

2021 National President Linward Hedgspeth

After the Storm



The Ruritan National Organization is excited about the rebirth of the nation after the pandemic storm. Club members are energized, and new members are joining or rejoining the organization from across the nation.

Every day in Ruritans lives, we attempt to create a tomorrow that is better than today. By doing so, it creates a sense of motivation for the present and future generations.

We have made progress as we drew from our 93 years of experience in community service, to preserve and make a difference in our local communities. This is because we are committed to the mission created by our Ruritan forefathers, which has been a phenomenal success.

In the year 2020 although the entire nation was forced to change, we are still committed to the mission of our forefathers. But we must adapt wisely and take advantage of the changes that are before us. We have a responsibility as Ruritans to ensure the best possible future for new generations.

Summer Leadership Conference

On August 14, 2021, in Roanoke, VA. the National Leadership and Development Committee put together a fantastic Summer Leadership Conference. The program was exciting, well attended, and consisted of great training information for future Ruritan leaders.

National Board of Directors

The Board assembled on August 13th to address changes needed in our policies and bylaws that were influenced by the consequences of the 2020 pandemic.

The National Board also selected Deputy Director Sarah Kelly to replace Michael Chrisley as the new Ruritan National Executive Director. Sarah comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and a genuine deep love for Ruritan.

Retirement Celebration for Michael Chrisley

Michael Chrisley will be retiring from this post in March 2022. Michael has served as National Executive Director with integrity and accountability for nearly 16 years and has been employed with Ruritan National for over 40 years. His loyal and faithful contributions to Ruritan National will be greatly missed. Michael will continue to serve Ruritan in his local Ruritan club. National Treasurer David Thompson and I will be hosting a RETIREMENT CELEBRATION at the National Convention. I have asked David to head it up and he has assembled a committee to assist with the planning of the event.

Please plan to join me after the opening ceremonies on Thursday evening to celebrate Mike! You can drop by for refreshments and light hor d'oeuvres and help us THANK Mike for his selfless service to Ruritan.

Monetary donations from districts, clubs, or individuals, are welcome to offset the cost of the celebration and are greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent through VENMO, PAYPAL, or CHECK at the following:

VENMO - @Davidgis (Please put RETIREMENT in the Notes)

PAYPAL - dsthoms99@hotmail.com

CHECK - Payable to David Thompson 18607 Stonewall Drive, Dinwiddie, VA. 23841.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact David at 804.704.4026.

If you can't make it to the National Convention - cards and gifts can be sent to: Ruritan National, ATTN: RETIREMENT

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Mike, we truly appreciate your dedication and your commitment to this organization for nearly a half century and for all you have done for Ruritan!!!

Ruritans are needed in this nation to fill in the gaps for those who are in need in our communities. If we are going to invest, let's invest in our communities. It's our mission, it's who we are.

Reach out to those that are not yet a member of the Ruritan Organization and are community-minded. Invite them to visit your club or Ruritan event. Everyone in our local communities should have the opportunity to serve.

We can do anything if we don't have to do it alone.

New members can energize Ruritan club members. A new member brings new ideas and excitement. It is important to take advantage of the new energy right away. New members should be mentored, listened to, and allowed to express their ideas. You may find your own passion is rekindled; everybody wins when Working Together.

There are Ruritans among us that are sick.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatsoever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. For those that have lost loved ones. John 14:26 the Holy Spirit also comforts us. Interceding - praying for us when we don't know what to say. Let us continue to intercede for one another.

First Lady Anne and I have had a unique experience along with all of you. After the shutdown of the nation in 2020, there were no clear directions, no one had experienced such a devastating setback which continued into 2021.

We witnessed first-hand the resolve of the greatest community service organization in the nation, Ruritan. We discovered new means of communicating, by managing the business and getting the word out to members. Club members were creative in finding ways to serve their communities, helping the sick and lonely, and supporting first responders. Clubs developed new ways of holding fundraisers and doing it in a safe environment.

Anne and I so appreciate the opportunity to serve as your President and First Lady for 2020 and 2021. Although travel has been limited, we cherish the opportunity to meet and fellowship with wonderful new people and reacquaint with old friends as we traveled.



Our lives have changed enormously, having had an opportunity to work and grow with each of you.

*Let's continue to focus our energy
not on fighting the old, but on
building the new, and
SOARING LIKE AN EAGLE.*

*Linward Hedgspeth
2020-2021 Ruritan National President*