



Ruritan

Volume 89, Fall 2024



*Register Now for the
2025 Ruritan National Convention
Greenville, South Carolina
Details Begin on Page 10*



Ruritan

Volume 89, Fall 2024

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#RuritanStrong

2024 National President Robin Davenport



Growing and strengthening our Ruritan National organization in the remaining half of the year can involve a multifaceted approach. Here are several strategies that can be implemented:

Membership Growth

1. Recruitment Campaigns: Launch targeted recruitment drives in local communities, colleges, and workplaces. Emphasize the benefits of joining Ruritan, such as community service opportunities, networking, and personal development.

2. Referral Programs: Encourage current members to bring in new members through incentives or recognition programs.

3. Membership Drives: Host special events or open houses where prospective members can learn about the organization.

Community Engagement

1. Community Projects: Identify and undertake new community service projects that address local needs. High-visibility projects can attract attention and support.

2. Partnerships: Form partnerships with other local organizations, schools, and businesses to collaborate on projects, increasing your reach and impact.

3. Social Media Campaigns: Use social media platforms to highlight ongoing projects, share success stories, and engage with the community. Regular posts can keep the organization top-of-mind.

Fundraising

1. Events: Plan and host fundraising events such as charity runs, auctions, or community fairs.

2. Online Fundraising: Utilize crowdfunding platforms and social media to raise funds for specific projects.

3. Grant Applications: Apply for grants from foundations and governmental organizations that support community service and development projects.

Member Engagement and Retention

1. Training and Development: Offer workshops, seminars, and training sessions for members to enhance their skills and knowledge.

2. Recognition Programs: Acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions of members through awards, certificates, and public recognition.

3. Social Activities: Organize social events and gatherings to build camaraderie and strengthen the bond among members.

Marketing and Outreach

1. Public Relations: Increase visibility through press releases, local media coverage, and participation in community events.

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RURITAN NATIONAL, P.O. BOX 487, (UPS) 5451 LYONS ROAD, DUBLIN, VA 24084.

2. Branding: Ensure consistent and professional branding across all materials and platforms to build a recognizable and trustworthy image.

3. Promotional Materials: Create brochures, flyers, and digital content that effectively communicate the mission, values, and impact of Ruritan National.

Administrative Efficiency

1. Data Management: Use membership management software to keep track of members, donations, and project outcomes.

2. Feedback Mechanisms: Implement regular surveys and feedback sessions to understand members' needs and areas for improvement.

3. Strategic Planning: Set clear goals for the remainder of the year and create a detailed action plan to achieve them.

By focusing on these areas, you can ensure OUR Ruritan National continues to grow, engage its members, and make a meaningful impact in the community. Remember, we are #RURITAN STRONG!

President Robin



Executive Director Sarah Kelly



Becoming a Future Ruritan National Board Director: A Path to Community Impact

Leadership and Community Service

“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge,” as Simon Sinek aptly puts it. This sentiment is central to Ruritan’s mission: improving communities and building a better America through fellowship, goodwill, and community service. By focusing on caring for each member, we foster thriving communities.

Key Questions for Aspiring Directors

Before stepping up to serve on the Ruritan National Board, consider these critical questions:

- Why do I want to serve?
- Do I understand the role and expectations?
- What do I have to offer?
- Am I qualified?
- Do I have the time, energy, and resources?
- Do I have family and employer support?

Reflecting on these questions ensures you’re prepared for the responsibilities ahead.

Responsibilities and Expectations

Governance and Strategic Leadership

As a board member, you’ll provide strategic leadership, ensuring our mission is fulfilled through programs, strategic planning, and outreach. This cycle of “Think, Plan, Do” must be a continuous rhythm for effective governance.

Oversight and Financial Stability

You will monitor and evaluate the organization’s performance, oversee financial management, and ensure financial stability. Regular communication with clubs about their growth status is vital, as is the timely payment of dues and the protection of our youth.

Advocacy and Engagement

Representing Ruritan in the community, advocating for our mission and vision, and maintaining consistent communication with districts are key duties. Embracing an expansion mindset, you’ll strive to spread the values of fellowship and goodwill across America, supporting the goal of each club growing by five members and opening new clubs.

Time Commitment

Meetings and Preparation

Board members are expected to attend quarterly NBOD meetings, district meetings, and events such as conferences and conventions. Preparation involves reviewing materials, asking questions, and actively participating in discussions.

Committee Involvement

Serving on at least one committee and participating in its activities, often virtually, is crucial. The bulk of our work happens in these committees, ensuring a stable and effective organization.

Qualifications and Attributes

Passion for Service and Leadership Skills

A deep commitment to Ruritan's mission and values, along with experience in community service and volunteerism, is essential. Leadership skills, such as conflict resolution, the ability to inspire and motivate others, and effective communication, are also required.

Professional Expertise

Expertise in areas like finance, marketing, law, training, and team management will help you contribute effectively to the board's work.

Expectations and Benefits

Upholding Values and Active Participation

Promoting policies, upholding bylaws, and contributing to a culture of collaboration and respect are expected. Emphasizing diversity, equity, and inclusion, and actively participating in board activities, are key to our success.

Personal and Professional Growth

Serving on the board offers the opportunity to make a significant impact on communities, personal growth through networking and relationship-building, and professional growth through skill development. The sense of fulfillment from serving a noble cause is a rewarding benefit.

The Process

Preparing to Run and Campaigning

Preparation involves seeking support from family, friends, clubs, districts, and employers. After deciding to run, you'll email a letter of intent, complete the necessary forms, and develop a campaign plan. Engage with the membership through letters, calls, and emails, attend key events, and deliver a concise, impactful speech.

Final Thoughts

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to step up and help shape the future of America's communities. This opportunity allows you to leave a lasting impact through dedicated service and leadership.

For more information or to begin your journey, contact Sarah J. Kelly at 540-674-5431 x 1305 or sarah.kelly@ruritan.org. Together, let's create thriving communities through fellowship, goodwill, and community service.



SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2024!



2024 Foundation President Phillip Bradshaw



Greetings Fellow Ruritans!

The Foundation Fellowship Weekend was a great success. It was in Galax Virginia and hosted by Pat Davis. Special thanks to Pat for planning and coordinating this amazing weekend held on her property. There was bluegrass music, Gospel music, and the childrens choir from Pat’s church. There was a 5K run/walk, and fishing for children with special needs and for everyone interested. Wagon rides provided a tour of the beautiful property. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and barbeque with all the fixin’s was provided by the Baywood club. We also enjoyed a silent and live auction. Again, thanks to Pat for hosting such a wonderful weekend!

At the National Convention, the Foundation announced a payout of \$675 for the 2024 Build Your Dollars (BY\$) Scholarship Program. We had 501 Clubs eligible for this payout. 465 clubs have claimed the \$675 2024 BY\$ payout.

Get your \$300 BY\$ Deposit check and Deposit forms mailed quickly to make the postmark dated by or on September 1, 2024, deadline, for the next program year. For 2025 we have 210 clubs who have submitted their forms for participation. If your club is not participating, you are missing this great investment opportunity to provide club funding for scholarships.

Your Trustees at the National Convention launched a new investment program. This program will support our Ruritan National membership and grow the Foundation. 27 applications have been filed to date.

I challenge each of you to take advantage of this opportunity to support the Foundation!

“Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow”

The Ruritan National Foundation launched a new 5-year investment program in January 2024. The new program is: “Invest Today... Impact Tomorrow”. The intent is to have members, or anyone, invest \$.60/day over the next five years, which culminates with the 60th Anniversary of the Foundation. When you complete the 5-year program, you will have a permanent fund with the Foundation. In addition, if you already have a fund, you can grow it even larger.

Just think, you only have to commit to investing \$.60 per day. This is less than a soft drink or a cup of coffee. The impact will be tremendous for the Foundation! Review the table below to visualize the impact based on the number of donors. With 5,000 donors, the Ruritan National Foundation will have \$5.5M in new investments, which doubles your Foundation.

Ruritan Foundation				
"Invest Today...Impact Tomorrow" 5 Year Challenge				
Donation/Day	Days	1 Year	5 Years	1000 Donors
\$0.60	365	\$ 219.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 1,095,000.00
Donation/Day	Days	1 Year	5 Years	2500 Donors
\$0.60	365	\$ 219.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 2,737,500.00
Donation/Day	Days	1 Year	5 Years	5000 Donors
\$0.60	365	\$ 219.00	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 5,475,000.00

Please contact any Foundation Trustee or the Foundation office for questions.

2024 Foundation President Phillip A. Bradshaw pbradshaw56@aol.com
2024 Foundation Vice President Guy Cox cox4a5@atlanticbb.net
2024 Foundation Treasurer Josh Adams joshadams@verizon.net
2024 Foundation Secretary Debra Knesal debra.knesal0303@outlook.com
2024 Foundation Promotion Chair Alex Sowers asowers1969@gmail.com



Foundation Specialist Bessie McCormick foundation@ruritan.org

The Foundation current investment balance as of July 2024 is \$6,058,041.

A Short Guide to Ruritan National Foundation Programs is available on the website. This is a one-page summary of the programs offered by your Foundation. Please take the time to read this Guide and share it with your club members. Get your club involved in the Foundation and support the growth of your club and Ruritan National.

Thank you for allowing us to serve as Trustees of your Foundation. If you have questions, please contact us by telephone, text, or email. We are always willing to assist Ruritans to understand your Foundation better. Invite us to your Club or District.

Foundation Fellowship Weekend Fun !



Join Us for the 2025 National Convention in Greenville, South Carolina!



We are thrilled to invite you to the 2025 National Convention in Greenville, South Carolina. This year's event promises to be one of the best yet, filled with exciting activities and opportunities to connect with fellow members.

Kicking off the festivities, we're hosting a lively tailgating party, packed with fun and entertainment for everyone. It's the perfect chance to relax, enjoy some great company, and dive into the spirit of the convention.

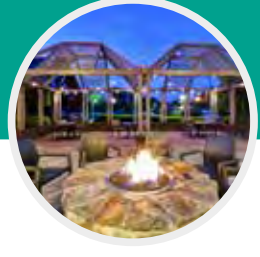
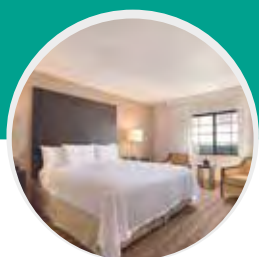
In addition to the celebrations, we'll be holding a Town Hall meeting where we can share ideas and explore new ways to grow our incredible organization. Your voice matters, and we're eager to hear your thoughts on how we can continue to thrive and expand.



Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to fellowship and enjoy some Ruritan fun! Be sure to register today and secure your hotel accommodations.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Jim and Jonathan LaFollette; 2025 Convention Chairs

2025 RURITAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
JANUARY 24-25, 2025
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA



Stay, Meet, Play and Celebrate at Greenville's Only Resort

- 268 TWO ROOM SUITES
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Make reservations by calling 1-800-EMBASSY and referring to your conference of code 916

Or use this link online: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ruritannationalconf2025/>

Or scan this QR code:



Ruritan National Conference 2025
www.hilton.com

2025 RURITAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
JANUARY 24-25, 2025
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

Schedule of Events

DAY	ACTIVITY
Thurs	Vendors, Registration, Information, Candidates, Silent Auction, Supply, etc. Sgt-at-Arms Meeting
Friday	Vendors, Registration, Information, Candidates, Silent Auction, Supply, etc. Outgoing & Incoming DG/Board/APNP Breakfast on own before meeting District Governor Training APNP Meeting Officers Training/Workshops Bylaws/Resolutions to Accept Delegates First Timer Reception Opening Ceremony Reception Opening/Veterans Program President's Reception/fellowship Business Session Tailgating Caucuses Available
Saturday	Elections- to end by 9 am Business Session Live Auction Workshops Workshops Town Hall discussions - Strategizing - New ideas!!! Installation Banquet/entertainment
Sunday	Church Director's meeting



Ruritan National Convention – Greenville, SC January 24 - 25, 2025

Register up to two people using 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.

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

Please print or type

1st Attendee: _____
 Member#: _____
 Club: _____
 District: _____
 Phone number: _____

2nd Attendee: _____
 Member# (if member): _____
 Club: _____
 District: _____
 Phone number: _____

Check the items below that apply:

- I have the following 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 the items below that apply:

- I have the following 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 honor and thank all those who have served, are currently serving, and military personnel. For special recognition, please provide your branch of service.

Name: _____

U.S. Army

U.S. Air Force

U. S. Marines

U.S. Navy

U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Space Force

Ruritan National Convention – Greenville, SC January 24 - 25, 2025

Meals

*There is a deadline for meal count guarantees with the caterer. With that in mind, anyone waiting to register on-site (as a walk-in) for the events will not be guaranteed meals. Send in your registration before December 12, 2024, to be guaranteed a shirt. Kid's meals are available upon request.
You must choose **Package 1** or **Package 2** to be able to vote.*

Packages include the Opening Ceremony, 7th Inning Stretch refreshments, access to exhibits, business meetings, workshops, voting, and all other convention activities.

