



# 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

**Attending:** Adams, Baker, Bond, Dee, Ferreira, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Kemp, McKenzie, Meyerhofer, Ohneiser, Penaranda, Small, Sorrell, J. Hobbie (LR)

**Guests:** Sen. Dick Black, Abby Pfister (Dir. Civics Ed. at Morven Park)

Pres. McKenzie called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM and welcomed our guests, Sen. Dick Black and Abby Pfister, Dir. Of Civics Education at Morven Park.

P. Baker said the invocation before the meal and we thanked the ladies of Furnace Mountain Church for preparing it.

### Program

Our speaker, Abby Pfister, runs the newest program at Morven Park—the Center for Civic Impact. Abby came to Loudoun from Colorado with a background teaching Social Studies at the High School level. The new civics program focuses on the civic activism and engagement fostered by Gov. Westmoreland Davis at his historic home at Morven Park. As an agrarian farmer, and recognizing the challenges to the surrounding farming community such as limited education and travel opportunities, Gov. Davis wanted to build a sense of community in Loudoun. Abby noted that the word “civics” means “government,” “community service,” and “involvement,” and focuses on one’s duties as a citizen and the responsibility of everyone in a community to be engaged. Gov. Davis developed a model based on four principles: 1) know that your voice matters, 2) know current local issues, 3) make an impact, and 4) know your responsibilities as a citizen.

The Center for Civic Impact program is designed to go into local Loudoun communities and deliver educational programs in schools. This is important as a way of raising awareness about local issues and to empower students with knowledge to enable them to become more engaged locally. Abby noted that the turnout rate for voting in Virginia for people over the age of 25 is 70% in a typical presidential election, but for the age group of 18 to 24 year olds, the turnout rate is only 40%.

### Next Meeting

August 11th, 2015 • Lucketts Community Center •  
7:30 P.M.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Program:** Instead of a guest speaker this evening, our program will be a discussion of our parking services, led by Steve Hillebrand and Ian Moffett.

This data indicates that younger people are not engaging. They may not understand issues (such as Medicare or college loans), why voting is important, or why they should be engaged. At Morven Park, the civics program is helping to empower students and help them build the skills to become engaged citizens. These skills include how to debate and how to initiate and participate in a dialogue about issues with others.

The Center for Civic Impact program at Morven Park partners with the school system in grades K-12. Subjects include science, art, government, and local issues. At the middle school level, the students solve problems such as hunger or habitat loss. After school clubs have been formed at nine schools that have tackled issues such as littering and bullying. At the High School level, the program focuses on both new and old issues, teaching students how to make their voices heard.

The goal of the Center for Civic Impact program is to create a culture of engaged citizenship; more information is available on the Center’s website. Building on the legacy of Westmoreland Davis, who helped farmers develop a voice in their local affairs, solve local problems, and improve local lives, the Center program is enabling our young citizens to move forward in the same spirit.

Funding for the Center program comes from the Westmoreland Davis endowment and earned revenue from events and venue rentals at Morven Park.

Stan Sorrell told Ms. Pfister about the Rudi-Youth Club that our club has helped to establish at Lucketts Elementary School. He noted that the club has six members, that it has already conducted a clothing drive and an appreciation

project for teachers and bus drivers, and that it has identified future projects such as planting fruit trees around the school. Stan suggested a field trip to Morven Park, which Ms. Pfister enthusiastically supported.

Following the program, our guest, Sen. Dick Black, reiterated the importance of civic engagement, especially in terms of voting. He pointed out that elections in Loudoun are often decided by a handful of votes, so it is critical that we develop a more informed electorate and foster an interest and commitment to participate more fully. T. Small then noted that an informed electorate is more important than total numbers, so this program is needed to promote civics skills and issue analysis. B. Ohneiser gave an example of the 40-ft. rule outside voting locations that many people do not know or understand; this is also a civics issue.

June Minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer C. Bond presented the Treasurer's report. Receipts were \$7710.89; disbursements were \$10,573.97 (reflecting donations, newsletter costs, and awards). Total investments were \$173,367.86. The Membership Dues Report reflected a total amount currently owed of \$1536, but Craig noted that a new quarter of the year has started when dues are owed. Monthly statement was reviewed and approved.

### **New Business:**

*Finance Committee:* The committee has been studying whether our club should move to QuickBooks to manage our finances. P. Gustafson recommended that files be stored both in the Cloud and on hard drives (CD). The committee will make a recommendation to the BOD.

*Parking Projects:* S. Hillebrand provided an update on our parking projects. The next event is the Lucketts Fair. He passed around a signup sheet for the remaining unfilled shifts. He reported that our club will net about \$11,500 from parking events this year.

