



# Ruritan

Volume 85, Fall 2020

**Don't GIVE UP!**  
**GIVE BACK!**



# Ruritan

Volume 85, Fall 2020

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## Executive Committee

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# Give

***On the cover: Hollace Oakes (age 9) donated some of her JamStand money to the Snowville Ruritan Feeding Project during COVID-19. See pages 40-41 for more details.***

## 2020 National President Linward Hedgpeth



*We Will Get Through  
This Together -  
Because We Are  
Ruritans!*

### Ruritans Resilience

I hope this letter finds each of you safe and in good health. We are having a once in a lifetime crucial experience, but our faith and hope remain strong. We as Ruritans accept this time of continuous change as an OPPORTUNITY. A time to find new ways to engage our communities. During uncertain times people are looking for hope or a way to help in their neighborhoods. RURITANS have the experience to promote hope, goodwill, and provide services. It is an opportunity to develop not only new relationships, but embrace new ways of communicating, which will help prepare our organization for the future.

We have endured this COVID-19 challenge thus far. And while those working on the front lines and essential workers have been praised for bringing us through the crisis, there have also been unsung heroes, the Ruritans. I could not be prouder of these unsung heroes. Your actions and support have enabled those on the front lines to keep fighting. Your willingness and your courage to take this opportunity to serve your communities even more, exemplifies your Eagle spirit.

Despite the danger this virus presents, Ruritans have learned the benefit of volunteering and are continuing to find ways to pay it forward. When volunteering you are making a commitment to share that most precious of resources -your time- to make life better for those who are in need. Your helping-hand and the kindness you show makes the greatest difference in the lives of the individuals who are touched by your generosity. It does not matter how you choose to volunteer. **Just by being a Ruritan member**, you are supporting the organization and its cause, you do make a difference.

Our staff has been relentless in leading the way, assisting the Ruritan National Board in taking advantage of the unpredictable situation we are facing, meeting nightly with the different committees, managing their staff responsibilities, and keeping our National Office operational.



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The Ruritan Executive Committee has been meeting bi-weekly since March via Microsoft Teams to stay current on the COVID-19 impact and risk. The committee has focused on confronting the challenges to keep the organization functioning while continuing to support the members and communities with least disruption. The National Committees have been working tirelessly, spending countless hours weekly via Microsoft Teams to determine action plans, setting goals, and develop strategies to help prepare the organization for the short term and for the future during these uncertain times.

### The Ruritan Committees

- Budget & Finance
- Leadership
- Bylaws
- Advancement
- Publications
- Youth
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Growth and Development
- Nominating
- Restructuring



Because of the Pandemic we've had to reconsider how we carry out our Board of Directors meeting to minimize the virus exposure to the members. The meeting was held on August 8, 2020. We met via Microsoft Teams and some board members met in person at the home office. We limited the in-person participation so we could comply with the Virginia's social distancing rule and for the safety and well-being of our members.

### PANDEMIC

COVID-19 is still a real threat, let us continue our prayers not only for Ruritans but for our nation that we may soon have a cure. For now, all we can do is protect ourselves and each other. What we know now is that washing your hands, wearing a mask and social distancing is the only weapon we have. So, I pray we all use them to protect each other.

### GONE TO SOON

In remembering the many wonderful dedicated Ruritans that have "gone too soon" in 2020, I offer these verses of comfort for the families and friends, from Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the pure in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted, amen."

We are very enthusiastic for those districts where some clubs are starting to physically meet and have limited activities, and we wish you the greatest of success. We look forward to the day we all will be back to a more normal Ruritan routine. If your district is meeting virtually or in person, please continue to follow the guidelines provided by your local government agencies. And remember to **wash your hands, wear your mask, and social distance.**

*Ruritans Working Together to Soar to New Heights,  
Linward Hedgpeth*

## Executive Director Mike Chrisley



# Keep Doing What You Do

We are learning so much. We have met hundreds of times in the last several months using Microsoft Teams at a time when we might have believed that all meetings would be put-on hold. We have executed our very first virtual (at least partially virtual) board meeting. We have seen changes that have tested us and required us to see every side of an issue. We have tried our very best to be respectful of every mindset. The phrase “May you live in interesting times”, has taken on a whole new meaning in 2020.

Sarah Kelly was hired in early January and is in place as the Deputy Executive Director. She brings a great skill set to the position including banking, finance, and insurance experience. However, I believe as importantly as that she brings a genuine love for Ruritan to the position. Because of the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus many of her experiences have been different than we anticipated in her first year as Deputy Executive. Some of what she has experienced, may well be more valuable than if the year had been “normal”.

I would like to take a moment to just tell you how thankful I am for the staff here at Ruritan. My staff, your staff, our staff, has performed at a very high level during this crisis. They go above and beyond because they care about their jobs, because they care about Ruritan, because they care about our members. They are great, caring people who do not get nearly enough credit for what they do. None of them are here because they believe they will attain great wealth. They are here because they care about our noble cause and support Ruritan on a foundational level. Every single staff person is a member of a Ruritan Club and works just as hard outside the office on club projects and fundraising for their local community as they do for us. This year has not been easy for staff. I have been employed here for 40 years and this is the first time I have ever experienced a furlough. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Sarah Kelly, Craig Whitt, Diane Lawson, Bessie McCormick, Kory Wirt, Crystal Andrews, and Chris Pugh for all they do for Ruritan.

I also want to thank our board of directors and committees. We have had the privilege to work with all the committees since the March board of directors meeting. However, several committees deserve mention for the effort that they have put forth over the last four months.

**Executive** – This committee has met bi-weekly or weekly since March. Many of the meetings have focused on the pandemic and how we continue to operate without interruption in a time that is so interrupted. They have taken advantage of new technology, made hard decisions, tried to be conscious and respectful of all groups feelings and needs and done their level best to serve the directors, district and club leaders.

**Restructure** – This committee was given a task that is difficult out of the gate. They have met weekly with only one exception since March. In many cases the entire committee met, and then sub-committees would meet an additional time during the same week. They have examined data, done research, struggled with what the best choices would be and tried to come to conclusions that give us our best chance at thriving in a changing environment.

**Bylaws** – This committee has met every week, sometimes twice weekly since March. They have examined the national bylaws, district bylaws, club bylaws, current board policy, IRS code, Virginia law and have tried to streamline our bylaws. They always tried to keep the club, our members, and the communities that we serve in the forefront of their thinking.

**Leadership Development** – This committee truly made lemonade out of lemons. Faced with the task of planning a summer leadership conference, they did just that, only to have the conference canceled just prior to being held. In the final 60 days prior to the date of the planned conference they had to switch gears and determine how to deliver a viable training tool to members that were not going to be able to attend a physical meeting. I have never been prouder of what was produced because of this committee’s effort.

**Most of all I am proud of you.** Your commitment to serve even when it seemed impossible is remarkable. Again, in this magazine, the spirit of service rises in the middle of a trying time. When things are the hardest is when you see the true heart of a volunteer. We see your heart. The theme of this magazine is give. Each and every one of you who has found a way to give have become hope to so many people.

Keep doing what you do.



# Home Office to Holland Walk for St. Jude



**WALK**  
To help us live.



St. Jude patients  
David, age 8,  
Samantha, age 13,  
and Angelica, age 8



**Do you have what it takes to walk to Holland? Do you want to help First Lady Anne Hedgspeth reach her goal for St. Jude? Are you walking around your neighborhood anyway?**

**All proceeds from this walk will go towards Anne's goal for St. Jude.**

**Challenge yourself to walk the distance from Ruritan National's Home Office in Dublin, VA to the location of our first club in Holland, VA. The total distance is 260 miles.**

**Register before September 30, 2020, and complete the walk anytime through the end of the 2021 Ruritan National Convention, January 31, 2021.**

**Log your miles on the Home Office to Holland Virtual Walk Website. We are accepting your miles from July 14, 2020. So, don't worry about trying to squeeze all your miles in. Run or walk in your neighborhood and greenways, do laps around your backyard, or use a treadmill.**

**Just for registering you will receive a challenge t-shirt and upon completing the challenge you will receive a custom coin designed by 2020 National President Linward Hedgspeth.**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Dublin/HomeOfficetoHolland>



Front



Back

# Unable to Walk? Support First Lady Anne Hedgspeth's Project Here

Please visit <http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational> to make your donation.

**Give.**  
To help  
us live.

**Ruritan  
National  
has  
raised  
\$10,312!**



St. Jude patient  
Jacobina, 2  
years old

St. Jude patient  
Peggy, 4  
years old with  
leukemia

## You can help St. Jude provide:

**\$3** Pediatric isolation masks to help protect patients with compromised immune systems.

**\$5** Snack bags for patients and their siblings.

**\$7** A blank medical teaching doll that helps patients understand medical treatment and procedures.

**\$10** Handwriting Kit and pencil grip for occupational therapy.

**\$30** A St. Jude family with meals for one day in the Kay Cafe, the St. Jude cafeteria.

**\$57** Necessities for parents who may have hurriedly left home after their child's diagnosis.

**\$100** A platelet count test for two patients.

**\$250** One red blood cell transfusion for a St. Jude patient.

**\$500** One hour of physical therapy for a St. Jude patient.

JOIN US IN FINDING CURES AND SAVING CHILDREN.

Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food – because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.



STJUDE.ORG | 800-457JUDE

## Candidates for National Office



### National President Elect

M. Edward Hicks Jr.  
PO Box 485  
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Email: [mredward0754@gmail.com](mailto:mredward0754@gmail.com)



### National President Elect

Michael Morrison  
2191 Commins Road  
Aylett VA 23009  
Phone: (804) 513-5389  
Email: [mikey1168@msn.com](mailto:mikey1168@msn.com)

**CLUB:** Member of Lovington-Rockfish Ruritan Club since 1987; served as President, Vice President and Treasurer, President's Gold Key, 30 member bar.

**DISTRICT:** Zone Governor (2009, 2014-15); District Lt. Governor 2016; District Governor 2017; Website Coordinator; Growth & Development Chair 2018-19; Leadership Development Coordinator 2020; Association of Virginia Ruritans, Past Director.

**NATIONAL:** National Director 2018-2020; Delegate, National Conventions; Sgt at Arms, Flag Ceremony; served on National Youth Committee and Youth Camp; National Workshop Presenter; Leadership Conference; Tom Downing Fellow.

**EDUCATION:** Lakeland High School; Lee University; Northwestern University.

**OCCUPATION:** Prosthetics and Orthotics; Certified Orthotist, Certified Pedorthist, University of Virginia (retired)

**OTHER:** Adventure Camp, Inc. Board/Staff Member; Lovington Village Association Board Member; Nelson County Parade Association Treasurer; AOPA member, ABC Committee member; US Department of Labor (O\*Net) Data Collection Program; University of Virginia Community Service Award; member Monroe Church of God, Teacher, Choir member, Soloist, Church and Pastors Council; married to Camille; 7 children, 23 grandchildren.

**CLUB:** Member King William (VA) Ruritan Club; served as Club Vice President (2003); Club President (2004, 2008, 2016, 2020); Member Eastern Henrico (VA) Ruritan Club; served as Club Vice President (2015); Club President (2016). Tom Downing recipient and Ruritan Forever.

**DISTRICT:** Zone Governor 2010; District Lt. Governor 2011; District Governor 2012; District Director 2013-15; District Youth Coordinator 2014-2020.

**NATIONAL:** National Director 2014-2017 (1 year reappointment by National President); member National Youth Committee; Sergeant at Arms Co-Chair 2012, 2014; Sergeant at Arms Chair 2015-2017; National Youth Camp.

**EDUCATION:** King William High School; Richmond Technical Center, Electrical and HVAC/R

**OCCUPATION:** Worked in electrical field for 8 years; employed at Commonwealth of Virginia for 26 years.

**OTHER:** Enjoy assisting in fundraising activities for church, scouts and youth sports; enjoy the outdoors and my dog, Patty.

*Bios were printed as submitted by candidates.*

## Candidates for National Office

**STAY  
POSITIVE**

Yesterday is not ours to recover,  
but tomorrow is ours to win or lose



### National Treasurer

David S. Thompson  
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Dinwiddie, VA 23841  
Phone: (804) 469-7401  
Office: (804) 541-2230  
Email: [dsthomps1999@gmail.com](mailto:dsthomps1999@gmail.com)

**CLUB:** Joined Dinwiddie (VA) Club in 2002; Fundraising Chair; Membership Committee; Nominations Committee; Audit Committee; Dinwiddie Steak Festival Chair (2004-Present); Board of Directors (2003-2005); Vice President 2 years (2005 & 2010) & President 2 years (2006 & 2011). Zone 1 Ruritan of the Year (2013); Other Club Memberships: Red Oak (VA) 2015-present; Brookneal-21st Century (VA), Charter Member (2017-present); LaCrosse-Bracey (VA) (2012-2016) Secretary/Treasurer.

**DISTRICT:** Appomattox District Zone 1 Governor (2007-2010); Zone 1 Lt. Governor (2011-2012); District Lt. Governor (2012); District Governor (2013-2014); District Governor Training (2013-2014); Chair-Publicity/Newsletter (2007-Present); 1st Place, District Newsletter Media Award (2013); District Convention Committee; Audit Committee; Spring Rally Committee and Leadership Conference (2012-2014).

**NATIONAL:** National Treasurer (2018-Present), serving on Executive Committee and Budget and Finance Committee; National Director (2015-2017), assigned to Bylaws Committee; Club Treasurer Workshop (2020); Bylaws Workshop (2015-2017); National Convention Resolutions Committee (2015); District Governor Training (2013-2014); Sgt. at Arms-National Convention (2013-2014); Bylaws presentations and workshops, Leadership Conference (2015-2016); Tom Downing Fellow.

**EDUCATION:** Dinwiddie High School (Advanced Diploma); Richard Bland College (A.S); Kansas State University (B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies) and Mountain Empire College (Geographic Information Systems, GIS Certification).

**OCCUPATION:** Employed with the City of Hopewell (VA) as the Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager; Former Law Enforcement Officer (14 years) and Senior Planner and Zoning Administrator (7 years) with 25+ years' experience in Local Government.

**OTHER:** Member of Crawford United Methodist Church, (Finance Committee & Audit Committee); Petersburg/Dinwiddie Crime Solvers Board Member (2004-Present); Dinwiddie Volunteer Rescue Squad, EMT-ST (1983-1990); Wife, Jody, and I have two wonderful children (Kelly, age 31, and proud graduate of William and Mary; and Scott, age 26, and proud graduate of Bridgewater College).

*Bios were printed as  
submitted by candidates.*

## Candidates for National Office



### National Director

Lynn Fillers  
4840 Kelley Gap Road  
Greeneville TN 37743  
Phone: (423) 608-9597  
Email: [lynnfillers15@gmail.com](mailto:lynnfillers15@gmail.com)

**CLUB:** Member, Parrottsville (TN) Ruritan Club; served as Club President (2 terms), Club Vice President (3 terms); awarded Outstanding Club President; Club Ruritan of the Year, Perfect Attendance (17 yrs.); President's Gold Key Award.

**DISTRICT:** Served as Zone Governor (5 terms); Youth Coordinator (3 terms); Lt. Governor (2006, 2016, 2020); District Governor (2007, 2017); Tennessee Rally Commissioner.

**NATIONAL:** Delegate to National Convention (11 times); Governors Leadership Conference (2006, 2017); Flag Ceremony (2006, 2016); National Board of Directors (2018-2020).

**EDUCATION:** B.S. Degree in Agricultural Science, Tennessee Tech University

**OCCUPATION:** Shipping Coordinator, Lisega Inc.

**OTHER:** Member, Salem Lutheran Church; two children, Olivia and Ken; engaged to Della Sue Belt.

*Bios were printed as  
submitted by candidates.*



### National Director

Zachary McCallie  
365 Scenic Hill Lane  
Lenoir City TN 37771  
Phone: (865) 924-3455  
Email: [EQCoachcuz@gmail.com](mailto:EQCoachcuz@gmail.com)

**CLUB:** Member East Roane County (TN) Ruritan Club for 17 years; served as Director, Vice President, President (4 times); awarded Outstanding Club President 2016, 2017, 2018; Ruritan of the Year 2017.

**DISTRICT:** Zone Governor (2017); Lt. Zone Governor (2018); Publicity Chair (2017-19); Lt. Governor (2019); District Governor (2020); District Ruritan of the Year (2017).

**NATIONAL:** Youth Leadership Conference Chaperone (2016-19); Summer Leadership Conference (2019); National Convention Delegate (2005, 2017-20); Sergeant at Arms (2020); Youth Room Co-Coordinator at National Convention (2018-20).

**EDUCATION:** Tusculum University, BA in Physical Education K-12; Tusculum University MA in Curriculum & Instruction.

**OCCUPATION:** Loudon County Schools, Health Educator 2018-present; North Panthers Football Coach 2017-present.

**OTHER:** Bradbury United Methodist Church (attended 29 yrs, member since 2009); Lay Leader, Trustee, VBS Teacher, Sunday School Teacher, Nursery Volunteer, Young Adult Coordinator; mission trips to Alaska, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

## Candidates for National Office



### National Director

Donna Jo Poulton  
30 Aeronca Road  
Belton, SC 29627  
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### National Director

R. Scott Reed  
956 Dicks Hollow Road  
Winchester VA 22603  
Phone: (540) 535-0022  
Email: [sreed260@comcast.net](mailto:sreed260@comcast.net)

**CLUB:** Member, Augusta Road (SC) Ruritan Club; Current Treasurer, Past President, Treasurer, Board Member Chair- Environmental Committee, Chair- South Greenville Farmer's Market, Member of Scholarship Committee, Song Leader and Program Chair

**DISTRICT:** Current Lt Governor of Spartan District- past Governor and Lt Governor- served on nominating committee, youth committee

**NATIONAL:** Completing last year as National Director having served the Columbia and Georgia-North Alabama Districts; Current Chair of the Publications Committee; Served as Song Leader for the 2020 National Convention

**EDUCATION:** Oakwood Christian School (HS); Clemson University, B.A. Elementary Education; Liberty University, Business Administration Certificate

**OCCUPATION:** Procurement Specialist, Vulcan Materials Company; Employed 34 years- started career as a truck driver in the quarry and worked my way up to my current position.

