

## August 2021 - General Meeting Minutes

CTO: 7:40 PM

Now that COVID-19 has eased, we are resuming our regular monthly Membership and Board Meetings. Meeting venues will be announced each month. This month's meeting was held at Fabboli Vineyards and featured a cash bar and light refreshments. Refreshments were provided by the Club and organized by Patty Stanley, wife of Treasurer Don Stanley

**Note:** Secretary Penaranda could not attend this meeting, as she was recovering from hip surgery. VP P. Logue took meeting minutes.

**Attending:** Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Falk, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrant, Johnson, Logue, McKenzie, McTiernan, Menendez, Nassauer, Price, Quitter, Rubright E&M, Scott, Stanley

**Guests:** 2021 Scholarship winners and their parents:

- Ella Nassauer and her father, Fred
- Andrew Morrison and his parents
- Chloe Duncan and her parents, Ton and Michelle Duncan

**Madison Raborg**, winner of our fourth scholarship, and her parents, could not attend due to prior commitments

**Cindy Kohler** attended as a guest of Barbara Scott and has expressed interest in joining the Club. This was her second meeting.

**Preston Huntington** from Xelevate attended as the guest of Peter Gustafson.

**Gerco Hoogeweg**, the evening's speaker, who lives in Taylorstown and is the volunteer responsible for development of the JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary.

Don Stanley recorded member attendance. Al welcomed the guests, reviewed the night's agenda, and introduced the evening's speaker. John Adams gave the convocation.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the July Membership and Board Meeting will be circulated when available. Minutes are available on the Ruritan website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report for July. As of the end of July, we had \$42,900.63 in our checking account and \$318,578.17 in our T. Rowe investment account,

giving us total assets of \$361,207.80 (after all scholarships were paid). Trash collection (budget item 4000) continues to proceed slightly above budget and related compactor service cost (item 7000) is slightly below budget. This year's picnic (item 7320) at President Menendez's home came in under budget @ \$693.23. Scholarships (Item 7400) totaled \$16,000.

### Program

Gerco reviewed the features that make Black Oak a globally unique ecosystem. There is a network of 14 vernal pools on the property, which support rare animal species such as fairy shrimp. The Nature Conservancy is so interested in the site that it is funding the construction of five acres of mitigation wetlands on the east side of the property to help preserve the adjoining vernal pools and wildlife. Since owned by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, sightings of bear and mink on the property have been reported, in addition to the local deer, rabbits, turkeys, and raptors common to Lucketts. This year work is being done to expand the walkways to provide accessibility to more of the preserve to the public.

Gerco shared the need for volunteers to work on cleanup of debris dumped on the site over the many years that the land has lain fallow. Together with the Club's Environmental Committee, we will plan a date for this volunteer activity later this year. Peter Gustafson reviewed the Club's history of assisting in the preservation of the Black Oak property.

### Introduction of Scholarship Winners / Review of Citizenship Awards

Barbara Scott introduced the three Scholarship Winners who were able to attend the meeting and reviewed the process by which the Club solicits, evaluates, and awards annual post-graduation scholarships. Winners Ella Nassauer, Andrew Morrison, and Chloe Duncan each addressed the Club members.

Mike Johnson reviewed the process for the annual Citizenship Award made by the Club to students from our local Elementary, Middle, and High School. Winners this year were: Riley Sullivan – Lucketts Elementary; Tomilola Bolarinwa, Smarts Mill; and Nya DeShay, Tuscarora. Students received a Staples gift card and a congratulatory yard sign from Al Menendez at their home since award ceremonies were virtual this year.

**Nominating Committee Report**

P. Gustafson reported that the Nominating Committee (Gustafson, J. Adams, and J. McKenzie) concluded their work this year to prepare for the change in Officers and Directors that takes effect in January 2022. He provided the following slate of Officers and Directors for vote by Membership.

