



# Ruritan

Volume 88, Summer 2023

Make Plans NOW to Attend the  
2023 **Summer Leadership Conference**

August 4-5

See pg. 6-8 for Details

*Enjoy Historic Williamsburg VA!*  
*Join Us For the*  
**FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP  
WEEKEND**

*September 15-17, 2023*

*See pg. 10*





# Ruritan

Volume 88, Summer 2023

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Put Ruritan In Your Heart





## 2023 National President Michael Morrison



Hello Ruritan Family! I hope everyone has been busy planning and gearing up for the warmer weather coming. In reading the National Director and District Governor reports, many of you have been busy already.

With the warmer weather coming that means the end of the school year is near and many clubs are presenting scholarships. Please remember to log the number of scholarships and dollar amounts and send them to me for the Scholarship Project this year.

Rudy has been busy making the most of his year traveling to many places and celebrating his 35th birthday. He has visited several meetings, events, and club anniversaries. Rudy has even traveled across the pond to Spain and Portugal.

Each May we celebrate the founding of Ruritan in many ways. May is also Military Appreciation Month. Let's honor and support all our military veterans while celebrating our 95<sup>th</sup> year.

Recently I was making a cup of hot tea and the type of tea I use has statements on the paper tags at the end of the string. One in particular caught my attention. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." How true that is. Right now, our membership count is 20,429. How awesome would it be if each of us brought in one member? Yes, I may be living in a dream world but hey! Even if half of our membership brought in one new member or a quarter of the members brought in one new member, our membership would increase by 5,200 to just over 10,200. What a great dream to become a reality!

Thank you all for everything you are doing!

*President Mike*

***"Don't Be Afraid to Fail, Be Afraid Not To Try – Failure May Slow You, Apathy Will Kill You"***  
***– Bill Tolleson***

## Executive Director Sarah Kelly



Greetings fellow Ruritans!

The year is halfway through. Are you meeting your goals for the year? It isn't too late to course correct. Pilots aim to land at the next airport when they take off at an airport. They have a set course. They must constantly correct their course during the flight due to airspeed or other weather conditions. If they don't, they will never arrive at their destination.

Our year of planning is the same. We start with a goal, but life tries to blow us off the course of meeting our goal. I recommend trying this exercise. Write on the top of your paper "Start...Stop...Continue," making three columns. In the "Start" column, write the new things that you think your club should start doing. For example, something that would help ensure your club and community's health, stability, and future. It could be an event, or it could be a behavior. Under the "Stop" column, write what you think is hurting the club. For example, the things that no longer benefit your club and community. Finally, in the "Continue" column, write about what works well for your club and community to continue doing.

This year, President Mike set a goal of growing by 3% and each district opening a club. I congratulate the 200 clubs that are making the growth goal happen. For many clubs, 3% is only 1 or 2 members. That is very attainable if you have an intentional plan and are working on that plan.

We currently have 26 clubs on the disbanded list. It is paramount that we start opening new clubs to replace these. Our Vision is to create thriving communities. The subliminal message is that we need to thrive ourselves. Please congratulate Dan River District on opening the Stuart Club. As I mentioned, our goal is to open one in each district. Once we start opening clubs, it will get easier. It will take practice, but once you get one, it will get easier.

I see a vibrant future for Ruritan. We are at a turning point in our organization where I see the start of an upward trend. We can never let up or get lazy. It will take all our oars in the water, pulling hard in the same direction to ensure our future.



# Show Your Ruritan Pride!

Shop at [www.Shumskyideas.com/ruritan](http://www.Shumskyideas.com/ruritan)



**Ruritan Toggle Necklace**  
**\$28.00**

**Ruritan Cap**  
**\$15.00**



**Ruritan Full Size Apron**  
**\$13.00**



**Ruritan Large Tote**  
**\$4.00**



**Rudy Bear**  
**\$11.00**



**17oz. Ruritan Mug**  
**\$5.00**



# 2023 Ruritan Summer Leadership Conference Registration Form

## August 4 and 5,

Registration Includes: Friday picnic, Saturday lunch buffet, and a conference shirt.  
Conference materials are included.

**Complete this form and include \$140 per person which includes two meals.**

**Every attendee will receive a Conference Shirt. Please include your shirt size.**

*\*\*Please have your registration turned in by June 23rd to ensure we can have your conference shirt ordered in time for the conference. Mail to Ruritan National, PO Box 487, Dublin VA, 24084, or email to [crystal.andrews@ruritan.org](mailto:crystal.andrews@ruritan.org)\*\**

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

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
*I am a District Governor, Lt. Governor, Zone, etc...*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

I have \_\_\_\_\_ guests for the Saturday lunch at \$30 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

I have \_\_\_\_\_ guests for the picnic on Friday at \$20 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

I want to order my guest(s) a conference shirt at \$40 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ total  
Their shirt size is \_\_\_\_\_

I want to donate Rudy Bears (\$11 each) to the Rudy Bear  
Toss to benefit Pulaski County First Responders \$\_\_\_\_\_ total

**Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

### Credit Card Payment

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2023 Summer Leadership Conference

## August 4-5, 2023 - Dublin, VA

Current Lt. Governors are expensed to this conference. Lt. Governors are required to attend this conference to be eligible for reimbursement of one half of their National Convention expenses.

Current District Governors and Zone Governors are not required to attend this conference but are highly recommended to attend.

President Elect Robin and the Leadership Committee are planning the training around the theme: **“Ruritan Strong”** There will be information that will benefit all Ruritans and how we can become better leaders.

The conference gives Ruritan leaders the opportunity to learn more about their responsibilities, share ideas, express concerns, and plan for the future of the organization.

It also provides an opportunity for leaders to learn about the responsibilities that go along with other leadership positions they may wish to seek and encourages them to move up in their leadership roles. The conference brings Ruritan leaders together to discuss concerns and plan for the future of the organization. Attendees will also learn the latest information about Ruritan programs and procedures. A separate MMS training will be provided Saturday after the conference for those wanting to know more. Please bring your personal devices for a more hands-on approach.

As stated earlier, Lt. Governors are expensed to this conference. Others may attend at their own expense and for a nominal registration fee. Special circumstances such as substitutions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Ruritan National President.

1. 2023 District Lt. Governors will be paid ½ of their expenses to the 2024 National Convention in Winston-Salem, NC, provided they complete the requirements below. (This will only apply if the current Lt. Governor becomes the District Governor in 2024.)

2. They attend the 2023 Summer Leadership Conference (unless excused in writing by the National President).

3. They attend the Governors’ Training at the 2024 National Convention.

4. They attend substantially all meetings at the 2024 National Convention.

5. They assist the Ambassadors throughout the 2024 National Convention.

6. The district’s form 990 has been filed with the IRS by the February 15 filing deadline for the fiscal year end of September 30.

\*\*All expense vouchers must be submitted within 90 days after the 2024 National Convention.



### To Book Your Room Contact:

Quality Inn, Dublin VA

(540) 674-1100, Option 2

Cost: \$65/night - Single occupancy

\$97.95/night - Double occupancy

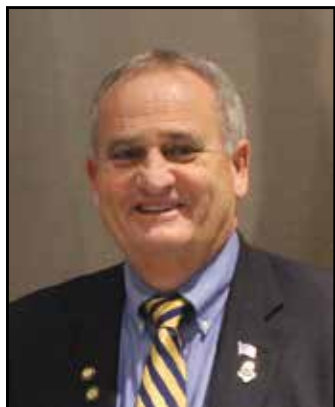
(+ applicable taxes)

# SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AGENDA

<b>Saturday, August 5 ~ Edwards Hall ~ New River Community College</b>	
Welcome	Robin Davenport
Invocation	Melody Davis
Song	David Hogan
Rather Than	Melody Davis
Foundation	Foundation Trustees
First Responder & Veteran Project	Mike Morrison
National Convention Update	Gary Taylor & Jimmy Bristow
Ambassadors	Bryan Flanagan
Project FOCUS	Donna Poulton
Future Candidates	Cassandra Flanagan
Ruritan Finances	Sarah Kelly & David Thompson
Risk Management	Sarah Kelly
<b>Fellowship Time</b>	
Your Temperament - What Color Are You? Part One	Larry Bowman
<b>Breakout Sessions</b>	
District Governor	Mike Morrison
Lt. District Governor	Robin Davenport
Zone Governor	O.H. Bobbitt
Internet Safety	Agent Howard - VA State Police
<b>Dismiss for Lunch</b>	
<b>Rudy Bear Pass</b>	
Presentation of Rudy Bears	Mike Morrison
Your Temperament - What Color Are You? Part Two	Larry Bowman
Embracing Your WHY & Here We GROW!	Billy Hobbs
Q&A	All Presenters
Pledge	Robin Davenport
<b>MMS Training-for those that want to stay</b>	
Beginner/Intermediate	Sarah Kelly, Craig Whitt
Advanced	Linda Krause



## Message From 2023 Foundation President Phillip Bradshaw



*Greetings fellow Ruritans!*

*Your Trustees have been hard at work improving your Foundation. As you may know, the Build Your Dollar 2023 Scholarship payout is \$650. This is truly amazing. With only a \$300 investment, the 463 clubs that participated will each receive a check for \$650 to assist youth with their college education. If your club is not participating, I encourage you to get involved and submit your 2024 \$300 deposit application before September 1, 2023. This is a great program for clubs to be able to provide a scholarship to deserving youth.*