**OTHER:** Member Big Creek Baptist Church; Member South Carolina Aggregates Association-Education Committee; Former Youth Director; Sunday School Teacher, VBS Teacher, Church Council Member and Choir Director at Cedar Shoals Baptist Church- Belton, SC; Married to Danny (34 years); two sons, Dale (wife-Susan) and JD; two grandsons, Justin and Hunter; Fur child, Brutus; and Fur-Grands Chopper, Rebel, and Levi.

**CLUB:** Member Round Hill Ruritan Club since 2013; served as Director 2014-present; Chair, Social Development Committee 2015-present; Advisor, Roaring Round Hill Ruri-Teen Club.

**DISTRICT:** District Governor 2020; Lt. District Governor 2019; Zone 1 & 2 Governor 2016-18.

**NATIONAL:** Sargent-at-Arms, National Convention

**EDUCATION:** Herndon High School

**OCCUPATION:** Foreman 2, Amtrak Railroad; Mechanical Supervisor (27 yrs.); Carman apprenticeship (3 yrs.)

**OTHER:** Co-founder Bikers-4-Bikes; Charter member STAR Touring & Riding; President, Chapter 200 STAR Touring & Riding; Salvation Army Advisory Board; Frederick County Fair Director-at-Large; married to Pearl Underwood.

*Bios were printed as submitted by candidates.*



## ***Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. is Returning by Overwhelming Request to the Ruritan National Convention as our Headline Banquet Entertainment!***

The Sinatra-and-Soul singing season six winner of NBC TV's "America's Got Talent" is sure to entertain you with his incredible voice, undeniable charisma and unparalleled showmanship.

Backed by the dynamic Landau Big Band, you'll hear Great American Songbook classics from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Nat 'King' Cole and many more, along with a dusting of that special Motown Magic that is sure to fill up our dance floor.

And after the show, you'll have the opportunity to meet Landau one-on-one for photos and have the chance to talk with him about his incredible rags-to-riches story.

Landau was born into poverty in the Appalachian coalfields of southern West Virginia. His parents split while he was in elementary school, and Landau was shipped off to Detroit in the middle of the night. He woke up in the Motor Cities notoriously gang and drug riddled "7 Mile" neighborhood. Landau likes to say that he went from Almost Heaven to Little Baghdad overnight!

After a series of dead-end jobs and a too-soon failed marriage, Landau eventually found himself homeless and sleeping in his car. Then, his voice became his calling card.

"I loved to play basketball in Detroit, and these guys were good. Some of them went onto the NBA. But we were in the hood; it wasn't anything to see guns drawn on the court after the game, so to keep people cool and laughing, when I'd dunk on someone, I'd sing a Frank Sinatra song like "Fly Me To The Moon" and everyone would laugh and put their guns away."

Eventually, that one-of-a-kind voice would lead him back to West Virginia to perform for local charities and nursing homes. Landau says, "I was singing for charities, when most of the time, I had less than the people receiving the charity proceeds did, but that was OK because I was singing."

At the end of his rope, Landau tied a knot and pulled himself back up by auditioning for NBC TV's "America's Got Talent" with thousands of others. After months of competition, Landau emerged the winner, scoring a million dollars and a recording contract, and he's never looked back.

Landau's Columbia Records debut album "That's Life" reached number one on the Billboard Jazz Charts, and was followed by "Christmas Made For Two", "Landau" and his latest "Landau Live In Las Vegas" recorded during a performance at the legendary Caesar's Palace. Landau has appeared on dozens of TV programs including "The Today Show", "The View", CNN, "Fox and Friends", "The Talk", the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

He's performed all over the world, from China to New York City, Los Angeles to Europe where he had the honor to perform for U.S. servicemen and their families stationed there. He's honored the country by singing the national anthem prior to games by the Los Angeles Lakers, Washington Wizards, New York Rangers, Baltimore Orioles, Oklahoma City Thunder, Washington Nationals, and his beloved West Virginia University Mountaineers during a nationally televised homecoming event.

Landau's book featuring his amazing story reached #1 on Amazon and he had his first movie cameo in 2017 in the Ron James "Choices" biopic. ***Landau says he's honored and humbled to appear before the Ruritan's. "I identify with them. These are down-to-earth, salt-of-the-earth small town folks who work hard, take care of their families and give back to their communities. They're what the best of America is all about, and I'm honored that they asked me to join them."***



# Ruritan National Convention – Covington KY January 28-31, 2021

Have it YOUR way! Choose one of FOUR package options for the 2021 Ruritan Convention

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

## Meal Package Options

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

	Quantity	Cost	Total
Two meal package includes base fee, Friday First Lady's Lunch and Saturday Installation Banquet	Package 1 <b>BEST DEAL</b>	\$280	
Friday only package includes base fee and Friday First Lady's Luncheon	Package 2	\$230	
Saturday only package includes base fee and Saturday Installation Banquet	Package 3	\$280	
No Meals - base registration only	Package 4	\$175	

## Extra Meal Tickets and Items

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

	Quantity	Cost	Total
Friday Luncheon Honoring First Lady Anne	First Lady	\$55	
Saturday Installation Banquet	Banquet	\$85	
Rudy Bears - to be added as a gift to Covington charities including a local orphanage	Rudy Bears	\$8.50	
National Convention Memories thumb drive of candid photos	Thumb Drive	\$16	
Donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital	Donation	\$	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL \$</b>		

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

Check payment type below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Check one option below

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

\_\_\_\_ Bill my credit card on December 1, 2020

# 2021 National Convention Mini Schedule Make Plans to Attend!

Have you made your plans to attend the 2021 Ruritan National Convention? The hotel and convention center representatives are looking forward to our "return" to Covington, their city with many great venues. "Return" because some of them and some of you still remember the great time and convention we had there in 2013. John Hancock, 2004 Ruritan National President, was convention chair and he said, "If you like small towns, you'll love Covington but if big city life is more to your liking, then you can either walk or take the trolley across the Ohio River to Cincinnati for big city life." This area has something for everyone! You will remember if you were in Covington in 2013, there were a series of tours available for our members. Because of the uncertainty at this time caused by COVID-19, tour plans are tentative. There will still be plenty of great activities to do at local sites and restaurants that individuals and small groups can access via the shuttle/trolley.

Covington and the Northern Kentucky (NKY) Convention Center, is situated on the banks of the Ohio River with two great hotels - the Embassy Suites Cincinnati River Center and the Cincinnati Marriott River Center, which is connected to the NKY Convention Center by a covered walkway. The Embassy has already been renovated since our 2013 National Convention, and the Marriott is still in the renovation process and will be completed before our January 2021 visit. The cost of rooms at these two hotels has increased by only \$9 since our 2013 visit. The rate at each hotel is \$109 for either a king or two-queen room. The Marriott will provide our members with a \$5 discount for the breakfast buffet. Additionally, both hotels are offering free self parking and free internet services. Based upon hotel availability, these room rates will be offered three days prior to and three days after our event. This will allow Ruritans the opportunity to come early or stay late to enjoy the NKY area. Both hotels will offer complimentary housing reservation booking through an internet system, enabled by Lanyon Passkey. **Ruritan office staff members have worked with the NKY Convention Center representatives and have enabled this system at <https://book.passkey.com/e/50083787> on the Ruritan website, ruritan.org.** Just go to ruritan.org and click on the picture of the NKY Convention Center.

## Wednesday - Thursday

*Warm on-site welcome by the Bluegrass District*

### Thursday

*Governors' Training*

*First Timers Reception*

*Opening Ceremonies (Flag Ceremony,  
Memorial & Vespers Services)*

*President's Reception*

### Friday

*Morning Business Session with*

*Military Flag Presentation*

*First Lady Anne's Luncheon*

*Voting*

*Workshops*

*Foundation Live Auction*

### Saturday

*Morning Business Session*

*Workshops*

*Installation Banquet*

### Sunday

*Worship Service*

*2021 Board Orientation*

## ATTRACTIONS AND TROLLEY/TRANSIT PASS

- \* View the area attractions videos through the ruritan.org website by clicking on the picture of the NKY Convention Center
- \* Visit sites to include the Newport Aquarium, New Riff Bourbon Distillery, and the BB Riverboat Tours
- \* Schedule a visit to the famous, Ark Encounter. You will need to allow at least six hours or more to complete this remarkable tour.
- \* Dine at Newport on the Levee, Mainstrasse Village, Roebing, Over the Rhine, and Bouquet.
- \* Purchase a three-day South Bank Shuttle/Trolley pass to connect you to Covington, Newport, and Cincinnati. More information will be available in later additions of the Ruritan Magazine.



*Make your plans NOW to come to Covington for a fantastic fun time of celebrating our Ruritan achievements, to meet old friends and to make new friends, and to take care of Ruritan business too!*

# Eagle Charms Available NOW!



Email [office@ruritan.org](mailto:office@ruritan.org) to purchase your Eagle Charm.  
These charms are usually only offered at the National Convention but with this pandemic - we are offering them for the remainder of 2020.  
These charms are \$8 each and that includes shipping charges.

