



Ruritan

Volume 76, Summer 2011



Growing Ruritan Will Help Create the America YOU Want

As I go through this year, I see more and evidence of "Teamwork Making the Dream Work."

I have spent years reading magazine columns from previous national presidents on what a great group of Ruritans they found in all parts of the country. They were right! The amount of service given to local communities is hard to believe. Just look through this magazine!

I want to share a story I have used in speaking to Ruritans. A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind. Please help." There were only a few coins in the hat. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy.



2011 Ruritan
National President
Jayson Duncan

That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?" The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote, "Today is a beautiful day, but I cannot see it."

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign reminded people that they were so blessed that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

We "ASK" people to be members, but do we tell the story of all the blessings we give in our communities or do we just talk about our need for numbers? We need to recruit to have a larger army of volunteers to help in our community projects. If we truly believe what we do is important, we must ask others to join us in our *dream* to make our communities better places to live. A lot of you have already brought in new members this year, but we need more help for America to become the place we want our grandkids to grow up in. New recruits bring new energy and new ideas. Please do not forget to mentor these new members or, before you know it, they will be on the *former* member list on MMS.

We are growing and will continue to grow. We now have four new Ruritan clubs and one Ruri-Teen club. I know of at least four other Ruritan Club charter nights that are planned and two or three other communities with plans. The board held a special meeting in early May to take action to allow a provisional new club charter with only 10 members.

These provisional status clubs will still have to send the \$50 charter fee and have a list of officers but they will have 90 days to get to 16+ members. With this action, the board is saying it believes that it is easier to ask someone to join an existing new club than it is to ask them to help start a club. And this puts the responsibility for growth on the community members rather than just on the DRM. This will help in areas where Ruritan does not have a large presence. We know of three clubs already that could get their start with this new provisional status.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work is not just for athletic teams or major companies. The sports dream is one of victories and championships. The company's dream is one of profit. As long as we, as Ruritans, dare to dream of ways to make our communities better, we too need the teamwork.

I thank you for all that you are doing to make your communities better places for all to live in. Keep up the good work and Gail and I will see you down the road.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!

A handwritten signature of Jayson Duncan in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jayson Duncan,
2011 Ruritan National President

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Ruritan

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The Saunders Family of Pulaski County, VA., survey the damage to their home from an early April tornado. See page 18.

Special Features

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Step by step instructions on how to organize a Ruritan Club in your community.

Ruritan Employees Retire..... 15
Three employees retire after a combined 41 years.

Reserve Your Room in Raleigh, NC, for 2012

Ruritan will have two convention host hotels. The Raleigh Marriott City Center is physically closer to the convention center and offers underground access so that attendees registered at the Marriott will not have to venture outside to get to the activities at the Raleigh Convention Center. The Sheraton Raleigh Hotel is located across the street from the Convention Center but also offers covered access through an underground parking lot so you never have to step outside or need an umbrella. The underground access is not handicapped accessible. See spring 2011 RURITAN magazine or the Ruritan website for details and contact information for the hotels.

Summer Magazine Cover Contest was won by the *Western Yell* (AR) Ruritan Club with a picture of a Ruritan in action – serving the community and veterans, by power washing military headstones and other monuments at a local cemetery. Members of the Publications Committee, who judged the entries, noted that this picture literally “jumped out” at them as the true meaning of Ruritans in action, working in their communities. Pictured is Past National Director John McCourt.

Summer Brings Transition to Ruritan Staff

By the time you receive this issue, summer will be upon us. Summer is a great time of year. It brings new growth, warm sunny days, vacations, and family time. We hope you and your family enjoy a great summer season. Additionally, by the time you receive this magazine your staff will have said goodbye to three employees. Betty Alley, Elizabeth Cooke, and Iris Williams have all accepted incentives to retire as of June 1. Debbie Southern has also taken a position as the receptionist, giving up her management position and taking a significant reduction in pay to remain employed with Ruritan (see story on page 15). The retirements and position changes are the only reason that we will be able to operate without a significant budget deficit in 2012.

We will miss all these ladies on a personal level. Many of us have worked together for more than 20 years, so long, that we have become like family. We will miss them on a professional level as well. When I took the job as your Executive Director in 2005 we had 18 employees. As of June 1 we will have one half the staff that we had when I took the job. We are doing no less work than we were then...perhaps more. Automation has helped. However, as of June 1 we will be operating as lean as we possibly can.



Our attitude as a staff has always been that the first answer is yes when asked to do a task. That will remain our attitude. We hope to continue to offer great service to our members even with this significant reduction in force. However, we would ask that you be patient with us during the months ahead during this transition.

Summer also brings the stormy season. Communities all over the country have been stricken by severe weather. There is a huge need for Operation We Care assistance in these areas. If you can...please donate to OWC so that our Foundation can help those people who have been affected by tornadoes (see story beginning on page 18). We have several Ruritan areas that have expressed a need for assistance. Help if you can.

We also hope that in this season of new growth you will continue to grow your Ruritan Club and our organization by bringing in new members. Members are the life-blood of our organization. More members means more service to your community. Also, consider forming a new club. I know that if my club were to disband it would create a significant gap in service to those in need in my community. There are communities all over America that don't have a club...there is no shortage of need in those communities. The right thing would be for us to seek out new communities that we can serve with a Ruritan Club and then do our best to bring a club to the community.

Finally, we hope you will join us for the National Convention in Raleigh, NC. We have a great convention planned. Registration forms are on pages 11 and 12 of this issue.

Yours in Ruritan Service,

Michael Chrisley
Ruritan National Executive Director

New Clubs for 2011

New Ruritan Clubs, Sponsors, & DRMs*

(January 1, 2011 -- May 1, 2011)

New Club	District	Sponsoring Club	DRM
Cedar Point Elementary Rudy Youth Ruri-Teen	Rappahannock	Nokesville	Ken Hinkle
Mountain View	Natural Bridge	Callaghan Area	Charlie Wiley, Sr.
Thoughtful Thunderbirds Ruri-Teen	Delmarva-NJ	Sudlersville	Robert Newton
Mt. Vernon Community	Western NC	Gilkey	Jack Conner
Three Way	Hermitage	Browns	
Franklinton	Gulf Area	Mt. Hermon	Beryl Schilling

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

Flint Springs (TN) Gains 34 Members in 3 Months



Flint Springs (TN) Ruritan Club has grown from 32 members in December of 2010 to 45 members in January 2011 and up to 66 members in February 2011. The club is now the second largest in the Cherokee District.

Newspaper Editorial: ‘They’re Ruritan caliber’

Excerpt reprinted with permission from the editorial pages of [The Cleveland \(TN\) Daily Banner](#)

Community.

People.

Neighbors helping neighbors

Another way of putting it would be “getting involved.”

The **Charleston** (TN) Ruritan Club is certainly no exception, especially this year as this people-friendly organization of civic leaders celebrates its 60th anniversary.

For this reason, let us get right to it.

Happy birthday, Charleston Ruritan Club!

To serve in such a community role for six decades is a remarkable achievement, one appropriately recognized recently by State Rep. Eric Watson, R-Cleveland, who presented club members with a Tennessee legislative resolution.

Too, the Charleston club has been recognized by its national president and director with a certificate which not only designates a special birthday but serves as a well-deserved recognition of accomplishment, achievement and powerful community influence.

It is also a salute to effort.

This is a trait shared by any Ruritan Club. Its members are community supporters who get involved because they believe in community, their schools and their children.

Most importantly, they simply believe in getting involved without a lot of fanfare, attribution or praise.

Many fine civic organizations carry torches bearing these same missions — Rotary, Kiwanis, Civitan, Lions, Sertoma and so very many others. We could not begin to name them all.

But a strength of Ruritan is that it caters to the needs of a site-specific area — an isolated community or a neighborhood. Bradley County has several, each with a love of people, of children, of schools, of churches and of neighbors. At the risk of leaving one out, we will not attempt to identify the local Ruritans by name.

But each one is just as critical to its own community.

The Charleston Ruritan Club is an excellent example.

Too often the Charleston community, and its residents, are left in the shadows of its much-bigger High-

Continued on page 31

Organizing a Ruritan Club

Step One – Identify a community

- Identify key people (leaders, movers, and shakers).
- Involve key people from the start.
- Make contacts and keep a list.
- A key people list may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce, local churches, and some local businesses.

Step Two – Survey the needs of the community

- Is there a special community need to be addressed?
- Is there a project that would benefit the community?
- Is there a resident with a pressing need?
- Is there a Chamber of Commerce to advise of needs in the community?

Step Three - Publicize Ruritan in the community

- Utilize posters and billboards.
- Circulate flyers in local businesses.
- Use public service announcement (available from Ruritan National) on radio and television.
- Have key people distribute Ruritan brochures.
- Deliver Ruritan placemat (available from Ruritan National) to local restaurants



Past National Director W.W. Johnson and National President Jayson Duncan are shown doing presidential training to the Club President Roger Thames and Club Vice President Dennis Morgan of the new **Franklinton (LA) Ruritan Club**.

- Stress value of Ruritan membership when discussing Ruritan.
- Make sure that key people are informed about the value of Ruritan membership. (brochure available from Ruritan National.)

Step Four – Walk through the community

- Visit businesses
- Take informative literature (Ruritan brochures, Club Benefits, Basics of Membership).
- Identify potential members
- Develop a list of potential members.

