



# Lucketts Ruritan

**Board of Directors:** Peter Gustafson, *Past President*; Jim McKenzie, *President*; Doug Kemp, *Vice President*; Elizabeth Penaranda, *Secretary*; Craig Bond, *Treasurer*; Fred Nassauer, Conrad Falk, Tom Small: *Three-year Directors*

## General Membership Meeting Minutes- August 9, 2016

**Attending:** Adams, Baker, Bond, Cleland, Ernst, Falk, Ferreira, Gustafson, Hillebrand, Kemp, Logue, McKenzie, Meyerhofer, Moffett, Nassauer, Penaranda, Quitter, Runde, Small, Snooks, Walter, A, Walter, T

**Guests:** Gary Mears, John Whitmore.

Pres. Mckenzie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

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

### Program:

P. Gustafson introduced John Whitmore, owner of Farmer John Vegetable Stand on Rt. 15. John's family has been in Lucketts since the 1840s, raising wheat and cattle. John came here during the Viet Nam era when it was "rough" and sparsely populated. He noted that they used to sit on their porch in the evening and count only eight cars a night traveling up and down Rt. 15. Four local families raised garden crops and ran a flour mill. In the 1960s, they would pull a wagon up to the white line on Rt. 15 and sell produce off the wagon from the side of the road. They also had chickens, ducks, and guineas. He noted that they used to raise Charolais cattle, but switched to Herefords and Black Angus, as these breeds were more easily managed. He raised and fed his cattle for prime beef, sending them to a kosher butcher in Ellicott City, MD.

John said that there were never any slaves on his family's farm, but at times, some would hide in the house to avoid conscription. He mentioned Aaron and Eustace Saunders, who ran two farms together. One freed slave is buried in the local cemetery.

John owns 700 acres on both sides of Rt. 15, on which he grows vegetables and raises cattle. He has supplied produce (squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, and eggplant) to Wegmans for 13 years, but noted that it has become more difficult to compete, pricewise, because of imports of items

## Next Meeting

September 13th, 2016 7:30 P.M.  
Lucketts Community Center

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Program:** The owners of Roots@657, Muriel Sarmadi and Rich Rosendale, Master Chef, will speak to us about their new café and marketplace on Rt. 15 and what they will offer our community.

such as berries and table grapes from Ecuador and tomatoes from Mexico, and low wholesale prices. He used to raise 1200 hogs a year, selling to Gwaltney and Armour, but competition, new food safety and OSHA regulations, and the lack of local butcher shops ended that venture. He said that a supplier now has to be in a specialty market to make any profit from these products. He noted that the garden along the road is mostly for show; the larger fields are at the back of the farm where he offers pick your own berries.

John uses all drip irrigation for his crops, pumping water from a spring (one gallon per minute at 10-12 psi), which results in no runoff and no use of river water. He mulches using 35 rolls of plastic and netting (4000 feet) to keep the weeds down and the water in. Each year, he plants 2000 tomatoes every 10 days starting May 1, and 2000 squash plants.

John provided additional historical information about his family and Loudoun County. With horse drawn graders and shovels, his grandfather paved Rt. 15 north from Limestone Branch, stopping at his property line, where the road narrows. His grandfather was on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for 43 years, and his father served on the School Board. John served eight years on the Planning Commission and other committees and is now on the Board of Loudoun Water, which is now under state oversight.

In response to a question, John revealed that he had found John Mosby's sword in an old straw mattress in a house in the woods on Giddings Rd. in Stumptown. A black woman who had lived there raised all the Whitmore children and eleven of her own children. He also has an original Robert E. Lee portrait from the Selma estate, a

grandfather clock, and a silver trophy Eustis cup for horse racing or breeding.

John was proud of the fact that he has no debt and only buys what he can afford. He sells 100 percent of his seconds to Russian, Ukrainian, and Turkish buyers who cook with them. He joked that he enjoys counting the “Gucci purses and Jimmy Choo shoes from Reston” on Saturdays, when buyers come out to his stand looking for “no spot” tomatoes. He donates his leftovers from the farmstand, such as day old corn and apples, to Interfaith Relief and churches, who come and pick up the produce and distribute it to the needy.