## Medium Utility Totes \$7.25 plus shipping

*What a great Christmas present.  
Mom will LOVE!  
Supplies are limited.  
Call your National Office at  
877-787-8727 or email  
[office@ruritan.org](mailto:office@ruritan.org) to place your  
order.*



# Ruritan National Supply Sale

## 25% off While Supplies Last



#256 Harriton Men's Long-Sleeved Oxford with Stain-Release

~~\$35.70~~

**New price \$26**

Tackle the day with this easy-care, wrinkle-resistant button down featuring pearlized buttons, adjustable cuffs, and stain release material.



#262 Port Authority Ladies Value Fleece Jacket

~~\$40.00~~

**New price \$30**

This exceptionally soft, midweight fleece jacket will keep you warm during everyday excursions.

**Need help placing your order?  
Call the Ruritan National Office  
877-787-8727.**

**We will help you!**



#267 Port Authority Ladies' 3/4 Sleeve Easy Care Shirt

~~\$30.00~~

**New price \$22.50**

This comfortable wash and wear shirt is indispensable for the workday. Wrinkle resistance makes this shirt a cut above the rest.

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

# Ruritan National Supply Sale

## 25% off While Supplies Last



#268 & 269 Port & Company Value Denim Shirt

~~\$30.00~~

**New price \$22.50**

Traditional, relaxed look. Features an open collar, horn-tone buttons and rounded adjustable cuffs.

**Need help placing your order?  
Call the Ruritan National Office  
877-787-8727.  
We will help you!**



#271 Blush Tunic

~~\$18.00~~

**New price \$13.50**

With a soft, elegant look, this tunic features rib knit elongated cuffs, longer tunic length, and a curved hem.



#272 Port & Company Core Fleece Sweatpants with Pockets

~~\$18.00~~

**New price \$13.50**

With an elastic waistband with drawcord, open bottom cuffs, and the comfort of fleece, you'll never want to wear anything else.

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

# Ruritan National Supply Sale

## 25% off While Supplies Last



### #249 District Medal Full-Zip Hoodie

~~\$28.50~~ **New price \$21**

This hoodie is 4.9-ounce, 90/10 combed ring spun cotton/poly, with tear-away label. Self-fabric back neck tape. Front Pockets. Self-fabric cuffs and hems. Includes Ruritan logo screenprinted on full back.



### #250 Port Authority Value Fleece Jacket

~~\$37.75~~ **New price \$28**

This exceptionally soft, midweight fleece jacket will keep you warm during everyday excursions. Includes Ruritan logo on left chest



### #251 District Game Tee

~~\$17.75~~ **New price \$13**

This tee has a retro, game-day inspired look. 4.5-ounce, 60/40 combed ring spun cotton/poly, 32 singles. 1x1 rib knit neck. Tear-away label. Distressed printed stripes at sleeve. With Ruritan logo on full front.



### #252 Port Authority Ladies Plaid Flannel Jacket

~~\$37.75~~ **New price \$25**

This flannel shirt takes laid-back looks to the next level. Ultra soft and just the right weight, it makes a statement with a classic plaid pattern and casual comfort. Includes Ruritan logo on left chest.



### #253 Port Authority Plaid Flannel Shirt

~~\$37.75~~ **New price \$25**

This flannel shirt takes laid-back looks to the next level. Ultra soft and just the right weight, it makes a statement with a classic plaid pattern and casual comfort. Includes Ruritan logo on left chest.

Questions?

Call Customer Service at 1-800-414-8946  
or visit <http://www.shumskyideas.com/ruritan>

## Message From 2020 Foundation President Brent Wheeler



### Take Part in BY\$ Program

As we continue in the now old/new normal I pray all Ruritans are staying safe and following the pandemic guidelines.

Your Foundation continues to work via call ins and emails. Recently we held a call in with Scott Carr and he assures us the Foundation is on a strong financial footing.

Carr and he assures us the Foundation is on a strong financial footing.

### Ruritan National Foundation

#### 2020 Board of Trustees

**President:** Brent Wheeler

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

**Secretary:** Graham Bryant

**Treasurer:** Phillip Bradshaw

**Promotion Chair:** Guy Cox



We hope that all clubs have sent or are preparing to send in their \$300 deposit for BY\$. If you haven't taken any action and need information please call Bessie McCormick at the National Office ASAP. We want all clubs to take part in honoring students with a scholarship.

Please be safe and keep following social distancing and other guidelines as you feel necessary.

President Roosevelt once remarked:

"Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Let's hope we can get back to working for our communities soon because that is work worth doing.

*God Bless America and God Bless Ruritan!*

*Brent Wheeler*



# Ruritan Forever

## *A Perpetual Life Plan*

Please detach or photocopy this portion if you would like to participate in this endowment plan to secure the future of Ruritan, in your name or in the name of a fellow Ruritan.

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

Your Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

This application is for: (check one)

Myself  Current Member  Deceased Ruritan  Associate Member

Name of Applicant (If not you): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

OPTION #1 Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OPTION #2 Enclosed please find a check/money order for \$600

OPTION #3 Enclosed please find the 1st \$200 installment of the \$600 Ruritan Forever fee.

I understand the perpetual life endowment will not begin until the entire \$600 has been paid.

# Your Piece of the MMS is Your Member Record

Being part of a Ruritan club as a volunteer is a bi-directional relationship; both sides have responsibilities. On the club side, the club makes sure that you are informed of what the club is doing and what the organization is doing. In order for that to take place your member record is extremely important.

This allows the club, district and national to keep in touch with you on Ruritan related matters. To the right is a copy of a member record.

All of the fields are very important, especially contact information like your address, phone numbers and especially email addresses. As part of managing annual member's dues, Ruritan tries to control cost and using electronic means helps us; save on postage, print cost, and labor in order to provide information to you the member in a timely manner.

You may note that Ruritan partners with Gallagher Affinity so that businesses such as Office Depot, Lifeline Screening, Choice Hotels, and Hertz may offer special benefits to Ruritan members as an extra "thank you" for what Ruritan members are doing in their communities. The mailings come from Gallagher; the Ruritan mailing list is never given directly to these businesses. You are under no obligation to respond but if you would prefer not to get those mail offers at all – you can let us know by calling us toll free 877-787-8727 ext. 303 and leaving a message to take you off those mailing lists. Just leave your name and your club name. Or email us at [service@ruritan.org](mailto:service@ruritan.org).

A future version of the MMS will allow each member to choose "yes" or "no" for these mailings. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact the staff as outlined above.

It is up to you, the member, to keep your member record up to date or inform your club secretary when things change. This record provides several benefits to you as a member: keeps you in the loop on what is happening, club activities, zone and district activities, and national benefits. This also provides you and your club insurance protection (liability insurance) when you do volunteer work for your club.

And don't forget, if you have a membership in more than one Ruritan club the MMS will allow you to designate which is your primary club. This can be done by any club or district officer.

That means if you register for a district or national convention the system will know from which club you would be considered a delegate. That is helpful for online voting as well as name badge printing.

Just ask a club officer to designate one of your clubs as primary - in the upper right corner of your member information page in the MMS.

Of course if you are an associate in one club and a full member in the other – remember that associate members can't serve as club delegates.

*If you have any questions about using the Member Management System (MMS), please don't hesitate to reach out to Ruritan staff toll free at 877-787-8727 or email us at [membership@ruritan.org](mailto:membership@ruritan.org) or [service@ruritan.org](mailto:service@ruritan.org).*

MEMBER INFORMATION		STATUS	MEMBER: 61164
		<b>ACTIVE</b>	
Title	First	Middle	Last
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Street Address		Mailing Address	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Office Phone	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
E-Mail <input type="text"/>			
Spouse Name <input type="text"/>		Member Type	Gender
		Adult <input type="text"/>	MALE <input type="text"/>
Military Status	Military Branch	Race	
N/A <input type="text"/>	None <input type="text"/>	White <input type="text"/>	
Date of Birth	Deceased Date	First Joined	
<input type="text"/>		02/01/1998	
Receive Publications: <input type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="UPDATE"/>	

# Ruritan is Relevant! Clubs Who Answered The Call During COVID-19



## Gamewell - Western NC District

member Gerald Sprinkle made homemade soup for the community since the club couldn't do any other fundraisers due to the pandemic. Gerald lost his brother David Sprinkle in April and he wanted to do something in remembrance of him. Gerald's wife Judy had a good recipe for homemade soup so Gerald thought that would be a good thing to make. He gave some to senior citizens, veterans families in need, and anyone that just wanted to try it. The club helped purchase grocery items including bread, crackers, tomatoes, eggs, peanut butter, apple sauce, and chicken tenders. He makes one run a week which produces about 18 jars. To date he has made about 250 quarts of soup and provided about 750 meals. Each jar makes about two meals.



## Maur-Brook-Olive - Rockingham District

distributed paper products that were scarce during the pandemic to 50 families. With assistance from local friends, the club was able to get several cases of toilet paper, paper towels, and tissues. Items were safely distributed to community members in the Maurertown, Toms Brook, and Mt Olive Area. Pictured are Club President Ed Grabenstein, Robert Edge, and Project Coordinator Jim Gillenwater.



