Edgar Simmons - 15 years; Bob Wheatley - 20 years; Ken Arey - 30 years; Glen Thomas - 30 years; Frank Will - 40 years; Charles Wright - 50 years; and Leon Rhodes - 60 years. Marvin Garber received his 76-year membership award during the Rockingham District Zone 2 meeting. On-hand for the presentation was National Director Cassandra Flanagan.



**Rockingham Luncheon** Club recognized veterans. Ted Peterson presented club member Bobby Good a certificate of recognition and thanked him for his service.



## Fort Valley Wraps Up Successful 2021

**Fort Valley** Club members have been operating a food concession during Shenandoah County Fair, since 1960. This operation is a major fundraiser for the club and enables the club to support many Fort Valley community projects. Pictured is one of the teams working the booth. A similar number of full-time members, Associates, and family guests volunteer to assist in the daily operation of the concession.

The club awarded Deborah Orndorff (upper right) the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award. For almost four decades she has given of her time and talents to the community. Over many years she offered childcare in her home to an estimated 100 children. She is treasurer and trustee of White Chapel United Methodist Church and a member of Fort Valley Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary. Additionally, she has been an asset to the Fort Valley Ruritan Club by assisting with the Empty Stocking project, purchasing, and wrapping Christmas gifts, and managing the club concession kitchen at the Shenandoah County Fair booth. Mrs. Orndorff is the widow of Wayne Orndorff who was a very active member of the club for 35 years. Pictured are Club President Charlie Aschmann, Deborah Orndorff, and Citizenship and Patriotism Chair Sandy Burner-Cave.

The President's Golden Key Award was presented to members Tom Drinkwater (lower right) and Sandy Burner-Cave (upper left) to recognize their efforts of recruiting new members. Charles Layton and Georgia Merrick joined the club in December, pictured lower left.



## News From Ruritan: Potomac District

### Lewistown Welcomes Members, Hosts 911 Speaker

**Lewistown** Club welcomed three new members. New members (l-r) are Ben Tillery, Jeff Barber, Ryan Dunn with Lewistown Ruritan Club President, Greg Warner. At the November club meeting, Lewistown Program Committee Chair Harold Staley introduced guest speaker Martin Burns. Burns described in detail the events of 9/11 when a hijacked passenger plane crashed into the Pentagon where he was employed as the United States Marine Corps Special Access Program Central Office Director. Burns was in the office that eventually collapsed just a few floors above where the crash occurred. He explained that it was over four hours before he could get in touch with his wife to let her know that he was okay.

He explained how immediately after the crash, he encountered so much dust, debris, and employees that were either injured or trying to find a way out that it was difficult to immediately know what had just happened. It was a day he will never be able to forget. He was amazed and proud to see that a 1954 ladder truck from Woodsboro Fire Department was put into action to put out the roof fire because it was the only fire truck small enough to navigate the small areas to the roof. "This was a wake-up call for America," said Burns.





## News From Ruritan: Potomac District

### *Thousands Participate in Annual Peach Festival*

**Leitersburg** Club held its 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peach Festival on August 14th and 15th. Thousands of people came out to enjoy plenty of peach flavored pies, cobblers, and ice cream. The festival featured over 100 craft vendors, demonstrations by a blacksmith and a chain saw carver, and local farmers selling peaches and other goodies. Live music, a climbing wall, a barrel train ride, pony rides, and a petting zoo made it a fun-filled day for everyone.



Pictured above right (l-r) are National Director Dennis Bagnell, George Souders, Bruce Melton, Scott Horning, Alyssa Darr, Brenda Horning, Bruce Barr, Taylor Shay, 2019 First Lady Nelda Cassell, 2019 National President Larry Cassell, and Chris Foster. Pictured at lower right are four new club members:

## News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

### **Durants Neck Supports Community at Christmas**

**Durants Neck** Club held its first blood drive. Vice President Lynn Mathis is shown donating blood. The club hopes to make it a quarterly event. The club has provided toys for less fortunate kids for the past 10 years. This year over 100 toys were collected and donated to the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department, ensuring that all the toys remain in the local area for local children. The club adopts families as well during the holiday season. This effort is made possible due to the club's fundraising efforts such as its annual "Auction and Chicken Fry." Each family receives a turkey, canned foods, produce, dairy, toiletry items and much more. In addition, each child is given something warm to wear, two or three gifts, candy, and each family is given a monetary gift card.





## News From Ruritan: Roanoke District

A ramp to accommodate a wheelchair or a walker can make all the difference to someone with mobility issues. Ruritan clubs around the country step up when such a need arises. The **Robersonville** Club recently helped a neighbor with a new ramp.



## News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt.-Durham District

### ***Silk Hope Installs Five New Members***

**Silk Hope** Club installed five new members in November. Pictured (l-r) are Brenda Howell, Randy and Amy Johnson, and Jim and Trish Atwell. Assisting with the installation is Zone 1 Governor Neill Lindley with Lt. Governor Johnny Johnson leading the installation pledge.

The Chatham County (NC) Sheriff Mike Roberson was in attendance for the 2nd annual **Silk Hope's** Ruritan Country Christmas at the Silk Hope Farm Heritage Park. Pictured with Roberson is Rocky Mt. Durham District Governor Johnny Johnson.

The 40 ft windmill was donated to the club in 2021. Club members and volunteers took the windmill down and moved it to the farm park where it was cleaned up, painted, and installed. Christmas lights were added for the Lighting of the Tower event.



