



Lucketts Ruritan

Board of Directors: Jim McKenzie, *President*; Peter Gustafson, *Vice President*; Elizabeth Penaranda, *Secretary*; Craig Bond, *Treasurer*; Rich Cleland, Al Menendez, Pat Logue, Don Stanley, *Directors*

General Membership Meeting Minutes-February 13th, 2018

Attending: Adams, Clark, Cleland, Fabboli, Falk, Fisher, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Kemp, Kibler, Kron, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez, Nassauer, Penaranda, Quitter Snooks, Sorrell, Stanley

Guests: Steve Ewell, Eric Hillebrand, Mike Johnson, Brian Burkhart, Charles and Mary Keeter

CTO by Pres. McKenzie at 7:30 PM.

Pres. McKenzie welcomed our guests and noted that the primary focus of our business meeting would be to discuss critical issues facing our club, as compiled by F. Nassauer from submissions from members.

John Adams said the blessing before the meal, prepared by the ladies of Furnace Mountain Church.

Program:

Pres. McKenzie introduced our speakers, Charles and Mary Keeter, to speak about adventures in Alaska. The Keeters, friends of member Al Menendez, are hunting and fishing guides who manage and host small and large charter groups for Alaskan adventures and corporate retreats. They are located 70 miles northwest of Anchorage; their lodge is on seven acres overlooking the confluence of the Yentna River and Lake Creek. Their season begins in late May and continues through October. Charles noted that he grew up watching Grizzly Adams and Gentle Ben and became hooked on the Alaskan wilderness. He builds custom air boats, 11 feet long, that he coats with plastic to enable them to slide across land in rough areas, as well as to glide over the water. The boats are equipped with cell phones and emergency locators, heat, enclosed cover, and rod holders.

The Keeters take people pike, trout, salmon, and other species-fishing in surrounding lakes and 10 nearby rivers (typical salmon size is 40-65 lbs!). Salmon species include King, Silver, Sockeye and Pink. They also take people hunting around Prudo Bay and rock climbing around Mt. McKinley and the Yukon River. They have five cabins at their

Next Meeting

March 13th, 2018 7:30 P.M.
Lucketts Community Center

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Program: Our March program will be a presentation by Eric Hillebrand, who will speak on Civil War artifacts found in our local area.

lodge, can accommodate up to 12 people at a time, and can customize their package tours as needed. Because their lodge is located 100 miles off the road system, everyone must fly in. Charles described the beauty of the Alaskan wilderness, noting they often see seals 100 miles in from the sea that go after the fish, and that the Ititarod dog race is two hours away by snow mobile..

Minutes: The January Minutes were approved with a minor correction.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bond provided the monthly financial profit and loss reports. Total income was \$6,590.84 (primarily reflecting trash receipts and member dues); expenses were \$5,711.83 (reflecting compactor service costs, meeting meal costs, website, and miscellaneous expenses for the Indian talk at LES) for a net ordinary income of \$879.01. Checking account has \$14,859.26; our T. Rowe Price account has \$198,062.68, for an assets total of \$214,657.94. Bond noted that we have realized a 20% profit for the year in our investment account. Dues owed are \$1,303.00 (reflecting the start of a new quarter) and \$4333 is still owed for the December banquet.. Board accepted the Treasurer's report.

New Business:

Problem Statement Discussion: F. Nassauer led a discussion about issues facing our club and solicited input from members. He distributed a list of the issues submitted by members so far and a summary sheet showing major categories, such as Ineffective/ Insufficient Communications (4 comments), Declining/Aging Membership (3 comments), Changing Community Demographics (3 comments), Out-of-Step with Community (3 comments). Other categories with fewer comments included Inconvenient or Unappealing Volunteer Activities, Generation Gap, lack of

Clear Club Purpose, Competition with PTA, Perception of Club as an "Old Person's" club, and Lack of Member Commitment. Fred noted that a problem is not the same as a problem symptom, and that it is important to ask questions to determine specific problem areas. In the discussion, members noted that we are losing members faster than gaining new members, that we should identify members' interests for volunteer activities or shift our focus to appeal to younger members, and that we should identify the specific problems of our Lucketts community. It was also noted that Lucketts has become a group of separate neighborhood enclaves (HOAs), divided in half by Rt. 15. This a big change from the more integrated rural and farming community of the past. We will continue our discussion of these issues in subsequent meetings.