*This year marks the Foundation's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In honor of the event, the Trustees have decided to offer a limited number of special anniversary pen sets for sale. More information will be coming shortly.*

*The Foundation Fellowship weekend will be Friday, September 15, 2023, through Sunday, September 17, 2023, at Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center in Williamsburg Virginia. More information will be available soon on registration, activities, and fellowship during the weekend. Make your plans to join us for this amazing weekend in Historic Williamsburg.*

*As of March 31, 2023, the Foundation had investments of \$5,224,033. The Board recently received a report from the Foundation's investment company and the year-to-date for our current fiscal year indicates that we are experiencing an 8.4% return.*

*A Guide to Ruritan National Foundation Programs is available on the National website. This is a one-page summary of the many programs and opportunities that are offered by your Foundation. Please take a moment to read this Guide and share it with your club members. There are also programs for non-members and businesses. Get on board and take advantage of the many opportunities offered by your Foundation.*

*Thank you for allowing us to serve as Trustees of your Foundation. As always, if you have any questions, please contact any of us by telephone, text, or email. We are always willing to assist Ruritans in gaining a better understanding of your Foundation.*





# Foundation Fellowship Weekend

## Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center

### Williamsburg VA

### September 15-17, 2023



**Reservations: 1-757-220-2250**

Group: **Ruritan National**

Reservation Cutoff: August 24, 2023  
(Received On or Before)

The room rate is \$99.00 plus taxes per night. There is a two-night minimum length of stay. The rate is also good for two days before and after the event.

The Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, is in Historic Williamsburg, Virginia. To reserve your room, please call 1-757-220-2250 and tell them you are with the Ruritan National group. Reservations must be made on or before August 24, 2023.

Registration cost is \$75 for each person. Registration includes the Friday night ice cream social, the Saturday night banquet meal, and access to the hospitality room. **Send the below form with payment to Ruritan National Foundation, PO Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084, postmarked by August 15, 2023.**

**Watch for the Foundation Email Blasts for more details.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guest Name Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Information	
Check No.	_____
C.C. No.	_____
C.C. Exp. Date	_____ Zip Code _____
Security Code	_____

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ruritan National Convention – Winston Salem, NC January 11-13, 2024

**Register** up to two people on this form. Use more forms for additional people. One attendee below must be a Ruritan member. Confirmation will be emailed to the Ruritan attendee for their party. There are **four options or packages** for registration on the back, where you may also purchase single meals for non-registered guests. We encourage you to register under events on the MMS (Member Management System).

Please print or type

1st Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member  
 Member#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member/Non-Member (circle one)  
 Member# (if member): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Club: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check items below that apply:

I have these food allergies/restrictions:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I need handicapped-accessible seating at meals.  
 Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.  
 I have 50 years or more of perfect attendance.  
 This is my first convention.

**I expect to be a voting delegate for the**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ruritan Club.**

Check items below that apply:

I have these food allergies/restrictions:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I need handicapped-accessible seating at meals.  
 Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.  
 I have 50 years or more of perfect attendance.  
 This is my first convention.

**I expect to be a voting delegate for the**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ruritan Club.**

**Please provide us with the names of your guest who are NOT purchasing a full package but will be attending the convention. We will create them a name badge.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

U.S. Army                       WWII Korean  
 U.S. Air Force                 Vietnam  
 U. S. Marines                  Desert Storm  
 U.S. Navy                         Peace Time  
 U.S. Coast Guard               Other (explain)  
 Operation Iraqi Freedom

# Ruritan National Convention – Winston Salem, NC January 11-13, 2024

## Meals

*There is a deadline with the caterer for meal count guarantees. With that in mind, anyone waiting to register on-site (as a walk-in) for the events will not be guaranteed meals. However, we will be able to register you for non-meal events at the base rate of \$175. Send in your registration before Dec.11, 2023, the cut-off date to be guaranteed meals. Kid's meals are available upon request.*

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

### Meal Package Options

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

	Qty	Price	Total
Two meal package includes base fee, Friday's Family Fellowship Lunch, and Saturday Installation Banquet	<b>Package 1</b>	\$300	
Friday only package includes base fee and Friday's Family Fellowship Lunch	<b>Package 2</b>	\$225	
Saturday only package includes base fee and Saturday Installation Banquet	<b>Package 3</b>	\$250	
No Meals - base registration only	<b>Package 4</b>	\$175	

### Extra Meal Tickets and Items

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

	Qty	Price	Total
Friday's Family and Fellowship Lunch	<b>Luncheon</b>	\$50	
Saturday Installation Banquet	<b>Banquet</b>	\$75	
Rudy Bears to Brenner Children's Hospital and First Responders	<b>Rudy Bears</b>	\$11	
I want a 2024 Convention T-Shirt <b>Pre-sales Only – Order Now</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> <span>___ S</span> <span>___ M</span> <span>___ L</span> <span>___ XL</span> <span>___ 2XL</span> <span>___ 3XL</span> <span>___ 4XL</span> </div>	<b>T-Shirt</b>	\$20	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**Ruritan National**  
**P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084**  
**Check payment type below:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Mini Schedule

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Opening – Keynote speaker and flag ceremony

Friday, January 12, 2024

Business Session

Voting for National Officers

Lunch

Workshops

Ruritan National Foundation Silent and Live Auction

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Business Session

Workshops

Installation Banquet and Entertainment



# Ruritan Will Host Variety Performer Phil Urban for National Convention 2024

Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Phil Urban has been performing professionally for more than 25 years. His exciting show covers music through the 1950s, 60s, and 70s.

Phil demonstrates the evolution and progression of music through these three decades with marvelous set and costume changes.

Be prepared for a fabulous evening of music and entertainment!



*Make Plans Now to Join Us for the 2024 Ruritan National Convention  
January 11-13*

## Event Summary:

2024 Ruritan National Convention

Start Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

End Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024

**Last Day to Book:** Monday, December 11, 2023

Hotel offering your special group rate:

- Winston-Salem Marriott for \$119 USD per night  
(click on the link below)



DOWNTOWN DINING



[Book your group rate for 2024 Ruritan National Convention](#)



# Project FOCUS

*Funding Our Communities Under Stress*

We want YOU to know about Project FOCUS!

Project FOCUS is the “Human Care” agency of Ruritan. Our mission is to show compassion to people suffering from medical emergencies, disasters, etc. We respond to needs by working with local Ruritan clubs to assist communities suffering from the effects of natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes. Our goal is to assist local Ruritan clubs by working with individuals who need our help.

To give you a complete picture of who Project FOCUS is and what Project FOCUS does, we have developed the following Q&A that you can use to share this new and exciting opportunity to assist our local communities during times of stress and need.

**What is Project FOCUS?** Project FOCUS is a 501(c)(3) program dedicated to funding our local communities in times of stress.

**Who oversees Project FOCUS?** The Ruritan National Board of Directors has a committee that reviews grant requests and commits dollars to where they are needed. They are also charged with developing ways to raise funds for the program.

**Who are the current members of Project FOCUS, and how long do they serve?** Project FOCUS committee members serve one-year terms as voted on by the current National Board of Directors. Our current board members are:

- ❖ President: George Brothers
- ❖ Vice President: Roger Davis
- ❖ Secretary: Donna Jo Poulton
- ❖ Treasurer: Cassandra Flanagan
- ❖ Director: Lynn Fillers
- ❖ Ruritan National Support: Kory Wirt

**Who can apply for assistance through Project FOCUS?** Any club or district can apply for grant monies by completing and submitting a grant application form (found on the Ruritan.org web page under forms)

**Where does the money come from?** Funding for Project FOCUS comes from donations from individuals, clubs, districts, and businesses. Donations to FOCUS may potentially be tax deductible.

**What is the application process?** Here is an approximate timeline for applications submitted to Project FOCUS:

- A local club or district completes an application for assistance within their area.

- The National Office receives the application via email, the USPS (may take up to 1 week or longer depending on the mail service), or fax to the National Office. When submitting your application, please be sure to submit your approved club or district minutes indicating the approved motion for assistance. \* If submitting by email- please include the Zone Governor, District Governor, and National Representative for your district.
- The National Office will acknowledge receipt of the grant request to the designated point of contact, the Zone Governor, the District Governor, and the National Representative assigned to that district. The distribution timeline will begin with this email.
- Application is shared with the current committee and reviewed for accuracy and scope of request- any requests that are incomplete or require additional information will be reviewed with the designated point of contact of the grant request or returned for clarification. (1 week)
- The current committee votes on completed grant requests, and a grant amount is assigned, or the application is returned to the designated point of contact with an explanation for the application being turned down. The Grant Response Notification will also be emailed to the Zone Governor, District Governor, and National Representative. (2 days)
- Grant amounts are distributed and sent to the designated point of contact. (2 days)
- The designated point of contact is responsible for completing a Grant Completion Form indicating how the grant was (or is being) used to meet the needs of the local community during their time of need (may take up to 1 month after the funds are distributed to the designated point of contact). If the distribution of funds exceeds the one-month timeline, a progress report shall be submitted and updated monthly until the distribution is complete.