## ***We are Ruritans!***



## Benefit Breakfast Brings in \$4,500 in Donations

**Lynns Crossroads** held a benefit breakfast for a 43-year-old fireman who was hospitalized with COVID and is slowly recovering. People "Filled the Boot" with donations. Over \$4,500 was donated. Pictured with Club President Marshall Ross and Secretary Geneva Ross is wife Amber.

Snack bags were prepped and delivered to widows, widowers, and neighbors to help brighten their day.



*New Member for Rougemont*  
**Rougemont Club** was honored to bring in new member Zachary C. Elmore (Zac). Zac is the nephew of 1976 National President Earl Buchanan. Pictured (l-r) are 2020-2021 National President Linward Hedgspeth, Zac, and 2002 National President Millard Thacker.



## Efland Helps the Kids

**Efland Club** member Dana Zoy presented \$500 to Lt. Daniel Roberson and Sgt London Ivy for the Orange County Sheriff's Department Christmas Shopping with Kids Fund. Club members provided, cooked, and served pre-game meals to both the varsity and junior varsity football teams at a local high school.



## Meadow Creek Says 'Thank You'

On December 9, 2021, **Meadow Creek** Club held its annual "Thank You" Christmas Gathering for its supporters in the community. Entertainment was provided by the "Real Christmas Tree" Frances Wilson who not only provided an evening of laughter but also a message of faith and giving back to the community. Incoming RMD Lieutenant Governor Marshall

Ross was in attendance and installed the 2022 club officers. Pictured (l-r) are Ron Reid, Secretary/National Director; Jerry Auman, Treasurer; David Brooks, Vice President; and Rob Giannini, President. Marshall also assisted 2021 Club President Cletus Dodson in recognizing Jerry Auman, charter member, with 40 years of service and David Brooks as 2021 Meadow Creek Ruritan of the Year.



## Two West Edgecombe Members Earn Honors

**West Edgecombe** Club Member Joe Sawyer received the Rocky Mt. Durham District 2021 Ruritan of the Year Award. 2019 Foundation President Corky Camin presented Ricky Pitt with a Tom Downing Fellow.



***We are ONE TEAM, ONE DIRECTION: UP!***

## News From Ruritan: Greenville Goldsboro District

**Vanceboro** Club participated in the local Strawberry Jam Fest. Funds raised were used to help with the Christmas Project for a Women's Group Home and gifts for the Veteran's Home. Cards were also collected and sent to deployed military.





## News From Ruritan: Greenville-Goldsboro District

### Jack Sutton Recognized at Bucklesberry Club

2021 Greenville Goldsboro District Governor Curtis Rogers (right) presented **Bucklesberry** Club member Jack Sutton with a Tom Downing Fellow for his 60 years of service to Ruritan. Zone III Gov. Macon Wooten, Jr. (left) also recognized Jack Sutton for his 60 years of community service in the zone.



Greeneville Goldsboro 2021 District Governor Curtis Rogers presented the **Pinetown** Ruritan Club the silver Community Service Award to Club President Myra Strickland.

### 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.

## News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District



Anslee Yearly (age 7) helps **Anderson Creek** Club with the annual golf tournament. She does a great job handing out bread to golfers for lunch.

Don't forget to register for the Ruritan Summer Leadership Conference  
**Put Ruritan in Your Heart**  
June 17 - 18, 2022.



## Johnsonville Ruritans Stay Busy in 2021

Eight **Johnsonville** club members attended the Ruritan Summer Leadership Conference, coming back home inspired and ready to serve their community in new and more productive ways. Pictured, back row from left, are: Karen Cox, Mike Lancaster, Nancy Lancaster, Candace Edwards and Rodger Nicely. Front row: Lori Owen, Merlene Anderson and C.C. del Prado.



Patriots Day, Sept. 11, was marked by a solemn occasion in honor of all local first responders. Speaker was Deputy Chief of Spout Springs Emergency Services Eric Southerland; Rev. Kennedy Gray, pastor of the Solid Rock Methodist Church in Cameron gave the invocation; club member Karen Cox rang the traditional bell signifying a firefighter lost his life. The ceremony ended with Ruritan President Cecilia del Prado leading the Pledge of Allegiance, then Taps played by bugler Robbie Spiers from Bugles Across America. Bagpiper Terry Myers played Amazing Grace.



Johnsonville quilters are pictured as they finish making lap quilts for local nursing homes:

Merlene Anderson, Karen Cox, Candace Edwards, Beth Broecker, Dianne Christensen, Louise Taylor, Lori Owen, and Nancy Lancaster.

President Karen Cox (left) presents Polly Bouldin with a \$200 check for Harnett County Buddy Backpack (HCBB). Bouldin, from Lemon Springs and a member of Lemon Springs Ruritan Club, is treasurer of HCBB along with being Ruritan Zone 5 Governor and Cape Fear District Secretary.



At the November District Meeting, Larry Taylor was awarded Cape Fear District Ruritan of the Year. On hand to congratulate him are: National Foundation Trustee Guy Cox, Larry Taylor, National Director David Hogan and District Governor Roger Peterson. Special guests at the December 7 Christmas Awards were National Director David Hogan, Cape Fear District Governor Roger Peterson and his wife Juanita and District Lt. Governor Rodger Nicely.





