



Ruritan

Volume 74, Spring 2009



Now, More Than Ever We Are Asked: *Share Ruritan*

Editor's note: The following speech was given by 2009 National President Donald Worrell at the Installation Banquet in Myrtle Beach, SC during the 2009 Ruritan National Convention.

I am excited! This is a new year in the life of Ruritan. Congratulations to the 2009 Ruritan leaders who were elected. We have a great team and I look forward to working with you. And to you Ruritans, thank you for your vote of confidence. I look forward to making 2009 an exciting year **Sharing Ruritan!** It has been a pleasure serving at the national level for the past four years and I could not have done it without your support. I pledge to continue working with our leaders to ensure Ruritan is in good health now and for future generations.



Like many of you, I am from a small community. That community nurtured me and taught me valuable lessons such as the importance of family. In many ways my community and Ruritan have been extensions of my family. You always take care of your family. I was raised on a peanut farm in Holland, VA. My family and

SHARE RURITAN!

grandparents were very close. As many of you know, my grandfather, Harvey "Hambone" Worrell, was a Ruritan charter member. My grandfather would be proud – you see he carried the Ruritan flag at 46 Ruritan National Conventions. My dad, James Edward Worrell, has been a member of Holland Ruritan Club since 1947; so, involvement in Ruritan has always been a part of my family's life. Let me introduce you to my family – my wife, Roseland Lowe Worrell (**Holland, VA Ruritan**); my two sons: Justin (**Smithfield, VA Ruritan Club**), wife Lisa, and daughters, Kaitlyn and Abigail; Joshua (**Holland, VA Ruritan Club**), wife Jennifer, and daughter, Cameron (fifth generation Ruritan).

When I was 21, I made the most important decision in my life. I married Roseland, who has provided constant encouragement and support for me in my Ruritan journey. That same year a neighbor invited us to spouses' night at the Holland Ruritan Club.

"Would you like to become a member?" they asked. Immediately, I joined the traditions of fellowship, goodwill, and community service for the Holland community. In 1999, after over 25 years of fulfilling Ruritan community service, I became a more "engaged" Ruritan at the district level as I was selected zone governor in the

Holland District Cabinet. The rest, as they say, is history.

I came to learn that Ruritans are faithful, God-fearing Americans who are proactive in meeting the needs of our communities. They are usually the first people in the community to respond when there is disaster or crisis. When we **Share Ruritan**, we are ensuring that Ruritan is and will continue to be the **#1** service organization in America.

You are our most important asset in community service because people power gets things done. We have challenges facing Ruritan today, and I know we can meet them. We can develop a variety of growth tools, but when it comes down to the bottom line, it is your personal sacrifice that makes the difference. One thing I have seen while traveling through Ruritan land is that there are many communities that need our great organization. Let us help these communities and encourage the people to join and organize clubs. Remember, there is always more strength in numbers.

Our first challenge, and my target goal for 2009, is to expand Ruritan membership. Growth is vital to Ruritan. I would like the district governors and their cabinets to focus on this initiative – form one new regular adult club in your District in 2009. This will equate to over 40 adult clubs. Building new clubs is achievable, and we are excited over the fast growing number of Ruri-Teen and college clubs.

I believe in the power of positive thinking. A positive attitude and a strong mind is the key to achieving these results. Also along with expanding our clubs we must work diligently to retain all of our Ruritans. We have had positive growth the last couple of years – which is greater than most service organizations have achieved. If you have an active club and your members are busy helping others, it makes you that much more attractive to the public. Club officers, I challenge you when you get home, review your membership and your initiatives because happy and involved Ruritans stay Ruritans.

Another challenge we face is one of economics. The ever-changing economy has drastically affected our



Continued on page 27



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EDITORIAL & PUBLICATIONS STAFF

Michael Chrisley, Executive Director
Chris Pugh, Publications Manager
Crystal Jennelle, Media Assistant

CIRCULATION & ADVERTISING

Sue Ervine, Membership Specialist

MAILING ADDRESS - EDITORIAL OFFICE

Ruritan National
P.O. Box 487
(UPS) 5451 Lyons Road
Dublin, VA 24084
(540) 674-5431 Toll-Free: (877) 787-8727
FAX: (540) 674-2304
E-mail: office@ruritan.org
Web: http://ruritan.org
Supply Orders Only: (800)836-5431

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Cover Image: 2009 National President Donald Worrell and his family are pictured on the Spring 2009 RURITAN magazine. Included are: Worrell and his wife Roseland, sons Joshua and Justin, his father James E. Worrell, Roseland's mother Helen Lowe, daughter-in-law Jennifer, and granddaughter Cameron. Not pictured are daughter-in-law Lisa and granddaughters Kaitlyn and Abigail.

Spring Brings Our Thanks for Your Generosity

We're starting to see signs of spring at the National Office in Dublin. This year we are so excited to see spring come because we are the recipients of your generosity and shortly we will be making some



much needed upgrades to the facility. We have received just over \$38,000 in donations to the Capital Replacement Fund from more than 175 donors, both clubs and individuals. (See pages 12 and 13 for a listing of donors for the first \$35,000 – more donors will appear in the summer Ruritan magazine).

Thank you so much for helping us care for your National Office.

The plans include installing double-paned, gas-filled windows that will make heating and cooling our office more efficient. We also plan to install ramps on the front and back of the building so that we are ADA compliant for handicap access at appropriate slopes with hand rails. Finally, with just a little more money we can re-pave the parking lot and drive.

We are looking at a number of ways to reduce costs, for example: We had an engineering class from New River Community College come to the building, and as a class project, they are doing an energy study. Once the study is complete, they will be making recommendations on renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines. If you have ever been to the National Office, and felt the wind blow you probably wondered why we weren't selling electricity back to the electric company!

We are so thankful for your generosity. Please accept my thanks on behalf of all the staff at the National Office. Whenever there is a need, Ruritan clubs reach out and supply what is necessary.

We are also excited that we have been using the Membership Management System exclusively as our membership system at the National Office. Our old legacy system has been retired. The staff, board, and a small number of clubs now have access to the system and we are in the final stages of beta testing.

Soon, we will begin to provide training and access to the system for all clubs. The next step is to finalize the accounting migration to a new general ledger system and integrate it to the Membership Management System.

We also have plans for many other IT enhancements to the website and elsewhere that we know clubs will love. Stay tuned, the best is yet to come.

Finally, as always we are excited that there is a fresh commitment to growth for 2009. Governors at the National Convention signed pledge cards committing to forming at least one new club in each district and reclaiming one lost club in each district.

One of my first experiences as a manager at Ruritan (back in the 1980s) was to work with the District Advancement Committee. Part of their responsibilities was to grade community service reports. The committee made all the decisions, but over the weekend I had the opportunity to read hundreds of community service reports. It changed my way of thinking about Ruritan. We do so much good for so many. Please make it a priority to share this organization with a community that doesn't have a club.



Yours in Ruritan Service,
Michael Chrisley

New Clubs for 2009

New Ruritan Clubs, Sponsors & DRMS*

(January 1, 2009 -- March 20, 2009)

<u>New Club Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Sponsoring Club</u>	<u>DRM</u>
Providence Middle School Ruri-Teen	Appomattox	Midlothian	Larry Ford
Alexander Ruri-Teen	Western North Carolina	Gwaltney	Shelby Earp
Ooltewah Middle School Ruri-Teen	Cherokee	East Hamilton County	Sherry McCullough
Black River Ruri-Teen	Ohio	Homer	Chuck Scotch

*DRM stands for Distinguished Ruritan Member, who is the person most responsible for organizing the new club.

District Governors Pledge to Grow Ruritan

During the training for 2009 District Governors in Myrtle Beach, SC the topic focused on growing Ruritan and 2009 National President Donald Worrell's simple but important slogan for the year – SHARE RURITAN.

The Governors were reminded of the communities that had been targeted – in 2008 when most of them were Lt. Governors – where their district leaders believed Ruritan could grow. Some of these were brand new communities – and others were communities where Ruritan had once been active but where a club had since disbanded.



Richard Tasker (Upper WV) and Arella Bacon (Gulf Area) sign pledge cards assigning priorities to the communities in which they plan to grow Ruritan in 2009.

President Donald and Executive Director Michael

Chrisley handed out the data that had been collected in 2008 and asked the governors to formalize their commitment to growth by signing pledge cards identifying the areas for their concentrated efforts.

To offer support to the governors' efforts, President Donald distributed large vinyl signs to every governor present. He asked the governors to take the free signs and put them in places of high traffic in the community –

RURITAN CLUBS BUILD BETTER COMMUNITIES

RURITAN & YOUR COMMUNITY NEED YOU!
WWW.RURITAN.ORG

especially in places where increased efforts at growing Ruritan were being undertaken.

The vinyl signs can be wrapped around a board and posted in the ground as a free standing promotion of Ruritan. The signs also have grommets on all the edges so they can be hung on the side of a barn or other building.

Additional signs are available through Ruritan Supply at a cost of \$80 which includes shipping.

