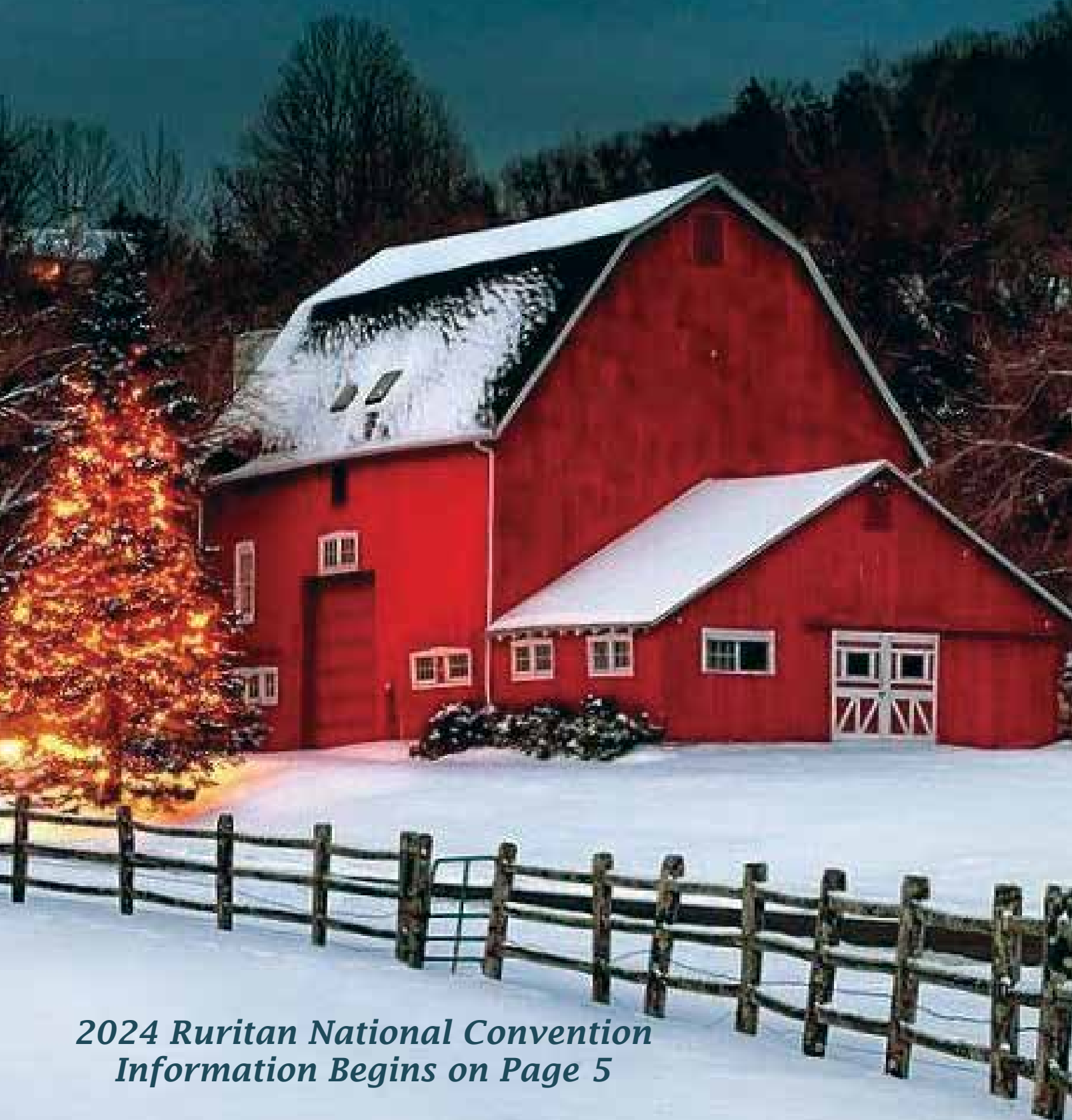




Ruritan

Volume 88, Winter 2023



*2024 Ruritan National Convention
Information Begins on Page 5*



Ruritan

Volume 88, Winter 2023

EDITORIAL & MEMBERSHIP STAFF

Sarah Kelly, Executive Director
Diane Lawson, Publications Manager
Craig Whitt, Member Services Manager

MAILING ADDRESS - EDITORIAL OFFICE

Ruritan National
P.O. Box 487
(UPS) 5451 Lyons Road
Dublin, VA 24084
(540) 674-5431 Toll-Free: (877) 787-8727
FAX: (540) 674-2304
Email: office@ruritan.org
Web: <http://ruritan.org>
Supply Orders Only: (800) 414-8946

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Put Ruritan In Your Heart



2023 National President Michael Morrison



Boy, how time flies! Here we are at the beginning of winter. District conventions are all done, and clubs celebrate their accomplishments for all their hard work. Does your community know what you have done for them over this past year and previous years? Let them know! Let Our Secret Out! Show them that we are the nation's most outstanding community service organization. Ask them to join in our Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service. You might only get one, but that's one more than you had before you asked.

I have enjoyed my travels visiting many clubs to join in their anniversary celebrations, district events, conventions, and a few zone meetings along the way. Thank you for all the hard work you have done this year helping your community and growing our membership. Quite a few clubs took my challenge to heart and got their 3%, and some went well beyond that. Some districts formed new clubs, and one district decided they needed two new clubs. Keep your eye on the prize - what your community needs.

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving and have registered for the 2024 National Convention in Winston-Salem.

Doughnuts! Get your doughnuts! Planning has been nonstop for lots of fun, Fellowship, flags, family speakers, first-time attendee fun, and family entertainment. Did I mention doughnuts? There will be a great foundation silent and live auction and carnival. And yes, there will be Krispy Kreme doughnuts. If you can't have one, just let me know, and I'll take care of it.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for Putting Ruritan In Your Heart!

Mike Morrison

2023 National President

"No one knows how much you care until they feel how much you care."

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Be Who You Needed When You Were Younger

Imagine a world where everyone strives to be who they needed when they were younger. It's a vision of a more compassionate and understanding society. By embodying this idea, you contribute to creating a world where people support and uplift one another, creating neighbors and community, and making the journey through life a little easier for all.

To be who you needed when you were younger, the journey begins with self-reflection. Take a moment to remember your younger self, the challenges you faced, your doubts, and the support you longed for. Understanding your own struggles and unmet needs will provide insight into the support and guidance you can offer to others facing similar challenges.

Empathy is a key component of this concept. It means not only sympathizing with others but truly understanding and sharing their feelings and experiences. By empathizing with the struggles of your younger self, you can better connect with others who are currently facing similar obstacles. This connection can provide a strong foundation for support and growth.

Being who you needed when you were younger often involves mentoring or guiding those who are going through what you once experienced. Offering guidance and support can have a profound impact on someone's journey. It's a way to pay forward the help you wish you had received.

In everyday interactions, practice kindness and compassion. Be the person who listens, understands, and offers a helping hand without judgment. Small acts of kindness can make a world of difference to someone who is struggling, just as they would have for your younger self.

Becoming who you needed when you were younger isn't just about helping others; it's also a path to personal growth and self-improvement. By offering support and empathy, you'll develop a deeper understanding of yourself and your own strengths and weaknesses. This, in turn, can lead to a more fulfilling and purposeful life.

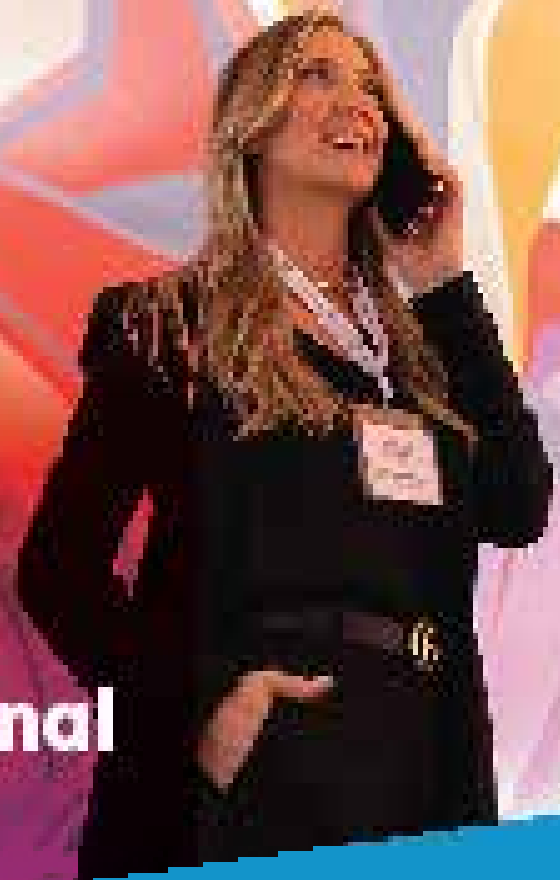
Being who you needed when you were younger is a powerful concept that invites us to look within, connect with our past struggles, and use those experiences to make a positive impact on the lives of others. It's a journey of self-discovery, empathy, mentorship, and advocacy. By practicing kindness and compassion, we can contribute to a more compassionate and supportive society, one where everyone can be their best selves. In this way, we can truly make the world a better place, one person at a time.



W
S

Welcome

Ruritan 2024 National Convention



Conveniently located in downtown Winston-Salem, the Ruritan 2024 National Convention will be held at the Ruritan Hotel. The Ruritan Hotel is a historic building that has been converted into a modern hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem, just a short walk from the Ruritan Hotel. The hotel is a historic building that has been converted into a modern hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem, just a short walk from the Ruritan Hotel. The hotel is a historic building that has been converted into a modern hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Winston-Salem, just a short walk from the Ruritan Hotel.


HIP + HEDONIC
Midwest & Garden

WHELEABLE + WONDERFUL
Downtown Dining

WINTERED + WINTERED
Art, Bar & Wine Fair

Ruritan 2024 National Convention, January 11-13, 2024
Book Your Special Room Early! More at <https://ruritan.com>





Join Us For the Ruritan Carnival!

Friday 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Gallery Ballroom

With **games**, a photo booth, a scooter parade, a magician, a **Cake walk**, and **face painting**, there's no shortage of fun activities to enjoy. Whether you're looking to test your skills, capture memories, be entertained, or transform your appearance, the carnival has something for everyone.

Let's create wonderful memories!



