



# 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-March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Attending:** Adams, Clark, Cleland, Ewell, Falk, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Johnson, Kemp, Kron, Logue, McKenzie, Mears, Menendez, Nassauer, Penaranda, Quitter Sorrell, Stanley

**Guests:** Eric Hillebrand, Darrell Ernst, George Biller, Cheryl Hillebrand, Linda Giersher, Karen Falk

CTO by Pres. Mckenzie at 7:35 PM.

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

### Program:

Pres. Mckenzie introduced our speaker, history detective Eric Hillebrand, long-time Loudoun resident who grew up in Lucketts but now resides in Lovettsville. Eric has been relic hunting and metal detecting in our area for over 15 years. Eric said that Virginia is the most historically important state and the "heart of American history" because of its importance in the American Revolution and the Civil War. Loudoun County was founded in 1857, named for John Campbell, Lord of Loudoun, who was a British general in North America. Lucketts, originally named Goresville, was a booming town in the Revolutionary and Civil war eras. River crossings were especially important, especially in the areas above Great Falls, Seneca, and Leesburg. Several ferries and fords were active on the Loudoun County border of the Potomac River (the I-95 corridor of the colonial period, as Eric termed it). Rt. 15, then called the Carolina Road, had developed from an Indian path and stretched from North Carolina to Lancaster, PA. As an agricultural region, there were many furnaces and mills near Lucketts, near this major one lane trade and travel road.

In the Revolutionary time, Loudoun had the largest militia and provided troops for the war. In the Civil War period, Loudoun was very divided; troops moved through constantly. Confederate troops came through to Antietam and used the river crossings, especially the one at White's Ferry, and Confederate generals came through to meet in Leesburg. At some point, the bridge at Point of

### Next Meeting

April 10th, 2018 7:30 P.M.  
Lucketts Community Center

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Program:** Our April program will be a discussion about our club goals and future directions, led by the Strategy Committee.

Rocks was destroyed, so the ferries and fords became especially critical. Union army troops stayed primarily near Antietam, while Confederate troops stayed near Winchester. In 1864, Confederate General Early prepared to attack Washington, DC and came up the Shenandoah River to White's Ford to escape to Leesburg, to Rt. 7, and over the mountains to Winchester. Union troops also crossed the river at Edwards Ferry and the two bridges at Goose Creek to Maryland and Gettysburg. Eric noted that the roads were too bad for large groups of troops and artillery to come through easily, so although Union troops did pass through our area, Confederate troops were the primary users of the road and crossings. Many skirmishes did occur, one notable one in 1864, when Sheridan conducted a burning raid through Loudoun to prevent supplies reaching the Confederate army.

Eric goes to old house sites in Loudoun County and looks for artifacts near creeks, rivers, wells, and springs. He showed an early 1850 Yardley Taylor map of Loudoun County, which was the most detailed and surveyed map of the area at the time, showing family names, creek names, roads, farms, bridges, and crossings. He uses this map to find specific farmsteads at which to search for relics. He has found bullets, buttons, coins (one a Spanish real from 1785), chains, rings, lockplates, a suspender strap, a brooch, a harmonica reed, and thimbles. He noted that colonials used coins from all over the world in their commercial dealings because of their metal content. He noted that Union uniform items show a flying wing eagle, while Confederate uniform items show a drooped wing eagle.

Please contact Eric if you would like him to look on your land for artifacts, or if you have a neighbor who might be interested.

**Minutes:** The February Minutes will be sent out via email.

**Treasurer's Report:** C. Bond was not present but provided the monthly financial profit and loss reports. Total income was \$4,198.15 (primarily reflecting trash receipts and member dues); expenses were \$7,087.35 (primarily reflecting compactor service costs, meeting meal costs, scholarships, club outreach, and graphic design expenses) for a net ordinary income of -\$2,889.20. Checking account has \$12,143.67; our T. Rowe Price account has \$192,985.65, for an assets total of \$205,466.32. Dues owed: \$250.