Step Five – Plan the organizational meeting

- Set date, time, and place for meeting.
- Prepare e-mail or letters of invitations to those on contact

list. (Plan a follow up call the night before the meeting to boost attendance.)

- Ask each potential member to bring others.
- Arrange for current Ruritan members to provide testimonials and answer questions.

Step Six – Assemble useful Ruritan materials for the meeting

- Have on display brochures, handbook, Ruritan magazines, bylaws, video or DVD (available from Ruritan National).
- Use Ruritan flipchart for small groups.
- Display news clippings of club activities (if available).
- Have a charter application for signatures.
- Put together a packet of Ruritan brochures, Basics of Membership, (Benefits of Ruritan Membership, Associate Membership, etc.).



Three Way (TN) Ruritan Club chartered on April 18th 2011. Past National President Jerry Ellis is shown presenting Club President Brian Groom with the charter.

You Can Achieve Growth Through Member Retention

We all know that the **NUMBER 1** goal for all Ruritans is to grow our organization – to grow our adult membership. It is imperative that we all work to help grow our adult members. It means that our clubs are more stable and that there are more people to help shoulder the projects. It also means that Ruritan will be stronger in the days and years ahead. We do a great job bringing new people into Ruritan, but we also lose a lot each year. The quickest

Augusta Road (SC) Ruritan Club has spent the past several months on a membership drive to save their club. They had decided last year to disband, but with the district,



national, and local leadership help, they are remaining a Ruritan club. National President Jayson Duncan is shown presenting club member Willis Creamer a 50 years of service certificate.

and easiest way to grow Ruritan is to keep the current members that we have and to add to the existing membership rolls. If we kept all current members and added just one new member per club, we would add an additional 1100 Ruritans in the first year alone. If we could do that for several years running, look at the gains we will have made. Please look over the following suggestions on how we all can work together to help retain our members and our clubs. Please feel free to inform the Growth and Development Committee of any other suggestions you might have to help us retain our existing members.

Fully Involved – Everyone has to be committed to retaining members and working to help struggling clubs sustain themselves. No one person can make this happen. It is going to take the commitment of every Ruritan to help our organization grow and maintain it. If

Zone Meetings – Winter and Fall – There is no better way than to get together to discuss common issues affecting respective clubs. Put together a game plan to help one another work through troubling issues.

Zone Governor Involvement – Recognition / Identification - Zone governors have to put themselves in the field with their clubs to see what is going on with the clubs. Zone governors should attend board meetings of clubs as well and report back to the district cabinet sharing observations and thoughts. They should work with the cabinet to develop processes to help clubs that are struggling.

Encourage Joint District Cabinet / Club Meetings – Once a year, have a district cabinet meeting inviting the club officers to attend. This allows the clubs an opportunity to see what the district cabinet is doing. It creates an opportunity for sharing and having open discussions. Make sure that all clubs know that the district cabinet meeting is open for all Ruritans who wish to attend.

“The Member Who Never Came Back” – Raising the Awareness Level - Clubs must recognize that new members need to be made a part of the club. Many people have left because they felt that they could not break into the “cliques” within a club; they were not heard by the club. They believed that they were not missed by the club if they did not attend a meeting(s). The club was unwilling to change any policies / procedures to make a person feel more “at home.”

Mentoring – Club Level and District Level – Clubs should mentor all new members. We will be hearing more about a new mentoring program coming from Ruritan National leadership. Districts should entertain having a district mentor- a person who will be a part of the cabinet who will mentor and work with struggling clubs. This district mentor should work very closely with zone governors and help the district governor and zone governor coordinate and facilitate help for affected clubs.

Getting the Same Message Across to All Members – Follow the guidelines in the Ruritan Club and District Officers Handbook when welcoming members. Explain what the committees do and how they operate. A new member may have a strong preference to be a part of one committee versus another. The important thing to recognize is that our handbook has a wealth of information that makes it easier to standardize the flow of information to all Ruritans

Exit Interviews – We should use the anonymous information learned from exit interviews to take a closer/ better look at ourselves to understand what we are or are not doing to make people want to stay a part of Ruritan. The National Growth and Development Committee will be working with the Ruritan National staff for a way to disseminate this information back to the districts in a meaningful and constructive manner. Thank you for all that you do for your communities and for Ruritan. Your suggestions on how to retain our current members would be greatly appreciated.

*Your 2011 Growth and Development Committee Members:
Kay Pearson – chair, Don Yeargan, and Chuck Myers*

Past Employee, Foundation President Snider Dies

Dr. Jack E. Snider, who served both as assistant executive secretary of Ruritan in the 1950s and then Ruritan Foundation Trustee in the late 1960s and early 1970s, died on April 27, 2011.

Snider 89, senior vice president of King College, in Bristol, VA passed away at The Center on Aging, Erwin, TN, after a long illness. The funeral service was held on April 28 with a committal service and interment held at Unicoi Swingle Cemetery, Unicoi, TN, on April 29, 2011.

Snider is pictured at right with club and district friends as he was honored with the Foundation's Tom Downing Fellowship.

He was a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Science degree in business. He also held a Master of Arts degree in Educational Administration from George Peabody College, and the honorary degree, Doctor of Humanities from Lincoln Memorial University. He was married to Evelyn Widener, who died in 1991. He served with the U.S. Army (Airborne) in World War II.

After his service in the U.S. Army, he held positions in the Unicoi County School System. He worked at Ruritan

for two years before he joined the administrative staff of King College in 1955. Dr. Snider served on the Ruritan National Foundation's trustee board only one year after its creation – in 1969 – and rose to the position of president of the Foundation in 1971.

In conversation with students, Snider commented that "I would like not to be just remembered as a friend or acquaintance, but work my way into people's hearts and be a part of someone's life. If I can be a part of others' lives ... then they will, in turn, do the same thing. Then I will live on through the lives of those I touch."

At King, he gave extraordinary service to the college in varied areas: as Registrar, Director of Financial Aid, Director of Summer School, Director of Alumni Relations, Director of Public Relations, and recently as Senior Vice President. In this latter role in recent years he traveled extensively through the area, working to promote King College and to advance its endowment. In the fall of 2005, the college officially opened the Jack E. Snider Center for Honors Study, a new enterprise where students are encouraged to examine ideas from different academic disciplines while studying with faculty members committed to "the life of the mind."

He was past President of the Tennessee Association of Collegiate Registrars and of the Tennessee College Alumni Association. He was past President of the Tennessee College Public Relations Association and a member of the Council for the Advancement and support of education. Dr. Snider was also a leader in community activities in Bristol. He was past president of the Kiwanis Club of Bristol, which in December 2005 conferred on him the organization's highest honor, the George F. Hixon Fellowship Award. He was also past president of the Boys' Club, from whom he received the Man and Boy Award in 1973 and a National Service Award in 1989. He was a member of the advisory board of the Salvation Army, a former member of the Board of Directors of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Board of Directors of the United Way.

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Past National Director Dickerson Passes

John N. Dickerson, 93 of Robinson, IL, formerly of Clark County, IL, died on March 16, 2011, at the Crawford Memorial Hospital in Robinson. He was born Nov. 6, 1917, in Darwin Township, Clark County, IL, the son of Roy Dickerson and Ruth Baker Dickerson. John served in the U. S. Navy as a Weather Forecaster and was a prisoner of war in France during World War II. John married Mary Jane Findley on March 1, 1941, and she preceded him in death on Feb. 2, 2000.

He is survived by his two daughters, Lynn Morrow and Barbara Cummings; four grandchildren; and two nieces. Funeral services were Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at the Prust-Hosch Funeral Home, West Union, Ill. Burial was in the Walnut Prairie Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Ruritan National Foundation for scholarships.

West Mount is Helping Keep Area Hunters Safe



North Carolina Wildlife Instructor

West Mount (NC) Ruritan Club is proud of its community service program of helping to save the lives of hunters in the area and beyond. The club is a supporter of North Carolina Wildlife programs, sponsoring and providing a place for the North Carolina Wildlife Commission volunteers to teach Hunter Education and Safety courses each year.

Since 1991 any person acquiring a hunting license in the state must pass a course and be certified as a safe hunter. The club has certified well over 500 people as safe hunters.

The classes held in August and September are among the largest classes each year. Club members, their children, and grandchildren have even participated in the course. Club member Bill Stancil is a master instructor and three years ago was named Instructor of the Year for Wildlife District 3. He received a new Black Powder Rifle as his gift of appreciation.

The courses focus heavily on safety and cover subjects ranging from firearm safety through tree stand safety, ethics, rifles, shotguns, primitive weapons, ammunition

identification, shoot-don't shoot situations, habitat management, and survival. Students get 10 hours of study and interactive education, including hands-on firearm instruction. Participants are tested on the final night, and are given their Safe Hunter Certificates and Wildlife patches,

signifying their commitment to safety while in the field.

Since the program began, the number of accidents has declined and there have been no fatal hunting accidents reported in the area.

"West Mount Ruritan Club has had a very positive impact on the hunter education program in District 3," says Hilton Best, North Carolina Wildlife Commission's Hunter Education Specialist. "It is organizations such as the West Mount Ruritan Club that make North Carolina's Hunter Education Program one of the best in the country. West Mount's commitment to the program is exemplary."

Past Club President Gold Joyner applauds the program and the cooperation between the North Carolina Wildlife Commission and the club. "We believe that being a partner with the North Carolina Wildlife Commission in providing a safe hunting environment through education on hunting and wildlife is an important community project for us. More and more young men and women of our area are becoming good, safe hunters through the program. It behooves all of us to lend a hand in helping them enjoy the experience in the safest manner possible, and we are very proud to lend our support," says Joyner.