Package Options

	Qty	Price	Total
Full Package includes the Saturday Installation Banquet and 7th Inning Stretch Opening Ceremony Reception	Package 1	\$250	
Base registration and 7th Inning Stretch Opening Ceremony Reception	Package 2	\$160	

Extra Meal Tickets and Items

Must purchase at least one package above to purchase additional meal tickets

	Qty	Price	Total
Friday 7th Inning Stretch Opening Ceremony Reception	Reception	\$30	
Saturday Installation Banquet	Banquet	\$100	
Rudy Bears - Added as a Gift	Rudy Bears	\$11	
I want a 2025 Convention T-Shirt Pre-sales Only – Order Now ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2XL ___ 3XL ___ 4XL	T-Shirt	\$25	
.	TOTAL		

Payment Information

_____ **Check Enclosed**

_____ **Please charge my card**

*****All credit card transactions will include a 3.5% service fee**

Card # _____

Expiration date: _____

Security code: _____

Zip code: _____

CONVENTION
T-SHIRT LOGO





Cake Walk

Photo Booth

Scooter Race

Karaoke

Pottery Wheel

Ruritan
Tailgate Party
January 24, 2025
8 p.m. - 10 p.m

On Friday evening in Greenville, Ruritan's Tailgate Party will be the place to be! Ruritans will come together again for **ONE GIANT TAILGATING PARTY** that will feature a variety of favorite foods sponsored by clubs and districts. Food tables needed are a hot dog table, walking tacos, finger sandwiches, bbq sliders, a cookie and brownie table, a nacho table, a fruit and veggie table and a soda and water table. Each table should be decorated with the sponsoring club or district's favorite college or professional football or basketball team. Each table will be judged so be creative!!!. Make plans to attend the Ruritan 2025 Tailgate Party!

#RuritanStrong

To sponsor a table, email Crystal Andrews at crystal.andrews@ruritan.org

PHOTO BOOTH FUN!



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Meet Your National Candidates for 2025!

National President-Elect

Gary Swink
1195 Still House Drive
Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: (540) 460-3196
Email: gwsruritan@yahoo.com



CLUB: Member of Kerrs Creek Club for 46 years, with 45 years of consecutive perfect attendance; Kerrs Creek Club Secretary, Treasurer (multiple years), Vice President, and President (multiple years, including 2023); Organized club's first annual golf tournament which successfully raised funds for scholarships and Ruritan Foundation; Ruritan of the Year, Tom Downing, and Ruritan Forever.

DISTRICT: Served in almost every capacity as a member of the Natural Bridge District Cabinet for over a dozen years; Natural Bridge District Governor 1988 and District Lt. Governor 1987; Key organizer of the Va. Association of Ruritans in 1988; Implementor of the Va. Adopt-a-Highway program with the first two groups (Ruritan Clubs) to adopt a highway.

NATIONAL: Board of Directors (1990-1992); National Treasurer (1994-1996); Special Ways & Means Committee (1992); Convention Parliamentarian (1993) and Board of Directors Parliamentarian (2009); Served on convention committees including Resolutions, Nominating, and Publicity & Public Relations; Helped organize the first Rudy Bear Drop; Workshop presenter and emceed convention sessions on multiple occasions; attended over 30 conventions; Non-Board member of Budget and Finance Committee (2022 to present).

EDUCATION: Graduated magna cum laude from King University with a double major in Economics and Business Administration while playing intercollegiate soccer

OCCUPATION: 30 years experience in healthcare finance, including final 2 years as hospital CEO, with a \$30 million budget and 425 employees; oversaw building and equipping of a new hospital facility; Chief Operating Officer of two for-profit companies, while CFO of the non-profit hospital; Invested as much as \$26 million of hospital funds; Retired from the City of Lexington after 8 years as Finance Director and having served as Interim City Manager.

OTHER: Member, Elder, Trustee, and Sunday School teacher at New Monmouth Presbyterian Church; Married to Dianne for 43 years, with two grown children and four grandchildren; Am a third-generation Ruritan.

National President-Elect

David Thompson
18607 Stonewall Drive
Dinwiddie, VA 23841
Phone: (804) 704-4026
Email: dsthoms1999@gmail.com



CLUB: Member of Dinwiddie Club for 22 years; Club President in 2006 and 2011; Club Vice President in 2005 and 2010; Club Director 2003-2005; served on the Audit Committee, the Nominations Committee, and Fundraising Committee; served as Chair for that committee; Dinwiddie Steak Fest Committee 2004-2024; Dinwiddie Golf Tournament Chair. Member of the Red Oak VA Club since 2015, the Brookneal 21st Century Club, charter member since 2017, member of the LaCrosse-Bracey Club from 2012-2016 where I served as the Secretary/Treasurer.

DISTRICT: Appomattox District Governor 2013-2014; Appomattox District Lt. Governor 2012; Appomattox District Zone 1 Governor 2007-2010; Appomattox District Zone 1 Lt. Governor 2001-2012; Appomattox District Zone 1 Ruritan of the Year in 2013; Appomattox District Publicity/Newsletter Chair from 2007-present; served on the Appomattox District Audit Committee, District Policy Committee, District Convention Committee; Awarded 1st place for the District Newsletter Media Award in 2013.

NATIONAL: National Treasurer 2018-present; Executive Committee and Budget and Finance Committee from 2018-present; National Director 2015-2017, Bylaws Committee; National Convention Workshop Presenter 2015- present (Bylaws, Finance and Club Treasurer, Zone Governor workshops); National Convention Resolutions Committee in 2015; Sgt-at-Arms at the National Convention 2013-2014; District Governor Training 2013-2014; Bylaws workshop presenter at the Summer Leadership Conference 2015-2016; Finance workshop presenter at the Summer Leadership Conference 2021-2024; Tom Downing Fellow; Golden Key Recipient and a Ruritan Forever.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Dinwiddie High School with an Advanced Diploma; Richard Bland College (A.S. in Computer Science); Kansas State University (B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies); Mountain Empire College (Geographic Information Systems, GIS Certification); **OCCUPATION:** Employed with the City of Hopewell (VA) as the Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager; Senior Planner and Zoning Administrator for 7 years for Dinwiddie Planning Department; Former Law Enforcement Officer with 14 years of service; 30+ years' experience in Local Government.

OTHER: Member of Crawford United Methodist Church and served on the Finance Committee and Audit Committee; Current member of the Lebanon United Methodist Church; Petersburg/Dinwiddie Crime Solvers Board Member 2004-present; member of the Dinwiddie Volunteer Rescue Squad, EMT-ST from 1983-1990; Married to Jody with two wonderful children, Kelly and Scott; Kelly, age 35 is a proud graduate of William and Mary and Scott, age 30, proud graduate of Bridgewater College; Proud grandfather to our first grandchild, Bailey born in 2023 to Kelly and her husband Dave.

National Treasurer

James M. Mills, Jr.
55 Hickory Trail
Dallas, GA 30132
Phone: (404) 431-2830
Email: james.m.mills.jr@gmail.com



CLUB: Charter member of the County Line Ruritan Club (2003). Member of Hiram Ruritan Club, Hiram GA from 1992-2002; Charter member of the Paulding Ruritan Club in 2002 and over the past 32 years, I have served in every office at the club level. I am currently the president of my local club.

DISTRICT: Served as Zone Governor three times for a total of 5 years, between 1996 and the present, in the GA / North AL District (24); Served the Georgia / North Alabama District (24) as Leadership Development Coordinator 11 years; Foundation Promotion Chair, 2 years, District Secretary 3 years; District Lt. Governor in 1998 and 2023 and District Governor in 1999 and 2024; District Ruritan of the Year in 2007

NATIONAL: Attended 27 National Conventions and served on the Sgt-at-Arms Committee; as a workshop presenter; in the Flag Ceremony and served on the Convention Planning Committee in 2010. In 2011, I served as the President's Aide Convention; was Elected National Director in 2002, and had assignments as District Director to my home district, as well as the Alabama-Florida and Cherokee Districts and the Central Florida Area. I was Chair of the National Leadership Development Committee in 2004; I served as National Secretary from 2013 to 2022; and I am a Ruritan Forever!

EDUCATION: Smiths Station High School, Smiths AL (1979); Phillips College, Columbus, GA (1982) with an AA Degree in Data Processing.

OCCUPATION: I have been employed at Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA since 1988; (36 Years) in various leadership roles ranging from Regional Service Supervisor, National Service Manager, Operations Department Manager and Procurement Division Manager (current role).

OTHER: I am married to Vicky for 44 years and we have two sons, James III (wife, Jamie and grandsons, Jasper and Hudson, (with a granddaughter due in March 2024), and Richard. We enjoy boating, fishing, and camping. I served for 5 years as the Treasurer for AMTECH, a National Association of Marine Technicians, for 10 years as the CFO for Cross Walk Chapel (a non-denominational Christian Church) in Hiram, GA, and I am the Treasurer since 2022 for Marietta First Church of the Nazarene in Marietta, GA.

National Treasurer

Donna Jo Poulton
30 Aeronca Road
Belton, SC 29627
Phone: (864) 617-5572
Email: donnajorocks@gmail.com



CLUB: Augusta Road Ruritan Club: Member since 2011; Augusta Road Club President 2015-2016; Augusta Road Club Treasurer 2012-2013, 2018 and 2020-present; Augusta Road Club Secretary 2021-present; Generations Ruri-Teen Sponsor 2022-present; Chair of the Citizenship & Patriotism Committee 2020-2022; Chair of the Social Development Committee 2020-present.

DISTRICT: Spartan District Governor 2014; Spartan District Lt. Governor 2013, 2018 and 2020-2023; Spartan District Youth Coordinator 2015; DRM for the Generations Ruri-Teen Club.

NATIONAL: Ruritan National Director 2018-present; Assigned National Director to the Columbia District 2018-present; Assigned National Director to the Georgia-North Alabama District 2019-2023; Assigned National Director to the Spartan District 2024; Member and Chair of the Publications Committee; Member and Chair of the Leadership Development Committee; Song Leader National Convention and Board of Directors; Song Leader for Worship Service at the National Convention; National Convention Workshop presenter; Summer Leadership presenter; Project Focus Committee Secretary; I am a Ruritan Forever and a Tom Downing.

EDUCATION: Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University) – certificate program in Business Administration; Clemson University – Bachelor of Arts – Elementary Education.

OCCUPATION: Vulcan Materials Company – 38 years, Current role is Support Services Coordinator for South Carolina sites, Plant Office Admin for 20 years – responsible for plant level purchasing and budget.

OTHER: Big Creek Baptist Church Children's Sunday School Teacher, Nursery Worker, and Adult Choir; Cedar Shoals Baptist Church Youth Director, Choir Director, and Church Council; Woodmen of the World Hometown Hero; Married to Danny for 38 years (July); 2 sons and 1 daughter-n-love, 2 grandson's, 1 great-granddaughter, Fur-child Brutus an American/English Bulldog mix, Fur-grands Rebel a black Lab and Levi a dogo argentino; Love to read, sing karaoke, travel and meet new people.

National Secretary

Juliann Poff
3289 Vickers Switch Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540) 320-1125
Email: jopoff.jp@gmail.com



CLUB: Ruritan Member since 1990; Member of Belmont II Ruritan Club and Charter Member of the Floyd Community Ruritan Club; I have served in leadership roles since 1997, serving as Director (3 years), Secretary (3years), Treasurer (14years), Vice President and President (2 years)

DISTRICT: I have served the New River District as Zone Governor, District Secretary (4 years), Publicity Chair; Convention Chair (4 years); Lt. Governor; District Governor; Association of Virginia Ruritan Secretary

NATIONAL: Ruritan National Secretary 2023-2024; Member of the Long-Term Plan (LTP) Committee; DRM 2023; Ruritan Forever; Gold Key recipient and 2024 member recruitment bar recipient; Convention Workshop Presenter; Registration Committee; Sargent at Arms Committee; Convention Co-Chair (1/2-year 2022); I have attended multiple Summer Leadership Conferences and attended 30 National Conventions.

EDUCATION: Master of Business Administration-Management and Bachelors of Business - Management, American National University; Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification.

OCCUPATION: Senior Project Analyst, Security and Safety at Gannett Fleming, Inc.; Committee Administrator - Risk and Resilience Committee.