Top 10 Clubs with Greatest Percent Increase in 2008

Club	District	Percent Increase
1 st Hiram	Georgia – North Alabama	150%
2 nd Aarons Creek	Dan River	135.29%
3 rd Southwood	Greenville-Goldsboro	117.64%
4 th Driver	Holland	100%
5 th Fountain	Upper West Virginia	81.81%
6 th Parkton	Cape Fear	75%
7 th Spring Place	Georgia–North Alabama	71.42%
8 th Clear Springs	Davy Crockett	70.96%
9 th Capon Bridge	Upper WV	59.25%
10 th Patrick Springs	Dan River	56.25%

Growth by District

Category	District	Percentage
SMALL: 500 MEMBERS OR LESS	Georgia – N. Alabama	12.31%
	Cherokee	19.23%
MEDIUM: 501-1000 MEMBERS	Rockingham	2.44%
	Gulf Area	3.40%
AREAS		
District Retention Awards		
SMALL: 500 MEMBERS OR LESS	Spartan	94.33%
	Rapidan	92.11%
MEDIUM: 501-1000 MEMBERS	Rockingham	94.38%
	LARGE: 1001 + MEMBERS	
Gong Award for the District Recruiting the Most Family Members		
SMALL: 500 MEMBERS OR LESS	Middle America with 10 family members	
	Cherokee with 21 family members	
MEDIUM: 501-1000 MEMBERS	Davy Crockett with 27 family members	
	Gulf Area with 10 family members	
LARGE: 1001 + MEMBERS		
AREAS		

South Norfolk (VA) Makes Membership History

The South Norfolk (VA) Ruritan Club will make Ruritan membership history. 2008 President Wayne Outlaw recognized this club at the recent Myrtle Beach National Convention as the largest club in Ruritan National and awarded Buddy Bagley (far left) a national award for new members in 2008.

Club President Kenneth Bowden said, "We had a goal of 200 members in 2008 and encouraged our members to seek out possible members." Pictured (left to right) are Buddy Bagley, Bill Gray, Chris McClenny, Rob Hicks, Robert Lambert, 200th member Ed Leggett, Jr., 2009 National President Donald Worrell, and John Blake. The new members shown in this picture are excited about getting involved in the many community service projects completed annually by South Norfolk.



Ruritan National Board Action

Board Adjusts Membership Increase Award to Club Size

At the January 2009 Ruritan National Board of Directors meeting a motion was approved to grant The Club Membership Increase Award on the basis of small, medium and large club sizes. The award – which is based on a percentage increase – will consider clubs sizes as follows: small clubs contain 16 to 35 members, medium clubs have 36-75 members, and large clubs have 76 members and over. The new description of the award calls for a prize for each category. Growth must still be recorded January 1 through November 30. Clubs must be at or above charter strength, with the increase included, to receive the award.

In other action at the January meeting the Board approved new **Ruritan Club Bylaws** to replace the former Club Constitution and Club Bylaws – which were two separate documents. This approved document took effect immediately after the vote of approval and can be found on the Ruritan National website under "Resources". As the document was approved, it was noted that the new governing document may be edited for spelling, grammar, and punctuation by the Publications Committee prior to being reproduced in the 2010 Ruritan publications.

Come Visit Us!

Ruritan National Office

Traveling northbound on Interstate 81, take exit 98, turn left onto Rt. 100 (from southbound Interstate 81 turn right onto Rt. 100). At the second stoplight, turn right onto Rt. 682, cross over Interstate 81 and turn left onto Rt. 662.

Tours can be arranged by calling Debbie Southern at the National Office, toll free at 877-787-8727 ext. 18.

During the January meeting the Board also approved criteria to establish a Ruritan 4-H Leader Award along the same lines as the Ruritan Scout Leader award already in place. The award, gives local Ruritan clubs an opportunity to nominate Ruritan members to be recognized for their service to youth through 4-H and also makes the public aware of the important role Ruritans play in the community. Applications may be obtained from the Ruritan National Office.

A motion approved by the Board also created a cap on the President's Golden Key of the Future Award - providing a variety of hanging tabs for members recruiting 65 members or fewer. Any member reaching the 65 member level will automatically become a Ruritan Forever and his or her national dues will be paid for life.

New Officers for 2009 Elected in Myrtle Beach



2009 Ruritan President
Donald Worrell
Suffolk, VA



2009 Ruritan Vice President
Jerome Rodes
Dawson, WV



2009 National Treasurer
Dale Bricker
Canfield, OH



2009 National Secretary
(one year term)
JoAnn C. Wenger
Broadway, VA



National Director
Morris W. Clyburn
Kellysville, WV



National Director
Keith Hall
Old Fort, NC



National Director
Eddie A.
Henderson
Savonburg, KS



National Director
Joe E. Jaynes
Afton, TN



National Director
Roy K. Maloy
King George, VA



National Director
Robert B. Newton
Centreville, MD



National Director
Kay M. Pearson
Harrison, TN



Foundation Trustee
Norman O'Dell
Unicoi, TN

Two Bylaws Amendments Passed by Delegates

Delegates to the 2009 Ruritan National Convention approved a motion to allow districts to set their own district dues. The motion changes Ruritan National Bylaws **Article XVI District and Areas. Section H.** which formerly stated "No district shall impose dues in excess of two dollars (\$2.00) per club member per year."

The approved wording is: *Each district may establish their own district dues. The amount of dues per member of each club shall be determined by the District Cabinet provided any increase in dues shall not become effective until approved by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at the next District Convention. Notice of such proposed dues increase shall be sent to the president of each club in the district at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of said convention.*

Delegates also approved a bylaws amendment to alter **Article IX section D (Ruri-Teen Clubs)** as follows - *A Ruri-Teen club and a Ruritan College club shall be entitled to have two delegates to their district convention and two delegates to the national convention.*

Before the January vote the section stated: *A Ruri-Teen Club Shall have the same delegate representation at district and national conventions as any other Ruritan club.*

2008 Communication Awards

2008 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

- 1st Place Delmarva-New Jersey
- 2nd Place Davy Crockett
- 3rd Place Chesapeake

2008 CLUB NEWSLETTER

- 1st Place Wilson Memorial Dan River
- 2nd Place Middlebrook Woodrow Wilson
- 3rd Place East Orange Rapidan

2008 ELECTRONIC DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

- 1st Place Holland

2008 CLUB WEB SITE DESIGN

- 1st Place Holland Club

Three Ruritans Recognized as Outstanding

At the 2009 Ruritan National Convention in Myrtle Beach the first National Rudy Youth of the Year was announced and recognized. Tyler Parker of the **Ottway (TN) Ruritan Club** in the Davy Crockett District was chosen from nine District Rudy Youths of the Year. The award, patterned on the Ruritan of the Year and the Ruri-Teen of the Year awards, recognizes youth members in regular Ruritan clubs. Tyler, pictured at right with 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw, has been involved in all facets of the community – acting as an ambassador for Ruritan wherever he can. He has spent almost 300 hours on projects and service and has been described as being “all about Ruritan!”

Also recognized in Myrtle Beach was the Ruri-Teen of the year

Brooke Jones (pictured below right with President Wayne). Brooke, a member of the **South Stokes (NC) Ruri-Teen Club** in the Piedmont District, has been active in



school, community, and church including service as President of the Ruri-Teen club and working over 50 hours in the community on projects and service.

And finally – the 2008 Ruritan of the Year recognized in Myrtle Beach was W. W. Johnson, a member of the **Westside (TN) Ruritan Club** in the Cherokee District. W. W. focused on growth in 2008 but managed to perform 500 hours of community service as well. He had a hand in chartering at least five new clubs in 2008. He is pictured, above left, with President Wayne.



Most New Members Recruited in a Calendar Year - 2008

10 members	Stephen Bousman	Redwood Club (VA)	Peaks of Otter
11 members	Robert G. Bagley	South Norfolk Club	Holland
13 members	Harold Pearson	Harrison Club	Cherokee
16 members	Bernard Rister*	Aarons Creek	Dan River
17 members	Calvin Shelton*	Clear Springs Club	Davy Crockett
17 members	Richard E. Tasker*	Fountain Club	Upper WV
18 members	Blaine Cecil*	Four Season Club	Lower WV
19 members	Betty J. Kesner*	Landes Club	Upper WV
25 members	Alice Absher*	V Point Club	Piedmont

* These six qualified for President Wayne's special Convention registration award

NOTE: Alice Absher has recruited 84 total new members over several years time.

2008 Ruritan Scout Leader Awards

Name	Club	Troop #	District
Ralph Lowery	Back Creek Club	77 and 62	Rappahannock
Deborah Smith	Madison Club	1421	Chesapeake
William Byrum	Carrsville Club	37	Holland
Milton Parham	Nolachuckey Club	96	Davy Crockett

Rudy Bear and Food Drop Welcomed in Myrtle Beach

Exceeding all expectations – Ruritans generously donated 2,562 Rudy Bears for the 2009 Ruritan National Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC. A portion of the bears were donated to Duke Children’s Hospital and Health Care Center. The hospital played a crucial role in the treatment of the grandson of 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw. Making the gift of the bears to Duke was President Wayne’s grandson Bayden (pictured with Rudy below). Accepting on behalf of Duke was Bayden’s physician Dr. John Foreman, professor of pediatrics and chief of pediatric nephrology and Lisa Patterson RN, PNP (pictured bottom right)

Following the convention, 1992 National President Jerry Walker who emceed this part of the Saturday program at the convention, received a note from Dr. Foreman, *“We want to thank you and your fellow Ruritans for the Rudy Bears. They were a great hit with the children who were either in the hospital or coming to the outpatient areas as a part of their medical care. We distributed them throughout the various areas, including the eye center, radiology center, the inpatient center, and the outpatient center. As you know, children are seen in quite a number of different places and getting a bear makes that visit a lot less painful.”*



Volunteers from the fire and rescue departments also received a portion of the donated bears. Chris EsDorn, secretary of the South Carolina EMS PIER team, also wrote to Jerry Walker, *“I cannot express enough how honored I was to attend the Ruritans’ convention. It is a personal/career high for me.”* She also explained that by January 30, Ruritan Rudy Bears were in place on ambulances in nine communities in the area. Ms. EsDorn’s children Caroline and Grace were also on hand for the Rudy Bear Drop and are pictured below left. Also receiving Rudy Bears were representatives from the Myrtle Beach Fire Department, represented by Bob Derr.