MILITARY SERVICE

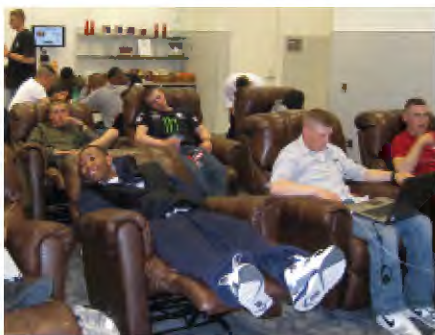
U.S. Military personnel who are also Ruritans and who might be unable to attend regular meetings should not be counted as absent according to the Ruritan National Board of Directors.

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 Bylaws 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.

USO Focus of 2012 Convention Giving

For the 2012 National Convention service project, Ruritan will be adopting the USO of North Carolina and the many service personnel and their families who benefit from the USO programs.



In particular Ruritans will have the opportunity (on the registration form) to purchase \$7 **Smiles Over Miles** cards for soldiers.

Smiles Over Miles is an easy to-use, private video messaging platform that brings loved ones close together across any distance. For less than the price of a movie ticket, you'll be giving an entire family the opportunity to share those moments. The goal of the program is to give all active duty military service members the opportunity to have a free **Smiles Over Miles** account, compliments of corporate and individual sponsors. Each \$7 donation provides a service member and his/her family and friends with free service for a full year. In addition, attendees can make cash donations on their registration forms to be used for other important USO projects, such projects serve the many men and women of the military who call North Carolina home.



Ruritan clubs and districts are also being asked to donate gift cards to grocery chains in the North Carolina area so that the USO can purchase important perishable items for their welcome centers (one is pictured on this page). The fall issue of the RURITAN magazine will outline more specific donations of non-perishable goods that clubs and individuals may also bring to Raleigh in January.

With a convenient AMTRAK station just two blocks from the Raleigh Convention Center, Ruritans may want to consider train transportation to the 2012 National Convention. Watch the the Ruritan website and future publications for details on a Ruritan-Amtrak discount option.

Pardon Our Errors: Corrections and Clarifications

In the spring issue of the RURITAN magazine, on page 28, a photograph showed **Ottway** (TN) Ruritan member and military veteran Kenneth Fullen. The article mentioned he had earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, President Unit Citation, and Oak Leaf Cluster. Sharp-eyed reader Charles Wall of the **Smoot** (WV) club contacted the Ruritan staff and pointed out that clearly visible in the picture of Fullen was also the Silver Star, an award of much greater significance than the others mentioned. A little research into Fullen's medals proved Wall to be absolutely correct in what he saw in the photograph. The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of any branch of the United States armed forces for valor in the face of the enemy. The Oak Leaf Cluster denotes additional decorations of the Silver Star – a very high honor indeed. Davy Crockett District Lt. Governor Allen Jackson noted, "Kenneth is a great man and one I'm very honored to have met."

Also in the spring issue a table on page 24 outlining the winners of the greatest percentage increase in Ruritan clubs in 2010 was calculated incorrectly – although the same ranking prevails for the winning clubs with the corrected calculation. The winners and correct amounts of increase are as follows. LARGE CLUBS: **Stonewall District**, Rappahannock, 6%; **Silk Hope**, Rocky Mt.-Durham, 6%; **Prince George**, Holland, 7%; **Abingdon**, Chesapeake, 8%; and **Deep Creek**, Holland, 25%; MEDIUM CLUBS: **Fountain**, Upper West Virginia, 22%; **Cropper**, Bluegrass, 23%; **Redwood**, NC, Rocky Mt.-Durham, 32%; **Horsepasture**, Dan River, 38%; and **Wayne City**, Lincolnland, 41%. SMALL CLUBS: **Piney Flats**, Tennessean, 50%; **Fall Branch**, Davy Crockett, 52%; **Port Royal**, Chesapeake, 53%; **Jericho-Hardison**, Piedmont, 107%; and **East Roane County**, Smoky Mountain, 121%.

Newsletter correction: A list of club anniversaries in the March Ruritan Newsletter inadvertently left off some of the oldest clubs in the organization. A complete list will appear in the May Ruritan Newsletter and can also be found on the Ruritan website.

2012 Ruritan National Convention - Raleigh, NC

(January 19 - 21, 2012)

Please print or type

1st Attendee: _____

Club: _____ District _____

2nd Attendee: _____

Club: _____ District _____

Home Address _____

Email Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Badge Name #1: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Preferred Badge Name #2: _____

GUESTS: As a fully registered attendee you may bring non-registered guests to meal functions only. List names below and pay for their meals under 'Extra Tickets' on reverse. They will only be allowed in events they've paid for.

Check items below that apply:

I need vegetarian meals for these in my party.
(list names below)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I need handicapped accessible seating at meals.

This is my first Convention. _____

Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

I plan to be a delegate: _____

I will be using a scooter and will need assistance with transportation at the hotel/convention center.

I have 50 years or more perfect attendance. Name: _____ # of Years _____

Registration Details

- Thursday evening Opening with Flag Ceremony, Memorial Service, and Entertainment
- Friday Education Day with workshops all day long and kicked off with the Friday Heroes Breakfast for all fully registered and Friday package attendees
- Saturday Elections and Business Sessions ending with the Installation Banquet and Entertainment for all Fully Registered and Saturday package attendees
- Optional Friday evening Foundation Dinner and Saturday morning Breakfast Honoring First Lady Gail

Appropriate registration package must be purchased in order to attend convention activities including workshops and business sessions. A registered convention attendee may purchase optional meals as well as extra meals for his/her non-registered guests (see reverse). After December 29, 2011, you may only register in person at the convention site.

OPTIONS - See Reverse:

Option 1: Full package rate for the 2012 Ruritan National Convention including both the Heroes' Breakfast and the Installation Banquet: \$170

Option 2: Base registration fee for the 2012 Ruritan National Convention (no meals): \$95

Option 3: Friday day rate including Heroes' Breakfast and workshops all day: \$125

Option 4: Saturday day rate including voting and business sessions and ending with Installation Banquet: \$150

Complete this registration form and mail it in or log on to the Member Management System and register there under "events" on your personal information page - <http://mms.ruritan.org> after June 10, 2011.

We will be honoring Ruritan military veterans and others during the Friday Heroes Breakfast. Please let us know your branch and era of service for special recognitions.

Name: _____ (Check one in each column)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U. S. Marines | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy | <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Storm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard | <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Iraqi Freedom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) | <input type="checkbox"/> Peace Time Service |

What Events Will You Attend At The 2012 Convention?

Option 1 - Full Package # ____ @ \$170 ==+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday evening Opening Ceremonies, Friday morning Heroes Breakfast, all Friday workshops, Saturday business sessions, and Saturday Installation Banquet.

Option 2 - Base Fee - no meals # ____ @ \$95 ==+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday evening Opening Ceremonies, all Friday workshops, election, and Saturday business sessions.
NO MEALS

Option 3 - Friday Day Rate # ____ @ \$125 ==+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday evening Opening Ceremonies, Friday morning Heroes Breakfast, all Friday workshops, Saturday business sessions, and election. NO SATURDAY MEALS

Option 4 - Saturday Rate # ____ @ \$150 ==+ \$ _____

Includes: Thursday evening Opening Ceremonies, Friday Workshops, Saturday business sessions, and Saturday Installation Banquet. NO FRIDAY MEALS

Sub Total Basic Registrations \$ _____

Extra Tickets and Optional Events: For any fully registered attendee or the guests of a fully registered attendee. These tickets will secure entrance to these events ONLY.

EXTRA Friday Heroes Breakfast # ____ @ \$35 ==+ \$ _____

Friday Foundation Awards Dinner # ____ @ \$40 ==+ \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast Honoring First Lady Gail # ____ @ \$28 ==+ \$ _____

EXTRA Saturday Installation Banquet # ____ @ \$60 ==+ \$ _____

Sub Total Extra Tickets: \$ _____

Other:

Rudy Bears - Large # ____ @ \$8.25 ==+ \$ _____

Rudy Bears - Small # ____ @ \$4.95 ==+ \$ _____

Cash donation for USO of North Carolina* ==+ \$ _____

Smiles Over Miles cards for soldiers* # ____ @ \$7 ==+ \$ _____

Sub Total Other \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

In addition to making donations to the USO of North Carolina for supplies needed for their military welcome center in Raleigh, Ruritan is providing **Smiles Over Miles** internet cards. Each \$7 donation provides a service member and his/her family with free service to communicate over the internet for a full year. (See details in this issue.)

How Will You Pay?