Convention Exhibitors

J&J Farms

Honey, Apple Butter, and Woodwork



Convention Exhibitors



Filamína Jewelry



Jordan Mill Pottery



Lowe Pottery



Convention Exhibitors



Byers Pottery

Handmade Pottery



Vida Collective



Dreama Wind Spinners & Tumblers



Larry Sumpter - Real Time Pain Relief



Exhibitor Booth Hours

Wednesday: 1 - 5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m - 5 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

2024 National Convention Mini-Schedule

Wednesday - Friday

*Ruritan Supply / Vendors / Youth Room /
Candidates / Silent Auction*

Wednesday - Saturday

Registration

Thursday

*Governors' Training / First Timers Reception
/ Opening Ceremonies / President's
Reception*

Friday

*Workshops / Business Session / First
Family's Fellowship Luncheon / Voting /
Foundation Auctions /
County Fair (7-9pm)*

Saturday

*Workshops / Business Session /
Installation Banquet*

Sunday

Worship Service

Ruritan Will Host Variety Performer Phil Urban for National Convention 2024

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Phil Urban has been performing professionally for more than 25 years. His exciting show covers music through the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

Phil demonstrates the evolution and progression of music through these three decades with marvelous set and costume changes.

Be prepared for a fabulous evening of music and entertainment!



2024 National Convention Ballot Items To Be Voted On By Delegates

Ballot Item 1 – Approved Board Motion 23-08-20

The caption of the National Bylaws ARTICLE I currently reads:

“Name/Emblem/Politics”. The Board approved striking the word “Politics” and inserting the word “Principles”.

They further moved that the heading politics be replaced with principles in all bylaws and publications.

Reason for the motion: The word politics is too narrow of scope as we are non-sectarian and non-partisan in both politics and religious affiliations. Principles is a more inclusive word and portrays how we want to present ourselves to our communities.

Will take effect immediately upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at the national convention.

Ballot Item 2 – Approved Board Motion 23-08-24

The National Board approved a motion for a \$1 per quarter dues increase (\$4 per year) for all adult/business org memberships (not including youth) to take effect April 1, 2024.

Reason for the motion: To maintain the solvency of the organization. The 2023-2024 Ruritan National operating budget of \$1,133,204.00 income and expenses of \$1,124,900.83 is based on an anticipated dues increase of \$1/quarter, to take effect April 2024, pending convention delegates’ approval at the 2024 Ruritan National Convention. If there is no approved dues increase, the proposed operating budget for 2023-2024 would be \$1,095,226.00 income and expenses of \$1,120,904.83, reflecting a deficit budget of -\$25,678.83.

Will take effect on April 1, 2024, upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at the national convention.

2024 National Convention Ballot Items To Be Voted On By Delegates

Ballot Item 3 – Approved Board Motion 23-05-08

National Bylaws ARTICLE III Membership/Members

Section 4. Dues and Fees

E. Dues Payment Dates currently reads as follows: *“Membership dues shall be billed on the 1st day of each quarter and payable to Ruritan National no later than the last day of January, April, July, and October. Any club which fails to pay its financial obligation to this organization, in accordance with these bylaws, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension of its charter.”*

Move in sentence one to strike the word “shall” and insert the word “should” and between 1st and day, insert the word “business.” The sentence will then read “Membership dues should be billed on the 1st business day of each quarter and payable to Ruritan National no later than the last day of January, April, July and October.”

Reason for the motion: This allows flexibility to Ruritan National when the 1st day of the quarter falls on a weekend or holiday.

Will take effect immediately upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at the national convention.

Ballot Item 4 – Approved Board Motion 23-05-07

Amend National Bylaws by creating new Article V Exempt Charitable Organizations.

Current Section 5 and subsequent sections will be renumbered. Current Article IV Section 9 Ruritan National Foundation will become part of the new Article V. Text for the new article is below.

Reason for the motion: Provide a definitive section for the current and future Exempt Charitable Organizations that are part of Ruritan National.

Will take effect immediately upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at the national convention.

2024 National Convention Ballot Items To Be Voted On By Delegates

ARTICLE 5

Exempt Charitable Organizations (IRS 501C3)

Section 1. Ruritan National Foundation.

A. Establishment of. The Ruritan National Foundation was established in January 1968.

B. Purpose. The purpose of the Ruritan National Foundation is to manage and maintain a trust for the encouragement, promotion, and financing of the charitable, educational, and benevolent principles and activities of Ruritan clubs and of Ruritan National.

C. Administered by. The Ruritan National Foundation shall be administered by a board to be known as the Ruritan National Foundation Trustees.

D. Board of Trustees. Ruritan National Foundation Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) persons, which shall meet at least three (3) times annually.

E. Election. One trustee will be elected at each annual convention of Ruritan National.

F. Term of office. Trustees will serve for a full term of five (5) years.

G. Eligibility. While serving a term of office, each trustee must be and remain an active member of a Ruritan club. A trustee who has been in office for a full term of five (5) years will be ineligible for re-election until after a lapse of one year.

H. Vacancies. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees caused by death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled by the BOD until the next Ruritan National Convention and at such convention any vacancy or vacancies shall be filled by election for such unexpired term or terms.

I. Removal from office. Should it be desirable at any time to remove a trustee from office prior to expiration of trustee's term of office, the same may be done at a regular meeting or at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees, provided 10 days' notice is given to said trustee to be removed. Such removal shall be by majority vote of the entire membership of the Board of Trustees voting at said special or regular meeting.

J. Relationship with BOD. The relationship between Ruritan National and the Ruritan National Foundation shall be governed by the Ruritan National Foundation Articles of Incorporation and the bylaws of Ruritan National.

Section 2. Ruritan National Project FOCUS (Funding Our Communities Under Stress).

A. Establishment of Ruritan National Project FOCUS was authorized in September 2022.

B. The purpose of the Ruritan National Project FOCUS is to soften community suffering with compassion by mobilizing the power of our local Ruritan Clubs with Funding provided by the generosity of our donors.

MEET YOUR 2024 NATIONAL CANDIDATES

National Director

Debi Davis

801 Oak Ridge Farm Rd
Moravian Falls, NC 28654

Phone: (336) 921-3773

Phone: (336) 927-2612 (c)

Email: ddruritan@wilkes.net



CLUB: Brushy Mountain

Club President 2004, 2008, 2018 & 2020-21; Club Vice President 2003, 2007, 2017, 2019 and 2023; Club Secretary 1999 and 2013-16; Club Director; Chairman of the Citizenship & Patriotism, the Social Development Committees; have served on the Scholarship Committee and served as Chairman of the Brushy Mountain Apple Festival; Have been Ruritan of the Year

DISTRICT: Piedmont District Governor 2002 and 2023; Piedmont District Lt. Governor 2001 and 2022; Piedmont District Growth & Development Chair 2007 and 2010; Piedmont District Convention Program Chair 2012-13, 2015 and 2017; Zone Governor 2003-05, 2008 and 2016-18; Certified District Trainer.

NATIONAL: Have attended 24 National Conventions; Served as the Registration & Credentials Chair and Co-Chair; Worked in the Registrations and Credentials several years; Served on the Publications Committee as a Non-Board Member; Have attended two Summer Leadership Conferences; I am a Ruritan Forever and a Tom Downing.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Pitt Community College; Emergency Medical Technician.

OCCUPATION: Worked for Lowes Companies for 28 years.

OTHER: Attend the Bethany Baptist Church and served on the Missions Committee; Co-Organized Brushy Mountain Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary; Co-Organized the first Brushy Mountain Peach & Heritage Festival in 2019 and have served as Co-Chair for the festival since 2019; Have two sons Travis (Katie) and Jonathan (Christina) and a grandson named Jarrett.

National Director

Patty Hamilton

1218 Thompson Avenue
Bluefield, WV 24701

Phone: (304) 920 - 2055

Email: paahamilton@yahoo.com



CLUB: East River Club

President 2010 & 2019,
East River Club Secretary 2022-23, East River Club Director 2012-2015; Nemours Club Secretary 2023. Program Chair.

DISTRICT: Lower West Virginia District Governor 2022 and 2023; Lower West Virginia District Lt. Governor 2020 and 2021; Lower West Virginia District Fundraising Chair 2010-12 and 2020-21; Zone Governor 2009-10, and 2017-21; Lt. Zone Governor 2013; Lower West Virginia District Convention Chair and Directory Chair.

NATIONAL: Have attended several National Conventions, served as an ambassador and assisted with Voting at two National Conventions; and have attended two National Leadership Conferences; Received the Fran Award; Received the Gold Key Award; I am a Ruritan Forever and a Tom Downing.

EDUCATION: Graduated Oakvale High School in Oakvale West Virginia; Graduated McLains Business College in Bluefield West Virginia.

OCCUPATION: Currently working for the Mercer County Commission (in the County Clerk's Office in Princeton West Virginia) since 2003.

OTHER: I am a second generation Ruritan Member; Adjutant/Paymaster Mountaineer Marine Corps League Det. #957 in Princeton West Virginia; received the Distinguish Citizen Award from the Marine Corps League Dept. of West Virginia; Former member of the Bluewell Lions Club in Bluewell West Virginia; Pianist to two congregations; Member of the Memorial Church of Christ in Princeton West Virginia; Enjoys music and attending concerts; I am also a avid dog lover having rescued several dogs and cats; the latest is a Yorkie Terrier "Grace Ann" who I adopted from an Animal Shelter.

MEET YOUR 2024 NATIONAL CANDIDATES

Foundation Trustee

Alex Sowers
4752 Bloomery Pike
Augusta, WV 26704
Phone: (304) 496-9706
Email: asowers1969@gmail.com



CLUB: Alex is one of the original charter members of the Slanesville Ruritan Club. The club was chartered in 1991, and Alex served as the club President that same year. Since then, he has served in various capabilities for the club. He's been on the Growth & Development Committee, the Maintenance Committee, and Fundraising Committee. He's also served as the Committee Chair of Social Development for several years and currently holds that position in the club. He is also serving as the Club's President. Over the past thirty years, he's been responsible for hosting several fundraisers to provide scholarships for graduating seniors and others.

DISTRICT: In 1993, Alex served as Lieutenant Governor, and then in 1994, he served as District Governor. Over the years, Alex has assisted with organizing several District Ruritan Conventions that have been held in Hampshire County. Alex has also served on the Growth & Development Committee as the District Level, and he has played a crucial role on the Finance Committee.

