

The Value of Ruritan Membership

Benefits and values that individuals and clubs receive for their Ruritan membership

Income Tax Exemption

Each club affiliated with Ruritan National is automatically exempt from paying federal income tax on funds raised or donations received under a blanket exemption issued to Ruritan National. This exemption saves Ruritan Clubs thousands of dollars each year. Each dollar saved in taxes can be used for community service. Many clubs also benefit by exemption from state sales taxes. Without the Ruritan National affiliation, community clubs may have difficulty obtaining tax-exempt status. Ruritan National also provides instructions and guidance for clubs that file information returns with the Internal Revenue Service. Ruritan National maintains and handles all filings concerning the blanket tax-exemption. Ruritan National can also help affiliated clubs that have problems related to the Internal Revenue Service.

Ruritan Liability Insurance & Protection

All clubs in good standing with Ruritan National are covered by general comprehensive legal liability insurance. Such insurance is critical to any group that deals with the public. For example, if a member of the public is injured at a Ruritan-sponsored event covered by this insurance, the club will be protected if a lawsuit arises from the incident. This liability insurance covers lawsuits arising from covered Ruritan sponsored activities, up to \$1 million per occurrence, \$2 million aggregate, plus a \$1 million umbrella.

Ruritan Awards & Recognition Program

Ruritan Clubs and members have the opportunity to earn recognition through national and district awards for outstanding community service. These awards frequently receive not only local but also regional and national publicity. Because Ruritan has a systematic recognition program, individuals and clubs performing outstanding service do not go unnoticed. This recognition adds credibility and distinction to a club's community service efforts.

Ruritan Name and Reputation

Well-known for community service, the Ruritan name is a valuable asset to clubs. Ruritan enjoys a fine reputation among service clubs, other civic organizations, government agencies, and communities in general. Serving America's communities since 1928, the Ruritan name automatically lends credibility to all club activities. Ruritan community service activities usually receive much more support and recognition than projects carried out by an ad hoc group of citizens or a local club that is not affiliated with Ruritan National.

Ruritan National Foundation

Each year the Ruritan National Foundation issues many educational grants to students who wish to further their education beyond high school. The Foundation offers a program that increases a Ruritan club's financial assistance to a student of the club's choice. Using this plan, a club can turn a \$300 scholarship into much more using the Build Your Dollar program. The Ruritan National Foundation also assists victims of local disasters through Operation We Care. Operation We Care provides much needed benefits to disaster victims after the immediate crisis has passed. Also, individuals or clubs can be honored in perpetuity by starting a "named fund" or "special permanent fund" through the Ruritan National Foundation. All donations to Ruritan National Foundation funds and Operation We Care are tax-deductible.

RURITAN magazine

Ruritan magazine publishes the community service accomplishments of Ruritan Clubs and members. All Ruritan members receive this quarterly magazine which features Ruritan Club news, Ruritan activities from across the nation, information about new Ruritan programs, and other items of interest to Ruritan members. The magazine gives members community service ideas, proven fund-raising ideas from other clubs, and highlights the special projects of Ruritan Clubs. The magazine serves as a communications link that provides current information to all Ruritan members. Honorary members do not receive RURITAN magazine or other Ruritan National correspondence.

Networking and New Friends

Ruritan membership provides social as well as service opportunities. Ruritan Clubs are a cross section of the community the club serves. Ruritan membership is a unique way to make business contacts and friends while serving the community. Many Ruritans are community leaders and business leaders who share concerns about the community's future. Sharing concerns with others makes the community a better place for everyone. This scope of friendship broadens at district and national conventions, where Ruritan members meet other members with common values and concerns.

Affiliate Partnerships and Community Service Partners

Ruritan National has a variety of ongoing Affiliate Partnerships that offer discounts and benefits to Ruritan members and clubs. For a current list of these Affiliate Partners, see the Ruritan National website at <http://ruritan.org>. Members who take advantage of even one of the programs can save the cost of their Ruritan National dues and much more. In addition, Ruritan has many Community Service Partners who work with Ruritan clubs every day to extend the impact of a club's service program. Partners such as Hunters for the Hungry, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Boy Scouts of America, and the National D-Day Memorial know first-hand how important their Ruritan connection is. For a current list of these Service Partners, see the Ruritan National website at <http://ruritan.org>.

Educational Materials

Club officers and committee chairs receive free handbooks and other materials to help them perform more efficiently as community leaders. Community Service Guides developed by Ruritan National help local clubs provide services to their communities and also help clubs discover what community services are needed. Club Officers' Handbooks are designed to help officers serve the club and community in the best possible way. Each club receives a packet of material in the fall with a wealth of information designed to help the club and its leaders serve their community.

Volunteer Leadership & Leadership Development

With the exception of a small national staff, all Ruritan officials at the club, district, and national levels are volunteers elected by Ruritan members. An elected National Board of Directors, together with club delegates at annual national conventions, create the policies and programs of Ruritan National. The leadership of Ruritan is chosen by Ruritan Club delegates to serve the needs and interests of Ruritan members and their communities. Ruritan National also provides educational material to help community leaders and conducts free seminars, workshops, conferences, and other training. Through Ruritan's volunteer program, trained leadership is available to assist clubs with any situation.