



# Ruritan

Volume 89, Winter 2024





# Ruritan

Volume 89, Winter 2024

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Executive Director  
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### In this issue:

President's Message.....	3
Honoring 50+yr Members .....	4-7
Executive Director's Message.....	8
2025 Ruritan National Convention .....	9-18
Meet Your National Candidates!.....	13
A History of Women in Ruritan .....	19-20
Club and District News .....	21-58
<i>Ruritan Commerative Rifle</i> .....	59

## 2024 National President Robin Davenport



As we embark on this final quarter of my Ruritan year, I want to thank each one that has made this year such a success. It has not been an easy one, but we are seeing a new light.

I want to welcome you to the 2025 Ruritan National Convention in beautiful Greenville, South Carolina! We will be thrilled to have you join us for this exciting and historic year of Ruritan, as we celebrate our ongoing commitment to serving communities across the nation. Your dedication and passion for fellowship, goodwill, and service are what make Ruritan the strong and vibrant organization it is today. Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey, and we look forward to an unforgettable convention together!

Now on behalf of Ruritan National, I extend my (our) deepest gratitude to each of the following members for your remarkable 50+ years of dedicated service to our organization and the communities you serve. Your steadfast commitment has been a source of strength and inspiration, embodying the core pillars of Community Service, Goodwill, and Fellowship.

Through your tireless work, you have brought Ruritan's mission to life by improving the quality of life in your community, building goodwill through service, and fostering a spirit of fellowship that unites and uplifts those around you. Your dedication to our shared goals has helped to strengthen our communities and exemplify the true meaning of #RURITANSTRONG.

Please remember to wear your gold Fifty-Year Badge with pride and if you have not gotten yours, please let Craig Witt at Ruritan National know.

Thank you for your many years of service, commitment, and the countless lives you have touched. As I celebrate this significant milestone, I look forward to your continued contributions to our shared mission. Now look with pride for your name.

**#RuritanStrong**



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# Honoring Ruritan's 50+ Year Members

*\*per MMS database as of 11/1/2024*

## **50 Years**

Ballew, Ralph, Chesterfield NC  
Berryhill, Cal, Bethel Hill  
Berryhill, Joe, Bethel Hill  
Blickensderfer, Terry, Knox  
Bratton, William, Bolar  
Browning, Fred, Charles City  
Burton, David, Mount Tabor  
Carr, Albert, Southern  
Carrier, Samuel, South Holston  
Chatham, Kenneth, Westmoreland County  
Coffman, Philip, Mt. Sidney  
Copeland, Carey, Cypress  
Crouse, Roger, Fort Loudon  
Crouse Jr, Glenn, Fort Loudon  
Duckworth, Archie, Mill Shoals  
Duncan, Robert, Redwood NC  
Englert, Harold, Short Pump  
Evans, Delyle, Winterville  
Farrier, Martin, Newport  
Funk, Dennis, Bean Settlement  
Gillette, William, Capron  
Goodwin, John, Fellowsville  
Griffith, Melvin, Valley View TN  
Harper, Marshall, South Fork  
Harris, Buddy, Wharton Station  
Helsley Jr, Martin, Hamburg VA  
Hobe, Paul, Washington OH  
Horsley, Donald (Don), Creeds  
Kemper IV, G Whit, Port Republic  
Kimmell, Bob, Verona  
Laine, James, Wakefield  
Legard Jr, Sam, Hamilton VA  
Lewis, Carroll, West Edgecombe  
Lowery, Ralph, Back Creek VA  
Lowman, Frank, South River  
Lucas III, Blanie, Lynns Crossroads  
Magette, Kindred, Courtland  
Marker, Gene, Dundas VA  
McClintic, Bedford, Frankford  
Page, Tom, Bell Ridge  
Payne, Robert, Three Chopt  
Pearce, E., Charles City  
Peckman, Lloyd, Block Community  
Penn, Lloyd, Carver Road  
Pitts, William, Greenford  
Pullon, Gaines, Buffalo  
Queen, Thomas, Windsor VA  
Richardson Jr, Charles, Mathews  
Rollings, William, Surry County  
Ross, Marshall, Lynns Crossroads  
Sherman, Bill, Clover Hill  
Smallwood, Jim, Bloomingdale  
Spencer, M. Jerome, Carver Road  
Stallings, Paul, Newland-Providence

Swisher, Jimmy, Clarke County  
Thacker, Millard, Rougemont  
Thayer, James, Independence  
Tucker Jr., William, McKenney  
Valitsky, Ronald, Harpersfield  
Watts, William, Keysville  
Weeks, Joe, Eastover SC  
Williams, Gary, Waverly VA  
Wooten, Robert, Union Grove  
Wykle, Larry, Frankford

## **51 Years**

Ascanio Jr, John, Cherokee KS  
Baugher, Ishmal, Elkton  
Beaver, Norman, Bahama  
Bland, Jimmy, Gerow  
Bouknight, Allen, Weyers Cave  
Bowen Jr, Maurice, Cedarville District  
Cook, W Rocky, Silk Hope  
Cook, Elton, Silk Hope  
Cox Jr, Richard, Lynch Station  
Crook, George, Fairfield OH  
Curd, Richard, Mill Shoals  
Dove, Larry, South Branch  
Duck, Bobby, Walters Ruritan Club  
Eichelberger, Pierce, Little Pungo  
Evans, Keith, Elm Grove  
Fulmer, Monroe, Little Mountain  
Gilmer, Franky, Cannons Camp Ground  
Griffin, Warren, Cannons Camp Ground  
Hamilton, Robert, Boone Trail  
Helvey, Robert, Holston  
Houck, Robert, Lignum  
Howell, Philip, Como  
Howell, Sammy, Como  
Jones, Jessie, Waidsboro  
Jones, Frank, Powellville  
Kitts, Tommy, Mechanicsburg  
Lassiter, Marshall, Severn-Pendleton  
Marshal Jr., George, Wakefield  
Milliken, James, Kent  
Mills, Steve, Hollywood SC  
Moore, Tony, Winterville  
Morris, Dennis, Maur-Brook-Olive  
Myers, Don, McGaheysville  
Newton, Danny, Bagdad  
Nichols, Charles, Hollywood SC  
Owens, Charles, South Holston  
Patterson, Clyde, Boone Trail  
Pittman, Edward, Upper Lancaster  
Scott, Durwood, Windsor VA  
Snyder, Richard, Greenford  
Sutphin, Jonah "Jay", Gainesboro  
Sutphin, Robert, Gainesboro  
Thomas, Halford, Boone Trail

Ujcich, John, Bergholz  
Wells Jr, L. T., Abingdon  
Whitt, Larry, Central Caswell  
Young Jr, William, Disputanta

## **52 Years**

Bales, Larry, Townsend  
Bradley, Warren, Spottswood-Raphine  
Brittle, D Eugene, Wakefield  
Burner, Gary, McGaheysville  
Burnham Jr, James, South Mills  
Carter, Walton, Coinjock  
Cary, Max, Clarksburg  
Chinault, Mason, Peterstown Community  
Cusick, Robert, Allendale  
Day, James, Caroline  
Dean, Russell, Tuscarawas Valley  
Elam, David, Morrison  
Epps, William, Surry County  
Flowers, James, Sutherland  
Frith, Gary, Mt. Olivet  
Frith, Jesse, Oak Level VA  
George, John, Francisco  
George, Raymond, Redfield Community  
Givens, Mark, Newport  
Glass, James, Sutherland  
Gregory, C. Don, Gates  
Hall, Howard, Central Chesterfield  
Hanger Jr, Emmett, Sangerville-Towers  
Harper, Dean, Jefferson MD.  
Henderson III, Bert, Chuckatuck  
Hill, Wyse, Pomaria  
Honaker, Randolph, East River  
Hopkins, Walter, McGaheysville  
Hott, Benjamin, Augusta WV  
Johnson, Jim, Allendale  
Johnston III, Dover, Cartersville VA  
Jones, Creighton, Sutherland  
Mackert, Samuel, Cedarfield  
Maddox, Nowlin, Lyn-Dan Heights  
McLeod, Walton, Little Mountain  
Olgers Jr., N. C., Sutherland  
Olsen, Roger, Rehobeth  
Parker, Kenneth, Momeyer  
Parker, David, Francisco  
Perry, Donnie, Benvenue  
Pretlow Jr, Joshua, Chuckatuck  
Remsburg, David, Jefferson MD.  
Ritchie, Barry, Weyers Cave  
Robbins, Ronald, Cedarfield  
Roberts, Harvey, Shawboro  
Sager Jr., John, Bergton  
Sawyer, Joe, West Edgecombe  
Skeele, Winslow, Tioughnioga  
Smoot, Orville, Hamburg VA

Smucker, Ralph, Smithville  
Stimpson, Donald, Pole Tavern  
Stout, Homer, Buffalo  
Thomas III, James, West Shenandoah  
Tucker, Roger, Lawsonville  
Weatherford, Charles, Clarksburg  
Webber, William, Kenton  
Wilkins, Stanley, Mathias  
Williams, Ronnie, V-Point

### **53 Years**

Anderson, Frank, Brightwood  
Barger, Melvin, Bloomfield  
Bowling, Lewis, Hurt-Motley  
Boyce, Robert, Chuckatuck  
Brisson, Billy, Parkton  
Cassell, Carl, Madison Heights  
Coffman, Howard, Bargerton  
Cox, Charles, Lead Mines  
Curling, William, Wallacetown  
Davis, Randy, Cherry Grove  
Debrick, Roy, Hillsdale  
Eades, Robert, Union City  
Franke, Louis, Hillsdale  
Fuller, Samuel, Tioughnioga  
Gladstone, Richard, Cove Garden  
Gravitt, Barry, Aarons Creek  
Guthrie, Frank, Hickory  
Hemp Jr, William A (Billy), Jefferson MD.  
Hively, James, Broadway-Timberville  
Hobgood III, A. Dee, Prince Edward  
Holleman, Melvyn, Cypress  
Horner, W Kirk, Harrisonville  
Hudgins, David, Short Pump  
Huffman, Donald, Back Swamp  
Hulver Jr, Joe, Stonewall District  
Kavanaugh, Charles, Montgomery  
Lee, Fred, Parrottsville TN  
Martin, Douglas, Newport  
Mason, Ralph, Valley View TN  
Mauntel, Milton, Haysville  
Miller, Dennis, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Miller, Paul, Montgomery  
Moyers, Carroll, Bergton  
Murphy, Robert, Union City  
Myers, Lynn, Willoughbys  
Nesselrodt, Richard, Bergton  
Richardson, Larry, Collettsville  
Rilee, William, West Point  
Rodeffer, Wayne, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Romig, James, Green Valley  
Rowell, Roy, Cypress  
Saville, John, Augusta WV  
Sebren Jr, Herbert, Upper King & Queen  
Showalter, Fred, Montezuma  
Sickler, Charles, Wistarburg  
Stanfield, Stephen, Southern Caswell  
Stott, James, Green Creek