NATIONAL: Alex and his wife attended the 2023 National Convention in Kingsport, TN. He is currently serving on the Budget & Finance Committee.

EDUCATION: Alex graduated from Hampshire High School in Romney, WV. After that, he decided to continue his education at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. He graduated with two Bachelor's Degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. He also recently completed the WV Bankers Training.

OCCUPATION: For the past thirty-two years, Alex has been a farmer and business owner in Augusta, WV. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors at

FNB Bank in Romney, WV, and he is Past Chairman of the Board for Eastern Bancshares, Inc. Alex was recently nominated as Ruritan of the Year for the Slanesville Ruritan Club, and he is past recipient of the Tom Downing Award. He is also one of the few Ruritan Forevers in the club.

OTHER: Alex has been married to his wife, Marsha, for twenty-eight years and they have three children that have been brought up in Ruritan. They attend Little Capon Baptist Church, and they are both charter members of Haiti Hope Missions, Inc. This is a Not-for-Profit Organization that Alex started. He currently serves as President of the Mission, and he is responsible for forty-seven employees in the country of Haiti. Alex is also an FFA Alumni member of the Hampshire County FFA chapter and serves as the Class President for the Class of 1987 from Hampshire High School.



Visit Ruritan Supply to purchase Rudy Bears for the Rudy Bear Drop

SUPPORT BRENNER CHILDREN'S



Brenner Children's is the signature, full-service children's hospital in western North Carolina. We are passionately committed to saving children's lives and dedicated to providing the best approaches to healing.

Only through the financial contributions of individuals – former patients, families and their friends who know the difference Brenner Children's has made in their lives – can we continue to provide outstanding patient care, education and research, to serve the medical needs of our region and beyond.

Give Today

If you would like to make a gift to Brenner Children's, contact us, scan our QR code or donate online at GivingWakeHealth.edu/Give-To-Brenner.



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Alumni Relations
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Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1021

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Philanthropy@WakeHealth.edu

Atrium Health
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Brenner Children's



JOIN US!

during the 2024 National Convention FOR A BOWL PAINTING ACTIVITY

to support Second Harvest Food Bank's
Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser



How painting a bowl helps fight hunger:

Paint a bowl at the 2024 National Convention

Your painted bowl will be donated to the annual Empty Bowls event in April

The attendees of the Empty Bowls event in April will receive your donated bowl as part of their experience

All proceeds from the annual event go to help combat food insecurity in the community

Second Harvest can provide up to 7 meals for each dollar they receive

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

For more information about how this activity benefits the local community, please visit:

<https://www.emptybowlsnc.org/>

<https://www.secondharvestnwc.org/>



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Ruritan Toggle Necklace
\$28.00

Ruritan Cap
\$15.00



Ruritan Full Size Apron
\$13.00



Ruritan Large Tote
\$4.00



Rudy Bear
\$11.00



17oz. Ruritan Mug
\$5.00



Message From 2023 Foundation President Phillip Bradshaw



Greetings Fellow Ruritans!

This year is the 55th Anniversary of the Foundation. The Trustees of your Foundation will be implementing a new investment program, which will launch in January 2024. The Program will support our National membership and grow the Foundation.

"Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow"

The new program is: "Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow". The program is a 5-year program. The intent is to have members, or anyone, invest \$.60/day over the next five years, which culminates with the 60th Anniversary of the Foundation. When you complete the 5-year program, you will have a permanent fund with the Foundation. In addition, if you already have a fund, you can grow it even larger.

Just think, you only have to commit to investing \$.60 daily. This is less than a soft drink or a cup of coffee. The impact will be tremendous for Ruritan! Review the table below to visualize the impact based on the number of donors. With 5,000 donors, Ruritan will have \$5.5M in new investments, which will double your Foundation.

Ruritan Foundation				
"Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow" 5 Year Challenge				
Donation/Day	Days	1 Year	5 Years	1000 Donors
\$0.60	365	\$ 219.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 1,095,000.00
Donation/Day	Days	1 Year	5 Years	2500 Donors
\$0.60	365	\$ 219.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 2,737,500.00
Donation/Day	Days	1 Year	5 Years	5000 Donors
\$0.60	365	\$ 219.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 5,475,000.00

The 55th Anniversary pens are available for purchase. A donation of \$55 to the Foundation, and you will receive the anniversary pen. There will be a limited supply, so purchase yours soon. The pens will be available at the National Convention. Stop by the Foundation table.

The Foundation's investment company recently provided the Board with the Foundation Investment Portfolio Fiscal Year-End Performance Summary, showing us a 14.6% return on our investments. As of our fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, the Foundation had investments of \$5,206,320.

A Short Guide to Ruritan National Foundation Programs is available on the website. This is a one-page summary of the programs offered by your Foundation. Please take the time to read this Guide and share it with your club members. The Foundation offers many programs for our members. There are programs for non-members, such as family members and even businesses. Get on board and take advantage of the many opportunities offered by your Foundation.

Thank you for allowing us to serve as Trustees of your Foundation. If you have questions, please contact us by telephone, text, or email. We are always willing to assist Ruritans to understand your Foundation better.



CREEDS CELEBRATES 75th!

Creeds marked their 75th anniversary in August. National President Mike Morrison was in attendance for the celebration. The club was presented with a Proclamation from the Virginia General Assembly in honor and recognition of their service to their community.



The club recently awarded five scholarships to local students, totaling \$9,000. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Dennis Keane, recipients Annamarie Wells, Suellen Sawyer, Zachary Fuge (joining via Zoom), Kolby Snow, Austin Winborne, and Scholarship Chair Robin Davenport.



DRIVER HOSTS SUPPORT SPLASHDOWN

Driver hosted their Summer Family Pool Party and Gun Raffle Fundraiser. Club members and their families enjoyed a night of swimming, fellowship, and food. Club



President Jon Echols and Les Ward fried chicken wings and fish while Dave Pace grilled hot dogs and cheeseburgers.



Attendees provided side dishes of salads, fruits, and desserts. Allen Cotton held the drawing for the winning raffle tickets for two shotguns and a youth rifle. Proceeds from the raffle help fund scout troops, packs, and Boys and Girls State activities.

The club was recognized for their continued sponsorship of Nansemond River High School youth to Virginia Boys State. Virginia Boys State provides the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in one of three government areas. Participants cultivate leadership skills and develop pride in American citizenship. State Registrar and Suffolk Boys State Chair Dennis Confer presented Club President Jon Echols with a Certificate of Appreciation.



DEEP CREEK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Deep Creek members Sherrie Newsom (l) and Kathleen Kirsch (r) presented a donation to Debbie Laughlin of the Foundation for Fighting Blindness. The Foundation aims to research ways that lead to the prevention, treatment, and cure of retinal diseases.



The club presented their “Police Officer of the Year”



award to

Chesapeake, VA
Officer Maryland

Hare during the National Night Out event. Pictured (l-r) are Club President John Buddenhagen, Officer Hare, and Assistant Chief of Police Tracy Branch. They also presented their Teacher of the Year award to Mrs. Jessica Young.

The club recently welcomed third-generation youth member, Braden Keegan, the son of Past Club President Nikki

Keegan and the grandson of Past Club President Bill Robins. Pictured are Membership Chair Glorine Cousins, Nikki Keegan, Braden, Mike Kirsch, and Bill Robins.



The club also presented a check to the Chesapeake Health Department to assist them with providing Thanksgiving turkeys for 75 families in need.

HUNTERDALE BEEFS UP SUPPORT

Hunterdale recently held their annual donation meeting, where numerous charitable organizations received gifts from the club. Donations are made possible through the club’s annual Western Beef BBQ held in May.



SMITHFIELD SUPPORTS YOUNG FARMERS



Smithfield recognized Keegan Saunders and Graham Rountree as the Smithfield Ruritan Teen Farmers of the Year. The teens planted and harvested sweet corn on their family farms.

SOUTH NORFOLK HOSTS ANNUAL FESTIVAL

South Norfolk held their 17th annual Crab Festival in September on the picnic grounds at the Chesapeake Shrine Club. Set-up began four days before the event. Although the area experienced heavy rains and wind the night before, and several tents were lost, replacement tents were purchased and set up in time for the festival.



Instrumental in planning the event were Crab Fest Chairman Steve Tise, Mike Winterling, Ron Ritter, Doug Allen, and Harry Tue. Ray Wicker, owner of Wicker's Crab Pot Restaurant in Chesapeake, coordinated the supply of crabs. About 1,700 seats were sold, with approximately 1,300 in attendance.

Proceeds from the event are used to support the South Norfolk community and provide scholarships for local high school students.



The day's fare included crabs, fried fish, BBQ, french fries, and cold beverages. Entertainment was provided by Wayne Clifton and the Can You Dig It Band.



News From Ruritan: **HOLLAND District**

SURRY COUNTY MAKES READING FUN

In August, **Surry County** held a ribbon cutting for the Little Free Library they installed in Surry Oaks Park.



News From Ruritan: **CHESAPEAKE District**

GLOUCESTER SUPPORTS LOCAL PROGRAMS

Gloucester held its annual picnic at Beaverdam Park. Boy Scout Troop 113 joined them and conducted a flag retirement ceremony. The club was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation

from the American Legion in recognition for supporting the Legion's Boys State, Girls State, and Law Cadet programs.



One of the club's community service projects, in partnership with the Gloucester Lions Club, is to collect and turn in plastic bags for park benches for Woodville Park. Paul Bauer turned in 102.4 pounds of plastic bags in September, making the total to date 410.4 pounds.

Club Treasurer Ron Searls presented Rudy Bears to staff from Emergency Services, Riverside Walter Reed Hospital. Pictured with

Ron are (l-r) RN Meaghan Koehler, Emergency Department Tech Karina Brinceanu, and RN Heather Pope.



MONTPELIER THANKS COMMUNITY

Montpelier recently held it's annual Friends and Family Fish Fry. Over forty members, friends and community members came to share a dinner of fried catfish and Spanish mackerel, along with cole slaw, baked beans and hush puppies. The club hosts the



meal to thank the businesses and community members that support their

fund raising projects throughout the year. Pictured Dick Jones fries up the fish, as his nephew, Frankie Jones cooks the hush puppies.