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

Check payment type below:

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

_____ Payment made by check Check # _____

_____ Visa/Mastercard Card # _____

Expiration date # _____

Check one option below

_____ Bill my credit card now

_____ Bill my credit card December 1, 2011

General Agenda for 2012 Ruritan National Convention - Raleigh, NC

Use these general times for travel planning - finalized times will be announced in the fall of 2011

Day/Date	General Time	Event Name
Pre-Convention Activities		
Thursday, Jan. 19	Morning	2012 District/Area Governors Breakfast followed by Training
Thursday, Jan. 19	Early Morning	Breakfast with the President (For outgoing 2011 Governors and retiring Board)
Thursday, Jan. 19	Mid Afternoon	First Time Convention Attendees Welcome Reception
Convention Activities		
Thursday, Jan. 19	Evening	Flag Ceremony/Memorial/Vesper Service
Friday, Jan. 20	Early Morning	Heroes Breakfast (Honoring veterans, teachers, firefighters, and many more of the heroes among us! This meal is included in full registration or the Friday package. See registration form in this issue.)
Friday, Jan. 20	All Day	Workshops (There will be a wonderful variety of workshops all day. Truly a Ruritan Education Day! See the Fall RURITAN magazine for a complete list.)
Friday, Jan. 20	Evening	Foundation Dinner & Awards (optional - pay separately for this)
Friday, Jan. 20	After Foundation Dinner	Foundation Live Auction (Immediately following meal)
Saturday, Jan. 21	Early Morning	Breakfast Honoring First Lady Gail (optional - pay separately for this)
Saturday, Jan. 21	After Breakfast with First Lady	Saturday Business Session 1
Saturday, Jan. 21	Late Morning through lunch	Election (voting)
Saturday, Jan. 21	After Lunch	Saturday Business Session 2
Saturday, Jan. 21	Evening	Installation Banquet (This meal is included in the full registration or the Saturday package. See registration form in this issue.)
Sunday, Jan. 22	Early Morning	Worship Service

Capital Replacement News

Capital Replacement Funds Top \$92,000

Donations for the national office capital replacement campaign continue to come in with \$92,000 raised to date. Improved lighting is the next project

on the list of improvements. Outdoor landscaping having just been completed. Donations since the last publication include the following:

Club Gift

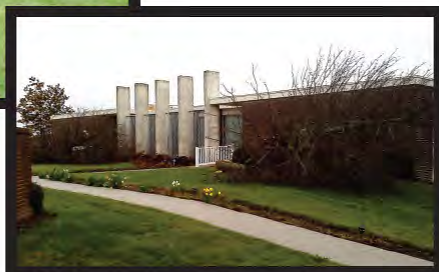
- Louisa County Ruritan Club;
- Bowmantown Ruritan Club;
- Maury Ruritan Club;
- Amelia Ruritan Club;
- Ivor Ruritan Club;
- South Norfolk Ruritan Club;
- Midlothian Ruritan Club;
- Studley Ruritan Club;
- Aarons Creek Ruritan Club;
- Jefferson Ruritan Club;
- King George Ruritan Club, in memory of Carson B. Stanley;
- Sangerville Towers Ruritan Club;
- Warwick Ruritan Club, in memory of Carson B. Stanley;
- Lignum Ruritan Club;

Individual Gift

Corky and Judy Camin



The most recent capital replacement project has been to remove old, unhealthy trees from the front of the national office and replace them with landscaping that better shows the building.



Summer Cover Contest Runners-Up



2ND PLACE

The Ruritan summer cover contest was won by

the **Western Yell** (AR) Ruritan Club with a picture of

a Ruritan in action – serving the community and veterans, by power washing military headstones and other monuments at a local cemetery. Members of the Publications Committee, who judged the entries, noted that this picture literally “jumped out” at them as the true meaning of Ruritans in action, working in their communities. Pictured on the cover is Past National Director John Mc-

Court. The Western Yell Club cleaned and repaired monuments (some dating to Civil War times), painted the cemetery pavilion, cleared brush, and cleaned graves as a part of the community service project.

In all, 27 pictures were received and the committee was very grateful for the contributions. “We want to thank all the clubs that participated in the cover photo contest. We were pleased by the wide variety of Ruritan activities shown. It is this kind of support that shows that Teamwork Makes the Dream Work,” said Committee Chair Joe Jaynes. Other members of the committee are Karen Palette, Earl Cook, and non-board members Gail Duncan and Becky Mady. The four runners-up are shown

on this page. Top left, the second place picture shows Rudy Bear jumping for joy at the **Goode** (VA) Ruritan Pancake Supper. The third and fifth place pictures show members of the **Cedar Fork** (NC) Ruritan Club at a barbecue benefit for two mem-

bers who have accumulated high medical expenses during recent illnesses. The fourth place picture shows the **Coker Creek** (TN) Club also in action creating fruit baskets during the holidays for shut-ins. Look for other pic-

tures submitted for the contest to be featured in the Fall Ruritan magazine.



5TH PLACE

At the 2011 National Convention in Knoxville in January, 1992 National President Jerry Walker shared the fact that he was facing cancer surgery. He continues to heal from the surgery and follow-up treatments. He and his wife Donna and their family have expressed their thanks to their Ruritan friends for the many prayers, cards, and letters they have received. “They have meant so much to us during this time. The love shown has been a warm and humbling experience,” Walker noted recently.



3RD PLACE

4TH PLACE



Three Ruritan Employees to Retire June 1

In a serious effort to balance the Ruritan National budget, three employees are being given the option of retirement with some extended benefits. The three – all eligible for other support and insurance – will leave Ruritan employment on June 1, 2011.

At that time, the staff and members will say goodbye to Betty Alley, Elizabeth Cooke, and Iris Williams. Betty joined the Ruritan staff in 1990 and has primarily been working with the Ruritan Supply Department. Many Ruritan members have gotten to know her over the years as a familiar face at Ruritan conventions. Betty noted recently, "I have enjoyed my work and will miss my friends here and out in Ruritanland."

Elizabeth Cooke has worked with the Ruritan National Foundation as a Ruritan employee since 1993. She maintains records of Foundation donations and funds and handles requests for Foundation Build Your Dollar Grant applications. Elizabeth commented, "I will miss working with Ruritan and friends after eighteen years even though I am looking forward to the challenge of adjusting to retirement after several years in the workforce."

Iris Williams, the last of the three to join Ruritan, came in 2008 and, as the receptionist, has been the "voice of Ruritan" to most of our organization's callers. Iris said, "Getting to know and work with so many wonderful people has been a blessing. Ruritan is a great organization."

Executive Director Michael Chrisley noted, "We are so sad to see these three members of our team leave but we are excited for them and what this change will mean for them and for their families. It is unfortunate that our organization's financial situation has brought us to the place where we have to encourage these retirements. On the other hand – we are pleased to be able to offer them an incentive to take this next step."

Chrisley continued, "Because we are not planning to replace these three employees – it means we will be shuffling the remaining five staff and three managers into new positions and demanding increased work-



Three Ruritan employees will retire on June 1, 2011. Pictured are (l-r) Iris Williams, Elizabeth Cooke, and Betty Alley.

loads from them. When I took the job of Executive Director six years ago we had 18 full and part-time employees. By June 1 we will have only eight, in addition to me. It stands to reason that eight people cannot perform what 18 could – even with increased efforts at automation. We are confident we can maintain good customer/member service despite the changes. And in those cases where our transition creates an inconvenience for you, our members, we also seek your patience."

Foundation Bid Secures Cooks

At the 2011 National Convention Foundation Auction, Piedmont District Governor Terry Call paid \$300 to get this impressive crew to come cook for the Piedmont District cabinet meeting!

Pictured are (l-r) 2007 First Lady Fran Bristow, 1998 First Lady and Columbia District Governor Von Taylor; 1998 National President and 2012 Convention Co-Chair Gary Taylor, 2011 National President Jayson Duncan, 2011 First Lady Gail Duncan, and 2007 National President and 2012 Convention Co-Chair Jimmy Bristow.



Time to Consider a Donation to OWC

Dear Fellow Ruritans,

Our attention has been directed to the unusual weather that we have been experiencing across our nation. From tornados to severe storm damage and from floods to earthquakes, all with loss of property and lives, these storms have not been an isolated occurrence but have struck in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina. By the time this issue of the Ruritan magazine reaches you there may be other affected areas.



Bruce W. Thompson
2011 Foundation
President

Operation We Care (OWC) is Ruritan's way of responding to these devastated areas. We have limited funds on hand and are receiving donations daily from across Ruritan-land. But with so many areas affected these funds will be inadequate when responding to requests that might come in, and hurricane season is only months away.

Once FEMA and the American Red Cross, as well as insurance policies, have completed their responsibilities, OWC will be able to come into the picture and assist as much as possible to fill in the gaps. How will we know of these needs? District governors are asked to assess the situation in their district and file a report with the Foundation requesting certain funding. The Trustees will review these requests and approve financial help within the bounds of available funds.

What can you do? Consider a donation from your club even though your club may have already made its usual donation for the year. Individuals are also encouraged to make donations to the Foundation which are income tax exempt under our 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Service designation. All funds for this purpose should be marked for OWC. And we thank you in advance for your consideration and response.

Your Ruritan Foundation Trustees met in mid-April to review and consider granting scholarships to the applicants who completed the required forms. The Build Your Dollar program awarded \$235 to each of the 377 applicants plus the club's required deposit of \$300 for a total scholarship gift of \$535 each. In addition, 63 applicants completed the application forms for the regular grant program. Following our review and analysis of the applications, 20 grants of \$600 each were awarded. The Trustees would have liked to be able to award the remaining 43 applicants but due to the lack of funds, we were unable to do so. Scholarships were also granted to qualified applicants of the "Friends of the Foundation" and "Special Funds" funds. The grants awarded totaled \$126,303.

As noted above, 43 applicants did **not** receive a scholarship grant because our funds base was not large enough to generate sufficient revenue to meet this demand. Your Ruritan National Foundation has several

programs in place to encourage our members and friends to remember this important program when considering charities to receive donations which are tax exempt.