*Noelle Campbell:* Noelle, the wife of Loudoun County policeman Nick Campbell, passed away suddenly recently, leaving three young children with special needs. The Police Association is collecting funds for long term assistance to this family. Pres. McKenzie recommended a \$500 donation to the Association; J. Adams recommended a \$1000 donation now and a yearly

donation following. The club membership approved Adams' recommendation.

P. Baker will look into other local needs; M. Ferreria suggested that we might team with other Ruritan Clubs to meet local needs.

*Lucketts Lifetime Ruritan Award:* Pres. McKenzie reported that we presented a Lifetime Ruritan Award to Dick Snooks at the annual picnic in June. He then stated that we are preparing to do the same for other longtime members. These efforts were approved by the membership.

*Lucketts Fair:* Plans for parking and the club's BBQ effort are progressing well.

### **Old Business:**

*Annual Picnic:* Thanks to Fred Nassauer for all his planning and hard work to make the picnic a success.

*LES Fall Picnic:* We will support the LES PTA but will not take a leading role.

*Trash:* P. Gustafson reiterated the need for both assigned club members to coordinate with each other and to show up when expected. Going forward, we will add a link to the online trash schedule in the Minutes.

<http://luckettsruritan.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Trash-July-Sept2015revised.pdf>

*LAWS Mowing:* P. Baker will manage the schedule while C. Falk is away for three weeks.

*Membership:* P. Baker reminded everyone to bring a guest to a meeting this year to promote interest in the club and to recruit new members.

Pledge of Allegiance was said; the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2015

Attending: Gustafson, Kemp, McKenzie, Nassauer, Penaranda, Small

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

**Review of Minutes:** The Board approved the July General Meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer C. Bond was not present, but had provided the monthly financial reports, which the Board approved.

### New Business:

*Lucketts Fair:* Plans for our club's involvement at the Fair are on track. Several parking slots are still open. P. Gustafson will send out a reminder email to the greater community about the Fair to encourage attendance. S. Hillebrand will also put up a sign at Saturday trash. The Board discussed the need to update our community email list. The decision was to task our Public Services Committee to update the list in September.

*New Members:* We have two new potential club members, Naomi and Todd Hattaway. Their formal acceptance into the club will be on the agenda for our next General Meeting in August.

*LAWS:* P. Gustafson reported that the latest mowing has been done, but other cleanup work should be done. For example, debris on the roof and weeds covering some of the shrubs should be removed. He also noted that the gate latch is broken and that an area on one side of the house is overgrown. He suggested that this area could be made into a perennial garden. Discussion focused on suggesting this project to a group such as the Ladies of Lucketts or the Boy Scouts.

### Unfinished Business:

*Finance Committee Report on Quickbooks:* D. Kemp reported that the Finance Committee recommends moving from Excel to Quickbooks and that we purchase the software. The cost is about \$200. Pres. McKenzie noted that we need a system that can be easily understood and transitioned to future Treasurers. The Board approved this transition to Quickbooks.

*Donation to Sheriff Dept.:* The Board approved sending a donation of \$1000 to the Sheriff's Dept.

for the family of Noelle Campbell, who recently passed away suddenly, leaving several children with special needs. J. McKenzie will direct Treasurer C. Bond to send a check to this fund.

*Parking Projects:* Our club's Lucketts Fair parking plans are in place. For the Waterford Fair, we have decided not to bid on the parking job, as this is a new procedure implemented by the Waterford Foundation. We typically work with the Lovettsville/Waterford club on this fair, and as this club is also not bidding, we will pass on this job. The Board did approve sending a letter to the Waterford Foundation Committee explaining our decision not to bid and offering to assist them if they run into any problems. (Following this Board Meeting, the Waterford Foundation did reach out to us and set up a meeting to discuss Fair parking.)

*Trash:* P. Gustafson reported that incorrect charges to our account, due to errors by the CSI truck driver, have been corrected and charged back to CSI. He noted that we do need new cones. The Board approved purchasing these.

*LES Fall Picnic:* F. Nassauer will coordinate with the LES PTA and will send an email to the PTA representative reiterating that we will support, but not lead, their efforts to sponsor a fall picnic.

*Membership Drive:* McKenzie noted that our club members should continue to be encouraged to bring in new potential members.

*Speakers:* The Board discussed ideas for speakers at our General Meetings. Ideas included asking representatives of the Point of Rocks and Jefferson Clubs to speak about their club activities; the HOPS group to speak about their new agricultural initiative on a nearby Lucketts farm, and a representative of the Taylorstown Community Association to speak about the history of our Catoctin area. Another suggestion was to invite candidates running for the Board of Supervisors to address our club, either both parties together or at separate meetings, depending on schedules.

*Scholarships:* T. Small explained that one of our scholarship winners will defer attendance at Brigham Young University for two years to do a mission trip for his church. The Board approved sending the funds to the school, who will hold them until the student attends; if he does not attend in two years, the school will return the funds to us.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*