## News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

### Monthly Barbecues Help Cedar Fork Raise Funds

**Cedar Fork** Ruritan Club is still holding monthly barbecue fundraisers from October to May, along with an annual raffle. Due to the ongoing pandemic the club tried drive-thru fundraisers, which is working very well.

Nancy Elston, Shirley and Virgil Davis, Yvonne Nishimura, and Charles Westmoreland are in the kitchen serving up the plates at the October barbecue fundraiser. A room and barbecue meals were provided to the Cape Fear District Cabinet for their October meeting

Jimbo Simmons, pictured right, is giving a presentation about his excursion with the Combat Marine Outdoors (CMO) to the members at the May meeting. CMO is an organization that provides hunting and fishing excursions to severely wounded military servicemen and women, which is a vital role in support of their rehabilitation.



## News From Ruritan: Spartan District

### West View Club Donates to Area Food Charities

**West View** Club collected a truck load of nonperishable items for The Bethlehem Center. Club Treasurer Steve Faulkner presented a donation to Lou Sartor, director of the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen. The soup kitchen serves 1,200 to 1,500 hot meals every week.

Augustus Whiteside son of **West View** Club member Alethea Hill, was having fun with the Ruritan football helmet at the Myrtle Beach National Convention. Members of the club were part of the South Carolina welcoming committee that greeted convention attendees in early January.





## News From Ruritan: Spartan District

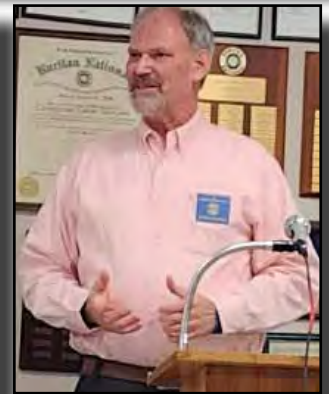
### Spartan District Celebrates With Club Presidents

The Spartan District celebrated Presidents Night with a steak dinner. Pictured are club presidents: Alton Free, **Middle Tyger**; Agnes Hill, **West-view**; Curtis Marshall, **Duncan**; Brian Kreider, **Highland**; and Marcia Phillips, **Cannon's Camp Ground**; being presented with gifts from District Governor Danny Phillips (not pictured.) The district was honored to have in attendance National President-Elect Mike Morrison, who challenged the district to move as "One Team, One Direction: Up!"



### Jim Frady Honored

**Cannon's Camp Ground** Club honored its Ruritan of the Year by presenting a Tom Downing Fellow to Jim Frady for his outstanding community service. Jim, who has been a Ruritan for more than 40 years, is pictured with his wife, Cindy, and Ruritan National Director Patsy Shelton, who presented the award.



*One Team, One Direction: Up!*

## News From Ruritan: Columbia District

### Gilbert Ruritans Celebrate Holidays Together



**Gilbert** Club celebrated the holiday season with the annual Christmas dinner at the Country Club of Lexington. Entertainment was provided by Mark Forrester, Brenda Burkett, and Todd Long. The Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson from Wittenberg Lutheran Church, Batesburg-Leesville, SC, shared a Christmas message. Sheila and Bobby Gable were recognized for an outstanding Christmas House Fundraising Tour. Over 55 people were in attendance and raised \$900 for the Gilbert Ruritan Club community projects.

New officers were installed by Donna Poulton, Ruritan National Director. The upcoming officers are Todd Long, President; Brenda Burkett, Vice President; David Keisler, Secretary, and

Lisa Keisler, Treasurer. Pictured are Donna Poulton, David Keisler, Brenda Burkett, Todd Long, Lisa Keisler. Pictured are David Keisler, Bobby Gable, Sheila Gable.



## Headsville Countryside Earns Five Gold Awards

**Headsville Countryside** Club received gold certificates for each of their community service committees: Business and Professions, Environmental, Social Development, Citizenship and Patriotism, and Public Service. The club collected food for two families during Thanksgiving. Pictures is 2021 President Rick Johnston packing the Thanksgiving baskets. Past National Director Eugene Tasker presented a check to Tracy Gough and her daughters - Charlie and Hattie, for Amelia and Charlie's Christmas Wish. Tracy helps to support families who have NICU stays for premature babies.



Pictured is **Romney** Club's 4x8 ft. Christmas card that was placed next to the City Hall in Romney, WV. The card was painted by Victoria J. Carr.



### Auto Emblem/Plaque Emblem

A 3" round emblem, metal base, with brass plating, die-cast mold with white and blue fills, 3M tape on the back.

**\$9**

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



## Clintonville Gives Scholarships, Provides Lunches

**Clintonville** Club presented Club member Silas Lewis with the BY\$ Scholarship. Silas is attending Liberty University. Pictured (l-r) are Zone 2 Governor Frank Tuckwiller, Silas' mom Faith Lewis, sister Korah, dad Jason, Silas, and 2021 Club President David Sykes.

The club provided lunches to three local businesses in 2021. In May lunch was provided for Smoot Investments for 12 employees. In August, four employees from Start in Rainelle received lunch. Finally in November Boxley Aggregates received lunch for eight employees. All three are pictured below.



## WV Ruritans Participate in Festivals

Lower WV District Governor Blaine Cecil had three blueberry pies thrown in his face during an auction to raise money for the Ruritan National Foundation.