**West Edgecombe-  
Rocky Mt. Durham District**  
members Eric and Jessica Russ decided to make use the 2020 quarantine time to work on an environmental project. They chose to place bird and squirrel feeders on the club property. They have been keeping up with cleaning and maintenance as well as adding additional feeders.



*We are ALL in this Together!*

# Ruritan is Relevant!

*We are all in this together*



## Deep Creek - Holland District

Citizenship and Patriotism Committee was contacted by the family of a crewman aboard the Hospital Ship Comfort that was in New York. Because of the potential exposure, the 100 plus crew were quarantined on a local base. The club partnered with CC Catering4U and provided a full meal along with snack bags for each crew member.



**Windsor's Crossroads - Piedmont District**  
Club gave away free masks at the beginning of the pandemic when there was a shortage of masks to go around. Rudy Bear helped.



**Clifford - Peaks of Otter District**  
handed out FREE meals to First Responders.



**Finchville - Bluegrass District**  
delivered greeting cards for residents and a basket of snacks for staff members to Amber Oaks and Crescent Place Assisted Living facilities. Ruritan Club member Barbara Stewart included encouraging words and cheerful messages in cards for residents.



**Holston - Tennessean District**  
Club members have been busy during the pandemic. Over 300 masks have been made and donated to different agencies and hospitals. Steps and handrails have been replaced at the Wheeler Cemetery.

## News From Ruritan: Holland District

### Great Bridge and Windsor Clubs Present Scholarships



A small gathering of **Great Bridge** Ruritans met with masks, social distancing, and box lunches to present scholarships to two deserving students, Ethan Lewter and Abigail Biberdorf. Each received a \$1000 scholarship. Pictured (l-r) are Jay Lewter, father of Ethan; Ethan Lewter; Social Development Chair Danny Smith; Scholarship Chair Susan McMannes; and Charlie Arado, who accepted the scholarship for his granddaughter Abigail.

**Windsor Club's** Scholarship Chair Bentley Richardson presented scholarships to Alicia Ray who will attend UVA, Philip Bowden who will attend JMU and Sarah Newman who will attend Shenandoah University.

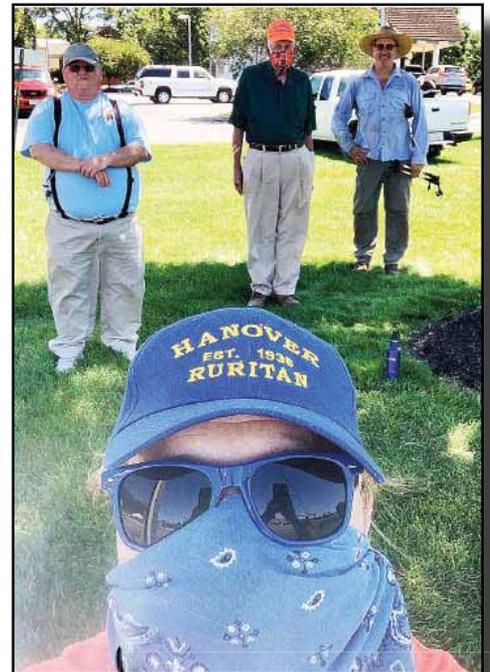


## News From Ruritan: Chesapeake District

### Hanover and Gloucester Adopt-A-Highway

**Hanover** Club completed two service projects. The first project was the Adopt-A-Highway Project. The second project was cleaning up the bank area down by Sonabank. The following members are pictured for the Sonabank project: Jym Coleman, Cindy Green, Roger Mitchell, and Ralph Cantrell. Members who participated in the Adopt A Highway Project were Jym Coleman, Roger Mitchell, Steve Lambert, and Jimmy Creech.

**Gloucester** Club met early Saturday, June 20, to pick up eight bags of trash for the club's Adopt-A-Highway Project. Pictured (l-r) are Janet Leigh, Barbara Bauer, Harry Thomas, Beverly Thomas, Henry Thompson (Chairman of the Environment Committee and project lead), Lou Serio, and Rachel Serio. Not pictured is Susan Walton.



## News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District

### Bealeton-Remington and Stafford Present Scholarships



**Bealeton-Remington** Club hand delivered annual scholarships. Members formed a parade and Rudy and Company knocked on doors with the happy surprise. Liberty High School - Bealeton seniors, Erin Frederick, Chaeli Brooks, and Sydney Lewis were the recipients. Pictured are Erin Frederick along with Rudy and VP Scott Davis.

In the 82 years of existence, the **Stafford** Club has strived to improve its community through community service grants, college scholarships, and support to local foodbanks. Even with the major catastrophic events in our country in 2020, the club presented 12 college scholarships with two to each high school and two vocational scholarships awarded county-wide. In addition, 16 community-based awards to organizations serving the greater Stafford County Area were given. This year's winners were Noah Shields and

Staci Johnson from Brooke Point High School, Joyce Jiang and Danielle Piper from Mt. View High School, Andrea Espinoza and Mayfair Quaye from North Stafford High School, Arielle Williams and Noor Cheema from Stafford High School, and Aynsleigh Escher and Thomas Lane from Colonial Forge High School. The vocational award winners are Elizabeth Long and Patrick O'Leary.

## News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District



**Clifford** held a dinner meeting to select the club's scholarship recipient.

**Don't forget to donate to St. Jude.**  
**Vist <http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational>**  
**to make your donation.**



## News From Ruritan: Southwest Virginia District



Charlie Umbarger was the recipient of the **Atkins Club's** 2020 4<sup>th</sup> grade Jamestown trip (\$350.)



If you would like to donate to St. Jude but do not use the internet - **NO PROBLEM!** Make your donation check payable to Ruritan National. On the memo line put St. Jude Donation. We will make sure your donation gets to our St. Jude Team!

**No child should die in the dawn of life.**

*Danny Thomas, founder St. Jude*

## News From Ruritan: Natural Bridge District

### Catawba Valley Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**Catawba Valley** Ruritan Club celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a cook-out under the Garman-Layman Shelter at the Catawba Community Center, home of the Catawba Valley Ruritan Club. There were 43 names originally submitted to Ruritan National for Charter Members. There are 51 signatures on the signed Charter that hangs in the Catawba Community Center.

Frankie Garman, Sr. and Charles Eakin were presented a certificate for their 50 years of service to the club. The Catawba Valley Ruritan Club also presented both with an Oldtimers Knife engraved on the blade, "Ruritan 1970-2020."

Projects from the early days and some that are carried on today by the club include repair and painting of roofs, mending fence, wood cutting (this was generally for Widows of the Valley), chicken BBQ, apple butter making, and cemetery cleaning.

2020 graduate of Glenvar High School Dakota Hensel was presented a \$1,000 scholarship. Dakota plans to attend Roanoke College to study Sports Management. When asked the question, "what are your feelings of how the school year ended with all the COVID-19 issues and concerns?" He replied, "You just have to take each day as it comes and go with it."



### Falling Springs Presents Scholarships

**Falling Springs** Club presented scholarships in May. Complying with COVID-19 guidelines, scholarships were not awarded at the annual June meeting but were presented in an outdoor setting. Scholarships were made possible by the BY\$ Program and from the clubs Poker Run. Club President Corey Peters made three \$1,000 presentations. Recipients were Abby Hicks from AHS. Abby will be attending George Mason University. Kerry Byer from AHS will be attending Virginia Western College. Stacy Tacy will be attending Dabney S Lancaster Community College. Falling Springs Community Service Committee Laura Kyle, Nathan Mansipile, and Marian Paxton along with Club Secretary Debbie Henderson, and Club President Corey Peters chose the winners.





**Luray Club** held a blood drive hosted by the VFW. Club members (l-r) Terry Dodson, Teresa Dodson, Tim Rocke, and Dave Naser volunteered hours to assist with the activity. Member Mark Bauserman is shown giving blood.

### Maur-Brook-Olive, Fulks Run, and Bridgewater Present Scholarships

**Maur-Brook-Olive Club** presented its annual \$1,000 scholarship to Corey Keller who will be attending Bridgewater College. He plans to become a history teacher. Pictured: Corey Keller and Ed Grabenstein.

**Fulks Run Ruritan Club Scholarship Committee** has worked through email messages and phone conversations to review the applications submitted at Broadway High School. Congratulations to winners Grace Trumbo and Kaylee Wenger, both from Fulks Run. Both have outstanding grade point averages, have performed a variety of athletic and community service extracurricular activities, and have ambitious and admirable educational and career goals. The club's procedure is to award the scholarship upon completion of the first semester at college, and usually there is a presentation ceremony at the January meeting. The club hopes to be able to meet and congratulate the winners and their families in person and wish them every success!

Although the **Bridgewater Club** members have not been able to meet during the past few months, they held a successful Vidalia onion sale with a net profit of over \$2,000. Contributions have been made in memory of Emeritus members Edgar Flora and Dennis Wright.

A BY\$ Scholarship Award was presented to Turner Ashby graduate Abigail Simmons, daughter of Joe and Amy Simmons. Abigail will be attending Bridgewater College.

Community organizations that have benefitted from the club's contributions so far this year include the FFA and 4-H, District Spelling Bee and Dictionaries project, Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Bridgewater Historical Society and Museum, Bridgewater Health Care Foundation, Free Clinic, Little League Challengers program, Salvation Army, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Pictured are long-time Ruritan Fry Shack volunteers Nancy and Glen Thomas.