Donations in any amount are welcomed and the

continue on page 19

Ruritan National FOUNDATION

2011 Board of Trustees

- President:** Bruce W. Thompson
- Vice President:** Robert "Cleve" Wright
- Secretary:** Norman O'Dell
- Treasurer:** Danny Privott
- Promotion Chair:** David Freshly



\$\$\$MILLION DOLLAR CLUB\$\$\$

Donation Amount \$ _____ Name of Fund to Credit _____
 From _____ Club _____
 Address _____ District _____
 City, State, Zip _____

Pay by check or Credit Card (Visa/Master Charge)

Credit Card # _____
 Expiration Date: _____

Mail to: Ruritan National Foundation, Inc. P. O. Box 487 Dublin, VA 24084-0487

2011 Foundation Fellowship Weekend

Make your plans now for the 2011 Ruritan National Foundation Fellowship Weekend to be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center in Richmond, VA (September 23-25). The full registration package includes bus fare on Saturday to downtown Richmond to your choice between two tours: the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts or the National Park Service's Civil War Visitors Center, private museum, and the Tredegar Iron Works. The **full package** (as well as **event package #1**) also include a Saturday evening buffet with plenty of food, entertainment, and awards.

Reserve your room at the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center by calling today (804) 379-3800 and tell them you are with the Ruritan National Foundation Fellowship Weekend for a rate of \$95 per night available for single to quad occupancy plus 13% sales and occupancy tax. This rate includes two Court Café Breakfast Buffet coupons per day per room. There is also a low-cost **event package #2** that includes the tour but not the buffet dinner.

Registration options and costs are outlined below. In addition to the registration you may choose the golf outing on Friday at \$75 for 1/2 golf cart, greens fees, and lunch at the Independence Golf Course in Midlothian, VA. A game room will be available for bingo, dominoes, cards, and fun and fellowship. A hospitality room will be available for snacks, beverages, and more. Hours for these two rooms will be provided at check-in. A worship service on Sunday from 8 to 8:30 a.m. will send you off on your travels home.

CHOOSE:

Full Package Registration
Includes: Saturday charter bus trip to downtown Richmond (choice of tour), Saturday evening buffet, hospitality room, game room, entertainment, Sunday worship service.

Registration \$70 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Choose Tour Option
 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts: _____
 Civil War Visitors Center and Museum, Tredegar Iron Works: _____

OR:

Event Package #1 Registration
Includes: Saturday evening buffet, hospitality room, game room, entertainment, Sunday worship service. (NO TOUR)

Registration \$55 X _____ persons = \$ _____

OR:

Event Package #2 Registration
Includes: Saturday charter bus trip to downtown Richmond (choice of tour), hospitality room, game room, entertainment, Sunday worship service. (NO MEALS)

Registration \$25 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Choose Tour Option
 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts: _____
 Civil War Visitors Center and Museum, Tredegar Iron Works: _____

AND:

Optional Golf Package Registration
Friday, September 23rd at the Independence Golf Course, Midlothian - Shotgun start at 1 p.m. Includes: 1/2 golf cart, greens fees, and lunch

Registration \$75 X _____ persons = \$ _____

Send registrations to: Ruritan National Foundation, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084. The deadline for pre-registration is September 1, 2011. After that you will be processed as a walk-in and the tour bus seats may not be available as an option - so PLEASE register early!

Name: _____
 Badge Name: _____
 Spouse/Guest Name: _____
 Badge Name: _____
 Address _____
 City: _____
 State: ___ ZIP: _____ Phone: _____
 Club: _____
 District: _____
 E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my payment:

Check No. _____
 Visa # _____
 Visa Expiration Date _____
 Mastercard # _____
 Mastercard Expiration Date _____

Tornadoes Rip Through Ruritan Communities

Four of the Saunders six children treasured the Rudy Bears given to them by Ruritan Road (VA) Club members Heather and Thomas Harris - who operate Free to Talk Ministries.



By all accounts, April 2011 will go down in the record books as having some of the most severe weather in history. In early April, two tornadoes touched down in Pulaski County, VA, home of the Ruritan National Office. A week later tornadoes ripped through the Raleigh and Sanford communities in North Carolina and a number of Virginia counties.

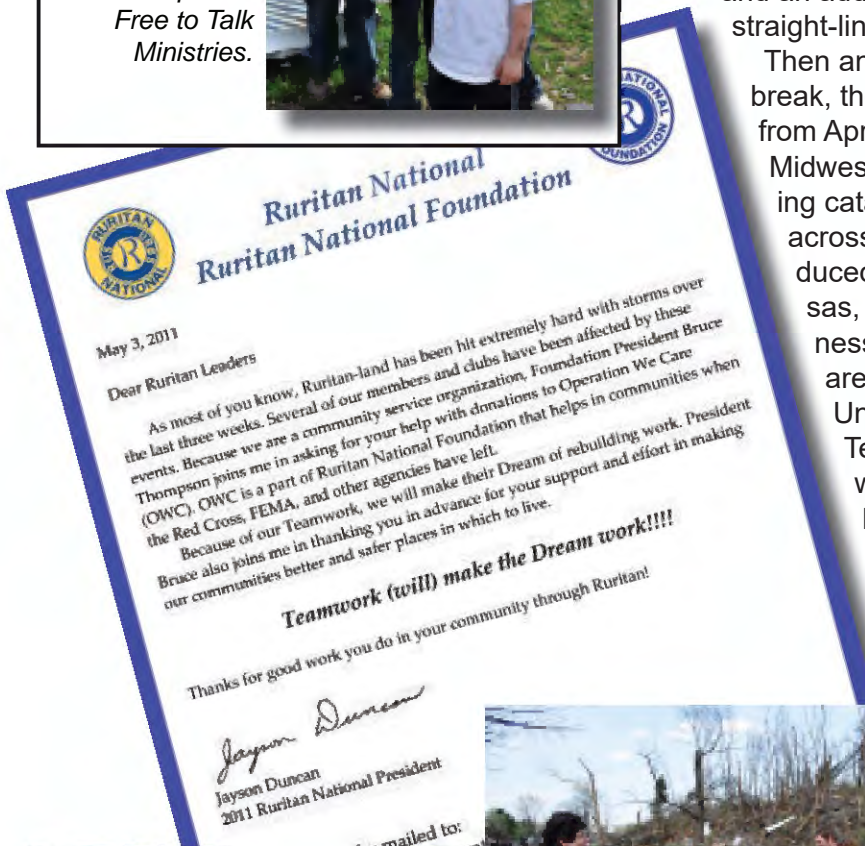
Between April 14 and 16, the U. S. experienced one of the largest single-system tornado outbreaks in U.S. history, resulting in at least 155 confirmed tornadoes across 14 states and severe destruction on all three days of the outbreak. A total of 38 people were killed from tornadoes during these three days and an additional five people were killed as a result of straight-line winds associated with the storm system.

Then an extremely large and violent tornado outbreak, the largest in United States history, occurred from April 25 to 28, 2011, affecting the Southern, Midwestern, and Northeastern United States, leaving catastrophic destruction in its wake, especially across the state of Alabama. The outbreak produced destructive tornadoes in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and affected several other areas throughout the Southern and Eastern United States with tornadoes confirmed from Texas to New York and isolated tornadoes were also reported in Canada as well. At least 340 people were killed as a result of the outbreak with many others missing or unaccounted for. Early May saw additional severe weather in the form of flooding.

In nearly all this season's weather

situations, Ruritans have been involved – from being personally affected with damage to their homes to stepping up to facilitate rescue and recovery as well as home repair.

In an effort to build up the funds in the Ruritan National



Trees brought down by high winds collapsed a car port on National Director Kay Pearson's home in Tennessee.



The Saunders Family of Pulaski County, VA survey the damage to their home from an early April tornado. Anthony Saunders, the father, had been undergoing cancer treatments for six months and then gall bladder surgery earlier on the day of the tornado.

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Ruritan National Foundation News

Continued from page 18

Foundation's OWC (Operation We Care), National President Jayson Duncan sent an appeal (pictured page 18) to Ruritan leadership on behalf of him and Foundation President Bruce Thompson.

In Greene County, TN, 1993 National President Wayne Bettis spent his days delivering water and assisting with generators. Bettis is a member of the **Hardin's Chapel (TN) Ruritan Club**.



Greene County, TN

Thomas Harris of the **Ruritan Road (VA) Club** (in red shirt) helped get tarps on the damaged homes in Pulaski County, VA, before the next round of rain and storms hit.



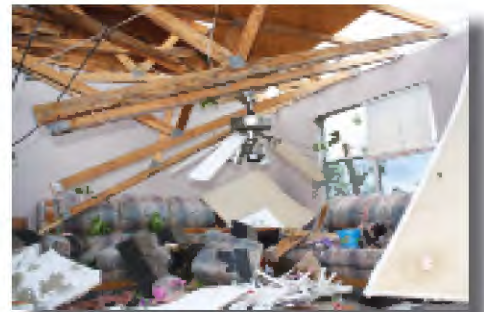
National Director Kay Pearson lost 15 trees during one high wind episode and ended up with one crashing into her carport and home.

In Pulaski County, VA, **Ruritan Road Club** members Heather and Thomas Harris – who operate Free to Talk Ministries – were on site daily providing labor as well as comfort and counseling.