1992 President Walker was, himself, overwhelmed by this year’s donations. *“Best ever!”* he remarked. *“Never have we had such a generous giving of Rudy Bears!”*



2010 Convention in Virginia Beach

King Neptune Waits to Welcome Ruritan to Virginia Beach

Water, wood, glass, steel and lights – the fabulous Virginia Beach Convention Center will host the 2010 Ruritan National Convention and King Neptune stands guarding the boardwalk and waiting to welcome Ruritans to the shores of Virginia. Multiple host hotels are already filling up and the city of Virginia Beach is providing complimentary bus service to accommodate Ruritans moving between hotels or heading to the Convention Center for meetings, meals, workshops, and fellowship.

Download a reservation form from the Ruritan website <http://ruritan.org> or use the printed copy provided on the opposite page. Better yet – head straight to the Passkey lodging site listed on the form.

If you have any comments to share concerning the convention – send a note to Ruritan Service at service@ruritan.org and staff will make sure that National Convention Chair John Hancock gets your comments and suggestions. Chair John says, “Remember – the success of the 2010 Ruritan National Convention is in your hands – let’s make it memorable.”

The summer 2009 RURITAN magazine will feature the official convention registration form and more about the activities and programs planned for you in Virginia Beach.



Ruritan Food Bank Donations Praised

In addition to the Rudy Bear Drop, Ruritans donated thousands of pounds of food to food banks across the country and celebrated with a cash gift to the Executive Director of the Low Country Food Banks, Jermaine Husser, during the 2009 National Convention. Mr. Husser is pictured above (right) with National Director Dennis Clemmer of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee. Mr. Husser gave a moving tribute to Ruritan for their generosity and described the importance of giving to those less fortunate. He also pointed out that it was groups such as Ruritan who would make the real difference in the current economic situation.

2008 Overall Community Service Awards Announced

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
<u>BUSINESS and PROFESSIONS</u>		
BRUSHY MOUNTAIN	PIEDMONT	GOLD
SILVER TRIANGLE	POTOMAC	SILVER
COUNTY LINE	GEORGIA-NORTH ALABAMA	BRONZE
<u>CITIZENSHIP and PATRIOTISM</u>		
SALVISA	BLUEGRASS	GOLD
RUSTBURG	PEAKS OF OTTER	SILVER
SILVER TRIANGLE	POTOMAC	BRONZE
<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>		
SILVER TRIANGLE	POTOMAC	GOLD
COLLETTSVILLE	WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	SILVER
COUNTY LINE	GEORGIA-NORTH ALABAMA	BRONZE
<u>PUBLIC SERVICE</u>		
COUNTY LINE	GEORGIA – NORTH ALABAMA	GOLD
NEW HOPE	WOODROW WILSON	SILVER
ROCKY HOCK	ALBEMARLE	BRONZE
<u>SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</u>		
COUNTY LINE	GEORGIA-NORTH ALABAMA	GOLD
SILVER TRIANGLE	POTOMAC	SILVER
MORRISON	CHEROKEE	BRONZE

2010 Ruritan National Convention Lodging

Reservations must be received by 12/23/2009. Reservations received after this date subject to date and rate availability. Assignments are made in order received.

Mail or fax reservation to:
 Ruritan Housing Bureau Fax Number:
 VB CVB 757-437-6039
 2101 Parks Ave Ste 500
 Virginia Beach, VA 23451 OR
 INTERNET RESERVATIONS:
<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2010RuritanHousing>



Thursday, January 28, to Sunday, January 31, 2010

- Room assignments will be made in order received by mail or fax. Internet reservations are real time
- No telephone reservations will be accepted, however call with questions to 757-385-4700
- Internet reservations: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2010RuritanHousing>
- Cancellation deadline to the housing bureau is 5pm Friday, January 8, 2010. Refunds after that date are at the discretion of the hotel and must be made directly with the hotel
- Rates do not include 13% state and local taxes and a \$1.00 per night lodging tax
- One night's deposit is required for all reservations. By fax or mail a credit card number or a check will be accepted made out to Ruritan Housing. Only a credit card can be used for guarantee for internet reservations
- The City of Virginia Beach Housing Bureau acts as a liaison under the direction of the group officials. The housing bureau will incur no liability to any person in connections with the rental of rooms mentioned herein
- Requests for room locations, specific bedding is a request only and is subject to the availability of the hotel and is not guaranteed. Housing bureau confirmation will be processed within 2 weeks of receiving reservation. Confirmations will be delivered to email address if included below
- Reservations must be made in writing by fax, mail or internet
- Note that more than 2 adults per room pay an additional person fee per night per person, plus taxes
- **Maximum of two rooms per reservation request**
- **Special note**-booking rooms outside the blocks listed below impacts expenses incurred by your organization at the convention center. Please make reservation early and through the housing bureau only. Do not call hotel directly
- Shuttle transportation to the Virginia Beach Convention Center and listed hotels only
- Room rate includes conference fee

Hotel & Address	Total # of rooms	Rank in order of preference 1-4	Rooms & Rates	Extras
Courtyard Marriott 37th & Atlantic Ave			<input type="checkbox"/> standard double/double room- @ \$89	IP, OP, R, E, EP
			<input type="checkbox"/> standard king room-@ \$89	
Cavalier Hotel 42 nd & Atlantic Ave			<input type="checkbox"/> standard room- side view of ocean @\$98	IP, OP, R, L, E, EP

Extras Key: OP=outdoor pool IP=indoor pool R=restaurant L=lounge E=exercise room CB=Cont. breakfast
 LP=limited parking EP: room rate based on 2 guests in room additional fee for each additional person
 Please print clearly

Contact name: _____

Club: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone:() _____ Fax: _____ email: _____

Arrival day and date: _____ Departure day and date: _____

Credit card number: _____ exp date: _____ card holder sign: _____

Check amount: _____ check number: _____

Special requests: Smoking: _____ Non-Smoke: _____ Other: _____

Campaign to Improve National Office Hits \$35,000

Over 150 members, clubs, and districts have sent in donations to the Ruritan Capital Replacement Fund to pay for much needed repairs to the National Office building with \$35,000 raised to date.

Future issues of the magazine will feature the construction and repair projects as they are completed.

Club Donations

Stonewall District
 Lucketts
 Benhaven
 Horsepasture
 Reams
 Lemon Springs, in honor of Gilbert Matthews
 Crestwood, in memory of Stanley Toler
 Kenbridge, in honor of Julian Winn
 Bronson, in honor of Bronson Club
 Coopers
 Hall
 Rye Valley, in memory of Ed Bullins and Paul Kinkade
 Southern
 Bozoo
 Pole Tavern
 Sandy Run
 St. Clair (OH)
 Wilson-Hebron-Ford
 Piney Flats
 Leeds
 Gerow
 Cave Spring
 Fort Frederick Area
 Gainesboro
 Spanishburg
 Irisburg
 Morrison
 Contentnea
 Turbeville (VA), in honor of J.E. Oliver II (Eddie)
 Three Chopt
 Blackstone
 Ryland
 Smithfield
 Blue Grass
 Callaghan Area
 Catlett-Calverton, in memory of Edwin Gulick
 Mulberry-Fairplains
 Bean Settlement
 Kent
 Hardin Valley
 Deerfield

Ellendale (DE)
 Abingdon
 Hollow Creek
 Maury
 Rockawalkin
 Sutherland, in honor of Sutherland honorary members Strawberry Powell and Goldcoast Leonard
 Pleasant Valley
 Cross Keys Mill Creek
 Roper, in memory of Gerald "Geb" Gaylord
 Callaway, in honor of Fred Wampler
 Rio-Delray
 Shoals
 Ringgold
 Richlands
 Vanceboro
 Huntingdon
 Winterville
 United Local Ruri-Teen, in honor of Guilford Lake and Hanoverton Ruritans
 Huguenot
 Chicone
 Mount Tabor
 Wolfstown, in memory of Wilbert Echard and David Berry
 Mountain View, Inc. (District 31)
 Doswell

Lower Richland
 Great Bridge
 Franklin (NC)
 Little Sandy Creek
 Middlebrook
 Organ Cave
 Homer
 Cross Roads (VA)
 Springfield
 Lower Alloways Creek, in memory of David Fogg
 Central Caswell
 Blountville, in memory of Bob Lesueur
 Illiana, in memory of Earnie Witsman
 Carrollton (OH)
 Varina
 Magnolia
 Tomahawk (VA)
 Cannons Camp Ground
 Clarke County
 Eddyville
 Walters
 Rocky Gap, in memory of Raymond Stowers
 Keezletown, in memory of Deceased Keezletown Club Members
 Kings Fork
 Rougemont
 Deep Gap

Club Donation list continues on page 13

Earn Your 2010 National Convention Registration!

The Ruritan National Board, at its January 2009 meeting, endorsed a plan by 2009 National President Donald Worrell to offer free 2010 convention registration for certain members who go to extraordinary lengths to help grow Ruritan. Any person who organizes a new Ruritan club and is designated the Distinguished Ruritan Member (DRM) will receive free registration to the 2010 National Convention in Virginia Beach, VA. As DRMs they will also be recognized by the National President at the appropriate time during the convention. Each new Ruritan club must open its charter (i.e., application and charter fee submitted) in 2009 and be current with any required dues in order for the DRM to qualify. Also, any person who recruits 16 new members as dues paying members into an existing Ruritan club will be eligible to receive the same benefits and recognition as stated above for organization of the first new club.

Anyone believing that he/she has qualified for these rewards should summarize his/her accomplishments (including a list of members recruited or clubs formed) in a letter or E-mail to Ruritan National, making application for the appropriate incentives. Send the letter: Growth Incentive Program, Ruritan National, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084 or E-mail at office@ruritan.org.