Tabb, Cordell, Cecilia Community  
Wall, Charles, Smoot  
Walton, Robert, Maugansville  
Warren, Raymond, Waverly VA  
Weaver, John, Piney Flats  
White Jr., Miles, Hunterdale  
Wiggins, James, Farm Life  
Willis, Edwin, Lignum  
Wilson, Jeff, Highland  
Wood, Calvin, Tioughnioga  
Worrell, Donald, Holland  
Wright, BW, Waidsboro  
Wright, Charles, Bridgewater  
Young, Garry, Bloomfield

### **54 Years**

Blagg, Lee, Stonewall  
Brumley, Charles, Glenwood TN  
Cooke, Joseph, Pleasant Ridge  
Cox, Vernon, Boone Trail  
Cupp, Wayne, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Custer, Larry, Fulks Run  
Davenport, Charles, Pactolus  
Deitz, Phillip, Callao  
Doolittle, J. C., Pomaria  
Duckworth, Charles, Chesterfield NC  
Endsley, Gordon, Mt. Erie  
Farlow, Tony, Bahama  
Foster, Thomas, Studley  
Garman, Frankie, Catawba Valley  
Gilleland, Randy, Ellendale NC  
Gribi, Ernest, Tuscarawas Valley  
Griffith, Van, Gamewell  
Herndon, Allen, Johnsville  
Hohlt, Herman, Pungoteague  
Key, Gilmer, Eldora  
Kovalik, Paul, Lodi  
Lankford, Ernest, Lawsonville  
Lee III, Noel, Pactolus  
Little, Joseph, Burrsville  
Lotze, Dick, Little Sandy Creek  
Loving, Charles (Brooken), Clay Springs  
Mabe, Ronnie, Patrick Springs  
Marriner Jr, Thomas, Roper  
McPherson, Ray, Wallacetown  
Miller, Wayne, Chancellor  
Mobley, Clayton, Bear Grass  
Myers, George, Sumerduck  
Nelson, Sidney, Griffin Community  
O'Quinn, George, Boone Trail  
Park, Billy, Parrottsville TN  
Price, Ray, Roper  
Pyles, James, Augusta WV  
Rogers Jr, Paul, Wakefield  
Rose, David, Elm Grove  
Shaffer, Darryl, Williamson  
Snyder, Dave, Springfield Township  
Stoltz, Monte, Harpersfield  
Tyson, Andrew, Elm Grove

Weisberg, Michael, Chuckatuck  
Winkler, Clarence, Mulberry-Fairplains

### **55 Years**

Babb, Phil, Chuckey  
Baines, Marshall, Elm Grove  
Baldner, Kenneth, Williamson  
Barbour, Bobby, Lead Mines  
Barrett, Butler, Greensville County  
Bass, Robert, Mt. Erie  
Bryant, John, Hunterdale  
Collins, George, Burrsville  
Criss, Robert, Northwestern  
Darnell, James, Seventy-First  
Ferguson, Michael, Brink  
Glover, Bruce, Mt. Erie  
Good, Bobby, West Rockingham  
Griffin, Cloyce, Grand Valley  
Harrison, Bill, Hamilton VA  
Hill, Charles, Bahama  
Hively Jr., Clyde, Millboro  
Hubbard Sr., Kenneth, Lewistown  
Hunter Jr, W Thomson, Eagle Rock  
Kahrig, William, Pennyroyal  
Kaiser, Maurice, New Franklin PA  
Ladrach, John, Tuscarawas Valley  
Lerch III, J J Bernard, Lothian  
Long Jr, Edward, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
McMahan Jr., John, Trumbull Community  
Miller, George, Tenth Legion-Mt. Valley  
Myers, Kenneth, Williamson  
Nurney Jr, Claude, Isle Of Wight Ruritan Club Inc.  
Payn, Ted, Lodi  
Payn, Gerald, Northwestern  
Plaster, Philip, Patrick Springs  
Raynor, Mack, Northeast  
Rosser, James, Clarksburg  
Swain, Elwood, Bath  
Swingle, William, Elmont  
Trobaugh, Gregory, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Turner, Miles, Fulks Run  
Turner, Jack, Atkinson  
Wellons, William, West Lunenburg

### **56 Years**

Beale Jr, Warren, Courtland  
Blackburn, Donald, Churchville (MD)  
Bonar, Charles, Burlington  
Branch, Ivan, Kerrs Creek  
Caldwell, John, Burlington  
Campbell, Robert, Leetonia  
Casey, Sam, Currituck  
Caudill, Teddy, Pleasant Ridge  
Clay III, John, Red Oak

Clyburn, Morris, East River  
Crussell, Horace, Buffalo  
Drake, Larry, Moran Community  
Edwards III, N., Windsor VA  
Ferguson, Donald, Spout Spring  
Gantt Sr, Donald, Prince Edward  
Hall, Robert, Buffalo  
Hemple, Ervin, Harrisonville  
Holtcamp, James, Crossroads TN  
Huffer, Randy, Burkittsville  
Huffman Jr, Earl, Back Swamp  
Johnson, W W, Westside TN  
Koenig, Robert, Hunterdale  
Kyhle, Amos, Warrenton  
Lane, William, Waverly VA  
Lantz, Carlon, Bergton  
McPeak, Wayne, White Gate  
Moyers, Carl, Bergton  
Oates, Donald, Shawnee  
Pemberton, Daniel, Chancellor  
Ramsey, Washington, Clarksville  
Roberts, Herman, Southern Caswell  
Southall Jr, O., Prince Edward  
Stanley, William, Independence  
Tidwell, Joe, Delta MO  
Troyer, Willis, Smithville  
Williams Jr, Richard, Newland-Providence  
Willingham, Lawrence, South Jefferson  
Zook, Marvin, Grassfield

### **57 Years**

Anderson, Jerry, North Davie  
Beck, Jonathan, Abingdon  
Bledsoe, Jerry, Hymera  
Bowman, Earl, Maur-Brook-Olive  
Bruner, Johnny, Copeland  
Clatterbuck, Wilson, Sumerduck  
Crawford, Wade, Albemarle  
Crider, Rodney, Bean Settlement  
Dunkenberger, Tom, Shawsville  
Early, Steve, Bealeton-Remington  
Eaton, James, North Davie  
Edwards, Latane, Hurt-Motley  
Evick, Bennie, Franklin WV  
Francis, Dean, Mulberry-Fairplains  
Harrup, John, Courtland  
Hartman, Eugene, Rehobeth  
Holland, Johnny, Boone Trail  
Houff, Doug, Weyers Cave  
Huffer, Gary, Burkittsville  
Johnson, Gene, Elsmore Community  
King, Charles, Brink  
Kline, Thomas, Franklin WV  
Lazenby Jr, Roy, Cool Spring  
Lerch, William, Lothian  
Myers, Vonnie, Highland Park  
Nease, Larue, Nolachuckey  
Pierce, Billy, Valley View TN  
Plasterer, Leerin, Shady Grove

Rodeffer, Charles, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Shelton, Billy, North Davie  
Slaughter, Alton, Pembroke KY  
Smith, Jr, John, Gates  
Thorburn, Allan, Chancellor  
Tomlin, Reid, Cool Spring  
Wrenn, Robert, Meherrin  
Wright, Ronnie, Burrsville

### **58 Years**

Anderson, P Warren, Amelia  
Davenport, Lawrence, Pactolus  
Dea, David, Abingdon  
Dove, Martin, Catlett-Calverton-Casanova  
Dustin, Ronald, Burkittsville  
Gresser, Philip, Smithville  
Harris Jr, Richard, Spout Spring  
Henshaw, Horace, Wilson-Hebron-Ford  
Hostetler, Charles, Smithville  
Kimbrow Jr, W., Southern Caswell  
Lineweaver, Steve, Gainesboro  
Madre, Donald, Bethel  
Matthews, Richard, Seventy-First  
Mitchell, Arthur, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Morgan, David, Glenwood Inc NC  
Newman, Dwight, Cross Keys-Mill Creek  
Ottinger, Dallas, Nolachuckey  
Proctor, Bobby, Temperance Hall  
Rodwell, Jerry, West Mount  
Seaton, Jack, Powellville  
Sheets, Nelson, McGaheysville  
Smith, Glenn, Bronson  
Wade, Reginald, Bahama  
Walker, Richard, Seven Mile Ford  
Welsh, Sam, Hamilton VA  
Whitlow, Delbert, East River  
Woodward, Richard, Bronson

### **59 Years**

Allen Jr, Daniel, Pungo  
Blake, Graham, Abingdon  
Brown, Edward, Shoals  
Chewning, Elmer, Mechanicsburg  
Eller, Homer, Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes  
Forrest, Tommy, Maury  
Griffin, Jon, Farm Life  
Grossnickle, Robert, Wolfsville  
Houff, Harry, Weyers Cave  
Huffman, Gary, Weyers Cave  
Jenkins, Jerry, Dundas VA  
Keeter, Jamie, Winterville  
Nuckols, Norwood, Short Pump  
Nunn, Lawrence, Aarons Creek  
Shiflet, Albert, Clover Hill  
Smith, John, Roper  
Snyder Jr, Donald, Springfield Township  
Summers, Charles, Jefferson MD.  
Venskoske, Jackie, Gainesboro  
Weems, Marshall, Mt. Pleasant TN

Wenner, John, Petersville  
Whaley, W., Mt. Pleasant TN

### **60 Years**

Althouse, Homer, Winona  
Bass, Paul, Momeyer  
Collins, Richard, Burrsville  
Ellis, Jerry, Pinson  
Grizzard Jr., Robert, Meherrin  
Hall, Elmer, Stanleytown  
Hinton, Pete, Momeyer  
Hull, Lyle, Churchville VA  
Jones, Herbert, Smithfield Ruritan  
Club Inc.  
Matthews, James, Momeyer  
Miller, Robert, Mt. Crawford  
Morgan, Gene, Glenwood Inc NC  
Pratt, Millard, Carson  
Rohrer, Israel, West Rockingham  
Sullivan, J., Earlysville  
Vaughan, Marion, Warwick  
Webster, Harry, Churchville (MD)