PROVIDENCE FORGE HITS HOLE-IN-ONE WITH SCHOLARSHIPS



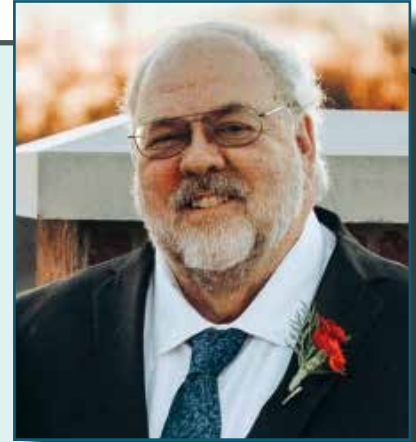
Providence Forge awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to New Kent County students. Two scholarships were to four-year institutions, two for community colleges, and one for a trade school. Pictured (l-r) is recipient Ella Joel with Club President Rob Baillie and Club Treasurer Alan Files. Their annual golf tournament was held on September 6th at the Brookwood Golf Course. Other fundraisers included a Brunswick Stew and a club raffle.

The club also welcomed new members, Dave Bennett and Lee Morris. Pictured (l-r) is Club President Rob Baillie with Dave and Lee.



ROY KEVIN MALOY

Roy Kevin Maloy of King George, VA passed away on Sunday, August 27th at the age of 72 after battling a long-term illness. Roy is preceded in death by his parents, Roy and Elizabeth (Pristas) Maloy and his sister and brother-in-law, Debra and John (Beeb) Palmer. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Donna (Brunt) Maloy, sister and brother-in-law, Dolores and Leonard Carota, son and daughter-in-law Kevin and Katie Maloy, three stepchildren and their spouses, Leigh Hackenberg and Merrill Swartz, Jon and Tina Storms, and Jeff Storms, and several step-grandchildren and a new grandson coming this fall.



Roy has been a proud and active member of the King George community for over 25 years, serving multiple positions with the King George Ruritan Club, most recently as Treasurer, but he has served in all levels of office during his tenure, and has served at the District and National level since beginning his involvement in 1999. He also served as Treasurer of the King George chapter of AARP and was a long-time member of IEEE.

A proud three-time graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, Roy obtained his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Penn State. He was an avid PSU sports fan, with season tickets to Penn State football since 1972. He was also a supporter of the Nittany Lion Club and the Penn State Alumni Association.

An electrical engineer by trade, Roy worked for the Applied Research Lab at Penn State from the late 1970s to 1996, before moving to King George and finishing out his career at Technology Service Corporation from 1996 where he retired in 2016.

Roy enjoyed the study of genealogy and auto racing, specifically NASCAR and local dirt track racing in Virginia and Pennsylvania, a common bond shared with his family. He will be truly missed by family and friends.

Roy will be buried in Pennsylvania with his parents where he grew up. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the National Ruritan Foundation (Ruritan National, Inc., PO Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084).



News From Ruritan: **CHESAPEAKE District**

SHORT PUMP TEES OFF TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Short Pump hosted its annual Charity Golf Tournament in September, with a record of 28 participating teams and the largest number of corporate and individual sponsors ever. The funds raised allowed the club to donate \$8,500 to the Fisher House at the Richmond Veterans Medical Center.



The proceeds will also help with funding annual scholarships and making contributions to about 20 other local charities. Ruritan National President Mike Morrison participated in the tournament, and National President-Elect Becky Lane and Chesapeake District Governor Ralph Cantrell were on hand to assist with running the tournament.



News From Ruritan: **RAPPAHANNOCK District**

NOKESVILLE-BRISTOW FINDS WAYS TO SERVE

Nokesville-Bristow found several ways to serve their community. The club donated door prizes for the Foundation's Golf Tournament and assisted the Creeds Club with participating in the Virginia Agricultural Expo. The club also donated to Project Backpack to help students in need as they headed back to school. During their sixth pop-up food giveaway, club members handed out 44 bags (750 lbs)



of food. The club hosted a bingo event for residents of a Manassas rehab and nursing facility and sponsored a blood drive that brought almost 40 donations to the American Red Cross. Club members continued their long-standing project of operating a local high school's busy

concession stand during the Homecoming and Senior Night football games. Additionally, members assisted the Patriot High School Ruri-Teen Club in assembling 400 of the 1,000 luminaries needed for Bristoe Station Battlefield's 160th Anniversary Commemoration event.



SHAWQUON COOKS UP A FALL FAVORITE



Shawquon spent four days in September to make their apple butter fundraiser a success. Working from before dawn until late at night, club members cooked 140 bushels of apples and made 1020 pints of apple butter.

Club President Gary Bunch presented Marshall Shiley with a Ruritan

Forever. Marshall has been a member since April 2006. Since joining, he has participated in several club activities, such as making apple butter, hosting car shows, and reenactments.



SUMERDUCK REMEMBERS AND HONORS



Sumerduck club member Chris Lyons created a remembrance garden for their September 11 remembrance service. The garden is shaped like the Pentagon to honor those lost in Washington, DC. There are three red roses to honor the three branches of first responders – law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services. There are two white roses to honor loved ones lost in the World Trade Center towers, and one white rose for those lost on Flight 93 and at the Pentagon. There are five yellow roses to honor each branch of the United States Military - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, who bravely defend

our Country. The garden was finished with river rock to honor each American lost that will not be forgotten.

Club member Darlene Constant was presented with a Tom Downing Fellow in recognition of her service to Ruritan and her community. The club also participated in their community's Fall Festival and held a raffle for a half-hog. Jay Pinsky (pictured) was the winner.



News From Ruritan: **RAPPAHANNOCK** District

The club recently set up a community food box. They also held a Christmas wood craft night. The club welcomed new member Brenda Hisghman and presented their 2023 scholarship to Lilly Verrill. Lilly works in the local police department and plans to pursue a career in bullet forensics.



SOUTH WARREN AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

South Warren recently held their annual family picnic and awards ceremony. They presented their 2023 scholarships of \$1,500 each to graduates of Skyline High School and Warren County High School. Pictured (l-r) are Ginger Gouda, Club President Rick Logan, Liam Neuhard, and Amber Saffer.



BURKEVILLE CELEBRATES SERVICE

Burkeville recently honored three of its longest-standing members. Pictured (l-r) are John Jenkins - 51 years, Joe Morrisette - 54 years, and Irving Arnold - 51 years. The club also celebrated their 85th anniversary, having chartered on October 28, 1938.



CARTERSVILLE SUPPORTS SCHOOLS

Cartersville reached out to Cumberland High School to find out how they could best help the students. The club donated much-needed sports equipment. The club also donated classroom supplies for students at Cumberland Elementary and Cumberland Middle Schools.



DINWIDDIE ENRICHED THROUGH THE AGES

Three generations of Ruritans are serving the same community, and the **Dinwiddie** club is better because of it. Willard Walker was the first to join the club over 17 years ago. He has never hesitated to jump in and help and has never shied away from work. His grandson, Cole Walker, during his younger school days, could be found helping at club functions, doing whatever was needed and jumping in to help. Cole became a youth member in 2017. Cole was elected to Vice President in 2021, moved up to serve as the current Club President, and was recently appointed Zone 1 Governor of the Appomattox District. After many years of volunteering at club events, Cole's father, Charlie Walker, finally joined the club in 2022. Pictured, Willard (left) recently gifted Ruritan Forever memberships to both Charlie (center) and Cole (right).



FOREST HILL GROWS



Forest Hill Club President Max Nolder (left) welcomed new club members Brett Coffey (left) and Donald Brooks (right).



LYNCH STATION WRAPS UP NITE OUT

Lynch Station participated with the Altavista Police Department for the Town of Altavista's annual National Night Out. Club members prepared and wrapped approximately 1,800 hotdogs and 160 slices of pizza.



NEW LONDON HOSTS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



New London recently hosted their scholarship award recipients. Pictured (l-r) are Jennifer Twark, Madison Muncher, Madison Martin, and Mya Martin. Each received \$500. Additional recipient Emma Dalton was not present.

News From Ruritan: **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA District**

ATKINS SHARES WARMTH AND GOOD WISHES



Atkins Club Director Jennifer Hatley presented the Mountain Laurel Nursing Home with shawls she made for the residents. Club member Aleasia Tibbs was recently recognized and congratulated for receiving her associate degree from Bryant and Stratton College.

Club President Jerry Umbarger was selected as Ruritan of the Year at the Southwest District Convention and Club Director Lester Owens was sworn in as District Governor.



News From Ruritan: **NATURAL BRIDGE District**

BONSACK/BLUE RIDGE AREA AWARDS RADER SCHOLARSHIP

Bonsack Blue Ridge recently awarded Nathan Bagely as the first Jim and Lou Rader Scholarship recipient. Nathan is a recent Lord Botetourt High School graduate and will attend Virginia Western Community College to study business. He is also an active member of FFA and has helped cook chicken for the club's BBQ. Nathan is an Eagle Scout and has completed a project at the D-Day Memorial with his Scout troop. Along with school, Nathan is also working to earn a journeyman electrical degree. Pictured, Lou Rader presents Nathan with the scholarship.



CLUBS CONTINUE DELICIOUS TRADITION

Churchville and **McGaheysville** members worked together at the Rockingham County Fair to dish out funnel cakes and fried Oreos. This is the fifth year the clubs have partnered on this project.



CLUBS TEAM UP FOR AWARENESS

Middlebrook (left) and **Churchville** (right) joined Ruby Bear and local first responders for a visit to Ware Elementary School in Staunton for Attendance Awareness Month.



WEYERS CAVE SUPPORTS COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

On September 1st, **Weyers Cave** club members were up before dawn to start grilling chicken halves. Profits from chicken sales are used to benefit the community. During the past year, donations were made to Weyers Cave Fire Department, New Hope Fire Department, Grottoes Rescue Squad, Verona Community Food Pantry, Augusta County Fair, 4H - FFA Market Animal Show, WRE: Weekly Religious Education, Backpack Pals, Hunters for the Hungry, FDHS FCCLA, FDHS After Prom Party, FDHS Cross Country Team, Dictionary Project, Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy, Wounded Warrior Project, The USO, and Young Life Ministries.

The club recently hosted the annual meeting of the Augusta County Farm Bureau at the Weyers Cave Community Center. Past President Janet Houff welcomed the crowd of approximately 200. The meal was prepared and served by the club members.