Items of Interest

APNP Pledges to Repair Pavement at National Office

Club Donations continued from page 12

Redwood (NC)
Gainesville
National Trail, in honor of Art Danison
Lynns Crossroads
Fellowsville
Zuni, in memory of Ben Munford
Westmoreland Co., in memory of Capt.
Paige Knight USN Retired and in
honor of James P. Jenkins IV
Bergholz
Atlee
Carrollton (VA)
Nokesville
Powhatan
Lothian
Sudlersville, in memory of Stan Schmidt
Oak Level (VA), in memory of all
deceased members of the Oak Level
Club
Nolachuckey
Clear Springs
Geff Community, in honor of Howard
Tanner
Smithville
South Branch
Piankatank
New London (VA)
West Shenandoah
Richlands, in memory of Alvin Padrick

Central Brunswick
York
Falling Spring
Dragon Run
Bell Ridge
Churchville (MD)

District Donations

Ohio District
Tennessean District
Association of NC Ruritans
Rappahannock District
Western NC District
Southwest VA District, in honor of Jim
LaFollette
Cape Fear District
Holland District
Rockingham District
Rockingham District, Zone 4

Individual Donations

Stephen W. Bailey, in memory of Rooster
Wells
James and Barbara Darnell
Charles Burns
W. Avalon Potts, in memory of Tom
Rouse
Daniel and Nancy Brubaker
Carl Jackson, in memory of Melvin King
June Renaut

Arthur and Peggy Mathews, in honor of
Toby Mathews
Bernard E. Rister
R.W. Phillips
Larry Zank
Bill and Phyllis Lewter
Vonnie Myers, in memory of Jerry
Duggan
Pat Davis, in memory of Jerry Davis

Association of Past National Presidents Donations

**NOTE: The Association of Past
National Presidents has pledged to
provide the funding for re-paving the
parking lot at the National Office.
Their donations are being tracked
separately to accomplish that pledge

Jim and Lou Rader
Sharon and Wayne Outlaw, in honor of
Bayden Collins
Association of Past Ruritan National
Presidents
David and Anne Freshly
Gary and Yvonne Taylor
Robert H. Bailey

**\$35,260 donated through
March 16, 2009**

Clubs Asked to Focus on Red Cross Blood Drives

In his inauguration speech in Myrtle Beach, SC, 2009 National President Donald Worrell outlined his programs for 2009. He targeted a service project already very important to many Ruritan clubs – The American Red Cross. “I am asking your clubs and districts to be actively involved with the Red Cross with blood drives in your community. What a better way to give back to your community with **the gift of life**. Please keep a record of your blood drive information and send it to the National Office by December 1, 2009. Recognition will be given at the National Convention in Virginia Beach for the most donations at the large, medium, and small district levels.”

The beloved Ruritan mascot Rudy Bear also figures in President Donald's goals for 2009. In his speech he noted, “Districts that pledge and pay for the largest number of Rudy Bears (for the national convention) will be recognized as the same procedure of the blood drives also with a deadline of December 1. These are two initiatives that will have a large impact on the success of your community service.”

President Donald concluded his remarks with, “What happens in Ruritan is up to each of you. I am proud to be a member of America's leading community service organization. Work with me to make 2009 an exceptional year in the life of Ruritan by **Sharing Ruritan** with your family, friends and community.”



Ruritan Foundation Prepared for the Challenge

Dear Fellow Ruritans,

Ruritan National and the Ruritan National Foundation have completed another successful convention in Myrtle Beach, SC, complete with sunshine, warm weather, and snow and ice on the way. The Foundation raised \$10,400 from the silent and live auctions. Thanks to everyone who brought items and to those who bid on and bought items. A special thanks to "Bubba" McClenny for the Waterford Crystal which raised \$1,005 donated to the "Bayden Collins Permanent Fund", and to all the folks who volunteered to help with the auctions. We could not have done it without your help.



Now is the time for clubs to be making their selections of students to receive scholarships. It takes time to solicit applicants and to select the winners.

Remember the deadline for completed Build Your Dollar grant applications for the 354 participating clubs is **April 1, 2009**. The same date applies to regular grants and special grants.

The return to the Build Your Dollar participants from 2008 will be very near a matching amount.

The Foundation would love to see many more clubs participate in 2009. The \$300 participation amount can be sent to the Foundation any time prior to **September 1, 2009**. The sooner the money is received, the more opportunity there is to generate income.

The Trustees have worked hard to create a structured foundation that will offer an excellent return for worthy students. The Foundation was incorporated, sought and received 501(c)3 status, established spending and investment policies, retained the services of a financial advisor and encouraged continued contributions. Never, did we nor could we have anticipated the current upheaval in the financial markets. This has created a tremendous challenge to retain the level of support for students that we must maintain. It is felt that markets and stock values are at historic low levels. We

have confidence in America and feel that the opportunity for growth has never been greater. The Foundation Trustees strongly encourage you as individuals and clubs to support the Ruritan National Foundation with your donations so that our grant programs may be expanded to more students and with larger grants.

We have cited the words of General William Booth of the Salvation Army who, unable to attend his last convention in London, England, telegraphed the following message to the delegates:

Dear Delegates of the Salvation Army Convention:

OTHERS

Signed, General Booth

Like General Booth, the focus of the Ruritan National Foundation and its leadership must be on "others". All that we do is to benefit others.

The Foundation Fellowship Weekend will be held this year in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on September 11-13, 2009. There are many attractions and activities in the area and we encourage you to plan on spending a few extra days in Lancaster. We will be staying at the Lancaster Host Resort at 2300 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA. The phone number for reservations is **1-800-233-0121**. Mention the Ruritan National Foundation for the \$129.00 rate which includes a full breakfast buffet. Part of the program will include a trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre to see "In the Beginning" on Friday September 11, 2009. Watch the Summer issue of the Ruritan Magazine and the Web Site for further information. Joe Hulver will be heading up a golf tournament on Saturday morning at the resort. We promise two things- lots of fun and fellowship and lots of chocolate.

Please plan to join your friends for the fun, the fellowship, the chocolate, and the opportunity to serve OTHERS.

Your Trustees, District Promotion Chairs, and the National Office are available to answer any questions you may have about the Foundation. We encourage the questions and ask each of you as you travel to help us promote the Foundation and encourage individuals and clubs to support our Foundation.

Yours in Ruritan Service to OTHERS
J. J. Bernard Lerch, III
2009 Foundation President

Ruritan National FOUNDATION

2009 Board of Trustees

President: J. J. Bernard Lerch III
Vice President: Richard Keener
Secretary: Bruce W. Thompson
Treasurer: Robert "Cleve" Wright
Promotion Chair: Norman O'Dell



Foundation Fellowship Weekend Sept. 11-13, 2009

Mark your calendar now for the 2009 Foundation Fellowship Weekend at Lancaster Host Resort in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country (Lancaster, PA) September 11-13, 2009.

To make your reservations at the full service hotel (complete with an 18 hole championship golf course) call 800-233-0121 and mention the Ruritan National Foundation for the group rate of \$129 per night.

The 18-hole golf course has a 43-year history that has hosted the likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead. The Philadelphia PGA Pro-Am has been played on these fairways as well as many other PGA Events. The beautifully landscaped course offers a driving range with a practice facility that is equipped for up to twenty golfers. The course provides fast greens, perfectly manicured fairways and a gentle terrain for easy walking. There are target and practice greens, and a bunker as well. They also have a night-lit putting green and four sets of tees; championship, men's, men's senior, and women's, providing a challenge for any skill. Several picturesque lakes enable water to come into play on seven of the eighteen holes.

The resort also features a large outdoor pool with family activities and poolside grille (seasonal), large indoor pool, game rooms, 319 spacious guest rooms and suites, two restaurants and lounge. The location is in the heart of the area's great attractions – hundreds of outlets including Sight and Sound (pictured), American Music Theatre, and the famous Dutch Wonderland® Family Amusement Park are all less than one mile from the resort. Many other area attractions are just a few minutes away.



Nell Jeffries, the first woman to lead the Ruritan National Foundation, closed out her five year term as a trustee at the Ruritan National Convention and was recognized by 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw.

District Foundation Awards Given at 2009 National Convention

HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF CLUBS DONATING TO THE FOUNDATION

Place	Foundation Chair	% donation	District
1 st TIE	Joe Hulver	100%	Rappahannock
1 st TIE	Duane Eby	100%	Holland
2 nd TIE	Virgil Clint Miller	70%	Smoky Mountain
2 nd TIE	Walter L. Gordon	70%	Rockingham
3 rd	Glen A. Davis	68%	Upper WV

MOST DOLLARS DONATED BY CLUBS

Place	Foundation Chair	\$ donated	District
1 st	Glen A. Davis	\$59,362.00	Upper WV
2 nd	J. J. Bernard Lerch, III	\$54,603.42	Potomac
3 rd	Joe Hulver	\$16,700.00	Rappahannock

HIGHEST AVERAGE DONATION PER MEMBER

Place	Foundation Chair	Average Donation	District
1 st	Glen A. Davis	\$69.34	Upper WV
2 nd	J.J. Bernard Lerch, III	\$37.97	Potomac
3 rd	Karl Kelsey	\$19.28	Middle America

News From Ruritan: Holland District

There's Lots of News from Clubs in the Holland District

When the recently chartered **Hodges Ferry (VA)** Ruritan Club wanted to hold a fundraiser, they called on their neighbors in the **Western Branch (VA)** Ruritan Club to help with a BBQ. In the pre-dawn hours with the temperature in the 20s, club members arrived to cook the meat under the direction of **Western Branch** President and well-known BBQ chef, Randy Boyer. Later in the day, more Ruritans showed up to make the slaw, bake the beans, chop the cooked meat, and serve the dinner. Pictured (left to right) on kitchen duty are Zone Governor Alton Brinkley, Mac McHorney, Hodges Ferry President Jim Nelson, Rowland Staton, and youth member Blake Miller.



The **Burrowsville (VA)** club spread holiday cheer distributing 36 holiday baskets in December in the community and to assisted living and nursing facility. Pictured are (l-r) members of the basket committee: Robert Zevgolis, Chair Rod Mustanski, President Tommy Brockell, Vice President Tommy Tucker, and Harry Hopkins. Not pictured was James Royer.