How much money can be given for a grant application? The grant amount would be based on the need and the number of grants being considered at that time, subject to available funds within Project FOCUS not exceeding \$10,000 per event request.

When should we request a grant? The club and/or district should begin the grant process as soon as a need has been recognized and a reasonable estimate of a grant amount has been determined.

How can my club and club members, as well as our district, get involved? There are many ways to get involved with Project FOCUS:

- Follow us on social media- Ruritan National Project FOCUS.
- Encourage your club to make a planned annual gift to Project FOCUS.
- Have club members check with their employers to see if they offer matching gift programs.
- Be a boots-on-the-ground volunteer in your area- YOU ARE THE HANDS, FEET, and HEART of RURITAN!

## Carrsville Goes Nuts!



**Carrsville** recently toured the Hubb Peanut facility. Part of the Hubb facility is used by the local food bank to assemble food packs for distribution in the local schools.



## Creeds Continues Tradition

**Creeds** held its 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Pork Barbeque and Spring Craft Fair in March. Through dine-in, carry-out, and drive-thru options, 1,150 meals were served. Attendees enjoyed pork barbeque, coleslaw,



baked beans, and hush puppies, fellowship, and several craft vendors. Pictured (l-r) covering the drive-thru are Tim Nunnley, Scott Weirich, Dennis Keane, Kurt Fuge, and Billy Vaughan. Manning the serving line are Dave Kennon, Keith Stevenson, and Robbie Vaughan. Managing the craft fair are Dorene Stevenson, Diane Weirich, and Jen Vaughan.



## Grassfield Celebrates Anniversary

**Grassfield** recently celebrated their 67th anniversary. Pictured right, Past Club President Russell Gwynn prepares to cut the cake. Also in attendance was Russell's father-in-law, Eddie Vincek. Eddie is the club's remaining charter member.





## Possum Hollow Member Shines!

Congratulations to 2023 Miss Virginia Teen Elizabeth Hernly. Dancer, international model, pageant queen . . . and she is also a Ruritan! Elizabeth is a member of **Possum Hollow** and has also volunteered her time helping Carrollton and Chuckatuck with their fundraisers.



## Bethlehem Honors Cross

**Bethlehem** honored club member Jamie Cross (left) as their Ruritan of the Year. Jamie was recognized for his service and dedication



## Smithfield Honors Mustang Program

**Smithfield** Club President Glen Schickenmeyer presented the club's "Citizen of the Year" award to Steve Edwards in recognition of his outstanding service with

the Mill Swamp Indian Horses. Jessica Mathews also spoke of her involvement with the horses. Mill Swamp Indian Horses is a program of Gwaltney Frontier Farm, Inc.

as a breed conservation program. Located outside of Smithfield, Virginia, the program works to prevent the extinction of the Corolla Spanish Mustang, perhaps the

oldest and rarest distinct genetic grouping of American horses. Other nearly extinct strains of the earliest horses of America are also preserved and promoted here, including the Marsh Tacky, Shackelford, Grand Canyon, Brislawn, Galiceno, and Choctaw, comprising one of the largest and most diverse herds of Colonial Spanish Horses in the world.

Club President Glen Schickenmeyer also recently presented a donation to Western Tidewater Free Clinic Executive Director Ashley Greene.



## Driver Hosts Celebration

**Driver** closed out 2022 with their Holiday Family Dinner and collecting toys for their annual Toys-4-Tots program. This year collection boxes were placed in local churches where church members and scouts from Pack 89, Troop 16 and Girl



scouts were very generous filling them up with unwrapped new toys for needy children. Pictured are club members and their children with the toys collected. Club members and families also competed in an “ugly” Christmas sweater contest. Allen Cotton and son Hunter show off their sweaters. The club welcomed new member Mike Carter, pictured with wife Lauren and sons.



## Surry County Is “Bee-autiful”

**Surry County** held its first quarterly fish fry dinner. The club sold 251 meals. In April, Club Secretary Chelsea Skinner was presented with the Presidents Gold Key award.

The club also hosted local apiarist Kenneth Skinner, who spoke on honey bees and the impact they have on the environment, as well as how to get started in the hobby of beekeeping. Kenneth provided some little-known history of honey bees, including how they came to “bee” in North America.





## Waverly Hits A Home Run

**Waverly** continued their ongoing community service project of sponsoring youth baseball as part of the Southampton-Sussex League. They sponsored T-ball, Coach Pitch, Mustang, and Pony teams.



## Gloucester Cultivates Caring

**Gloucester** recently hosted guest speaker Rose Sullivan, a member of the Bee City Gloucester Committee and a Master Gardener Board member. Rose shared her love of native plants and spoke on the value of using them in our gardens here in the Coastal Plain. Besides their native beauty, a major benefit of indigenous plants is that they support local pollinators, specifically native insects and butterflies. Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge presented Club President Henry Thompson with a certificate of appreciation from “Hunters for the Hungry” in recognition of the club’s support.



The club, including Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge, delivered lunch and Valentine's Day goodies to 15 individuals at the GUEST Day Shelter. Pictured (l-r) are Don Sandridge, Bunny Ekdahl, and volunteers Diana Simmons, Mike Ekdahl, (Not pictured, Betty Durette).



## Abingdon Shows Fellowship, Goodwill, Community Service



**Abingdon** Vice President Wanda Sprouse spoke at a recent meeting and shared fun facts and stories about Ruritan life. Zone 4 Governor Donald Sandridge presented Club President Tony Dziadul with a Certificate of Appreciation from The Hunters for the Hungry program. The Club donates annually to the program.



The club also recently hosted guest speaker Gary Porter, who give a presentation on “Our Tattered Constitution.” Gary is Founder and Executive Director of the Constitution Leadership Initiative, Inc. (CLI)

a project to encourage a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution among the American people.

The club presented a donation to their local American Legion post. Adjutant Rick Ward, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 75, Gloucester, Virginia, accepted donations for Girls State, Boys State, and Youth Law Enforcement programs. Club President Tony Dziadul presented the checks.



The club participated in Clean Gloucester Day, a project of their Environment Committee. Rick Scott and his crew worked in the Hayes part of Gloucester and collected



a whopping 2200 pounds of trash, a new record for the committee. Pictured (l-r) are Lynn Onesty (front), Rick Scott, Rodney Miller, Dave Kyle, Roger Dick, Tony Dziadul, Mary Crandall, Larry Davis, Randy Fisher, and Doug Johnson. Jim Stevens (in the truck) graciously donated his time, and equipment.

For their April meeting, the club hosted Jeannie Pendergraft, who is President of Sanctuary of Hampton Roads LLC. Jeannie spoke on holistic lifestyles and how ergonomics effect our daily lives.





## Short Pump Stocks the Pantry

**Short Pump** has partnered with the Food Pantry of Three Chopt Presbyterian Church for several years to assist with food drives, packing bags for distribution, and making donations. In March the club helped the pantry



by providing a workday in which some members assembled new shelving units and repaired broken ones while others reorganized food storage to free up space and make items more accessible. They also sorted and bagged donated items. In addition to giving their time on the workday, members were once again generous in bringing canned food donations with them to donate to the pantry.



## Cold Harbor Gets Cookin'

**Cold Harbor** made Brunswick Stew in February. Almost 800 quarts were made for presales. A portion of the proceeds were donated to Freedom House to feed veterans in need, as well as to scholarships and other community needs.

Our club also met for Lady's night where members received their service pins and awards. Past Club President Barry Poole was awarded the club's Ruritan of the Year award, and outgoing First Lady Mary Poole passed on the traditional pearl necklace to incoming First Lady Beth Ward.



## Gainesboro Celebrates Generations



In 1957 Elmer Venskoske signed the charter for the **Gainesboro Club**. Sixty-six years later, Elmer's son, John Sr. "Jackie", is celebrating 58 years with the club and his grandson, John Jr. 26 years. Additionally, great-grandson Jeremy, has been a member for 18 years. At the club's January meeting, Jeremy's son, Bentley, became the youngest member and the fifth generation to join the club. The Venskoske family

legacy does not stop there. Jackie, John Jr, and Jeremy's wives are also members of the club along with Jackie's 3 other sons and two granddaughters. Several family members have held various club offices over the years. Jackie was club president in 1969, 1987, and 2006. Three of his sons and a daughter-in-law are past presidents and currently, Jackie's oldest sons hold the offices of Club President and Vice-President. Pictured (l-r) are Bentley, Jeremy, John Jr. and Jackie.

## Patriot Teens Have Busy Quarter

### **Patriot High School Ruri-Teens**

have been busy. In January, they made "heart hugs", then brought them and treats to the residents of a memory care facility on Valentine's Day. During National Counselor Appreciation Week in February, they honored their school's counseling office with a cake and cards. For Kindness Week, they thanked their school bus drivers with treats and notes and the custodial staff with a banner and a box of treats and snacks in their lounge. Club members participated in another Adopt-a-Highway road clean-up with the Nokesville-Bristow Ruritan Club in February and, in March, assisted in their fifth pop-up food giveaway in Nokesville. The Ruri-Teens made a blanket, knit cap, and cards for a member's parent who is recovering from an illness. In April, they supported Boxes of Basics by packing basic clothing items for children in need in the community and participated in another road cleanup with the Nokesville-Bristow Ruritans.