BRIDGEWATER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Bridgewater hosted guest speakers FFA Advisor Don Rhodes and Rockingham Academy Principal Lea Dean. Rockingham Academy is an alternative education facility for classes 7-12 and ISEP/GED. They work with high-need and high-risk students and offer work-based learning for credit. They currently have 54 students and 15 staff. They have also set up a food pantry to ensure their students have proper nutrition.



The club welcomed new members Munish Agarwal and former Ruri-Teen of the Year, Megan Meyerhoffer. They were installed by Zone 2 Lt. Governor Hannah Smith. Zone 2 Governor Rick Keyton was on hand to install new member Tom Snook.

The club has also finalized plans to operate the “Fry Shack” at the annual Rockingham County Fair.



FORT VALLEY FEEDS THE FAIR



Fort Valley operated a concession booth during the Shenandoah County Fair, their primary fundraising event. Approximately 20 club members assisted with food sales each day of the fair. Pictured (l-r) are Sandy Burner-Cave, Connie Crim, Larry Cave, Rose Moss, Terry Plauger, Lloyd Moss, and Sonny Tamkin.

The club recently welcomed new members Eugene Bulatko, Erika Sudz, Lynette Bukouski, and Nancy Watters (right).

The club also helped with the fire department's bingo fundraiser and participated in the Community Museum's craft festival.



News From Ruritan: **ROCKINGHAM** District

MAUR-BROOK-OLIVE HELPS OUT

Members of **Maur-Brook-Olive** helped at the Tom's Brook Volunteer Fire Department's Bingo Bash.



CLUBS TAKE AWARENESS IN STRIDE



Zone 5 clubs, **Luray**, **Newport-Grove Hill**, and **Rileyville**, recently sponsored their 2nd Annual Walk for Mental Health. Virginia Speaker of the House of Delegates Todd Gilbert addressed the 100+ attendees. Over \$5,000 was raised for Mental Health Awareness.

News From Ruritan: **POTOMAC** District

JEFFERSON HONORS WITH TOM DOWNING

Jefferson MD club member Juan Stull was honored with a Tom Downing Fellowship Award, recognizing his service and dedication to the club and community. Juan has served as the Scholarship Committee chair for over 30 years. The plaque and pin were presented by Club President Chiz Summers. Members of Juan's entire family were in attendance for the presentation.



KEEDYSVILLE, MT. PLEASANT, ST. THOMAS AREA HOST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Keedysville held their annual picnic and hosted their scholarship winners. Due to an exceptional year of fundraising, the club increased their scholarship amounts by 50 percent. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Anika Mendiola, Morgan Shuckman, Ryan Lord, Anna-Katherine Davis, and Camryn Row. Anika attends Penn State and is studying mechanical engineering; Morgan is in pre-law at Washington & Lee; Ryan is pursuing aerospace engineering at the University of Maryland; Anna-Katherine is studying neuroscience at Westminster College; and Camryn is at Shepherd University to pursue a nursing degree.

Mt. Pleasant recently hosted students and their families for a celebration dinner and program. Pictured (l-r) are scholarship recipients Lindsey Green, Sydney Deck, Natalie Hafler, and Kendra Crigger. Recipient Martin Ratchford was unable to attend. Lindsey attends Towson University and is working toward a degree in Elementary Education. Sydney will attend the Florida Institute of Technology to study Astrobiology. Natalie will attend the University of North Carolina and enter the field of health sciences. Kendra will attend Frederick Community College to pursue a degree in the medical field. Martin continues to work towards a degree in Computer Science at Elizabethtown College. The club raises money for scholarships through an annual golf tournament held in June of each year.



St. Thomas Area Scholarship Chair Shellie Vierz presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Shawn Blackett. Shawn will be attending Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. Club President Cindy Robinson Crouse presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Selena Gelwicks. Selina will be attending Wilson College in Chambersburg.



News From Ruritan: **POTOMAC District**

LEWISTOWN GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

Lewistown members volunteered to do several projects for the Lewistown Elementary School. The projects included painting the curb in front of the school with yellow paint, replacing the boards on four picnic tables, and replacing the boards on a bench so it is usable. Pictured (l-r) are Jim Brown, Steve Moser, Frank Warner, Ben Tilley, Jeff Barber, Greg Warner and Patricia Goff.



The club held their chicken barbeque in September. Customers were also treated to sweet corn that club member Sam Roop brought from his farm. Pictured (l-r) are Susan and Rick Baseley, Noreen Nowaczyk, and Sam.



News From Ruritan: **ALBEMARLE District**

SHAWBORO CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS

Shawboro awarded five scholarships for 2023. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Emma Morgan, Kya O'Brian, Haley Dozier, Morgan Harris, and Arnold Haislip III.

The club recently celebrated its 75th Anniversary. National Director Ron Reid and National President-



Elect Robin Davenport (pictured with Club President Sue Lankford) congratulated the club for their many years of service to their community. Past National Presidents Frank Guthrie and his wife, and Phyllis Lewter also joined in the celebration.



DISTRICT'S **PROJECT PATRIOT** SURPASSES \$50,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS



Albemarle District Ruritan clubs are working together to make a difference for veterans in their communities. Project Patriot is made up of individuals representing Ruritan clubs in a five-county area of the Albemarle District. Founded in 2010 by Pasquotank member Charles Meads, Project Patriot has helped veterans with vehicle repairs, utility and medical bills, rental deposits, and temporary housing. They have helped the DAV with Christmas gifts to vets in nursing homes and a DAV trip to DC. They have helped to provide deer hunts for veterans' children, fishing trips for vets, and donated money for a new bus for the VFW Honor

Guard that travels and attends veterans' funerals. Project Patriot has been contacted by the Albemarle Area United Way and the local North Carolina Veterans Affairs Office when there is an immediate need that they cannot handle. Recently, they have been working with a local church's Handyman ministry by helping to purchase materials for ramps, which are built by the ministry at no charge to the veteran.

In July 2023, Project Patriot celebrated surpassing \$50,000 in contributions from participating Albemarle District Clubs. On hand for the festivities were 2023 National President-Elect Robin Davenport, and Past National Presidents Danny Privott and Phyllis Lewter.



BEAR GRASS CONTINUES COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Woodmen Life Representative and **Bear Grass** member Ashley Futrell recently presented a check to the club that will allow the club to continue helping their community with future projects such as scholarships and handicap ramps.



The club recently recognised their 2023 scholarship recipients. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Ashley Futrell, with recipients James Holiday, Macy Bowen, and Noah Hassell-Abel.



COMO AND EVERETTS PRESENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Como recently presented their scholarships for 2023. Pictured (l-r) are Club Vice President Lorie Higbee with Hunter Byrum and Haley Lassiter.



Everetts Club President Nancy Hardison presented their 2023 scholarship to Maddie Lewis. Maddie is now attending East Carolina University. Pictured with Maddie are her father Jason Lewis and her grandparents, Alvin and Lynn Lewis, who are club Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Also pictured are club members Wayne Coletrain, Frank Harrison, Henrietta Seagroves, Club Vice President Kenneth Baker, and Tim Moore.

News From Ruritan: ROANOKE District

MID-COUNTY CELEBRATES 50TH

Mid-County recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Roanoke District Governor Ashley Futrell presented Club President Kennedy Zira with their 50-year certificate.



ROBERSONVILLE BUILDS ABILITY

Robersonville recently helped a local resident by installing a ramp at their home.



News From Ruritan: ROCKY MT - DURHAM District

OAK LEVEL HOLDS BBQ FUNDRAISER



Oak Level held their annual barbeque fundraiser in October. Local Nash Central High School honor students (pictured), along with their counselors, Heather Thompson and Christie Sondergard, were on hand to help out. A raffle for cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 was held.



News From Ruritan: **ROCKY MT - DURHAM District**

WEST MOUNT DONATES TO HELP KIDS

West Mount Club Secretary Wayne Outlaw recently presented donations to Amanda Jankowski for the Nash County Foster Care Program and to Rick Tomlinson for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program.



News From Ruritan: **GREENVILLE-GOLDSBORO District**

PINETOWN SUPPORTS SCHOOLS

Pinetown donated school supplies to Bath Elementary School and Northeast Elementary School for the 2023- 2024 school year. Club member Barbara Midyette delivered the supplies.



ANDERSON CREEK AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Anderson Creek members Johnny Taylor and Anslee Yeary share a picture of Rudy Bear. Johnny is the oldest member, and Anslee is the youngest volunteer. The club also served lunch at their 43rd Annual Golf Tournament. Proceeds helped fund scholarships.

The club awarded seven scholarships for 2023. Pictured are recipients Della Perry, Josie Perry, and Anne Flowers with Club Vice President Chris Puckett.



**Make Plans to Join Us
for the
2024 Ruritan National Convention
Winston-Salem NC
January 11-13**

JOHNSONVILLE KEEPS BUSY

Johnsonville Social Development Committee filled Fourth of July treat bags for the patients at the local dialysis center. They also welcomed new members Ashley Holmes and Wade Tilgman.



Club President Karen Cox, Community Engagement Chair Mike Lancaster, and Club Secretary Louise Taylor accepted a grant for \$1,670 from the Central Electric Member Care Trust. Voluntary donations from Central Electric members power



the grant funds and will be used to continue updating the Johnsonville Veterans Memorial. Club members Rodger Nicely and Mike Lancaster, with the help of the Spout Springs Emergency Services pump truck, power-washed the memorial.

The club hosted guest speaker Cindy Atkins, an avid genealogist and cemetery preservationist, who talked about uncovering forgotten cemeteries, repairing headstones, and the proper and safe way to restore stones to keep them strong and beautiful.



News From Ruritan: **SPARTAN District**

AUGUSTA ROAD OFFERS HOPE

Augusta Road recently hosted guest speaker Gwen Rush. Gwen shared information about a halfway house that is being built in Peru to help children who have aged out of the children's home system. Club President David Pietras presented Gwen with a donation to help support their efforts to protect and prepare these young people for a successful transition to adulthood.



Club Vice President Starr Lynn Birx was recognized for her efforts in recruiting new members and was presented with her Gold Key 25-member bar.