Rt. 15 Stakeholders' Committee: P. Gustafson reported that the Leesburg Town Council is deciding on changes to the intersection at King St., and that the Board of Supervisors will vote on changing the Comprehensive Plan to expand the road to four lanes to Montresor Rd. He noted that the CPAM and Stakeholders are not in sync and that not all viewpoints have been adequately considered. P. Gustafson and Martha Polkey of the Catoctin Coalition will soon meet with Supervisor G. Higgins to discuss two issues: that the position of the stakeholders is flawed, and that HOAs are currently over-represented. A public meeting to be held March 10 all day at the LCC will enable local residents to learn more about the issues and to provide their input and ideas for Rt. 15 changes.

Rudy Juniors: P. Logue reminded the BOD of the upcoming historical lecture on local Indians, presented by historian Chris Hawes, to be held at the school on Feb. 25th from 2-4 PM. Several volunteers are needed to help; club members are encouraged to attend the event, sponsored by the Rudy Juniors.

Business Associates: Al Menendez will continue to work with the Lucketts Business Community to integrate our club with their organizations.

Committee Assignments: Pres. McKenzie is finalizing the committee assignments for 2018.

Finance Committee: The committee is seeking any recommendations from club members for 2018 donations.

Monthly Speakers: Our March speaker will be Eric Hillebrand, who will speak on civil war artifacts found in our local area. Our April meeting will focus on our Strategy Committee and their activities to date.

Unfinished Business:

Annual Summer Picnic: Pres. McKenzie asked the Club for their agreement to hold our annual picnic with other local Ruritan Clubs, as we did last year. This event was a great success and encouraged idea and information sharing between clubs. The membership approved a joint picnic again this year.

New Members: The club voted in two new members: Mike Johnson and Steve Ewell. Welcome to both of you!

Announcements:

None.

The pledge of allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

February 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Attending: Bond, Cleland, Gustafson, Logue, McKenzie, Penaranda, Quitter, Stanley

CTO 7:30 PM.

Minutes: February Minutes will be sent via email, to be approved at the next General Meeting on March 13th.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bond provided the monthly financial profit and loss reports. Total income was \$4,497.75 (reflecting trash receipts, member dues, and banquet income); expenses were \$5,710.95 (reflecting compactor service costs, meeting meal costs, donations, and miscellaneous expenses) for a net ordinary income of -\$1,213.20 (reflecting no deposit of trash receipts this period). Bond noted that donations included about \$500 to LCC for programs and child care, and miscellaneous included \$1200 to M. Gustafson for PR and web services. Checking account has \$14,006.06; our T. Rowe Price account has \$198,022.68, for an assets total of \$212,798.74. Dues owed are \$417.00. Board accepted the Treasurer's report. Bond noted that our investment account has gained 20% for the year. Bond noted that since a new quarter of the year has begun, members need to pay their dues!

New Business:

Audit/Budget for 2018: P. Gustafson reported that the Finance Committee met Sunday, February 11, 2018 from 3–6 pm and worked on preparation of the budget for 2018, review of our investment portfolio, and performing the inspection of the treasurer's records, for 2017. The former was put on hold until resolution of our compactor service charges, given purchase of our vendor, CSI, by ESI of Manassas. Uncertainty was eased somewhat by ESI agreeing to honor our existing contract until August 31. This decision has allowed the budget to proceed; the Committee will issue a report shortly.

Rudy Juniors: P. Logue reported that she and Mary Gustafson are preparing an article for *Lucketts News & Notes* about the historical lecture on local Indians held in late February at the school. This event was a great success, although it went a little long and was not quite geared to the elementary school age level. She noted that we need to obtain permissions for any photos used. P.

Logue also noted that we may want to go to Smarts Mill Middle School at some point to engage children currently in Rudy Juniors to continue the Rudy Junior club next year and to attract others of middle school age.