Ivor (VA) Club President (center) received a belated award recently – his 2007 Outstanding Club President award. It was presented by Ivor Club Secretary Dan Daugherty and Club Treasurer Vernon Teall, both of whom are past Holland District Governors.



News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

Rudy Celebrates with Hall (NC) Ruritan Club

Rudy Bear celebrated his 20th birthday in February at the **Hall (NC)** club with special guests National Director Mills March and his wife Sharon. During the same birthday party, Rudy Bears were donated to the Eure Fire Department, sheriff's department, and Gates County magistrate's office.



The Albemarle District hosted Holland District cabinet members to provide club officers training. Past National Directors K. D. Hicks and Phyllis Lewter joined Dan Daugherty to provide officer training for club presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, and treasurers. The trainers were greeted by enthusiastic club officers, many of whom had already been trained, but wanted to experience the training conducted in another district. The **Inter County Ruritan Club (NC)** hosted this event for the Albemarle District. Inter County Club members prepared and served a delicious meal prior to the training. Those participating (l-r) were K. D. Hicks, Phyllis Lewter, Albemarle Governor Buddy Sawyer, National Director Mills March, and Dan Daugherty.



Glasgow Boat Ramp a Reality Thanks to Ruritan

What does it take to make something happen in Glasgow?

“Ask a Ruritan!” says Terri Bsullak, an avid kayaker who happens to be a longtime friend of Wendy Duke, who was the **Glasgow** (VA) club’s program chair. It all began last February, when Bsullak, coordinator for the Wintergreen Adaptive Sports Program, a not-for-profit organization, was invited by Duke to be the club’s guest speaker.

Terri shared some heartwarming stories of blind boaters, paraplegic skiers and more at the meeting. An avid white water canoeist and downhill skier, she has learned first hand the power of this amazing program, as she has spinal cord damage and must use crutches to walk.

As it turns out, Glasgow is a very popular place for canoeists and kayakers to “put in”—hundreds of folks of all ages come to the DGIF site at the convergence of the Maury and James Rivers nearly every weekend, year-round. But, the condition of the boat ramp was terrible.

For regular folks it was a challenge, but for those folks like Terri, the navigation to the water was harder than the navigation in the water. When asked by the club members what they could do to help, Terri, in turn, asked a friend on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries staff. After some consideration, it was determined that if the Ruritans could raise \$1,000 to cover the rock and gravel, the work to fix the ramp could be done.

In June, the local merchants sponsored a Music in the Park event and the Ruritans were allowed to raise awareness about the boat ramp project by selling 50-50 raffle tickets. Pictured here are Ruritans Wendy Duke and Sharon Spangler selling tickets.

By the end of summer, the \$1,000 had been secured with the fundraiser and other donations. Plans were made for the work to begin in fall. In early November, the concrete was poured to the river’s edge. Last month, the finishing work was completed, and this spring everyone will be able to use the ramp with ease—including Terri and people who use wheelchairs.

Most amazing of all, the DGIF staff sent a thank you note to the Ruritans for their efforts in making the ramp a reality, a project they knew had been needed for a long time. “Now, about the need for bathrooms,” Terri said, with a wink.



News From Ruritan: Hermitage District



High School student Jose Compos (center) was presented a \$250 check from the **Pinson** (TN) Ruritan Club. Anita Tucker, the Assistant Principle of South Side High School, and daughter of 1977 National President Jerry Ellis, is shown (right) presenting the check. Jose is battling a rare form of cancer and has to often get treatments at Vanderbilt Hospital. Also pictured is his mother, Marie Compos



Ryland Bradley (right) of the **Callaghan Area** (VA) Ruritan Club is shown receiving his Golden Key Award and Family Pin from the Club President Bill Fleming.

News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

Rockingham Clubs Make a Difference Every Day

Dick D. Bowman, a charter member of the **Hamburg (VA)** Ruritan Club has been honored by the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) with the 2008 Electric Cooperative Distinguished Service Award. The award cited Dick for his leadership and business skills with much community, civic, business and religious organizations.

The **Mt. Crawford (VA)** Ruritan Club held a fundraiser dinner recently for one of its member's wife who is battling with cancer. The club was hoping to raise \$3,000 at the fundraiser. At the end of the night, when all was said and done, a check was handed to the member in the amount of \$9,000. Past District Governor of the Rockingham District Walton Gordon made the comment, "What a club!"

The **Fulks Run (VA)** Ruritan Club has published a 90-page history to mark the club's 50th anniversary. The Fulks Run Ruritan Club, 1958-2008: A Documentary History contains oral histories with many interesting and

humorous stories as well as excerpts from minutes, letters, receipts, surveys, news clippings, chore lists, and roll calls from the club's activities.

"This history shows how a group of people in a small rural community can make a huge difference," said Club President Sue Funkhouser. "The club has done so many things to benefit the community, from getting roads paved to building a local school to addressing public health issues like polio and rabies. The club's history reflects changes in the wider community through the last half of the twentieth century."

News From Ruritan: Rapidan District



Three Chopt (VA) Celebrates 50 Years of Service

The **Three Chopt (VA)** Ruritan Club celebrated their 50th anniversary last fall. In attendance were (l-r), charter member Thomas W. Payne, with 46 years of perfect attendance; 1959 Club President Harry Amos; President Greg Payne; 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw; 1958 President and Charter Member Lewis Smith; and Kenny Johnson with 48 years perfect attendance. Also pictured, below, are National Director Dennis Clemmer and his wife Betty Jo who attended the celebration.



News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District



Dundas (IL) Ruritan members Terry May, Charles Kilgore (front) and Joe Ochs and Grover Burkett (back) met on a crisp Friday morning in December to build a porch and ramp for Dottie Barthelmy. The porch was about five feet long and five feet wide and the handicapped access ramp extended 16 feet.

Pioneer (VA) Club Charters in New River District

The **Pioneer (VA)** club in the New River District chartered in the fall of 2008 and has grown to 36 members. Pictured at the charter event are (l-r) front: Club Secretary Bonnie Coffey, 2008 District Governor Charles Scott, 2008 Ruritan Foundation President Nell Jeffries; back: Executive Director Michael Chrisley, Pioneer President Robby Davis, 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw, National Director and Assigned Representative Phil Jeffries; and 2009 District Governor Daniel Dean.

Below Chrisley presented the charter to Robby Davis. Also attending but not pictured was 2009 District Lt. Governor Susan Lilly.



Mount Tabor (VA) Appreciates Local Grocery Store

Del Dyer and Allen Bame of the **Mount Tabor (VA)** club presented a plaque of appreciation to local Kroger manager Mike Christle at a recent meeting. Bame, the club fish fry chair said, "The Kroger store at University Mall (Blacksburg) gives us a good price and excellent service on products we need for our fish fries. Dyer, apple butter chair, added, "Christle and his department managers assist us in meeting our needs with a smile and with extra effort."

Last year Mount Tabor averaged more than 450 attendees per *fish fry* and sold more than 1200 quarts of member-made apple butter. Proceeds from these two fundraising activities are given to non-profits serving the community as well as to scholarships and to needy families or individuals. Club President Bob Smythers invited anyone in the area to join them for a fish fry "... each second Saturday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. starting in May and ending in September."



We Regret the Errors!

In the winter issue of the Ruritan magazine we inadvertently cropped a photo of the **King William (VA)** Ruritan Clubs 70th Anniversary and building dedication and eliminated one of the special guests participating. The picture is shown again here. The building was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony by National President Wayne Outlaw (pictured center right) and five of the club's most senior members in terms of years of service to the club. The members are Burton Atkinson with 66 years of service, B.W. White, Jr. with 56 years of service, Eugene L. Campbell with 55 years of perfect attendance, James T. Neale with 54 years of service, and Erwin M. Campbell with 48 years of service. Two other errors appeared in the Winter issue: The **West View (SC)** club was listed as Westview and the **Little River II (NC)** club was listed as only Little River.



News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

Neva Club (TN) Celebrates Charter Night

The newly organized **Neva** (TN) Ruritan Club gathered for a charter night on September 20, 2008 at the Red Tail Mountain Golf Course in Mountain City, TN. Special guests were members of the **Piney Flats**, **Butler**, and **Rocky Springs** (TN) Ruritan clubs as well as Zone Governors Russell Baker, Larry Shoun, Bedford Motley, Heiskel Winstead, and Hazel Pierce. Tennessean Treasurer Gary Olinger (pictured at right at podium) acted as emcee. Also attending and pictured at right (l-r) were National Director Maxine Duke, First Lady Sharon Outlaw, and 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw.



Charter members and their guests, are pictured at bottom right (l-r) front: David Burns, Donna Kay Burns, Pat Taylor, Sherry Stanbery, Melinda Dugger, Joshua Dugger, Beverly Teague, Tina Lipford, and Dan Lipford; back: Joe Tolliver, Steve Taylor, Holly Taylor, Tom Taylor, Jerry Stanbery, Johnny Dugger, Ralph Gouge, Rosa D. Hodge, Timothy Tolliver, and Scott Teague. Not pictured: Carter Isaacs, Betty Murphy, Bill Murphy, Hazel Pierce, J. C. Robinson, Barbra Simcox, Mike Simcox, Mary Lee Vaughn, Brittany Visser, and Forrest Visser.



News From Ruritan: Spartan District



Pictures With Santa Raises Funds for Relay For Life

For the third year the **Pacolet** (SC) Ruritan Club created Pictures with Santa – a project to help fifth and sixth graders from a local elementary school raise funds for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Santa (Wayne Owens) and Nancy Owens (back row, right) president of Pacolet Ruritan Club are pictured along with volunteers from Pacolet Elementary School. This group raised raised \$1,200 and over the month of December the Ruritan club helped three groups raise a total of \$3500 for Relay for Life.