OTHER: American Business Women's Association - Charter Member of New River Express Network (2008). Past leadership roles include Treasurer, Vice President, and President. 2013 Woman of the Year; Married to Rick for 34 years. Children: Julie (Scott), Ritchie, Benjamin (Amanda), Christopher (Maddie); Seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

National Director

Lynn Fillers
4840 Kelley Gap Road
Greenville, TN 37743
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CLUB: Member since 2000, Parrottsville Club member 2000, Camp Creek Club member since 2021, Round Mountain Club member since 2022 and Riders United Club member since 2023; Parrottsville Club President 2001-2002, 2016 and 2021; Parrottsville Club Vice President 2000, 2015 and 2020; Round Mountain Club President 2023; Round Mountain Club Director 2024; Charter member of the Round Mountain and Riders United Clubs; Outstanding Club President two times; Parrottsville Club Ruritan of the Year in 2005.

DISTRICT: Smoky Mountain District Governor 2007, 2017, and 2021; Smoky Mountain District Lt. Governor 2006, 2016, and 2020; Smoky Mountain District Youth Coordinator 2009-2011; Smoky Mountain District Foundation Chair 2019-2020; Smoky Mountain District Zone 1 Governor 2003-2005, 2010 and 2014-2015.

NATIONAL: National Director 2018-present; Have attended 16 National Conventions as a Delegate; Have attended 5 Summer Leadership Conferences; Have participated in the Flag Ceremony at the National Convention; Currently serving 2nd year on the Project Focus Committee; DRM for the Round Mountain Club; I am also a Ruritan Forever.

EDUCATION: Tennessee Tech University – B.S. Degree in Agricultural Science.

OCCUPATION: American Greetings/Plus Mark, where I am an Order Management Specialist.

OTHER: Attend Salem Lutheran Church; Currently serving on the Church Council; Member of the Watauga Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution; Married to Della Sue and have two children, Olivia and Ken.



National Director

T.J. Garrison
107 Sheffield Court NW
Conover NC, 28613
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CLUB: Bethlehem NC Club: Member since 2011 and Kings Creek Club, Member since 2022; Bethlehem NC Club President 2018 - 2021; Bethlehem NC Club Vice President 2017; Bethlehem NC Club Secretary 2023-present; Bethlehem NC Club Second Secretary 2022.
DISTRICT: Western North Carolina District Governor 2024; Western North Carolina District Lt. Governor 2022-2023; Western North Carolina District Foundation Chair 200-2023; Western North Carolina Zone 6 Governor 2019-2021.
NATIONAL: National Convention 2023 and 2024; Summer Leadership Conference 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024; I am a Ruritan Forever.
EDUCATION: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Mars Hill University; High School Diploma from Newton Conover Health Science High School.
OCCUPATION: I have worked in retail for Big Lots, in furniture sales; I worked in the restaurant industry for McDonalds and Bojangles; I worked with kids when I substitute taught for Catawba County Schools; I now do freelance work after discovering a passion for doing PowerPoints, word documents and other items for businesses.
OTHER: Member of the Lions Club from 2023, Member of the Hickory Aviation Museum; Hobbies include the study of American and Comparative Politics, the study of History, the study of Military History; Other hobbies include Reading, Writing, Walking, Traveling.

National Director

Brian Grove
725 Atkinson Road
Christiansburg, VA 24073
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Email: bgrove@vt.edu



CLUB: Belmont II Ruritan Club: Member since 2015; Belmont II Club President 2022; Belmont II Club Vice President 2020-2021; Belmont II Club Director 2016-2018 and 2023-present; Lead execution of club fundraising efforts at Virginia Tech football games; Served on the audit committee for six years.
DISTRICT: New River District Governor 2020 and 2021; Assisted with organizing New River District Conventions.
NATIONAL: Attended six (6) National Conventions and have served as a Sgt-At-Arms; Attended the 2024 Summer Leadership Conference.
EDUCATION: Virginia Tech University– Bachelor of Architecture; Warren County High School in Front Royal, Virginia.
OCCUPATION: Virginia Tech University Dining Services for 30 years and currently serving as the Director, Have served in a variety of roles in dining services.
OTHER: Attend Trinity Community Church; Have served as President on the NRVA (H2okie Aquatics) Board of Directors; Married to Robin for 30 years, and we have one son, Takoda. I enjoy cooking, gardening, and entertaining family and friends.



National Director

Rufus E. Hisghman
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Sumerduck, VA 22742
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CLUB: Sumerduck Ruritan Club: Member since 2018; Sumerduck Club President 2022-2023; Sumerduck Club Vice President 2020; Sumerduck Club Director 2019 and 2024.

DISTRICT: Rappahannock District Governor 2024; Rappahannock District Lt. Governor 2023; Rappahannock District Zone 1 Governor 2024.

NATIONAL: National Convention 2024; Served as a Sgt-At-Arms at the 2024 National Convention; Summer Leadership Conference 2023 and 2024; I am a Ruritan Forever.

EDUCATION: University of Maryland, Bachelor of Science in Police Science; Virginia State Police Academy in Richmond, Virginia; Attended the Institute of Police Technology and Management School.

OCCUPATION: Virginia State Police Department, Virginia State Police trooper, Investigator, Human Resource Manager, Virginia State Police Academy Instructor, Firearms Instructor Training, Tact Team Member and Field Training Officer; Assistant High School Football Coach for 22 years for Liberty and Fauquier High School; Have received a Silver Star Valor from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

OTHER: I have been married to Brenda for 43 years, and we have two sons, Luke and Ben. I have four grandchildren. I am a Cattle Farmer and Football Coach.



National Director

Marshall Ross
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Durham, NC 27704
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CLUB: Lynn's Crossroads Ruritan Club: Charter member since 1974; Lynn's Crossroads Club President 2005, 2010, 2013-2024; Lynn's Crossroads Club Vice President 2009 and 2012; Lynn's Crossroads Club Secretary 2013; Served on all committees and still serve on several committees; In October 2024, I will have 50 years as a Ruritan Member.

DISTRICT: Rocky Mt-Durham District Governor 2023-2024; Rocky Mt.-Durham District Lt. Governor 2022; Member of the Association of North Carolina Ruritans (ANCR).

NATIONAL: Served as an Ambassador at the 2021 and 2022 National Conventions; I am a Ruritan Forever and a Gold Key member with 15 plus members.

EDUCATION: Graduated from Southern Durham High School; Attended numerous classes at area community colleges.

OCCUPATION: Employed by IBM RTP for 42 years (28 ½ years with IBM and 13 ½ with three contract companies); Have been in the Emergency Response/Fire Protection department for 33 years; Serving as the Site Fire Marshal for 10 years.

OTHER: Member of Leesville Road Baptist Church for 42 years; Have served as a Deacon and as a Co-Youth leader at the church; Active volunteer firefighter with the Bethesda and Redwood Volunteer Fire Departments for 46 years and an EMT for 44 years; Have served in all positions in the Fire Department, up to the rank of Assistant Chief; Certified American Heart Association CPR and First Aid Instructor; Married to Geneva and have two sons, Thomas and Matthew, who are all Ruritans and Ruritan Forever; Daughter-in-law Cheyenne, also a Ruritan; Father, Jim (Buck) Ross, also a Ruritan Forever, and Uncle, Sam Ross, were charter members of the Lynn's Crossroads club and served as club directors for several years; Father-in-law, Willard Brantley, was a Ruritan as well as a Ruritan Forever and served as club President; Cousin Robert Ross and his son, Stoner, and Brother-in-law, Willard Brantley, are also Ruritans. My family has a combined total of two hundred and twenty-nine years of membership.

Foundation Trustee

O.H. Bobbitt
3742 Brookneal Highway
Gladys, VA 24554
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CLUB: Ruritan member since 2000; Member of the Rustburg, the Long Island and of the Brookneal 21st Century, which I am a charter member; Rustburg Club President 2005-2006; Rustburg Club President 2005-2006; Rustburg Club Vice President 2004; Rustburg Club Secretary 2023; Rustburg Club Treasurer 2023-present; Rustburg Club Director 2014; Brookneal 21st Century Club Director 2017-2018 and 2021-present; Long Island Club Director 2024; Have chaired each of the Community Service Committees; Worked with annual club sponsored Christmas Toy Drive. Partnered with several clubs to revitalize the club, both of which have met the National President's challenge of adding 5+ members.

DISTRICT: Peaks of Otter District Governor 2017; Peaks of Otter District Lt. Governor 2016 and 2024; Peaks of Otter District Leadership Development Chair 2009; Peaks of Otter District Foundation Chair 2017-2020 and 2023-present; Peaks of Otter Zone 2 Governor 2008 and 2022-2023. Member of the Association of Virginia Ruritans.

NATIONAL: Ruritan National Foundation President 2022; Ruritan National Foundation Trustee 2017-2022. Ruritan Forever, Tom Downing Fellow. Participated in multiple Summer Leadership Conferences including leading several break-out sessions.

EDUCATION: Averett College (University) Bachelors of Business Administration

OCCUPATION: Vice President/Investment Advisor - Wachovia and Suntrust (32 years); Business Unit Analytics - Liberty University (4 Years); Executive Director - Liberty University (3 years); Business Insurance Manager - State Farm (3 years).

OTHER: Rustburg Christmas Parade Committee, served as Vice President; Attend Thomas Road Baptist Church – Coordinate Ushers, including consolidating offering, Safety Team for Vacation Bible School; Married for 38 years, have one son and one (+1) grandchild.



Long-Term Plan (LTP) Committee: Achievements and Future Goals

Background and Purpose:

Historically, Ruritan has faced challenges in maintaining long-term plans, often resulting in one-year plans that lacked continuity and follow-through. This inconsistency led to issues such as ineffective communication, insufficient training, and declining membership. Recognizing these challenges, our leadership developed a bold five-year plan to revitalize our organization and take us to our 100th anniversary. Our primary goals are to enhance communication, improve training for leadership development, and significantly grow our membership, ensuring sustained progress and stability for the future.

Establishing the Plan:

We started by setting a Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG) of reaching 40,000 members by 2028. This is achievable through our “5 and 1 Gets it Done” initiative—each club increases membership by 5 each year, and each district starts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 new clubs annually from 2024 to 2028. This plan was presented and approved by the National Board of Directors (NBOD) in 2023, leading to the formation of the LTP Committee.

Committee Structure and Goals:

The committee consists of directors from each year group and one executive committee member, chaired by the President-Elect and advised by the Executive Director. Our overarching goals are to ensure consistent and accurate communication and provide effective training at all levels. This will ultimately lead to Ruritan’s growth and ability to serve more communities across America.

Progress and Achievements:

In Q3 2023, we embraced the THINK – PLAN – DO process, focusing on strategic thinking, execution planning, and doing the work to keep our plan on track. We meet weekly to review progress and adapt as necessary. We’ve seen success in improving communication, with initiatives like assigning E-Contacts in clubs to ensure important emails are shared and updating the Secretary’s report to include more comprehensive data, including the collection of hours and dollars put back into each community and the number of scholarships and dollar amount given for each district.

Rebranding and Training:

We won a rebranding opportunity from a local marketing company, which resulted in a new piece of literature, a mock-up of a new website, and two promotional videos. For training, we introduced Town Halls and launched an updated Mentor Program at the National Level. We also released an initial draft of a Playbook to guide community needs identification, member recruitment, and club formation.

Growth and Future Plans:

Our efforts are paying off, as evidenced by positive trends in membership growth. While we still face challenges, our continuous monitoring and action plans are leading us in the right direction. Looking ahead, we will continue setting and reviewing goals, starting with our THINK session in October to set our 2025 objectives.

How You Can Help:

- Share your ideas for growth, training, or communication.
- Apply the THINK – PLAN – DO process in your districts and clubs.
- Recruit new members and encourage clubs to invite prospective members.
- Identify potential areas for new clubs and work on chartering them before the end of 2025.
- Keep current members engaged and involved.

Conclusion:

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact any of the LTP committee members.

Chair: Rebecca Lane

ExCom: Juliann Poff

3rd Year Director: Donna Poulton

2nd Year Director: John Biery

1st Year Director: Jeff Roadcap

President: Robin Davenport

Executive Director: Sarah Kelly

Let's Grow Ruritan!

**Delegates at the 2024 National Convention voted to accept the Ethics Policy printed below. The Policy can also be found on the Ruritan National Website at www.ruritan.org*

ETHICS POLICY

Ruritan National's policy is to uphold the highest legal, ethical, and moral standards.

Ruritan National believes strongly that its members must uphold the highest standards of ethical and professional behavior.

We recognize that the chief function of Ruritan National at all times is to serve the best interests of our stakeholders, constituents, members, and clubs.

All paid personnel, volunteer personnel, board members, officers, trustees, and volunteers are expected to serve with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness in carrying out the organization's mission.

The paid and volunteer staff of the organization respect the structure, authority, and responsibilities of the board of directors. We are committed to providing the board with facts and advice as a basis for policy decisions, and we are further committed to upholding and implementing policies adopted by the board.