**Donate Today!**

<http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational>



## Hamburg Sponsors Spring Forward Program

In the fall of 2008, several individuals brainstormed ways to create an after-school tutoring/enrichment program for students. The Hamburg Ruritan Club (HRC) agreed to sponsor such a program. Spring Forward began in March 2009 and has continued through March 2020, meeting twice weekly, from 4-6pm. While located in a rural setting, technology allows connection with highly skilled individuals, opening up a wide world to discover.

In addition to academics, students enjoy snacks served by a caring hospitality staff. Families are invited to simple suppers and special programs. The school division provides bus transportation; parents pick up their children at the end of the day. Together, the Hamburg Ruritan Club, Edinburg Lutheran Parish, and Shenandoah County Public Schools have formed this unique partnership as a civic organization, church parish, and school



*Scholar reads aloud to Tor E, therapy dog and Theresa Manthey, tutor.*

division to serve families, many of whom would not be able to afford such services. An all-volunteer staff of 35 --many who are members of HRC--consists of retired educators, pastors, IT specialists, business professionals, and community leaders whose experiences are both rich and varied. Former students often return to tutor. A therapy dog listens to students read aloud. Highly skilled guest speakers volunteer their time to enrich learning in such areas of



*Former SF scholar returns as volunteer teaching assistant.*

entomology, architecture, and oceanography. An amazing addition to the program is contact with a well-known whale expert who inspired students to build a 45' inflatable Humpback whale model, making Spring Forward a "whale of an after-school program."

With start-up funds of \$200 from HRC, SF continues to be financially supported by HRC, Zion Lutheran Church, and with grants from local foundations and generous contributors, both individuals and businesses. Since its launch, 300 scholars have attended SF. The staff has contributed over 31,000 hours and returned to the community over \$1M in goods and services, propelling HRC to achieve Blue Ribbon status. Honors include the Lutheran Family Services of Virginia Heart & Hand Gold Award, SCPS Volunteers of the Year, and Best After-School Program in Shenandoah County, sponsored by The North-

ern Virginia Daily newspaper. For the past 12 years, the local school division provided bus transportation to Spring Forward. With the advent of COVID-19, the program abruptly closed, along with public schools. While the path forward is not known, the passion for moving onward to serve is clearly present. When pandemic concerns abate and students may be transported to Spring Forward, the program will resume.

The director of Spring Forward is a retired educator and member of HRC and ZLC. With her background as a master teacher, reading specialist, and middle school administrator, Jane Perry enthusiastically continues her journey of teaching.



*Scholar dissects Dogfish Shark.*

"This is what Ruritan is all about." --Barry J. Sweitzer, Charter Member, HRC

"Not only does Spring Forward provide important academic support to our students, it also provides emotional support that expands students' horizons." --Dr. Mark Johnston, Superintendent of Schools, Shenandoah County

"The Spring Forward Program proves that we, as Ruritans, can never go wrong when we invest our time, talents and love into the youth in our communities." --Past National Director Susan Greisz

"Spring Forward has the full support of Hamburg Ruritan Club." --President E. Twyman Greene

"This program is such a benefit to kids. I do not know what I would have done without Spring Forward." --Danielle Bush, Parent

"I wish Spring Forward would have been available when my children were younger. My grandchildren benefit from the 1:1 help and from the activities Mrs. Perry and volunteers provide for all of the kids." --Christine Zuniga, Grandmother of Seven Scholars

"I have seen my son grow socially and his grades have improved from his involvement in the program. --Sydney Fleck, Parent and Tutor

"Many of our participating scholars are not privileged to have parental support at home to prepare for tests, homework, or just to have a conversation. --Bill and Sue Funkhouser, Tutors, HRC members.



*Jane Perry and scholar unlock math problems.*

*Written by Robert C. Perry, Past President, HRC*



**Tomahawk** Club wanted to recognize Club President Faith Hall. She has worked tirelessly on improving the physical appearance of the club building and improved the clubs relationship with its community. She is pictured working the car show.



**Lewistown** Club held Ladies' Night at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant. This dinner is in recognition of the women who serve dinner for the club members and their wives. The guest speaker was Brett Baseley, who gave an interesting presentation on his employment with NASA and his participation in the various NASA projects. He exhibited amazing pictures of the sun, moon, and earth taken by satellite as he described the various satellites and the missions achieved. A description of the cutting-edge technology was given of NASA. Satellites have the capability to map and track wild fires in the United States. He also described the Parker Solar Probe Launch which is the first launch named after a living person. Annual donations were presented to the following organizations: Thurmont Food Bank, 4H Therapeutic Riding, 4H Camp Center, Lewistown District Volunteer Fire Department, Team Hope, Lewistown Elementary School PTA, Lewistown United Methodist Women, and Catocin High School Safe and Sane Program. These donations were made possible through the funds from the Lewistown Ruritan's chicken barbeques. Pictured (l-r) are Lewistown Club members Dick Baseley and Doug Baseley, speaker Brett Baseley, and Lewistown Club President Gregg Warner.

Five students were presented scholarships from the **Mt. Pleasant** Club. Benjamin Smith of WHS is entering Lebanon Valley College in Annville Pennsylvania this fall to pursue degrees in biochemistry and environmental Science. Morgan Carter of WHS will enter York College of Pennsylvania this fall to study to earn a degree in graphic design. Amelia Harman of WHS will attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana to earn degrees in neuroscience and biochemistry. Brett Falkenstein, a 2019 graduate of LHS, has been attending Frederick Community College. He will continue working toward an Associates Degree this coming semester at East Georgia State College followed by his entrance into Georgia Southern University for his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business.

## Donate Rudy Bears

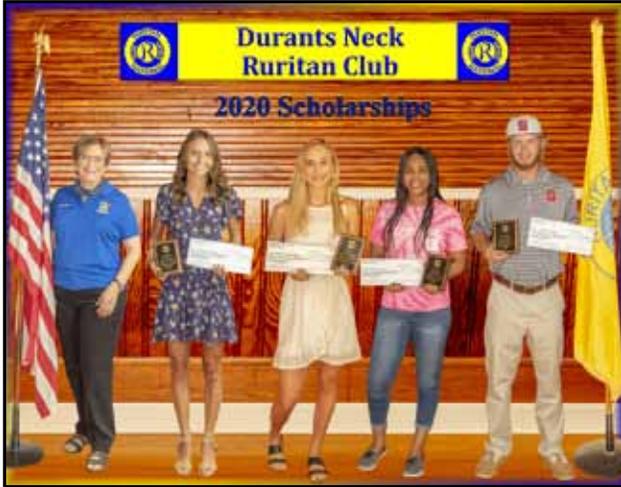
Your club could donate Rudy Bears to nursing homes and hospitals during these unprecedented times.

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



## News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

### Durants Neck Presents \$6,000 in Scholarships



**Durants Neck** Club presented four scholarships this year to Katelyn Sharber, Madison Jennings, Atavia Mallory, and Clayton White. Each in the amount of \$1,500. Due to this pandemic, the club did not conduct a ceremony to award the scholarships. Instead, the scholarships were presented individually by Club President Joyce Gurganus maintaining social distancing. (The photo was produced in Photoshop.)

Katelyn will be attending East Carolina University with emphasis on becoming a nurse and specializing in obstetrics. Madison will be attending Elizabeth City State University with hopes of attending UNC Asheville and the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy for her doctorate. Atavia will be attending UNC Chapel Hill. It is her dream to become a pediatric nurse, return to her home, and continue to give back to her community by opening a homeless shelter. Clayton

will be attending NC State University to study agriculture.

In addition to scholarships, the club supports the Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department, Senior Bingo, Project Patriot, the Food Bank of the Albemarle, and much more. Pictured (l-r) are Durants Neck Ruritan Club President Joyce Gurganus along with Katelyn Sharber, Madison Jennings, Atavia Mallory, and Clayton White.

## News From Ruritan: Roanoke District

### Farm Life Presents Scholarships

Pictured are **Farm Life** Club's scholarship recipients. Kerrie Coltrain (Bear Grass Charter) and Jason Wynne (Riverside High). Hunter Cannon (South Creek High) was not able to attend the award ceremony. Each recipient received \$600.



## News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt. Durham District



### Redwood Installs Ramp

**Redwood** Club members installed a ramp for member Frank Bordeaux who is battling cancer. The club has purchased several metal ramps that can be moved from

place to place as a need arises in the community. Standing with Bordeaux are George Woods, Jasper Taylor, David Pennell, and Danny Taylor.



## Johnsonville Staying Positive

Although the annual Memorial Day ceremony was not held, the Johnsonville Veterans Memorial was all dressed up by the **Johnsonville Club**. The flags were still lowered and raised and the community was invited to visit and leave a flower in honor of veterans they wanted to remember and honor.



To celebrate Ruritan Founders' Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day, club members held drive-by events at which they handed out Nutty Buddy Cones and ice cream sandwiches and gave greetings. Rudy Ruritan wore his mask, of course!