News From Ruritan: **COLUMBIA District**

GILBERT DEDICATES GARDEN

Gilbert held the dedication of their Ruritan Memorial Garden at the Gilbert Community Center. Many relatives and friends of deceased members were present for the occasion. The club hosted a meal following the dedication. Guests included District Lieutenant Governor Ginger Hardee, her husband Gary, and Zone Governor Ross Snell.



Citizenship Committee member Nancy Harmon presented a check to District Student Council Governor Anna Watts and Gilbert High School Student Council Advisor Jamie Powell to help with expenses associated with the upcoming annual Student Government Fall ally. GHS will be hosting the event. The club also donated to Centerville Elementary to help fund student activities, learning clubs, and a CES

t-shirt for every child in the school (over 800 children). Pictured is PTO President Megan Jaco.



SANDY RUN SUPPORTS EDUCATION

Sandy Run met in August to honor two more scholarship winners, Caroline Elizabeth Easterlin and Alexandria Sabrina Ancik. Caroline graduated from Gray Collegiate Academy and will attend Columbia College. Alexandria also graduated from Gray Collegiate Academy and will attend Winthrop University. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Jill Crim, Caroline Easterlin, Alexandria Ancik, and Scholarship Coordinator and Social Development Chair Teresa Helms.



The club welcomed new members Debra and Ed Harmon. They were presented with a beautiful bluebird box made by Gerald Starnes. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Jill Crim, Debra Harmon, Ed Harmon, Gerald Starnes, and Kay James.



The club delivered their annual donations of school supplies for students at Sandy Run School and Foundation Christian School. The club also presented \$75.00 checks to three special education teachers to help them buy materials for their classrooms. Pictured with Club President Crim are Special Education teachers Akbar, Chelamala, and Vennapusa, and Social Development Chair Teresa Helms. Environmental Committee Chair Becky Starnes also presented Principal Dinkins with a check to buy a bed to plant vegetables and flowers so students can learn about gardening.

The



The club also recently welcomed new member Floyd Dinkins III. Floyd is the Sandy Run K-8 School principal. Continuing the club's long-standing tradition, Gerald Starnes presented Floyd with the 61st Bluebird house. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Jill Crim, Floyd Dinkins, Gerald Starnes, and Vice President Sheila Shanklin.



News From Ruritan: UPPER WEST VIRGINIA District

CLUBS HONOR MEMBERS WITH RURITAN FOREVER

Bean Settlement honored 13 club members with Ruritan Forever. Pictured (l-r) (back) are Dennis Funk, John Strawderman, Merrill May, Dave Workman,



Matthew Crider, (front) Tammy May, Rodney Crider, and Pam Lupton. Also pictured are Emily Funk, Connie Miller, and Alicia Crites. Not Pictured, Steven Funk and Courtney Funk.



Capon Valley recently honored four members with Ruritan Forever memberships. The members were recognized for their significant contributions to the club and the community. Pictured (l-r) are Club Secretary Lorrie Krautwurst, recipients Woody Anderson, Harry Spaid, Annie Jewel, Tom Pugh, and Club President Kevin Davis.



News From Ruritan: LOWER WEST VIRGINIA District

MAXWELTON CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maxwelton awards a member each year for their help with the ice cream concession stand at the West Virginia State Fair. The club chose Kenny Vance (right) to receive the "Golden Scoop" award this year. Kenny was honored and recognized for his service and dedication to the concession stand, showing up almost every morning before 8:00 am and staying late when necessary.

The club recently celebrated their 70th anniversary. On hand for the celebration were Ruritan National President-Elect Robin Davenport, Ruritan National Foundation Trustee Guy Cox, and wife Linda, Past National President Jerome Rodes and wife Marsha, Lower WV District Governor Patty Hamilton, Lt. District Governor Blaine Cecil, and wife Debbie, and District Treasurer Shirley Mutter. District Governor Patty Hamilton presented a Certificate of Recognition from WV Governor



News From Ruritan: LOWER WEST VIRGINIA District

(Maxwelton Cont.)

Jim Justice, and President-Elect Davenport presented the club with a certificate from Ruritan National in honor of their anniversary.

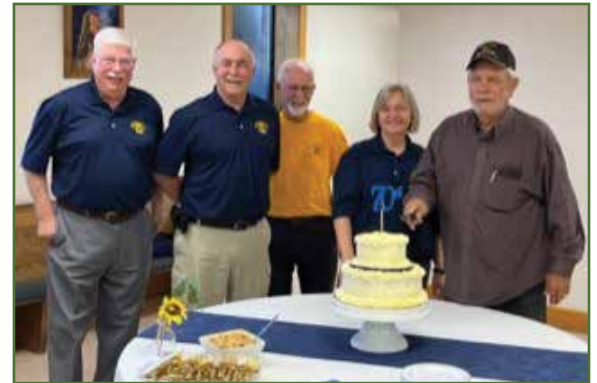


Club President Larry Bowman spoke about the club's activities in the community, such as our Adopt a Highway program, scholarships, and purchasing fire hydrants for the area.

Lee Godbey gave a brief club history, and Tom Vance told how the Gold Scoop Award got its name. Gary Cochran explained how members purchased a trailer in the late 1970's to set up and

sell ice cream at the West Virginia State Fair. The club continues this fundraiser each August, providing funds for scholarships and other donations. During their 70 years, the club has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships and has seen students return as doctors, nurses, teachers, and pharmacists. The club has had members who served as Zone Governors, District Governors, a National Director, and a National Ruritan of the Year.

The longest-serving members had the honor of cutting the cake. Pictured (l-r) are Lee Godbey (1989), Larry Bowman (1995), Tom Vance (1993), Debbie Bowman (1998), and Gary Cochran (1979).



News From Ruritan: TENNESSEAN District

SOUTH HOLSTON SERVES WITH SNACKS

South Holston members volunteer weekly at Bristol Regional Medical Center. They recently delivered 200 snack bags donated by the club. The bags are for patient's family members who end up at the hospital because of an emergency or who are waiting for surgical results.



ST. CLAIR DELIVERS SMILES

St. Clair TN recently delivered items to Signature Health Nursing Home in Rogersville and snacks to a local veterans' center. Pictured are Bert Simpson, Mary Simpson, Jackie Walker, and Connie Reeves. Members also presented Rudy Bears to the Hawkins County Sheriff's Office and Rogersville Police Chief. The club took time out from their activities to pose with Flat Rudy.



VOLUNTEER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Volunteer awarded their 2023 scholarship to club member Elizabeth Greene. Pictured with Elizabeth is Club Vice President Don Carter.



BRYANT PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP



Bryant presented Rylee Reyes with their Educational Scholarship for 2023. Rylee will be attending Northeast Alabama Community College. Pictured (l-r) are Sharon Norris, Rylee, Club President Bill Wheeler, and Club Secretary Beverly Gilmer.

KASH HELPS CHILDREN FEEL SPECIAL

Kash member Bill Wheeler delivers crocheted caps and lap blankets to Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville. The caps and lap blankets are one of the club's community service projects. A special thank you to Nancy Allen and her crew of "crochet commandos" for continuing their efforts to provide comfort to the juvenile patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children in over six states. The ladies work tirelessly to ensure every child receives a cap and lap blanket. Since taking on the project, they have completed and delivered over 5,000 caps and blankets. During the Christmas season, they provide doll-sized items as well so the children and their dolls can match.



MODEL HOSTS SCHOLARSHIP SUPPER

Model recently held their annual steak supper and invited the 2023 scholarship recipients. Pictured (l-r) Club President Steve Sluder with Cooper Heard, Estrella Flores, and Jace Armstrong.



News From Ruritan: **HERMITAGE District**

BROWNS PARTICIPATES IN EPIC EVENT

Browns recently participated in the 2023 Hwy 70 Yard Sale. The yard sale is one of the longest in the country, covering over 200 miles from Memphis to Nashville, TN. Club members worked for days collecting, organizing, and pricing sale items.

The sale ran for three days, and members rotated in and out to serve as salespeople. All unsold items

were later donated to local charities. Proceeds from the yard sale were used to fund three college scholarships.



News From Ruritan: **OHIO District**

KNOX PULLS THEIR WEIGHT



Knox club members assisted Carnation Festival President and competitor Staci Gurney with the pedal tractor pull, one of the many events during the annual Carnation Festival in Alliance, Ohio. Pictured with Staci are Dennis Cameron, Ron Bandy, and Bill Blair.

GUILFORD LAKE AWARDS BY\$

Guilford Lake awarded their Build Your Dollars scholarship to Cheyenne Hickman. Cheyenne will be attending nursing school.



DALE ELMER BRICKER, SR.

Dale Elmer Bricker Sr., 90, died peacefully on Thursday, August 17, 2023. Dale was a kind soul who devoted himself to his Family, Community, and Profession. Born on July 1, 1933, in East Palestine, Ohio, he was the youngest child of the late Elmer and Pauline (Mackall) Bricker. After graduating high school, Dale attended Ohio State University and earned a degree in accounting. Dale then served our country in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1957. Much of his time in the Army was spent in Utah, where he used his accounting degree to help civilians and fellow soldiers. One of Dale's favorite pastimes was bowling. He also developed his rifleman skills and became a skilled marksman. After the Army, Dale returned to Ohio State University to attend the Moritz College of Law. Dale earned his Juris Doctor degree and embarked on a long and prosperous career as an attorney.



Dale's first position out of law school was with the Edward J. DeBartolo Corporation. Dale stayed with this organization from 1960 to 1995. During this career, he assisted Edward DeBartolo in developing shopping centers and malls locally and around the country. Dale was kind but also tenacious and greatly understood the law. As a corporate lawyer, he practiced in the areas of landlord/tenant law, contract law, accounting, licensing, and regulatory matters. From 1996 to the end of his career, Dale went into private practice. Dale was a member of the Ohio State Bar Association and the Mahoning County Bar Association.

Dale was equally active in the community. He was a Canfield United Methodist Church member, serving as a Certified Lay Speaker and volunteering for several committees. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and a Canfield Ruritan Club member, rising to the rank of National Treasurer. He maintained an active role in the local Republican Party, sharing this civic duty with his adoring wife, Donna. During the Canfield Fair, it was a guarantee you would find Dale and Donna volunteering for an organization such as the Ruritans or stationed at the Republican tent. Dale loved his family. He had many children and many more grandchildren. He was at every high school football game and every school function. He would visit if you lived out of town and help if you were in need. He loved his dog, Sergeant, and spoiled him with vanilla ice cream. He was a devoted sports fan and enjoyed watching the Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Indians. He could still recall the names of every player in the starting lineup from the 1948 World Series-winning Cleveland Indians.