West View (SC) Rudy Spans Three Generations of Walkers

The **West View** (SC) Ruritan Club has a third generation invested in the Ruritan mascot program for Rudy Bear. Over twenty years ago, 1992 National President Jerry Walker (left) was on the Publicity and Public Relations Committee when it gave birth to the Rudy Bear idea. Since that time, Walker's son Tim (right) played Rudy many times.

Today, the third generation – Tim's daughter Elizabeth (center), aged 17 – is behind the costume and her "Popa" Jerry couldn't be any happier.



Clarksville (VA) Club Has a Memorable Year

The 2008 year has been a memorable year for the **Clarksville (VA) Ruritan Club**. They had many fundraisers throughout the year with a net income of \$190,000. Two projects consisted of new playground equipment valued at \$50,000 that was installed at the Buffalo Road Park, and \$82,000 was set aside for exercise equipment at the new Clarksville YMCA for when the building is completed. The club donated \$12,500 to their Fire Department and Rescue Squad and for the second year,



awarded \$20,000 in scholarships that was divided amongst 14 high school graduates. They also distributed \$100 checks to the 152 teachers at the Clarksville Elementary School to help with class supplies.

Three "money-making" fundraisers include a thrift shop, Tuesday night bingo, and Friday night dances. The thrift shop is open every Friday and Saturday averaging more than \$2,750 per weekend. Bingo night has earned up to \$4,000 welcoming 189 players to the weekly event and the Friday night dances bring \$200 per week. The club was a sponsor for Lake Fest, which was voted by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the "Top Twenty Festivals in the Southeast" several times. With all of the fundraising the club still accom-

plished a membership drive. Their motto, "Just Ask and They Will Come" must work - 29 members were installed for the 2008 year. Pictured above are 18 of the new members who joined at the October 2008 meeting.

South Hill Inducts Young Members



The **South Hill (VA) Ruritan Club** inducted three new members in November including two of the club's youngest members. Pictured are (l-r) Appomattox District Governor Don Yeargin; National Director Corky Camin, and new members Scottie Smith, Shirley Robinson, and Chelsey Smith, Club President Scott Smith, and 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw.

Amelia (VA) Celebrates 70th Anniversary

The **Amelia (VA) Ruritan Club** celebrated their 70th club anniversary recently. To help the club celebrate was (l-r) Past National President Wayne Outlaw, 2008 Appomattox District Governor Don Yeagan, Club President Ruth Anne Lawson, National Director Corky Camin, and 2008 Zone Governor Dick Lewis.



Craigsville (VA) Club Increases by 22 Members!

The **Craigsville (VA)** Ruritan club generated enough new interest in their group to increase by 22 members in recent months. Most of the club members are pictured at right and the club currently boasts 34 members. Hilda Hensley, 2008 Past District Ruritan Governor and 2009 Growth and Development Chair, assisted with the membership drive. She recently presented new members with membership pins and 2009 Share Ruritan coins. Below Craigsville Club President Ralph Corbin



(right) receives a plaque from Matt Welcher, thanking the club for their assistance to the local Cub Scout Troop.



News From Ruritan: Lower WV District

Lashmeet Helps Children

Seventy-Five children enjoyed an early Christmas party thanks to the **Lashmeet (WV)** Ruritan Club. The club shopped and spent an average of \$150 per child. Angie Foley said they generally provide hats, shoes, socks, under garments, shirts, pants, gloves pajamas, and of course a toy or two for the children. The club works with the school system to get the sizes and genders of the children who need the help.

Buffalo Gap Dedicates Park

The **Buffalo Gap (VA)** Ruritan Club dedicated their new Memorial Park on Veterans Day. It was dedicated to those members, both living and deceased, who have reached out to the community with community service, fellowship and goodwill.



Pastor Dan Theiben of the St. Paul United Methodist Church held the opening prayer. Joe Doan, John Dickerson and Sewell Mackins were in charge of raising the colors (pictured). The special guest was Past District Governor Gary Olinger who closed the presentation with a brief synopsis of Ruritan history.

MILITARY SERVICE

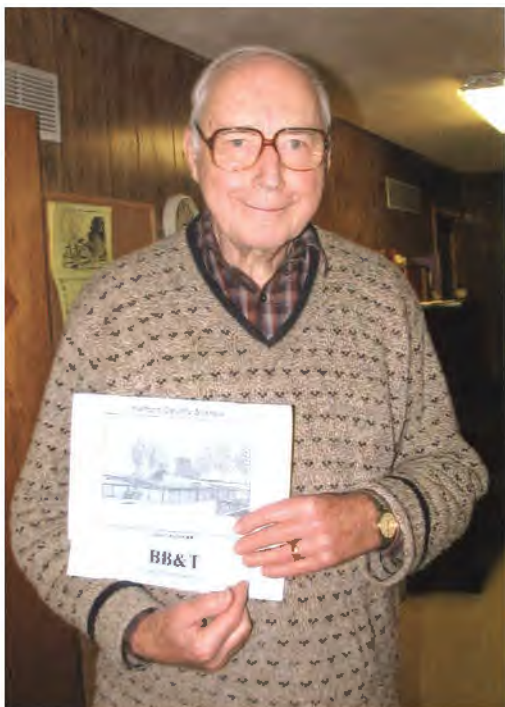
U.S. Military personnel who are also Ruritans and who might be unable to attend regular meetings should not be counted as absent according to the Ruritan National Board of Directors.

If your club has a member currently serving in active duty, your club secretary should count him or her as "present" at meetings so that his or her absence doesn't penalize the member or cause the club to fall short on attendance percentages.

The Board cited the National Constitutional provision for using "four hours of community service" as the equivalent of a make-up meeting -- a substitution that members of the U.S. Military are surely qualified to use.

Churchville (MD) Club Grateful to William Turner

William F. Turner (below), a member of the **Churchville (MD)** Ruritan Club since 1982 and decorated (Silver Star) World War II veteran, was honored by his Ruritan club for his outstanding fundraising achievements. After retiring in 1987, Mr. Turner perfected his artistic skills and began publishing pen and ink drawings of local scenes in the Harford County section of the **Baltimore Sun** newspaper.



His work was a regular feature until that section of the newspaper was discontinued in 1995. During this period of time he completed more than 375 local scenes which became very popular with the citizens of Harford County. In 1995 President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore were presented prints of his work when they visited Harford County. Mr. Turner has produced calendars with his prints for the Churchville club for 25 years, making it possible for the club to raise funds for scholarships for Harford Community College students

coming from five area high schools. Proceeds from the calendar sales have also made it possible for the club to contribute locally to the Level Fire Department, Harford Technical High School FFA, Churchville Elementary Stars Program, Boy Scout Troop 375, Churchville Recreation Council and many others in need. Members of the Churchville club have expressed deep appreciation for Mr. Turner on behalf of the club and the entire community.

District 12 celebrates Barkdoll's 50 Perfect Years

Charles Barkdoll joined the **District 12 (MD)** Ruritan Club in 1959. Fifty years later he has not missed a single meeting. The club calls Charles the "Cal Ripken" of Ruritan. He is always there helping with fundraisers and helps in any area that is needed. Folks who know him say he is a humble man and will do anything that's asked of him for the good of the club and the community it serves. Fellow club member Rick Knepper notes, "He enjoys helping people and whatever the direction that leads him, he's willing to follow. Charlie is a simple, easy-going man who is in excellent shape for being ninety years old. He knows how blessed he is, takes nothing for granted, and has high hopes of continuing his meeting longevity with perfect attendance."

President Worrell Speaks to Potomac Zone 3



Ruritan National President Donald Worrell was the main speaker at the Potomac District Zone 3 meeting last fall when he was serving as National Vice President. The zone 3 clubs in the Potomac district are providing monetary support to the veterans at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Martinsburg, WV. Pictured left to right, Betty Chaney, Roseland Worrell, Donald Worrell, Paul Spurrier, Lawrence Massie, Randy Huffer.

Distinguished Ruritan Members Recognized in Myrtle Beach

These are the individuals most responsible for organizing the 30 new clubs that came into Ruritan in 2008.

Neil Guin is the DRM for the **Red Springs H.S. Ruri-Teen Club** and the **UNCP** (University of North Carolina Pembroke) Club both in the Cape Fear District. Both clubs were sponsored by the **Shannon Club**. Jayson Duncan is the DRM for the **Pine Hall Elementary Ruri-Teen Club** in the Piedmont District. It was sponsored by the **Pine Hall Club**.

Jim Jarvis is the DRM for the **Ruri-Teen's BLAST Club** in the Ohio District. It was sponsored by the **Laker Ruritan Club**. Bonnie Bowen is the DRM for the **HCMS Ruri-Teen Club** in the Dan River District. It was sponsored by the **Hyco Road Ruritan Club**. K.D. Hicks is the DRM for the **Hodges Ferry Club** in the Holland District. It was sponsored by the **Hickory Ruritan Club**.

Frank Murphy, Jr. is the DRM for the **Ball Play Community Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **Coker Creek Club**. Vickie O. Heschl is the DRM for the **Rockingham Luncheon Club** in the Rockingham District. It was sponsored by the **Broadway-Timberville Club**. Hazel D. Pierce is the DRM for the **Neva Club** in the Tennessean District. It was sponsored by the **Butler Ruritan Club**. Art Pflug is the DRM for the **Bachman Academy Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **McDonald Black Fox Ruritan Club**. Patricia Mulcahy is the DRM for the **Cleveland Middle School Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **Westside Ruritan Club**. Nancy Alford is the DRM for the **Bradley Central High Club**- sponsored by the **Cherokee Too Ruritan Club** and the **Ocoee Middle School Club** – sponsored by the **North Lee Ruritan Club**, both in the Cherokee District.