### **61 Years**

Arnold, Thomas, Petersville  
Bristow, David, Abingdon  
Gallaher Jr, Eugene, Dan River  
Hamilton, Terry, Fellowshipville  
Potts, Avalon, Smith Grove  
Reeves, Earl, North River  
Richardson, Paul, Pomaria  
Simmons, Roger, Pactolus  
Stouffer, Jay, Maugansville  
Testerman, James, V. C. F.  
Ward, George, Little Pungo

### **62 Years**

Chappell, William, Durants Neck  
Copeland, James, Holy Neck  
Eure Jr, Fenton, Rocky Hock  
Getz, Grayson, Forestville-Quicksburg  
Goodwin, Bobby, Belmont  
Horn Sr, Charles, North River  
Houff, Dwight, Weyers Cave  
Lewis, Paul, Wolfsville  
Lichtliter, Charles, Fort Valley  
Matthews, E B, Central Brunswick  
Merchant, Romy, Powhatan  
Michael, Maynard, Keezletown  
Riggs, Richard, Hymera  
Smith, Dave, Rohrsersville  
Wright, Cecil, Weyers Cave

### **63 Years**

Bauserman, Mark, Luray  
Dycus, Bill, Cohutta  
Frushour, Kenneth, Wolfsville  
Harlow, Roger, North River  
Jones, Jr., Joseph, Doswell

Kemp, Mark, Luray  
Lamma Jr, Edgar, West Shenandoah  
Lee, Edward, Pactolus  
Satterwhite, Robert, Ladysmith  
Showalter, David, Weyers Cave  
Simmons, Gerald, Southwood  
Traylor, Joe, Montgomery  
Tuckwiller, Sam, Richlands WV  
Wolford, Donald, Capon Bridge

#### **64 Years**

Benson, Stanley, Spottswood-Raphine  
Beydler, Jerry, Clarke County  
Brockwell, A. Roane, Burrowsville  
Campbell, Erwin, King William  
Garber, Larry, Mt. Crawford  
Grossnickle, Richard, Johnsville  
McBane, Dan, Eli Whitney  
Price, Robert, Burrowsville  
Smith Jr, James, Tuscarora  
Welce, Philip, Fairfield OH  
Wenger, C Winston, Broadway-Timberville

#### **65 Years**

Butler Jr, Steve, Carrsville  
Fisher, Price, Frankford  
Green, Charles, Frankford  
Howell, Leroy, Chuckatuck  
Taylor Jr, James, Rockawalkin  
Thompson, Bruce, Midlothian  
Vancamp, Leland, Beloit  
Winters, Valas, Beloit

#### **66 Years**

Armentrout, Elmer, Tenth Legion-Mt. Valley  
Frazier, Edward, Rustburg  
Gearhart, Dale, Shady Grove  
King, James, Frankford  
Milhimes, Shirley, Hunterstown  
Mims, Robert, Rileyville  
Moughan, Allen, Mathews  
Parrish, Wayne, Dundas VA  
Secrist, Woodrow, Linville-Edom  
Stroud, Reginald, Southwood

#### **67 Years**

Chesson, Mike, Waverly VA  
Duerson Sr., James, Louisa County  
Garvin Jr, Earl, New Franklin PA  
Knically, Gene, Mt. Crawford  
Payne, Franklin, Aldie  
Traylor, Jerry, Jefferson Township

#### **68 Years**

Brubeck, William, Middlebrook VA  
Chappell Jr, R., Bethel  
Phalen, John, Port Republic  
Ryman, Donnie, Forestville-Quicksburg  
Vincek, Edward, Grassfield

#### **69 Years**

Henderson, Don, Cohutta  
Myers, Roy, State Line  
Pope Jr, C.T., Cedar Grove

#### **70 Years**

Johnson, Lee, Clintonville  
Steigleder, Henry, Caroline

#### **71 Years**

Brubaker, Dan, Clover Hill  
Harris, Dick, Belmont  
Hummer, Thomas, Sterling

#### **72 Years**

Black, George, Charles City  
Butler, J, Stonewall District  
Haynes, Richard, Rohrsersville  
Koon, Neil, Smiths Station

#### **73 Years**

Boozer, Raymond, Gilbert

#### **74 Years**

Showalter Jr., E. C., Weyers Cave  
Simmons, William, North River  
Simmons, William, Sangerville-Towers



## Executive Director Sarah Kelly



This past year, I have seen dedication, compassion, and resilience in serving our communities. Community work demands time, patience, and, above all, heart. Every day, I see that spirit in what you do. You're not just volunteering—you're creating a foundation of hope and support for those around you. You are creating community.

Recall the lives you've touched: the single mother able to put food on the table, the elderly man who found new friendships at your events. The overwhelming support for those impacted by Hurricane Helene. These stories aren't just feel-good anecdotes; they're proof of our lasting impact. Helen Keller once said, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." We are proof of that. Together, we are more than a group of individuals—we're a team, a family, and a powerful force for change.

Yet, while we are a community dedicated to service, we sometimes find ourselves divided. I have seen clubs, districts, and even the National Board struggle with disagreements and competitiveness, with some individuals seeking personal recognition over collective success. This behavior is detrimental and eats away at the heart of our organization. Our forefathers would be heartbroken by this divisiveness, and we must turn this around.

I write this article on the day after the presidential election, when many of us now hope for healing and unity in our nation. Instead of being consumed by our differences, let's focus on the fact that we're all sisters and brothers with a common goal—to create thriving, connected communities. Instead of tearing each other down, let's lift each other through fellowship and goodwill. Let's be intentional about spreading respect, love, and compassion for one another. Together, we can lead the charge in building strong, cohesive communities.

Let's make our organization a model of unity and service in our efforts. Let's be the ones who take up the extra weight, who choose fellowship over division, and who see every act of kindness as a brick in the foundation of a healthier, stronger community.

As we move forward, let's remember Winston Churchill's words: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Every act of service we give is a part of ourselves that we share with the world, making it a little brighter, a little kinder.

Thank you for being the heart and soul of this organization. Let's move into this new year with unity, resilience, and a shared mission. Together, I believe we can make incredible things happen.



# 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**

**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	<b>Package 1</b>	\$250	
Base registration and 7th Inning Stretch Opening Ceremony Reception	<b>Package 2</b>	\$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 <b>Pre-sales Only – Order Now</b> S    M    L    XL    2XL    3XL    4XL	T-Shirt	\$25	
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

**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



# Meet Your National Candidates for 2025!



## National Director

Gary Collier  
3089 Lowrance Drive  
Kingsport, TN 37660  
Phone: (423) 480-8676 (Cell)  
Email: [gwandgang@yahoo.com](mailto:gwandgang@yahoo.com)

**CLUB:** Cedar Grove TN Club President 2024; Bloomingdale Club President 2020-2022; Club Vice President 2019 and 2023; Club Director 2018; Club Reporter 2021 & 2022; Chair of the Social Development Committee; Chair of the Business & Professions Committee; Chair of the Social Engagement Committee; Chair of Christmas Parade Committee; Co-Chair of the Fall Fest; Club Ruritan of the Year two times; DRM for Ketron Ruri-Teen club formed in 2022; DRM for the Cedar Grove TN club formed in 2024.

**DISTRICT:** Tennessean District Governor 2023; Tennessean District Lt. Governor 2021 & 2022; District Treasurer 2024; Chair of the District Publicity Committee; District Ruritan of the Year three two times.

**NATIONAL:** National Recruiter of the Year 2022; National Ruritan of the Year in 2022; Ruritan Forever two times; Attended Ruritan National Leadership Conference in 2021, 2022, and 2023; Spoke at the 2022 Leadership Conference on Recruiting; Attended the National Conventions in 2022 and 2023; Co-hosted a workshop on recruiting and retaining members at the 2023 National Convention.

**EDUCATION:** Ketron High School Graduate

**OCCUPATION:** Retired – Over 40 years in the work force with over 20 years in supervisory capacity; I was 28 years in the printing/binding industry; I have worked in auto sales and insurance sales, warehousing and as a field rep/tech.

**OTHER:** Been married 28 years to Loretta; have two children together (Joshua & Gabriel); have two stepchildren (Brandon & Brandy); Have eight grandkids and fostered five grandkids for over a year; volunteered for a while as a mentor at the local High School.



## National Director (one-year term)

Marty Sewell  
2845 Doylesville Rd  
Richmond Ky, 40475  
Phone: (859)582-4639  
Email: [Ms Sewell1@aol.com](mailto:Ms Sewell1@aol.com)

**CLUB:** Member of Union City (KY) club since 1988; served as Club President 1993, 2005-2006, 2014-2015; Club Vice President 2013 and 2024.

**DISTRICT:** Served as District Governor in 2015 and 2016; District Lt. Governor 2014; District Growth and Development Coordinator in 2003 - 2005; Zone Governor 2013 - present.

**NATIONAL:** National Director 2017-2020 and 2024; Publications Committee Chair 2019; Advancement Committee 2024. Have attended National Conventions and Summer Leadership Conferences.

**EDUCATION:** Madison Central High School, Richmond KY.

**OCCUPATION:** Self-employed.

**OTHER:** Member of the Union City Volunteer Fire Department; Madison County Fair Director; Former Co-President Madison Central Project Graduation; member of the Union City Baptist Church.



**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](mailto:crystal.andrews@ruritan.org)*

**\*\*\* TABLE SPONSORS NEEDED! \*\*\***



PHOTO BOOTH FUN!



SHOW OFF YOUR VOCAL TALENT IN GREENVILLE!



# \*\*\* SATURDAY WORKSHOPS \*\*\*

## **TITLE: GROWTH THAT MAKES GROWTH EXCITING**

**Presenter: Millard Thacker**

Do you think growth in membership matters? Do you want to learn how to boost membership, grow, and enhance engagement? If your answer is “yes,” then come to this workshop! It will be exciting!

## **TITLE: GROWING YOUNG – GATHERING YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Presenter: Zack McCallie**

This class will offer thoughts and ideas on how to get those younger involved in our organization. We will discuss a variety of methods and even projects to do to draw those younger members in. Come check out the class at the National Convention and learn a new method or two.

## **TITLE: RURITAN PLAYBOOK**

**Presenter: Jeff Roadcap**

Do you wish, as Ruritans, we could be the leaders in helping our communities at an even greater level than we are now but just aren't sure how to go about it? Come to the “Playbook” workshop and learn how this quick reference guide can provide fresh ideas about how to enrich our members & clubs and how to grow our Ruritan family.

## **TITLE: CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

**Presenter: Charlie Bowman**

You attend a meeting, can't agree with another member's idea and think your idea is better, and the disagreement starts. How do we solve this without hating one another? Visit this workshop and see if we can't work this out with agreement and respect.

