



# Lucketts Ruritan

Board of Directors: Peter Gustafson, President; Al Menendez, Vice President; Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary; Don Stanley, Treasurer; Jim McKenzie, Pat Logue, Mike Dunn, Gary Mears, Directors

## General Membership Meeting Minutes—October 8th, 2019

**Attending:** Adams, Benjamin A, Benjamin J, Dunn, Falk, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Johnson, Logue, Maruca, B, Maruca F, McKenzie, Menendez, Penaranda, Price, Quitter, Sackman Den, Sorrell, Stanley

**Guests:** Eric and Michelle Rubright, Hollie McTiernan, Carolyn Clement

CTO: 7:30 pm

Pres. Gustafson welcomed our speaker, Carolyn Clement, Principal, Lucketts Elementary School, and our guests. He thanked the ladies of Furnace Mt. Church for preparing the dinner.

**Minutes:** September minutes accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley presented the interim financial report for September. We have \$16,063.35, in our checking account and \$214,593.43 in our T. Rowe Price account, for an assets total of \$230,022.78. Dues owed: \$634. Treasurer's Report was accepted.

### Program:

Our speaker was Carolyn Clement, Principal of Lucketts Elementary School, who spoke about current school needs. LES has 293 children of diverse backgrounds enrolled this year, many of whom have significant needs. Twenty two percent are economically disadvantaged, and many have English as a second language. Although the community has pitched in to help, many needs are still not met, such as coats, shoes, food on the weekends, and other essentials. The school supports some items that most of us take for granted, but some problems are large; for example, ICE detained the male head of one family, who now have no one to support them.

LES is a small school, but scores in reading have improved, due in part, to the greater availability of books purchased with our club's donation. New this year is a three-classroom addition, encompassing an art room, music room, and kindergarten room. The Virts/Miller foundation recently donated \$500K for recording and music equipment and an electronic sign. Other projects in

## Next Meeting

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

Lucketts Community Center

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Program:** The speaker for our November meeting will be Chris Doherty, CFO of TRI, Inc., who will speak on a new gasification technology for converting waste to energy.

the works for LES include a walking path between the school and the community center. Our club's donation last year was given in the form of a check, for \$1000, which was used to buy school supplies, tissues, dry erase markers, computer headphones, and composition books (used as study guides and interactive notebooks).

This year, the school has identified 72 students who need coats and shoes, a number that indicates that the need has increased from the previous year. Karen Price, who leads the Rudy Jr. Club at LES, noted that the club teaches the children how to give back to their community.

Ms. Clement was also interested in our new grant program. Ideas for grants included paying teachers to tutor after school, developing a small pond for use as a learning lab, and portable, self-contained devices to enable access to wi-fi hot spots by 10 students/people at a time.

### 2020 Committee Assignments:

Pres. Gustafson asked members to consider the committees on which to serve during the coming year. By November, we need to prepare the final 2020 budget, so we need committees to be populated and the chairs to determine activities and budgets.

### Standing Committee Reports:

**Finance:** A. Menendez stated that the club VP and Treasurer, and the chairs of the Standing Committees should be developing objectives and finalizing their administrative functions to enable them to contribute to 2020 budget preparations. We also need to report various items to National. P. Logue noted that committee chairs (and members) should look at our updated website to

determine how it could be used for planning and communication with other groups in Lucketts. She also stated that budget preparation should be done with the old and new committee chairs for continuity. Pres. Gustafson noted that the Objectives Committee, led by the VP, and the committees under Objectives, are mandated by Ruritan National.

**Fellowship:** The Awards Banquet for 2019 will be held at Skills, USA on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Food will be catered by DJ's Catering, of Buckeystown, MD. This year, we are charging \$30 per person to defray the cost of the dinner. Patty Stanley and Cheryl Hillebrand are in charge of decorating the venue—volunteers are welcome!

**Program and Entertainment:** The speaker for our November meeting will be Chris Doherty, CFO of TRI, Inc., who will speak on Waste to Energy.

**Membership:** The Sip 'n Social event at Fabboli Cellars was attended by 100 people and came in under budget.

The membership voted in new members, Eric and Michelle Rubright. Welcome to the club!

**Public Relations:** Our website has been updated, but is still a work in progress. We still need help with our social media presence and are looking for a volunteer website/social media manager. We also need a new club photographer.

#### **Community Service Committees:**

**Business and Professionals:** J. Benjamin reported that the committee did not meet this month because of the Rt. 15 community meeting. The committee is still working on an online business directory.

**Environment:** The upcoming tree planting event at JK Black Oak Preserve Wildlife Sanctuary will be held on Nov. 2nd (rain date Nov. 3rd). Sixty-one people have signed up so far! J. Adams noted that we need to work together with the LWC to manage this property and encourage students with environmental projects to apply for our grants. This preserve is now in conservation easement, which will further protect its globally unique vernal pools and other animal and plant species.

**Social Development:** S. Hillebrand reported that the coat drive is now underway, but there is greater need this year for coats for elementary school students and their younger siblings. This year, the

drive is focusing on collecting coats for children rather than adults. We are also placing a jar at trash to collect cash donations to help defray the cost of coats we need to buy in the specified sizes, as our budgeted amount will only cover half of this cost. The last day of the coat drive is Election Day!

**Citizenship and Patriotism:** We will hold our second Candidates Meet 'n Greet event on October 15th at the LCC. The session will run from 7-9 pm. The moderator for this second session will be Norman Steir, publisher of Loudoun Now. This event will feature candidates for School Board (At Large and Catoctin District), Commonwealth Attorney, and Sheriff.