**Pipestem** and **Sun Valley** Clubs set up a Ruritan information booth at the Three River's Festival.





## News From Ruritan: Cherokee District

**Harrison Club** built three wheelchair ramps for Aiden Palmer, a disabled teenage boy. Palmer's mom has had trouble getting him in and out of the house, so the club stepped in to help.

we are  
**STRONGER**  
*Together*



## News From Ruritan: Georgia - N. Alabama District

### Spring Place Brings Christmas to Children

**Spring Place Club** gave out over 350 gift bags to children as they visited Santa at the annual Christmas in the Park. Members who worked were Tony Bramblett, Vicki Bramblett, Phil Lobiondo, Joan Dooley, Tim Howard, Chuck Smith, Jyana Smith, Santa (Terry Blanchard), Elizabeth Robinson, and Buddy Robinson.





## Browns Community Pays Tribute to Veterans

**Browns Community** Club members placed American flags on the graves of over 100 veterans buried in Browns Cemetery. In addition, a display of flags was put near the entrance to the Ruritan building and the cemetery. On Veterans Day, members joined with Vietnam Veterans to wave flags over I-40 where more than 3,000 vehicles per hour pass by. Those participating said that it was a "spine tingling experience" to hear all the car and truck horns blasting, lights flashing, and people waving.

Pictured (l-r) are members Richard Stevenson, Lee Tomlinson, Erwin White, Carol Ann Watson, and Nancy Ann Stephenson.

Members waving flags were Danny Jackson, Randy Bonner, Carol Ann Watson, and Micki Page. Several participating members were not pictured.



## Smithville Presents Four Scholarships

The **Smithville** Club presented four \$500 Academic Scholarships to Green Local School Seniors (who graduated in May 2021.) These students are now attending college and were invited to talk about their first semester/quarter experience. Jillian Newlan is attending Lake Erie College who received the Ruritan Feusier Scholarship. Morgan Danko is attending Miami Univ. of Ohio who received the Ruritan Build Your Dollar Scholarship. Caleb Keib is attending Univ. of Akron who received the Ruritan Maynard Yoh Scholarship. Rebekah Carr is attending Ohio State



Univ. who received the Ruritan Academic Scholarship. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Rick Dilyard, Morgan Danko, Jillian Newlan, Caleb Keib, Rebekah Carr, and Scholarship Chair Phil Gresser. The club held a Christmas Food Drive collected 112 pounds of canned goods and paper products. In addition, \$1,100 was collected and donated to People to People Ministries.



## Laker Club Helps Cheerleaders with Project

**Laker** Club donated to Pymatuning Valley High School Cheerleaders to help with the purchase of the Pymatuning Valley High School Tunnel. The Tunnel will be used for the athletic players to run through during games. Most of the cost of the tunnel was raised by the cheerleaders by different fund-raisers. Pictured are 2021 Club President George Graham, Advisor Andrea Wonderling with the cheerleading squad.



Laker Club held its annual drawing for two Henry Rifles and a Homemade Quilt. The Henry Golden 4/10 Rifle was won by Amanda Longenecker and the Henry Golden Boy 22 was won by Gary Floch. The Quilt was won by Phyllis Dickens.



1986 National President Dave Freshly installed **Knox** Club's new officers. They were Ramsey, president; Ziegler, vice-president; Albrecht, secretary; Cameron, treasurer. Directors include Johnson, Benner, and Blickensderfer.





## ***Grand Valley Makes Donation***

Pictured is **Grand Valley** Club President Roger Herbster presenting a check to Matthew Baker, Fire Chief of the North Bloomfield Fire Department. In 2021, the club presented \$100 to five fire depts., one police dept., and one rescue squad district.



## ***Chesterfield Hosts Seniors Christmas Dinner***

**Chesterfield** Club held a free Christmas dinner of country ham, yams, green beans, slaw, rolls, and cake for seniors. Pastor Jesse Lott from Catawba Valley Baptist Church is shown offering the invocation at the beginning of the meal. The supper concluded with the singing of Christmas carols and fruit and candy gift bags were presented to all attendees. The club has been sponsoring this event to for over 35 years.

The club raised over \$1,000 at its Chicken Pie Supper to provide for the needs of the Chesterfield Community. The Club is grateful to Case Farms for their donation of chicken for the pies. Pictured are members and volunteers who served.



Michelle Hensley won Gamewell Club's Bingo \$481 jackpot.



## ***Collettsville Club Hosts Veterans Day Dinner***

**Collettsville** Ruritan Club held a Veteran's Day Dinner. A presentation of a paver was made to the family of Clell Hartley WWII vet, who had passed away. The paver will be placed in downtown Lenoir City. Veteran Larry Richardson was also recognized for his service to our country.

Karon Baker was the recipient for this year's Collettsville's Citizen of the year





## Deep Gap Club Officers Installed

Western North Carolina District Governor Gary Barger, at left, presides over the annual installation of the 2022 officers at a recent meeting of the **Deep Gap Club**. From left: Loretta Gentry, Gretchen Baldwin, Kathy Idol, Jeff Stewart, and Leslie Gentry.



## Pungoteague Makes A Difference Every Day

**Pungoteague Club** built a wheelchair ramp. Pictured in the front (l-r) are George Rams, Jim Gillett, Paul Custis, and Herman Hohlt. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Danny Lyle and Ed Lampman, the recipient family, Wat Tyler, Dolores Tyler, and David Tyler (in wheelchair), David Shaw, Malcolm White, and Ted Sturgis. Taylor Dukes and his son Ellis are pictured in the front on the right.