## **TITLE: YOUTH WORKSHOPS**

**Presenter: Pearl Underwood**

1. Participants can look forward to a fun and interactive Craft/Bingo Session, where they'll get to express their creativity while enjoying a classic game with friends.
2. Our Internet Safety Session is an essential workshop that will teach you important tips and tricks for navigating the online world securely.
3. In the “Why Stories” session, attendees will delve into the power of storytelling and learn how to share their unique experiences and perspectives.
4. Finally, the Color Temperament Workshop will offer a fascinating look at personality types, helping youth better understand themselves and how to work effectively with others.

## **TITLE: COMMUNICATION**

**Presenter: Dean Marzocca**

So, you had a fundraiser, you picked up trash, a military vet was honored, or new officers were installed, but who knows about it? Why keep a secret and not tell the world? I'll show you how to make it known what a Ruritan really is. We'll have a fun time with a serious subject.



**TITLE: HOW TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE LEADER**

**Presenter: Alex Sowers**

Are you concerned about your family, your community, and the state of our organization? Are you willing to serve those in your community? If you answer “yes” to any part of these questions, join us at our workshop on Effective Leadership.

**TITLE: FUTURE CANDIDATES – INSPIRING TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP**

**Presenter: Rick Poff**

Passionate about making a difference in your community? Considering running for office? Come learn about working as a team, motivating districts and clubs, and preparing for leadership success!

**TITLE: STARTING A NEW CLUB**

**Presenters: Sarah Kelly and Juliann Poff**

Ready to expand your community impact? Join us for the ‘Starting a New Club’ workshop and discover some strategies, tools, and tips you need to launch new Ruritan clubs in your area. This session will empower you to grow our network, foster community spirit, and strengthen our service reach. Let’s build Ruritan together!

**TITLE: THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX – GATHERING NEW IDEAS**

**Presenter: Doug Parr**

Discover innovative ways to solve problems, generate fresh ideas, and approach challenges from new perspectives.

**TITLE: TRIAGE – STOPPING THE FLOW OF MEMBERS LEAVING – RETENTION**

**Presenter: Sandy Burner-Cave**

Learn practical approaches to retaining members by addressing their needs and preventing attrition.

**TITLE: COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS**

**Presenter: Cassandra Flanagan**

Learn how to create comprehensive community service reports that effectively showcase your club’s impact and contributions.

**TITLE: TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK**

**Presenter: Jerome Rodes**

Enhance your club’s collaboration skills by learning how to foster teamwork, trust, and shared goals among members.

**TITLE: GENERATIONAL COMPASS**

**Presenter: Gene Burgess**

Working across the generations to develop your “Ruritan Why”. Join us as we explore opportunities to include all ages at the Ruritan table.

## Banquet Entertainment Provided By FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY LOWER SCHOOL CHORUS

Lower School Chorus is an honors vocal ensemble from First Presbyterian Academy, Greenville, SC. They are comprised of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students who show leadership in all areas: musically, academically, and socially.

Lower School Chorus members meet weekly to prepare for ministry both inward at school events, and outreach to the broader community. One of the choristers favorite activities is visiting nursing homes twice a year to minister in music to these precious members of the community.



## 2025 National Convention Ballot Item To Be Voted On By Delegates

### **Ballot Item 1 – Approved Board Motion 24-07-04**

The Ruritan National Bylaws ARTICLE I Name/Emblem/Politics, Section 3. Reads as follows:

“This organization and its members shall be non-sectarian and non-partisan and shall take no action endorsing or condemning any candidate or measure which is to be submitted to the vote of the people.”

The Board approved striking the current wording and inserting new wording as follows:

“This organization shall be non-sectarian and non-partisan.”

**Reason for the motion:** Ruritan National cannot dictate that members be non-sectarian and non-partisan. The proposed language provides a clear statement that does not override the rights of individual members while protecting the non-profit status of the organization and clubs. It promotes consistency and prevents conflicts arising from ambiguity.

*Will take effect immediately upon approval by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at the national convention.*

# WOMEN IN RURITAN: Celebrating A 40-Year History

Women have long been at the forefront of community service, stepping up not only to help but to lead, inspire, and make a lasting impact. The stories of our members demonstrate this commitment, reminding us that community service is not just about giving—it's about building connections, strengthening bonds, and creating a lasting legacy.

In the mid-1960s, the idea of Ruritanettes was brought up to the board of directors. We believe it was intended to be similar to a ladies' auxiliary. However, that idea didn't make it very far and was rescinded. The idea was brought back in 1977 and was approved, but it was stated in the minutes that Ruritanettes was not an "official" part of a Ruritan Club.

In March 1984, New Hope Ruritan Club from the Georgia/North Alabama District sent a letter to Ruritan National asking that they be able to amend the club constitution to change adult male to adult person.

It was sent to the committee, which was asked to bring it back to the board with a recommendation at their August board meeting.

The motion came back as requested. After several amendments, it was approved to modify the club constitution and bylaws from adult male to adult person.

Claudia Adams of the Holt Club was the first female to join Ruritan on September 1, 1984. She became Club Treasurer in 1996.

On September 20, 1984, The Berrydale Club in Florida became the first Ruritan Club with women on its charter.

In 1985, the Ruritanettes in the Davy Crockett District chartered the first all-ladies Ruritan Club, the Midway Volunteer Club.

The 1986 National Convention had 10 women delegates attend to vote for the first time.

In 1989, High school clubs were approved and three were chartered in the Chesapeake District – Colonial Beach, Gloucester and Denbigh High Schools. All three club presidents were young women, Kathy Staples, Julie Underwood, and Maggie Pate respectively.

In 1991, Ruby Freeman in the New River District became the first female District Governor, and in 1992, she became the first female National Director.

In 2001, Betty Chaney, from the Potomac District, became the first woman National President, followed by Phyllis Lewter from the Holland District in 2012. We will have our third woman National President in 2025 with Becky Lane from the Upper West Virginia District.

In 2004, Kathy Brooks from Southwest Virginia and Tennessean districts became the first woman National Secretary. Followed by Phyllis Norris (NC) and JoAnn Wenger (VA).

In 2020, Sarah Kelly was hired as Deputy Executive Director and took over as the first woman Executive Director in 2022.

Based on data from MMS, it is estimated that 30% of our 20,000+ members are women; the current NBOD is 30% women, with two women serving on the Executive Committee.

Eleven clubs have been chartered over the past two years. In fact, we are getting ready to charter another club this month. One of the most important statistics discovered was that of these 11 clubs, 9 of them were formed by women who were either the DRM or co-DRM. We can truly say that women are committed to the growth of Ruritan!





## **Club and District News**

**Let Everyone Know  
About Your Club and District  
Fundraisers, and Projects, and  
Show What **Ruritan** is Doing  
to Make Your Community  
a Better Place to  
Work, Play, and Live!**

**Send Articles and Photos to: [diane.lawson@ruritan.org](mailto:diane.lawson@ruritan.org)**

**Magazine Deadlines:**

**February 1 - Spring**

**May 1 - Summer**

**August 1 - Fall**

**November 1 - Winter**

## DEEP CREEK SHARES BUSY SCHEDULE

**Deep Creek** hosted the “National Night Out” in Chesapeake. National President Robin Davenport was on hand to present awards for the club’s police officer, firefighter, EMS provider, and Sheriff’s Deputy of the Year.

The club hosted a picnic for patients at the Hampton, Virginia Veterans Administration Medical



Center. The members fed nearly 200 veterans with standard Summer picnic goodies, including hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, coleslaw, watermelon and desserts.



During its 77th Anniversary celebration, the club honored Mrs. Melodie Surratt of Deep Creek Middle School as the Deep Creek Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Surratt accepted the award from Social Development Committee Chair Joe Noha.

In September, the club hosted their annual BeefFest. Nearly a thousand guests ate a ton of Texas-style barbequed beef and side dishes. Two corporate groups and a high school class reunion group chose BeefFest as their location for a great party. The Brasswind band provided entertainment.



Citizenship and Patriotism Committee Chair Joe Gargaro presented Annie Patota of Mercy Chefs with a \$500 donation. The organization is helping to feed victims, first responders, and volunteers in the wake of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.



The club donated \$2,500 to the American Red Cross to help victims of Hurricane Helene. Pictured are Public Service Committee Chair Mike Kirsch and Leslie Crocker, Executive Director of the Red Cross Norfolk office.



## GRASSFIELD CELEBRATES CHARTER MEMBER

**Grassfield** celebrated charter member Eddie Vincek's 100th birthday. Eddie is an Iwo Jima veteran, and to help celebrate, the local Marine base sent 100 Marines to honor him. They all joined in to sing the Marine hymn. More than 150 people from the community also came to honor Eddie.

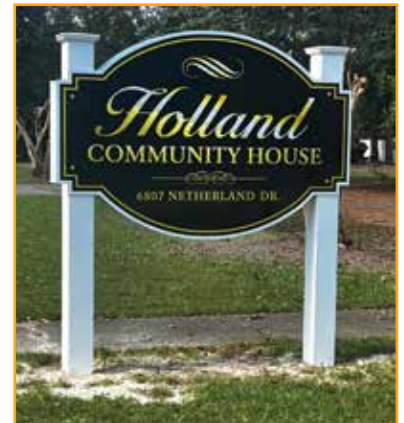


## HOLLAND SUPPORTS SCOUT PROJECT



**Holland** recently assisted Life Scout Tanner March, pictured with Club President Calvin Jones, with his Eagle Scout project by covering the costs of creating a new sign for the Community House.

The club also supports local youth baseball, softball, cheerleading, and football programs through the Holland Athletic Association.



## HUNTERDALE SUPPORTS LOCAL NON-PROFITS

**Hunterdale** recently recognized scholarship recipients Hunter Patterson, Gabby Johnson, Laney Phillips, and Caroline Blythe (pictured with their parents).

The club also presented donations to several local charities, including the American Legion Post 73, BSA Troop 17, the Children's Center, Franklin Cooperative Ministries, Western Tidewater Free Clinic, James L. Camp Jr. YMCA, Mustang Football, Franklin-Southampton United Way, Franklin-Southampton Relay for Life, Hunterdale Volunteer Fire Department, Hunterdale Women's Fellowship, Hunterdale Christian Church, Virginia Hound Heritage, Franklin-Southampton County Fair, Southampton Agricultural/Forestry Museum, and the Paul D. Camp Community College Nursing School. Scholarships and donations were made possible by proceeds from the club's Western Beef BBQ fundraiser.