The Latino families who used to work for him have left, which has cost him \$2-3K per day, but he has several partnerships with other growers. One is 100 acres of sweet corn across White’s Ferry in Maryland, which he splits with another grower. They spray the corn every other day to prevent worms. John noted that “organic” does not mean no chemicals, and explained that USDA has a list of allowed chemicals that he and other growers do use.

**Introduction of Guest:** Guest Gary Mears, a representative from the Presbytery, attended our meeting to tell us that the organization is looking at re-opening Faith Chapel, which is owned by the Presbytery. Gary’s great grandmother grew up on Lucketts Rd. on a small farm and is buried at the Furnace Mountain cemetery. Anyone interested in working on this effort can contact him to get involved.

Minutes: Minutes for July were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** C. Bond reported total income of \$5,880.13 (which reflected trash receipts and member dues); expenses of \$20,243.00 (which reflected parking expenses and scholarship and other donations) for a net ordinary income of -\$14,362.87. Note: there is an outstanding bill for \$900 for parking services, yet unpaid. We had an unrealized gain from our investment account of \$5,251.65, for a total net income of -\$9,111.22. Checking account has \$3,959.14; T. Rowe Price account has \$159,483.74, for an assets total of \$164,167.88. Dues owed are \$725.00. Treasurer’s Report was approved.

### **New Business:**

*Membership:* We welcomed new members Ava and Todd Walter and provided them with Ruritan shirts and hats! We submitted a new application

for membership from Nick Kron, who was unanimously voted in! Welcome to Nick! P. Baker noted the status of other potential new members: Bill Travis cannot join at this time, but Don and Patty Stanley do want to join our club and will submit a membership application.

*Renick, WV Ruritan Club Scholarship Fund:* P. Gustafson reported that the Board had approved a \$500 donation to the Renick, WV club to help with their scholarship program, since the floods in WV this year prevented their normal fund raising activities.

*Scholarships Committee Study:* T. Small reported that the committee met just before tonight’s meeting and developed a list of potential ideas and areas to research for possible changes or modifications to the distribution of our scholarship monies. We will research the options and report to the Board. We need to make a decision about any changes by the end of the year, as the high schools start their programs in January.

*Lucketts Fair:* BBQ concession is on track. Three people will work the tent. Parking: I. Moffett noted he still needed a few people for Sunday. J. McKenzie noted that we will have the informal social on Friday evening at 6:30 in the field by the Fire House.

*Parking:* I. Moffett reported that we will not do Epicurience this year, as we have not been paid by one of the vendors, American Beer, whose check bounced. T. Hyland has sent a letter requesting payment and noting legal action if this bill is not paid promptly.

*Mower:* P. Gustafson reported that the LAWS mower is in the shop at Jamie’s Small Engine Repair.

*Holiday Party:* M. Quitter reported that we have booked Skills, USA for Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> for our annual holiday party

### **Old Business:**

*Arrowhead Collection for LCC:* S. Hillebrand reported that we have a prototype case for the arrowheads and a blueprint developed by P. Gustafson. H. Cooley at LCC has approved the design. Ray Wagner will provide a revised quote for building the case, after we run it by Sue Webb at the Loudoun Museum.

*Trash:* M. Ferreira reported that new members will go on the schedule. We will try to get new

schedules out sooner before the end of each period to provide more notice. It was noted that the new truck driver does not help put the trash in the truck, but may not be required to. P. Gustafson noted that CSI is imposing a 6% increase (countywide), beginning in September. We will wait to see if our donations are sufficient to account for the increase and will put up a sign explaining the increase.

### **Announcements:**

None.

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

The trash schedule can always be found on our website at: <http://luckettsruritan.org/for-members>, then click on the "[Compactor/Recycling Assignments](#)" link.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

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## Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Attending: Bond, Falk, Ferreira, Gustafson, Hillebrand, Kemp, McKenzie, Moffett, Penaranda, Small, Quitter.

CTO 7:35 PM.

BOD approved the draft August General Meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer C. Bond provided the August financial profit and loss statement reports. Receipts were \$4,696.18; disbursements were \$5,102.66, for a deficit of \$406.48, due to the receipt of two bills in one month for the compactor cost... Member dues owed was \$281.00. Total investment assets were \$159,483.74; checking account showed \$3,293.16, for an assets total of \$163,057.90. The BOD approved the Treasurer's Report.