All paid personnel, volunteer personnel, board members, officers, trustees, and volunteers must demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fortitude in carrying out the organization's functions.

Ruritan National will comply with all applicable laws and regulations and expects its board members, officers, trustees, employees, and volunteers to conduct business in accordance with the letter and spirit of all relevant laws.

The organization's paid personnel, volunteer personnel, board members, officers, trustees, and volunteers will treat all persons with respect and consideration, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.

Respect for and the commitment to protect confidential or otherwise privileged information is an important value.

All personnel will strive for personal and professional excellence and encourage the professional development of others.

Rationale: This is to develop a policy to reduce risk to Ruritan National. (See BDM Apr 2010, motion 05)

CARROLLTON AWARDS SCHOLARS

Carrollton announced the recipients of their scholarships for 2024. Recipient Sarah Archer is a graduate of Isle of Wight Academy and will be attending Tidewater Community College to major in Sociology and Theater Arts. Sarah is a youth member of the Carrollton Ruritan Club. Recipient Graham Rountree is a Smithfield High School graduate and will attend North Carolina University to major in Agricultural Sciences. Graham is a youth member of the Smithfield Ruritan Club. Recipient Malory Johnson is also a graduate of Smithfield High School and will be attending Virginia Tech to major in Biochemistry. Pictured (l-r) are Carrollton Club President Dale Jones, Sarah Archer, Graham Rountree, Malory Johnson, Holland District Foundation Chair Woody Dunn, and Jim Henderson, Chairman of both the Carrollton Ruritan Scholarship Committee and the Ruritan Holland District Foundation Scholarship Committee.



CREEDS SUPPORTS YOUTH

Creeds recently celebrated its annual scholarship night by awarding four scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are Reagan Libert, Kolby Snow, Suellen Sawyer, and Zachary Fuge (via Zoom). More than \$8,000 was awarded.



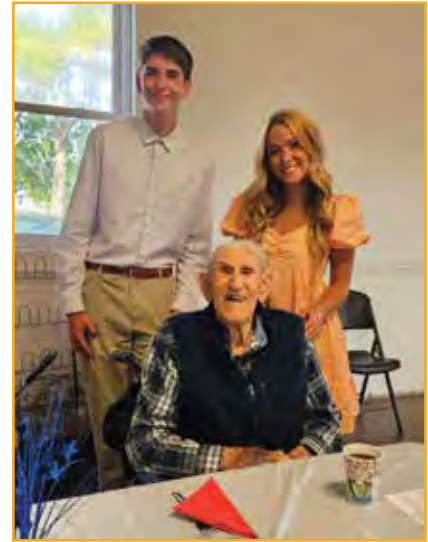
Club members also supported the three-day “Showdown in the Sand” junior livestock event by managing food sales. Pictured in the kitchen (l-r) are Johnnie Williams, April Rooney, Dorene Stevenson, Diane Weirich, Scott Weirich, and Kevin Newton. Managing the grill are Keith Stevenson, Alex Jakimjuk, and Gary Brandl.



DEEP CREEK SHARES THE BEARS



Deep Creek recently presented forty Rudy bears to the Chesapeake, VA police department.



GRASSFIELD HONORS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grassfield held their annual scholarship meeting and awarded two scholarships for 2024. Pictured are recipients Reagan Davis and Jackson Short with charter member Eddie Vincek. Eddie will be 100 years old in September and is one of the last living Iwo Jima Marine veterans.

HOLLAND REVS THEIR ENGINES

Holland hosted their Custom Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, with 111 entries, including 51 first-timers. The Best in Show was awarded to a 1954 Ford F-100 Pickup owned by Donald Peterson of Chesapeake. Thirty-five trophies were presented to participants in numerous categories. Proceeds from the event fund the club's community service projects.



The club also announced scholarship recipients for the upcoming academic year. Carlie McCullough graduated from Lakeland HS, Suffolk, VA and will be attending Paul D. Camp Community College with the goal of attending Virginia

Tech to major in agriculture. Carlie is employed at Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center and Johnson's Gardens. Alexis Griffith graduated from Lakeland HS and received an associate degree from Paul D. Camp CC. Alexis will be attending the University of Virginia to study nursing. Pictured with Carlie and Alexis is Scholarship Chair Ronald Daughtrey.



MEHERRIN SUPPORTS FUTURES

Meherrin Club President Ed Conner presented scholarships to Lane Whitehead and Davis Robinson. Lane will attend Southside Virginia Community College to study early childhood education. Club member Davis will attend the University of Virginia to study physics with plans to pursue a career in the space program.



SMITHFIELD HONORS EDUCATION AND ANGELS

Smithfield awarded six scholarships to local high school graduates. Pictured (l-r) with Club President Kirk Ring (center) are Sammie Hope, Abigail Burke, Kaitlynn Thomsom, Elizabeth DeFluri, Kendal Glover, and Graham Rountree.



Club President Kirk Ring presented a donation to the Angel Quilters. Angel Quilters make quilts for children in need. Pictured with Kirk are Angel Quilter and club member Julie Hopkins, and Angel Quilter Nancy Trudeau.



SURRY SHARES SUMMER SERVICE

Surry club members prepared and wrapped 300 hot dogs for the Surry Sheriff's Office Spring Festival for citizens to enjoy during the festivities.

Club Members also helped plant over twenty fruit trees and bushes at Surry Elementary School. This project was led by Agriculture teacher Breyon Pierce. A grant provided the fruit trees to help combat the food desert in Surry County. Club members Debbie Lathrop, Chelsea Skinner, and William Skinner worked with elementary, middle, and high school kids to teach them how to properly unpot and plant the bushes and trees.



In June, the club showed their American spirit by replacing the worn American flags used to decorate the town of Surry and putting out new flags along the main roads for Armed Forces Day. Each flag was placed on an electric pole with a light to maintain proper flag etiquette. The old flags will be retired in a flag-burning ceremony. The club also provided a bench for the front porch of the Surry Public Library. Library patrons will be able to sit outside after business hours and still have access to Wi-Fi and an outlet to charge their phones or laptops.



ABINGDON HOLDS THE RECORD

Abingdon recently hosted their 80th Seafood Festival, having hosted two festivals each year for the past 40 years. Dedicated club members (back row) Jon Beck, David Dea, Rupert Thomas, (front row) Graham Blake, Walter Priest, and L. T. Wells, along with volunteers Rachel Wells and “Shucker” Catherine, have helped at all 80 events!



At the May meeting, Club President Rick Scott presented perfect attendance pins, recognizing members with perfect attendance from 1 year to Graham Blake with 59 years. Club members also gathered to celebrate Ruritan Sunday and worshipped with Union Baptist Church.



The Department of Wildlife Resources sponsored a “Kids Free Fishing Day” for ages 5-15 at Beaverdam Park on Saturday, June 8. Several Conservation Police Officers, led by Officer Roy Morris, were on site to help the young anglers and brought fishing poles and bait for the 30 registered participants. The club’s Public Service Committee was on hand to provide lunch for the participants.



WEST POINT PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP



West Point awarded their Build Your Dollar scholarship to Trinity Puckett, who is enrolled in Diesel Mechanics Technology at Rappahannock Community College. Pictured, club foundation board member Rae Brewer, presents a scholarship check to Rappahannock Community College President Dr. Shannon Kennedy.

The club also received a donation from the West Point Chamber of Commerce for providing food for the June 14th Jammin’ on the Point.

GLOUCESTER BAGS A BIG ONE

Gloucester club members Barbara Bauer, Karen Bauer, and Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge collected and bagged 142.5 pounds of plastic bags. Barbara and Karen delivered the bags to the local Food Lion store to be recycled into park benches for the county in coordination with the Gloucester Lions Club.



Club members and spouses were ready to serve hungry riders who participated in the first annual American Legion and Riders Chapter 75 Ridedown-The-Need Poker Run. Pictured (l-r) are Zone 4 Governor Don Sandridge, Henry Thompson, Paul Bauer, Jan Searls, Ron Searls, Karen Engle, Eric Engle, Barbara Baier. Bill Naquin, Michael Bombard, Bob Beyea, Jo Hurd, and Rachel Serio. Not pictured was Meggie Smith.

The club celebrated their 75th Anniversary in June. 2023 National President Michael Morrison kicked off the meeting by inducting new members Meggie Smith and Michael Bombard. House of Delegates Representative Keith Hodges presented a certificate of congratulations on behalf of the Governor of Virginia. Longest serving member Lou Serio shared several of the club's past service projects, such as the first one he helped on 38 years ago building outhouses for two local families.



SHORT PUMP HONORS LOCAL HEROS

Short Pump honored three Henrico County first responders and a Short Pump business owner and presented college scholarships to eight Henrico County high school students at the Club's 2024 annual awards banquet and membership meeting. More than 50 members and guests, including friends and family members of the award and scholarship recipients, attended the banquet held at Kitchen 33 Restaurant in Glen Allen on June 25.

Award recipients, each chosen by their respective Henrico County department, were 2024 Firefighter of the Year – Lieutenant Brian Morgan, 2024 Police Officer of the Year – Sara Sizemore, and 2024 Sheriff's Deputy of the Year – Nicholas Hayes. The Short

Pump Businessperson of the Year Award was presented to Tom Leonard, owner of Tom Leonard's Farmers Market, in recognition of his business's contributions to area charities and nonprofit organizations.



College scholarships totaling \$1,500 each were presented to the following graduates: Yuna Chen (Maggie Walker Governor's School), Kyle DeNoewer (J.R. Tucker High School), Elizabeth Herod (Douglas Freeman High School), Sheza Khan (J. R. Tucker High School), Judy Ma (J.R. Tucker High School), Jocelyn Ozfidan (J.R. Tucker High School), Dylan Seoparsan (J.R. Tucker High School), and Aquib Syed (Mills Godwin High School).



BEALETON-REMINGTON AWARDS LEADERS

Bealeton-Remington Club President Rick Compton presented John and Marybeth Waldeck with the club's 2024 Community Leader award. The Waldecks envisioned a community garden, which has come to fruition with lots of food to share and a gathering space for the community.



SHAWNEE SERVES COMMUNITY



Shawnee donated two flags for the 4th Annual Healing Field of Honor in Winchester, VA. One flag was placed in honor of charter member Donnie Oates, who served in the United States Army. The second flag was placed in honor of long-standing member Vernon Combs, who served in the United States Air Force.

In June, the club packed snack bags for folks in local nursing homes and assisted living homes for Operation Remember, a program whose mission is to provide extras that some of the residents would like but don't always get. They also packed over 65 meals for Family Promise, a local organization and part of a nationwide network that works to meet the basic needs of displaced families with children. The club supports Family Promise through donations, furniture deliveries, and meal preparation and delivery to families living in motels.



News From Ruritan: RAPPAHANNOCK District

SUMERDUCK HOSTS SUMMER FUN

Sumerduck recently hosted a Summer Fair with vendors and artisans, a farmers market, and a yard sale. They have continued their community favorite “Pickin’ Parties,” scrapbooking events, beef raffle, poker run with motorcycles, and car show. They have also hosted box dinner sales in July and August and a family movie night.

They awarded two scholarships to Mierra Hogan and Briston Umberger, and recently welcomed new members Ashleigh Rose, Robert Gibson, Rebekah Gibson, Leonard Grove, Regina Baucom, Joanne Outland, Traci Costello, Jeremy Embrey, Heidi Grove, and Elizabeth Bender.



News From Ruritan: APPOMATTOX District

MIDLOTHIAN RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Midlothian was recently honored with the Community Builder Award by the Midlothian Masonic Lodge. The award recognized the club for their outstanding community service. Presenting the award were Worthy Master Daniel W. Fink, and Sr. Warden Matthew J. Johnson. Guest speaker State Senator Glen Sturtevant then spoke to attendees about his history in the state legislature and discussed topics from the most recently completed General Assembly session.



BURKEVILLE AND CLARKSVILLE HONOR EDUCATION PURSUITS

Burkeville presented their annual scholarship to Hannah Greene of Rice, Virginia. Hannah received an associate degree in Arts and Sciences from SVCC with the highest honors. She attended The Governor’s School and will attend the University of Virginia in the fall. Joining Hannah (center) for the presentation were her mother, Terry Green, grandmother Madelene Green, and brother Joshua Green.



Clarksville has awarded 35 scholarships for 2024, totaling \$110,000. The club recently hosted a dinner celebration that included 18 of the winners and their families. These ambitious students are attending 16 different colleges, universities, community colleges, or trade schools in either North

Carolina or Virginia. Each recipient told the group about being involved in a wide range of college majors, including aerospace engineering, architecture, kinesiology, elementary and secondary education, nursing, business, communication, pre-law, sciences, and automotive mechanics.