## **KEMPSVILLE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Kempsville** honored its scholarship recipients at the club's July meeting. Pictured (l-r) are VP/Scholarship Chair Frank Kleen, Amanda Von St. Paul (Tallwood High School), Celeste Wise (Salem High School), Hana Muluneh (Bayside High School), Brooke Rediger (Kempsville High School), and Club President Dave Berger.



## **KNOTTS ISLAND TREATS COMMUNITY**

**Knott's Island** hosted a community Trunk or Treat event and provided free dinner and drinks to attendees. The club also held an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony for property they recently purchased. They hope to develop the property into an area that will benefit their community.





## News From Ruritan: **HOLLAND** District

### **POSSUM HOLLOW HELPS WITH COSTS**

**Possum Hollow** presented a check for \$500 to Westside Elementary School to help cover the cost of delinquent cafeteria bills. Pictured (l-r) are Westside Principal Matthew Johnson, Club Member Elizabeth Hernly, and Food Service Manager Greg Minton.



The club also recently awarded three scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are Club Member Jack Eure and recipients Elizabeth Hernly, Emily Barbini, and Richie Bogart.

### **SUFFOLK DOESN'T SKIMP ON THE SHRIMP**

Virginia Governor Glen Youngkin joined **Suffolk** club members for the 46<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Ruritan Shrimp Feast, a part of the Suffolk Harvest Festival. State Senator Emily Jordan and US Representative Jen Kiggans are pictured with the governor, who all helped serve shrimp and barbeque to festival attendees. Over the past 46 years, proceeds from the event have funded over \$800,000 in scholarships and donations to local community nonprofit organizations.



## News From Ruritan: **CHESAPEAKE** District

### **MONTPELIER CELEBRATES 75TH!**

**Montpelier** recently celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with their annual fish fry. Special guests included Past National President, Mike Morrison, Virginia State Representative Buddy Fowler, and Hanover County Board of Supervisors representative Sue Dibbel.



## ABINGDON BRINGS THE BOOM!

At an undisclosed location deep in the rural countryside of Gloucester County, Ruritan Executive Director Sarah Kelly and **Abingdon** Club President Rick Scott were treated to a very secretive Club ceremony that included a big boom - well two big booms!



Pirate Captain Tony Dziadul provided the firepower. Sarah and Rick shot the ceremonial cannon and were inducted into the Order of Saint Barbra. Mary Lou Privott applied the ceremonial face markings, and the two nominees were presented to the crowd for approval. Unanimous! We now have two new members of this very secret society. Everyone had fun, and no cannonballs were harmed during this induction ceremony.

## COLD HARBOR HOSTS SHRIMP-FEST!

**Cold Harbor** held its annual Shrimp Fest fundraiser. Proceeds from this fundraiser are donated to the Hanover Adult Center and ARC of Hanover and used to fund educational



scholarships. Club President Norman Griffin presented donations to Hanover Adult Center Executive Director Diane Dillard (left) and ARC of Hanover Executive Director Diane Gallegos (right).



The club awarded four scholarships during their annual family picnic. Pictured with their families are (front row, l-r) Andrew Dressler,



awarded the Eugene Mitchell Memorial Scholarship, who will be attending JMU majoring in Finance; Rachel Haile, awarded the LC Hall Memorial Scholarship, who will be attending Virginia Tech majoring in Civil Engineering; Jewel Wagner, awarded the Zachary P Griffin Memorial, a graduate of CNU who will be continuing her education at Longwood to obtain her Masters in the Science of Counselor Education program concentrating in Mental Health; and Kimber Applewhite, awarded the Cold Harbor Community Scholarship, who will attend JMU majoring in Kinesiology.

## News From Ruritan: CHESAPEAKE District

### SHORT PUMP ON PAR WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**Short Pump** hosted its annual Charity Golf Tournament in September, which resulted in a net profit of over \$25,000 thanks to participants and corporate and individual sponsors. The funds raised allowed the club to donate \$8,500 to the Fisher House at the Richmond Veterans Medical Center, fund eight \$1,500 scholarships, and contribute to about 20 other local charities. Tournament participants included 2023 National President Mike Morrison, and 2024 National President-Elect Becky Lane was on hand to assist with registration.

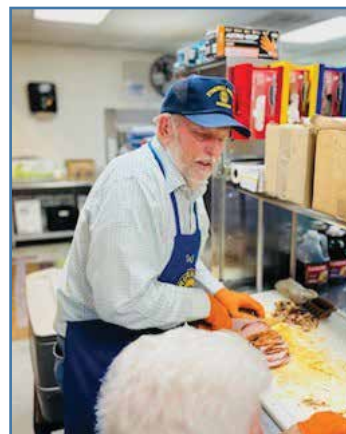


When Club Director Larry Vanwagner notified the officers that his employer, Luck Stone, was collecting items for Hurricane Helene victims, the club sent out a notice to members to join in the effort. Club members generously donated bags of food and cleaning supplies that Larry delivered to Luck Stone to be added to a tractor-trailer load of donations. The club also donated to Ruritan's *Project Focus* to help with disaster relief.

## News From Ruritan: RAPPAHANNOCK District

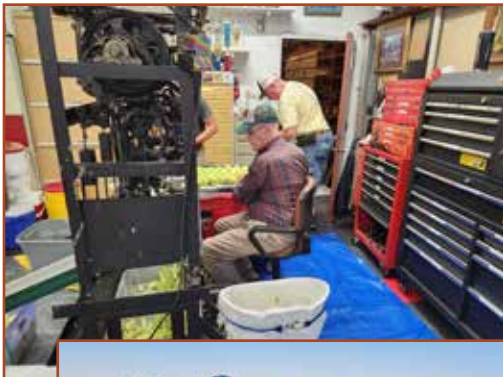
### STONEWALL DISTRICT HOSTS BUSY SEASON

**Stonewall District** has hosted several events during the year, including its annual golf tournament and antique truck and tractor show, and have co-hosted the annual Frederick County Fair. These events have helped support other local non-profit organizations such as The Laurel Center, which assists those affected by domestic and sexual violence, the Gideons religious organization, and funded college scholarships.



## SHAWQUON PUTS FUNDRAISING PROCEEDS TO GOOD USE

**Shawquon** hosted an apple butter fundraiser. Hard work from club members turned out over 900 pints. Proceeds will help fund their scholarships given in the spring. The club also held its annual fundraising car show and live auction, participated in local National Night Out activities, and donated \$500 to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.



The club helped out in October at the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cedar Creek Reenactment. Club members shuttled people between the encampment and the parking lot and sold apple butter. They also donated to the Baton, Chesterfield, Collettsville,



Mountaineer, and Deep Gap Ruritan clubs in North Carolina to help victims of Hurricane Helene.



## SUMERDUCK HONORS SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

**Sumerduck** hosted their 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Community 9/11 Remembrance ceremony. The event was well attended. This tragedy personally impacted many in their community.

The club also hosted a Poker Run fundraiser.



They started the day with breakfast, blue skies, and perfect weather. Several gift baskets were donated, including everything from spa treatments to doggy baskets to auto parts certificates.

Local residents Stanley and Genie Heaney were presented with a gold watch and card to recognize their life-long community involvement.

## News From Ruritan: RAPPAHANNOCK District



Club members Mike Timm and Steve Kenderesh were also recognized and awarded for their all-around volunteerism as Ruritan members.

The club recently partnered with Fools Gold Farm in Bealeton, VA, and driver Darrell to assist in the North Carolina disaster relief. They quickly raised \$450, 24 cases of water (950 bottles!), 60 rolls of paper towels, 450 extra-large industrial trash bags, and 5 extra-large Lysol bottles. Club members Lenny Grove, Jeremy Embrey, and Austin Embrey provided the muscle power.



## News From Ruritan: APPOMATTOX District

### CLARKSVILL SUPPORTS TEACHERS

**Clarksville** presented over \$12,000.00 to teachers at two local elementary schools. Each teacher received \$150.00 to spend at their discretion for items they might need in their classrooms. Pictured is Club Vice President Janice Edwards (front row, second from left) with teachers at Clarksville Elementary.



### SOUTH HILL TEAMS UP WITH SUPPORT

**South Hill** Club President Matt Clark presented a donation to a South Hill Volunteer Fire Department member with a donation from the South Hill Club and the Central Chesterfield Club. The donation was to assist with the cleanup costs of firefighting gear due to a chemical fire in July. While the fire was contained within a one-block area, over 134 units were deployed, resulting in 18 firemen going to the emergency room due to heat exhaustion. These donations are part of an Appomattox District effort to help offset the costs of this cleanup.



## News From Ruritan: PEAKS OF OTTER District

### FOREST HILL PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Forest Hill** Club Secretary Jennifer Nolder presented Aquilla Freeman (l) and William T. Harrison (r) with the club's scholarships for 2024.



## News From Ruritan: SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA District

### ATKINS WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

**Atkins** Club President Jerry Umbarger welcomed new member Blonnie Meadows. The club also provided concessions for the Atkins Volunteer Fire Department's recent fundraising event.



## News From Ruritan: NATURAL BRIDGE District

### BONSACK/BLUE RIDGE AREA HOSTS ANNUAL BBQ

**Bonsack/Blue Ridge Area** held their annual chicken barbeque fundraiser. The club was assisted by members of Lord Botetourt FFA and Boy Scout Troop 584.



## KERRS CREEK TEES UP TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY

**Kerrs Creek** recently hosted a golf tournament. Proceeds will fund scholarships and other donations. Sponsorships came from local businesses and individuals. National President-Elect Beck Lane was on hand to help with registration. One of the teams included Ruritan members Al Durham and Lee Smith of **Falling Springs**, Larry Bowman of **Maxwelton**, and Gary Swink of **Kerrs Creek**.



## NATURAL BRIDGE STAYS ACTIVE AND INVOLVED

**Natural Bridge** presented four scholarships to graduating high school students from the Natural Bridge area. Pictured (l-r) are Cole Tackett (Mountain Gateway Community College/Forestry), Jackson White (Mountain Gateway Community College/HVAC), Katherine Lotts (VA Community College/Dental Hygienist), and Nicole Black (Mary Baldwin/Biochemistry).



The club hosted guest speaker Ranger Brent Foltz, from the Glenwood-Pedlar District Forest Service. Brent talked about the Matts Creek fire in the area in November 2023 and the response by the South Area (Red) Incident Command Team.

They also had a visit from Director Gary Arrington of Hunters for the Hungry (Big Island, VA), who the club has partnered with for the past 25 years. Hunters for the Hungry serves people in need through the support of hunters, farmers, and herd management efforts. This is done alongside financial donors and volunteers around our state, both urban and rural.