Joyce Johnson is the DRM for the **Walker Valley High Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **Cherokee Too Ruritan Club**. W. W. Johnson is the DRM for the **Lake Forest Ruri-Teen Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **Valley View Ruritan Club**. Fran Bristow is the DRM for the **Brookland - Cayce Club** in the Columbia District. It was sponsored by the **Pineview Ruritan Club**.

Arella Bacon is the DRM for the **Jefferson County TSA Club** sponsored by the **Moving Warriors Ruritan Club**; the **Positive Peers Club** sponsored by the **River City Sweepers Ruritan Club**; and the **Healthy Living Ruri-Teen Club** sponsored by the **Moving Warriors Club** all in the Gulf Area District. Hattie Harris is the DRM for the **Lotus Goal Trotters Club** in the Gulf Area. It was sponsored by the **Moving Warriors Ruritan Club**. Bobby Joe Petty, Sr. is the DRM for the **East Ridge Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **Harrison Ruritan Club**.

Chad Aspinwall is the DRM for the **Port City Philanthropy Club** in the Cape Fear District. It was sponsored by the **Albertson Ruritan Club**. Daniel Dean is the DRM for the **Pioneer Club** in the New River District. It was sponsored by the **Lead Mines Ruritan Club**. Paul Lendway is the DRM for the **College of William and Mary Club** in the Chesapeake District. It was sponsored by the **James City Ruritan Club**. David E. Humphrey is the DRM for the **Bladen Community**



Arella Bacon of the Gulf Area was the DRM for three new clubs in 2008. She received her award from 2008 National President Wayne Outlaw.

College Club in the Cape Fear District. It was sponsored by the **White Oak Ruritan Club**. Betty Stanley is the DRM for the **Farrington Club** in the Chesapeake District. It was sponsored by the **Rockville Ruritan Club**.

Barbara Bruce is the DRM for the **Good Will Club** in the Gulf Area. It was sponsored by **The Moving Warriors Ruritan Club**. Phyllis Kuhns is the DRM for the **Wildcats Club** in the Ohio District. It was sponsored by the **Stanton Ruritan Club**. Jim McKinney is the DRM for the **Birchwood Club** in the Cherokee District. It was sponsored by the **Harrison Ruritan Club**. Mindi Collins is the DRM for the **WAVE Ruri-Teen Club** in the Rocky Mt.-Durham District. It was sponsored by the **Down East Luncheon Ruritan Club**.

District Governor Growth & Development Award

This was earned by the governor of any district organizing three or more clubs between Jan 1 and Dec 1 (with charter closed and first dues paid).

08 Governor Kay Pearson of the Cherokee District

08 Governor Curtis Simmons of the Cape Fear District

Area Governor Ella Lyles also earned a certificate for being instrumental in the organization of many clubs in the Gulf Area – both adult clubs and Ruri-Teen clubs.

J.J.Gwaltney Award

A Ruritan Forever status (lifetime of national dues in Ruritan) was given to the following individuals for organizing two new Ruritan clubs in a calendar year or four new Ruritan clubs in any period after August 1998. These individuals also had to meet the qualifications for DRM for each club (i.e. after close of charter and first dues are paid).

Neil R. Guin – Red Springs High School Ruri-Teen and UNCP (University of North Carolina Pembroke)

Nancy Alford – Bradley Central High School Ruri-Teen and Ocoee Middle School Ruri-Teen

Arella Bacon – Positive Peers Ruri-Teen, Jefferson County TSA Ruri-Teen, and Healthy Living Ruri-Teen

First College Club Formed at William & Mary

The first collegiate club to form under the new Ruritan guidelines for college clubs was the **College of William & Mary**. Working with the new club was Foundation Trustee Cleve Wright who described the



December charter night and praised the many Ruritan leaders who turned out for the event. "It was an extremely cold night and due to the lack of parking close to the building, there was a considerable walk in the cold for everyone. I'm sure that these young people were impressed with the support and encouragement provided (the adult's) attendance." Wright is pictured (below) with Club President Paul Lendway (signing the charter) and 2009 National President Donald Worrell.



Wright continued, "I'm looking forward to working with them and helping them make a difference in not only their college campus but, the Williamsburg community as well ... this is truly a historic event for Ruritan and we will look back on this night and this event as a milestone that changed the course of history for our organization. I think there were 21 energetic, and dedicated young people that signed the club's charter and became our organization's newest and youngest Ruritans."

Wright also believes that the college Ruritans are very likely to continue the Ruritan tradition after graduation. "These young people represent *fertilized Ruritan seed*; as they graduate and disperse throughout our nation, they will become the next generation of Ruritan leaders. They will save existing clubs and start new ones in communities where Ruritan currently does not exist."

Chesapeake Clubs Are Active in Their Communities



The **Gloucester** (VA) Ruritan Club helped make the Jarvis family's dream come true. The Jarvis family received the keys to their new Habitat for Humanity House recently. Pictured (l-r) are club members Beverly Thomas, David Lipps and Heidi Henderson.

The **Warwick** (VA) Ruritan Club conducted their annual (15th year) Personalized Dog Biscuit Sale this past Christmas at the Patrick Henry Mall in Newport News. This is the clubs number one fundraiser. It allows the club to do great projects through the year.

Last summer the **Beaverdam** Ruritan Club participated in the 25th Annual "National Night Out" America's night out against crime for the first time and it was a huge success. Participating were the Virginia State Police, Hanover County Sheriff's Department, Hanover Fire and EMS Safety House, Beaverdam Volunteer Fire Company, West Hanover Volunteer Rescue Squad, Law Enforcement Explorers Post 606, McGruff the crime dog, Darin the lion (both pictured), Virginia National Guard Drug Prevention along with a special appearance by Ruritan's own Rudy Bear. There was free food, games, and contests for everyone. This will be an annual event for the club.



Ruri-Teens Are Busy in Ohio District

Ruri-Teens in Ohio are on the move and making a difference. The **Leetonia Ruri-Teens** (pictured at right) worked with the U.S. Marine Reserve “Toys for Tots” over the holidays. Pictured are (l-r) Josh Selway, Emma Nappi, U. S. Marine Corporal Adam Solinsky, Ashley Thompson, Theo Smith, Kyle Gray and Sam Moore.



In October, the newly formed **Ruri-Teen Blast** club at Pymatuning Valley High School had 38 students signing their charter. Ruritan National Director

(now National Secretary) JoAnn Wenger joined the student advisor Irene Skeleres for this event. Before its official charter, the PVHS Ruri-Teen Blast club had already provided significant help to its sponsoring club, the **Laker** (OH) Ruritan Club, helping to build a new community playground and assisting with a concession trailer at the Pymatuning Lake Festival. Pictured (top below) are Skeleres, Club President Lyndsey Carr, and Wenger.

Pictured at bottom left are teens from **West Branch** Ruri-Teen Club being training at the Ohio District Convention. During the training the **Goshen Center** (OH) Ruritan Club presented a donation to the West Branch teens for all of their help with tractor pulls in 2008.



News From Ruritan: Upper WV District



Don Post of the **Fellowville** (WV) Ruritan Club is shown with the food that the club voted to buy for the Preston County Food Pantry.

nation as well as service organizations. Less money is being given to charity and it is a tough time for many in our communities. They need our help more than ever! Have you thought about the historical period in which Ruritan was founded? It was during the Great Depression. There was a big need for community service then. And again, now is the time for Ruritans to be visible and **Share Ruritan** while making a difference. By **Sharing Ruritan** we are giving our community that ray of hope for a better life. While traveling as National Vice President last year, what I witnessed excited me because I saw that:

- **You have initiative** – by being self-starters in your community projects. Did you know that community service is the reason for the existence of Ruritan?
- **You have a vision** – because you see beyond the obvious and initiate new programs.
- **You are unselfish** – with your time in Ruritan.
- **You are team players** – by involving, encouraging, and supporting club members.
- **You are faithful** - always there, in the good times and bad ready to make a difference in your community.
- **You have enthusiasm**, and it shows – by always providing encouragement and excitement.
- **You are disciplined** – by having great character regardless of issues within your club or in your community.
- **You display confidence** - which represents your faith in one another and respect for the Ruritan mission.

Another challenge we face is that of change. Change is one thing in life that is constant. As Ruritans, we are too often confined in the way we do things. How many times have you heard “We’ve always done it this way?” If you keep doing the same old thing you will get the same old results. You may remember the General Electric Theater on TV. Every program opened with “Progress is our most important product.” With change comes progress. Progress will be exhibited in Ruritans’ ability to grow.

Advanced technology has changed the way we live and do business. Years ago, World Book Encyclopedia was the information authority. It has been replaced by the internet where information is instant. When Ruritan was founded in 1928, little did they realize that one day with just the touch of a key on a computer or cell phone there would be instant communication. By e-mailing, texting, conference calls, and video conferencing we are saving Ruritans’ time, money, and travel expense. This year, we put an Information Technology committee in place. This is what I mean by

change and progress as the desired result. The Ruritan National Office has made strides in the way we work and communicate. Much of our communication is through e-mail. We are communicating with our members as quickly and efficiently as possible. I realize not all clubs have computer access and not everyone is computer literate; however, a large percentage of our district officers are on-line. Thanks to the district officers, your technology expertise benefits us all. Our Ruritan National website is an excellent information sharing tool. A large percentage of our districts and clubs have websites and I have noticed the posting of Ruritan policies, information, and events on your sites. I congratulate you for your initiative.

Ruritans, we must continue to prepare for the future. Continue evaluating the ever changing needs of your community. What might have worked five years ago, may not work today. Let me reiterate - If you do what you have always done you will always get the same results. Yes, there were things that worked in the 60s and 70s. And, as I quote from our Ruri-Teen club members, “This is not your father’s Ruritan club...” We must continue to look forward, plan for the future, and evolve and adapt to the ever-changing needs of our community.

The challenges of growth, economics, and change will have an impact on how we will move forward in 2009 and beyond. It will have an impact on the way our clubs accomplish the mission of fellowship, goodwill, and community service.