Another Ruritan family was devastated when their daughter, Morgan Siglar, a student at the University of Alabama was killed in her home near the university. Her father, Al, is a past president of the **Bryant (AL) Ruritan Club** and her mom, Vega, is the club's current treasurer.

The **Bethel Hill (NC) Ruritan club** suffered serious damage to their building and they've documented it on a website at <http://www.bethelhillruritan.org>.

News of other clubs' involvement in recovery efforts continues to come to the attention of Ruritan leaders and staff. Please



Cleveland, TN



Television camera crews visited Pulaski many times focusing attention on both victims and volunteers. Here Thomas Harris (member of the **Ruritan Road (VA) club**) is interviewed.

send pictures and stories to us at P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084.

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easiest to attain program is the \$\$\$\$Million Dollar Club\$\$\$ which suggests a dime a day or \$36.50 per year for an initial period of five years. If every Ruritan would join this program we would generate over \$1,000,000 each year or over \$5,000,000 by the end of a five year period. This would generate sufficient income to have awarded those additional grants to those deserving individuals who were left out this year.

A listing of fund types include: \$\$\$\$MillionDollarClub\$\$\$, Permanent Memorial or Regular Fund, 21st Century Legacy Fund, Cornerstone Fund, Friends of the Foundation Fund, Special Permanent Fund, Virginia Tech Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Tom Downing Fund.

Each year the Foundation Trustees sponsor a Foundation Fellowship Weekend and this year we will gather at the Holiday Inn Koger Conference Center, Richmond, VA on September 23-25, 2011. You will find a registration form and details of the fun time in this issue. Please plan to attend. Fill out this form and mail it today to Ruritan National Foundation, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084. We look forward to seeing you in attendance.

Serving the Foundation,

Bruce W. Thompson
2011 Foundation President

News From Ruritan: Delmarva/NJ District

Wistarburg (NJ) Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Wistarburg (NJ) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary in February. National President Jayson Duncan and District Governor Graves Carey were on hand to congratulate the club. Club President Phil Donohue recognized charter members Al Crispin, Ray Ward, and Sylvan Simpkins.

Other longtime members are Wayne Heil (45 years), Charles Sickler, (40 years), Dave Bailey, Sr. (40 years), and Riley Williams (39 years.)

Club members were presented with golf shirts in recognition of the anniversary. Donohue presented the first shirt to club member Bill Greenwood who just returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Town Mayor Joe Fedora presented the club with a resolution honoring them for their valuable contributions throughout the years. Pictured top left (l-r): Club President Phil Donohue; charter members Sylvan Simpkins, Al Crispin, Ray Ward, and National President Jayson Duncan.

Rockawalkin (MD) Club Installs New Club Officers

Rockawalkin (MD) Ruritan Club installed new officers at its annual Ladies Night dinner in December. Zone Governor Katharine Allen had the privilege of swearing in the new officers. Pictured right (l-r): President Wayne Shaff, Vice President Steve Smith, Director Jarvis Cain, Secretary Ernie Conner, Treasurer Elliott Meade, Zone Governor Katharine Allen, and Director Mike Marshall.



News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

Spout Spring Community Dedicate Sports Complex



Spout Spring (VA) Ruritan Club matched money from Appomattox area business and citizens to build a two-story sports complex that includes press boxes, concessions, and basement storage for equipment. The complex is located around newly constructed baseball fields. James Cheatham, a member of the Spout Spring Club, was the project manager. His efforts were praised by William Craft, chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors and Anne Dixon, recreation director for Appomattox County. At the dedication, Ms.

Dixon told those gathered "without the Spout Spring Ruritans' help, this building would never have been possible." Others in the audience praised the club for making this facility possible for the children. The club is known throughout the area for its generosity which includes scholarships, donations to fire departments and rescue squads, and assistance to senior citizens. Pictured are members of the Spout Spring Ruritan Club and Appomattox Lt. District Governor Larry Cary (far left). Also in attendance were National Vice President Phyllis Lewter and Bill Lewter and National Director Chuck Myers and Mary Myers. After the dedication, Spout Spring Ruritans celebrated with a dinner for guests at their club house.

Darvills Club Holds Pork Steak Dinner Fundraiser



Darvills (VA) Ruritan Club held a pork steak dinner as a fundraiser for club projects. Beef steak dinners have proved successful for the club in the past but they wanted to do something different. The pork steak proved to be just as popular with those in attendance. Gathered around the cooker are head cook Richard "Chicken Lips" Wilson, National Vice President Phyllis Lewter, Sharon Long, Mary Myers, and National Director Chuck Myers.



Vice President Harry Marsh of the **South Chesterfield (VA) Ruritan Club** received a President's Golden Key Award Pin for bringing in three new members.

News From Ruritan: Columbia District



Pineview (SC) Club Supports Heroes Vest Fund

Heroes Vest Fund is a nonprofit organization that provides bulletproof vests for K9 officers. Their mission is to purchase and donate bullet/stab/slash proof vests to the K9 Officers throughout SC through public donations, sponsorships, and fundraisers. All donations are used to purchase these much needed vests.

The **Pineview** (SC) Ruritan Club has supported this organization since November 2010 and raised \$30,000 for this foundation.

News From Ruritan: Alabama - Florida District

Paxton (FL) Club Collects Used Books for Village



In February, the **Paxton** (FL) Ruritan Club started collecting used books that were still in good condition from club members and members of the community. On April 26, they delivered 300+ books to the Air Force Enlisted Village, a non-profit organization whose primary mission is to offer housing and financial assistance to surviving spouses of enlisted Air Force members in three locations – Theresa Village, Bob Hope Village, and the Hawthorn House. Pictured (l-r): Club Vice President Linda Reeves, Director Bill Perkins, Club President Melanie Adams, Club Secretary Mary Perkins, District Governor Bill McRae, and Jim Binnicker, President and CEO of the Village.

News From Ruritan: Tall Corn District

Brooklyn Holds Successful Fundraiser

Brooklyn (IA) Ruritan Club, along with several other organizations, joined together to hold a fundraiser for Bev Rens, who is suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease. Ty Herndon, an advocate for the fight against the disease, sang for the event. Over 750 people were in attendance for the dinner, silent auction, and live auction, and to enjoy a local band, The Pig Ponies, play. The event raised over \$22,000. Pictured are Bev Rens with her granddaughter and Ty Herndon.



News From Ruritan: Gulf Area



*In May, the **Mt. Hermon** (LA) Ruritan Club had a crayfish boil. The picture shows that there were plenty of crayfish for everyone to enjoy.*

National President Jayson Duncan and Cherokee District G & D Chair W.W. Johnson, were featured in the local newspaper for visiting **Linwood Circle** (MS) and **Good Will** (MS) Ruritan Clubs. Duncan presented Area Governor Ella Lyles with a plaque for serving in the Gulf Area in 2010.

Ervin Miles Honored With “Ruritan Forever”



At the Association of North Carolina Ruritans Annual Rally recently, Ervin Miles was presented a Ruritan Forever Endowment. 2002 National President Millard Thacker, presented him the award. Miles was very surprised when family members attended this special occasion.

Ervin has been a member of the **Southern Caswell (NC)** Ruritan Club since 1962, and has served in all club officer positions. He was elected as Piedmont District Governor in 1970. He was elected as National Director in 1978, and in

1984 was elected as National President. He continues to serve as an active member of the Southern Caswell Ruritan Club, the Piedmont District Cabinet, and is often involved in National activities.

“Ruritan Forever” is a Perpetual Life Plan

“Ruritan Forever” is a plan for the payment of national dues by members who wish to make a long term investment in Ruritan. The “Ruritan Forever” Plan allows a member in good standing to pay \$600 and become a life-time participant of the National Organization. Ruritan National will invest these prepayments in a special managed fund, transferring the dues quarterly to the business office of Ruritan National. Even after the life participant dies, dues will be transferred quarterly to Ruritan National, thus offering a perpetual memorial to the organization on behalf of the deceased Ruritan.

The lifetime endowment may also be purchased in memory of an already deceased Ruritan, ensuring an ongoing contribution to the operation of Ruritan in his or her name.

Upon payment of the fee, the Ruritan will receive a special plaque, a permanent life participant card, and a pin. For endowment purchased for a deceased member a special plaque will be provided for the club to present to the deceased member’s family. National dues increase will have no effect on participants enrolled in the plan, although the purchase price of \$600 for new enrollees may be adjusted over the years as necessary.

News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

North Shenandoah Presents a “Ruritan Forever” to Member

In March, the **North Shenandoah (VA)** Ruritan Club gained three new members: Don, Lucy, and Ben King.



They also presented club member Dickie Hodson with a Ruritan Forever. Pictured is Club President Von Himelright presenting Hodson with the plaque.

The club held their second Community Auction at the Lebanon Church Community Center. Once again, flyers were posted throughout the Strasburg and surrounding areas announcing this auction. Donations were requested and the Club Officers said the community responded magnificently. Club Vice President Dave Abrell did all the preliminary work for the auction.

Club member Jane Clark was in charge of the food preparation this year, from planning the menu to identifying members to provide the food. Proceeds will benefit Compassion Cupboard Food Bank and the Lebanon Church Community Center.