## News From Ruritan: **NATURAL BRIDGE** District



Club Secretary Garnette Teass decorated the Glasgow Box window display with information and pictures from previous activities and giveaways to promote their upcoming Cake Walk and Raffle fundraiser. During a recent club picnic, they welcomed new member, John Pollack.

The club held its Annual Cake Walk and Raffle in late October at the Natural Bridge Volunteer Fire Department. The event included Clarence Camden's Country Roads band, food from the Natural Bridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Ladies, and lots of homemade and store-bought donated baked goods.



## News From Ruritan: **WOODROW WILSON** District

### **JOLLIVUE-BARTERBROOK CELEBRATES 70!**

**Jollivue-Barterbrook** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September. Special guests included several National, District and Zone representatives, former members, and members from clubs that have supported and collaborated with them through the years. District Governor Steve Landes presented a Certificate of Recognition from the Augusta County Circuit Clerk's Office honoring their years of service to the community. Club members Richard Kirkland and John Tankesley were each presented with a Ruritan Forever.





## DEERFIELD PROMOTES COMMUNITY

**Deerfield, VA**, hosted a successful community picnic, during which it was discovered that Club President Susan Dula was an expert bubble maker! The club also hosted the community for a meeting with representatives from Augusta Health regarding the possibility of bringing a primary care clinic to the area.



## NEW HOPE ADDS FIVE!

**New Hope VA** recently welcomed five new members recruited by Rebecca Breeden. Pictured (l-r) are Crystal Breeden, Rebecca, Paige Olson, Kailyn Olson, and Charity Craun (not pictured, Riley Begeman).



## NORTH RIVER HONORS VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

**North River** hosted their annual Veterans and First Responders Dinner with American Legion Post 27, Mount Solon VFW, the Mount Solon Fire and Rescue. Scout Troop #8 presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The dinner was enjoyed with over 80 people in attendance.



## LOVINGSTON-ROCKFISH HOSTS WINNERS

**Lovingston-Rockfish** recently hosted scholarship winners Adriana Vigilante and Chandler Giles, and S.O. Mawyer Citizenship Award winner Lillian Morgan (pictured with Club President Curtis McIver).



The club also welcomed new members Leslie Benz, Digital Marketing & Graphic Solutions, Joe Ferris, Joan Farrell, and Bill Troester.

Club member Susan Swink received a President's Gold Key.

## WEYERS CAVE GIVES BACK

**Weyers Cave** barbecues chicken halves and pork loins throughout the year to raise money for their community service projects. This year, \$20,000 was designated for local organizations that significantly impact the Weyers Cave community. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Randy Roller, Cecil Wright, Verona Community Food Bank; Ellen Shaver-Shank, Augusta County Fair; Jeremy Wampler, Grottoes Rescue Squad; and Andy McNally, Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy.



## BRIDGEWATER SUPPORT ADVANCES EDUCATION

**Bridgewater** recently presented scholarships to Ainsley King, a recent graduate of Blue Ridge Christian School who is pursuing an education in medicine, and Malaina Ritchie, a graduate of Turner Ashby, who is headed to Kansas to study animal science with a goal to become a large animal veterinarian. Malaina, Brooke Knott, and FFA advisor Eric Stogdale, gave an interesting review of their recent trip to the UK to participate in the Royal Highland Livestock Judging Competition. Along with Sarah Craun, this local team was first in Virginia, and third in the US. The Club was a sponsor of this team's trip to the UK.



At their annual picnic, the club presented a donation to Tracy Stover, a special education teacher at Wilbur S. Pence. Her workload has increased from 9 students last year to 21 students this year while funding has been cut.

## DISTRICT AWARDS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP

The **Rockingham District** awarded their first district level scholarship from the Ruritan National Foundation. Before the start of the 32nd Annual Cecil Wampler Memorial Golf Tournament, district leaders, assisted by President Elect Becky Lane, presented the scholarship to Sadie Rodriguez. Pictured (l-r) are golf tournament chair Reggie Snodgrass, Zone 5 Governor Jacob



Baugher, President Elect Becky Lane, Scholarship recipient Sadie Rodriguez, National Director Jeff Roadcap, District Governor Larry Cave, and District Lt Governor David Grimm. Proceeds from the annual golf tournament are used to build the scholarship fund. Clubs and individuals sponsoring holes also build their own educational funds through the tournament as 100% of those donations go directly to the club's or individual's Foundation funds. Pictured (l-r) are the winning team of Larry Wilson, Barry Nichols, Brandon Morris, and Lenny Mathews.

## News From Ruritan: ROCKINGHAM District

### FORT VALLEY SHARES COMMUNITY SPIRIT

**Fort Valley** ran a concession booth at the County Fair as a fundraising event. Club members also help with their local fire department's ham and oyster dinner and monthly bingo. The club also supported the Fort Valley Museum's Fall Craft Festival.



In October, Club President Tim Stephens welcomed new members Kathy Cool and Catherine Bulatko. Club members Terry Plauger, Eric Guthrie, Sonny Tamkin, Kyle Schilling, and Larry Cave constructed a wheelchair ramp for a resident. The club also hosted an information meeting to introduce the new Seven Bends Ruritan Club to the Woodstock area.



### MAUR-BROOK-OLIVE SUPPORTS SHOPPERS

**Maur-Brook-Olive** sold water bottles and snacks for the Route 11 Yard Sale crawl. Pictured are Club President Dwight Kinkle, and club members Ed Grabenstein and Len Greisz.



## **MCGAHEYSVILLE CELEBRATES 85TH**

This year, **McGaheysville** celebrated its 85th anniversary, marking over eight decades of dedicated community service and fellowship. Since its founding, the club has worked tirelessly to improve the local area, supporting various projects and causes that enrich their community. With a strong focus on collaboration and growth, the club continues to welcome new members who share a commitment to making a positive impact. The club recently exemplified their spirit of community and compassion by extending support to a local family after a devastating housefire displaced them from their home.

The club recently took a step to improve accessibility in the community by installing a new door at the McGaheysville Town Hall, ensuring easier access for individuals with disabilities and recognizing the need for an inclusive space where all residents can gather comfortably.



The club's famous funnel cakes and fried Oreos have become a Rockingham County Fair tradition. Each year, community members line up to savor these sweet creations. Proceeds go toward funding the club's many community service projects, including scholarships and local outreach.

## **PORT REPUBLIC HONORS VETERANS**

**Port Republic** created thank you cards for veterans during their recent family picnic. The cards were given to Diane Klopt from Honor Flight-Top of Virginia (pictured center with club members Debbie Morris and Emily Wilson), to be delivered to veterans taking part in the fall trip to Washington DC.



## News From Ruritan: ROCKINGHAM District

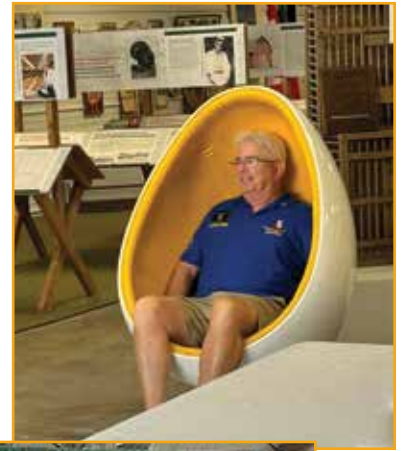
### ROCKINGHAM LUNCHEON POSTS BUSY SCHEDULE

**Rockingham Luncheon** had a very busy summer. In May, the club organized a cookout for the Bridgewater Little League Challenger Baseball Teams and awarded their 2024 scholarship to a local high school senior.

In July, the club meeting took place at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds and included a tour of the Virginia Poultry Industry Museum. They recognized their teacher of the year, Joni Lam, and club members rang the bell for Christmas in July supporting the Salvation Army.



In August, the club members participated in a membership drive by volunteering at the Rockingham District Ruritan Booth at the Rockingham County Fair. Members also assisted other Ruritan Clubs in their food booths at the fair. The club organized a family picnic and recognized first responders by presenting them with Rudy Bears.



In September, members demonstrated their support for the Central Shenandoah Valley Habitat for Humanity by generously donating a John Deere Pedal Tractor, which garnered over \$1500 at the live auction.



## News From Ruritan: POTOMAC District

### JEFFERSON RECOGNIZES RECIPIENTS

**Jefferson (MD)** announced their scholarship recipients for 2024. Paige Trendell, Kaylee Franklin, and Alexandra Swam attended the July meeting with their families and spoke briefly about their future goals. Paige will attend the University of Maryland to pursue a degree in journalism; Alexandra will attend the College of Charleston, SC, to study Business Admin., with a focus on tourism; and Kaylee will attend the University of NC, Wilmington, for Health Sciences & Sports Medicine. Additional scholarship recipients are Lucia Virgilio, Ava Stiglicz, and Jenna Cackowski. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Dave Huffer, Paige Trendell, Alexandra Swam, Kaylee Franklin, and Scholarship Committee Chair Juan Stull.



## CHURCHVILLE CELEBRATES WITH LOCAL TRADITION

**Churchville (MD)** celebrated their 60th anniversary with a Maryland-style crab feast attended by family and friends. Pictured is Club President Peggy Sullivan with the anniversary cake. They also participated in their local National Night Out.



## MOUNT PLEASANT TAKES INITIATIVE SERIOUSLY!

**Mount Pleasant** organized a Growth Committee in response to the "5 and 1 Gets it Done" initiative. As a result, the club took in eight new members at its summer Community Day event. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Brandi Umberger, and new members Jack Hammer, Natalia



Janus, Ryan Janus, Dillan Wright, and Mike Karg. Donna Miller (not pictured) joined during the October meeting.

The club awarded seven scholarships in 2024. Pictured are Cayla Haney (center) with her mother, Angi, and grandfather, Mark Poslosky. Also pictured (l-r) are Bell Sines, Colin Reno, Natalia Janus, and Kendra Crigger. Additional recipients Ryen Janus and Jack Hammer were not available for the photograph.



## News From Ruritan: POTOMAC District

### ROHRERSVILLE PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Rohrersville** Club President Marty O'Connor presented scholarships to Sarah Frushour, who will major in environmental sciences at the University of Maryland, and Grant Fauble, who will attend Shenandoah University.

The club also presented Girl Scout Troop #15136 with a donation of \$100 for their assistance with club projects.



## News From Ruritan: ALBEMARLE District

### HALL HONORS WINNERS

**Hall** recently recognized their 2024 Scholarship recipients. Pictured (l-r) are Social Development Committee Co-Chair Diane Prince, recipients Thomas Pierce, Katie Green, and Tara Hutchinson, and Committee Co-Chair Becky Brown.