### **New Business:**

*Problem Statement Discussion:* F. Nassauer led round two of our discussion about issues facing our club. He distributed a list summarizing the major issues submitted by members, which included Ineffective/Insufficient Communications, Declining/Aging Membership, Changing Community Demographics, Club and Community Out of Alignment, Inability to Inspire Volunteerism, and the Lack of an Inspirational Club Message. Fred noted that our means of communication has changed with the rise of online social media and that we need to build relationships with our community. Discussion focused on how we can communicate what our club is about and that holding more social meetings at other venues might attract new members. S. Sorrell noted that the model used by the Fire Department is to increase involvement in a more networked approach. We should also solicit feedback from our newer members. Pres. McKenzie stated that we are planning to hold our May meeting at Fabboli Cellars; he encouraged members to bring a friend or neighbor and/or invite others from the PTA or a local business. This meeting will not be a formal program but more a networking opportunity. The membership approved a motion to spend \$1500 for refreshments and wine at this meeting.

*Rt. 15 Stakeholders' Committee:* P. Gustafson reported that the Board of Supervisors will vote on the proposed changes at the White's Ferry intersection in April. He noted that the state of Virginia gave \$151M to metro, taking this amount away from our local projects. He reiterated that the CPAM and Stakeholders are not in sync and that not all viewpoints have been adequately considered to date. More information to come.

*Rudy Juniors:* The history event on local Indians, presented by historian Chris Hawes, was very successful. P. Logue is submitting an article for *Lucketts News & Notes* and collecting photos to send to Ruritan National for inclusion in the magazine. Pres. McKenzie asked for and received membership approval of \$1300 spent on this event. The PTA is holding a "night out" on April 21; members are encouraged to attend to support.

*Business Associates:* Pres. McKenzie and P. Logue attended a business partnership meeting with Loudoun Co. schools personnel. We may consider recognizing local business by providing shirts for local sports teams. Al Menendez is working with the Lucketts Business Community to integrate our club with their organizations.

*Monthly Speakers:* Our April program will focus on our Strategy Committee activities. Our May meeting will be a social event at Fabboli Cellars.

### **Unfinished Business:**

*Trash:* We will operate under our current CSI contract until August. We are starting to get bids from other companies. Pres. McKenzie noted that the agenda for this month's meeting includes the trash assignments for the next month.

*Annual Summer Picnic:* We will hold our annual picnic again this year with other local Ruritan Clubs.

### **Announcements:**

1. A Ruritan District Golf Tournament will be held April 30. Membership voted to approve \$50 to sponsor this district event.
2. P. Gustafson was contacted about an old GE washer and dryer to donate. Suggestion was to give to RESTORE.
3. M. Quitter announced that the Boy Scout yard sale date is now May 12. Collections will be done in April.
4. Guest George Biller from Selma estates noted ecological damage to driveways and ponds from recent construction on Montresor Rd. Selma homeowners are suing.

The pledge of allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## March 2018 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** Adams, Cleland, Fabboli, Gustafson, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez, Penaranda, Sorrell, Stanley

CTO 7:40 PM.

This meeting was held at Pres. McKenzie's home, as the LCC room was not available.

**Minutes:** Minutes for both General and Board meetings will be sent out via email.

**Treasurer's Report:** C. Bond was not present but provided the monthly financial profit and loss reports. Total income was \$4,198.15 (primarily reflecting trash receipts and member dues); expenses were \$7,087.35 (primarily reflecting compactor service costs, meeting meal costs, scholarships, club outreach, and graphic design expenses) for a net ordinary income of -\$2,889.20. Checking account has \$12,143.67; our T. Rowe Price account has \$192,985.65, for an assets total of \$205,466.32. Dues owed: \$250.

### New Business:

*Budget for 2018:* P. Gustafson reported that the Finance Committee completed the budget for 2018, review of our investment portfolio, and the inspection and the inspection of the treasurer's records for 2017. The Board discussed the category of Scholarships and the amount budgeted to expand how our funds can be spent, deciding to call this line item Scholarships and Program Support. If scholarship awards can only be for academic purposes, we may be limited in ways to provide other kinds of program support and whom we can support. The Board acknowledged that community needs are changing, and that we want to put our funds where they are most needed. The Finance Committee recommended expanding our designated funding of \$75K to \$150K to enable these funds to become an endowment to fund scholarships in the future from unrealized gains from our investment fund and dividends from bond income. The Committee added a plan to the budget for receipts from investments, which totaled \$13,960 this year. The Committee also recommended elimination of our emergency fund, as we have not ever needed to draw on these designated funds. Board approved this change.

