

Message From 2018 National President Guy Cox



Keep Sharing and Caring

As our time draws nigh to the end of this our year, Linda and I want to express our joy of having the opportunity to serve as your President and First Lady for 2018. As we have visited the many clubs and districts this year celebrating your club achievements and an-

iversaries, we have seen and heard first-hand the many different projects that you have as fundraisers to benefit the needs of your communities. They have been successful, resulting in scholarships you awarded to well-deserving students, some through the assistance of the Foundation as well as scholarships being awarded to students by individual Ruritan clubs. You have also shown what Ruritan stands for by doing projects such as wheelchair ramps, planting flowers in the town square, donating money toward individuals who have lost their homes by fire, contributing toward someone with cancer and other medical bills, etc. You **share** because you **care** for others.

First Lady Linda has been very pleased with the response to her "Homeless Student Project." The need for your continued support is great and very much appreciated. Do not forget to call Chris Pugh at the National Office to inform her about the number of hours and funds that your club dedicated toward this project. Linda wants to report on these numbers at the National Convention.

We all know that growth is one of the main concerns every year. Ruritan clubs take in thousands of new members every year but do not retain those

new members. When you bring them in, put them to work in your clubs by assigning and giving them something of importance to do. Assign someone within the club to mentor those individuals. Let them be the "Welcoming Committee" for anyone who is visiting the club. We even have some clubs that have a waiting list of members that they will not install in their club because they have what they consider "enough members at this time". Why not start a new club in that area with these waiting potential club members? Most clubs would love to have those potential members.

There are a number of bylaws issues on the ballot for this convention. It is your responsibility as a delegate to familiarize yourself with the issues and make an informed decision that best serves your club and members. The bylaws changes are listed on pages 7-9.

There are several items that we have asked members to bring to the National Convention. The Rudy Bears are always donated to the ambulance and rescue squads, fire departments, and police officers. I am also asking members to bring the toiletry items from their hotels and motels where they have stayed to be donated to the homeless veterans in the Hampton area. This is another way we can support our veterans.

Until we see you at the National Convention, please have a good last quarter of your Ruritan year and continue to care for those around you. May God bless and keep you and your Ruritan club through another successful year and for many years to come. Keep on **sharing and caring** for those in need around you.

New Clubs

<u>New Club</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Sponsoring Club</u>	<u>DRM</u>
Elkton Middle School Ruri-Teen	9	McGaheysville	Becky Lane
Roaring Round Hill Ruri-Teens	3	Round Hill	Pearl Underwood
Church Hill	22	Telford	Jonathan Lafollette Jim Lafollette

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