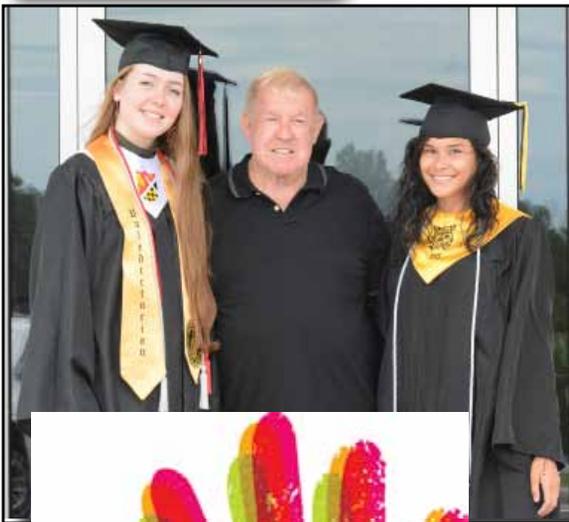


Three students were awarded scholarships in a total amount of \$2,000. Johnsonville Club Vice President CeCe DelPrado presented checks to (l-r) Mark Williamson, who is studying emergency medical care at Western Carolina University; Dillon Smith, a Western Harnett High School graduate, who will study exercise physiology at Mars Hill University; and Sabina Blue, a graduate of Union Pines High School, who is in her second year studying music education at University of Mt. Olive.

## Piney Grove Congratulates Graduates

**Piney Grove** members, Emma White and Morgan Corbett, graduated high school. Emma is the Cape Fear District 2019 Rudy Youth of the Year, and Morgan is the 2019 Piney Grove Ruri-Teen of the Year.

Emma will be attending East Carolina University on an honors and education scholarship where she will double major in mathematics and secondary math education. Morgan will be attending Sampson Community College with the Piney Grove \$600 scholarship where she will major in business.



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## News From Ruritan: Spartan District



## Middle Tyger Presents Scholarship

Middle Tyger Club President Alton Free presented Morgan Farmer with a \$600 scholarship. Morgan is a 2020 graduate of Palmetto High School and will be attending the College of Charleston Honors Program in Charleston, SC. <http://events.stjude.org/ruritannational>



## News From Ruritan: Columbia District

## Maria Arteaga Receives \$1,000 Scholarship



Pineview Ruritan Club held a successful fundraiser during the pandemic by selling 125 bags of onions. The club presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Maria Arteaga. Maria will be entering Lander University majoring in psychology. Pictured (l-r) are proud mom Mrs. Arteaga, Maria, Scholarship Committee Chair Fran Bristow, and Social Development Committee Chair Butch Salters.

## Pelion Holds Annual Veterans Memorial Service

Approximately 150 people braved the COVID-19 virus to attend the Sixth Annual Pelion Ruritan Veterans Memorial Service held on May 25. The weather was perfect and the service was wonderful.

The service this year was dedicated to the memories of Benny Collings who passed away October 21, 2019, and Charlie Haggard who passed away February 12, 2020.



## News From Ruritan: Upper West Virginia District

### Fellowsville Works Together

This the first year that the **Fellowsville** Ruritan Club presented "I Like Me" books to the first grade and kindergarden students at the Fellowsville Elementary School. Students were surprised to be given a book with their names along with the names of two friends and their teacher's and principal's name.



The name of the school and town were also included. The books arrived prior to the closing of all schools. Pictured (l-r) are Deloris Goodwin, Vice President; Linda Cox, President; Eli Shahan, first grade student holding his personal book; Amanda Cline, Teacher's Aide; and Mariann, kindergarten and first grade teacher.



The club presented its BY\$ Scholarship to Lauren Grace Williams. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Chair Don Post, Lauren Grace Williams, and Fellowsville Club Treasurer Richard Strawser.

2018 National President Guy Cox, Fellowsville 2019 Club President John Goodwin, Vice President Deloris Goodwin, and 2020 Club President Linda Cox cleaned up the Fellowsville Roadside Park for the use of the community. The club took over the maintenance several years ago. Club members are responsible for mowing, cutting/burning trees, and the upkeep of the three shelters.



## News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District

### Pipestem Raises \$8,175 for Victims of House Fire



**Pipestem** Club held a spaghetti meal fundraiser and raised \$8,175 for a family who lost everything in a house fire. Lower West Virginia District's work team was District Governor Blaine Cecil, his wife Debbie Cecil, Lt. Governor Patty Hamilton, and District Treasurer Shirley Mutter.



*We are Ruritans!*

## News From Ruritan: Bluegrass District

### Finchville Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Finchville Club celebrated its 30th anniversary. Bluegrass Lt. Governor Anne Hillard presented Club President Keith Raisor with a certificate. Charter members Marie and Lorie Chappell, Butch Kinsella, Linda and Marc Rucker, Harmon Smith, and Geradline Stratton were guests at the anniversary dinner.



## News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

### Bloomingdale Presents Nine Scholarships

**Bloomingdale** Club presented scholarships in July. Scholarship funds are received through fish fries and Friday night breakfast events. Private donations are also given to the club. Two scholarships were in honor of James B. Robinson who is a retired school principal and a WWII Navy Veteran. Robinson just celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Local alumni of his schools donated enough money for two scholarships in his name. The club had the students show up at different times to receive their checks. Presentations were made by Club President Gary Collier and photos were taken by Social Development Committee Chair Judy Short.

The club has an ongoing paper recycling fundraiser. Citizens bring recycling to the club-owned building.



AUTUMN CRAWFORD - ETSU  
JAMES B. ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP



CHRISTIAN CRAWFORD - ETSU  
JAMES B. ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP



ALEXIS EDWARDS - ETSU  
JOEY SMALLWOOD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



## News From Ruritan: Tennessean District continued

### Volunteer Staying Strong



**Volunteer** Club presented its scholarship to Hannah Price. Also, club member Don Carter presented Price with a monetary donation in memory of his wife Daisy Carter. The donation is to be used for school expenses. Pictured with Price are Volunteer Club President Danny Carter and Treasurer Darrell Bishop.

Pictured is Volunteer youth member Kailey Thompson giving member Helen Carter a “refresher” on using a cash register during a fish fry fundraiser.

Elizabeth Green is shown proudly wearing her Eagle Tee.



## News From Ruritan: Cherokee District

### Taylors Presents Scholarship

**Taylors** Ruritan Club presented Emily White with a scholarship. Emily plans on attending the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. Pictured (l-r) are Taylors Vice-president Lee Goodman, Emily White, her Mother Whitney White, and Taylors President Heath Jordan.



## Opt-Out of Ruritan Solicitation Communications

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

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

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

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

### Oak Hill Caldwell Presents Gifts



**Oak Hill** (Caldwell) Club member Carol Deal was the recipient of the L.A. Dysart and Woman of the Year Award, She helped revive the Caldwell County Farmers Market, championed Oak Hill School, worked to start a new park and food pantry, helped seniors, and worked to rescue animals. "Carol has reached into every corner of the county," said Dr. Caryl Burns, who presented the award.

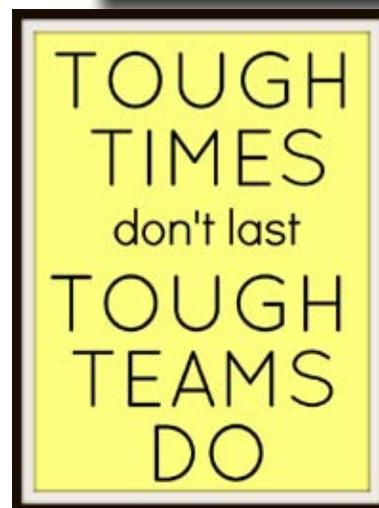
After the closing of Oak Hill Elementary School, club members say goodbye to Club President and School Principal Chris Ackerman as he receives a gift basket for his six years of service.



### Kings Creek 2020 Officers



Western North Carolina Zone Governor Marvin Eller installed **Kings Creek** Club Officers. They are Club President Cecil Hunt, Vice President Kenny Thompson, Treasurer Karen Laws, Secretary Melissa Costin, and Director Seth Whisnant.



### Pungoteague Builds Handicap Ramp

**Pungoteague** Club built a 32-foot wheelchair ramp for a handicapped resident. The club was assisted by Donnie Campell and John Inman, pictured in the rear. Pictured from left are club members Dennis Melon, David Shaw, Paul Custis, Taylor Dukes, and Herman Hohlt. Doug Wehner and Bill Sterling also assisted but were not pictured.



## News From Ruritan: Delmarva New Jersey District continued



### Idlewild Makes Food Boxes

Idlewild Club completed its annual White Christmas for needy families. They partnered with Preston Elementary School for a food drive, where over 1800 items were collected. Members and their families sorted the food and put together 59 boxes. Just in time for Christmas 2019.



be  
KIND  
TO OTHERS.

## News From Ruritan: Piedmont District

### Pine Hall Gives Free Ice Cream



Pine Hall Club members spent one Saturday in May giving out free ice cream sandwiches and Nutty Buddy Cones to anyone that came by their building. This was the club's way of celebrating Ruritan's 92nd birthday and Pine Hall's 49th birthday. Young and old enjoyed the event. Face masks and social distancing were observed.



