

2020 National President Linward Hedgspeth



Life's most persistent and
urgent question is:
"What are you doing for others?"

-Martin Luther King

This year 2020 has been the most astounding year ever! Never in our wild-est imagination did we anticipated the vast social change we have experienced thus far. It was first frightening and uncertain, a new experience for all, and to our Ruritan organization.

First Lady Anne and I unfortunately were unable to do much visiting, because of the pandemic. With the very few visits that we were able to do, it was immensely enjoyable to hear and be a part of the Ruritan stories. We thank the many Ruritans for their gifts, phone calls, cards, well wishes and support.

"In the middle of difficulty lies Opportunity"

The Ruritan organization along with the nation paused for only a brief period to understand the situation at hand. Ruritans quickly SOARED beyond expectation, to find ways to support our communities, first responders, caregivers, the medical establishments, and each other.

You may never know the profound effect that you may have made on a person's life. A kind word or a listening ear can mean so much to someone who is sick, in pain, or lonely. You generously give your most precious commodity, your gift of time. Please know we genuinely appreciate and value your time and commitment to the Ruritan organization and for this We Thank You.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation's shutdown we faced many new challenges in 2020, with all clubs and national activities suspended.

The Executive Committee and the Board of Director's Committees were all engaged weekly to develop strategies to navigate through these uncertain times.

Advancement Committee: To enhance the club's ability to compete for community service awards; eliminated the attendance requirements for service awards in 2020 i.e.

- Blue Ribbon
- Outstanding Club President
- Outstanding Club Secretary
- Perfect Attendance
- Ruritan, Ruri-Teen, and Rudy Youth of the Year



Community Service Awards requiring points had the points requirements reduced by 50% for 2020.

Leadership Committee: Initiated weekly meetings to develop an alternative plan for the canceled Annual Ruritan Summer Leadership Conference. Training is essential for our leaders and growth of the organization. Their action resulted in the development of a host of PowerPoint video presentations for distribution to all Ruritan Districts. This accomplishment gives Ruritan the potential to provide training to more leaders than ever before.

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