Members of the Pungoteague Club helped pack and deliver 200 boxes of food to needy families on Virginia's Eastern Shore just prior to Christmas. Members Jerry Phillips, Paul Custis, Doug Wehner, Jim Gillett, and Bill Sterling were among community volunteers who packed boxes of assorted canned goods, ham, and bacon.

At right, Gillett and Wenher are wearing Santa caps as they load vehicles. Other members who assisted with the delivery included Herman Hohlt, Malcolm White, John Denton, Ed Lampman, George Rams, Sam and Jean Sellard, and Phillips, Custis and Sterling.





## Sandy Ridge Festival Benefits Community



The 14th Annual Ridge Fest was sponsored by area businesses and hosted by the **Sandy Ridge** Club and Northeast Stokes Fire Department. A day of giving back to the Community included free Brunswick stew, soft drinks, and desserts. Numerous vendors and area craftsmen sold their wares. A car show included trophies for Owner's Choice, Fireman's Choice, and People's Choice. Musical entertainment was provided by local performers.

The club sponsored the annual Trunk or Treat event in October. It was hosted by the Northeast Stokes Fire Department. In November, a drive-thru veterans' meal was held.

The club donated 26 dictionaries to the Sandy Ridge Elementary School third graders.

## Semora Club Hosts Business Fair

**Semora** Club hosted the 1st Annual Small Business and Craft Fair. A total of 13 vendors and small businesses participated. The club offered a hot dog lunch and a bake sale during the five-hour event.



## Ararat Serves Children and Seniors in Community

**Ararat** Club held a food drive at November Bingo and collected over six boxes of food. In December, the club participated in the Patrick County Christmas Cheer program, buying presents for six children and two seniors. To kick off the new year, the club donated school supplies to the local elementary schools. Pictured are members Mary Slate and Shelia Smith.





## Fontaine Club Shares Christmas Spirit

Fontaine Club sponsored a Christmas Door decoration contest at five elementary schools and donated Book About Me to first grade students. A Tom Downing Fellow was presented to long-time member Edd Mills at the club's Christmas party.



## Rangeley Club Installs 2022 Officers

Dan River 2021 District Governor Charlie Bowman installed **Rangeley** Club Officers. Pictured (l-r) are President Jim McMillan, Director Bill Hutchinson, District Governor Charlie Bowman - District Governor, Director Fay Moore, Secretary Bruce Severance, and Vice President Phillip Earles. Not pictured were Treasurer George Mehaffey and Director Nina Hylton.

Scott Koebel from Woodmen Life presented Rangeley Club President Jim McMillan (left) with new Virginia and American flags. Bruce Severance is also shown presenting Jim McMillan with Ruritan of the Year plaque.





## Dan River Club Presents Scholarships

**Dan River Club** presented three college scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Chair Eddie Hite, Recipients; Adrianna Call, Kristen Sellers, Alayna Vickers, and Club Treasurer Barry Sides.



## Highlights from Lincolnland District Activities

Lincolnland District Governor Beverly Tanner presented Rita Woods of the Illiana Club the Lincolnland District Ruritan of the Year Award (bottom right.)

Past National Director Howard Tanner installed the 2022 Lincolnland District Officers. They were District Governor Beverly Tanner, Lt. Governor Michele Zehr, Treasurer Marcia Zehr, and Secretary James Barger. 2020-2021

National President Linward Hedgspeth is shown presenting Lincolnland District Governor Beverly Tanner with her Outgoing Governor plaque at the 2022 Ruritan National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC in January.





## ***Beecher City Tri-County Has a Busy Fall/Winter***

**Beecher City Tri-County** celebrated its 25th anniversary. Pictured are members Leonard Waldhoff, Donna Bates, Janet Lorton, Rita Felty, David Petty, Joyce Petty, Nina Kline, Paulette Miller, Charles Miller, Ron Bates, and Mark Wolf.

Club members made snowflakes for display at the Village of Beecher City's Christmas event. Snowflakes were made from coat hangers. Pictured is Cheryl Reed making the final touches.

An AED was purchased for the Villages community building. Club members, Ron Bates and Dail Schonschack were the installers.



## **Pembroke Club Keeps Community Beautiful**

**Pembroke** Club members Bill Hogg, Leon Law, Debbie Law, Monroe Blevins, and Adarah Williams Adopt-A-Highway along Castle Rock Drive.





## Camp Creek Wraps Up Year and Installs Officers

**Camp Creek** Club honored Ken Smith for his 40 years of service. Ken has held many offices in the club and is currently the club Chaplin. "It is an honor to have such a hard-working member in our club and as a part of our community," said Reta Reaves. Pictured is 2021 Club President Tim Smithson presenting Ken with his 40-year pin.

In November the Community Service Committee - Angie Smithson, Tami Collins, Ruth Kennedy and Robin Tullock delivered, pizza's, cookies, fresh fruit, and other snacks to Laughlin Healthcare, Life Care Center, Signature Health Care, and Camp Creek Medical Center in appreciation for all their dedication to their patients and their community during Covid-19.

1993 National President Wayne Bettis installed Camp Creek's 2022 Club Officers.

Pictured (l-r) are three-year Director Ivan Kennedy, two-year Director Robin Tullock, Treasurer Bob Johnson, Secretary Betty McCue, Vice President Tami Collins, President Reta Phillips, one-year Director George Lewis, and Wayne Bettis.