April ended with a special project working hands-on with community members living in a homeless shelter in Manassas called SERVE. The Ruri-Teens purchased, prepared, and served Sunday dinner to approximately 55 residents to provide nourishment and encouragement. The teens did a great job and truly enjoyed serving people directly to help meet their basic needs. Pictured (l-r) are Janeth Madrigal, Zeynap Alacadag Ruriteen Advisor Katja Fyock, Ravneet Kaur, Brendan Stevens, Isra Attizaz, and Judith Madrigal.



## News From Ruritan: Rappahannock District

### Shawquon Honors Member

Shawquon Club President Gary Bunch presented a Ruritan Forever to Marshall Shiley (pictured left) in recognition of his ongoing support and involvement with club projects.



### Sumerduck Hops Into Service

Sumerduck hosted the Easter Bunny during a recent fundraising event that included a scrapbooking party, a “pickin’ party, woodworking crafts, and vendors. They also offered a box dinner of barbeque chicken, mac ‘n’ cheese, and green beans. The proceeds will be used to fund local high school scholarships.



## News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

### Cartersville Awards Service

Cartersville VA recently honored club members Dover Johnston and Lloyd Martin for 50+ years of service to the club. Lloyd has been a member for 57 years, and Dover, 52 years. Dover has also served as Club Treasurer from January 2000 until finally turning over the job in July 2021. Pictured, Dover (right)

receives his gold name badge from Zone Governor Ron Stewart.

The club also honored Deidra Martin (left) as their 2022 Citizen of the Year, in recognition of her service and dedication to the club.

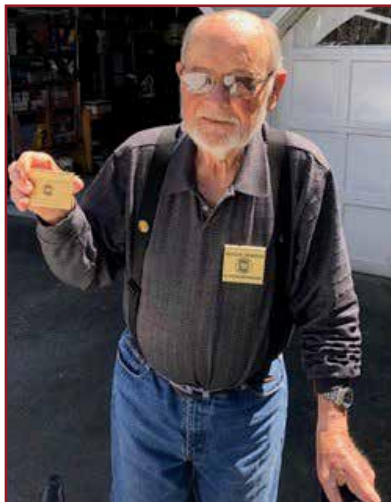
Also pictured, club members assemble one of several aluminum ramps they make available as a community outreach program for residents with health and mobility issues.





## Midlothian Honors Long-Time Members

**Midlothian** club member Dru 'Hawk' Hawkins was presented with a Ruritan Forever, sponsored by his fellow club members. Hawk has been a member of the club since 1994, has long been a major contributor, and has served on the board. Pictured (l-r) Club President Gerry Alderman presents the Ruritan Forever plaque to Hawk. Club member Bruce Thompson was recently honored for over 50 years of service to Ruritan, having joined on August 1, 1959. Bruce has served as Club Treasurer, District Foundation Chair, and Trustee for the Ruritan National Foundation.



## Wilson-Hebron-Ford Honors Henshaw

**Wilson-Hebron-Ford** recently surprised member Horace Henshaw by honoring his 56 years of membership and service with the club. Horace (pictured center with his family) was presented with a plaque and shared many fond memories. Horace built and installed the kitchen cabinets when the clubhouse was built in 1966, and still cuts the grass around the building. His cake was made by Mrs. Ann Clay, who shared that she also made the wedding cake for Horace and Louise Henshaw 60 years ago.



## Central Chesterfield Puts Pedal to the Metal



**Central Chesterfield** constructed bicycles for *REACHcycles - Richmond Empowering Abilities for Children with Cycles*' bike donation event in February.

## News From Ruritan: Appomattox District

### Clarke Recognized for 68+ Years of Service

**Sutherland** recently honored B.Z. Clarke and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his 68+ years of service to Ruritan and to his community.

At age 92, Berkley Z. Clarke, Jr. has been a Ruritan for most of his adult life. He has served in every office in two clubs and has also served as Lt. Zone Governor and Zone Governor for the Appomattox District.

B.Z. grew up in Sutherland, VA where he graduated from Midway High School and then attended VPI (VA Tech). He began a teaching career at Cumberland High School. After only two months, he was drafted into the Army and was stationed at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. While in Oklahoma, he met and married the love of his life, Letha. His father became ill and B.Z. was released from service to return home to manage the family farm. He soon became active in the Wilson-Hebron-Ford Ruritan Club and began his life of community service. He is a charter member of the Sutherland club, having joined in 1972.



## News From Ruritan: Peaks of Otter District

### Lynch Station Helps With the Hunt

**Lynch Station** Club President Jason Saunders award the club's 2022 Ruritan of the Year to Phil Hoover in recognition of his service to the community through Ruritan.

The club teamed up with Lynch Station Baptist Church once again this year to provide the community with an Easter Egg Hunt for preschool through age 12. Ruritan Members bought and stuffed eggs, hid them around the church grounds, and helped supervise the fun.





## Atkins Races to the Mat

**Atkins** Club Vice President Donna Bentley and her son helped support the Atkins Volunteer Fire Department by working the concessions during their sponsored wrestling match. The club recently hosted their annual race car show.



## Copper Creek Feeds Their Scholarship Fund

**Copper Creek** hosted a community breakfast to benefit their scholarship fund. Mike Short and Tommi Presley prepared the bacon and sausage, while Pat Davis fried up the tenderloin and eggs. Carmen Short oversaw the gravy, and Tori Calhoun and Kinsey Reed manned the pancake station. Don Thurston took charge of collecting the money.





## Brownsburg Hits the Mark With Fundraiser

**Brownsburg** sponsored their first annual Rockbridge Cornhole Tournament at Whistle Hollow Farm in Fairfield, Virginia. They had over 60 local business and individual sponsors, and



approximately 200 people attended the event. Twenty-five teams competed and over \$11,000 was raised.



## Kerrs Creek Promotes Family Tradition

In April, **Kerrs Creek Club** President Gary Swink had the pleasure of inducting his daughter Amy Swink Stevens as a new member. Amy is the fourth generation of the Swink family to serve in the club. Her great-grandfather, Adam Swink, was a charter member when the club was founded in December 1939. In addition to her parents, Gary and Dianne, Amy's grandparents, Jim and Louise Swink, were lifelong members. Louise and Dianne were the first female members of the club. The Swink family has over 150 years of service to the Kerrs Creek Club!



## Middlebrook Serves With A Smile

**Middlebrook VA** hosted community breakfasts on Saturdays in January, February, and March for residents of the village and the surrounding rural area. The events were free with donations accepted to defray costs and support the club's other community service activities. Several new club members have joined old timers in staffing the breakfasts.



Pictured are Jeff Rose flipping pancakes, and Dale Hungerford and Bambi Straw on the serving line.



## Lovingston-Rockfish Welcomes New Member

**Lovingston-Rockfish** Club President Camille Hicks welcomed their newest member, Susan Swink (right).



## Churchville Gets a Hand from Rudy



Rudy Bear was on hand to help **Churchville** sell BBQ chicken and say hello to folks heading to Highland County for the Maple Festival.





## Weyers Cave Hits the Right Note

The 20th annual Jimmy Fortune Concert was held at the Weyers Cave Community Center. Concessions for the event, including pork barbeque, hot dogs, cold drinks, and more were provided by **Weyers Cave** Ruritan Club. Proceeds will be used to benefit the Verona Food Pantry and other local charities.



The club hosted the District Cabinet and Club Presidents meeting in March. Attendees received reports from committees and zone governors, as well as information about upcoming



activities planned for 2023. They discussed the Spring Rally, plans for the District Convention, and continuing the elementary school dictionary project.

The club also hosted *Southern Hospitality* at a recent meeting. More than 60 members, spouses, friends, and relatives enjoyed dinner and musical entertainment. Pictured (l-r) are Dale Roller, Mike Western, Jim Almarode, and Nick Collins.





## Bridgewater Flies High



**Bridgewater** assembled Valentine's Day care packages for shut-ins and other club friends. On hand to help was the club's youngest member, Hagan Elkins and the most senior member, Henry Graham.

The club also hosted Girl Scout Troop 1336. Troop Leader Jessi Higgs (pictured) described their community service projects in Bridgewater and Dayton that help the scouts build self-confidence and interpersonal communication skills.

Dynamic Aviation hosted the club for their April meeting. Club members were able to explore the Constellation, C-47, and Beech 1, and learn about many of the ongoing projects.



## Fort Valley Charges Into Annual Projects

**Fort Valley** club members John Gaunt and Lloyd Moss recently presented an update on the digital archive project they are working on for the local Fort Valley Museum. For nearly a year, Fort Valley Museum volunteers have been hard at work scanning documents and photos for cataloging in a new computer software program designed for managing museum collections.

Club Member Ruth O'Hara has organized another youth soccer season. Weekly pick-up games for K-9<sup>th</sup> grade are hosted at the Fort Valley Community Center from March through October.