I am asking your clubs and districts to be actively involved with the Red Cross with blood drives in your community. What a better way to give back to your community with “**the gift of life.**” Please keep a record of your blood drive information and send it to the National Office by December 1. Recognition will be given at the National Convention in Virginia Beach for the most donations at the large, medium, and small district level. Also, we will have a Rudy Bear drop at the convention. Districts that pledge the largest number of Rudy Bears will be recognized as the same procedure of the blood drives also with a deadline of December 1. These are two initiatives that will have a large impact on the success of your community service.

Ruritan will be 81 years old in May. Since 1928, Ruritan has been dedicated to improving our communities and building a better America. We are known for our outstanding community service and making a difference in our communities. This is what makes Ruritan the number one service organization it is today. What happens in Ruritan is up to each of you. I am proud to be a member of America’s leading community service organization. Work with me to make 2009 an exceptional year in the life of Ruritan by **Sharing Ruritan** with your family, friends and community. Thank you and may God bless.

Roanoke District Clubs Bring In Members and Host Events

New members of the **Severn-Pendleton (NC)** Ruritan Club are pictured with club members and visiting Ruritan leaders. Pictured (l-r) are Zone One Governor Wayne Smith, National Director Mills March, Shawn Holloman, David Helms, Rita McKeown, Trent Burgess, Roanoke District Governor George "Harmless" Edwards, Bill McKeown, Sherry Allen, Steve Allen, Dianne Osbon, Walt Asbon, Tommy Byrum, Steven Burgess, Carol Ferguson, Lori Burgess. James Hall, Annie Ray Hall, Noah Burgess, and Mark Mcgee.



The **Robersonville (NC)** Ruritan Club held its annual Veteran's Day banquet at the Filling Station Restaurant in Robersonville in November. Each member invited a Veteran and Sergeant First Class Chad Stephens presented a program on his tour of duty in Iraq in 2004.



2008 National President Wayne Outlaw gave remarks thanking the Veterans for their service to our country. Also present was the Roanoke District Governor George Edwards. The club holds this banquet each year to show our appreciation to local Veterans for serving our country. Pictured are club members and their veteran guests.

The club also recently held a barbeque dinner to raise funds for one of its members with cancer. The club raised \$3,180 for William Roberson, to help with his expenses. Pictured (far right) with Roberson is Club Treasurer Al Cochran.



News From Ruritan: Piedmont District



Gray Fowler presented Norman Kodell Shelton (right), charter member of the **Francisco (NC)** Ruritan Club, the Ruritan Scout Leader Service Award. Norman also recently received recognition from the Old Hickory Council of the Boy Scouts of America for 55 years of service.

News From Ruritan: Rocky Mt./Durham District

Stem (NC) Honors Charter Members at 50th Celebration

The **Stem** (NC) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in November. About 75 members, family and friends of the charter members were on hand for the celebration. The club presented a plaque in honor of and in memory of the thirty men who signed the charter in 1958. Two of the four surviving charter members, Jack Greene and Nelson "Doc" Williams (pictured) were presented a certificate of appreciation for their many years of support to the club. The other two surviving charter members, Cecil Watkins and Melvin Ellis, Jr. were unable to attend.



A history of the club was written for and presented at this special occasion. Thirty original members saw the need for an organization such as Ruritan – which was a perfect way to help their community. In the beginning, funds were limited but after many years of dedicated fundraising and with every member using their individual talents and volunteering their time, the dream of a clubhouse became a reality.

Today, the Stem Ruritan Club continues to help the community by supporting our fire department, giving scholarships each year to high school students, and providing financial assistance for people in need.

News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District

Hales Community Makes Generous Donations

Dan Widener, **Hales Community** (TN) Ruritan treasurer presents a check for \$878.50 to Scott Kinsey, food source director for Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee. The club also donated \$500 to the Washington County Child Advocacy Center and a gave a weed eater valued at \$375 to the Washington County Sheriff's Department Community Service Program. The club's primary fundraiser, a haunted forest at Halloween, also provides money for individuals and families in the community with heating and medical bills they cannot pay.



Vance Named a Tom Downing Fellow by District

Limestone (TN) Ruritan member Daryl Vance was given a Tom Downing Award by the district cabinet at the Davy Crockett District Convention last fall. Since Vance was unable to attend the convention due to a death in his family, the award was given to him at the club's Ladies Night by Club President Tom Houston, left. Vance has been a member of the club for 27 years and has served on many club and district levels including as a District Governor. He also is a Ruritan Forever member.

News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District

Redwood (VA) Earns Growth Award

At the annual **Redwood** (VA) Ruritan Club Christmas party, Redwood Club president, Steve Bousman, Jr., and Zone Governor Steve Bousman, Sr., accept a growth award presented by District Governor, June Renaut and Dennis Clemmer, Assigned National Director.



News From Ruritan: Greenville/Goldsboro District

Ponzer Members Visit Heath Center Residents



The ladies of the **Ponzer** (NC) Ruritan Club visited the residents of the Cross Creek Health Care Center recently. They wanted to help out the residents living there, so they determined on their visit, that they needed new bibs. The **Ponzer** ladies gathered for a "sewing bee" at their club building, and made 22 bibs. The residents were very appreciative and offered to model them for the club.

At the clubs October meeting, President June Wagner presented the Presidents Golden Key Award to Frances House and Donald Holton.

News From Ruritan: Georgia - N/ALA District

Spring Place (GA) Celebrated 58 Years of Community Service

The **Spring Place** (GA) Ruritan Club recently celebrated its 58th anniversary doing exactly what it's been doing since 1950, serving the community. For its Christmas project the club donated more than 30 gifts and \$150 to Community Christmas as well as nearly \$300 to the Red Cross Food pantry. This club with approximately 30 members is a mixture of young and "mature".

News From Ruritan: Cherokee District

Taylors (TN) Club Celebrates 40th Anniversary

The **Taylors** (TN) Ruritan Club celebrated its 40th anniversary in November. The club has served the Taylor School community helping with school projects and giving scholarships to seniors who attended the Taylor Elementary School. During the anniversary celebration Joseph Stepp gave a history of the club to those in attendance including members of the other 18 Ruritan clubs that comprise the Cherokee District.

The entertainment was provide by Bart Norton, up and coming country western singer. Member Thomas Orr presented Wesley Cain with a memorial certificate in honor of his father, Buford Cain, who recently died. Buford was a past member who often cared for the grounds at the Taylors Club.

Presentations by Club President Johnny Norton included recognition for the three charter members of the club still living: Thomas Orr, Joe Stepp, and his father Leslie Stepp.

Joe Stepp and Thomas Orr were also honored with a scholarship fund in their name in the Ruritan National Foundation. Taylors' Ruritan of the Year honors went to Thomas Orr for his active participation during the 2008. 2005 National President Jim McKinney presented certificates to the current board

members signed by 2008 Ruritan National President Wayne Outlaw. He also presented Johnny Norton, with a special certificate from national for forty years of continued community service. Tennessee State Representative, Eric Watson presented the club with a special proclamation from the State House acknowledging the service done by the club throughout the past forty years. He encouraged the club to continue that service making Bradley County a better place to live. Club President Norton also received a proclamation from Bradley County Commissioners Mel Griffith, Jim Smith, and Howard Thompson.

News From Ruritan: Delmarva/NJ District

MD Club Makes Generous Donation

The Pocomoke (MD) Ruritan Club has made a generous \$5000 donation to the building fund for a new Pocomoke Volunteer Fire Company firehouse. Pocomoke Ruritan president, Rick White is shown presenting a check to Larry Fykes representing the fire company building committee. This is the largest single donation the club has been able to give to date.



News From Ruritan: Western NC District

Western NC Clubs Are Reaching Out to Others

The **Old Fort** (NC) Ruritan Club honored Aaron Bingham as athlete of the year for McDowell County High School. Aaron has been a member of the club since 1998. He led McDowell High School's football team in tackles for both 2007 and 2008 season. Shown presenting the plaque is Aaron's proud father Eddie Bingham.



Christmas Cheer in the air? You can bet on it as the **Glenwood** (NC) Ruritan Club sponsored its first annual Christmas Parade for their community this past year, as just one of many projects the club has taken on. At Christmas time the club also prepares 50 fruit baskets to home bound residents. They also donate money to Glenwood Elementary School for an emergency fund that the administration uses for any child in need. In addition the club gives to families who have suffered a loss due to fire and to those in the community who are sick. The



Glenwood club also provides two \$500 scholarships to college-bound students based on need and academic scores. The funds for these many projects have come from an annual tractor pull, although the club has lost the use of the land where that event was held and is looking for other ways to generate funds.



The youngest and eldest attendees at the **Western NC District** Convention last fall are pictured above right together. Robert Shipley of the Mountaineer Club is 95 years old and Jason Norton, of the Morganton Chesterfield Club was 6 years old.

The **Rhodhiss** (NC) Club celebrated Christmas for the community in 2008 with participation in the Christmas parade (left) as well as a Pictures with Santa project that required each participant to bring non-perishable food as a donation. The food and toys from a toy drive were shared with those in the community in need.

News From Ruritan: Great Plains Area

Bloomfield (NE) Hosts Benefit Breakfast

A benefit pancake breakfast was held by the **Bloomfield** (NE) Ruritan Club recently for Janet and Gene Eckmann. Janet was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is receiving treatment. The pancake breakfast alone raised \$5,385.77. In conjunction with the breakfast, a bake sale was held by the Good Shepherd Church bringing in \$447.50, and the Thrivent Financial for Lutheran's supplemented the total with \$1,000. This made a grand total of \$6,833.27 that was donated to the Eckmann's. Pictured at right are (l-r) event co-chair Neil True, Thrivent Representative Sandra Barger, Janet Eckmann, and the other event co-chair Ken Carlow.



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