#### **Announcements:**

1. The new walking/running club is now active. Walkers and runners should meet at the Lucketts Community Park at 8:30 am at the paved trail next to the school. Bring water, as needed. All ages and fitness levels are welcome!
2. Our slate of officers for 2020 is complete, except for one director. Please consider serving your club as a director.
3. A. Menendez is applying for our club to solicit donations as a civic organization. This designation will allow us to expand our donation base as a 501c3 organization.
4. M. Quitter announced that the Boy Scout troop awarded Eagle Scout status to its 58<sup>th</sup> scout! Our club has contributed 1,570 volunteer hours to this scout program.

Pledge of Allegiance was said and meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## October 2019 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

CTO: 7:30 Pm

Meeting was held at the home of J. McKenzie, 14381 Dove Lane, Leesburg, VA.

**Attending:** Jan Benjamin, Dunn, Gustafson, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez, Penaranda, Deb Sackman, Stanley

**Minutes:** General Meeting Minutes skipped to save time (some Board members hoped to catch the World Series MLWBS game 6, Nats vs. Astros later in the evening!).

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a report for the month to date. We have \$15,731.62 in our checking account. Our T. Rowe Price account has \$215,451.79 (up \$25K), for a total of \$230,284.05. Dues owed: \$560. Don noted we did not receive a bill from Bates compactor service or a check for our last parking event. Next month, he will have a budget projection for the year. Report was accepted.

After some discussion, the Board directed the Treasurer to look into getting a debit card for the club. J. McKenzie moved to give LES \$500 of our yearly donation now and \$500 in February, thereby decreasing our donation amount for this year in the budget from \$1K to \$500. Motion passed. The Board also discussed an additional donation to the school in the form of gift cards for use by the principal to help individual children—this is a different donation than our regular donation to the school that must be used to benefit everyone. To do this, we may need an accompanying letter specifying use of the funds. Motion passed.

### New Business:

Pres. Gustafson presented the final slate of club officers for 2020.

- President, Al Menendez
- Vice President, Pat Logue
- Secretary, Liz Penaranda
- Treasurer, Don Stanley
- Past President, Peter Gustafson
- 1-year Director, Gary Mears
- 2-year Director, Mike Dunn
- 3-year Director, Dennis Fauber

Motion to approve the slate was passed.

### Standing Committees:

*Program and Entertainment:* The speaker for our November meeting is Chris Doherty, CFO of TRI, Inc., who will speak about a new gasification technology for converting waste to energy.

Awards Banquet preparations are ongoing. P. Logue suggested using the web-based Constant Contact application to manage RSVPs. A. Menendez reported that our club has received two Gold Star awards from Ruritan National for our community service.

The December Board Meeting will be a social event at the home of Pres. Gustafson. Motion passed to hold this event on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Membership:* A few people have signed up for committees, but we still need to encourage members to choose a committee on which to serve. J. Adams has already submitted a budget for the Environmental Committee.

*Finance:* D. Stanley reported that the committee will have a 2020 budget by the next Board meeting.

### Community Service Committees:

*Business and Professionals:* D. Sackman presented a website proposal from the Business Collaborative. The three-page website would include an About page, a Directory of Lucketts businesses, and a Contact Us page. The mission is to help local businesses survive and thrive, provide a way for them to be known within the community, and offer them a platform for communication and advertising their services. Initial costs for this initiative are projected to be \$780 for website design, \$1850 for website development, and \$450 for a Member Directory plug-in, for a startup total of \$3,080. Annual recurring cost projections are \$225 for website hosting in year one and \$395 for website maintenance and security, for an estimated annual recurring cost of \$620. Deb also presented a one-time projected expense of \$450 for postcards, printing, and mailing. Deb noted that the committee will ask Lucketts businesses to contribute if they wish to be included in the Directory and on the website. A. Menendez suggested that the club match funds donated by the businesses, but Pres. Gustafson noted that our club has no funding source except our trash receipts. J. McKenzie said we could fund this project by taking some monies from our investments if we

cannot find enough in the budget. The Board directed Treasurer D. Stanley to research rates from other web developers as a cost comparison. The Collaborative would like to launch this initiative in March 2020.

P. Logue stated that a session will be held at Skills, USA on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> to demo our new Ruritan website.

*Environment:* We still need help with parking for the tree planting event at the JK Black Oak Preserve on Nov. 2.

*Social Development:* The coat drive collected \$1,113 in donations at trash and at the Meet the Candidates events. We now have 55 of the 73 coats requested, and we have purchased all shoes and gloves.

P. Logue reported on the Stewards of Children initiative, where a community hosts a group to recognize signs of child abuse and how to report it. A two-hour training session will be held to educate people about this issue. The Board passed a motion to endorse this effort.

At some point in the future, a Community Development Grant may be awarded to assess the Volunteer Fire House and to help the community find a purpose and use for the building. S. Sorrell has discussed this grant with J. Hobbie, our liaison to the volunteer fire group. They will seek an outside entity, such as a community development consultant, to get consensus on how to proceed and how to apply for the grant. This initiative may require matching funds, a minimum of 10% or in kind donations (such as volunteer hours). The goal for completion of this early assessment is November 2020. Our club is providing the Volunteer Fire Company with information about this grant to see if they are interested in applying next year.

## **Announcements:**

1. Pres. Gustafson announced a home improvement program in Lucketts for individuals. More to come about this program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*