Discussion continued on budget line items. The Board learned that ESI (the company that bought our current contract from CSI) has now been bought by Waste Management. We still have several months on our current contract, but will negotiate with Waste Management and may continue to solicit bids from other contractors. Banquet: The Board acknowledged that we do not need a budget of \$18K for this event; while we continue to discuss our options for a holiday party, we will keep \$15K in the budget. The Committee also recommended a budget item of \$2500 for the Community Center for 2018, deemed necessary and desirable because the Lucketts Fair, no longer held, cannot provide the Center with its previous funding of \$10K. This amount includes our donation of \$1500 a year to the Community Center. It was also noted that we are \$6K ahead from the 2017 budget.

The Finance Committee will meet every quarter to evaluate our progress on the budget and recommend any changes going forward. R. Cleland moved to approve the 2018 budget; the Board approved.

*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 that we send to National. She noted that J. Frankenfield will lead the project to mark storm drains in Village Green, to be done by the end of April. Kay Price will continue to lead the Rudy Jr. program at LES; Dave Petruzzi will start a Rudy Jr. program at Smarts Mill for middle schoolers next year to enable the graduating members to continue.

*Strategy:* A. Menendez reported on two objectives for linking with our local business community: to reach out to the community at large and to spearhead a fund-raising effort with Lucketts small businesses. As this may not be a good source of funds, we will consider other initiatives, such as vocational training, as ways to contribute. D. Fabboli will host a meeting of the local business community and will prepare welcome packages for newcomers for distribution. The group may also establish an auxiliary

partnership club category as a satellite organization that is not part of our Ruritan Club but as an associate group.

*Problem Definition and Schedule:* S. Sorrell will coordinate with F. Nassauer to plan activities going forward.

*Trash Contract:* P. Gustafson reported that the new owner of the trash company is now Waste Management. The BOD agreed that we need to get bids and pricing information from other haulers. Gustafson noted that our waiver at the landfill is also coming due and needs to be renegotiated. He will contact S. Scheibelhofer for requirements and suggestions for doing this.

*Monthly Speakers:* Pres. McKenzie suggested institutionalizing a new practice of holding two meetings a year dedicated to socializing and recruiting new members. The first event this year will be May 8th at 7 PM at Fabboli Cellars. J. Adams handed out a draft plan, the event to be called Sip & Socialize, that addressed a Membership Committee Welcome Table, a slide show depicting club activities, a welcome by Pres. McKenzie, an announcement of our new partnership with Loudoun Hunger Relief in Lucketts and Faith Chapel Church (LHR is planning to open a food pantry/food distribution center at the church), and an ice breaker display of a large locally baked cake by Tiffany Hatfield commemorating the 90th birthday of Ruritan National.

*Homeless Kids Support:* P. Logue contacted C. Clement, principal at LES, LAWS, and Mobile Hope to get more information on how we might help homeless children in Lucketts. We will target our June meeting with a program speaker on this topic.

*Scholarship Committee:* D. Stanley reported that Committee members met with several students and the guidance counselor at Tuscarora High School. Applications are due the second Friday in April. Homeschoolers are also eligible and welcome to apply. So far, we have received one application. We will also talk to Monroe Tech vocational school and how we might tie into D. Fabboli's vocational agricultural training program. The Committee will recommend the amount to designate for scholarships to Tuscarora students and submit for BOD approval by May 22nd.

*Annual Picnic:* Pres. McKenzie reiterated our intention to sponsor a picnic this summer with other local Ruritan Clubs. The date will be July 14th. M. Quitter reported that Skills, USA grounds and facility will not be available this year because of ongoing construction, so the Board discussed other possible venues. These included Ewell's 48 Fields (with an accompanying charge of \$1500 for portable toilets and cleanup), Vanish Brewery, and the Lovettsville Game Club.

*Rt. 15 Gas Mart:* We received a solicitation from a representative of the group planning to construct a large Gas Mart on the east side of Rt. 15 near Point of Rocks. This person, Kim, wanted to address our club at our April meeting, but Pres. McKenzie will tell her that since this is a controversial issue in our community, we expect many questions and comments. Consequently, we cannot provide time until later in the year, as our meeting agendas are planned out through the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*