Public Service Committee Chair Adam Selby organized a benefit breakfast, at the Fort Valley Fire Department. More than 200 community residents participated, contributing a free-will donation to support the project.

The club also assisted the Fort Valley FV Volunteer Fire Department with their Ham & Oyster Supper, a major community event and fundraiser to support the fire department. Club members assisted in the dining hall with

## News From Ruritan: Rockingham District

setup and cleanup, oyster rolling, cooking, and table service.

Club members recently organized a ramp-building project for a resident. Pictured (l-r) are the construction crew of Sonny Tamkin, Adam Selby, Billy Mullins, Craig Furnieson, Charles Layton, Matt Spinks, Charles Lichliter, Larry Cave, Terry Plauger, Eric Guthrie, Lance Morgan, Brad Johnson, and Bob Coverstone.



The club's Environmental Committee initiated its annual highway litter cleanup project. Chairman Steve Adams led this project, providing litter bags, and coordinating with the local office of the Virginia Dept of Transportation.



In April, club members met for their annual cemetery cleanup and headstone repair. Each



year they visit numerous local cemeteries to restore and maintain military veterans' graves and headstones. Pictured (l-r) are Jim and Ruth O'Hara, Steve and Karen Adams, Eileen Drinkwater, and Je-Nien Hancock. Not pictured are Georgia Merrick and Tim Stephens.

## Maur-Brook-Olive Cleans Up

**Maur-Brook-Olive** hosted Past National Director Susan Greisz, who gave a recap of the 2023 National Convention. Susan also recognized Dennis Morris (pictured left) for his 50+ years of Ruritan service.



The club is providing concessions at the Tom's Brook Volunteer Fire Department, for their weekly bingo event. Pictured, Kevin Fauber serving french fries.

Members spent a Saturday in March cleaning up local roads. Assisted by members of Faith Church, they collected 41 bags of trash. Recently, the club placed

donation jars in local businesses and collected \$1300 for St. Jude





## Lewistown Hosts Archaeologist and New Members



Elizabeth Comer (center), an archaeologist who serves as the president of the Catoclin Furnace Historical Society, Inc. and president of EAC/ Archaeology, Inc., was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the **Lewistown Club**. Mrs. Comer gave a presentation on the historic industrial iron furnace and village at the foot

of Maryland's beautiful Catoclin Mountains. She described the restoration project of this area that commemorates the state as a center for the craft of iron making. They also welcomed new member Greg Daniels (right).



The club welcomed three new members in February. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Frank Warner, new member Steve Moser with sponsor Jeff Barber, new



members Ray Ediger and Jerry Carey, with sponsor Harold Staley.

Sam Ropp and Harold Staley were recognized for recruiting new members and were presented with the President's Golden Key Award. Pictured (l-r) are Sam Ropp, Club Secretary Loberta Staley, and Harold Staley.



## Mt. Pleasant Brings It Home

**Mt. Pleasant** members James McLaughlin, Trevella Foster, and Lisa Shriver joined other volunteers with the "Homes for Our Troops" organization to present Brandon and Netta Huff with the keys to their new home. The club had assisted in the Zone 3 corn hole tournaments to help raise funds for this project and volunteered for assigned tasks during the construction and preparation of the home. They presented the Huffs with a housewarming gift of two handmade afghans.





## News From Ruritan: Potomac District

### Tomahawk Hits a Home Run

**Tomahawk WV** has been busy getting Rooney Park up and running. They have upgraded two ball fields, installed new dug outs, new bases, grading, sod, and a new park sign. A new flagpole, flag, and light was dedicated in April. The flag was donated by Harry 'Buddy' Everheart, the club's last surviving charter member. Buddy was a POW during WWII. The flag flew over the US Capitol and was given to him by Sen. Shelby Moore. The club provided meals and drinks for all the volunteers.



The club also held their annual bake sale fundraiser, which completely sold out in under an hour.



## News From Ruritan: Albemarle District

### Durants Neck Bids on Success

**Durants Neck** recently hosted a Senior Bingo Party which is free to senior citizens. A roast turkey lunch with mashed potatoes and green beans was served by club members. More than 40 seniors attended for lunch and played more than 20 games of bingo.



In April, the club held its annual auction. Over 230 items, including a large Barbie collection, authentic Persian rugs, more than 20 bicycles, three kayaks, 10 lawnmowers, and two lawn tractors, along with boxes of tools, and other hardware, were auctioned to the highest bidder. With over 100 bidders in attendance, bidding wars ensued on many of the items.

Proceeds will fund the club's scholarships and will help to support an expansion project of the Durants Neck Volunteer Fire Department, Project Patriot, the Open-Door Foodbank of Perquimans County, and Senior Bingo.



## Hall Shares Bears



**Hall** Club President Diane Prince presented Gates County Sheriff Ray Campbell with Rudy Bears. Deputies give the bears to comfort children involved in car accidents, domestic violence situations, or during a difficult time.

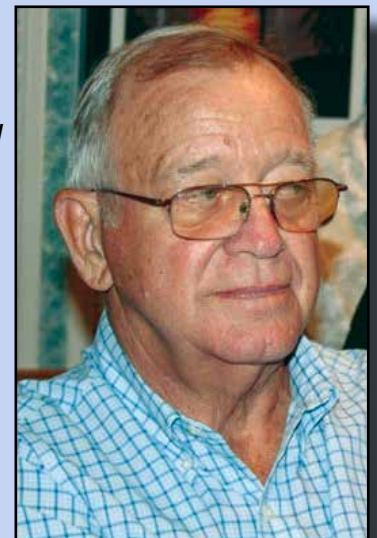


## Past National Director Foster Parrish Passes

*Foster Parrish, 84 of Corapeake, NC, passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2023 in his home where he was being cared for by loved ones.*

*Mr. Parrish was born in Nelsonville, KY on January 14, 1939, and was the son of the late John William Parrish and Lena Crady Parrish. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Marvin, Lewis, Junior, and Donnie Parrish.*

*A longtime transmission specialist in the automotive industry, he retired from Cavalier Ford in 2004. A patriotic man, he had a heart for helping others and serving the community in various ways. A member and deacon of Eureka Baptist Church, other areas of service he enjoyed included volunteering with Meals on Wheels, Hertford-Gates Relay for Life, the Gates County Chamber of Commerce, and as a board member on both the Gates County Board of Adjustment and the Sunbury Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a founding and charter member of Corapeake Ruritan Club where he had served in several positions including as Vice-President and President, and was honored to have served a term as the Ruritan Albemarle Region District Governor. Foster also served as a Ruritan National Director from 2010-13.*



*Surviving is his wife of nearly 23 years, Debbie Belch Parrish; five daughters, Cynthia Cobb (Randy) of Moyock, Diana Hayes (Bernie) of Virginia Beach, VA, Suzanne Green (Chuck) of Bel Air, MD, Nancy Massow (Norm) of South Mills, and Lisa Short (David) of Corapeake; a dear friend who Foster thought of as the son he never had, Butch Cochran of Corapeake; two sisters, Dorothy Clemons of Boston, KY and Mattie Gibson of Hodgenville, KY; two brothers, Jimmy Parrish of Nelsonville, KY and Larry Parrish of Louisville, KY; six grandchildren, Emily, Brad, Corey, Brittany, Trey, and Lillie; seven great-grandchildren; and many extended family members and friends.*

*In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Foster Parrish Scholarship Fund, in care of the Ruritan National Foundation, P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084. Please designate contributions are for Fund #1795.*



## Bear Grass Doesn't Spill the Beans



**Bear Grass** held a butterbean and sausage fundraiser in March. They had to deal with some high winds, but four pots and several hours later they sold almost 200 pints to their community members.



## Roper Serves Up Historical Meal



**Roper** provided plates of fried catfish, hushpuppies, stewed potatoes, and slaw for the Washington County Historical Society Fundraiser. They made 300 plates that sold out within an hour and half. The club also hosted an oyster roast in February.

## Severn-Pendleton Offers Savory and Sweet



**Severn-Pendleton** recently held their annual BBQ Fundraiser and Cake Auction after a two-year hiatus. Folks were lined up an hour before the event was scheduled to start and 300 take-out plates were assembled and sold by 6:30 pm. The room was also full of bidders when it came time for the cake auction.



## News From Ruritan: Rocky Mount-Durham District

### Benvenue Honors Perfection

Donnie Perry (r) was recognized by Past National President Wayne Outlaw in honor of achieving 50 years of perfect attendance as a member of the **Benvenue** club. Donnie was presented with a certificate and a 50-year name badge.



### District Recognizes Service

**Rocky Mount Durham District** presented a Ruritan Forever to Joe Sawyer at their District Club Officer Training. Joe has served on the district cabinet as Zone Governor and as Master of Ceremonies for the district convention as well as on the audit committee. Joe has been a Ruritan for 51 years and was also presented with his 50+ years gold name badge. Pictured (l-



r) are District Secretary Ron Reid, 2023 District Governor Marshall Ross, Past National President Linward Hedgspeth, Zone 6 Governor Joe Sawyer, Jean Sawyer, Past National President Millard Thacker, District Foundation Chair Corky Camin, District

Growth, Development and Retention Chair Jeff Neese, Assigned National Rep George Brothers, and Past District Governor Johnny Johnson.