Trash: P. Gustafson reported that the new owner of the trash company, ESI, notified us that they are raising our rate by 33%. Gustafson talked to attorney Tim Hyland, who noted that our current three-year contract expired in 2013, but with a yearly renewal and a 6% ceiling on a yearly cost increase. The BOD agreed that we need to get bids and pricing information from other haulers; C. Bond will confer with S. Scheibelhofer, who has experience with trash contracts, and then begin to call other companies for information.

Donation: Pres. McKenzie reported that S. Hillebrand wants to donate to the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to help the organization purchase the 87 acres for sale in Lucketts bordering Stumptown and NewValley Church Roads. R. Cleland noted that our budget already depends on a lot of "ifs" for this fiscal year and that our assets reflect a high-performing stock market this year, which may not last. The BOD tabled this discussion for now, noting that any contribution our club could afford to make would be too small to make much of a difference to this purchase.

Rt. 15: Pres. McKenzie reported that P. Gustafson and Martha Polkey of the Catocin Coalition met with Supervisor Geary Higgins about changes to Rt. 15. One option is to construct a bypass around Lucketts west of Rt. 15; another option is to re-route a roundabout at Stumptown Rd. G. Higgins commented at the meeting that four lanes may not go as far as Montrestor Rd., but only "as far as it needs to go." What this means was unclear. Club members are encouraged to attend the meeting of local stakeholders at the Community Center on Saturday, March 10 from 9-2 PM to provide input about Rt. 15 changes. An online survey will be available a few days after this meeting. P. Gustafson also noted that VDOT only wants to look at Rt. 15, not road re-alignments. Our VDOT contact is "Ivan," but he is not available to meet with us until August.

Strategy: F. Nassauer still needs additional problem statements from club members. He will lead further discussions in upcoming meetings.

Monthly Speakers: Our March speaker will be Eric Hillebrand, on Civil War artifacts. The April meeting will be another strategy session.

Village Green: P. Logue reported that a few years ago, our club marked storm drains in this development. J. Frankenfield suggested to her recently that the Rudy Juniors could do this again now that this community has been completed. He asked the county for guidance on how to mark these drains, but has not yet received a response. Marking would show that these storm drains empty into the Potomac River and NOT into a sewer or treatment plant. Pat suggested that we ask new member Mike Johnson who lives in Village Green for ideas about this initiative.

Scholarship Committee: D. Stanley reported that applications for scholarships are due the first week in April. Applications are now online. Committee members met with several students at Tuscarora High School to provide information and with the guidance counselor, who knows the students who are homeschooled in Lucketts.

Annual Picnic: Pres. McKenzie reiterated our intention to sponsor a picnic this summer with other local Ruritan Clubs. Suggested dates were July 14th or July 24th; M. Quitter will need to coordinate fairly soon with Skills, USA to reserve the grounds and facility.

Casino Night: M. Quitter reported that we could hold a Casino Night at Skills, USA but no alcohol could be provided or consumed on that property. Pres. McKenzie noted that Vanish Brewery has already offered to host such an event. We would issue a limited number of tickets in advance, but this would remain a private, not public, event.

Budget: Pres. McKenzie reported that our Annual Holiday Party has increased in the cost to the club (cost now ranges from \$6500 to \$8000). Part of this cost has been incurred because we invite a large number of additional guests who do not pay to attend. Discussion focused on whether to continue to hold this event at all (attendance has decreased in recent years) or whether to hold a smaller party at a hotel who would also provide the food at a lower cost than a private caterer. Pres. McKenzie stated that we could sponsor other social events instead, holding them at Vanish or at Fabbioli Cellars. R. Cleland pointed out that we should fund a party from our earned funds and not

from donations; or, that we should charge more per head to cover costs. P. Gustafson moved that we bring this issue up to the membership and spell out the pros and cons of continuing to hold this party as we have been doing.

Shirts and Hats: We will make a recommendation to the Membership Committee to order new shirts and hats for club members. There is a company near Wegmans that provides items with organizational logos on them; this firm has provided items for the Lucketts PTA with good results.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary