



# Ruritan

Volume 88, Fall 2023

*Make Plans **Now** for the*  
**2024 RURITAN NATIONAL CONVENTION**

*See pages 8-12 for details*

**Meet Your**  
**2024 Candidates**  
**for National Board and Foundation**  
**pages 14-17**

*Show your Ruritan Pride!*  
*Check out Ruritan Supply Items*  
*page 13*



# Ruritan

Volume 88, Fall 2023

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## Encourage? Or not Encourage? That is the question.

When kids go to their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents and say I want to be this or do that, do they get behind them and encourage them? or not really encourage them and try to convince them to do or be something else? I'd say they encourage.

“From a small seed, a mighty trunk may grow. – Aeschylus”

By encouraging our new, young, and current members to speak up and share ideas, a mighty club may grow but the rest of us must be there alongside them giving them encouragement to try their ideas. It's said all too often, “that won't work, we've already tried that or something like that.” Just because it's been tried before, some years past, doesn't mean that it won't work now.

What does it hurt to try? If you try and it doesn't work quite as planned, then you have something to work on for the next time to improve until it works. Thomas Edison made many attempts to improve the light bulb. He tried several different things, but he didn't give up. Thomas Edison was impressed with Henry Ford's internal combustion engine automobile and encouraged its development.

“Celebrate your successes and failures; both require great courage. – Unknown

“Even a journey of a thousand miles starts with a first step. – Unknown  
We need always to be taking that first step, looking for and asking others to join with us to help our communities and surrounding communities.  
I want to thank all those clubs again that have met my 3% challenge! Great job, but don't stop there!!

Put Ruritan In Your Heart and join us in Winston-Salem January 11-14, 2024.

Let's have a wrap-up Ruritan 95<sup>th</sup>, Rudy 35<sup>th</sup>, and Foundation 55th Celebration! I'm going to enjoy a few Krispy Kreme doughnuts ☐

### Embracing a Heartfelt Return to Civility

A longing to return to civility and harmony resonates deeply within me in a world often marked by divisiveness and discord. The essence of our shared humanity lies in our core values of Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service. These timeless principles are guiding lights that can illuminate our path toward a brighter and more united future.



Fellowship, the art of forging meaningful connections, has been overshadowed by the rise of digital communication. As screens replace smiles and emojis stand in for heartfelt conversations, we must rekindle the flame of genuine human interaction. Engaging in face-to-face conversations, genuinely listening to one another, and appreciating diverse perspectives can help us rediscover the bonds that tie us together.

Goodwill, the unselfish desire for the well-being of others, has often been overshadowed by self-interest in our fast-paced world. Yet, acts of kindness, no matter how small, can ripple through society. Holding the door open, offering a helping hand, or simply offering a word of encouragement can have a profound impact. Let's cultivate a culture of Goodwill where compassion and empathy become second nature.

Community Service, the embodiment of unity in action, has been a cornerstone of solid societies throughout history. Volunteering our time, skills, and resources to uplift those in need is not just a gesture; it's an investment in our collective well-being. There's no shortage of opportunities to make a positive change from food banks to shelters, schools to hospitals. When we serve our community, we reinforce the bonds that tie us together and demonstrate that we're all in this together. Our service extends beyond its immediate impact. It connects us to like-minded individuals who aim to better the world around us. Working with people from diverse backgrounds reminds us that our differences are our strengths and fuels our journey toward a more inclusive and compassionate society.

The call to return to civility and embrace these core values is not a nostalgic plea but a powerful invitation to shape our future. By fostering Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service, we weave a tapestry of connections. Each act of kindness, every moment of understanding, and all instances of lending a helping hand contribute to the revival of civility and the creation of a society we can all be proud to belong to.

The journey toward unity starts with us in a world that often seems fragmented. Let's remember that the power of transformation lies within our actions, our attitudes, and our commitment to one another. Let's seize this moment to usher in an era of empathy, compassion, and genuine unity, lighting the way toward a brighter, more harmonious future.

# Stay Tuned for Limited Edition Rudy 35th Anniversary Popup

<https://www.shumskyideas.com/ruritanpopup/>



DISTRICT THE CONCERT  
FLEECE HOODIE



SPORT-TEK COLORBLOCK  
RAGLAN JERSEY



MAGNETIC MEGA CLIP,  
FULL COLOR DIGITAL



IN STOCK DOUBLE STRIPE  
KNIT CAP WITH RIBBED CUFF



16.9 OZ. H2GO ORION

# 2023 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



# 2023 SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



W  
S

# Welcome

## Ruritan 2024 National Convention



Conveniently located in the heart of North Carolina, Winston-Salem makes it our business to support local businesses. Named a *Forbes' Top 10 Best Downtown* and a *South's Best Cities on the Rise by Southern Living*, Winston-Salem has invested more than \$2 billion in downtown convention space, entrepreneurial corridors and public art projects. The result is a vibrant, walkable city that can't help but attract the next generation of business leaders, entrepreneurs and visitors. Come see for yourself. And discover why Winston-Salem will have you looking forward to traveling back.

**HIP + HISTORIC**  
*Museums & Gardens*

**WALKABLE + WONDERFUL**  
*Downtown Dining*

**INSPIRING + INVITING**  
*Art, Beer & Wine Tours*

Ruritan 2024 National Conference, January 11-13, 2024  
Book Your Special Room Rate Now at <https://tinyurl/VWS24>





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

## Meals

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

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

## Meal Package Options

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

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

## Extra Meal Tickets and Items

Must purchase any package above to purchase additional meal tickets

		Qty	Price	Total
Friday's Family and Fellowship Lunch	Luncheon		\$50	
Saturday Installation Banquet	Banquet		\$75	
Rudy Bears to Brenner Children's Hospital and First Responders	Rudy Bears		\$11	
I want a 2024 Convention T-Shirt <b>Pre-sales Only – Order Now</b> S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL	T-Shirt		\$20	
	<b>TOTAL</b>			

### Ruritan National

P.O. Box 487, Dublin, VA 24084

Check payment type below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Mini Schedule

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Opening – Keynote speaker and flag ceremony

Friday, January 12, 2024

Business Session

Voting for National Officers

Lunch

Workshops

Ruritan National Foundation Silent and Live Auction

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Business Session

Workshops

Installation Banquet and Entertainment

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

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

Please print or type

1st Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Member

Member#: \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Non-Member (circle one)

Member# (if member): \_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check items below that apply:

I have these food allergies/restrictions:

\_\_\_\_\_

I need handicapped-accessible seating at meals.

Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

I have 50 years or more of perfect attendance.

This is my first convention.

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

Check items below that apply:

I have these food allergies/restrictions:

\_\_\_\_\_

I need handicapped-accessible seating at meals.

Send information on wheelchair/scooter rental.

I have 50 years or more of perfect attendance.

This is my first convention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Save the Date

**SATURDAY**

13 JANUARY, 2024

Winston-Salem, NC



## About "Empty Bowls"

For over 20 years, Second Harvest Food Bank has held the "Empty Bowls" annual charity fundraiser to raise awareness & proceeds in their mission to fight hunger & food insecurity in communities across North Carolina. They aim to build healthy, strong communities where everyone has access to healthy food.

*Limited spots available!*

**No sign-up needed.  
This workshop is on  
first come basis!**

# JOIN US!

during the **2024 National Convention**  
**FOR A BOWL PAINTING ACTIVITY**

to support Second Harvest Food Bank's  
Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser



### How painting a bowl helps fight hunger:

Paint a bowl at the 2024 National Convention

Your painted bowl will be donated to the annual Empty Bowls event in April

The attendees of the Empty Bowls event in April will receive your donated bowl as part of their experience

All proceeds from the annual event go to help combat food insecurity in the community

Second Harvest can provide up to 7 meals for each dollar they receive

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

For more information about how this activity benefits the local community, please visit:

<https://www.emptybowlsnc.org/>  
<https://www.secondharvestnwc.org/>



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

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

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

Be prepared for a fabulous evening of music and entertainment!



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

## Event Summary:

2024 Ruritan National Convention

Start Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024

End Date: Saturday, January 13, 2024

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

Hotel offering your special group rate:

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



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



# Show Your Ruritan Pride!

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



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

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



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



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



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



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



# MEET YOUR 2024 NATIONAL CANDIDATES

## National President-Elect

Rebecca “Becky” Lane  
244 Heishman Lane  
Delary, WV 26714  
Phone: (540) 746-2326  
Email: [bucateqimax@gmail.com](mailto:bucateqimax@gmail.com)



**CLUB:** McGaheysville Ruritan Club: Member since 2014; Ruritan Forever; Gold Key Member; Director 2015; Vice President 2016; President 2017 and 2019; Secretary 2018; Treasurer 2016-present; Community Engagement Chair 2018-present; Trustee 2017-present; Club’s Ruritan of the Year 2017; Awarded for Outstanding and Meritorious Service 2018; Elkton Middle School Ruri-Teen Club: Advisor 2017-2020; Distinguished Ruritan Member (DRM) 2017; Rockingham Luncheon Club: Member since 2019; Ruritan Forever; Chair of Social Development 2022-present; Slanesville Ruritan Club: Member since 2022.  
**DISTRICT:** Rockingham District Zone 1 Lt. Governor 2017 and 2019; Rockingham District Zone 1 Governor 2018 and 2020; Rockingham District Lt. Governor 2018; Rockingham District Governor 2019; Rockingham District Foundation Chair 2020-2022; Rockingham District Foundation Co-Chair 2023.  
**NATIONAL:** Ruritan National Director 2020-present; Growth & Development Committee Secretary 2020-2021; Advancement Committee Secretary 2022-present; Advancement Committee Chair 2023; 3rd Year Director Chair/Secretary 2022-2023; Resolutions Committee Chair 2021 and 2022; Tom Downing 2023  
**EDUCATION:** Annadale High School Graduate; Katherine Gibbs Secretary School graduate; Blue Ridge Community College-Veterinary Technology, Associate Degree.  
**OCCUPATION:** Secretary, Ashcraft & Gerel 1985-1988; Secretary, Fairfax County Public Schools 1988-1989; Legal Assistant, Office Manager, Bookkeeper, A. Thomas Lane, Jr. 1990-2012; Paralegal, Ashcraft & Gerel 2012-2013; Customer Service Representative, Patchwork Plus 2015-2020.  
**OTHER:** Mountain View Fellowship COB 2014-2021; Positions/Duties: Outreach Team Chair;

Produce Monthly Newsletter; Organize bi-weekly ladies’ lunch; Trustee; Worship Team Member; Hospitality Team Member; Leadership Team Member; The Mosby Foundation Board: Member 2016-present; Newsletter Editor 2017-2020; Secretary 2019-present.