Carl Nagle received the **Greenwood Club's 2021 Man of the Year** award

## ***Gibbs Gets Into Community Holiday Spirit***

The day had come for the 2021 **Gibbs** Club Christmas Parade this last December. Five-year-old Madeline Cook rode in the parade in her grandfather's 1939 Dodge truck. She was all dressed up and sitting on a bale of hay in the truck bed. Her grandfather, Joey Cook, a Knox County Sheriff's Department retiree, was at the wheel. But suddenly, as they pulled out around Santa Claus' float to get in line right in front of it, the truck overheated and upset Madeline. Her ride in the parade seemed to be ending before it began. However, Santa had been watching the drama unfold. And of course, he knew exactly what to do. He invited Madeline to ride on his float with him and Mrs. Claus.

2020-2021 National President Linward Hedgspeth (center) presented 30-year service award to Richard Wright (left) and 35-year service award to Dennis Webster (right).



Club member Clayton Sharp received his 50-year service award. The award was presented by Lynn Fillers (left), Ruritan National Director. Mr. Sharp had just celebrated his 100th birthday.

National Director Lynn Fillers and 2020-2021 National President Linward Hedgspeth presented Gibbs Club President Eddie Jones (center) with a plaque honoring the club's 70-plus years of Ruritan Service.



## **Highland Park Raises Funds for Family**

On September 18, 2021, from 7-11 am, a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser was held at the **Highland Park** Club for club member Marilyn Wagner. Marilyn was gainfully employed at a manufacturing facility in Maryville, Tennessee when she noticed serious health symptoms with her mobility. She was later diagnosed with cancer on her spine, which later metastasized to a spot on her brain.

The brain cancer seriously impacted her ability to walk and later prevented her from driving to work. Her company insurance provided necessary medical help, including chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Marilyn's employment (and medical insurance) however, was terminated after approximately 6 months of non-attendance. Marilyn has now been diagnosed cancer-free after completing medical treatments. She was also prescribed to participate in a rigorous physical therapy program to help train her body to walk again without the aid of a walker, and to regain her mobility. Marilyn has no insurance of her own and is still unemployed. During a club meeting, the members voted to conduct a fundraiser to assist with Marilyn's physical therapy bills. Pictured is Marilyn receiving a check in the amount of \$4,174 from Highland Park Ruritan Club Vice President Matthew Sartin and Marilyn's son Corey Wagner.





## ***Parrottsville Club Honors Veterans***

**Parrottsville** Club honored 17 veterans during its November meeting. Colors were presented by the Cocker Count NJROTC. Each veteran was presented a certificate for their service.

The club also partnered with the Parrottsville Volunteer Fire Department and The Parrottsville Rural Medical Clinic and provided Halloween treats for the youngsters.



## **Middle America Clubs Establish Billboard**

Representatives of multiple Middle America District Clubs are pictured in front of the new Middle America Billboard. **Bronson** Club Charter members Barbara and Richard Woodward donated the land for the new sign. This sign was a joint effort of Middle America District and Ruritan National. Pictured in the back (l-r) are Barbara and Richard Woodward, **Hepler** Club President and Foundations Director Doug Harris, **Elsmore** Club President Johnny Gillham, Hepler Club Secretary and Zone 3 Governor Kim Harris, **Uniontown** Club and Billboard Project Director Joe George, **Pottawatomie** Club and Growth and Development and Zone 4 Governor Jim Kimball, **Redfield** Club President and Zone 2 Governor Raymond "Skeet" George, Uniontown Club and District Governor Mark Warren, **Moran** Club President Chris Weston, and Bronson Club President and Lt. Governor Terry Johnston. Absent from photo is **Cherokee** Club President Stefanie Lynn. In the front (l-r) are Past National Director and Pottawatomie Club member Pat Watson and Elsmore Club member and Zone 1 Governor Alice Bolin.



## Staff Changes

### Help Us Congratulate These Staff Members On Their New Roles!



**Craig Whitt**

**Member Services Coordinator - VM: 312**

Craig.Whitt@Ruritan.org

All questions and concerns should be handled through Craig who is responsible for answering member and leader questions that come in from the Ruritan website or by phone. He distributes general information and answers questions about using the Member Management System. Craig enters new club information into the MMS and makes membership records and changes (address, telephone, etc.) that aren't made by members directly (send all name and address changes that you don't make yourself in the MMS to him).



**Crystal Andrews**  
**Event Planner VM: 304**

Crystal.Andrews@Ruritan.org  
Crystal is responsible for advance planning and execution of the Summer Leadership Conference, Youth Conference, and the annual National Convention. She gathers data on future convention sites from potential locations.



**Diane Lawson**  
**Publications VM: 306**

Diane.Lawson@Ruritan.org  
Diane is responsible for the production of the Ruritan magazine, club and district officer handbooks, community service guides, brochures, and all other publications. She works with graphic design, typesetting, layout, and production.

#### Tools Available To Better Understand the MMS

If you are new using the Ruritan Member Management System (MMS) we have some new guides that might help you better understand all the options available. These aids will also be very helpful for an experienced MMS user who wants to know more about all the features of the system.

Find the MMS Handbook at <http://ruritan.org/library/744.pdf> (or search for MMS in the library at ruritan.org.) There is also a Replica MMS with fake data that provides a lot of instruction at <http://ruritan.org/library/743.pdf>

In addition, there is an instructional PowerPoint available for trainers to use. That can be requested at [service@ruritan.org](mailto:service@ruritan.org).

