



Lucketts Ruritan

Board of Directors: Peter Gustafson, *Past President*; Jim McKenzie, *President*; Doug Kemp, *Vice President*; Elizabeth Penaranda, *Secretary*; Craig Bond, *Treasurer*; Steve Hillebrand, Matt Quitter, Fred Nassauer: *Three-year Directors*

General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2015

Attending: Adams, Baker, Bond, Cleland, Falk, Fisher, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, McKenzie, Meyerhofer, Memendez, Moffett, Nassauer, Ohneiser, Penaranda, Quitter, Siebentritt, Snooks, Sorrell, Wiseman

Guests: Joanne Hart, Executive Director, Loudoun Therapeutic Riding; Scott Drummond, potential new member.

Due to the absence of Pres. McKenzie, who was out of the country, VP D. Kemp called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He welcomed guests Joanne Hart, from Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, and Scott Drummond, new neighbor and potential new club member, and new member, Al Menendez. Due to an accident on Rt. 15 earlier in the day, power had been out at the Community Center all day, preventing the ladies from Furnace Mountain Church to prepare the dinner meal; VP Kemp apologized for the fact that no dinner would be served and asked for everyone's understanding and forbearance.

VP Kemp asked for approval of the February General Meeting minutes. Motion was made and passed to approve the minutes with one minor correction.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bond presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that receipts exceeded disbursements by \$2783.14; total receipts were \$6,867.41; disbursements were \$4,084.27. He noted that disbursements included the newsletter and facility use fees this month., and that total dues owed had decreased to \$583 and the amount still due for December's banquet was \$260. Total cash and investments are \$162,937.50. A motion was made and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report. B. Ohneiser asked whether we might be owed a refund or discount from closing the trash and recycling operation early during the heavy snow storm; the answer was no, because it was a Ruritan decision to close early.

S. Hillebrand circulated a signup sheet for the first parking event scheduled for the coming weekend.

Next Meeting

April 14th, 2015 • Lucketts Community Center •
7:30 P.M.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Speaker: Sheryl Williams, Chief Operating Officer, Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, Morven Park, will speak on the happenings and activities at Morven Park.

Program

Our speaker for the evening, Joanne Hart, from Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, thanked our club for our support over the years. LTR recently celebrated 40 years in Loudoun. The program began with VA Tech at Montresor Farm with 4H club members and their horses, but moved to Morven Park, where it has been for 25 years. They now have 14 horses and full use of the thousand acre grounds at Morven Park. LTR networks with the seven other therapeutic riding centers in Loudoun County, including one in Great Falls, but their program at Morven Park is the only riding center accredited by the Premier Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH). Together, the professional staff has over 120 years of experience; Joanne herself has 35 years of experience, and other staff have 25 years.

The program was started in 1974 to help individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. To the question of, Why the Horse?, the answer is that the cadence of movement through riding helps normalize the gait and train the brain. Riding also strengthens muscles and improves spatial coordination; in addition, the horse's motion is soothing and relaxing to the rider and forges a bond between rider and horse and volunteers. Many of the riders served by the program fall on the autism spectrum, but therapeutic riding also helps those with cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, psychosocial

disorders, brain injury or stroke, PTSD, and Downs Syndrome.

Program services include Hippotherapy, which uses equine movement as a treatment strategy; Therapeutic Riding, which develops spatial awareness, builds self-confidence, and improves posture, balance, and muscle tone; Horsemanship for Veterans, designed for wounded military veterans and their families to help them transition and heal from the traumas of war; and Carriage Driving for those who cannot sit a horse that develops communication and motor skills and builds trust and self-esteem.

The program also includes Equine Facilitated Learning, which teaches horse care and behavior, grooming, herd dynamics, and stable management. The program also partners with the Boulder Crest Center for veterans in Bluemont. One of LTR's instructors, Mary Jo Beckman, is a military veteran herself; she works at Walter Reed and teaches carriage driving at Morven Park.

Joanne elaborated on the carriage driving offering, noting that the specially designed carriage, designed in Holland, was originally built for a caisson platoon, but was transitioned back to carriage driving for veterans at Walter Reed and Ft. Meyer. The carriage is wheelchair accessible, and requires an especially calm and strong horse to pull it.

Joanne also noted that the program always needs and welcomes volunteers, especially men, as many of the teachers, caretakers, and teachers of their riders are women. The spring program begins in April; volunteers must be at least 14 years old. The nine-member Board is also looking for business leaders. Loudoun Therapeutic Riding also partners with the Loudoun County Public Schools Special Education department, North Spring Behavior and Health Care, VA Tech, and Boulder Crest.

LTR is not a government-sponsored program; program session fees cover only 35% of their budget, so they do fundraising events also. Activities occur five days a week, Monday through Friday, year round. Current needs include planning assistance for a project to build a dedicated arena at Morven Park; volunteers, funding, and scholarships. New horses go through a 30 day trial period. Joanne welcomed visitors at any time!

Old Business:

Lucketts Elementary School: F. Nassauer reported that the meeting with the LES PTA was quite successful. About two dozen people attended. S. Sorrell talked about the Ruritan Club and that we could sponsor a Ruri-Youth club at LES. PTA members were enthusiastic about assisting us with parking at the upcoming Antiques Fair—the PTA POCs are Naomi Hattaway and Karen Price. The POC for fundraising is Cori Burn. They will post on the Loudoun County School website that we are now a partner with the school system. F. Nassauer announced a breakfast meeting on Friday focused on partnerships with the school system. As a partner, we will receive a book listing businesses, local professionals and donors. B. Ohneiser noted that if we use a school facility for an event, we need proof that we have insured the event for liability. D. Snooks stated that we may be able to get a blanket policy for this purpose.

Parking Projects: S. Hillebrand summarized the 15 parking projects currently scheduled for this year. He noted that we expect assistance from the Waterford and POR clubs, as needed. He noted that the two largest events are the Antiques Fair and the World Police and Fire Games, and reiterated that we still need someone to step up as another parking chairman to work with Ian Moffett next year. Steve stated that Morven Park events may slack off in the next year, as the organization may change its current business model; B. Ohneiser stated that we can register with the Dept. of Probation for parking workers if we need them. Bob also noted that Wegmans grocery store (and Target and Giant Food) will provide free food for charity events—we need to send a letter to them on our letterhead and ask.

Bunting: C. Bond restated the need for assistance in upgrading the bunting that we install at the LCC on designated federal holidays. P. Gustafson reported that local upholsterer, Julie, is not available for several months for health reasons.

New Business:

Scholarships: T. Small reported that the Point of Rocks (POR) Club will continue to help us evaluate our scholarship applications. In return, we will support their club with a monetary donation, help with some of their projects, and/or provide opportunities for their members to raise funds by assisting us with our parking projects. T. Small reiterated that our club president presents

the scholarship and citizenship awards to the selected awardees.

Membership: P. Baker reminded club members of the challenge to bring two guests/potential members to a meeting this year. Our guest at this meeting was Scott Drummond, new next door neighbor of P. Gustafson.

Miscellaneous: B. Ohneiser reported on an information piece about small business in the Lucketts area in one of the local papers.

P. Gustafson posed the question of whether we could consider having a Ruritan booth at the Lucketts Fair to disseminate information about the club and to continue to sell recycle bins. M. Quitter offered that we could partner with the Boy Scouts at their booth at the fair. This idea was well received and accepted.

S. Hillebrand passed to the Secretary the certificates from the Virginia Dept. of Transportation for those members of our club who completed the short course in flagging operations for construction and maintenance of traffic control. These will be distributed to the appropriate members at the next meeting, or will be mailed to any member not present.

Announcements and Mail:

1. On March 21, a hazardous waste collection and disposal site will be available at the Leesburg Park and Ride on Sycolin Road from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM.
2. M. Quitter reminded us that collections for the Boy Scout yard sale will begin the first Saturday in April. Anyone with large items should give him a call to arrange pickup, if needed; also, a nearby neighbor has offered a large barn for storage of collected items before the sale.
3. T. Howder is recovering well and continues to make good progress. He still has some issues with mobility in his hands and with speech

Mail consisted of a thank you note from the Boy Scouts for our donation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2015

Attending: Bond, Gustafson, Kemp, Nassauer, Penaranda, Quitter, Small

Pres. Jim McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M.

Review of Minutes: The Board approved the March General Meeting minutes with one minor correction of a misspelled name.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bond presented the interim Treasurer's Report. Receipts were \$3160.29; disbursements \$2341.45, this amount reflecting the bill for the compactor service. Receipts exceeded disbursements by \$818.84. The amount of outstanding Membership Dues is still \$583; the outstanding amount still owed for last December's banquet is \$260. P. Gustafson will call those members who still owe for the Banquet.