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## National Director

Raymond Cade  
8093 State Line Road  
Osyka, MS 39657  
Phone: (601) 341-0013  
Email: [rccade@icloud.com](mailto:rccade@icloud.com)



**CLUB:** Mt. Hermon LA Club President 2022 & 2023; Club Director 2017 – 2018; Club Sgt-at-arms 2014 – 2015.  
**DISTRICT:** Gulf Area Governor 2023  
**NATIONAL:** N/A  
**EDUCATION:** One year of study experience at the Community College level.  
**OCCUPATION:** Dairy & beef cattle farmer for 50 years (6 years dairy & 46 years beef); Retired truck driver – 44 years (18 years cross-country and 26 years Wal-Mart); Million-mile safety award accident free; Appointed as driver representative by management to the hiring committee.  
**OTHER:** Married to wife, Fairba Russell Cade, for 50 years; Two adult daughters who are married and eight grandchildren; Member of Mount Hermon Baptist Church; Presently serving as Chairman of the Deacons; Personnel Committee Chairman and adult Sunday School teacher; Have also been Pastor search Committee Chairman, Men’s Ministry Director, Nominating Committee Chairman and served as Chairman of the Deacons for four previous terms; Current member of the Louisiana State Cattlemen’s Association – Washington Parish and President of the Silver Springs Cemetery Association; Previously served as President of the Christian Truck Drives Fellowship, served as a member and speaker for Gideon’s International – Pike County, MS camp for 12 years; Member of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief team for more than 10 years responding to natural

# MEET YOUR 2024 NATIONAL CANDIDATES

disasters and emergencies nationally and internationally most notably: 2002 9/11 Clean-up and Recovery, New York (feeding responders), 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, Phuket Thailand (construction and painting), 2005 Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi (feeding volunteers and responders), and 2012 Hurricane Sandy, New York (feeding volunteers and responders); Hobbies include visiting and sharing a cup of coffee with neighbors, gardening; singing in the choir, listening to Southern Gospel music and spending time on my farm.

## National Director

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



**CLUB:** 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 Christmas Parade Committee; Co-Chair of the Fall Fest; Club Ruritan of the Year in 2018; currently Chair of the Social Engagement Committee; DRM for Ketron Ruri-Teen club formed in 2022.

**DISTRICT:** Tennessean District Governor 2023; Tennessean District Lt. Governor 2021 & 2022; District Ruritan of the Year three times (2020, 2021 & 2022).

**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 and 2022; 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 27 years to Loretta; have two children together (Joshua & Gabriel); have two stepchildren (Brandon & Brandy); Have six grand kids and are currently fostering five of those grand kids; volunteered for awhile as a mentor.

## National Director

Julie J. Marshall  
310 Ravenscroft Drive  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236  
Phone: (804) 519-4476 (Home)  
Phone: (804) 393-8444 (Work)  
Email: [jjmarshall2010@gmail.com](mailto:jjmarshall2010@gmail.com)



**CLUB:** Club President 2014, Club Vice President 2013, Club Secretary 2012, Club Treasurer 2015-2021, 2023; Chair of Club Bylaws Committee, Public Service Committee and Social Development Committee for Central Chesterfield Ruritan Club. Served as Chaplain for Central Chesterfield Ruritan Club from 2014 to present.

**DISTRICT:** Appomattox District Treasurer 2023; Appomattox District Governor 2022, District Secretary 2015-2019, 2021, and 2023, Zone Governor 2020. Served as Chaplain for the Appomattox District Ruritans from 2016 to present.

**NATIONAL:** Attended Ruritan National Convention in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023; Served as an Ambassador in 2022 and 2023; Attended Ruritan National Leadership Conference in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

**EDUCATION:** Graduated from Midlothian High School; Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College, Bachelor of Applied Studies Degree from the University of Richmond; Master of Divinity Degree from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

# MEET YOUR 2024 NATIONAL CANDIDATES

**OCCUPATION:** Worked as a secretary/paralegal in the legal field for 29 years. Certified Professional Legal Secretary, Certified Professional Paralegal, Part-time Pastor – Bagby Memorial Baptist Church in Burkeville, VA from November 2018 – November 2020. Certified Clinical Chaplain – Central Virginia VA Health Care Center in Richmond, VA from September 2018 – Present.

**OTHER:** I am a widow and have four grown children and one granddaughter. I have been a member of the Order of Eastern Star since 1984 and served as Worthy Matron for my local chapter in 2004; after which I served as Secretary and Chaplain. I served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for the Richmond Association of Legal Professionals. I served as the State Treasurer and Secretary for the Virginia Association of Legal Professionals. I have been an active member of Central Baptist Church in Richmond, VA since 1992 and served on the Leadership, Cemetery, Personnel Committees and served as Deacon for nine years. I enjoy reading, the outdoors, bowling, swimming and being with those I love.

## National Director

Lester Owens  
4598 Lee Highway  
Marion, VA 24354  
Phone: (276) 759-4876  
(Cell)  
Email: [scout09mtm@yahoo.com](mailto:scout09mtm@yahoo.com)



**CLUB:** Atkins Club  
President 2014-2018; Club Vice President 2013

**DISTRICT:** Southwest Virginia District Governor 2019 & 2020; Southwest Virginia District Lt. Governor 2018 & 2023; Southwest Virginia District Ruritan of the Year in 2022.

**NATIONAL:** Attended Ruritan National Convention in 2017, 2020 and 2023; Attended Ruritan National Leadership Conference in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023; Became a Ruritan Forever in 2019.

**EDUCATION:** Graduated from Marion Senior High School; Served six years (1977-1983) in the United States Coast Guard and was stationed in Cape May NJ, Kodiak AK, Yorktown VA, Portsmouth VA and Norfolk VA.

**OCCUPATION:** ASE Master Tech; Medium-Heavy Duty trucks.

**OTHER:** I have three daughters; I am team trainer for my church security team; Service Commander-VFW; American Legion Chief Financial Officer; Volunteer usher at the Lincoln Theater.

## National Director

Jeff Roadcap  
11647 Turleytown Road  
Broadway, VA 22815  
Phone: (540) 896 -1164  
Email: [JDRoadcap@gmail.com](mailto:JDRoadcap@gmail.com)



**CLUB:** Linville-Edom Club President 2009-10. Club Vice President 2022-23. Club Treasurer 2007, 2015 – 2019. Club Director 2013, 2014 and 2021. Chaired Citizenship and Patriotism Committee.

**DISTRICT:** Rockingham District Governor 2015 and 2023. Rockingham District Lt. Governor 2014, 2021, and 2022. Rockingham District Youth Coordinator 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016, and 2017. Zone Governor 2013. Coordinated and executed numerous District sponsored (Scripps) Regional Spelling Bees.

**NATIONAL:** Attended eight National Conventions, served as an ambassador at several, and have attended four National Leadership Conferences.

**EDUCATION:** Graduated from Turner Ashby High School in Dayton, VA. Completed BS Degree in Computer Networking from Strayer University. Completed Associates Degrees from Community College of the Air Force in Avionics Systems Technology and in Space Operations Technology.

**OCCUPATION:** Currently working at James



# MEET YOUR 2024 NATIONAL CANDIDATES

Madison University in Classroom Technology (18-years). During my 20-year Air Force career I received Meritorious Service Medals, Commendation Medals, and many other accolades.

**OTHER:** Married 24 years to Cherie. We care for my mother, Mary, who has lived with us for the past 6 years. Have served as American Legion Commander and currently as Finance Officer & Adjutant. Volunteered for many roles with American Red Cross including serving on the Board of Directors for Chapters in Fairbanks Alaska and Harrisonburg Virginia, where I also served as Board Chairman. The last few years I have served as an Election Officer. Hobbies include golf, gardening, and evidently mowing since I spend a lot of time doing it.

## Foundation Trustee

James M. Mills, Jr.  
55 Hickory Trail  
Dallas, GA 30132  
[james.m.mills.jr@gmail.com](mailto: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; District Ruritan of the Year in 2007

**NATIONAL:** Attended 26 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, served as the President's Aide Convention; 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!

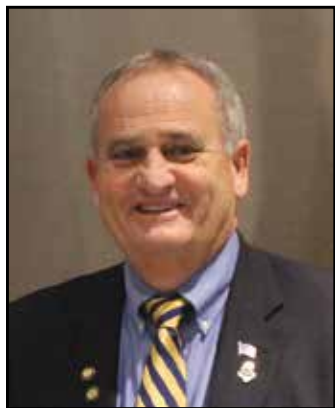
**EDUCATION:** Smiths Station High School, Smiths AL (1979); Phillips College, Columbus, GA (1982) with an AA Degree in Data Processing.

**OCCUPATION:** I have been employed at Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA since 1988, (35 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 43 years and we have two sons, James III (wife, Jamie and grandsons, Jasper and Hudson), and Richard. We enjoy boating, fishing and camping. I served for 10 years as the CFO for our church, Cross Walk Chapel (a non-denominational Christian Church) in Hiram, GA, and as the current Treasurer for Marietta First Church of the Nazarene in Marietta, GA.



## Message From 2023 Foundation President Phillip Bradshaw



Greetings, fellow Ruritans!

Your Trustees have been hard at work improving your Foundation. The Build Your Dollar 2023 Scholarship payout was \$650 and is available to the 463 participating clubs. This is truly amazing. With only a \$300 investment with the Foundation, 429 clubs claimed their \$650 Scholarship check to assist a student with their college education.

If your Club is not participating, I encourage you to get involved and submit a \$300 deposit application before September 1 each year. This is an excellent program for clubs to provide scholarships to deserving youth.

This year marks the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation. The Foundation has a commemorative engraved pen and box set for \$55. There is a limited supply, so purchase yours soon.

As of July 12, 2023, the Foundation had investments of \$5,383,661. The Board recently received a report from the Foundation's investment company, and year to date, we are experiencing a 17.5% return for our current fiscal year.

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. The Foundation offers many programs for our members. There are programs for non-members, such as family members and even businesses. Get on board and take advantage of the many opportunities offered by your Foundation.

Thank you for allowing us to serve as Trustees of your Foundation. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of the trustees by telephone, text, or email. We are willing to assist Ruritans to understand your Foundation better.



## News From Ruritan: HOLLAND DISTRICT

### BETHLEHEM AND BURROWSVILLE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Bethlehem** awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Elizabeth Hernly (pictured right with Jean Brinkley). Elizabeth plans to attend Virginia Commonwealth University to pursue a degree in fashion design.



**Burrowsville** awarded their 2023 scholarships. Pictured above (l-r) are Club President Manny Garcia, recipients Mia Goodman, Kevin Meza, Mikaya Hamlin, Samantha Marsteller, Cayla Gormley, and Scholarship Chair Rod Mustanski.

### GRASSFIELD INVESTS IN COMMUNITY

**Grassfield** Club President John Wayne Abernathy presented the club's 2023 scholarships to David Smith and Grace Adkins. Club members Susan Abernathy teamed up with David Williams to work on some roadside cleanup.



## HICKORY HOSTS BANQUET

**Hickory** held its annual scholarship banquet in July, honoring their six recipients. Pictured (l-r) are Lindsey Johnson, Emily Walsh, Thomas Patterson, Delaney Reper, and Kellyn McCloud. Not shown was Rylee Key.



## MEHERRIN STAYS INFORMED



**Meherrin** recently hosted Greenville County Sheriff's Office members, who discussed the new 911 Emergency Medical Dispatch service. Pictured (l-r) are Sgt. Pair, Sheriff Tim Jarratt, Detective Rook, and Club President Mike Strickland.



## WRENN CONTINUES TRADITION

Past National President and **Meherrin** club member Bobby Wrenn celebrated his 92nd birthday by bicycling 100 miles on the Capital Bike Trail from Jamestown to Richmond, Virginia, and back. This is the 23rd time Bobby has ridden a century on his birthday.

## SMITHFIELD OFFERS REFRESHMENTS



**Smithfield** served refreshments at their "First Friday" car show at Luter's sports complex. Pictured (l-r) are Jamie and Michelle Leccia, Larry Odom, Mike Swecker, Skip Sharpley, and Julie Hopkins. Club President Glen Schlickemeyer, Jeff Miller, and Rick Hope attended the Smithfield Farmers Market, gave out club brochures, and offered free popcorn and water.



## SURRY COUNTY SAILS INTO 93rd



**Surry County** participated in the annual Ruritan Founders Day Parade. The club's float committee led by Chelsea Skinner, designed their float to celebrate the club's anniversary, themed "Sailing Into Our 93<sup>rd</sup> Year."

## WAVERLY ZOOMS INTO SUMMER "FUN"-RAISER

**Waverly** hosted a car show fundraiser on June 17 to help raise funds to support their youth baseball program. Over 50 cars, ranging in model years from the 1920s to the present, were on display. The "People's Choice" award went to Jerry Tatum for his 1962 Rolls Royce. The event also included a "Pin Up" contest. Several women participated by dressing in 1950s and 1960s-style outfits.



Dora Jennings (pictured right) was crowned "Queen" of the car show. *Photos courtesy of Tara Norris, Tara Leigh Photography.*



Summer softball is back in Waverly! After a several-year break,

the club is once again sponsoring a co-ed adult summer softball league. Betty Harrell (pictured), the widow of long-time club member Wayne Harrell, threw out the first pitch at the season opener.



## WINDSOR AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



**Windsor VA** awarded three \$1,000 scholarships for 2023. Recipients are Leanne Blythe, Nathan Branch, and Caleb Bland (not pictured).

## KEITH DELANO "K.D." HICKS

*Keith Delano "K.D." Hicks, 86, of Chesapeake, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 8, 2023, with his loving wife at his side.*

*Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, he was the son of the late Thomas Nelson Hicks and Mary Morton Hicks. His brothers, Buddy Hicks, Sonny Hicks, and Barry Hicks, also predeceased him. K.D. was an Indiana United Methodist Church member of Bowers Hill, Suffolk, attending Providence Mennonite Church. He was a member of the Hickory Ruritan Club, where he was a past president and later the Holland District Governor and a Ruritan National Director. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Old Dominion No. 5, and the Loyal Order of the Moose 898. For many years, KD owned and operated KD Hicks Auto and Truck Repair on South Military Highway.*

*Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 36 years, Marilyn Beiler Hicks; a daughter, Deborah Loveland, and husband Carl; the mother of his daughter, Janice Hicks; a grandson, John Loveland, and wife, Sophia; a sister, Mary F. Arrington; brothers, Carroll Hicks and wife Jane; sister-in-law, Sue Hicks.*

*The funeral service was conducted on May 12, 2023, at Great Bridge Baptist Church, Chesapeake. The interment followed in Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens, Suffolk.*



## ABINGDON STAYS BUSY IN COMMUNITY

The **Abingdon** Citizenship and Patriotism Committee visited Boy Scout Troop 133 to distribute Pocket United States Constitution copies. The booklet includes the Constitution, the Amendments, and the Declaration of Independence. Jeannie Pendergraft represented the club and talked about how important it is to read and understand these documents. In May, the club completed the project with the help of Katie Litton, K-12 Science & Social Studies Academic Support and Remote Learning Program Administrator for Gloucester County Public Schools. They delivered almost 800 copies of the booklet to Gloucester High School, NJROTC, and Paige and Peasley Middle Schools. Pictured (l-r) are Katie Litton, Dianne Carter-deMayo, Danny Speight, Jeannie Pendergraft, Alexis Cruz, and John Pendergraft.



Also, in May, the club participated in the “Reality Store” at Paige Middle School. Club members operated tables and answered questions from the student “shoppers” regarding real-life scenarios, including buying a house,



transportation, food essentials, and insurance. The Public Service Committee visited Achilles Elementary School to present each second-grade student with a Scholastic book. Pictured, Committee Chair Raven Cash talks to students about their books.



The club donated to the Gloucester County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension, allowing three children to attend the 4-H summer camp. Mary Lou Privott presented the check to Extension Agent Krista Gustafson.

Dr. Wesley Wilson, President and Executive Director of the Woodville Rosenwald School in Gloucester, was a guest at the May club meeting. He spoke about the school’s history, legacy, and the status of current renovation efforts. Pictured are Program Chair Mary Lou Privott and Dr. Wilson.



The club also welcomed new member Judy “Bootlegger” Dobson, pictured center with Club President Tony Dziadul and her sponsor, Walter Priest.



## News From Ruritan: CHESAPEAKE DISTRICT

For over six months, the Citizenship and Patriotism Committee has collected faded, torn, and worn-out US flags and recently partnered with Boy Scout Troop 133 for a flag retirement ceremony.



In June, the club hosted a fishing event at Beaverdam Park. Officer Joe Morris of the Virginia Conservation Police (pictured) assisted with the project by donating fishing poles and accessories to all the children that attended. The event included fishing in the lake, a K9 tracking demonstration, many prizes, and a hot dog lunch. Pictured (l-r) are the Abingdon fishing team members Jhie Hale, Don Sciria, Sid Dugas, John Snyder, Raven Cash, Steve Brown, Julianna Woolley, Dianne Wooley, Betsy Tuttle, Ann Dugas, and Roger Dick.



Samaritan Group of Gloucester Treasurer Lester Sterling (right) was the guest speaker for the club's June meeting. He discussed how his organization assists residents who need help with utility bills, car repairs, rent, and other necessities.



The club also presented local Boys & Girls Clubs Director Alyssa Grant with snacks for the children attending her program. They also donated to the Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic. Maureen Crone, Marketing and Development Director, accepted on behalf of the clinic.



On June 11, the club hosted the Colonial Corvette Club for the Pete Shepherd Memorial fundraising event. The food and monetary donations collected were delivered to the Susan Wesley Methodist Church and Bread for Life Food Bank.



GLENDALE HOSTS ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITY



**Glendale** hosted over 80 entries for their inaugural “Hot Wheels and Chili” cruise-in and car show and recently held their annual community yard sale and had a great turnout of sellers and buyers.



The club also hosted a Memorial Day ceremony at the Glendale National Cemetery. The speaker was from Ft. Gregg-Adams, and Benedictine’s Ceremonial Color Guard posted the colors. Henrico County Police and Fire helped place flags on the graves.

**MONTPELIER RETIRES FLAGS**

**Montpelier** recently held its annual flag retirement ceremony and dinner. Boy Scout Troop 706 led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance and retired many worn flags collected throughout the year. The fire pit used to withdraw the flags was a former Troop 706 Eagle Scout project at the Montpelier Community Center. Pictured, club member Dick Jones participates in the ceremony.



GLOUCESTER FUNDS COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gloucester recently held its annual yard sale and there was something for everyone. Proceeds from the event help support the club's community service projects. Pictured (l-r) are club members Barbara



Bauer, Janet Leigh, and Jo Hurd. Also pictured, Pat Coleman, owner of Bee Haven Lavender & Herbs, LLC, and daughter, Trish, present raffle winner Karen Engle (center), with a bag of hand-crafted organic bath and body products.



The club recently hosted guest speaker Cathy Raines (pictured right). Cathy is the owner of Upsy Daisy Creative Reuse Center, a nonprofit organization associated with Bethany United Methodist Church that supports missions in Gloucester. The center collects and takes donations of items that can be repurposed and provides workshops, craft kits, and educational lesson plans.



Club Vice President Bill Naquin presented Jaden Driver with the club's 2023 scholarship. Jaden will attend Christopher Newport University in the fall to major in computer science.



SHORT PUMP AWARDS COMMUNITY LEADERS



**Short Pump** recently held its annual Awards Banquet. Club members and guests were on hand as Club President Donna Hatfield presented certificates and gift cards to Henrico Firefighter Lam Le, Henrico Police Officer Zachary Arlin, and Henrico Deputy Daiquan Copeland. The recipients were chosen by the heads of each of their respective agencies. Charles Luck, IV., president and CEO of Luck Stone Companies, was named Short Pump Businessperson of the Year in recognition of his contributions to the local community.



They also presented college scholarships of \$1,300 each to eight graduating high school seniors.

The 2023 scholarship recipients were Karam Ashad, Trevor Brown, Allison Ip, Christine Jacob, Vy Nguyen,

Nydja Randolph-Harris, and Brandy Swigart.



VARINA SPONSORS ANNUAL SHOOT

**Varina** sponsored their second annual Sporting Clay shoot in May at Old Forge Sporting Clays in New Kent County. The club raised \$10,000 which will help fund their community service projects. They are already planning clay shoot #3 for next year.



## CATLETT-CALVERTON-CASANOVA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Catlett-Calverton-Casanova** recently held their annual scholarship picnic. The club awarded six scholarships of \$1500 each to graduating seniors from three local high schools. The winners and their families were invited to a hamburger/ hotdog picnic. Recipients were Colin Ashby and Nora Waide from Fauquier High School, Alyssa Julaton and Aislinn Wright from Kettle Run High School, and Angie Aguillar-Bu and Kathleine Kutulla from Liberty High School. The club also presented plaques to Morgan Applegate and Jim and Diane Fichthorn in recognition of their continued support of the scholarship program.



## GAINESBORO SHARES COMMUNITY PRIDE



**Gainesboro** placed a little sharing library in their community to serve the rural area around Gainesboro. The library was built by friends of the club. Club members Tom Cutright, Kristie Dolly, Ron Dolly, and Kenzie Dolly painted, roofed, and stenciled the library, and installed it at our Gainesboro Ruritan roadside park. Pictured (l-r) are Ron, Kristie, and Tom.

For Memorial Day, club members and friends put out over 500 American flags at a local cemetery and picked up trash around the community.

## SUMERDUCK HOSTS GOLFERS

Dominic Timm, Ollie Grimsley, and Dustin Zimbardo played in the **Sumerduck** golf tournament in May. They finished in 9th place and Dustin won the 50/50 raffle.



SHAWQUON RECOGNIZES FUTURE FARMERS



Shawquon Club President Gary Bunch presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Strasburg High School FFA student Braden Stern, pictured left with his grandfather and club member Sam Fauble. President Gary and Club Treasurer Loretta McDonald presented additional scholarships to FFA students Jacob Stout, Hunter Legge, and Brendan Ridings (right). Not pictured is

recipient Wesley Molden.

The club also awarded Marshall Shiley with a Ruritan Forever. Marshall has been a club member since 2006 and actively supports club projects, including apple butter making, car shows, and reenactments.



WARRENTON HOSTS THEATRE CLUB PRODUCTION

Warrenton recently hosted its bi-annual theatre club production of the *Music Man Jr.* in conjunction with the Fauquier Theatre Club of Vint Hill, Virginia. The show was performed by the participants of the theater's summer camp. Club member John Schlenker coordinated and oversaw the event.



The club also hosted its annual Scholarship Banquet. Seven recipients from Fauquier High School and one Legacy Scholarship recipient were each awarded checks for \$1,000.

## CARTERSVILLE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Cartersville** VA awarded four \$1,500 scholarships to deserving Cumberland County High School seniors. They were recognized at a recent meeting with dinner and certificate presentations from Club Secretary and Scholarship Committee Chair Bruce Robinson. Pictured with Bruce are Anthony Rucci (left) and Larry Witt (right). Stephanie Hurt accepted on behalf of her daughter, Allie Hurt, and Judy Layne accepted on behalf of her granddaughter, Hannah (Bean) Layne.



## CENTRAL BRUNSWICK REWARDS SERVICE

**Central Brunswick** recently recognized club member E.B. Matthews for over 50 years of service to Ruritan and his community. The award was presented at a recent meeting, where several members shared some of their best memories with E.B. and the club. Pictured (l-r) are Zone Governor Glenn Johnson, Club President Robbie Taylor, E. B. Matthews, his son and club member Marc Matthews, and E.B.'s wife, Norma Jean Matthews.



## SPOUT SPRING SUPPORTS STUDENTS

**Spout Spring** awarded \$25,000.00 in scholarships to 12 local high school seniors. The scholarship amounts ranged from \$1000.00 to \$3000.00. The students will attend college, technical, business, or vocational school. They were selected based on financial need, academic achievement, involvement in extracurricular activities, community volunteerism, and job experience. Pictured (l-r) are 2023 recipients Kenley Booth, Alexander Caruso, Parker Cheatham, Katie Conroy, Christine Hamilton, Savannah Hudson, Gabe Nitti, William O'Neill, Trey Shrock, Conner Swanberg, Catherine Thomas, and Talley Torrence.



## News From Ruritan: APPOMATTOX DISTRICT

### CHESTERFIELD HONORS VETERANS

Chesterfield VA presented a wreath during Memorial Day services at the Virginia War Memorial.



## News From Ruritan: PEAKS OF OTTER DISTRICT

### BROOKVILLE HELPS TWO PURSUE FUTURE



**Brookville** members Melissa Robertson and Tammy Anderson attended Brookville High School's Class of 2023 Academic Awards and Scholarship program and were honored to present two individual \$1000 scholarships. The David Morey (VA Tech) scholarship was awarded to Laci Mays, who will be attending Virginia Tech pursuing a History and Social Sciences degree. The Virgil Cauley Scholarship was awarded to Natalie Hudson, who will pursue a degree in Exercise Science/Therapeutic Science at Liberty University and plans to earn her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.



### CLIFFORD CELEBRATES 50th

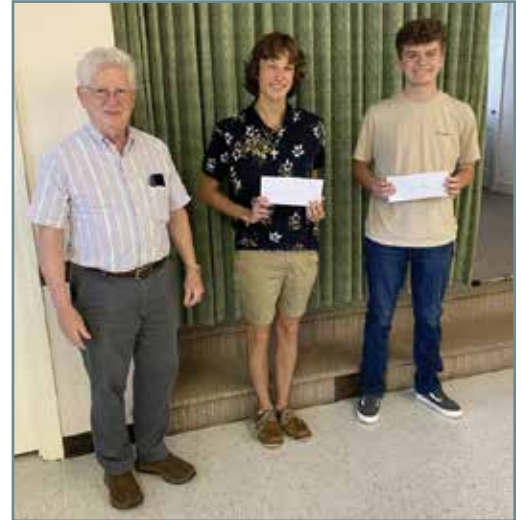


**Clifford** recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They have been busy with fundraisers throughout the year, including Brunswick Stew sales, spaghetti dinners, and fish fries.

## News From Ruritan: PEAKS OF OTTER DISTRICT

### FOREST HILL PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Forest Hill** Club Treasurer Steve Allen presented their 2023 scholarships to Bronson Dawson (center) and Brennan Summy (right).



### GLADE HILL REWARDS EXCELLENCE



**Glade Hill** Fellowship Committee member Danna Hayes presented scholarships to two outstanding Franklin County High School seniors, Emma Duncan and Brayden Whitlow. Each recipient was recognized for their academic excellence and leadership abilities.



### LYNCH STATION HOSTS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER



Members of **Lynch Station** and their grandchildren sold raffle tickets at First Saturday in Altavista, Virginia. The 1st place prize was a kayak, and 2nd place was a cooler.

The club awarded two scholarships for 2023. Recipients were Altavista Combined School students Shane McCorkle and Eli Schubert.





**ATKINS PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP**

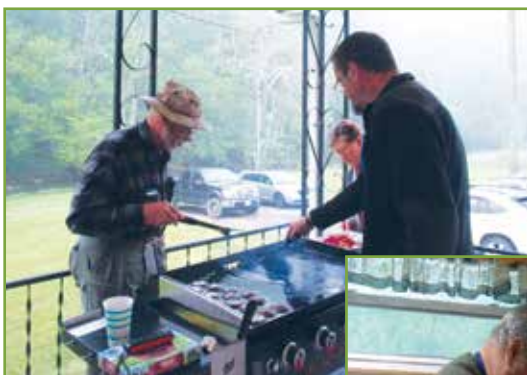


**Atkins** Club Treasurer Rosemary Winebarger, and Club President Jerry Umbarger presented their 2023 scholarship to Ryleigh Crowder. Ryleigh is a graduate of Marion Senior High School.

**COOPER CREEK SUPPORTS AWARENESS**

**Copper Creek** joined the Scott County Department of Social Service and other civic organizations in supporting Child Abuse Awareness Month. Club members Willie Kilgore, Tommie Presley, Tori Calhoun, Jean Shell, Mike Short, Kinsey Reed, and Pat Davis are pictured.

The club also hosted a country breakfast fundraiser in April. Don Thurston, Tommie Presley, and Mike Short prepared bacon and sausage, Pat Davis scrambled the eggs, Carmon Short and Brenda Calhoun made the gravy, and Tori Calhoun and Kinsey Reed manned the pancake station.



# Happy 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Mint Spring Ruritan Club!



Club members, guests, and cabinet members gathered to celebrate Mint Spring's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Ruritan National's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 18, 2023.



Augusta County's Clerk of Court and Ruritan District Governor Steve Landes presented a certificate to Club President Lucy Smith.



Attendees enjoyed food and fellowship.



Historical memorabilia were on display.



Everyone mingled, chatted, and shared fond Ruritan experiences.



Charter Member Hedley Coffey (left) attended with early member Stanley Benson (middle) and current club member Don Crickenberger.

### CHURCHVILLE HONORS FIRST RESPONDERS



**Churchville VA** club honored first responders at their May 2023 meeting. Churchville Fire and Rescue Department and Augusta County Sheriff's Office representatives were recognized. Additional guests included National Director Becky Lane and Rudy Bear.

### WEYERS CAVE HOSTS BASEBALL AND BLOOD DRIVE



**Weyers Cave** started providing baseball playing fields 80 years ago when they sold turkey and oyster suppers to raise funds for ballpark lights behind the old schoolhouse. The current ball field sits on the 25-acre Weyers Cave Ruritan Memorial Park, where the club hosts a softball tournament in the Summer. Pictured are Dale Roller and Paul Wilson serving free ice cream to the players and fans.

The club hosted their 21st annual blood drive in July. The event, organized by the Public Service Committee of Tim Wade, Dwight Houff, Malcolm Cameron, Donna Houff, and Gary and Peggy Huffman, brought in 40 donors, including Fluvanna County Club President Neil McLaughlin.



## BRIDGEWATER SERVES UP SCHOLARSHIPS

**Bridgewater** recognized their 2023 scholarship winners at their annual “Son & Daughter Night”- Pictured (l-r) are recipients Olivia Layman, Briley Loan, Emma Myers, Caitlyn Codding, and Edna Yoder. The club also donated to the Turner Ashby High School FCCLA to help state winners attend the FCCLA national convention in Denver, CO.



The club recently helped their friends at the Mt Crawford Ruritan Club by serving ice cream at their annual lawn party. Mt. Crawford returned the favor by helping in the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Company’s Bingo Booth.



## LURAY PROVIDES LUNCHES

**Luray** has partnered with local churches to deliver nutritious bagged lunches to the elementary school. Over 70 lunches are provided weekly to students who need supplemental food over the weekend.



## CROSS KEYS - MILL CREEK HOSTS WINNERS



**Cross Keys-Mill Creek** presented five scholarships at their June meeting. Recipients (l-r) were Abrie Martin, Caroline Shoop, Chloe Stone, Richard Marshall, Chloe Sheppard, with Scholarship Committee Chair John Cullea.

## MAUR-BROOK-OLIVE PURSUES COMMUNITY PROJECTS

**Maur-Brook-Olive** continues with ongoing projects by collecting items for the local food pantry and running concessions at the Tom's Brook Volunteer Fire Department's Wednesday night bingo. Between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, members and volunteers spent over 70 hours picking up 80 bags of trash along local roads.

The club recently hosted Dan Hadacek, who spoke on the Shenandoah Rail Corridor's project to "Save the Rails." In May, guest Becky Scott shared about a community outreach project, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." The club also welcomed Lt. District Governor Larry Cave (pictured).



## PORT REPUBLIC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



**Port Republic** awarded Spotswood High School graduate Chloe Shepard a \$600 scholarship. Chloe will be attending Eastern Mennonite University. Unable to attend, but awarded scholarships were East Rockingham High School graduate Ashley Herring, and Massanutten Technical Center graduate William Shulgan.

## ROCKINGHAM LUNCHEON COOKS FOR TEAMS

**Rockingham Luncheon** held their May meeting at Oakdale Park in Bridgewater. The club recognized scholarship recipient Derek Pence of Broadway High School and introduced new member Cathy Seal.

They also served a hotdog cookout to the Challenger Baseball Teams. Special guests included National President-Elect Robin Davenport, National Director Cassie Flanagan, District Governor Jeff Roadcap, District Lt. Governor Larry Cave, and National Director Rebecca Lane.



## MT. PLEASANT INSTALLS BENCHES

**Mt. Pleasant** recently constructed, donated, and installed two benches in the Libertytown Regional Park. Each bench, made from long-lasting polywood, was placed on a hiking trail and embedded in a concrete slab. Nine club members and two local volunteers were involved in the project. Pictured are club member Pat Grabenstein and volunteer Herman Creswell working on the foundation and setting the bench. Lew Sherman and volunteer William Reese “rest and reflect”.



The club recently hosted scholarship recipients Lindsey Green, Sydney Deck, Natalie Hafler, Kendra Crigger and their families for a celebration dinner and program. Lindsey attends Towson University and is working toward a degree in Elementary Education. Sydney will attend the Florida Institute of Technology to study Astrobiology. Natalie will attend the University of North Carolina and enter the field of health sciences. Kendra will enter Frederick Community College this Fall as she pursues a degree in the medical field. Not pictured was Martin Ratchford, who continues to work toward a degree in Computer Science at Elizabethtown College. The scholarships are funded through an annual golf tournament held in June of each year.

## MAUGANSVILLE CELEBRATES 70th

**Maugansville** recently celebrated their 70th anniversary. Distinguished guest speakers included County Commissioners Jeff Cline and Randy Wagner and Fire Department representative Phil Ridenour. State Delegate Terry Baker presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Maryland General Assembly. Ruritan National President Mike Morrison, National Director Pearl Underwood, and Past National President Larry Cassell congratulated the club on their many years of community service.



## News From Ruritan: POTOMAC DISTRICT

### JOHNSVILLE HONORS STUDENTS AND VETERANS

**Johnsville** awarded three scholarships to local students at their May meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Sophia Reese, Jackson Reese, Jordon Reese, and Scholarship Chairperson Robin Ibex.

The club held their Spring Sub/Sandwich Sale fundraiser in April. They assembled and sold 1350 subs and sandwiches.



At their July meeting the club celebrated the 4th of July by inviting veterans from the community as guest to honor their service to our country.



## News From Ruritan: ALBEMARLE DISTRICT

### PASQUOTANK SUPPORTS TEEN PROGRAM

**Pasquotank** helped support the Teen Court program at Pasquotank County High School. The program helps youth aged eleven to eighteen referred by law enforcement officials, judges, or court counselors. The program is staffed by school volunteers who take on the roles of attorneys, clerks, bailiffs, and jurors. An adult counselor serves as the judge and presides over court proceedings. As in traditional court, the volunteer attorneys present the facts of the case, and



the peer jury is responsible for rendering a constructive sentence. All sentences include jury duty and community service and may also include apology letters, online classes, and other restorative sanctions. Pictured are a few of the volunteers and their counselor (with hat).



The club recently awarded their scholarships for 2023. This year, the club surpassed \$47,000 in total scholarships awarded.

## DURANTS NECK PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Durants Neck** awarded four scholarships for 2023, each for \$1500. Recipients were Carissa Baker, G'Nasia Moore, Emma Smith, and Angel Thomas. Carissa has been accepted to Appalachian State University and plans to pursue a degree in psychology. G'Nasia will attend East Carolina University in the fall to begin her studies, working towards a career as



a physical therapist. Emma will also attend East Carolina University, where she plans to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. Angel has been accepted to the College of the Albemarle, where she will enter their law enforcement program. Pictured (l-r) are Carissa Baker, G'Nasia Moore, Club Vice President Cindy Berrio, Emma Smith, and Angel Thomas.

## GATES HONORS FAMILY LEGACY



**Gates** recently recognized five brothers for their years of service and dedication to the club, collectively totaling 90 years. Pictured (l-r) are Tom Smith (13 years), Brown Smith (7 years), Tracy Smith (one year), Jack Smith (56 years), and Jimmy Smith (13 years), with Past Club President Cody Brinkley. District Governor Harvey Roberts also presented Jack with his 50+ Year Membership Pin.



## CLUBS COMBINE EFFORTS FOR FIRE VICTIMS

The District coordinated efforts to raise donations for house fire victims in the Nixonton community. While Nixonton gave the first check for immediate needs, eight other clubs, including **Currituck, Newland Providence, Ryland, Forestburg, South Mills, Shawboro, Sunbury, and Gates**, donated and helped raise

\$1930.00. Pictured (l-r) are District Lt. Governor Mike Shepard, Zone 2 Governor Alma Hassell, District Treasurer Barbara Courtney, District Governor Harvey Roberts, recipients Angel and Khristian Taylor, Nixonton Club President Martina Ruetten, and Nixonton Vice President Susan Hall.





### BEAR GRASS DEFIES THE HEAT

The **Bear Grass** building crew recently installed a ramp for a local resident. Although the temperature got up to 100 degrees, they got the job done!



### EVERETTS HOSTS COMMUNITY BINGO



**Everetts** has been hosting their community residents for Bingo on Wednesday afternoons. The group looks forward to the fellowship and even pitches in to bring prizes and homemade desserts to share. Club President Nancy Hardison serves as the bingo caller.



### JAMESVILLE HOSTS ANNUAL CELEBRATION

**Jamesville** hosted the Memorial Day celebration, which is the longest-running event in Martin County NC. Club President Ray Bowen and member Angie Mobley welcomed guest speaker Johnson County VFW Commander Robbie Hardison. Club member Jackie Gillam announced the names of each deceased veteran in the cemetery, including special recognition for a soldier whose remains were never recovered from Vietnam.



## News From Ruritan: ROANOKE DISTRICT

### ROBERSONVILLE PROVIDES SUPPORT



**Robersonville** recently selected their 2023 scholarship recipients. Club President Victor Long presented Sidney Whichard (pictured left) with the Build Your Dollar scholarship, and Club Director Don Lewis presented Madison Respress (right) with the club's \$650 scholarship.

The club's "ramp team" also stepped up to help a local resident.



## News From Ruritan: ROCKY MOUNT-DURHAM DISTRICT

### BAHAMA CLEANS UP COMMUNITY

**Bahama** sponsored their sixth anti-litter coloring contest at the local elementary school. Each of the 300+ students colored a picture of Sammy the Litter Slug. A winner was picked for each of the Pre-K to 5th-grade levels. The winners got bragging rights and a small cash prize at their Earth Day Celebration.



The club also sponsored a bird-watching station at their local senior center. Various feeders and a bluebird box were mounted outside the center's general-purpose area. A "bird of the week" bulletin board encourages observation and conversation. Currently, the group enjoys hummingbirds and ten other types of birds that frequent the feeders.

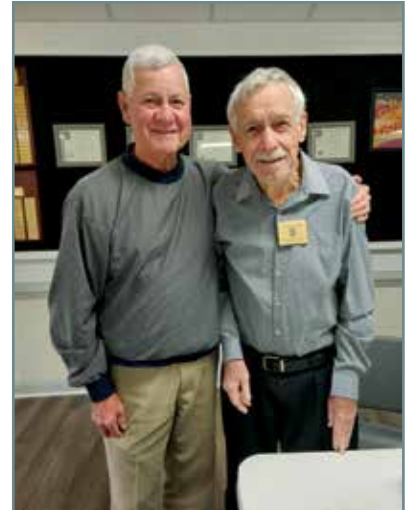
Club members and volunteers cleared briars and brush from the 162-year-old neglected family cemetery of Senator Willie Mangum, a prominent 1840's politician. Pictured (l-r) are Tony DeVuono, Richard Mulchi, Mark and Eileen Lanham, Gary Law and volunteer Ken Benfield.



## News From Ruritan: ROCKY MOUNT-DURHAM DISTRICT

### BENVENUE HONORS SERVICE

Past National President Wayne Outlaw (left) presented a 50+ year name badge to Howard Taylor (right), a 56-year member of the **Benvenue** club. Howard is the longest-serving club member and was recognized for his many years of dedicated service.



### COOPERS CLEAN UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD



**Coopers** recently participated in a trash pickup along a two-mile stretch of road in their community. They accumulated 33 bags of trash. The club sponsors this project two to three times each year. Pictured (l-r) are Cheryl Glover, Steve Williams, Club President Mike Glover, Danny Tyson, Jane Tyson, Ken Powell, and Wanda Powell.

### REDWOOD AND ROUGEMONT PRESENT 2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

**Redwood** Scholarship Committee members Sandra Layton (left) and Pam Thompson (right) presented five \$1,000 scholarships for 2023. Recipients (l-r) are Wyatt Smith, Camile Jarvis, Tanner Oulette, Sydney Gullie, and Bethany Coleman (not pictured).



**Rougemont** presented two \$1000 scholarships at their June meeting. Pictured (l-r) are Scholarship Committee Chair Lawrence Daye, recipients Camryn Daye and Alex Dickerson, and Club President Linward Hedgspeth. Camryn will be attending Durham Community College, and Alex will be attending North Carolina A&T State University.

**LYNN'S CROSSROADS SPRINGS INTO ACTION**

**Lynn's Crossroads** has been staying busy. In March, they held their Spring BBQ and sold out of everything. They have been collecting pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House in Durham. They were able to take 65 lbs. of pop tops to the Ronald McDonald House and provided 15 Easter baskets for the children. In April, the club hosted their annual Spring Fling Vendor Fair. They had many new vendors in addition to the regulars - lots of new items and new friends.



The club has added seven new members since the first of the year, four of whom attended the ANCR Rally.

They held their first Flag Retirement Ceremony in June. One of their Girl Scout troops helped with the ceremony and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony was followed by their scholarship awards dinner. Six recipients and their families attended.



The club also hosted Community Day at Lynn's Crossroads Ruritan Club. Participants included local Firefighters, Sheriff Deputies, Deputy Motorcycle Group, Crime Stoppers Unit, NC Forestry Service, Lemon's Towing Service, M & J Realty, Master Gardeners, NC Beekeepers, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and NC Wildlife Commission.