News From Ruritan: Piedmont District

Piedmont District Clubs Making a Difference



The youth of the **Leasburg** (NC) Ruritan Club hosted a community breakfast on Saturday, March 5th. The turnout was small, however the fellowship and food were said to be great. The youth are raising money so they will be able to go to the Ruritan Youth Leadership Conference held at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake this summer. The youth have been attending since 2009 and have enjoyed the training and activities each year. They are looking forward to sending more youth this year than in years past. Also in March, National President Jayson Duncan presented John Berdine with a Tom Downing Award on behalf of the club. Berdine was the 2010 Piedmont District Governor.

In April, the club was presented the Blue Ribbon Award from District Governor Terry Call (top left.) During 2010 the club members served more than 1800 hours and raised more than \$11,000 for their community.

Call also presented Club President Dixie Vernon with the Outstanding President Award and a Ruritan mug that was designed by Call and his wife Tina.

Members of the **Germanton, Pine Hall, Sandy Ridge, and Lawsonville** (NC) Ruritan Clubs are shown (right) working together to serve the 80 volunteers of the local Outreach Ministry. This is one of the ways that clubs join together to act as conduits in serving other parts of the community.



News From Ruritan: New River District

Pioneer (VA) Club Has Several Fundraising Activities

In March the **Pioneer** (VA) Ruritan Club sponsored a community-wide Spaghetti Supper at Fort Chiswell High School. Proceeds from the supper go to community action projects such as meeting the needs of the elderly with food, housing, and utilities. In the past, the club has welcomed opportunities to provide meals for Ruritan District Conventions and for the Ruritan National Office events.

Fundraising events included a rummage sale and selling jars of apple butter. Pictured is Graham Watson stirring the apple butter.



News From Ruritan: Smoky Mountain District

Gibbs Members Receive Ruritan Boy Scout Leader Award



In January, the Gibbs (TN) Ruritan Club was given the opportunity to host a lunch for the Ruritan National Board of Directors while they were visiting at the National Convention in Knoxville. Over 80 people were in attendance.

In February, four club members received the Ruritan Boy Scout Leader Award from Ruritan. Pictured are District Governor Roy Wallen, club members Rusty Carpenter, Clayton Sharp, Donald Hickman, Larry Dougherty, Club President Allen Berry, and Past National Director Roger Carter.

Sevier County Celebrates 60th



In February, National President Jayson Duncan presented the Sevier County (TN) Ruritan Club a copy of its charter application and a certificate from Ruritan

National in honor of its 60th anniversary. Club President Ralph Whaley presented Duncan with a framed black bear print.

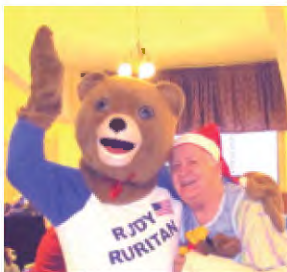
News From Ruritan: Greenville/ Goldsboro District



Pinetown (NC) club members Myra Strickland and Gail Carro are pictured calling bingo. So far, members say bingo has been one of the club's most successful fundraisers.

News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

Bloomington (TN) and Rudy Bear Visit Nursing Home



Bloomington (TN) Ruritan Club members visited five nursing homes during the holidays giving away over 800 Rudy Bears to the residents. (Rudy Bear is played by Past National Director Jim Smallwood.)

Call Ruritan Supply at 1-800-836-5431 or email supplies@ruritan.org to order your club's Rudy Bear costume today. One size fits most. \$350

Bahama (NC) Club Holds Yard Sale and Breakfast



Members of the **Bahama (NC) Ruritan Club** provided a community-wide yard sale and pancake and sausage breakfast for the community on April 16th. Hundreds of donated items were received with club members going out into the community and providing door-to-door pick up service. Pictured is chairman of the event Ron Williams displaying some of the donated items, and chairman of the pancake and sausage breakfast Leonard O'Briant. Club members say that their sausage is widely known for its great taste. The club partnered with a local youth athletic association with the proceeds from the yard sale helping to establish a local park for the community.

Benvenue Honors Member For Perfect Attendance

Benvenue (NC) Ruritan Club honored W.C. (Buck) Dickens has been a vital member of the club since joining in 1960. Pictured (l-r): Club President John Allen and Dickens.



News From Ruritan: Roanoke District

Farm Life is Presented an American Flag From Camp Leatherneck



Farm Life (NC) Ruritan

Club is pleased to have back a member from military deployment. First Sergeant Eddie Bowen had been stationed at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan and has just returned home. Eddie has served in the Army Reserve for 32 years and served in 1990 in Saudi Arabia and Iraq in 2004. Eddie presented an American flag that had been flown over Camp Leatherneck. The flag had been signed by Sgt. Bowen and his commanding officers. Eddie thanked the club for the military packages sent to him. He said he also received packages from his wife Fran, many family members, and friends which he enjoyed sharing with others.

Pictured is Club President Jon Griffin holding the flag presented by First Sergeant Bowen.

News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District

Geff Community Hosts District Spring Award Banquet



Howard Tanner received the Lincolnland Ruritan District Outstanding Cabinet Member at the District's Spring Award Banquet hosted by the **Geff Community** (IL) Ruritan Club in March. The award was presented by Past District Governor and recently elected National Director Beverly Tanner. Karlie Taylor and Tryston Bettis provided violin entertainment during the banquet.

National Director Anne Hillard visited the **Beecher City Tri-County** (IL) Ruritan Club in April. She complimented the club on its accomplishments and informed them of the many ways that the Ruritan National organization was able to assist them with community projects.

News From Ruritan: Opportunity Land District

Western Yell (AR) Club Holds Scholarship Dinner



Western Yell (AR) Ruritan Club held its annual scholarship fundraiser dinner at the Western Yell County High School Cafeteria recently. Catfish, fried and boiled shrimp, and smoked ribs with all the trimmings were served to over 450 people. The club profited over \$3,000. Pictured are Jody Burrows and Randy Williams cooking hush puppies for the dinner.

News From Ruritan: Dan River District

Fontaine Members Receive Service Pins



*Pictured are members of the **Fontaine** (VA) Ruritan Club receiving their years of service pins shown (l-r) are: Club President Mike Williams, Pat Padgett, Nick Basha (receiving a 1 year pin), Ruby Martin, Leon Reed, Linda Reed (receiving 9 year pins), and Membership Chair John Elliott.*

Come Visit the 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. 10.



*Dan River's District Secretary and member of the **Red Bank** (VA) Ruritan Club Charlie Bowman, is shown with the winner of the 2011 Daytona 500, Trevor Bayne at the Wood Brothers*

Museum In Stuart, VA., signing autographs.

Liberty Spring (VA) Club Award Members



Emery Nichols, **Liberty Spring (VA)** Ruritan Club President, presented Robert (Stud) Perry (left) with a 10 member bar, and a President's Golden Key Award Pin, for recruiting 10 new members. He also presented a 49 year attendance pin to Perry and David Francis. Both are charter members of the club.

Captain Eric Morley, stationed at Langley Field, addressed the club on income taxes that affect the military and items that

affect everyone who files for the 2010 tax season. Nichols presented Morley with a Ruritan coffee cup, thanking him for participating in the meeting.

In March, the club sponsored a hole for the Larry Branch Memorial Golf Tournament as a fundraiser for Relay for Life.



National President Visits the Meherrin (VA) Club



It's tradition that every February the National President visits the **Meherrin (VA)** Ruritan Club. This year was no exception. 2011 National President Jayson Duncan drove 500 miles to keep the tradition alive. He had the honor of being the 19th consecutive National President to visit the club. Pictured (l-r): 1978 National President Bobby Wrenn, 1995 National President Frank Guthrie, National Vice President Phyllis Lewter, Duncan, 2003 National President George Winslow, and Holland District Governor Raymond Clark.

Great Bridge Honors Sheriff and Nurse



Great Bridge (VA) Ruritan Club held its annual Public Service Night on April 12. Christopher Earles (left) was honored as Chesapeake Sheriff Deputy of the Year, and Lori Lowery (center), from Chesapeake Regional

Medical Center, was honored as Nurse of the Year. Committee Chairman Jamie McMannes (right) presented the awards on behalf of the club.



Smithfield (VA) Ruritan Club and the Smithfield Rotary Club joined together for a dinner to award Skip Sharpley as Citizen of the Year.

Isle of Wight Club Gains Two New Members



Isle of Wight (VA) Ruritan Club held a "Night Out" for spouses and guests at their regular club meeting. The club presented red roses to the ladies and flashlights to the men. After a catered meal, a program was presented on internet safety. A highlight of the evening was the initiation of two new members. Pictured are Club President Keven Goerger, National Vice President Phyllis Lewter, new member Missy Wiggins, Tommy Wiggins, new member Leslie Myane, and Club Secretary Christy Phillips.

Abingdon Club Participates in Mission of Mercy

The planning for the Mission of Mercy (M.O.M) Project in the Gloucester area started in 2009 in the dental office of Dr. Charles (Chuck) R. Harris, Jr. of Hayes. M.O.M. is a program sponsored by the Virginia Dental Association that provides free dental care to those in need. Dr. Harris, a long-time member of the **Abingdon (VA) Ruritan Club**, has been responsible for two M.O.M. projects held at Gloucester High School. When he discussed the first project at a club meeting and asked for support, the members were the first to volunteer. The night before the event the club fed 367 volunteers involved with the project. A total of 501 patients received dental care the next day. There were 129 cleanings, 630 fillings, and 709 extractions. This year's event was just as successful.



Dr. Harris' wife, Phyllis, stated that husband became a member of the Abingdon Ruritan Club because he knew of the great compassion the members have for the community. "The organization has proved to be a great joy in his life. Not only has the fellowship been enormously fulfilling, but the giving back to the community has been immensely gratifying."