CHESTERFIELD PUTS PURPOSE INTO FUNDRAISER

Chesterfield (VA) learned of a local elementary school student (age 10) who had suffered a heart attack. The club hosted a fundraiser and donated the proceeds to the student’s family. The club also sent a Rudy Bear to keep him company, with a note explaining Rudy Bear and what he represents. Club President Bobby Burton made the presentation to the student’s school principal.



News From Ruritan: APPOMATTOX District

DISTRICT DONATES FOR CLEAN-UP

The **Appomattox District** donated \$1000 to the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department to aid in its clean-up operation of equipment because of a catastrophic chemical fire in South Hill, VA, at the Nutrien Ag Warehouse on the afternoon of July 6th, 2024. The fire was the largest of its kind in the area, drawing over 74 units and 154 firemen from 9 adjoining counties in Virginia and North Carolina. The fire was contained in a one-block area due to well-organized actions taken to prevent the fire from spreading. Pictured left to right, SHVFD Treasurer Grady Waters, Zone 2 Governor Wally Hudson, and SHVFD Chief Mickael Vaughn.



News From Ruritan: PEAKS OF OTTER District

CLUBS SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION

Boonsboro awarded their Build Your Dollars scholarship to Brenna Duffield. Brenna is attending Liberty University majoring in Clinical Psychology. Scholarship applicants are asked to submit an essay on how the Ruritan club has influenced their lives. Pictured with Brenna (center) is Debra Gaertner (left) and Mary Foster (right).



Glade Hill club member Danna Hayes presented one of two scholarships to Franklin County High School graduate Cora Houston. Miss Houston will be attending Virginia Tech majoring in Biology & Pre-Med. Isabelah Cauley, who was unable to accept in person, also a Franklin County High School graduate, was the second scholarship recipient. Miss Cauley will be attending Radford University majoring in Marketing and Business Management.

Madison Heights awarded their 2024 scholarship to Brianna Grooms (right). Brianna will attend Sweetbriar College.



ATKINS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Atkins welcomed new youth member Olivia Shumate. District Governor and Club Director Lester Owens presented Olivia with her membership packet. The club awarded their 2024 scholarship to Skye Widener.



The club also celebrated Ruritan's birthday with a community picnic and hosted their annual race car show.



COPPER CREEK HOSTS TASTY FUNDRAISER

Copper Creek hosted a country sausage fundraiser in February. Club members cut, seasoned, and ground the meat.

The club also joined Scott County Department of Social Services and other local organizations in promoting the message about child abuse prevention.



BONSACK/BLUE RIDGE AREA PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area awarded three scholarships for 2024. Recipient Samantha Bishop will attend Virginia Tech to study business, Jack Hinkle will attend Old Dominion University to study veterinary medicine, and Emerson Abshire will attend Virginia Western Community College to pursue a career in medicine. Club Vice President Lou Rader presented scholarships.



KERRS CREEK NOT ALL HOT AIR

Kerrs Creek set up their chuckwagon at the 4th of July Balloons over Rockbridge Festival in Rockbridge County, Va. Proceeds from the sale of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and drinks help fund the club's scholarships. Pictured (l-r) club members Richard Hasey and Wayne Spencer serve up a burger made from locally sourced beef.



DEERFIELD PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP

Deerfield (VA) Club President Sue Dula presented Patience Mays with their Build Your Dollar Scholarship. The club also donated to St. Jude and to their local HELP (Health Equipment Loan Program), which is managed by club member Stefanie Bartley.



STUART'S DRAFT SUPPORTS FOOD BANK

Stuart's Draft hosted a food drive at a local Food Lion grocery store. The club collected over 400 pounds of food. The food items and a cash donation of \$500 was presented to a local food bank.



WEYERS CAVE GETS HELP FROM FFA

Weyers Cave showed their support for the Fort Defiance High School FFA. Club President Randy Roller presented a check to FFA member Olivia Tarbell. FFA members helped serve dinner at the club's 85th Anniversary Celebration and helped with the club barbeque chicken fundraiser.



In July, the club welcomed a new member, Pam Roller. Club members joined Blue Ridge Community College President Dr. John Downey for dinner and a campus tour. They got to see several labs, including nursing, emergency medical technology, pharmaceutical production, and pharmacy procedures, which allow students

hands-on learning opportunities with state-of-the-art equipment and simulated work settings. Dr. Downey also explained how short-term workforce programs enable students to advance with financial assistance from state and local scholarship funds.



BRIDGEWATER RECOGNIZES COMMUNITY SERVICE

Bridgewater recently installed new member Chloe Kiracofe. They also recognized Robert Holden and Melvin Wampler for 45 years of service to their Bridgewater community. Service pins were awarded to Steve Bird, Curt Glover, and Rick Wampler (40 years), George Mason (25), Henry Graham (20), Dennis Rawley (15), Larry Elkins and Jim Tongue (10) and Rebecca Wright (5). Club members also visited a local robotic dairy.



The club has also awarded scholarships for 2024. Recipients are Jackson Curry, who will attend the US Coast Guard Academy; Brandon Pettit, who will attend Emory & Henry College; and Jackson Zirk, who will attend Liberty University. Two additional scholarships were presented in July. Recipients were

Callie Paradzinski, who will attend Liberty University, and Acadia Bowen, who will attend Coastal Carolina University this fall.



The club hosted guest speaker Dr. Christopher N. Sheap, a local dermatologist and member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Dr. Sheap presented an overview of the American Revolution from the British side.

FORT VALLEY FILLS SUMMER CALENDAR

Fort Valley had a busy summer. The club organized a clean-up of a local cemetery and sponsored the annual Community Memorial Day service, where local veterans are invited to participate in raising the flag.



Club members collected and chopped firewood, making it available to their community for winter heating needs. Pictured, Terry Plauger operates the log splitter. The club also hosted a Red Cross blood drive at the Fort Valley Fire Department. Zone Governor and club member Sandy Burner-Cave took time to donate.



The club organized the annual 4th of July parade and "Patriotic Games," which included a donut-speed-eating contest, a water balloon toss, and a watermelon seed-spitting contest.



PORT REPUBLIC HONORS SERVICE

Port Republic Club member John Phalen was recently recognized by having the John Phalen Educational Scholarship named in his honor. Mr. Phalen, 96, has been a Ruritan for 68 years and was the principal of Port Republic Elementary School for many years.



SINGERS GLEN CELEBRATES 80th!

Singers Glen has celebrated their 80th Anniversary. A significant number of club members are descendants of or have ties to the club's founders, while others are relative newcomers who claim Singers Glen as their hometown. Fundraising for the club has primarily been in the form of food events, including selling barbeque and hosting six pork tenderloin dinners each year, all prepared and served by club members.



During the event club member Bob Witherow (pictured center) was recognized for his endless hours of service at the Singers Glen Ruritan Recycling Center. Special guests at the event included (front row) National Director Cassie Flanagan, District Governor Larry Cave, Zone 3 Governor James Driver, (back row) Ruritan National President Robin Davenport, District Lt. Governor David Grimm, and Zone 3 Lt. Gov. and Club President Maribeth May.



Throughout its 80 years, the club has supported a variety of causes, from lunches for needy school children to helping establish and support the local fire department, aiding local Boy Scout troops, 4-H, and FFA organizations, and picking up trash along two miles of highway for VDOT. The club also serves as a safety net by helping cover medical expenses or other needs for community members.

The club also awarded their 2024 scholarships.



Pictured (l-r) are Emma Arenas, recipient of the Annual Larry Huffman Memorial Scholarship, awarded to students majoring in Education, club member Susan Huffman, and Scholarship Committee Chair Carol Mishler. Also pictured is recipient Elizabeth Smith with Scholarship Committee Chair Carol Mishler.



DISTRICT SUPPORTS SPELLERS

For the past 15 years, the Rockingham District has partnered with Scripps National Spelling Bee to send their local champion to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship.

The District hosts a regional spelling bee during the first weekend in March, covering four counties and the City of Harrisonburg. Thirty-one public and private schools begin their local school bees in the fall to select their top spellers. The Regional Bee Champion then competes in the Scripps National Spelling Bee the last week in May at National Harbor just outside of Washington, DC. The National Bee is a week-long event referred to as 'Bee-Week' where these champions are treated to many fun events in and around Washington, DC. During the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee, 245 champions came from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and US DoD Schools in Europe. Spellers also represented the Bahamas, Canada, and Ghana.



National Director and Regional Bee Coordinator Jeff Roadcap was invited to Washington to meet other regional partners, see behind-the-scenes production, and watch the National Bee. He was able to see the 2024 Rockingham District Ruritans Champion, Antony Elgohary, during the preliminary rounds, where he did very well and advanced to the quarterfinals. Unfortunately, he was eliminated in round 4, along with 88 other spellers. But not a bad feat when 11 million spellers began the bee process last fall.



Local financial support is critical in conducting the regional bee. Regional partners for the 2024 National Bee included newspapers, TV stations, sports teams, Kiwanis, Rotary, Big Brothers Big Sisters, educator organizations, universities, credit unions, public libraries, public school districts, PTAs, and many types of foundations. Districts or Clubs interested in becoming regional partners or wanting more information can contact Jeff through the Ruritan National office.



BURKITTSVILLE REELS IN WINNERS

Burkittsville hosted a trout fishing derby in April and awarded five scholarships for 2024. Pictured with Scholarship Committee Chair Warren Huffer are recipients William Byrd, Andrew Bobby, Isleina Ramas Mena, and Lindsay Delauder, with Shelby Beaver. Recipient Brandon Divita was not able to attend.



JEFFERSON HOSTS COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Jefferson MD hosted the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Jefferson community. The weekend began with a History Hall event on Friday evening dedicated to showing families and businesses that created the town in the 1700s, many of which are still here today. Saturday morning kicked off with a 5K Run through town and a 1K Fun Run for families with children, followed by a parade that ended at the Ruritan grounds. Local Scouts BSA and Girl Scout troops, area fire companies, local businesses, antique cars and tractors,

and various organizations with floats participated. Grand Marshall was Mrs. Jane Smith, the 98-year-old wife of the late Charles Smith, a founding member of the club.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were available at the food pavilion. Highlights of the event included the History Hall, a walking history tour of many of Jefferson's original buildings, craft vendors, a petting zoo, pony rides, and live entertainment. A dazzling firework display closed the event.



Ruritan National President Robin Davenport joined the celebration and rode in the parade.

JOHNSVILLE REMODELS FUTURE

Johnsville Scholarship Committee Chair Robin Ibex presented Gracie Stephens with the Joe and Betty Lind Scholarship. Gracie graduated from Linganore High School and will attend the University of Maryland at College Park.

The club recently refurbished the club building by replacing the roof, covering the gables, fascia, and soffits in vinyl, and painting the entire building. The FFA from Linganore High School helped landscape the property.



MAUGANSVILLE AWARDS FOUR

Maugansville awarded four \$1000 scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are Dr. Eric Meredith, recipients Mayzi Shank, and Emerson Moats, and Dr. Carl Galligan. Mayzi and Emerson shared with the club their future plans and ambitions. Also pictured with Dr. Meredith and Dr. Galligan are Reed Althouse and Elena Althouse.



KEEDYSVILLE PRESENTS SIX SCHOLARSHIPS

Keedysville has presented six scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Sarah Frushour, Sage Haller, Ava Nelson, Anaya Teye, Madison Kelley, and Colin Lord. Each student received a \$1500.00 scholarship.



ST. THOMAS AREA FLYS HIGH

When **St. Thomas Area's** flagpole needed repair, club members Butch and Deb Walls contacted the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, who responded with a ladder truck and personnel to repair the flagpole and install a new American flag.

The club awarded their 2024 scholarships to Willow Stoner and Torrynn Black (pictured with Scholarship Committee Chair Shellie Veertz). Willow will attend Kutztown University, majoring in Special Education, and



Torrynn will attend Bloomsburg University, majoring in Early Childhood/Special Education.



ZONE 2 CLUBS HOST SPECIAL EVENT

The District's Zone 2 clubs hosted the 12th annual end-of-year competition and picnic for the Special Olympics of Washington County. Approximately 175 athletes and their families were in attendance. Awards were announced and presented to several athletes who achieved excellence and improvement over the past year.



FARM LIFE CELEBRATES 75TH!

Farm Life recently held their annual Community Picnic and celebrated their 75th Anniversary. During the celebration, the club presented their 2024 scholarship to Cameron Lilley. Cameron has been helping at club events for several years. Cameron has already completed his associate in arts degree at Martin Community College, and will attend Pitt Community College to study Electrical Engineering.



ROBERSONVILLE AWARDS THREE

Robersonville awarded three scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Jacob Matthews, Payton Lane, and Libby Honican.

The club hosted guest speaker Robersonville Police Chief Chris Garrett (pictured with Club Vice President Tommy Whichard), and also donated Rudy Bears to the local rescue squad. Pictured with Vice President Tommy is Squad Chief Jonathan Dail.