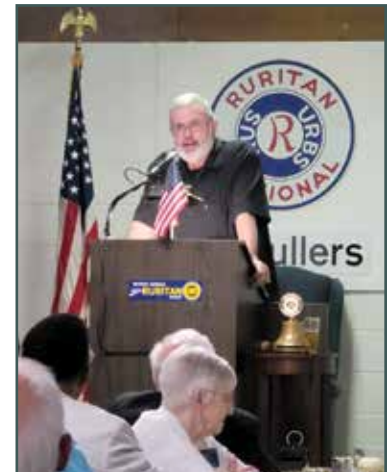


## MCCULLERS CELEBRATES MILESTONE

**McCullers** celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May, with about 100 people in attendance. Included among the guests were former and current club members and spouses, widows of former club members, volunteers who have helped with community service projects, and officers and dignitaries from the Rocky Mount-Durham District and other Ruritan clubs. National President Millard Thacker and wife Marty, and



Past National President Linward Hedgspeth and wife Anne, were also in attendance. Club President Mark Millikin presided over the festivities, and National President Elect Robin Davenport spoke on “What is a Ruritan?” Featured speaker Floyd Baker (right) gave an informative and entertaining presentation about the history of the McCullers Ruritan Club. Jim Sears, a 58-year veteran of Ruritan, received his 50-



year nametag from District Governor Marshall Ross.

Entertainment was provided by Denise Herring who sang and played the autoharp.

The club also welcomed six new members.

## SILK HOPE PROMOTES EDUCATION

**Silk Hope** donated over \$4600 to Silk Hope School to purchase two 65-inch interactive panels. The panels help teachers with their classroom instruction and will replace the old classroom blackboards. The school is working toward putting a panel in every classroom. Pictured (l-r) are school secretary Sherri Campbell, Principal Caroline Linker, and Club Treasurer Johnny Johnson.



In July, the club awarded eleven scholarships totaling \$9000. Recipients and their families were treated to dinner and enjoyed an inspiring message from Rev. Jason Dickerson. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Bud Hansen, Tessa Gaines, Alyssa



Bick, Rebekah Brookshire, Corrine McLaurin, Lillian Jones, Caroline Matthews, Victoria Barlow, Ashlee



Raines, Francisco Larreos Perez, and Scholarship Committee Chair Michael Rogers. Not pictured were Mylie Cardman and Jackson Headen, who could not attend.

### TRI-COUNTY PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Tri-County NC** awarded five scholarships for 2023. Pictured (l-r) are Club Vice President Tommy Hussey and recipients Ismerai Perez, William Morris, Ashton Wilkes, and Ellie Hussey. Not pictured was Olivia Jones. The students were chosen based on a written essay addressing their educational and life goals and how they planned to achieve them. The students plan to pursue careers in political science, firefighting, zookeeping, and social work.



### WEST MOUNT INVESTS IN FUTURE

**West Mount** Vice President Angela Becker presented the club's 2023 scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are recipients Charlie Brown, Bayden Collins, Kylee Pitt, and Taylor Rooks. The club also presented a donation to Amanda Jankowski, Nash County DSS, for the Foster Care Program.



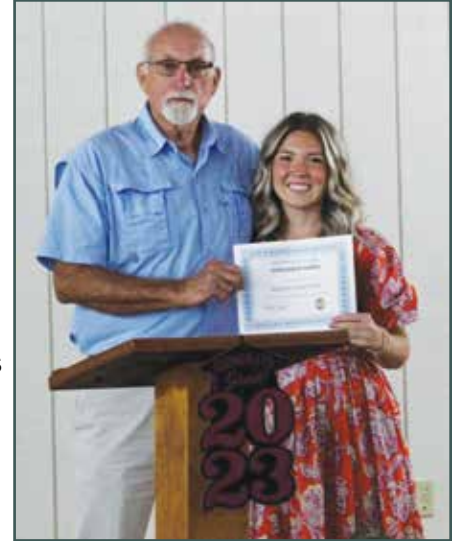
The club congratulated youth member Jayden Evans. Jayden is a Nash Central High School JROTC member and was recently promoted to Petty Officer 3rd Class.

PINETOWN HELPS FURRY FRIENDS



**Pinetown** members and their Bingo players donated cat and dog food, cleaning products, and blankets to Little Miss Independence Ambassador Kendall Koonce. Her project for the Belhaven Little Miss Independence pageant was to help the Beaufort County Animal Shelter. She delivered all donated items to the shelter. Kendall is pictured with Club President Dale Fawver.

The club held a scholarship awards dinner for their recipient, Madison Allen. The scholarship was presented by the Club President Dale Fawver.



JOHNSONVILLE SHARES IN COMMUNITY HISTORY

**Johnsonville** club member and local historian Rachel Ray Webb spoke at a recent meeting. Active in both Civil and Revolutionary War reenactments and a docent volunteer in area historical buildings, she demonstrated some original items and replicas used in reenactments. She shared little-known Johnsonville history such as stagecoach stops, battles, and information about Indian tribes who lived there.



The club provided breakfast and snacks for the over 70 teachers and staff of Johnsonville Elementary, along with small handmade gifts, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. Bojangles partnered with the club and donated sausage biscuits.



The club also hosted the community Memorial Day observance. The colors were presented, along with the service

flags, KIA/MIA and Gold Star Mothers banners by local Scout Troop 713. Club member and Cape Fear District Lt. Governor Retired Army SFC Rodger Nicely, who served during Desert Shield, gave the remarks. Retired Air Force Sr. Master Sgt. Larry Taylor gave the invocation. A hot dog lunch was provided following the service.



## News From Ruritan: CAPE FEAR DISTRICT

The club observed Flag Day with their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. Two 5x8 flags, 33 3x5 flags, 63 cemetery flags, three State of North Carolina, one POW/MIA, two Airborne, and one Christian flag were respectfully and properly retired.

In July, the club awarded seven educational scholarships totaling \$3,000, including the \$1,000 Tom and Carole Davis Scholarship for Community Service.



## BUNNLEVEL PRESERVES COMMUNITY PRIDE

**Bunnlevel** recently began a program to help a local food bank distribute leftover vegetables to those in need in their community. When vegetables are available, the club picks up the donations, advertises, and holds a weekly giveaway for those in need in their community.



When vegetables are available, the club picks up the donations, advertises, and holds a weekly giveaway for those in need in their community.



The club also had a successful yard sale in May. Proceeds from the sales will be used for other community projects.



The club sponsored a gravestone cleaning and restoration demonstration in June at the Bunnlevel Community Cemetery. Local residents were invited to attend, and Cindy Atkins from

Past2Present

Stone Preservation LLC provided instruction. The club recognized Flag Day by decorating the Bunnlevel welcome signs.



The club presented scholarships for 2023. Recipients were William Hobbs (left), and Obiora Ude (right).



GILBERT SERVES PEACHY FUN

**Gilbert** Environment Committee planted a Tamukeyama Japanese Maple tree at their club building as a memorial to honor club members who have passed away. Pictured is Committee Chair Ann Hubbard.



The club also participated in the 63rd Lexington County Peach Festival held on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Club members, assisted by their Scout troops, dipped 195 gallons of delicious peach ice cream and sold 200 boxes of fresh peaches during the day-long event. The club also managed a parking lot about a block from the festival. Proceeds from the sales are used to support the scouts and other community projects throughout the year.



Long-time members Raymond and Alice Boozer were also on hand to manage operations from behind the scenes. Alice (age 90) was the very first General Chairman of the Lexington County Peach Festival in 1959. Raymond (age 94) took over a few years later and led the group for decades.

SANDY RUN SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND GOODWILL

Sandy Run hosted Clemson graduate and new Ruritan member Bill Steele as a guest speaker. Bill shared about his forty-two years in land management and his experience in site preparation, reforestation, inventory, procurement, harvesting, and invasive plant and wildlife management. Pictured (l-r) are Club President Jill Crim, Bill, and Environment Committee Chair Becky Starnes.



The club also collected donations of drinks and treats to show their appreciation for teachers at Sandy Run K-8 School and Foundation Christian Schools. Pictured (l-r) are School Counselor Michelle Bradley, Brenda Goodwin, Becky Starnes, Kay James, Kelley Roche-Sanders, Principal Chris Mack, June Kirkland, and Jill Crim.

In June, the club honored their 2023 scholarship winners. Morgan Mack Cornell plans to attend Clemson University.



Tanner Courtland Larkin plans to attend Appalachian State University. Andrew Preston Taylor plans to attend The Citadel. Additional recipients, Caroline Elizabeth Easterlin and Alexandria Sabrina Ancik could not attend. Pictured (l-r)



are Club President Jill Crim, Morgan, Tanner, Andrew, and Social Development Committee Chair Teresa Helms.

The Environmental Committee joined Calhoun County Soil and Water Coordinator Mary Dixon to clean up trash, trim trees and shrubbery, and rake leaves at the water garden at Sandy Run School. Pictured (l-r) are Becky Starnes, Kay James, Kelley Roche-Sanders, Jill Crim, Gene Crim,

and Mary Dixon. In honor of Arbor Day, they planted two miniature magnolia trees at the Sandy Run Museum.

In July, the club met to assemble 40 bags of canned goods, fresh produce, candy, snacks, and other items that are distributed to members of the community who are in need due to illness or disability. "Project 52" is one of the club's ongoing projects. They collect the food items throughout the year, and Teresa Helms crochets dishcloths to include in the bags. Club members also enjoy visiting with their neighbors. Pictured (l-r) are Gene Crim, Robin Johnson, Becky Starnes, Teresa Helms, Sheila Shanklin, Kelley Roche-Sanders, Kay James, Lena Stabler, Marshall Stabler, and Jill Crim.



## News From Ruritan: COLUMBIA DISTRICT

### EASTOVER SHARES TRADITION



**Eastover** continued their annual Memorial Day tradition by placing flags on graves of local veterans. This year, 300 flags were placed at seven church cemeteries in the Eastover area. Pictured are Mary Ann Hiott and Way Scott.

The club awarded their 2023 scholarship to Ashley Baker. Ashley is a junior at the University of South Carolina, majoring in Public Relations.



The club also held a barbeque fundraiser for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Pictured, Gene Lindler chops the barbeque with some help from Jim Hiott.



## News From Ruritan: LOWER WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

### DISTRICT RECEIVES PROCLAMATION

Members representing several Ruritan clubs in Greenbrier County attended a meeting of the Greenbrier County Commission in May. During the meeting, Zone 7 Governor Debbie Bowman read a proclamation for Ruritan Awareness Month. The Commissioners signed the proclamation and thanked the group for the volunteer work they do for the communities in Greenbrier County.



Pictured (l-r) are Commissioner Blaine Phillips, Commission President Tammy Tincher, Commissioner Lowell Rose, (2<sup>nd</sup> row) Debbie Bowman, **Maxwelton** Ruritan Club; Kim Johnson, **Smoot** Ruritan Club; (back row) Ellen Driggers, **Williamsburg** Ruritan Club; Gene Campbell, **Smoot** Ruritan Club; Sam Tuckwiller, **Richlands** Ruritan Club; Joe Bogucki, **Frankford** Ruritan, and Gary Wallace, **Maxwelton** Ruritan Club.

## News From Ruritan: LOWER WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

### MAXWELTON GROWS THEIR MEMBERSHIP

The Golden Corral restaurant in Beckley, WV, recently became an associate member of **Maxwelton**. Tom Pape accepted a plaque from Club President Larry Bowman on Saturday, July 8, 2023. Tom and his staff know the importance of supporting local community organizations. They graciously donated a gift certificate for the District Convention.



Club members recently completed work on the flower bed at the Greenbrier

County 911 Operations Center. Joan Vance, Tom Vance, Mike Williams, and Debbie Bowman removed all the weeds and planted flowers. The club will maintain the flower bed, and the community can look forward to beautiful blooms of Dutch Iris, Blackeye Susan, and inpatients. American flags were placed for Independence Day and will be placed on other holidays. The club also maintains the flowerbed at the Maxwelton Post Office.



## News From Ruritan: TENNESSEAN DISTRICT

### BELL RIDGE DELIVERS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Bell Ridge** awarded their scholarships for 2023. Recipient Ashley Hutchens is the granddaughter of club member Miranda Nottingham. Ashley will attend East Tennessee State University in the fall. Ashley is pictured with Miranda, her brother, Gentry, and her father, Charlie.



Recipient Phillip Page is the grandson of the late Roger Page and club member Sharon Page. Phillip is currently a student-athlete at Maryville College. Phillip is pictured with his grandmother, Sharon.

### BUTLER HOSTS FAMILY EVENT

**Butler** made their recent membership drive a family event with activities for all ages. The club has more than doubled in membership since the first of the year.

Club President Eddie Kinser presented a \$2000 donation to the curator of the Butler Museum as their effort to help preserve the history of their community.



In recognition of their 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and many years of service, the club was presented with a proclamation from the Johnson County Mayor.



### HOLSTON SHARES ACTIVITIES WITH STUDENTS



**Holston** presented three scholarships at their June meeting. Pictured (l-r) are recipient Wyatt Olinger, Club President Don Goodwin, and recipients Emma Olinger and Madison Chapman.

The club also held a flag retirement ceremony in June. They folded and retired over 500 Flags of various sizes. Hamlett Dobson Funeral Home and Memorial Park provided the location.

Club members turned out for their quarterly trash pickup covering two miles of State Route 75. Club member Andrea Amos brought six of her students from Northeast State Community College to help.



## News From Ruritan: CHEROKEE DISTRICT

### COKER CREEK AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

**Coker Creek** selected Madison Hawk as the recipient of their 2023 scholarship of \$300. Pictured are Club President Glenn Lintemuth and Madison.



## News From Ruritan: OHIO DISTRICT

### COLERAIN HELPS FOUR-LEGGED NEIGHBORS



**Colerain OH** recently presented a donation to Dana Goletz of The Road Home Animal Project for the construction of Belmont County Dog Park. Pictured (l-r) are Peggy Padyjasek, Club President Frank Kinsey, Club Treasurer Joyce Dayton, Dana Goletz, Sheriff's Department member Sherri VanTassel (with Veeta), Sheriff David Lucas (originator behind the idea of the dog park), Priscilla Burge, and Club Vice President Janet Kinsey.

### DAMASCAS SERVES ON TRADITION

Continuing a 20-year tradition, the **Damascus** Club served guests at the annual FFA banquet. The project helps the club raise money for scholarships.



**KNOX CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS**



Terry Blickensderfer was named District Ruritan of the Year at the annual Ohio District Spring Banquet. Terry is a charter member of the **Knox Club**. He is also a Ruritan Forever. Currently serving as a director, Terry has held various positions at both the District and Club level and served as Ruri-Teen Advisor for the West Branch High School Ruri-teen Club. Pictured (l-r) District Lt. Governor Charlie Pierce presents the District Ruritan of the Year to Terry Blickensderfer.

Club Secretary Mel Albrecht welcomed members, spouses, and guests to their 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Scholarship winners were

also recognized during the meeting. Recipients were Kaitlyn Bondoni, who plans to attend the University of Mount Union, majoring in mechanical engineering, Allyson Hartzell, who will attend Hiram College, majoring in history and education, and Claire Brunner, who will attend Hiram College and major in social work and play volleyball. Pictured (l-r) are Club Secretary Mel Albrecht, scholarship recipients Kaitlyn Bondoni and Allyson Hartzell, and Club President Zane Ziegler.



**UNITED LOCAL MARKS MILESTONE**

National Director John Biery was on hand to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **United Local Ruri-Teens**. Also present was Guilford Lake Club President Jim Means. Jim was



instrumental in chartering the Ruri-teens in 1998. Pictured (l-r) (front) are Jenna Marhefka, Olivia Hardgrove, Madeline Young, Matilyn Zines, (row 2) Hailey Wargo, Natalie Summers, Aubrey Benner, Rachael Rhodes, (row 3) Landon Jones, Bailey McKenzie, Katie Dees, (back) Ruri-Teen Advisor Betty Whiteleather, Adelyn Johnson, Aisha Crawford, Jim Means, and John Biery.



## News From Ruritan: OHIO DISTRICT

### WASHINGTON WELCOMES STUDENTS

Washington OH welcomed Rising Seniors for 2023-2024 (l-r) Annalee Kackley, Chloe Millard, Taylor Dimmerling, and Eva Miller, who were inducted at the May meeting.



## News From Ruritan: WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT

### CHESTERFIELD RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Chesterfield NC celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April with a special luncheon. Representatives from Ruritan National and the Western North Carolina District presented the club with an anniversary plaque and cake.

The Morganton City Council met Monday, June 5th, 2023 to congratulate the club on their 65th Anniversary and recognized the club with an official proclamation to thank them for their service



to the community. Attending the ceremony were National Director Larry Garrison, District Governor Shandy Gossett, District Lt Governor T. J. Garrison, Club President Michael Bandy, Club Treasurer Charles Duckworth, Club Board Member Bryant Lindsey, and Club Members Linda Bandy, David Denton, and Mike Casey.

### DEEP GAP PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Deep Gap awarded \$4500 in scholarships for 2023. Pictured (l-r) are club member Kathy Idol, scholarship recipients Amelie Fawson (\$1000.00 Harold Eller Memorial Scholarship), Cassidy Johnson (\$1000.00 Build Your Dollars/Deep Gap Ruritan Scholarship), and Moriah Bollman (\$2500.00 Charles Rogers Memorial Scholarship), club member Billie Rogers, and Club President Leslie Gentry.





## GAMEWELL GROWS



**Gamewell** recently welcomed new members John Card and George Clarke, pictured with Club President Marvin Eller Jr. They have both jumped right in to help with the monthly breakfast and bingo fundraisers.



## GLENWOOD RUNS FOR THE GOLD

**Glenwood NC** held its annual Gold Rush 5k on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Funds raised from this event help support other community projects.



### FREDERICK EARL LACKEY

*Ruritan Past National Treasurer Frederick Earl Lackey, 84, died July 29, 2023, at his home in Alexander County, TN. Fred graduated from Hiddenite High School in 1957. He then attended Wake Forest University for one year before enlisting in the United States Air Force. He spent 24 years in the military and became a United States Air Force commissioned officer.*

*Fred was stationed at the Pentagon for the last five years of his military career. He retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel and returned home to Alexander County to settle down. There, he began his career in banking. He worked as a corporate finance loan officer for First Union Bank for ten years before his official retirement.*

*He joined the Bethlehem Ruritans in 1986 and served as their secretary for 30 years. He was Ruritan's National Treasurer, National Director, and District Governor during this time. Fred also served as an Alexander County Commissioner from 1992-1996. He was a dedicated member of Hiddenite Baptist Church, serving as chairman of the finance committee and church treasurer from 2007-2022. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 39 years (Linda), brother Steve Lackey, and sons-in-law Wesley Deal and Rodney Simpson.*

*Left to treasure his memory include his daughters, Melissa Deal and Amanda Simpson; his special friend Lucille Hefner; brother Bill Lackey (Yvonne), brother Bob Lackey; seven grandchildren, Alex Deal (Greg), Aaron Deal, Emily Simpson (Will), Hillary Montieth (Josh), Rebekah Peterson (Sawyer), Ethan Deal, and Jeremy Simpson (Peyton) and six great-grandchildren, Lawson and Maddox Montieth and Aubrey, Adley, Lainey, and Meritt Peterson.*

## IDLEWILD AND TRI-COUNTY PRESENT SCHOLARSHIPS

In May, **Idlewild MD** awarded eight scholarships to graduating seniors of Colonel Richardson High School. Each scholarship was \$1500.00.



**Tri-County MD** awarded scholarships to 15 graduating high school seniors from five local high schools, the largest number of scholarships ever awarded by the club. Scholarship Committee Chair Dr. George Dent invited each recipient to give a brief introduction of themselves and share a personal story.

## PUNGOTEAGUE BUILDS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Pungoteague** recently installed a wheelchair ramp for a local minister. Pictured (l-r) are Rev. Steve Miller and the ramp crew of Dennis Melson, Ellis Dukes, David Shaw, Taylor Dukes, and Bill Sterling.



### MT. PLEASANT-WILKES PROMOTES LEARNING

**Mt. Pleasant-Wilkes** Club Secretary Melanie Foster recently delivered the club's donation of dictionaries to Mt. Pleasant Elementary School third graders. The club also sponsored a roadside cleanup to help beautify the Mt Pleasant community. Club President Matthew Holbrook presented a \$2,500 check to Mt. Pleasant Elementary School to help fund a new inclusive playground.



In June, the club awarded two scholarships. The Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Scholarship of \$1000 was presented to Faith Brown by club president Matthew Holbrook, and the Billy Joe Parsons Memorial

Scholarship of \$1000 was presented to Tanner Estes by Judy Parsons and Matthew Holbrook.

### ROCK HOUSE HONORS GRADUATES



**Rock House** hosted graduating seniors and their families for a covered dish dinner. The club awarded three scholarships for 2023.

## UNION GROVE HOSTS ALL-AMERICAN BREAKFAST

**Union Grove** sponsored its annual *4th of July Ham Breakfast* at the Union Grove Community Building. Club members cooked and served the annual breakfast, which included country ham, sausage, real scrambled eggs, liver mush, sausage gravy, stewed apples, biscuits, jelly, coffee, juice, and assorted soft drinks. The cost per person was a reasonable donation.



Over a hundred community members attended the breakfast. The money raised will help support educational projects, including scholarships to deserving area high school students and literacy projects that benefit Union Grove Elementary School.



## SANDY RIDGE RALLYS FOR TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS

**Sandy Ridge** was on the move in May. Several members attended the Association of NC Ruritans Spring Rally 2023. Piney Grove Middle School Vice Principal Jacob Harbour provided entertainment. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, food, entertainment, and spirited live auction.

The club provided a meal for the teachers and staff of Sandy Ridge Elementary School for Teacher Appreciation Day, and provided finger foods and snacks for the Northeast Stokes Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and auxiliary members.

Club member Derrick Vickers presented framed certificates to the five scholarship winners at the North Stokes High School Senior Event.





4711 Ararat Highway  
Ararat VA 24053

Saturday, October 21, 2023  
Noon – 6pm

For more information call or text Kevin  
276-229-6493

ANNUAL



Eat-In or Take Out

Plate includes:  
BBQ, potatoes, beans,  
slaw, bread,  
homemade dessert,  
and soft drink or water



2023



PATRICK COUNTY  
Virginia

### ARARAT AWARDS TOM DOWNING

**Ararat** recognized Club Treasurer Kevin Smith with the Tom Downing Award. Pictured (l-r) are District Governor Barry Sides, Kevin, National Director Melody Davis, and National Director Merlin Scales.



### DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW CLUB

**Stuart** celebrated closing their charter on June 20th. The club now has 22 members. Ruritan National President Mike Morrison and Dan River District Governor Barry Sides were on hand for the celebration. The club was sponsored by the Ararat Ruritan Club.



### RANGELEY PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Rangeley** recently presented their scholarships for 2023. Pictured (l) recipient Scott Harmon accepts a check from Club President Rick Huffman. Fay Moore accepted on behalf of recipient Nicholas Shelton. Proceeds from the club's monthly community breakfast help fund the scholarships.



IRISBURG SHOWS VOLUNTEER SPIRIT



Father and son members of the **Irisburg** club recently met milestones donating blood with the American Red Cross. Danny Lamberth received his 30-gallon pin, and Joey Lamberth received his one-gallon pin.



When lightning struck a tree next to the Irisburg United Methodist Church, the club stepped in to help. In about two hours, club members cut and stacked the wood and delivered some to church members.



The club recently held a Brunswick Stew fundraiser. Most of the stew was pre-sold, and 15 quarts were donated to local shut-ins.



Club member Donald Joyce volunteered to build a railing for local resident Hazel Mills. The club was made aware that Hazel needed a safer way to get in and out of her home.

DRY FORK SHARES THE BEARS

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



RED BANK WELCOMES OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE

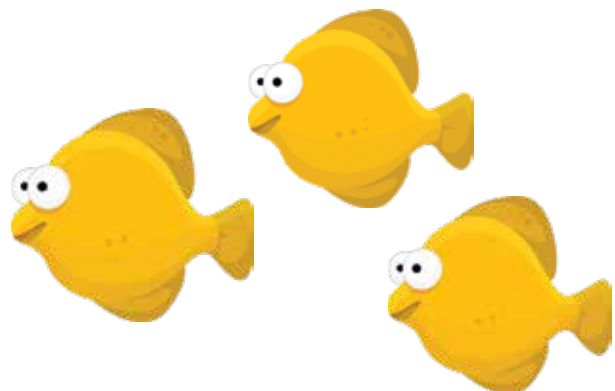
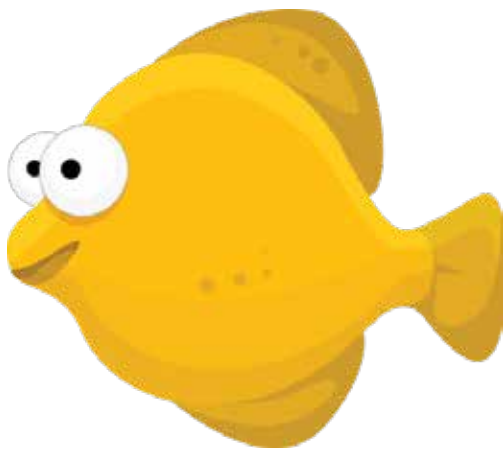
Red Bank recently welcomed four new members. Pictured (l-r) are Michael Felts Newman, Andrea Minor, Club President Lottie Gammons, Kitty Proctor, and Winston Proctor. The club held an open house and invited community members to join them for a meal and the opportunity to learn about Ruritan.



The club donated clothing and personal hygiene items for Blue Ridge Elementary School children. Pictured (l-r) are school nurse Sherrie Montgomery, Principal Marcie Murphy, and music teacher and Red Bank member Lisa Allen.

CARVER ROAD HOSTS FISH FRY

Carver Road hosted their annual fish fry in May.





# President Mike's Trip to Lincolnland



LEAD MINES

Lead Mines recently hosted a dinner recognizing their Teacher of the Year award winners. The recipients were selected by the administration and peers at their respective schools. Club President Doug Crowder presented the awards to Brigette Copas of Sheffey Elementary School and Josh Shrader of Fort Chiswell High School. Other winners not present were Melissa Copenhaver of Jackson Elementary School and Kasey Crockett of Fort Chiswell Middle School.



The club also donated to local first responders to help with equipment and other needs. Pictured are James Armbrister, Barren Springs Volunteer Fire Department (left), and Bryan Cassell, Max Meadows Volunteer Fire Department (right), with Club Treasurer James Armbrister.



James Armbrister, Barren Springs Volunteer Fire Department (left), and Bryan Cassell, Max Meadows Volunteer Fire Department (right), with Club Treasurer James Armbrister.

RURITAN ROAD HAS FOCUS ON FAMILIES

Ruritan Road recently hosted their annual Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show at Black Bear Harley Davidson. Attendees surveyed the 50 entries and voted for first, second, and third place in each category. Proceeds from the event are donated to the local Christmas Store that helps families in need during the holidays.



The club also participated in their local National Night Out event by providing free popcorn and face painting.



CAMP CREEK CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

Camp Creek recently honored members Julia Fanning and Williams Stokes. Both are honors graduates from South Greene High School. Julia will attend the University of Tennessee in the fall with a major in Animal Science and a pre-veterinary concentration. William will attend East Tennessee State



University as a Quillen Honors Scholar for a Bachelor of Science in biomedical sciences, then move forward to get his MD.

On the 4th of July, the club partnered with the Camp Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. and other individuals in our community to provide a fun time for the young and young at heart.

The fire department set up several water activities for the kids, and several adults joined the fun.



Recorded music was provided by members Chris Friesen and Phil and Marie Lilja. The club sold hot dogs and soft drinks, and popcorn, water, ice pops, glow bracelets, and bubble wands were provided at no charge. Carolina Robinson, the granddaughter of member Ken Smith, sang the National Anthem before the fireworks display.



The club also celebrated the first anniversary since club member Mykhailo Panchuk and his family came to live in Camp Creek from Ukraine. They have since become valued members of the club and the community.

The club was invited to attend the Camp Creek School open house to share information about club events and activities with the community, such as the food pantry, lending library, breakfast schedules, and the "Taste and See" free food truck.



## GIBBS PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

**Gibbs** announced the winners of their 2023 scholarships. Pictured (l-r) are Devin O'Dell, Kennedy Graves, Scholarship Committee Chair Rebecca Longmire, Hannah Lynch, and Kent Shoffner, who accepted on behalf of his daughter, Kayli Shoffner. The scholarships were \$1,000 each and went to graduating seniors at Gibbs High School.



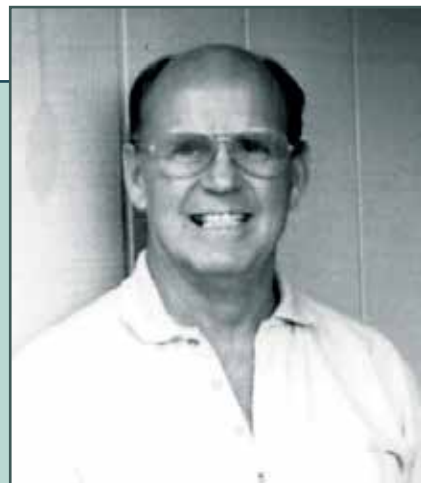
## FRED E. BEAVER

*Past Ruritan National Director Fred E. Beaver passed away on August 1, 2023. He was married to Joan Beaver for 67 years and they had two children, Michael (Linda) and Jillian Ottinger (Barry); and five grandchildren Erin Kalb (Casey), Zachary Beaver (Sarah), Kole Tabler, Victoria Bottoms and Samantha Ottinger. They also had five great grandchildren,*

*Fred became an Army Ranger during the Korean War and continued on to be a training instructor for the Rangers in Dahlonega, GA. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1958, with a major in economics. While still in college, he stated Beaver's Bike & Hobby Shop in Ann Arbor, MI and ran it for 15 years. He taught German at Belleville High School in Michigan; he became a licensed gemologist in the 1970's and sold diamonds for many years. He was a pilot accumulating over 18,000 hours of flight time in his long aviation career. He also was a flight instructor, teaching many people to fly and sharing his passion for aviation with his son Mike, teaching him to fly at 10 years old.*

*Eventually, he moved back to Parrottsville, TN where he bought the family farm. He joined the Ruritan Club of Parrottsville and became the national director. He helped organize the Cocke County branch of Habitat for Humanity and helped build 19 houses in the community. He was a member of Luther Memorial Lutheran Church where he served as Treasurer for several years.*

*A funeral service was held on Saturday August 5, 2023, in the Costner-Maloy & Brown Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor Norman Deal officiating. Interment followed in New Home Cemetery.*



## News From Ruritan: MIDDLE AMERICA DISTRICT

### STERLING ASSISTS WITH PATRIOTIC DISPLAY

**Sterling** (NE) assisted the local VFW chapter with placing flags at a local cemetery for July 4th.



## News From Ruritan: RAPIDAN DISTRICT

### WOLFTOWN SPONSORS SUMMER FUN

**Wolftown** recently sponsored a t-ball and junior Babe Ruth baseball team. The club also cooked burgers and hotdogs for Madison Day volunteers, and for a recent MWP Employee fishing tournament..



**MT HERMON DONATES BOOKS AND HOSTS FUNDRAISER**

**Mt Hermon LA** hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for the preschool and kindergarten students at Mount Hermon School. Club members filled more than 750 eggs with candy and prizes. They also provided the children with drinks and snacks to enjoy

after the hunt. To promote reading and to help the children celebrate Spring, club members purchased new books about Spring that were read to the children. The books were then presented to Principal Lee Bond to be donated to the school library.



The club also hosted its annual two-man scramble golf tournament fundraiser at the Franklinton Country Club. Members provided drinks and a jambalaya lunch to the players. First place prize of \$500, and second place prize of \$250 were awarded to the winning teams.



The club recognized Bailey Fortenberry as their 2023 scholarship winner. Bailey was chosen because of her academic achievement and her dedication and service to the community.

# Upper West Virginia District says "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RUDY!"



UWV DISTRICT MEETING



CAPON BRIDGE



HAMPSHIRE COUNTY FAIR



KIRBY



NORTH RIVER



SLANESVILLE