Warwick (VA) Club Donates \$1,700 to Community



Donna Borges, John Harbaugh, and Joy Walters of the Newsome-Bailey Academy (left) accepted a \$500 check from **Warwick (VA) Ruritan Club** President Richard Childs in February. Newsome-Bailey Academy is a private school that offers educational intervention to at-risk elementary school children from low-income households.

In March the club donated \$1,200 to the Food Bank of the Virginia Peninsula. Pictured (right) is Club President Richard Childs



presenting Food Bank representative Donna Tighe with the check.

The club also built their first handicap ramp of 2011. Club member Harald Aadahl built the ramp with his working crew.



Madison (VA) Ruritan Club President Nate Taylor (left) and National Director Karen Pallette (right) are shown presenting Club Secretary Pete Arnette (center) with a national award for the district newsletter, "The Chesapeake Crab."



Aubrey Mitchell and Janice Miano of the **King George (VA) Ruritan Club** helped serve chicken dinners at a recent Home Show. The show provided great exposure for the club.

Gloucester Club Supports Boy Scout Troop



In February the **Gloucester** (VA) Ruritan Club held its annual Sweetheart Dinner meeting at the American Legion Post 75 building. Special guests were Boy Scout Troop 138 with Scout Master Scott Oberndorfer, his son Chase, Asst. Scout Master Glenn Holland, and Brent

Oberndorfer described how the scouts learn to cook in the trailer, and told members about the new Scout camp. He thanked the club for supporting the troop with donations. Pictured is Club President Tom Swankler presenting Oberndorfer with a Ruritan coffee mug and check.



*Pictured are **Doswell** (VA) Ruritan Club members as they raise money for scholarships with a spaghetti, salad, and dessert fundraiser.*

News From Ruritan: Bluegrass, Davy Crockett, Hermitage, Potomac, Rapidan, Southwest VA, Woodrow Wilson Districts

Clubs Across Ruritan Making a Difference



Choateville (KY) Ruritan Club recently participated in the "Spring Clean-up Day," a joint sponsored community event by the Franklin County Soil and Conservation and the Franklin County Road Department. Pictured (left) are club members Amelia Pieratt and Lisa Agee.

In March, Past National Director Roger Carter (pictured top right) presented **Ottway** (TN) Ruritan Club member Fred "Frog" Parker with a President's Golden Key Award Pin, a 10 member bar, and a Power of Persistence bar (POP). In 2010 Parker brought in 10 new members and so far in 2011 has brought in four new members.



Hermitage District Governor James Mayo (pictured right) presented 1977 National President and **Pinson** (TN) Club President Jerry Ellis with a five member bar and a POP 2010 bar and Jimmy Smith with a President's Golden Key Award Pin, five member bar, and a POP 2010 bar at a recent club meeting.



Shenandoah Junction (WV) Ruritan Club celebrated its 50th anniversary recently. Pictured (left, center) is charter member Iley O. Weller, Sr. at the celebration. At 92, Iley is also the oldest member of the club.



Weeks of careful planning and logistics once again made the **Belmont** (VA) Ruritan Club (pictured bottom right) and the Belmont Women's Club Ham and Oyster Dinner a very successful event. An astounding 980 dinners were served within four hours and over 100 combined members from both clubs helped with the event.

Riverside (VA) Ruritan Club members are repairing the club and community building heating system. Pictured (third on the right) are club members Tom Sauls, James Denny, and Roger Sturgill.



Harold Carwell (pictured bottom left) presented Rawley Collins (left) a 61 years perfect attendance plaque. Collins joined the **Churchville** (VA) Ruritan Club in 1952.

News From Ruritan: Ohio District

Pennyroyal (OH) Club Gains New Member

Dustin Kahrig became a new member of the **Pennyroyal (OH)** Ruritan Club recently. He is a third generation Ruritan in his club. His grandfather Bill Kahrig, who has been a member of the club for 42 years, had the privilege of inducting him into the club. Dustin's father Bob Kahrig has been a member for 17 years. Pictured (l-r): Dustin Kahrig, Bob Kahrig, Bill Kahrig, and Club President Bob Steele.



Smithville (OH) Ruritan Club's environmental committee started a roofing project at the Smithville Village Park recently. The club had access to a used roof and erected it to be used as a shelter for the walking trails at the park.

In a Declared Disaster: How to Activate OWC

District/Area Governors should call the Ruritan National Office toll free at (877) 787-8727 ext. 23 for program details if their district is struck by a state or federally-declared disaster. A disaster situation report will be sent to the caller immediately.

The Ruritan National Foundation will review the needs listed on the report as soon as possible.

News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

Forestburg Club Hosts National Vice President



Phyllis Lewter, Ruritan National Vice President, was the guest speaker at the May 9th General Meeting of the **Forestburg (NC)** Ruritan Club. Lewter talked to the eight student members in the club as she stated five things the students as well as the members of the club should remember: Dream Big; Dare to take a risk; Make time for what matters; Look for the best in everyone; and Give back to others. Ruritan members were reminded that Ruritan is an organization of Community Service, Goodwill, and Fellowship. She

commended the club for their community activities, their goodwill to the community, and their fellowship with one another. Prior to Lewter's talk, Collin Perry, a senior at Perquimans High School, was presented with a \$600 Scholarship for his work and activities in the club. Collin gave a brief presentation of his senior project on Weight Training and Physical Therapy, the field he will be studying at East Carolina University. Also in attendance were Charles Davis (member of **Belvidere (NC)** Ruritan Club and National Director); Foster Parrish (member of **Corapeake (NC)** Ruritan Club and National Director); Danny Privott (member of **Inter-County (NC)** Ruritan club and National Foundation Trustee); Marv Alphin (member of **Shawboro (NC)** Ruritan Club and Albemarle District Governor); Nell Davis (member of Belvidere Ruritan Club and Albemarle District Lt. Governor); Frances Long (member of **Nixonton (NC)** Ruritan Club and Zone 2 Governor); Ronnie Davis (member of Nixonton Ruritan Club and Zone 2 Lt. Governor); K.D. Hicks (former National Director Representative for the Albemarle District); and Bill Lewter (husband of VP Lewter).



Points Incentive Program Outlined

A new point system for Ruritan growth – similar to the popular frequent shopper points systems at retail stores – has been approved by the Ruritan National Board of Directors. Outlined below are some of the ways YOU can earn these points and some of the prizes you can collect with those points. The program is retroactive to January 1, 2011, and you will find a form to redeem your points (as well as a complete outline of the point system and prizes) on the Ruritan National website under Member Resources and the Growth icon or by contacting the national office staff at 877-787-8727 or office@ruritan.org.



Earning Points: New Clubs

200 points will be given for organizing an adult Ruritan Club and **100 bonus points** will be given for organizing two adult Ruritan Clubs. (That's 200 points per club and 100 bonus points for a grand total of 500 points for two clubs.)

An additional **300 bonus points** will be given for organizing three adult Ruritan clubs. (Again that's 200 points per club; the first 100 bonus and this 300 bonus for a grand total of 1,000 points for three clubs.)

Note 1: Points will be credited after adult Ruritan club has been chartered and first quarter dues have been paid. **Note 2:** Bonus points will not be credited until the Ruritan club has been in existence for one full year.

In addition, **25 points** will be awarded for organizing a Ruri-Teen or college affiliate club.

Earning Points: New Members (in an existing club that have closed their charter)

Note 3: No points are awarded for bringing members into Ruri-Teen or College Clubs as they do not pay national dues

5 POINTS will be given for each youth member. (No bonus points will be awarded for recruiting youth members because youth members only pay \$15 annual Ruritan National dues.)

10 points will be given for each adult member recruited.

50 bonus points will be given for recruiting five adult members. Bonus points will be awarded after the five new members celebrate their one year anniversary. (This would equate to 100 total points for five new members – the original 50 and the 50 bonus points after one year.)

100 bonus points will be given for recruiting ten adult members. (This would be 250 total points for ten new members – the original 100 and the 50 bonus points for the first five at one year and another 100 bonus points after one year.) **Note 4:** All bonus point will be awarded after new members celebrate their one year anniversary.

Spending Points:

These points can be "spent" on a variety of Ruritan products and services – from Ruritan supply items to registration and lodging at the annual national convention.

Continued from page 5

way 11 neighbor to the south. We obviously speak of Cleveland. But Charleston residents are just as loving, just as concerned about their futures and just as big a part of Bradley County as anywhere else, regardless of community, neighborhood or residential address.

When we think of Charleston Ruritan Club, we think of the residents of Charleston and we recognize them — and we thank them — for their day-to-day contributions to our collective Bradley County community.

...community service doesn't have to be Ruritan, but what a splendid organization for which to work because of its unique connection to community.

We ... appreciate the candor of Charleston Ruritan

Club President Chris Scoggins, who told our staff writer Joyanna Weber that Charleston Ruritan was formed six decades ago by predominantly a group of men who wanted a civic cause but who didn't qualify for Rotary. So they formed a Ruritan chapter, one that now is dominated by Charleston women.

And that says plenty. Because when you put a group of like-minded women on the same path, a difference will be made. Sprinkle in a few men and suddenly a formula for community success is being stirred.

This is the case with the Charleston Ruritan Club. Its members are why projects get done.

We thank them. We appreciate their leadership.

We wish them the happiest of birthdays!