### Sandy Ridge Presents Scholarships



Sandy Ridge Ruritan Club held a drive-through Bible and scholarship presentation on Thursday, May 28th, 2020, at the Sandy Ridge Elementary School for high school seniors. The five scholarship winners were given an assigned time to come and receive their gifts. Scholarships were presented to Reid Hawkins, Cheyann Knight, Kelsey Hawkins, Mackenzie Deskins, and Morgan Mabe. The club had 20 students that received a Bible, an American flag, and a gift certificate from a local restaurant.

## Fontaine Donates Generously

Fontaine Ruritan Club made donations to Rich Acres Elementary School for three of the grades to go on field trips. The club also voted to make a donation to the Bassett High School Baseball Team, SPCA, and four scholarships to the 4-H Summer Camp.



## Rangeley Presents Scholarships



Pictured with Rangeley Club President Jim McMillan are the 2020 scholarship recipients Evan Hudson and Haley Vaughn.

## Red Bank Welcomes New Member



Dan River District Governor Charlie Bowman (right) welcomed Red Bank Club member and new board member Matthew Allen.

**Home Office to Holland Walk for St. Jude**

**Join the Ruritan Walking Train! We Walk So They Can Live!**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Dublin/HomeOfficetoHolland>

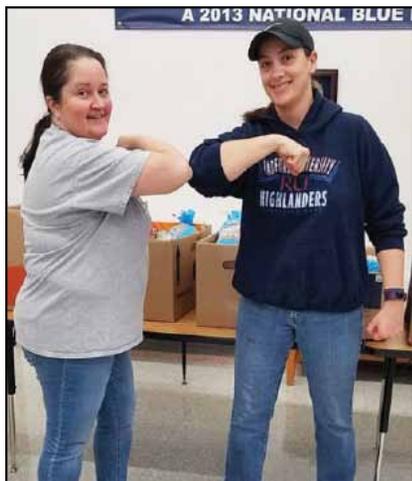


# Hedgspeth's Visit To Lincolnland District



*Working Together*

## Snowville Club Provides Free Lunches During Covid-19



**Article written by DANIELLE REID, THE PATRIOT**

While many people are wondering when – or whether – public school students will be returning to the classroom this fall, the Ruritan Club of Snowville is meeting the immediate needs of their students through a community effort and

80 to 100 bag lunches per week. We were glad we could help,” comments Dishon.

The Ruritan Bag Lunch menus change daily, but consist of an entree such as spaghetti, hamburger, hot dog or chicken, juice or a drink, fruit and a side item.

As if Dishon, who is also the U.S. History and Service Learning teacher at Pulaski County High School and Flesher, who is the manager at Arby's in Dublin, didn't have enough to occupy their time, they along with several volunteers, do the shopping, coordinating, food preparation and stuffing bags for the feeding program.

Food distribution takes place at the Snowville Elementary School from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“If anyone comes in and says they're hungry, we give a lunch to them. Usually the parent comes in, but some older kids who can drive occasionally pick up the lunches. We have made some deliveries if no one is available to pick up a lunch,” continues Dishon.

Regarding her passion for helping others, Dishon says: “I grew up with two parents very involved in serving others. They were on the rescue squad, involved in church activities, and other volunteer organizations.” Dishon, who began volunteering with the Ruritan Club at age 17, is a strong advocate for volunteerism and believes the Ruritan Club presents opportunities for students to discover ways to give back.

“Volunteerism is not as prevalent as it used to be and while our club is a great resource for the community, we are worried about volunteer clubs being able to continue due to dwindling membership. Many of our members are senior citizens. The times are different now. People are always on the go, our kids have so many scheduled activities; and time becomes extremely precious,” she says reflectively.

Although Dishon appreciates everyone who is willing to help, younger volunteers are especially noteworthy. She recognizes exemplary students Gabby Duncan, sophomore at PCHS who has been volunteering through the Ruritan Club; and elementary student Hollace Oakes, who donated funds from her JamStand which she started as a nine-year-old.

the Backpack Buddy Program.

Snowville Elementary School Secretary/Administrative Assistant Nancy Jarrells (left) and PCHS teacher Amanda Dishon.

Amanda Dishon, Snowville Ruritan Club vice president, remarked, “When the schools shut down in Virginia because of COVID-19, we were concerned. So many families rely on the school lunch program to feed their kids. When we discovered the Snowville School was going to be providing lunches on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, we decided to supplement their program and provide free lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays.”

Amy Shrewsbury, Principal at Snowville Elementary School expressed her appreciation. “I want everyone to know just how much we appreciate the long-standing relationship with our Ruritan community. They diligently work together to help families in our community and are an amazing group of people and an excellent asset. They work closely to make sure the children in our community get what they need, such as this feeding program. They give awards to the students, like the Kindness Award in which teachers nominate students for outstanding acts of kindness.”

After the decision to help was made, the next step was figuring out how to pay for and initiate the feeding program. According to Dishon, she and Sharon Flesher, Snowville Ruritan Club president, reached out to the Ruritan Club.

“The Ruritans made an initial donation and agreed to contribute \$600 toward the feeding program; and plan to revisit the donation at a later date. So many people in the Snowville community have offered to help and are pitching in. It's a community effort. We've received donations of food and money, too.” She named Cecil's Chapel United Methodist Church volunteers Judy Barr and Salina Smiley and the Snowville Masonic Lodge #159 among the many outstanding contributors.

Dishon says they reached out to the Backpack Buddy Program at Snowville Elementary School.

“The Backpack Buddy Program already had a distribution system set up for food boxes. In addition to the boxes, we started doing the bag lunches. The Ruritan Club is providing between



*Gabby Duncan (left) and Ruritan Club President Sharon Flesher place meals in bags for Snowville children.*

# Fall Cover Contest Winner Hollace Oakes

*Below is a letter that Hollace Oakes (age 9) wrote when she donated some of her JamStand money to the Snowville Ruritan Feeding Project.*



Hi, my name is Hollace Oakes. I'm 9 years old and I'm in 4th grade at Snowville Elementary School in Mrs. Arnold's class. My mom noticed on the Snowville Ruritan Facebook page that they were feeding children on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They were requesting donations. Mom sent some grocery items to be used and she asked me if there was anything I could do to help. I immediately said that I could give some of my JamStand money to help. My 1st grade teacher, Mrs. Payne, taught me about Economics and I decided that I would start a JamStand to make some money. That August, I had my first JamStand. I sold apple butter and strawberry jam that I helped to make. I split my earnings up into envelopes. Some for saving, for giving, for crafts, for books and more. I've continued this each summer and now I sell blueberry and kiwi jams, too. So, I used some of my giving money to donate to the Snowville Ruritans Feeding project. I think it is important for kids to have yummy foods to eat all the time, everyday. I know the Ruritans will help any kids in our community who are hungry. And, that's a good thing!

Love,  
Hollace

Volunteering  
knows no  
age limit.

## Telford Places Flags on Veterans Graves



Telford Ruritan Club placed commemorative flags at the graves of fallen veterans in their community on Memorial Day weekend. Honoring those who died in conflict are pictured (l-r) Telford Club members David Trowbridge (Air Force Veteran), President Carl Daniels (Army Veteran), and Dan Westbrook (Navy Veteran).

The club donated Rudy Bears to the Tennessee Highway Patrol at their June meeting. Highway Patrol Sgt. Nathan Hall provided the program and accepted the donation. The club also provided Rudy Bears to the local EMS and Sheriff's Office. Pictured are Club President Carl Daniels and Sgt. Hall.

## W.H. Whaley Recognized



Charter Member W.H. (Howard) Whaley was recently recognized for 54 years of perfect attendance with the Mt. Pleasant Club. He is pictured receiving his pin from 2019 Davy Crockett District Governor Michael Gregg.



## Camp Creek Presents Gift Bags to High School Seniors



Camp Creek Club participated in the Second Harvest Food distribution. This is a service provided to fill the need when children are not in school. Pictured (l-r) are Jane Clendenin, Gerry Sensanbaugh, John Sensanbaugh, and Bea Brown



# Ruritan Paver Program for Capital Improvement

The Ruritan Paver Patio is a beautiful place to remember loved ones and honor special Ruritans. The funds raised with this program will be used for capital reserves and to make improvements to the building. Complete this form and send in with your payment to Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin VA 24084

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**4 x 8 Brick, three lines of type - only 20 characters or spaces per line \$100**


Check here for this option:

**8 x 8 Brick, 6 lines of type - only 20 characters or spaces per line \$200**


Check here for this option:

**8 x 8 Brick, three lines - 20 characters or spaces per line PLUS Ruritan Emblem \$210**


Check here for this option:

**I would like a tile coaster replica as a remembrance for \$25**

Total enclosed for this brick: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Code on reverse: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift, please send an acknowledgement to:

Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ruritan Staff Notes: Date received \_\_\_\_\_; Acknowledgment sent \_\_\_\_\_

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OF THE ROUEMONT  
RURITAN CLUB IN NC



WINNER JAYSON DUNCAN  
OF THE GERMANTON,  
PINE HALL, AND  
WENTWORTH CLUBS IN NC



WINNER FAITH HALL  
OF THE TOMAHAWK  
RURITAN CLUB IN WV

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