Club President Bud Eure also presented donations to

Ryan Boyce for the Dream Hunting & Fishing Program and to Renee McGinnis for

Gates Emergency Ministries. The Social Development Committee headed up a drive for school supplies for

donations to Buckland and Gatesville Elementary

schools. The club also participated in activities for Earth Day by taking part in a roadside cleanup.

The club also presented their 2024 Ruritan of the Year to Jim Brown, pictured right with Citizenship and Patriotism Chair Ken Lighton. Unfortunately, the day after this picture was taken, Ken was killed in a tragic car accident.





## DURANTS NECK CELEBRATES MILESTONE

In October 2024 members of **Durants Neck** celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary during their annual Chili Cookoff. They remembered the 23 farmers, 4 merchants, 4 truck drivers, 1 boat master, 1 preacher, 2 carpenters and 1 miller who on October 19, 1949, became the club's Charter



Members. The club also honored several members for their length of service with the presentation of service pins. Members recognized were William Chappel (62 yrs), Jack Boone (27 yrs), Barbara South (21 yrs), Dan Gurganus (18 yrs), Daniel Trevors (18 yrs), William Ricks (17 yrs), Joyce Gurganus (17 yrs), Nancy Lodge (17 yrs), Richard Lodge (17 yrs), Billie Ricks (13 yrs), Carol Olean (13 yrs), Charles Olean (13 yrs), and Lynn Mathis (10 yrs).

During the past 75 years, the members faithfully served their community through service projects such as adopting families and children during Christmas, collecting and donating 150-200 new toys to the Perquimans Sheriff



Department's annual toy drive, supporting the local food pantry each month, and awarding scholarships totaling \$21,000 to

deserving, local high school students. As an active member of the Albemarle District Project Patriot Team, their annual donation and active participation help provide assistance to Veterans in need. They also host a semi-annual lunch and Bingo for local senior citizens.

The club commemorated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the presentation of a painting presented by a local artist, and long-time member, Richard Lodge. The painting tells a little bit of the story of the community and where the club was founded.



## COOPERS AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Coopers** recently hosted their scholarship recipients. Sarah Ann Bass received the Build Your Dollar scholarship. Sarah will be attending North Carolina State College. The E.C. Pearce Scholarship recipient was Brayden C Moore. He will be attending Nash Community College. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Mike Glover, Sarah Ann Bass, Brayden Moore, and Wanda Powell



## LYNNS CROSSROADS CELEBRATES 50TH!

**Lynns Crossroads** celebrated their 50th anniversary. Special guests included Dale George, the club's first president, National President Robin Davenport, and Past National President Millard Thacker. Charter Member Buddy Lucas gave a history of the club.



Several members of all ages recently built a deck and ramp for a club member's house to help make his recovery from a health issue a little easier.



## MCCULLERS HOSTS RECIPIENTS

**McCullers** awarded eight scholarships for 2024. Three of the recipients attended a recent meeting and spoke about their plans for the future. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Mark Milikin, recipients Christian Shaffer, Abigail Knight, Blaire Locklear, and Club Vice President Eric Hinesley. Additional scholarship recipients were Ennis Green, Kira Winkeller, Mary Elizabeth Green, Meredith Hall, and Rachel Eggers. The club also recently welcomed new member Wesley Hall.



## REDWOOD CELEBRATES WITH COMMUNITY DAY

**Redwood** recently celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of their celebration, the club hosted a “Community Day” with several vendors, displays, and a band for entertainment. Club members shared information about Ruritan and their club and gave out backpacks filled with school supplies.



## WEST MOUNT SHARES SUPPORT

Amanda Jankowski from the Nash County Foster Care Program accepted a donation from **West Mount**, presented by member Wayne Outlaw.



Club member and Air Force Veteran Wayne Outlaw presented a donation to Veteran Marine Rick Tomlinson (L) for the Marine Corps Reserve annual Toys for Tots Program.



*Does Your Club Like to Show Off Their Team Spirit?  
Do They Enjoy a Little Friendly Competition?*

*If So, Then You Should Sponsor a Table for the  
Friday Nite Tailgate Party at National Convention!!!*

*See page 14 for details!*

*Contact Crystal at [crystal.andrews@ruritan.org](mailto:crystal.andrews@ruritan.org) to Sign Up!*

**PINETOWN HOSTS AWARDS DINNER**

**Pinetown** hosted a scholarship awards dinner for Northside High School graduate Emma Davis. Club President Dale Fawver is pictured with Emma.



**BUNNLEVEL VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE**

**Bunnlevel** members Carol Bain, John Hastie, Michael Butler, Donald Temple, Fran Temple, Ann Hobbs, and Norma Byrd volunteered to serve lunch during the two-day Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club's Swap Meet in October.



Club members John Maher, Nick Long, and Donald Temple represented the club during the Summerville Bunnlevel Fire Department's Back to School Bash. The club also hosted a community "Trash to Treasure" yard sale.



**JOHNSONVILLE FULFILLS WISH LISTS**

**Johnsonville** supported Johnsonville Elementary School by providing a laminator, laminating sheets, a rolling whiteboard, incentive items, snacks, and more from a teacher's wish list. The teachers also requested pillows for students to sit on while reading and studying. Pictured are pillows made by a crafty club member.



The club recently hosted J.R. Poe and Lucky, a rescue border collie, as guest speakers. They shared about their ministry visiting area medical facilities and nursing homes. Lucky, J.R.'s third service dog, has become a valuable therapy dog. Certified in Animal-Assistance Activities and Animal-Assisted Therapy by the N.C. Pet Partners and Tar Heel Paws, he and J.R.



## News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR District

bring cheer and comfort to patients and relieve workday stress for doctors and staff.

The monthly cruise-in has quickly grown to over 40 cars on average. Car enthusiasts and spectators are learning about Ruritan while supporting the club by visiting the concession stand. The club's annual calendar fundraiser is celebrating its 34th issue, and their October pulled pork dinner sold almost 200 plates. Club members all pitched in to prepare and serve the meals.



## News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District

### EASTOVER STAYS BUSY

**Eastover** has been busy in 2024. Club members continued their tradition of placing flags on the graves of Veterans in our community, and this year, they placed 200 flags on graves at eight churches in the Eastover area. Pictured are Mary Ann and Jimmy Hiott.



The club presented their 2024 scholarship to Ashley Baker. Ashley is completing her studies at the University of South Carolina, majoring in Public Relations. The club also donated school supplies to Gadsden Elementary school. Pictured are Jimmy Hiott, Mary Ann Hiott, and Christy Smith.



## News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA District

### SANDY RUN SUPPLIES SUPPORT

**Sandy Run** recently hosted three Special Education teachers from Sandy Run School. The teachers were each presented with a check to help purchase school supplies. Pictured (ll-r) are club member Teresa Helms, Sandy Run Principal and member Floyd Dinkins, teachers Mohammed Akdar, Aimee Lober, and Veronica Primus, and club member Jill Crim.



Several members visited Sandy Run School and Foundation Christian School to deliver donated school supplies. Pictured are teachers Ashley Farnum and Aimee Lober, and club members Kelley Roche-Sanders, Becky Starnes, and Jill Crim. Club members also joined Soil and Water Conservation District Coordinator Mary Dixon to spruce up the Sandy Run Water Garden.



## News From Ruritan: UPPER WEST VIRGINIA District

### CAPON BRIDGE HOSTS COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

**Capon Bridge** hosted the Capon Bridge Founder's Day Festival. The festival included local musicians, local history speakers, food vendors, a car show, a silent auction, inflatables for the kids, a youth rifle shoot, a lumberjack competition, and a Jeep ducking competition sponsored by a local State Farm agent.



## HEADSVILLE COUNTRYSIDE SUPPORTS LEARNING EXPERIENCE



**Headsville Countryside** recently hosted Addi Cross and Cora Redman who shared a slide show and stories about their recent trip to Montana. The club helped sponsor the girls' trip to work with previously untouched American mustangs. Their three-week trip allowed them to work alongside two world-renowned horse trainers, learn new training techniques, and observe American mustangs in the wild.



## LANDES MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

**Landes** members recently attended the annual WV Adopt-a-Highway Appreciation Day Picnic. Pictured (l-r) are Club Vice President Sheri Arbogast, Past President Roy Mullenax, Club Secretary Heather Adams, and Board Member Junior Hedrick. Roy was honored for 35 years of service to the program. Heather and Junior were also recognized for 15 years of service to the program.



## SLANESVILLE REMEMBERS FARMERS

**Slanesville** coordinated the collection and delivery of agricultural supplies to help farmers who suffered losses due to Hurricane Helene.



## News From Ruritan: BLUEGRASS District

### FINCHVILLE HOSTS ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Finchville held its annual Fall Festival in September. Despite the rainy weather from Hurricane Helene, the community enjoyed a day of shopping for antiques and crafts, games, and a silent auction. Club members Barbara Stewart and Harmon Smith presented a portion of the proceeds to a local Motorcycle Ministry for hurricane relief efforts.



## News From Ruritan: GEORGIA-NORTH ALABAMA District

### BRYANT SHOWS VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

Bryant hosted a community cleanup project in conjunction with Alabama Pals. Other club projects included volunteering at the local community center/food bank, providing a meeting place for seniors, and volunteering at the local elementary school. Club members Steve and Melanie Smith were recently recognized for their volunteer efforts with a plaque from Bryant Elementary School



## News From Ruritan: OHIO District

### GRAND VALLEY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Grand Valley presented their scholarships for 2024. Pictured (l-r) are Leah Brazofsky, Maddie Pinto, Logan Zirzow, and Club President Roger Herbster.





## News From Ruritan: OHIO District

### NEW LONDON HOLDS ANNUAL RAFFLE

New London OH kicked off their third annual raffle ticket fundraiser coinciding with the Labor Day parade. Prizes included a pedal tractor, meat bundle, spa gift card and family pack of season tickets to a local theme park. Proceeds help fund two scholarships and other community service projects throughout the year.



### WINONA SUPPORTS “MADE IN AMERICA”

Winona held their “Made In America” Fall Gun Raffle for a Henry All-Weather Rifle. Pictured (l-r) are Club Vice President Tom Richey, Runzo’s Outdoor Sports representative Drew Wartluft, raffle winner Jeff Zimmerman, and Raffle Committee Chair Michael Kneodler. The club also hosted an “all-you-can-eat” pancake and sausage breakfast.