All Ruritan members are entitled to view and edit their own data in the system and officers can make other changes and updates. If you haven't used the MMS before your Ruritan staff can get you set up. Just email [service@ruritan.org](mailto:service@ruritan.org) and staff will help you access the system.





*The National Board met for a seminar on how to bring about effective change within our organization. We are all aware of the issues that face us during this year- retaining members (we are losing ~ 250-300/month), gaining new members (we are adding ~ 150- 200/month), expanding our footprint, and staying relevant. National President Glen Broadwater has issued a challenge for us to grow **FOUR** new clubs in each district.*

*If we want to effect change within our organization, we have to be willing to become instruments of change. As with revivals and other grassroots efforts, we have to start with the clubs and work up if we are to be successful. If we are to be successful, we have to be ambassadors for growth and goodwill. We have to be willing to emphasize positive actions and their impact while encouraging those that are struggling.*

## **A STRATEGY FOR EFFECTIVE CHANGE:**

### **1. When you change your thinking, you change your beliefs.**

**Beliefs – “A habit of mind in which confidence becomes a conviction that we embrace.”**

**“Our ends are joined with common link,  
With one we sit, with one we think.  
Success depends on which we use,  
Heads we win...tails we lose.”**

**-Anonymous**

#### **How I Think...**

- 1. I think positively - This allows me to look for the best and receive the best.**
- 2. I think creatively - This allows me to find answers when others quit looking.**
- 3. I think bottom-line - This allows me to prioritize and get rid of busy work.**
- 4. I think practical - This allows me to apply principles to everyday life.**
- 5. I think continual - This allows me to assimilate everyday experiences that are “on the table.”**

## **2. When you change your beliefs, you change your expectations.**

Belief is the knowledge that we can do something. It's the inner feeling that what we undertake, we can accomplish. For the most part, all of us have the ability to look at something and know whether or not we can do it. So, in belief there is power: our eyes are opened; our opportunities become plain; our visions become realities.

Beliefs that help me change:

- ✓ Change is possible.
- ✓ Change is profitable.

## **3. When you change your expectations, you change your attitude.**

*High expectations always precede high morale.*

Positive Expectations Produce. . .

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Excitement | 4. Confidence            |
| 2. Conviction | 5. Contagious enthusiasm |
| 3. Desire     | 6. Group Commitment      |

## **4. When you change your attitude, you change your behavior.**

*"That which holds our attention determines our action." Wm. James*

Three-word phrases that make a difference:

**Just Do It**

**Yes I Can**

**Whatever It Takes**

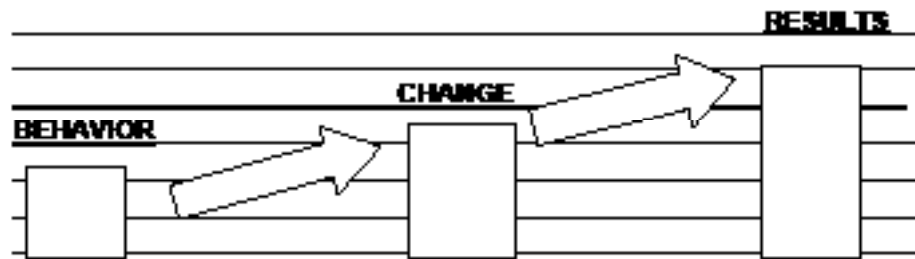
*Find something you like to do so much you'd gladly do it for nothing; then learn to do it so well people are happy to pay you for it.*



**5. When you change your behavior, you change your performance.**

Two mistakes often made:

1. We wait for someone to change our circumstances.
2. We wait for our circumstances to change our behavior.



**6. When you change your performance, you change your life.**

*"Life itself can't give you joy,  
unless you really will it.  
Life just gives you time and space.  
It's up to you to fill it."  
-Chinese Proverb*

**Most people fail to see the on-going nature of life!**

**Most people make cosmetic changes in their lives:**

- a. We change our talking instead of our thinking.
- b. We change our by-laws instead of our beliefs.
- c. We change our environment instead of our expectations.
- d. We change our appearance instead of our attitude.
- e. We change our resume instead of our performance.

# Ruritan Club Word Find

Z	I	G	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	F	J	Q	S	D	N	E	I	R	F
W	L	L	I	W	D	O	O	G	E	C	H	G	N	I	T	E	E	M	O
D	V	R	E	N	O	Z	H	L	H	I	I	A	C	S	X	M	U	G	R
S	Q	U	Z	F	Y	L	L	I	X	D	L	V	O	E	T	E	R	P	G
R	S	R	J	L	A	O	Q	C	D	L	V	O	N	C	Q	M	B	N	A
O	W	A	S	R	W	P	K	W	O	W	I	L	T	R	C	B	A	K	N
T	A	L	M	S	J	R	L	H	N	S	C	U	R	E	Y	E	N	D	I
C	C	E	H	K	H	E	A	O	G	N	E	N	I	T	E	R	S	I	Z
E	O	I	J	F	T	S	N	I	K	C	P	T	B	A	L	S	S	S	A
R	P	I	V	V	F	I	O	A	S	I	R	E	U	R	L	R	E	T	T
I	B	H	B	U	N	D	I	M	U	V	E	E	T	Y	O	H	N	R	I
D	C	L	R	U	Z	E	T	E	F	I	S	R	E	G	W	A	I	I	O
R	U	A	F	E	E	N	A	R	F	C	I	W	O	Y	F	Z	S	C	N
E	U	H	B	C	R	T	N	I	O	M	D	V	Q	Q	F	R	U	T	X
G	T	R	E	I	B	U	Z	C	L	W	E	G	A	V	O	R	B	I	L
I	V	H	I	L	N	G	S	A	K	R	N	X	F	A	Q	I	J	D	N
E	N	Z	E	T	P	E	D	A	N	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	I
D	K	Q	G	L	A	C	T	O	E	M	M	O	B	E	T	T	E	R	O
G	H	O	T	Z	M	N	R	X	Z	R	K	L	H	Y	C	L	U	B	J
I	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A	O	E	T	S	P	E	A	K	E	R	Y