- President – Patricia Logue
- Vice President – Mike Dunn
- Treasurer – Don Stanley
- Secretary – Liz Penaranda
- Dennis Fauber – Director (3<sup>rd</sup> Year)
- Peter Hart – Director (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Jody Ruth – Director (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Al Menendez – Past President

**Call for Volunteers – Environmental Committee**

P. Gustafson and B. Scott reviewed the written request received from the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to support a cleanup event at JK Black Oak Nature Preserve later this fall. A date will be selected that is not in conflict with the Lucketts Market event on October 15, 16, and 17<sup>th</sup> since volunteers will also be needed to staff that event. The Environment Committee will outreach to youth and neighborhood organizations in the community for additional support for this fall event.

**General Updates**

*Committees:* P. Logue reviewed the Committee Structure and Assignment documents circulated by email before the meeting. She asked that Committee chairs for this year to make sure that the Board receives any new budget request in the next two weeks and that members advise about the Committees they would like to participate in or lead in the next calendar year. We are looking for a new Chair for the Fellowship Committee.

*FY2022 Budget:* P. Logue also advised that the FY2022 Budget is being finalized and will be presented to the Board at the August 31<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Members should look for an email with the Board approved budget before the September 14<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting. Membership will vote on the FY2022 Budget on September 14<sup>th</sup> so it can be in place before the new Fiscal Year, which begins October 1, 2021.

*Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company:* Pres. Menendez and VP P. Logue reported on the activity around the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company. The Club has approached Supervisor Caleb Kershner to assist in delaying the disconnection of the current sewer connection between the current firehouse building and the LCPS treatment plant that supports Lucketts Elementary School, the Lucketts Community Center, and the new Fire House. In addition, Supervisor Kershner is providing information to the Volunteer Fire Company on future purposes for the building that would qualify as sufficiently public to enable continued connection to the system. The matter will go before the Board of Supervisors at its September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Community Center:* Pres. Menendez and J. Adams reported on a meeting they attended with the new Director of the Community Center, members of the Lucketts Community Center Advisory Board, and representatives from Loudoun County Parks and Recreation. J. Adams advised the members of a golden opportunity for the Club to help start a strategic expansion of the Community Center and the services provided in the village to residents of Lucketts through a coordinated plan between Parks and Recreation and the Volunteer Fire Company. The new Director of the Lucketts Community Center (Page Neely) will present to the Club's Membership at a meeting early next year.

D. Stanley shared the feedback he received from members who attended the July meeting at Fabboli Cellars. The plan is to return to the Community Center for four meetings a year, especially in winter months when utilities and parking may be issues in other facilities. The balance of Membership Meetings would be held at Fabboli Cellars or other locations within the community.

*Trash and Recycling:* P. Gustafson thanked Karyn Price and Don Stanley for the weekly support they provide to the Saturday morning Trash and Recycling operation. He shared that Christmas and New Year fall on Saturday this year, which could mean no trash collection for three weeks. After discussion, it was determined that Peter would work with the County and Bates to arrange additional equipment and alternate dates to provide more continual service to the community. He will investigate having a pick-up on Monday,

December 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> with additional trucks from Bates and an additional container for recycling. Normal operations would resume on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Grants and Scholarships:* Pres. Menendez reported that we made a \$500 grant to LAWS to offset the cost of their lawn mowing and thanked C. Falk for soliciting this grant request as a solution to discontinuing the volunteer work members had been providing.

R. Cleland reported that the Scholarship Committee is reviewing their process with the goal of broadening the Scholarship program in the community. People interested in working on this should contact him.

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

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## August 2021 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Now that COVID-19 has eased, we are resuming our regular monthly Membership and Board Meetings. Meeting venues will be announced each month. This August BOD meeting was held on Aug. 31 at D. Stanley's home.

CTO: 7:05 pm

**Attending:** Adams, Dunn, Fauber, Gustafson, Hart, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Stanley

**Minutes:** The August General Meeting minutes will be distributed with these BOD minutes. Minutes are available on the Ruritan website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report for August. We had \$49,681.23 in our checking account; our T. Rowe Price account had \$326,446.21, for a current assets total of \$375,856.44. Don noted that we are probably carrying too high a balance in our checking account and recommended an amount of \$8K to \$10K, with amounts over that to go into our T. Rowe Price account. No final decision was made on this issue. Don reported that compactor expenses are less than budgeted and we have already collected more in trash than budgeted; also, that although donations are less than budgeted, GiveChoose made up the difference.