Club members recently assisted a local resident by installing a ramp on their house.



COOPERS COMPLETES NEW CLUBHOUSE

On June 20, 2024, **Coopers** held their first meeting in their new clubhouse. This project, which took over two years to complete, is 2400 square feet and includes a large meeting room and a state-of-the-art kitchen. Club member John Sprague and his family outfitted the kitchen in memory of his late wife and past member, Maryanne. The kitchen was dedicated as “Maryanne’s Kitchen” in her honor. The board room was also dedicated as the “Southern Bank Board Room” in honor of their donation.



LYNN'S CROSSROADS HOSTS WINNERS

Lynn's Crossroads awarded ten Scholarships totaling \$7500. Recipients were invited to bring their families to the dinner and presentations. Each one read their essay and was presented with their own Rudy Bear.

The club also presented Rudy Bears to local first responders.



MEADOW CREEK RECOGNIZES WINNERS

Meadow Creek honored their 2024 Scholarship winners, Emerson Isabella Burke, Ava Grace Edwards (pictured with National Director and Club Secretary Ron Reid), and Jackson Lee Parrish. The club also celebrated 43 years of service to their community.



MOMEYER CELEBRATES 60!

Ruritan National President Robin Davenport and National Director Ron Reid joined members and guests in June to celebrate **Momeyer's** 60th Anniversary. Also on hand for the celebration were District Governor Marshall Ross, District Lieutenant Governor Robbie Causeway, and District Treasurer Geneva Ross.



OAK LEVEL SUPPORTS FUTURES



Oak Level awarded five scholarships for 2024. Pictured(l-r) are Club President Kaye Boone with recipients Marquel Warren, who will attend Fayetteville State University; Dakota Leonard, UNC Charlotte; Hannah Frazier, UNC Wilmington; and Aaron Brown, East Carolina University. Not pictured was Kayla Lewis, Catawba College.

The club also made donations to a local food bank, Community Christian Services, and Nashville Elementary School for a playground project.

REDWOOD HONORS STUDENTS AND VETERANS

Redwood awarded three scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Committee member Diane Clements, recipients Ava Prignano, Cameron Thaggard, Elijah Lemons, Committee member Dee Lemons, and Committee Chair Pam Thompson.



The club also hosted Vets to Vets United as guests at a recent meeting. The organization pairs rescue dogs with veterans in need of therapeutic animals. Dr. Terry Morris, DVD, PhD, (pictured far right) founded the organization. The club continued its support and recognition of veterans by placing American flags on veterans' graves at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens in observance of July 4th.

SILK HOPE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

National President Robin Davenport was on hand to help **Silk Hope** celebrate their 70th Anniversary.

In July, the club held their annual scholarship meeting, hosting nine scholarship recipients for the 2024-25 school year. The students and their families enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by club members and their spouses. Scholarship Committee Chair Michael Rogers shared an inspiring message and a total of \$11,400.00 in scholarships was presented to the students. A portion of that total came from the Gary Sydnor Memorial



Scholarship Fund, set up by Gary's widow Kristen. Pictured (l-r) are Michael Rogers, Haley Culberson, Chandler Scott, Colton Bredenberg, Sarah Dekaney, Madie Culberson, Logan Gunter, and Club President Bob Crawley. Brooklyn Quee, Kelton Fuquay, and Natalie Hamel were unable to attend.



News From Ruritan: **ROCKY MT.-DURHAM District**

WEST EDGECOMBE HONORS FIRST RESPONDERS

West Edgecombe hosted a First Responders Appreciation Dinner in May. Chief Robert Hassell of the Rocky Mount Police Department was the guest speaker. Representatives from Rocky Mount Police and Fire Departments, Edgecombe County Sheriff Department, Pinetops Police Department, Edgecombe EMS, West Edgecombe Volunteer Fire Department, and Heartsease Volunteer Fire Department received a bag of Rudy Bears.



WEST MOUNT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

West Mount awarded five academic scholarships during their May meeting. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Charles Brown, Kylee Pitt, Club President Angela Becker, Savanna Wells, Ashton Rhodes and Arby Bell.



News From Ruritan: **CAPE FEAR District**

BUNNLEVEL CELEBRATES COMMUNITY PROJECT



Bunnlevel has completed the first phase of a major community project. Once completed, it will become the Bunnlevel Community Pavilion. The club hosted a “Boston Butt” fundraiser to help with funding for the pavilion.

News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR District



The club recently awarded two scholarships. Pictured are winners Rachel Temple (left, with Club President Norma Byrd) and Kallie Newton (right, with Club Secretary Tammy Johnson).

The club hosted Senator Jim Burgin as guest speaker at their May meeting. Senator Burgin provided interesting and helpful information about their county and state.



The club also hosted their community Founders Day in June and their 78th anniversary celebration. The event featured games, a barrel train ride, and entertainment by Eric Hawks. Club President Norma Byrd and Vice President Beth Byrd officiated the ribbon cutting for their new pavilion.

DISTRICT PROMOTES FAMILY AND FELLOWSHIP

The **Cape Fear District** sponsored its second annual Youth and Family Day on June 1st. Hosted by **Gray's Creek** and held at Hall Park, which they founded and have maintained since 1978, the event built upon and improved upon the first year. A train ride, corn hole, kick ball, playground fun, a little softball practice, and board games played by young and old ensured there was something for everyone.



JOHNSONVILLE OFFERS APPRECIATION

Johnsonville provided breakfast and small handmade gifts for Johnsonville Elementary School staff on Teacher Appreciation Day. The club also provided a lunch of Subway sandwiches and sides for the Spout Springs Emergency Services quarterly meeting as a small token of appreciation for all they do for the community.



The club recently hosted J.R. Poe, Joe Gendics, and Lucky, who presented a patriotic program.



Lucky helped with the invocation and Joe recited the lyrics of Johnny Cash's song "Ragged Old Flag." Club member Rodger Nicely joined J.R. in folding the U.S. flag as Joe shared the meaning of each fold. Lucky is a border collie service dog, who partners with Poe in visiting veterans in hospitals and nursing homes and offering animal therapy.

Club members filled over 20 cheerful goody bags with personal items and candy for local dialysis patients. The club also hosted a flag retirement ceremony, presented by Scout Troop 713 and Cub Scout Pack 713.



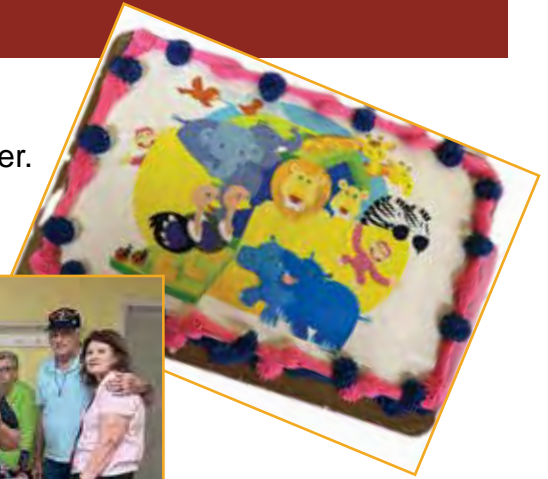
Club President Mike Lancaster presented scholarships to four deserving seniors. Macie Smith received the Tom and Carole Davis Community Service Scholarship. Cole Thomas, Justice Merchant, and Nicholas Duckworth were additional scholarship recipients.



News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR District

SEVENTY-FIRST PROVIDES FOR FUTURE

Seventy-First hosted a Baby Shower for the Agape Center. The club also presented their 2024 Build Your Dollar (BY\$) scholarship to Cheyanne Griffin (center).



News From Ruritan: SPARTAN District

AUGUSTA ROAD HONORS WINNERS

Augusta Road honored six scholarship recipients in July. The club awarded their Build Your Dollar (BY\$) scholarship to Mariah Cash, their Willis Creamer Memorial Scholarship to Logan Pate, their South Greenville Entrepreneur scholarship to Brett Pate, their South Greenville Farmer's Market Scholarship to Kinsley Donald, and two "start-up" scholarships to Eli Turner and Catherine Tripp. Pictured (l-r) are Club President David Pietras, Logan Pate, Kinsley Donald, Brett Pate, and Club Vice President Starr Lynn Birx.



The club hosted guest speakers Ken and Helen Hinkle, who shared about their work with the Quilts of Valor organization. Quilts of Valor is a national organization that recognizes members of the military for their service by providing them with a quilt made in their honor. As an organization, they have "wrapped" over 400,000 since their beginnings in 2003.

News From Ruritan: SPARTAN District



The Club also got a “ramp lift”! A generous group of workers came together to replace the old ramp with an ADA-compliant ramp that will serve the club for years to come. Club members (and college students) Brett and Logan Pate worked with the men who volunteered their time and talents to make our building more accessible. Summer Leadership Conference Speaker Gene Burgess (pictured far left) was instrumental in getting this project completed.

News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District

GILBERT FOCUSES ON ENVIRONMENT

Gilbert club members participated in the Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative Community Trash Clean-Up Day in May. The day was set aside to recognize and respond to the need to protect our environment and enhance our community’s beauty! It was also a fundraising event for the club. Members picked up 36 bags of trash and covered approximately seven miles of roads in the Gilbert area. Environment Committee Chair Ann Hubbard was instrumental in overseeing this project.

The club spent several hours cleaning up Gilbert Community Park on a lovely summer morning. Club members picked up pinecones and limbs, raked, cleared sidewalks, and more. The park is a six-acre green space with walking paths, several garden areas, picnic tables, an amphitheater, restrooms, a plaza with state symbols, and a children’s playground.



The club presented their 2024 scholarships to Joshua Corley (left), who plans to attend the University of South Dakota, and to Lily Price (right), who plans to attend Clemson University, SC.



News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District

The club also enjoyed an exciting day at the 65th Lexington County Peach Festival on July 4th. With help from the Gilbert Scouts, club members dipped over 3500 cups of delicious peach ice cream and sold over



250 bushels of fresh peaches. Club members also managed a parking lot for the festival. Proceeds from the sales support the Scouts, student scholarships, and worthwhile community projects throughout the year.



PINEVIEW LAUNCHES NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Pineview awarded their first “Joe & Peggy Pinner Scholarship” to Graham E. Whittle. Graham graduated from Airport High School, where he was a Beta Club, National Honor Society, Student Government, and baseball team member. In the fall, Graham will attend Coker University and will live his dream of playing collegiate baseball.



The club also offers previous scholarship recipients the opportunity to apply for a continuing education scholarship if they maintain a GPA of 3.0. Pictured are recipients Alejandra Rubio, a rising Junior at Lander University majoring in Nursing; Witt Hook, a rising Senior at Clemson University majoring in Forestry Resource Management; and Maria Rubio, a recent 4.0 GPA medalist graduate of Lander University with a degree in Psychology and Spanish. Maria is now pursuing her Master’s in School Counseling at the University of South Carolina.





The club was recently recognized on the floor of the South Carolina House of Representatives by Rep. Chris Wooten with a Resolution to publicly thank Pineview for 70 years of service to our community. Pictured (l-r) (back) Ken Johnson, Gregg Pinner, Eddie Porter, Jacob Hendrix, Ross Snell, (middle) Billy Warren, Rick McDermott, Jimmy Bristow, Von Taylor, (front) Abram Bristow, and Fran Bristow.

SANDY RUN RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Sandy Run received an award from House Representative Russell Ott, thanking the Sandy Run Ruritans and Liberty Day Kids for being the state's most loyal visitors to the SC State House for Liberty Day. For over thirty years, the club has hosted local students at the South Carolina State House so they can learn how state laws are made.



The club continued an annual event by delivering treats to Sandy Run K-8 and Foundation Christian School for Teacher Appreciation Week. Pictured, Knox Stabler and Grandpa Marshall Stabler make a delivery.



In June, the club honored six scholarship winners for outstanding academic and school service performance. Pictured (l-r) with Club President Jill Crim are Gabrielle (Gabby) Jourdain, who will major in physical therapy at USC Aiken; Sage Davis, who will attend Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College; Aubrey Broadway, who will attend Midlands Technical College; Emma Rucker, who will attend Midlands Technical College, and Social Development Chair Teresa Helms. Cassandra Eve Thomas and Connor Franklin Hayes were honored in July.



News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District



Cassie will attend Furman University in Greenville, and Connor will attend Trident Technical College in North Charleston. With support from several local businesses and individuals, the total amount of scholarships given was \$10,800.00.

The club celebrated their Christmas in July project by collecting items from the monthly Project 52 donations to make bags of canned goods, treats, and candy for local shut-ins. They also took bags of fresh vegetables and fruits from the South Carolina Farmers' Market.