Dale leaves behind his loving wife, Donna (Osorio) Bricker, whom he married November 21, 1979; his children, David Bricker, Blaine Bricker, Scott (Tonya) Bricker, and Dale (Angela) Bricker; as well as his stepchildren, Dr. Elizabeth Kiraly (Dr. John Hamilton), Dr. Deborah (Kiraly) Sano, Joseph Kiraly and Carolyn (Steve) Kavalec; his grandchildren, Travis, Meadow, Jacob, Alex, Vivian, Lillian, Marley, Leila, Sophie, Joshua and Caleb; his great-grandchildren Austin, Avery and Easton; in-law, Sarah "Sally" (Lee) Bricker; and his cherished nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Wayne and Leland "Lee" Bricker, and his son, John Bricker.

News From Ruritan: **OHIO District**

LAKER SUPPORTS LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Laker gave \$ 5,000 to the Andover Police Department to help with the purchase and training of a K-9 police dog. Pictured, Club Vice President Roy Dotterweich presented the check to Lisa Gentry, head of the Andover Police Auxiliary, who accepted it on behalf of the department. Also pictured are Linda and Roy Dotterweich with Officer Robert Johnson and the new K-9.



WEST BRANCH AREA LADIES HONORS NEW BEGINNINGS

West Branch Area Ladies awarded their 2023 scholarship to Ally Zion. Ally is attending Youngstown State University.



The club hosted a “baby shower” in August. All items collected were donated to the Alliance Pregnancy Center.



News From Ruritan: **WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA District**

GAMEWELL WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Gamewell Club President Marvin Eller Jr. recently welcomed new member Cynthia Hicks. She has been an asset to the club and has stepped in to help with fundraisers.

The club recently hosted their annual scholarship buffet breakfast. They awarded seven scholarships for 2023.



CEDAR VALLEY GROWS



Cedar Valley recently welcomed new member Marsha Tabilio (pictured with Club President Janet Anderson).

The club also awarded their 2023 scholarship to Heather Minor (pictured center with Janet and Club Treasurer Kay Driver).



COLLETTSVILLE HOSTS COUNTRY FAIR

Collettsville announced their scholarship winners for 2023. Recipients were Gracie Richards, Bryson Edmisten, and Justin Payne. Pictured are Bryson and Gracie with Club President Reuben Chandler. The club has been providing scholarships for 40 years, totaling over \$76,000.



The Club also sponsored a Country Fair for their community. Families enjoyed hot dogs, snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy. The Fair had live entertainment and games for children, such as bucket ball and corn hole. Free school supplies were also available. Local organizations sponsored the tented activities and club members worked to make it a successful event.

HAPPY VALLEY FEEDS EDUCATION

Happy Valley Club President Sharon Wilson presented their 2023 Build Your Dollars Scholarship to Kiley Poarch.



The club also hosted teachers and staff from Happy Valley School for their annual breakfast, and welcomed new members Danny Starnes and Brock Gates.



RICHARD ALLEN KEENER

June 22, 1938 - September 20, 2023

Richard Allen Keener, age 85, of Lenoir passed away Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at Shaire Center. He was born June 22, 1938 in Lincoln County to the late Gaither McDonald Keener, Sr. and Ora Marie Bost Keener. In addition to his parents he is preceded in death by his wife, Helen Bolick Keener; and one brother, Dr. Philip M. Keener.



Richard was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard in which he served 10 years. He was a faithful member of Center Grove Baptist Church which he attended for over 55 years, and he was baptized at 12 years old at North Newton Baptist Church. Richard was a very active member of his community, he served 54 years with the Cedar Valley Ruritan Club, in that time he was a member of the National Director Board and was President of Ruritan Foundation for three years. He was a member of the American Legion Post 29, served as Post Commander as well as Treasure of the Baseball Committee. Richard enjoyed birthday parties and was a huge Elvis Presley fan. When he was no longer able to live alone he moved to Shaire Center, during his time there he enjoyed getting to know staff and residents. He was dearly loved and will be missed by many.

Those left to cherish his memory include one son, Keith Allen Keener and wife Susan of Hudson; one daughter, Regina Rae Keener of Thomasville; two brothers, Gaither M. Keener, Jr. and wife Beverly of Waxhaw, and John H. Keener and wife Carolee of Linville; one sister, Susan Griffin and husband Michael of Winston-Salem; one sister-in-law, Mary B. Keener of North Wilkesboro; one granddaughter, Holli Ann Keener of Hudson; numerous nieces and nephews; and a host of extended family.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Cedar Valley Ruritan Club, 4150 Ruritan Club Rd, Hudson, NC 28638; or American Legion Post 29, Baseball Fund, 401 N Main St, Lenoir, NC 28645.



PUNGOTEAGUE HONORS SERVICE AND DEDICATION



Pungoteague recently honored club member Herman Hohlt, recognizing his 50 consecutive years of perfect attendance as well as his service to the club. Herman served over 40 years as the club secretary, a short term as treasurer, and one year as club president. He has also been active in the DelMarVA district Cabinet as a Zone Governor and District Governor in 2005, visiting all 43 clubs in Delmarva that year. He is pictured with his wife of 49 years, Laurice. She was a loyal supporter of his Ruritan service and worked with him on various fundraising projects for the club. They attended several Ruritan National conventions following his retirement in 2000 from the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center, where he headed the commercial vegetable crop division.

ROCKAWALKIN CLEANS UP LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Rockawalkin recently organized a service project for local law enforcement. The club advertised free car washes for patrol vehicles at the Maryland State Police - Salisbury Barrack. The car wash was open to all law enforcement agencies in the area, including the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Salisbury City Police Department, Delmar Police Department, and the Fruitland Police Department. Along with their clean cars, police officers were given goodie bags full of snacks, water bottles, and gift cards from local businesses.



News From Ruritan: DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY District

REHOBETH WON'T CHICKEN OUT

Tropical Storm Ophelia couldn't stop the **Rehobeth** club from holding their monthly chicken barbeque. Despite the wind, rain, and water, club members showed up and cooked approximately 500 half-chickens, which sold out within two hours.



News From Ruritan: PIEDMONT District

COPELAND CELEBRATES 60

Copeland recently celebrated 60 successful years of community service!



ROCK HOUSE HONORS CHARTER MEMBER



Rock House member Don Bennett, the only remaining charter member, was presented the Tom Downing Award by Past National Foundation President Jayson Duncan. Don became treasurer when the club was formed in 1994 and has served in that position ever since.

FRANCISCO SHARES BUSY SEASON



Francisco recently hosted a blood drive and food drive. They collected 25 units of blood and 377 pounds of food.

Club members Jim Collins and David Parker were recognized for their 50+ years of service to Ruritan and their community.



In September, club members turned out for a roadside clean-up. They filled 14 33-gallon trash bags from a two-mile area around the Francisco Community Building.



The club also participated in the Francisco FarmFest 2023. They shared with attendees about Ruritan's mission, membership, and community service.



PILOT SUPPORTS FOOD PANTRY

Pilot hosted a fundraiser in August to benefit the Pilot Mountain Outreach Food Pantry. They received food items and monetary donations. Pictured (l-r) are (back) Donna Sutphin, Owen Fulk, Roger Hildebrand, Wanda Fulk, (front) Becky White, and Sharon Hildebrand.



News From Ruritan: **PIEDMONT District**

SANDY RIDGE GETS COOKIN'

Sandy Ridge (NC) and the Northeast Stokes Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department hosted the 16th annual "Ridge Fest" at the Fire Department. Local businesses sponsored the event. Local stew master David Manuel cooked a delicious Brunswick stew, which was free for attendees, along with cookies and drinks. Numerous vendors enjoyed showing and selling their wares. Eddie Carter provided musical entertainment.



The club held a donation-only breakfast fundraiser and Boston Butt sale. Club members, family, and friends assisted with the cooking.



News From Ruritan: **DAN RIVER District**

HURT-MOTLEY DONATES TO FOOD BANKS

Hurt-Motley made donations to local food banks. Latta Terry from Dawn in Altavista (2nd from left) and Dee Dee Smoot from the Northern Pittsylvania County Food Bank (2nd from right) were on hand to accept the donations.



DRY FORK SHARES WARM WISHES



Dry Fork hosted a community coat giveaway. Ruritan members and others from the community donated their gently used coats. The giveaway was open to the community for anyone who needed a coat. All leftover coats were put into storage for next year's giveaway. Pictured (l-r) are club members (front row) Carla Kearin, Joyce Crane, Marcella Heldreth, Alice Mullins, and Rose Mary Meadows, (back row) Robert Kearin, Butch Meadows, and Emilee Hudson.

ARARAT PROVIDES EDUCATION AND SUPPORT



Ararat presented three scholarships in August. Recipients were Irene Smith, who will attend East Tennessee State University; Chloe Wright, who will attend Radford University; and Macy Hall, who will attend Virginia Tech. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Committee member Ray Smith, recipients Irene Smith and Chloe Wright, and Scholarship Committee member Kevin Smith. Also pictured are Club Vice President Tom Perriello and recipient Macy Hall.



The club hosted a "Meet the Candidates" night for the community to hear from the candidates running for local offices. The club also held its most successful Blood Drive, collecting 23 units.

The club made a \$250 donation to the Patrick County Bookmobile and held a nutrition workshop on "helpful herbs" with certified nutritionist and Ararat Ruritan member Kathleen Loveland. Pictured, Jo Slate presents a donation to Patrick

County Book Mobile Coordinator Gayle Wagoner.

The club was the first to be awarded a grant from **Project FOCUS**. The funds were used to rebuild a bridge washed out during a flood.



MT. LAUREL HOSTS SERVICE

Mt. Laurel hosted a 9/11 Remembrance service in September. The celebration was held around the flagpole donated by Woodman Life. Club members installed the pole and completed the landscaping and lighting. Members of Woodman Life joined the club for the service.



PATRICK SPRINGS HONORS GUIDANCE

Patrick Springs recently hosted a successful fish fry supper. The funds will help support their community service projects. The club would like to thank Walmart, Norris Funeral Home, and the Red Bank club for their help and support.