The Board discussed whether we should pay the ladies of the church the regular monthly fee for the meal, since they did not serve a meal this month due to the power outage. The point was made that, even if the food had been purchased, the women could use it and distribute it among themselves, so the decision was not to pay the monthly amount for March. Discussion continued about what to do if this situation reoccurs, which is unlikely. Thoughts included ordering food in, but the final consensus was that we will ask the preference of the ladies about how to handle this contingency in the future.

Craig noted that for tax preparation purposes, we need an updated tax form 990, which was passed around and signed by the appropriate club officers.

New Business:

Scholarships: S. Sorrell and J. McKenzie met with the POR club about continuing their assistance to us in reviewing the applications. The POR club still wants to help us, and acknowledged that this endeavor bonds our two clubs together. J. McKenzie suggested to the BOD that we pay POR \$20 for each application they evaluate (example: If we receive 20 applications, POR would earn \$400). We will also offer their club parking help on our parking events to enable them to earn additional funds for their scholarships and other projects, one of which is an Art Fair/Show in

September. We will put a poster in the LCC and at the Lucketts Fair in our joint Boy Scouts/Ruritan Club booth to advertise the POR events. A motion was made and passed to continue to work with the POR club and to ensure a \$250 minimum donation for their scholarship assistance, no matter how many applications we receive.

Citizenship Awards: P. Gustafson spoke to T. Howder about the procedure for selecting recipients of this award. He learned that we typically speak to the principals of the three schools about the selection criteria, which include being studious, interacting effectively with faculty and schoolmates, participating in extracurricular activities, volunteering their time, and setting a good example to others. The principals make the selections and notify our club and the parents of the recipients before the end of the school year; our Citizenship and Patriotism Committees get the plaques and take them to Ketterman's Jewelers for engraving, and purchase the gift certificates for the recipients. F. Nassauer will contact the school principals to get this initiative moving.

Lucketts Fair: D. Snooks will speak to Roy Degrange, the contractor/food vendor for our food booth at the fair, to get things going for the fair in August. M. Quitter will coordinate the plan for our club to share a booth with the Boy Scouts, where we will sell more recycling bins. The Boy Scouts will also try to sell our bins at their annual yard sale on April 24th.

Conservation Workshop in Lucketts: P. Gustafson spoke to the director of the VA Land Trust about the upcoming meeting on April 8th about placing property in conservation easement. He noted that that neighbors can go in together or form an LLC to place a larger amount of acreage in conservation easement if individual landowners do not have the minimum number of acres to do it alone.

Old Business:

Support of Lucketts Community: F. Nassauer and S. Sorrell met with Naomi Hathaway, the LES PTA POC and Karyn Price about establishing a Ruri-Youth Club at the school. The PTA is interested, but had some questions about insurance; we will check with Ruritan National about getting insurance coverage. The LES may also assist our club with parking at the upcoming Antique Fair at the Lucketts Store.

School/Business Partnership: P. Gustafson and J. McKenzie attended a breakfast for school partners. They reported that there was a large attendance, and that all school districts were represented. Many partners make significant donations to schools; the top five partner honorees were announced and acknowledged at this event. F. Nassauer will send a link to our website for the 2015 booklet about educational partnership.

Parking Jobs: J. McKenzie reported that we successfully parked horse trailers at the Spring Horse Trials at Morven Park, but that we have not received any more volunteers to help I. Moffett on parking management. BOD had some concern about our over committing our membership on parking projects over the year, but that we do need fund raising events. We will partner with other clubs, but need to look at how much we commit to in a given year in terms of our membership numbers and the ability of members to do this job.

Membership Drive: P. Gustafson reiterated that we need to keep up the effort to recruit new members. All BOD members should make it a priority at our monthly meetings to talk up the club and encourage members to bring in new people.

Recycling Containers: P. Gustafson noted that the placement of the large recycling containers on the last few Saturdays has been incorrect. Placement has been in the middle of the drive and at the wrong end of the drive, which has confused people coming in to drop off trash. He has called the coordinator, but the placement continues to be incorrect. P. Gustafson suggested placing chalk marks or cones to direct the placement of the containers, but the final BOD decision was that Peter would arrive early the next Saturday to personally discuss placement with the contractor personnel.

Announcements:

1. M. Quitter noted that the Porta-John is now back in place for use by our trash volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.