## News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District

### Johnsonville Delivers Busy Quarter

**Johnsonville** Club President Karen Cox presented a certificate from Ruritan National Foundation to Deputy Chief of Spout Springs Emergency Services Eric Southerland and his wife Lorie in honor of the completion of a Permanent Memorial Fund in memory of their son, SFC Michael Rodriguez. This fund will generate a scholarship every year in SFC Rodriguez's name. District Foundation Promotion Chair Neil Guin explained how the Ruritan National Foundation benefits members.

The Social Development Committee filled and delivered 24 Valentine bags with personal items for local dialysis patients. Pictured, Club President Karen Cox adds the finishing touches.





## News From Ruritan: Cape Fear District



In March, the club hosted guest speaker Harnett County Sheriff Wayne Coats. Sheriff Coats spoke about the severity of the opioid epidemic and the need to educate parents regarding the dangers of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced drugs, as well as what signs of drug use to look for to help save our children's lives.

Pictured from left are Merlene Anderson, Louise Taylor, and Louise Jensen at the ticket table. Several club members worked



behind the scenes at the first Cruise-In of the year, cooking and serving food, selling tickets, advertising, and ensuring things went smoothly.

Club Vice President Candace Edwards and Community Engagement Chair Mike Lancaster worked together to replace the faded and skewed Ruritan National sign in front of the building.



## News From Ruritan: Spartan District

### Augusta Road Shares Rudy

Augusta Road presented Rudy Bears to the South Greenville Fire Department at their March meeting to be distributed to children who have been affected by fire, accidents, or medical emergencies. Pictured (l-r) are Jordan Little, Logan Brown, Judson Tribble, Club President David Pietras, Terry McAlister, Kevin Bell, and Tommy Todd.



## Middle Tyger Awards Scholarships



**Middle Tyger** has awarded several scholarships. Morgan Farmer, pictured left, was a student at the College of Charleston majoring in German and is now studying at the University of Bamberg in Bamberg Germany.

Yasmin Straitiff (right), with Director Leslie Scott, is a freshman at Spartanburg Community College in Spartanburg, SC.



Maxwell Wascom, pictured right with his grandmother, Club Secretary Gail Hyatt, is attending the University of South Carolina in Columbia SC.



Kalyn Baxter, left, is a graduate of James F. Byrnes High School and will be attending Clemson University.



## Gilbert Cleans Up Community Park

**Gilbert** members have been spending many community service hours in the Gilbert Community Park. The park is a six-acre greenspace with walking paths, several garden areas, picnic tables, an amphitheater, restrooms, a plaza with state symbols, and a children's playground. Several members spent hours spreading fertilizer around the azaleas, confederate jasmine plants, dogwoods, and crape myrtle trees, and Bobby Gable, our talented carpenter, rebuilt three of the park's benches. Pictured are Club President Todd Long and Bobby.





## Sandy Run Focuses on Education

In February, **Sandy Run** provided grants to several teachers at Sandy Run School. Pictured are Sandy Run Principal and Ruritan Chris Mack, teacher Manjula Vennapusa, teacher Gopalakrishan Chelamala, Social Development Committee Chair Teresa Helms, and Club President Jill Crim. (Absent was teacher Momahad Akbar.)



The club recognized charter member and first club president Herbert Geiger with a Ruritan Forever. Herbert was “pinned” by his daughter, club member Ginger Hardee. The club arranged Valentine baskets and treats for patients at Myers



Community Home. Pictured (l-r) are Jill Crim, Brenda Goodwin, Kelley Roche-Sanders, Ginger Hardee, Sheila Shanklin, Gary Hardee, Becky Starnes, Dennis Shanklin, Teresa Helms, Sandra Pees, Kay James, Howard Pees, Amber Hardee, Gene Crim, Herbert Geiger, Chris Mack. The club also hosted guest speaker Past National President Jimmy Bristow, who discussed membership and development.



In March, the club hosted essay winners from Sandy Run School who read their essays on “*Why This Is the Most Important Bill of Rights Amendment to Me.*” Pictured (l-r) are Club President Jill Crim, Sandy Run teacher Amanda Dukes, Lillyanne Keating (1<sup>st</sup> place winner), Aubrey Seaton (2<sup>nd</sup> place winner), Jose Cortez-Ramirez (3<sup>rd</sup> place



winner), and Citizenship and Patriotism Chair Howard Pees.

They also welcomed a new member, Bill Steele (far right) who was presented with a bluebird house.

## Sandy Run (continued)



In April, the club hosted Ruritan member and District Education Superintendent Dr. Ferlondo Tullock (pictured center), who spoke about education in Calhoun County Schools. He discussed concerns about how the pandemic has affected students not only in our county but nationally. He gave us testing dates for the 2022 - 2023 State Assessments that many of our members help monitor.

The club also handed out *I Like Me* books to 5K students at Sandy Run School. The books

are printed with the principal's, school's, student's, teacher's, and friends' names included in the text. Club members read pages from each student's book and then called them up to receive his or her book. Pictured (l-r) are Principal Chris Mack, Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Kay James, 5K teacher Ms. Flood, Marshall Stabler, 5K teacher Cinthia Wolfe, 5K teacher Ms. Turner, 5K teacher Ms. Whisenhunt, Teresa Helms, Sheila Shanklin, Lena Stabler, Jill Crim.



## Little Mountain Relies on Tradition

In February, **Little Mountain** held their bi-annual turkey stew fundraiser, a club tradition for 50 years. Members, with the help of their spouses, served up 1586 quarts of stew.





## North River Shares Busy Quarter

**North River WV** celebrated a very busy 2022 by winning a Blue Ribbon Award. The club welcomed five new members, completed over 4,553 community service hours, and provided \$10,621 in donations to their community. Fundraising events included their annual community picnic and three bake sales. The club partnered with the Slanesville Ruritan Club during their Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. The funds raised from this event were presented to the Haiti Hope Mission and Victory Christian School. The club also purchased clothing for Capon Bridge Elementary and Middle School's homeless students, provided funds to the Romney Children's Home for purchasing school supplies and clothing, and donated to "God's Gift of Love" program to provide food, clothing, and toys for needy families in the community.



The club continues to provide support to the North River Fire Department, the Hampshire County Fair, and Hampshire County 4-H and FFA activities. They assisted with planning the Hampshire County Community Center fund raiser, provided bird seed and suet to E. A. Hawse Nursing Home, feeding wildlife, roadside trash pickup, assisted with storm clean-up along Route 29 from Delray to Rio, sent cards to members

of the community that were sick or lost a family member, cleaned up two local cemeteries, placed flags on veteran graves; setup geocaching, cut firewood for a local family, coordinated,



collected and purchased school supplies for the children of Hampshire County, presented a Build Your Dollars Scholarship to a student who hopes to become an elementary school teacher, served food for the Freedom Ride, made blankets and donated food to the VA Center, prepared dinner for veterans in the area, presented a donation to VFW Post 1101, prepared a thank you breakfast for the Delray Christian Church,

sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive, and prepared and delivered 28 Christmas fruit baskets to local residents.

National Director Rebecca Lane presented Club President Bryan Flanagan with their first Blue Ribbon Award.

## News From Ruritan: Lower West Virginia District

### Lashmeet Welcomes Business Member



**Lashmeet** recently welcomed new business associate member Summit Community Bank of Bluefield. Pictured (l-r) are Bonnie Lilly, Club President Blaine Cecil, Summit Bank Branch Manager Jim Osborne, District Governor Patty Hamilton, Dextor Moore, Mary Ash, JoAnne Green, and Debbie Cecil.

## News From Ruritan: Tennessean District

### Bloomingdale Celebrates 66th

**Bloomingdale** celebrated their 66th anniversary in February. They marked the occasion with cake and ice cream and welcomed five new members. Past National President Glen Broadwater and First Lady Linda were on hand to help celebrate, as well as National Director Joe Jaynes.



## News From Ruritan: Hermitage District

### Browns Community Funds With Food

**Browns Community** held their annual stew and bar-be-que chicken sale where virtually all the stew and bar-be-que is sold through pre-orders. This event usually raises enough money to fund the club's projects throughout the rest of year.





## Guilford Lake Honors Means

**Guilford Lake** Club President Jim Means was recognized for his years of service to the club and district, having served 25 years as Zone 4 Governor.



## Laker Helps Fire Department, Receives Recognition



**Laker** partnered with the Andover Volunteer Fire Department for their first annual Valentine Spaghetti Dinner. The club covered all expenses and prepared the food and the AVFD held a raffle. All proceeds went to the fire department to help defray expenses for the coming year. Over \$7000 was raised during the event.



The club was presented with The Charles Thobaben Award by the Pymatuning Valley Chamber of Commerce. They were recognized for their outstanding community service to the Pymatuning Valley. The club also received a Certificate of Achievement from the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners.

## Tuscarawas Valley Awards Seniors



**Tuscarawas Valley** presented five scholarships to graduating seniors of Tuscarawas Valley High School. Consideration was given based not only on good grades but also on the amount of community service performed outside of regular school hours. This was the first year that the club has presented five scholarships at one time. Pictured (l-r) are Principal Jason Phillips, recipients Corinne Hamilton, Teagan Phillips, club member Courtney Boyd, Aubrey Howard, and School Superintendent and club member Dr. Derek Varansky. Not pictured is recipient Alaina Rini-John who unfortunately suffered injuries in a car accident on the day of the award ceremony.