AMERICA  
BETTER  
BLUE  
BUSINESS  
CABINET  
CIVIC  
CLUB  
COMMUNITY  
CONTRIBUTE  
DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT

FELLOWSHIP  
FRIENDS  
FUN  
GOODWILL  
GOVERNOR  
HELP  
HOLLAND  
JOIN  
MEETING  
MEMBERS  
NATIONAL

ORGANIZATION  
PRESIDENT  
ROANOKE  
RURAL  
RURITAN  
SECRETARY  
SERVICE  
SPEAKER  
SUFFOLK  
TREASURER  
URBAN

VICE PRESIDENT  
VIRGINIA  
VOLUNTEER  
YELLOW ZONE



### **Suggested Events:**

Open House  
Community Picnic  
Community Halloween Party  
Chicken BBQ's  
Dinners – indoor or drive-thru  
Bingo  
Community Dance  
Onion/Ramp Sales  
Auctions – live or online  
Blood Drive  
Shredding Event  
Bake Sales  
Antique Car/Truck Shows  
Fireworks on July 4th  
Ice Cream Social  
Brunswick Stew  
Horse Show  
Gun Raffle  
Lawn Mower Giveaway  
Arts and Crafts Show  
Vendor Event  
Movie Night  
Offer a Class  
Lawn Party  
Cake Walk  
Yard Sale  
Dog Show/Rabies Clinic  
Book Signing  
Talent Show  
Be creative—Ideas are endless

### **Invite Community Members including:**

Teachers and Principals  
Cleaning Crews  
Fire and Rescue persons  
Police Officers  
Town Council  
Realtors  
Postal Workers  
Restaurant Owners/Staff  
Doctors/Nurses  
Farmers  
Bankers  
Pastors  
Other Volunteers  
Store Managers/Owners  
Insurance Agents  
Co-Workers  
Church Members  
Friends, Old and New  
Next Door Neighbors  
Back Door Neighbors  
Down the Street Neighbors  
Across Town Neighbors  
New Neighbors  
Parents  
Siblings  
Children  
Aunts and Uncles  
Nieces and Nephews  
Grandchildren

# **GROWING RURITAN**



# **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **When Planning an event remember to:**

- 1. Decide on a date.**
- 2. Start making plans for the event.** (i.e. location, advertising, refreshments, activities, information to be handed to visitors).
- a. Fliers should be printed with information about your event:** date, beginning and ending times, something catchy to make them want to check it out. Go house to house with fliers the week before your event.
- b. Advertise in newspaper, radio, and social media.**
- c. Refreshments should be simple:** punch and cookies, for example.
- d. Something should be planned to keep them busy.**

- e. Plan on handouts about your club.** Have scrapbooks that show what you do. Make poster boards with pictures of events. Have a sheet where people can make suggestions about what they think the community needs. Have members talk to people one-on-one and share stories about their accomplishments. Make sure to have the Ruritan cards that tell what "Ruritan" is about.
- 3. A week before the event put up signs.** Make sure to take them down immediately after the event.
- 4. When your guests are at the event, do NOT ask them to join.** Have fun, enjoy good fellowship and show them that your club is welcoming.



- 5. On the day of the event, have a sign-in sheet.** Request their names, addresses, phone numbers and emails, so that you can contact them later and thank them for coming. This is very important! Thank them for coming and invite them to an upcoming meeting as a guest.
  - 6. Dress in Ruritan Shirts** so visitors know you are a member and can ask you questions.
- Should your club/district need assistance with planning or help during an event, please contact your assigned National Director or a member of the Growth and Development Committee.

**Ruritan National**  
**877-787-8727**  
**office@ruritan.org**



**LET'S GO BACK TO  
KINGSPORT FOR THE  
2023 NATIONAL  
CONVENTION!  
RESERVE YOUR  
ROOM NOW!**



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

**For reservations by  
phone call  
(423) 570-6600  
group name is:  
*Ruritan National  
Conference***

**Room rates are \$125 per night.  
Reservation cutoff date is  
December 28, 2022**

# WANTED: WINNING RURITAN RECRUITERS

FOURTH QUARTER 2021



LINA MERCER OF THE  
HICKORY CLUB IN THE  
HOLLAND DISTRICT



MARCIA ZEHR OF  
THE ILLIANA CLUB  
IN THE LINCOLN LAND  
DISTRICT.



KENNETH INGLE OF THE  
MOUNTAIN VIEW NC  
CLUB IN THE  
ROCKY MT. - DURHAM  
DISTRICT

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