News From Ruritan: UPPER WEST VIRGINIA District

AUGUSTA WV HONORS RUDY BEAR TRADITION

Augusta WV presented over 100 Rudy Bears in honor of Joe Pancione, who was instrumental in the creation of the Rudy Bear program. Joe's grandson Tyler Pancione attended with his two young daughters to represent the family. Accepting the bears for their organizations were President Benji Hott of the Augusta Volunteer Fire Company; Chief James "Bubba" Aylor of the Augusta Volunteer Rescue Squad; Deputy Director Hope Friis of the Hampshire County Emergency Services Agency; Hampshire County Sheriff Nate Sions; and State Trooper Jeremy Carson.



WILLIAMSBURG RECOGNIZES PRESENT AND FUTURE LEADERS

Williamsburg Club President Ray Phillips presented “Jack Goodman Memorial Scholarships” to three local seniors. Pictured with Ray (far right) are recipients Hayden Ridgeway, Ashley Stidom, and Issac Jones.



Club President Ray Phillips (r) presented Matt Jarrett with the “Community Champion” award. Matt was nominated for his leadership as Chairman of the Revitalization and Development subcommittee of Williamsburg Community Action Group.

BAGDAD HONORS SERVICE



Bagdad member Danny “Kac” Newton received his 50-year member badge from Kimberly Carter. Kimberly stepped in on behalf of her husband, National Director Roger Carter, who passed away earlier this year.

FINCHVILLE AWARDS BY\$

Finchville presented their 2024 Build Your Dollars Scholarship in July. Recipient Sydney Eades addressed the club members about her study in languages and her plans to study abroad in Argentina and Germany next semester and during her senior year. When she is not away at school, Sydney lives and works on her family’s farm in Finchville KY.



BELL RIDGE PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Bell Ridge awarded their 2024 scholarships. Pictured with Club President Robert Price are recipients Ashlee Hutchens, who attends Northeast State Community College; Phillip Page, a student-athlete at Maryville College; and Kevin Price, who attends Tennessee Tech.



SOUTH HOLSTON SETS RECORD!

South Holston presented scholarships for 2024 totaling \$18,500, the most they have ever awarded!



DISTRICT ENJOYS FELLOWSHIP



The Tennessean District held its Annual Picnic, hosted by the Houston Ruritan Club. Butler Club President Eddie “Rollin Smoke” Kinser catered the barbeque main dish while other members brought side dishes and desserts. Attendees enjoyed several games of bingo, and the district presented gift cards. Bell Ridge member Tom Page was presented a 50-year pin by District Governor Gary Olinger.

News From Ruritan: **CHEROKEE** District

COKER CREEK HOSTS CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST



Coker Creek hosted a successful “Christmas in July” breakfast with Santa and Rudy Bear. Proceeds will help support their local school with supplies for students and teachers.



News From Ruritan: **OHIO** District

BUCKEYE FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Buckeye awarded three scholarships for 2024. Recipients were Shayleigh Hornyak, pictured with her grandfather and club member Donny Brannon; Elizabeth Stock, granddaughter of club member Ralph Nickoson, pictured with Club President Brian Yanssens, and Club Treasurer Tammy Yanssens; and Grace Browning, granddaughter of club member John Wetherell.



The club added to its community service projects by placing a new sign at the cemetery for community information, painting the flag pole, and weeding and mulching the sign at the entrance to the village.



News From Ruritan: OHIO District

KNOX CELEBRATES 50TH!

Knox held their 50th anniversary celebration in June that included awarding scholarships to local students. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Dexter Sams, Club Secretary Mel Albrecht, scholarship recipient Katelyn Bondoni, Club Treasurer Dennis Cameron, scholarship recipient Nate Legros and Rudy Bear. The celebration also included charter members Terry Blickensderfer and Lee Johnson, and Ohio District Governor Dave Wingett. Several scrap books were on display showing various projects the club has undertaken over the years.



LAKER PRESENTS SEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS



Laker awarded \$1,000 scholarships to seven area students. Five students from Pymatuning High School, one student from Badger High School, and one student (not pictured) from St. John's School in Ashtabula. The scholarship certificates were presented at each school's award assembly.



WEST TOWNSHIP ENJOYS COMMUNITY

West Township installed a Little Free Library at its clubhouse pavilion and will be celebrating their 71st anniversary this year. The club was able to award seven scholarships for 2024, funded by proceeds from their pancake breakfasts. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Lydia Sanor, Madeline Crissman, Tana Reed, Katelyn Barnaby, Kaylen Burns, and



Alexcya Conner (not pictured is Hera Hoffee). Club members also participated in a community parade, with youth member Shy Brannon suiting up as Rudy Bear to hand out candy.



News From Ruritan: OHIO District

WINONA ADDS TO SCHOLARSHIP TOTAL

Winona recently awarded their scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are Caron and Tom Richey, with daughter and recipient Piper Richey, recipient Emma McDevitt, Club President Robert Doyle Jr., recipient Dallas Boyd, and his great-grandfather, Homer Huprich, and Kade Pasco, with grandfather and Club



Treasurer Bob Doyle Sr, mother Teri Doyle Pasco, and Uncle and Club President Rob Doyle Jr. The club has presented over \$50,000 in scholarships to date. The club funds their scholarship program with proceeds from semi-annual "All-You-Can-Eat" pancake and sausage breakfasts.

The club once again held its "Made in America" summer gun raffle. Club members sold all 100 raffle tickets for a Henry.410 shotgun and a Henry .22 pump-action octagon barrel rifle. Pictured (l-r) are Raffle Chairman Michael Kneodler, raffle winner Jerry Kleinman, and Drew Wartluft of Runzo's Outdoor Sports.



News From Ruritan: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA District

DEEP GAP PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Deep Gap awarded \$8500.00 in scholarships for 2024. Seven scholarship recipients and their families were invited to the May meeting. The students were presented with a check



and a certificate recognizing their achievements. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Leslie Gentry, Emma Bunn, Kasey Gragg, Palmer Smith, Lauren Patterson, Cassidy Johnson, Ellary Smith, Moriah Bollman, and Scholarship Committee Chair Billie Rogers.

News From Ruritan: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA District

NUMBER THREE TOWNSHIP HOSTS FANCY RIDES

Number Three Township hosted a spring car show. There were 77 entries, 33 trophies were presented, and a drawing for a \$500.00 winning ticket was held. The club also awarded two \$2000.00 scholarships to local students.



News From Ruritan: DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY District

HARTLY SHOW SUCCESS WITH FUNDRAISERS

Hartly had a successful summer with several fundraisers. Their community's favorite is the All-In Paddle Auction. With about 100 paddles sold, guests had chances to win gift baskets and other prizes.



The club also hosted its Annual Flower Sale on Mother's Day weekend. Despite a torrential downpour, the community turned up, and everyone went home with beautiful arrangements.



News From Ruritan: DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY District

KENT AND TRI-COUNTY AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS



Kent has awarded two scholarships for 2024. Recipients were Drew Davis (l) and Madison Messick (r).



Tri-County awarded sixteen \$600 dollar scholarships to graduating seniors from six local high schools. Nine of the recipients attended a recent club dinner and shared a brief introduction and upcoming educational plans.



News From Ruritan: PIEDMONT District

FRANCISCO SHOWS THEY CARE

Francisco hosted their annual blood drive in May. The event resulted in 38 units of blood being collected.



The club presented Emma Gayle Gunn (r) with a \$1,000 scholarship and welcomed new member Scott Lindemuth (l). The club also hosted a “Celebrating Veterans Ice Cream Social.” Attendees represented the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.



News From Ruritan: **PIEDMONT District**

SANDY RIDGE HONORS SERVICE PROVIDERS

Sandy Ridge provided a catered taco bar for Sandy Ridge Elementary School teachers and staff in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week.

The club recently presented a memorial bench to the Sandy Ridge Community Center, a testament to the late Otha and Lena Priddy's instrumental role in its development.



Mr. Priddy, a charter member of the Sandy Ridge Ruritan Club, and his wife were dedicated community members. Pictured with the bench is their daughter, Kaye Priddy Isbell.



The club also honored the members of the Northeast Stokes Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. with an appreciation meal. The club and fire department have worked together throughout the year to provide numerous fun and educational

activities for our community. We strive to engage our community through these events to encourage volunteer service in both organizations.



News From Ruritan: **DAN RIVER District**

CARVER ROAD CELEBRATES MILESTONE

Carver Road celebrated their 50th anniversary in July. They kicked off the party by inviting their community to join them for hot dogs and fixings. Charter Members Lloyd Penn and Jermone Spencer were also on hand for the festivities.



DRY FORK AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Dry Fork awarded scholarships for 2024. Pictured with Club President Marcella Heldreth are Seth Striker, who will be attending Coastal Carolina University; William Anderson, who will be attending Danville Community College; and Cole Oakes, who will also be attending Danville Community College. Not pictured, but also receiving scholarships are Kennen Lewis, who will attend Virginia Military Institute, and Teiojae Brandon, attending Danville Community College.



PATRICK SPRINGS SUPPORTS SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Patrick Springs presented a \$500.00 donation to the Patrick Springs Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured (l-r) are Seth Bryant, James Bryant, Club President David Clement, Ross Adams, and Bret Stovall. The club also made a \$500 donation to the Patrick Springs Primary School kindergarten “Cubs to Cougars” program. The school matches a senior with a kindergarten student for activities throughout the school year. The club’s donation will help purchase tee shirts for the students.



The club sponsored a community trash pick-up in March. Club members had help from the Boy Scout troop they sponsored. The club also hosted a “Poor Man Dinner” fundraiser. The meal included pintos, potatoes, fat back, cornbread, desserts, and a drink. The club was assisted by members of Red Bank.



RANGELEY SUPPORTS PATH TO FUTURE

Rangeley awarded three scholarships for 2024. Pictured with Club President Rick Huffman are recipients Scott Harmon, Olivia Mason, and Dee Webb, who accepted on behalf of her daughter, Danielle Amos.



STUART CELEBRATES BUSY YEAR

Stuart celebrated its first anniversary in May. During their first year, the club hosted a Mental Health Awareness Walk, held a Bowl-A-Thon to honor first responders and veterans, collected items and donations for the Tuggle's Gap wildfire victims, and provided quarterly meals for the Patrick County Recovery Ministry.



During their anniversary party, Dan River District Ruritan Foundation Chairman Barry Sides presented Pamela Renea Smith with a Tom Downing Award. The club also presented its first scholarship in July. Patrick Henry Community College student Haley Day was selected to be this year's recipient. She is studying to become a Physical Therapy Assistant. Stephanie Keith and Kevin Smith made the presentation.



News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District



The Lincolnland District hosted Ruritan National President Robin Davenport for the week of July 4th. While there, he enjoyed visiting the **Dieterich Community Veterans Memorial Park** (1) and David White's Antique Tractor display (2). He also joined **Dundas** to celebrate their 55th anniversary. National Director Jim Zehr presented a certificate recognizing their years of community service (3).

President Robin visited the **Dubois Community Park**, was honored with a luncheon at **Montgomery**, and later visited with **Allendale**. He also joined **Jefferson Township** for their annual barbecue chicken and rib fundraiser and visited the memorial honoring Thurman Brown (4), an agriculture teacher who started the first Ruritan club in Indiana. He had a tour of the **Otwell Senior Housing Development** (5) and was presented with a basket of locally produced items while visiting **Hymera** (6). President Robin also visited with **Griffin** and **Skillet Fork** and rounded out his visit with breakfast at **Mt. Erie** and a visit to the **Bluford Veterans Memorial** (7).



BARREN SPRINGS COMMUNITY MAKING AN IMPACT

The newly chartered **Barren Springs Community** has hit the ground running! They have donated food for their local backpack program, showed their local teachers how much they are appreciated and participated in the local July 4th parade. The club also hosted its first pancake supper fundraiser.



BELMONT II REWARDS FUTURE LEADERS



Belmont II presented Citizenship awards to two deserving 5th Graders, Iris Nicholson and Carter Hudson. Each student received a \$50 gift card to buy school supplies for middle school, along with a certificate and their names engraved on a plaque at the school. The club has been presenting this award for over 50 years.