### New Business:

*Applications for New Membership:* We have not received an expected application from Don and Patty Stanley, who attended our July meeting. Pres. McKenzie will ask P. Hart to contact them and find out their status.

*Leesburg Elementary School and PTA Donations:* C. Bond reported that these donations have been made. Since the Lucketts Store Antiques Fair is going to go to the Clark County Fairgrounds next year, which are owned by the Clark County Ruritans, we will not receive any income from this event. As an alternative funding source, the Board discussed reaching out to local businesses for contributions that would go to Lucketts Elementary School.

*Scholarship-National Funds:* We make a \$500 donation every year to National to a scholarship fund, in which we have accrued \$7200. We have learned that, when we have a total of \$10K at National, we can draw \$500 every year for one scholarship, but National must review the application package for final approval. National focuses more on the financial need of the family in making scholarship awards, but this policy is counter to our policy of focusing on academic performance, activities, and community service rather than financial need. The Board also learned of another scholarship fund at National that

requires a \$20K balance and from which the club can write a check for any amount without scrutiny from National. The Board decided not to take any action on this issue at present, especially given that we are not yet at the \$10K level in the first fund. We will continue to make the \$500 yearly donation.

*Speaker for Upcoming Meetings:* We have invited the owners of Roots @ 657, the new café restaurant to open soon at Spinks Ferry Rd. and Rt. 15 in Lucketts to speak in September. We still needed a speaker for October, but after this Board meeting, P. Gustafson has lined up author Stephen Budiansky. We still need a speaker for November and will reach out to Skills USA.

*Lucketts Fair: Parking:* I. Moffett reported that parking was closed down early on Sunday, due to weather, so our income from parking was less than projected. Ian did pay the Lovettsville-Waterford club for their assistance, which was approved by the Board.

*BBQ:* Our vendor, Roy, reported that the volume of sales was down, probably due to weather and the early closing of the fair on Sunday and from the very hot weather on Saturday, which resulted in low fair attendance.

*Informal social before the fair:* Pres. McKenzie reported that this social in the field was very lightly attended, but that those who did come had a congenial time!

*Lucketts Ruritan Lifetime Membership Award:* Pres. McKenzie will again contact the recipient's family to arrange the presentation of this award.

### Unfinished Business:

*Arrowhead Collection for Community Center:* S. Hillebrand and P. Gustafson showed the display case prototype to Ray Wagner, who provided a revised estimate of \$1800 to build it. They also showed the prototype to Bill Harrison, a Board member of the Loudoun Farm Museum and a member of the Hamilton Ruritan Club, who liked the design and approved it. We still need to meet with Sue Webb of the museum to re-negotiate the charge to us to clean the items for display. We are now to call the items a collection of "projectile points and stone tools," rather than "arrowheads."

*Trash Truck:* P. Gustafson reported that the CSI trucks hold eight tons; our average load is half that. The last truck had a crack in it and leaked on the school pavement; we asked, and received a second truck as a replacement. Gustafson

explained that one driver delivers the recycling containers in two separate trips to deliver and two trips to pick up. If we feel we need a third container, we would need to renegotiate our contract, but Gustafson noted that we are the only client who requires delivery and pickup of the containers, as most organizations and businesses keep the containers in a stationary location. As we have no suitable space for stationary containers, the requirement for delivery and pickup is time consuming and costly and probably not practical for adding a third container.

We still need a trash can or receptacle disposal of plastic trash bags in which people bring their recyclables to the trash service, as plastic bags are not allowed in the recycling containers. We also discussed placing one of our club helpers at the recycling bins to ensure flattening of cardboard boxes and disposal of trash bags in the designated can.

M. Ferreira brought up the fact that both December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> are Saturdays before holidays. She asked if we would have trash service on those days; the Board said we would have the service as usual.

*Parking:* I. Moffett summarized the parking events we have left in the current year and gave copies of two parking agreements from past events to the secretary to file. He noted that our estimated income for 2016 will be less than last year, partly because of fewer or cancelled events, and partly because we have had to pay other clubs to help park for several events. He noted that our club would make more money if more of our members signed up to help with parking.

At a future meeting, Ian will present a demo of the SignUpGenius online signup function and appeal to our members for more participation. He noted that we also need to acknowledge our appreciation and thanks to those who do sign up regularly and volunteer many hours to the club's parking events.

### **Announcements:**

None.

Pledge of allegiance was said and meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*