The club honored Mrs. Terri Leviner as their 2023 Mother of the Year. Mrs. Leviner is the mother of four boys. She was presented with a plaque and flowers by Club Secretary Kevin Reynolds.



Zone 1 Governor Pamela Smith was on hand to

present Kenneth Reynolds with the Tom Downing Fellowship Award.

The club also

awarded three scholarships for 2023. Club Secretary and Scholarship Committee Chair Kevin Reynolds presented the scholarships to Jalen Hagwood, Peyton Stovall, and Tyler Stowe-Holt.



News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District

MILL SHOALS CELEBRATES MILESTONE

National Director Jim Zehr, Zone Governor Rita Woods, and District Governor Michele Zehr were on hand to help **Mill Shoals** celebrate their 60th anniversary. Richard Curd was recognized for his 50 years of service to the club and was



presented with a certificate and name badge.

Pictured (l-r) are National Director Jim Zehr, John Reed, Richard Curd, Sherrill Staley, Norma Staley, Ginny French, (back row) Ronnie Johnson, Greg Friend, Jerad Poole, LeeAnn York, H.G. French, and Archie Duckworth.



News From Ruritan: NEW RIVER District

DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW CLUB

Welcome to the **Floyd Community Ruritan Club**, who held their Charter Night on October 17, 2023! Pictured, new Club President Cieara Saunders, her daughter, Christine, and Club Director Jim Best sign the charter.



News From Ruritan: **NEW RIVER District**

MT. TABOR HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

Mt Tabor hosted its first annual open house in September. The club shared information about their fundraising activities, such as making and selling apple butter and hosting fish fries. Visitors could talk with club members and learn how



they could participate. The club also accepted donations for their scholarship program. Brownies, cupcakes, and homemade biscuits with Club-made apple butter

were offered. There was also an opportunity to make a Christmas tree ornament for the annual Christmas display at Kent Square in Blacksburg.



News From Ruritan: **DAVY CROCKETT District**

TELFORD HONORS LOCAL DEPUTY

Telford (TN) club presented their first annual “Deputy of the Year” award in August. K9 Deputy Will Rhodes, pictured with Club President Carl Daniels, is a 25-year veteran of the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, and was chosen by his peers for the award. He was joined by K9 Officer “Mali”. The club enjoys a close relationship with the sheriff’s office and regularly supports their efforts in the community. Club President Daniels and Club Vice President Kayla Bennett also presented Rudy Bears to a representative.



CAMP CREEK SHARES THE MUSIC

Despite the threat of rain, **Camp Creek** hosted the Mason Dixon Boys, Weston Brown, and Ricker's Pickers for a day of bluegrass, gospel, and country music. Barbeque, hot dogs, and soup beans were served at the concession stand. They also held a silent auction for several homemade cakes and pies.



The club recently welcomed four new members. Pictured with Club President George Lewis are Terry and Scott Ballew, and Shelly and Zac Smith.



The club also hosted a free Narcan training event for the community. Brooke Burleson, a certified peer recovery specialist with the Sullivan County Anti-Drug Coalition, conducted the training. Narcan is administered to individuals suffering from a drug overdose. Participants were shown how to administer Narcan and were provided with a free kit at the end of the program.

News From Ruritan: **SMOKY MOUNTAIN District**

GIBBS GROWS!

Gibbs has welcomed three new members. Pictured are Dita and Steven Terry and Jean Ronald.



News From Ruritan: **MIDDLE AMERICA District**

STERLING IS SMOKIN'



Sterling NE hosted their 1st Annual BBQ Cookoff, which had 13 contestants. The cookoff and block party drew about 200 people. Prizes were awarded in each category. Brian Helmsberger of Weeping Water won the pork ribs category; Jon Hazen, left, and Ken Henderson of Sterling were the winners in the port shoulder category; and David Weber of Adams took the honors in the chicken category.

Shelly Nielsen of Tecumseh won a bench made and donated by club member Eric McDonald for the block party raffle. Jake Weyers of Sterling won a rifle in the raffle. Club president Richard Rambo (left) donated the gun.



News From Ruritan: **RAPIDAN District**

CHANCELLOR AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Chancellor awarded four \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Spotsylvania County. The scholarships are awarded to students who have demonstrated expertise in their field of study, service to their schools and communities, and superior academic achievement. The Outstanding FBLA Student Scholarship was awarded to Abe Kassem, who will attend UMW. The Outstanding Spotsylvania Career and Technical Center Student Scholarship was awarded to Jyniece Conway-Layman, who will attend VCU. The Outstanding FFA Student Scholarship was awarded to Copper Meuthing, who will attend JMU, and the Outstanding Academic Achievement Scholarship was awarded to Grace Carryer, who will attend W&M.

Club President Ed Boyd (pictured right) presented \$200.00 to Deputy Figueroa of the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office for their program to assist local families in need.



News From Ruritan: **GULF Area**

Mt. HERMON DOESN'T SKIMP ON THE SHRIMP

Mt Hermon LA hosted their 2nd Annual Shrimp Boil Fundraiser in September. The club rallied together to make this event even bigger than last year. A local grocery store donated many of the supplies. Members enlisted friends and family to help boil 500 pounds of shrimp and assemble and deliver 450 dinner boxes. The event raised nearly \$5,000.



The club also sponsored a booth at the Mount Hermon School Annual Fall Festival. The event serves as a fundraiser to support the clubs and groups at the school.



The club hosted the Mile Branch Express at the Washington Parish Free Fair. Club members drove a golf cart from the front gate to the pioneer settlement at the fairgrounds to help the elderly and handicapped quickly and easily get to and from the event. They also helped with selling raffle tickets and announcing prizes.

Happy 35th Birthday, Rudy!



Happy 35th Birthday, Rudy!



Turning Over A New Leaf

I have a complex relationship with this time of the year. Winter is my least favorite season, and fall - for me - is just a reminder that colder months are on the horizon. As the days grow shorter and the chill sets in, I find myself staying inside, burying myself under warm blankets, and hibernating until the sun returns.

Last week, while I languished in my fall funk, I was contemplating if I should go for a walk. I looked at the upcoming weather forecast, and it was clear this day was one of very few nice days left on the calendar.

But the truth is, I didn't want to go for a walk. I was mentally and physically exhausted. I didn't want to change my clothes and put on different shoes, find my headphones, or fill my water bottle. It had been a full day, and I was craving rest. The last thing I wanted to do was be in motion.

Thankfully, my better self-prevailed in this internal tug-of-war, and I reluctantly headed out the door.

Autumn in the Midwest can be beautiful. Trees that were once a forgettable green turn into an abstract tapestry of yellow, orange, and red. A park, a rural area, or a community with intentional green space can feel like a drive-through art gallery with colors beyond adequate description.

Around mile three of my walk, I ascended a hill and turned a corner. I found myself standing in front of a massive tree that was covered in bright red leaves. I stood there, mesmerized, just taking it all in. It felt like I was experiencing the color red for the first time. I needed to pause and enjoy the view.

As I admired this tree, I couldn't help but notice the contrast with the other neighboring trees. The backdrop was full of trees that were either still a basic green or had shed all their leaves. There was no other tree in sight that was at peace with being in the middle of change.

I continued my walk and thought about some life lessons from my brief stop at nature's art gallery.

First, there are the people who, like a tree that drops its leaves very quickly, rush through change as fast as possible. They perceive change as a negative force and want to get it over with. The in-between stage is skipped as they hurry to the next problem that needs to be solved. While there is a time and place for this approach, you can lose people with this strategy. When people detect that their leader fears change, it impacts the culture of a team in negative ways. Leaders who move too quickly through a season of change may find themselves without a team to lead.



There are also people who, like some trees, refuse to change. They oppose new ideas and approaches, fight against technology, and consistently rely on what has previously worked for them. They are not willing to embrace change, effectively living in the past. As leaders, they may believe they are playing it safe, but, in reality, they are risking it all by holding on to strategies that no longer serve them. Their refusal to change is a rejection of the future. We need more leaders who are willing to adapt to a changing season.

Lastly, there are the individuals who live their lives like the tree I saw. They celebrate change, make it visible, and are unafraid to stand out. They willingly pause and embrace the in-between phases of change. They don't hide their seasons of transformation; they highlight them. Leaders who embrace change and navigate it at a healthy pace earn the trust of their teams.

Fall is an opportunity to stand out among those who refuse to change. The world is full of individuals who stick to their routines and are committed to always doing what they've always done. If we want transformation, it will require leadership that is no longer willing to blend into a landscape of basic green. We need more leaders willing to capture our minds and hearts as we dream in vivid color about the world we could create.

Together, we need to turn over a new leaf, stand out in a season of change, and separate ourselves from those who rush through change or hold on to the old ways of doing things.

Just as trees naturally respond to seasonal shifts, we, too, face changes in life. Some shifts are imminent - will you rush change, refuse to change, or celebrate change?

- Molly Grisham



Benefits of Being a Ruritan

The opportunity to give back to the community when you belong to an organization like Ruritan is fulfilling. As a way to say an extra “thank you” Ruritan National has partnered with several companies who also want to show their appreciation.

Health Benefits for Ruritans

- American Hearing Benefits include:
 - Free annual hearing consultations
 - Free one-year supply of hearing aid batteries
 - One year of free office visits
 - Free Deluxe Warranty Plan
 - 60-day trial period
- VSP Individual Vision Care Insurance
 - Basic plans offer savings of over \$200 on eye exams and glasses, with an additional 20% savings on add-ons (anti-glare coating, sunglasses, etc.)
 - Over 34,000 participating eye care doctors

Travel Discounts and Benefits

Ruritans who are traveling, for personal or business, can take advantage of special discounts for hotels and vehicle rental.

- Special discounts with Collette Tours
- Special discounts at Red Roof Inn, Choice Hotels, and Wyndham Hotel Group

Car Rental Discounts

Members receive a special Ruritan Discount at Hertz Car Rentals, and a complimentary membership in their loyalty program, Hertz Gold Plus Rewards.

Other Discounts and Services

- Affordable pet health coverage through ASPCA Pet Health Insurance
- Special discounts through LTCR (Long-Term Care Resources) on insurance options.
- Special savings at Office Depot and Office Max
- Ruritan-sponsored screenings through Life Line Screening.
- Partnership with SecureVolunteer for background check services.

- Visit Ruritan.org (Member Resources / Benefits) for a complete list and details of discounts and services available to Ruritan members.