FAIRVIEW PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP

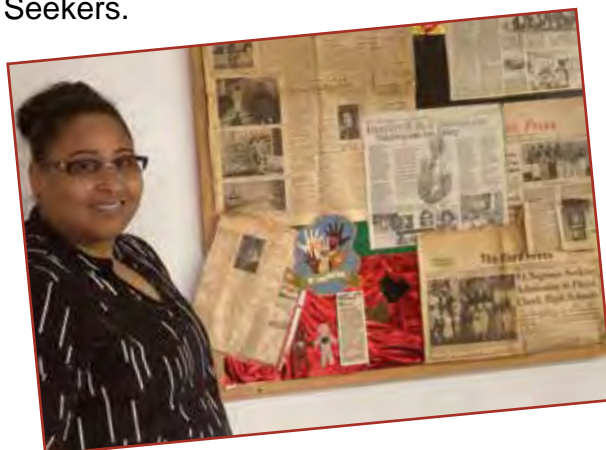
Rachel Horton Odell was the recipient of the **Fairview Inc.** scholarship for 2024. Rachel has been a club member since 2013. She is pursuing a career in the medical field. Rachel is also the granddaughter of long-time club members Roger and Betty Payne



FLOYD COMMUNITY MAKING MIGHTY IMPRESSION

Floyd Community, chartered earlier this year, thinks of itself as “small but mighty” as the group has made significant donations to various Floyd groups. The club has also hosted guest speakers in an effort to network with other agencies and groups providing much-needed services to Floyd County, VA. Among other projects, the club has accomplished the following:

- Participated in the 2nd Annual NRV Walk for Suicide Prevention Awareness and raised the third largest amount of money of all the teams;
- Had a table at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Oak Grove Pavilion;
- Participated in Pride in the Park for two years;
- Held a *Books and Boas* sale and raised \$300 to give to the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library for the American Library Association’s “Rainbow List” of LGBTQ+ books;
- Participated in the Walk for Multiple Sclerosis in Roanoke and raised \$390 for MS research;
- Created gift bags for the members of the Lady Buffaloes Basketball Team at Floyd High School;
- Hosted guest speakers Jenny Finn, executive director of Springhouse, Tara Orlando of Asylum Seekers, and the Rev. Wanda Childs of the Floyd-Willis Lutheran Parish;
- Participated in the Floyd Christmas Parade;
- Held a Christmas Dinner for area Veterans;
- Supported the Woolwine Ruritan Club with 23 community donations and several baskets of goodies for a fundraiser for two young people who had been in a severe car accident (the Woolwine program raised \$45,900);
- Recognized Juneteenth and Black History Month; and
- Donated a sewing machine to Asylum Seekers.



News From Ruritan: **NEW RIVER** District

LEAD MINES SHOWS TEACHER APPRECIATION



Lead Mines hosted a dinner for their 2023-24 Teacher of the Year recipients. The teachers were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the students and communities they serve. Pictured (l-r) are Tammy Spraker, from Fort Chiswell Middle School, Kim Nash, from Jackson Elementary School, Club President Vic Gravley, Sarah Musser, from Sheffey Elementary, and Melissa Cassell, from Fort Chiswell High School.

WYTHEVILLE PUTS THE “FUN” IN FUNNEL CAKE!

Wytheville had help from New River District Governor Tim Reeves for their funnel cake fundraiser at the **Oakland** club’s annual rodeo.



News From Ruritan: **DAVY CROCKETT** District

LIMESTONE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS!



In May, **Limestone** celebrated 70 years of community service. The club hosted a special Family Night for the celebration. One special guest, Mary Lynne Chandley, was 14 years old in 1954 when she helped serve the meal at the first club meeting. Other guests included National, District, and Zone officers.

Zone 2 Governor Bonnie Hartman presented the club with a new United States and Tennessee flag donated by Tennessee Representative David Hawk. Club member Tom Houston prepared a display of old pictures taken throughout the years, and National Director Lynn Fillers presented Club

President Tom Houston with a certification recognizing the 70-year accomplishment.



CAMP CREEK ENJOYS SUMMER GROWTH

Camp Creek recently welcomed new members Liz and Joe Donahay (pictured with Club President Tim Smithson). Tim also presented Reta Phillips with her 10-year service pin. Club Vice President Robin Tullock swore in new members



Glen Merklin Jr. and Jennifer Adamec, and the club also recognized Deryl Hodgens for his 30 years of dedicated service.



The club joined with the Camp Creek Volunteer Fire Department to provide local residents with a fun-filled Independence Day celebration. The Fire Department kept everyone cool with water guns, kiddie splash pools, and sprinklers while DJ Maddi McCullough kept everyone entertained with fun games and songs like the Electric Slide, the Chicken Dance, and



the Cha-Cha Slide. Club members kept busy in the kitchen by providing hot dogs, snacks, and beverages, and free ice pops. The night ended with a spectacular fireworks show provided by Michael McCue and crew.



The club continues to host the Taste and See food truck provided by the Holston Home staff and volunteers. They have been visiting on the fourth Monday of each month for more than a year. They provide prepared food, games, and activities for anyone in the community who wants to attend. They recently hosted their annual Summer Bash event, with a giant waterslide, bubbles galore, and much more.

News From Ruritan: **DAVY CROCKETT District**

TELFORD WELCOMES GROWTH

Telford Club President Carl Daniels welcomed new members Scott Whitmire and Annabell Malumphy (pictured).

As one of its ongoing Environmental Committee projects, the club collects drink can tabs for donation to the local Ronald McDonald House. Pictured, President Carl Daniels deposits tabs at their location.



The club presented their first Build Your Dollar (BY\$) scholarship in June. Their inaugural recipient was Sophia McCorkle, pictured with Club President Carl Daniels. Sophia plans to attend Samford University in Alabama and pursue a professional pharmacy degree.



News From Ruritan: **SMOKY MOUNTAIN District**

GIBBS CELEBRATES NEW BEGINNINGS

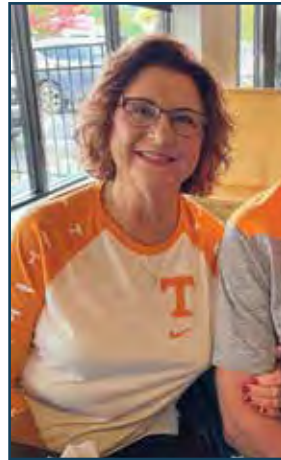
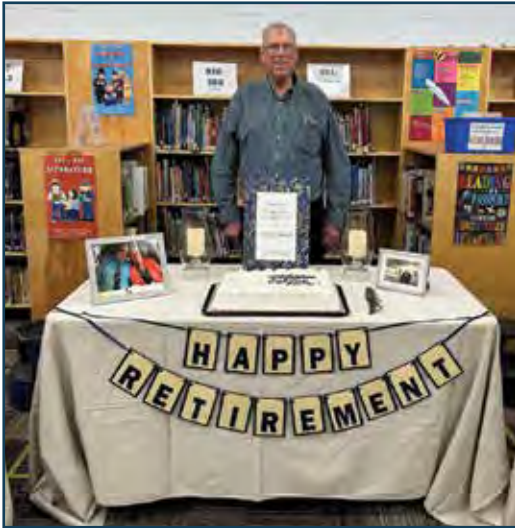
Gibbs recently named their 2024 Scholarship winners. Pictured (l-r) are William Spierdowis, Chloe Huskey, Boone Brockwell, Will Sharp, Scholarship Committee Chair Rebecca Longmire, and Club Treasurer Richard Wright (seated). All recipients were graduates of Gibbs High School in Corryton, Tennessee.



The club also welcomed new members Aaron Bradley (l) and Mark Field (r).

News From Ruritan: **SMOKY MOUNTAIN** District

Smoky Mountain District Governor and club member Dennis Webster recently retired from the Knox County Schools facilities and new construction office after 44 years of service. Additionally, club member Jane Wright has retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority, headquartered in Knoxville, after 45 years of service.



News From Ruritan: **RAPIDAN** District

CHANCELLOR RECOGNIZE WINNERS

Chancellor Business and Professions Committee Chair Rick Holcomb (pictured center) presented scholarships for 2024. Christa Williamson, pictured with her parents (left), will attend Randolph-Macon College. Ella Stonebreaker, pictured with her parents (right), will attend Germanna Community College.



COVE GARDEN SHARES COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Cove Garden has raised \$15,000 from three major fundraisers. Proceeds were used in support of the North Garden Volunteer Fire Company, Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad, Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary, Wildlife Center of Virginia, Virginia Wheelin' Sportsmen, and Hospice of the Piedmont.

The club also sponsored a youth baseball team at Cove Creek Park and supported the Ford Haitian Foundation through the annual Leroy Stevens Scholarship fund. They were also able to make a donation to the Student Support Services at Red Hill Elementary School (RHES) and the Spring Teacher Appreciation project.

News From Ruritan: **RAPIDAN** District

Club members have supported the OWLS (Outdoor and Wilderness Learning Space) at RHES by volunteering on workdays and education events. Projects have included completing the mulch path, additional weed control and tree management, installing bamboo play structures, and remediating the pre-K space and sandbox areas. They also refurbished or constructed 12 new growing beds of various sizes, which were later used for classroom instruction.

The club recently honored member Richard Gladstone for 27 years of flipping hamburgers at Cove Creek Park, often cooking hundreds in a single day (record = 485).

The club awarded six scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Mary Adelle Jones, Brooklyn Powell, Kaitlyn Wills and Ava Ewen.



WOLFTOWN VOLUNTEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Wolfstown members cooked burgers and hotdogs for Madison Day volunteers.

The club also presented a Tom Downing award to club member Roy McDaniel (third from left) and posthumously to his wife, Lillian.



The club recently hosted 2024 scholarship winners Abby Reynolds, pictured with Club President Mike Carpenter, and Ava Hettinger, with Club Vice President Mickey Laddane.



News From Ruritan: TALL CORN District

DISTRICT HOSTS NATIONAL DIRECTOR

National Director Jeff Roadcap visited with the **Brooklyn** club. Also present were several members from the **Delta** and **Moravia** clubs.

District Governor Rusty Clayton joined Jeff for a tour of the town of Brooklyn and shared her beautiful history.



Prominent in town is a flag display that Ruritans helped to fund. More recently added was a memorial to Brooklyn, IA native CPL Harold "Pie" Keller, one of six Marines who raised the US Flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.



News From Ruritan: GREAT PLAINS Area

SUTHERLAND COMMUNITY SHARES GROWTH

National Director Jeff Roadcap visited **Sutherland Community** and presented Club President Jim Johnson with the Great Plains Area Growth Award for 2023. He also presented Charter Member Kenneth Orthmann with a gold name badge honoring his more than 50 years of Ruritan service and wished him a Happy 97th Birthday! The club celebrated their 57th anniversary in August.



WHY RURITAN?

By Pam Walker, Baton Youth Ruritan Club Sponsor

Miss Hendrix, a 5th grade teacher at Baton Elementary School who is currently pursuing her master's degree, was assigned a class writing project entitled "What Are You Most Passionate About?" Her students took this on as a challenge for themselves and asked if they too could write or create projects of their own about what they were "Most Passionate About" to teach to their classmates. The students came up with projects about sports, cars, and celebrities. One particular student, Kendall's project was "The Ruritan Club". She started with the date of the first Ruritan Club meeting, who started the Ruritan Club, where, and why. Kendall then wrote the following:

"The Ruritans do more than just plant flowers and clean up the community. We bring it together with the activities we do. I am the President which means that if Mrs. Walker is busy with something I am in charge of the meeting. The Ruritan Club officers consist of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. It doesn't mean that you have to be a Ruritan Club member to help out the community. Anyone at any time or any age can pitch in to make the community a better place."

Not only does she volunteer for Ruritan during club meetings, but she also gives her time helping me collect items for an adult care center, work in a local food pantry, and she helps at her church. We also had a community garden spot competition at the Baton Walking Park where her team won the most social media votes from the community. She helped lead and guide our Baton Youth Club in earning almost 220 hours of combined community service between the months of August 2023 and May 2024.

We initiated the very first "Baton Ruritan Club Youth Member of the Year" this year. Kendall was chosen "Youth Ruritan of the Year" by her peers. She will be advancing to middle school next year where we hope to have a Ruritan Club sponsored there as well. She has already asked if she may come back next year and help support and work with the upcoming student members in the club next year. What a tremendous example of the next generation of Ruritan!

Quotes from Baton Youth Ruritan Members:

Abbey, 4th grade: "It's so much fun and it feels good to help others."

Natalie, 5th grade: "We help special people and the community."

Sophia, 4th grade: "You can't imagine the rush of helping the world become a better place!"

Trevor, 4th grade: "You help people and Ruritan is the best!"

Kolton, 4th grade: "Because it is really fun and you should join!"

Chloe, 3rd grade: "We help the community because we care."

Addie, 5th grade: "I would love to come to Baton Ruritan next year, but I'm going to middle school and I'm going to miss it."

Lisandro, 4th grade: "We're helping people and having fun!"

Molly, 5th grade: "I learned it is important to help the community and people."

Ryder, 3rd grade: "We get to go on field trips to help people."

Sophia, 3rd grade: "It helps kids learn to be kinder to the people in the community and to take part in helping our community."

Hannah, 3rd grade: "I like being a part of the community and being a part of a nice group that wants to do nice things for others."

Serena, 4th grade: "Because good citizens make the world a better place; it makes me feel happy to help others."

Pierce, 4th grade: "I like Ruritan because we help people and the community."