**Compactor/Recycling Subcommittee Status Report:** P. Gustafson reported no issues.

**2022 Calendars for the Community:** P. Logue reported that she approached the LES PTA about funding the proposed Lucketts calendar project; the Club would pay production costs and the PTA would sell the calendars and retain the profits. We would categorize production of 500 calendars as a line item in the budget as a donation.

**2021-2022 Budget Approval:** P. Logue and D. Stanley presented a draft budget for the next fiscal year, for BOD approval. The BOD reviewed specific line items, noting that we are not including funds to GiveChoose for the coming year. P. Logue noted that we need to gauge the impact of our activities on the community going forward. Trash has sustained

the club for years, but because the surrounding community has grown by 2000 houses since the club was started, we should assess our activities and determine other ways to provide value.

A motion was made and passed to accept the submitted Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.

**Committee Assignments for Next Fiscal Year:** P. Logue stated that we need new Chairs for some of our committees. She will send out a status report to the membership.

**Future General Membership Meetings:** We will again hold our next General Membership Meeting at Fabboli Vineyards. The Board discussed other possible venues, which may include the old firehouse, Blue Frog winery, Eagletree winery, and the LCC at least once per quarter.

**Old Firehouse Status Report:** P. Hart, and J. Adams met with the volunteer firemen to discuss the development of a plan to determine future uses of the building. They reported that the firemen remain cautious and unsure about a Design Committee or a Steering Committee. After speaking with lawyers on possible uses of the building, the volunteers want to ask the BOS for a year extension to keep the sewer system active instead of the original six-month time period. (The next BOS meeting is Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>.) They will consider working with us, but no guarantees yet. The group asked for a synopsis of this meeting by Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> that summarizes the general proposed approach going forward, reiterates their retention of ownership, future possible uses only to 5023c organizations, and proposed interaction with the Dept. of Environmental Protection. J. Adams noted that we need BOD approval of a plan to go forward with the volunteer group. He pointed out that allowable public uses of the building may allow it to stay connected to the sewer system and will affect any required renovations. He also noted that our Club may want to consider purchasing this building for use as a Ruritan meeting location and possible rental building to other community groups and organizations.

**Meeting with Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation and the New Director of the Lucketts Community Center:** The BOD was informed of the ongoing conversations with Parks and Recreation and the Lucketts Community Center to participate in the development of a Lucketts Community Development Plan. The LCC is onboard with working with us to develop such a plan that would address community meeting spaces, sports fields, and other uses, and that would address the needs of the whole county, not only the village of Lucketts and surrounding local community. The Board decided that we will wait to see the LCC plan before we involve a Steering Committee or other Club entity.

**Community Service Hours:** Pres. Menendez submit to Ruritan National for 2020-2021.

**Miscellaneous:**

1. P. Gustafson requested that the Board approve funding for an app to enable Mary Gustafson of DayDream Design to put the *Lucketts News & Notes* newsletter into page turning mode for easier readability of the online version of the newsletter, without ads. The Board approved the purchase of a yearly subscription for this application at a yearly cost of \$117.
2. Website Content: S. Hillebrand will check the content of our website and coordinate updating of the information we present to members and to the public.
3. We received flags for distribution at trash, and face masks, which we gave to LES.

4. The Board approved continuing our Zoom account to enable attendance at meetings by those who may be housebound or in the case of the current covid 19 situation.
5. The playground equipment purchased for the kindergarten students at LES has been installed.
6. D. Stanley reported that the DOJ caught six individuals who were responsible for stealing checks from mailboxes, including checks issued by our Club.
7. Awards Banquet: Nothing has been finalized yet, as we are waiting to determine the situation related to the covid 19 situation.

**Announcements:**

1. Former member Bob Demery passed away recently. The Board approved a motion to send flowers and a donation of \$100 to the charity of the family's choice.

Adjourned 9:20 pm

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