## Washington Celebrates With Scholarships

Washington celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April. The club recognized four “Rising Senior” scholarship winners during the celebration. Pictured (l-r) are Jessica Stewart (Marion Rummell Award), Keirsten Swope (Build Your Dollars), Rising Senior Coordinator Chris Leasure, Abbi Davis (Don Krabill Award), and Camryn Mitchell (Dwight Ickes Award). Washington Club Rising Seniors are involved as regular club members. They are expected to attend at least six regular meetings, one board meeting, bring at least one guest to a meeting and participate in at least ten hours of community service. Community service projects included ushering at the fairgrounds and area parades, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, a bowl-a-thon they organized, and many other activities. They serve an essential role in the activities and fundraising for the club.



Winners of the 4-H Essay Contest sponsored by the Community Engagement Committee were also recognized with monetary awards. The awards will help finance their 4-H projects.

## Chesterfield Hosts Supper



Treasurer Charles Duckworth, Shandy Gossett, Bryant Lindsey, Club President Michael Bandy, Vice President Mike Smith, and James Johnson.



**Chesterfield NC** hosted a Chicken Pie Supper to help a club member with unexpected medical expenses. The event raised \$1213.00. Pictured (l-r) are Club





## Cedarfield Celebrates 51st

**Cedarfield** celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in April. The club hosted District Governor Davy Knotts and 50 members and guests. During the celebration, the club honored members Sam Mackert and Virginia Hurd, who had also served as District Governors. Pictured



(l-r) are Club President Robert Stokes, Charter Member Sam Mackert, District Governor Davy Knotts, and Program Chair Delbert Mills. Sam and Ronnie Robbins were also honored as Charter Members. Ralph Willis

(right) was presented with a plaque as the club's "Member Of The Year." Delbert Mills provided musical entertainment.



## Tri-County Hosts Clay Shoot

**Tri-County MD** held its seventh annual sporting clay pigeon shoot in March at Pintail Point. The shoot featured two gun raffles and trophy/gift certificates for top shooters, three Lewis class awards, top female and top youth. There were 147



shooters and 67 sponsors for the event.

The dinner committee from St Paul's

Lutheran Church served a barbecue lunch to over 200 attendees. Proceeds from the event help support scholarships and other club projects.



## Sandy Ridge Issues Awards

Kenny Bennett was selected as the 2022 **Sandy Ridge** Ruritan of the Year. Along with getting his name placed on the club's Ruritan of the Year plaque, Kenny received a Sandy Ridge Ruritan tee shirt, a treat bag, and a book donated to the Sandy Ridge Elementary School Library in his honor.



Club member and National Director David Hogan recently introduced "Flat Rudy" to the club. There was much discussion of how the club could help Rudy celebrate his 35th birthday.

The club has also continued their tradition of replacing worn-out flags at the Sandy Ridge Community Center.

In April, the club was honored to host the graduating high school seniors from

the Sandy Ridge School District. Attendees played bingo and corn hole and had their pictures taken.

Several local businesses donated game prizes and door prizes. DJ for the event was local resident Tory Mabe, who provided music and announced the events.

Each student was presented with a Bible and spoke about their future plans. The club's Build Your Dollars scholarship went to Mattie Joyce. Four additional scholarships of \$500.00 each were awarded

to Kaitlyn Mays, Lydia Cook, Alexis Dalton, and Mallory Briggs.



## Clubs Help Show Volunteer Appreciation

Members of **Germantown, Lawsonville, Pine Hall, and Sandy Ridge** prepared the meal and served the East Stokes Outreach Ministry Volunteers at their Spring Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. A very large group of volunteers and Ruritans were in attendance. There was also an appearance by Flat Rudy.





## Past National President Willis Overby Passes

*Willis Henry Overby, after 94 years of living an extraordinary life gave it all up on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Rhoda Jane Billingsly Overby, his five sisters, Dorothy Wood (Otha), Classie Sinclair (Henry), Leona Frye (Perry), Mae Hall (Berkley), Ethel Robertson (James), and his brother Calvin Overby (Ila Mae).*

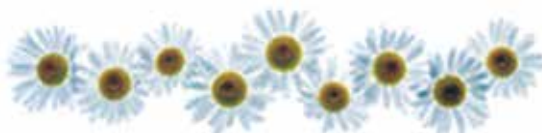
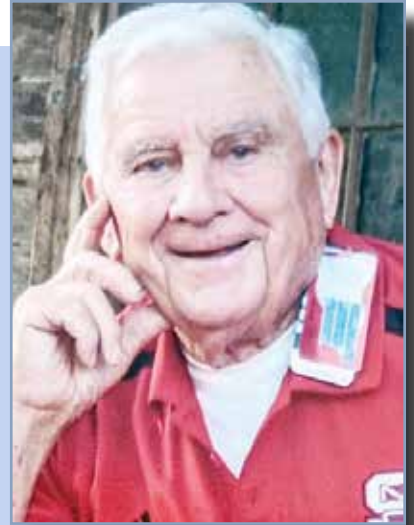
*Willis was born May 21, 1928, in Stokes County, living out his life in the same place – a 250 acre farm originally purchased by his grandfather. He remained a devoted caretaker of the land with which he was entrusted.*

*He served his country in the Army and the Reserves and finished with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He had the unrepresented opportunity of beginning his schooling in a one room school and going to NCSU and UNC. Willis finished a 32-year career in education as Asst. Superintendent that covered beginning as a high school science teacher and holding all the positions along the way to a stint as interim Superintendent of Stokes County Schools. He gave back to his county by serving as County Commissioner. He also chaired The United Way, The Stokes Reynolds Hospital Board, and championed the Soil and Water Commission. Willis served as National Ruritan President in 1988. He was an active and devoted member of Snow Hill UMC where he taught Sunday school, sang in the chancel choir and filled many other positions. He was a recipient of the Boy Scout Order of the Arrow, the Silver Beaver, the Order of the N.C. Long Leaf Pine Society, as well as being an accomplished public speaker.*

*He was devoted to the love of his life, his college sweetheart Jeannette L. Overby for 70 years. He was an outstanding and exemplary father, grandfather and great-grandfather to daughters Cindy Roberts (Malcolm), Karen Hartgrove (Mick), Lisa Overby (Becky); grandchildren Jessica Brown (Robert), Kaitlyn Green (Brian), Megan Ring (fiancée Anthony), Tanner Ring (Marrielle), and great-grandchildren Isabella and Isaac Green and Alice and Landon Brown.*

*He was a creative soul whose work ethic made many of his ideas come true from covered bridges, natural picnic areas, and sand carved sea creatures to building apartment complexes. Willis always lit up a room with his contagious smile, latest joke and welcoming handshake. Losing his positive, uplifting demeanor, strong Christian example and loving spirit will truly be what we will grieve most until we are together again.*

*Memorials may be made to: Ruritan National Foundation, Snow Hill Church, or Willis H. Overby Scholarship Fund, Stokes County Schools, Box 50, Attn. Lannet Moore, Danbury, NC 27016.*



## Aaron's Creek Presents Of The Year Awards



**Aaron's Creek** Club President Kathy Long and District Governor Barry Sides recently recognized Jamie Saunders as the club's 2022 Ruritan of the Year, and Seth Marshall as their 2022 Rudy Youth of the Year.



The club also held their third annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Golden egg winners were awarded Rudy Bears.



## Ararat Grows and Grows and Grows



**Ararat** celebrated their 70th anniversary in January. Past National President Glen Broadwater was among those gathering for the event held at the club building. The club was chartered on Jan. 9, 1953, sponsored by the Critz Ruritan Club. An honorary roll call of the 29 charter members was conducted as part of the festivities.

During the celebration, Mary Dellenback Hill (left) was presented with a Tom Downing by Merlin Scales and Mike Noonkester, and Mary

Slate (right) was presented with a Ruritan Forever by Past National President Glen and First Lady Linda.





## News From Ruritan: Dan River District

The club also recently welcomed three new members, Wes Brown, Dianne Dawson, and Patti Brown LewAllen, and donated school supplies to Blue Ridge Elementary School for the second semester.



In March, Ararat welcomed seven new members and a new business associate member. Pictured (l-r) are Claude Smith, Cathi Clement, Reggie Bowman, Matthew Adams, Aron Montgomery, Judy Adams, and Kimberly Adams.

## Patrick Springs Shares Riches

**Patrick Springs** hosted a “Poor Man’s Supper” in February. The meal consisted of pinto beans, potatoes, corn bread, fat back, dessert, and a drink. The club was assisted by members of Red Bank and Ararat clubs. Proceeds will help support community service projects.



## Red Bank Helps First Responders



**Red Bank** recently made donations to their local fire and rescue squads. Pictured (l-r) are Jerry Felts, Billy Aldrich, Pat Shouse, Randy Burge, D.J. Lawson, Mike Fulk, and Club Vice President Rachel White.

## News From Ruritan: Dan River District

### Rangeley Stirs Up the Goods

**Rangeley** recently held a stew and bake sale. They sold out at 322 quarts of stew. Pictured (l-r) Patrick Rodgers, David Moore, Dwayne Tuggle, and Rick Huffman take turns stirring. Fay Moore and Page Rodgers discuss sales strategies.



## News From Ruritan: Lincolnland District

### District Awards Club Officers

Past District Governor Beverly Tanner recently presented the 2022 District awards. Pictured (l-r) are 3rd Place Outstanding Club President Robert Bohnhoff, 2nd Place Outstanding Club Secretary Pauline Volk, 1st Place Outstanding Club President Sue Meyers, 2nd Place Outstanding Club Treasurer Larry Lingafelter, and 3rd Place Outstanding Club Secretary James Barger. Other winners included 1st Place Outstanding Club Secretary Sharon White, 1st Place Outstanding Club Treasurer Steve Taylor, 3rd Place Outstanding Club Treasurer Tony Showalter, and Outstanding Cabinet Member Howard Tanner.



### Geff Community Celebrates 50

National Director Jim Zehr and wife, Marcia, were on hand to help **Geff Community** celebrate their 50th Anniversary.





## News From Ruritan: New River District

### Max Meadows Shares Easter Fun

**Max Meadows** hosted their first annual Community Easter Celebration on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pictured (l-r) are Bonnie Westpfahl, Dakota Coderre, Club President Chris Coderre, DeeDee Martin, Benicio Westpfahl, Easter Bunny (Julianna Westpfahl), Amanda Ramirez, District



Governor Dreama Johnson, Tim Reeves, Debbie Reeves, and Guy Marshall.

Also pictured, Lilah Reeves (l) and Gwen Harding (r) visit with the Easter Bunny.



## News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District

### Greenwood Awards Man of the Year

**Greenwood** recently recognized Wayne Dulaney (right) as the club's 2022 Man of the Year. Wayne has been a member since 1979 and was honored for his service and dedication through Ruritan.

The club also welcomed new member David Newman.



## News From Ruritan: Davy Crockett District

### Mt. Pleasant Member Wins National Award

**Mt. Pleasant TN** Club Member Linda Townsend recently won first place in the National Daughters of the American Revolution Fiber Arts competition. After hearing Steve Ricker, an Overmountain Men portrayer, speak at her local Ruritan Club, Townsend became interested in the Overmountain Trail. She learned that her great-great-great-grandfather was one of the Overmountain Men. She prepared a cross-stitch of the Overmountain Men journey and entered it in the DAR competition. She won first place in the state of Tennessee as well as first place in the national competition. Linda will be going to Washington DC in June to accept her award.



## News From Ruritan: Smoky Mountain District

### East Roane Donates With Pride



**East Roane County** donated a new American Flag to Lenoir City Intermediate Middle School. The flag is proudly flown during the school day. The students pictured have the task of putting the flag up and taking it down each day.

## News From Ruritan: Rapidan District

### Wolftown Hosts Future Farmers

**Wolftown** recently hosted FFA advisor Ms. Kauffman and some of the FFA club officers. They were presented with an \$800 donation.





## News From Ruritan: Rapidan District

### Chancellor Promotes Community Service

**Chancellor** members Danny Pemberton and David DeBruhl designed and constructed an accessory handrail for a resident of Spotsylvania County. The handrail provided the homeowner with a safer entry into his home.



The club recently donated to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, a premier book gifting program that mails a book a month to registered children from the time they are born until the month the child turns five years old. Beth DiDonato (pictured center) was presented with the check by Ed Boyd. Beth manages this program for Spotsylvania County

## News From Ruritan: Tall Corn District

### Moravia Hosts Annual Supper

**Moravia** held their annual Groundhog Supper in February. Attendees enjoyed pancakes, sausage, and desserts. Proceeds are used to fund scholarships for graduating seniors from Moravia High School. Shown (l-r) are Carol Martin, Miss Moravia 2023 Elizabeth Cremeens, and Jack Stuart.



## News From Ruritan: Opportunity Land District

### Western Yell Continues Tradition

**Western Yell** continued a 40-year tradition by hosting their annual scholarship fundraiser dinner and served over 300 attendees. The menu included catfish, seafood, BBQ ribs, chicken, and all the trimmings. The proceeds of over \$6000 will fund scholarships awarded to graduates of Western Yell County High School. Members of the Western Yell County Ruri-Teen club were also on hand to help with the fundraiser.



## News From Ruritan: Gulf Area

### Mt. Hermon Kicks Off With Sweet Heat



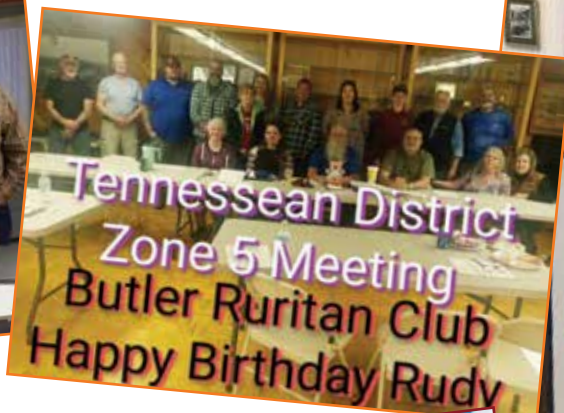
**Mt Hermon LA** recently hosted its inaugural Chili Cook-Off. The cook-off was an opportunity to bring the community together for fun and fellowship while raising funds for community service projects. From the ten club members' entries, the people's-choice winner was Junie Goings. Pictured (l-r) are Club Treasurer Steve Kerbow, Junie, and Club President Raymond Cade.





# Happy Birthday, Rudy!

Rudy Bear turns 35 this year!  
He has been celebrating all across Ruritanland!



Rockingham District



Sandy Ridge



## **In Contagious Clubs...**

**...the mission is so clear that everyone wants to give their time, talent, and treasure.**

Ruritan is a national organization dedicated to improving communities and building a better America through, "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service."

**...the meetings are so enjoyable that members only miss when it is unavoidable.**

Don't linger ~ Keep casual ~ Fellowship ~ Greet members ~ Theme nights ~ Door prizes ~ Games ~ Use/give nicknames ~ Exciting speaker ~ Entertainment.

**...the service projects are so inspiring that there is a waiting list for volunteers.**

Scholarships ~ Are you truly fulfilling your community's needs? Projects need to be inclusive of all people ~ Ask community to suggest projects needed.

**...the leaders empower and equip the members to become leaders themselves.**

Leaders influence people beyond their responsibility ~ Leaders usually think long term ~ Leaders most often are agents of change ~ Leaders are concerned with substance ~ Leaders motivate others by renewal and vision-casting ~ Leaders focus on the challenge at hand.

**...the members are proud of their club and invite their friends to join.**

Invite Friends, Relatives, Associates and Neighbors (FRAN) ~ Share your "WHY" ~ Invite to events.

**...the club plan serves as a map and compass to make sure the direction is clear.**

Have organized meetings ~ Use and follow agenda ~ Develop a long-range plan (5 years).

**...the value of the club to the community and the members is obvious to everyone.**

Publish your activities ~ Promote yourselves ~ Market your club ~ Toot your own horn.

**...THE FUN AND LAUGHTER IS SO CONTAGIOUS THAT MEMBERS ARE STILL SMILING ON THE WAY HOME.**



# Ruritan Paver Program for Capital Improvement

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

Check here for this option:

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


Check here for this option:

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


Check here for this option:

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


Check here for this option:

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is a gift, please send an acknowledgement to:

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

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

# Benefits of Being a Ruritan

The opportunity to give back to the community when you belong to an organization like Ruritan is fulfilling. As a way to say an extra “thank you” Ruritan National has partnered with several companies who also want to show their appreciation.

## Health Benefits for Ruritans

- American Hearing Benefits include:
  - Free annual hearing consultations
  - Free one-year supply of hearing aid batteries
  - One year of free office visits
  - Free Deluxe Warranty Plan
  - 60-day trial period
- VSP Individual Vision Care Insurance
  - Basic plans offer savings of over \$200 on eye exams and glasses, with an additional 20% savings on add-ons (anti-glare coating, sunglasses, etc.)
  - Over 34,000 participating eye care doctors

## Travel Discounts and Benefits

Ruritans who are traveling, for personal or business, can take advantage of special discounts for hotels and vehicle rental.

- Special discounts with Collette Tours
- Special discounts at Red Roof Inn, Choice Hotels, and Wyndham Hotel Group

## Car Rental Discounts

Members receive a special Ruritan Discount at Hertz Car Rentals, and a complimentary membership in their loyalty program, Hertz Gold Plus Rewards.

## Other Discounts and Services

- Affordable pet health coverage through ASPCA Pet Health Insurance
- Special discounts through LTCR (Long-Term Care Resources) on insurance options.
- Special savings at Office Depot and Office Max
- Ruritan-sponsored screenings through Life Line Screening.
- Partnership with SecureVolunteer for background check services.

- Visit [Ruritan.org](https://www.ruritan.org) (Member Resources / Benefits) for a complete list and details of discounts and services available to Ruritan members.