## News From Ruritan: DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY District

### PUNGOTEAGUE HELPS NAVIGATE TO HIGHER LEARNING

Pungoteague recently presented scholarships totaling \$8,000. All recipients were very involved in community service, extracurricular school activities, and achieved outstanding academic



success. Pictured (l-r) are Emma Philpott, Nathaniel Long, Allison Tittermary, and Lyeric Brickhouse. Marguerite Custis and Harlin Johnson, pictured separately, were unable to attend. Back row (l-r) are Scholarship Committee members Carol Wehner and Paul Custis, parents

Jennifer and Jesse Philpott, Janeen and Don Long, James Tittermary and Holly West, grandmother Melissa Brickhouse, and Scholarship Committee member Bill Sterling.



## News From Ruritan: DELMARVA-NEW JERSEY District

The crew of *At Last*, captained by Mark Lusby, won the Chesapeake Challenge in the navigational component of the 2024 Bayside Poker Run. Pungoteague Ruritan Club and the Onancock Rotary Club co-sponsor the event. The exciting event involved small boats cruising the Chesapeake Bay in a navigational competition that included Onancock, Pungoteague, and Nandua creeks. The awards ceremony was held at the Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club. Pictured (l-r) are Pete and Brook Duer, Grace and Will Sexauer, Anna Sexauer, and Mark and Brook Lusby.



## News From Ruritan: PIEDMONT District

### FRANCISCO SHOWS VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

**Francisco** club members volunteered for the 3rd annual Francisco FarmFest 2024. Members supported Our Communities of Northwest Stokes County with the welcome booth and parking areas, Francisco Park information tent, food and baker's stations, entertainment, and decor.

In October, the club hosted a community spaghetti dinner and a flag retirement ceremony conducted by the Boy Scouts. Proceeds from the dinner will help support the Francisco Community Building and hurricane relief.



## PILOT MEMBERS HELP FILL THE NEED

**Pilot** club members Roger and Sharon Hilderbrand accepted the challenge of meeting clothing needs for families in Surry County, NC. For the past six months, they have accepted donations, sorted,



washed and provided access to all sizes for community members in need, especially those with children. They bought and upgraded a trailer and set up at church parking lots, grocery stores, and club events. Clothing items are provided free of charge. They average helping ten to twelve families at each event.



## SANDY RIDGE KEEPS BUSY SCHEDULE

**Sandy Ridge** Club Vice-President Andy Ferguson and several club members hosted an information table at the Sandy Ridge Elementary School Open House. The club shared a new brochure celebrating the accomplishments of its 60-year history. The club also sold Community Birthday Calendars and sponsored two free drawings for an assortment of school supplies and restaurant gift cards.



The club has participated in the North Carolina DOT Adopt-A-Highway Program for 35 years. The state of North Carolina acknowledged the club's "commitment to preserving the beauty and cleanliness of North Carolina roadsides" by awarding it a beautiful plaque and a letter of appreciation. Pictured with Club President Jimmy Ellington is Environment Committee Chair Lorri Amos. Lorri is the club's most dedicated member for our quarterly roadside trash pickups.

drinks, water, and homemade desserts. Pictured, Club Vice President Andy Ferguson stirs the bean pot, and club member Lorria Bullins serves customers.

In early October, the club hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Ridge Fest, which included a car show, Brunswick stew, and many local vendors, craftsmen, artisans, and community outreach individuals. They



## News From Ruritan: **PIEDMONT District**

partnered with the Northeast Stokes Fire and Rescue Squad, Inc. to collect items for Hurricane Helene victims in Western North Carolina.



The club joined the Northeast Stokes Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc., and members of the Sandy Ridge Community, to sponsor and host a fantastic Halloween Trunk or Treat. Several tables were decorated and lots of participants were dressed up in their Halloween attire.



## News From Ruritan: **DAN RIVER District**

### **CLUBS SHOW OFF THEIR TRUE COLORS**

Clubs of the **Dan River District** came together in August at the Danville-Pittsylvania County Fairgrounds for the second annual Color Run, raising money to support services and opportunities for the youth of Pittsylvania, Halifax, Henry, and Patrick Counties. There were over 20 cars in the cruise-in, two food trucks, and about 20 participants in the Color Run activity. Special shout out to Charlie Bowman (**Red Bank**), Kathy Newcomb (**Aaron's Creek/Dan River Community**), Carla and Robert Kearin (**Dry Fork**), Melody Davis (**Aaron's Creek**), Robert Lackey (**Ridgeway**), Becky Bowen (**Hycro Road**), Ben Griffith (**Cascade**), Seth Marshall (**Aaron's Creek**) Barry and Frances Sides (**Dan River**), Nicole Marshall (**Aaron's Creek**), Michael Davis (**Aaron's Creek**), Leon and Judy Griffith (**Cascade**), Robin Davenport (**National President**) and Matt Foster (**Dan River**).



In October, Zone 7 and Zone 8 Clubs (Aaron's Creek, Cluster Springs, Turbeville, Hycro Road, Mt. Laurel, Dan River Community, and Union) joined forces to participate in the "Free Community Trunk ~n~ Treat" at the Halifax County Fairgrounds. Each club donated to the cost of the event. Club members also took this opportunity to hand out more

than 250 postcards with information about Ruritan and local clubs with the hope of recruiting other community-minded individuals.



## DRY FORK HONORS VETERANS

**Dry Fork Club Secretary Carla Kearin** presented Rudy Bears to **Joe Martin** of the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office.



Club President **Marcella Heldreth** unveiled the new plaque honoring the Dry Fork Ruritan Club's military veterans, past and present. The plaque will be permanently displayed at the Dry Fork Volunteer Fire Department.



## STUART SHARES BUSY QUARTER



**Stuart** has been busy the past few months. Pictured is club member **Bill Hines** manning a booth at the Patrick County Fair to promote Ruritan and club projects, including the Groovy Sole Train Color Walk and Bike Run. The club partnered with the Patrick County Alzheimer's Group to bring awareness to Alzheimer's and Mental Health. The club also provides a meal once per quarter for the Patrick County Celebrate Recovery Ministry.



## ARARAT SHARES COMMUNITY HISTORY

**Ararat** once again partnered with local historian and author Tom Perry (pictured) for their “Tom Talks History” series to raise money for the Perry Family Scholarship. The first history talk coincided with the release of Mr. Perry’s newest book about White Sulphur Springs in Mt. Airy, NC. The second talk was by Beverly Belcher Woody (pictured) about her new book “Patrick County Pioneers.” These two events raised enough money to fund a full scholarship.



The club also collected school supplies at their July bingo and purchased an additional \$500 of supplies for Blue Ridge Elementary



School. Pictured (l-r) are Club members Donna Fariss and Mary Slate (both teachers in the Patrick County School System) with Blue Ridge Elementary Principal Jessica Horton.

The club presented three scholarships for 2024. Recipients were Rayshawn Sawyers Jr, Marissa Bentley, and Benjamin Hiatt (pictured with their families and Scholarship Committee members Katrina Culler and Ray Smith.)

The club held another successful barbeque and cruise-in. During the day, the club prepared hundreds of meals. Club members Claude Smith and Brad Slate manned the cooker overnight.



## News From Ruritan: LINCOLNLAND District

### HYMERA CONTINUES TASTY TRADITION

**Hymera** hosted their 42nd Annual Seafood Festival in August. Special guests included District Governor Michele Zehr, Zone 1 Governor Marcia Zehr, and National Director Jim Zehr.



Pictured are a few of the North Central Senior and Junior High School Beta Club students who helped serve dinners, run to-go orders, serve drinks, clean tables, mop floors, clean bathrooms, assist customers, work in the kitchen, and help Neptune Foods fish crew. Proceeds will be used for scholarships and other needs in our community. Also pictured are Club President Ann Case

and Vice-President Jamie Akers-Huff.



## News From Ruritan: NEW RIVER District

### BARREN SPRINGS CONTINUES STRONG START

**Barren Springs Community** has been busy with projects, including setting up ice cream stands, serving food at the local Fire Department, and helping with concessions at Virginia Tech football games.



## SOUTH CENTRAL SHOWS TRUE HEART

On September 27, 2024, Hurricane Helena caused historic flooding in the **South Central** community and other East Tennessee and Western North Carolina communities. Due to bridges being washed out or closed, it took about two days for the community to regain access to outside resources. The club knew they had to do something to support their neighbors, so they opened their doors to provide food, water, and opportunities for shelter to anyone in need. They used the resources they had to set up a community relief center. The center remained open 7 days a week for over 3 weeks. The outpouring of support from other communities and states was so overwhelming that they have been able to share supplies with other areas in need.



During this devastating time, the club became a beacon of hope for many. It was a place for people to have their basic needs met and to come and get the emotional support needed to continue healing and rebuilding.



## CAMP CREEK ADDS TWO

**Camp Creek** welcomed new members Sean Donahay and Jamie Nolan.





### GIBBS HOSTS CHAMPIONS

**Gibbs** recently hosted the Tennessee State Division I Class 3-A ladies' softball champions. Gibbs High School Ladies Softball Coach Carol Mitchell, Short Stop Malyiah Smith, and Pitcher Lacey Keck spoke to the club and shared that the team is hoping for back-to-back championships, with some outstanding players returning this year. Lacey was named Player of the Year by three media publications during the 2024 season. Pictured (l-r) are Malyiah Smith, Coach Carol Mitchell, Lacey Keck, and Club President Eddie Jones.



### JEFFERSON SPONSORS FUN COMPETITION

From May to October, **Jefferson VA** sponsors a monthly cornhole tournament. Pictured are the winners of the August tournament with Club President Paul Oesterreicher.



### CHANCELLOR CELEBRATES SERVICE

National Director Julie Marshall and National Director and District Governor Perry Marshman were on hand to recognize three **Chancellor** club members for their dedication and years of service to their club and community. Pictured (l-r) are Perry, Allen Thorburn (57 years), Julie, Wayne Miller (56 years), and Danny Pemberton (54 years).



Club Director Rick Holcomb presented Charlotte Isabelle Dreany with a scholarship. Charlotte will attend Washington & Lee University.



## STONY POINT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Stony Point** has awarded two scholarships for 2024. Leah DeBerardinis is pursuing a bachelor's degree in accounting at DePaul University. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Committee members Linda Davies, Joanne Norford, Leah, Scholarship Committee Chair George Davies, Crystal Buyaki, and Sally Clarry.



Clare White is in the Master's Athletic

Training Program at the University of Virginia. Pictured (l-r) are Committee members Linda, George, Clare's mother Kerri White, Clare, members Crystal, and Sally.



## THREE CHOPT HONORS SERVICE MILESTONE

**Three Chopt** awarded their 2024 scholarships to Isabelle Garrett and Elizabeth Bailey. Pictured is Isabelle with Club President Becky Loyd.

The club also welcomed new member Alicia Martinez Suarez and recognized club member Fulton Payne, pictured with National Director Julie Marshall, for his 50-year membership.



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