

January 2022 - General Meeting Minutes

CTO: 7:00 PM

Due to the new COVID-19 omicron variant, we conducted this month's Membership meeting virtually via Zoom. Going forward, we will announce meeting arrangements and venues each month.

Attending: Adams, Bond, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Fauber, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Johnson, Logue, McKenzie, Mears, Menendez, Penaranda, Price, Rubright (E), Ruth, Scott, Small, Stanley

Welcome: Guests: Julie Tassi, Paige Neeley

G. Mears gave the convocation and Pres. Logue welcomed our guests and member Jodi Ruth to the Board.

Minutes: Minutes from earlier meetings will be circulated and posted on our website. Note that we did not have a regular December meeting, because we held our annual dinner in December at Fabboli Vineyards.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported that we have \$45,453.08 in our checking account and \$320,685.12 in our T. Rowe Price Investment account (up 11.5% from previous year), for an assets total of \$365,867.20. We received \$7K in donations this year, two from local families of \$1K each and \$5K again from Toyota Auto Nation (4th year in a row!). We distributed our end of year donations to our usual recipients, except for the Rudy Jr. Club, which is currently inactive and the Girl Scout troop, which has folded. Don noted that we now offer multiple ways to pay dues, such as PayPal and Venmo.

Awards Banquet

At our Awards Banquet, we distributed several awards: Don Stanley was Ruritan of the Year; Peter Gustafson received a Ruritan Service Award for his work managing our trash and recycling effort every week and our contract with the trash company. Barbara Scott received special recognition for her work on the Environmental Committee and on GiveChoose.

Rappahannock District Meeting

Pres. Menendez attended this meeting and received the 2021 awards granted to our club (two Gold

awards for our Environment and Public Service committees and a Silver award for our Citizenship and Patriotism committee).

Objectives Committee

Pres. Logue and Vice Pres. Dunn reported on the 2022 high level objectives for this committee: 1) Identify ways our club can improve our community, and 2) Increase our membership. This objective developed from the recognition that membership is decreasing nationally. Our club strength is our committees, so we ask all committees to involve the community in their activities and to encourage membership in the club.

Program Committee

Pres. Logue and P. Gustafson proposed several suggestions for programs, such as increasing the social component of our meetings (continue social hour at Fabboli's), work toward more consistent plans for meetings, and encourage members to submit ideas for programs. P. Gustafson suggested that we could advertise for speakers in *Lucketts News & Notes* and offered a suggestion to invite Paul Kreingold, Conservation Director at the Isaak Walton League, to speak on the history of the use of Potomac marble, taken from this area of limestone conglomerate, to restore Statuary Hall.

Citizenship and Patriotism Committee

We recognize elementary and middle school students who have demonstrated good citizenship. The committee seeks potential recipients, who must live in Lucketts, but we need a process for identifying examples of good citizenship.

This group will continue to set up patriotic displays at LES, LCC, and the Lucketts Store.

Environment Committee

M. Dunn and B. Scott reported on this committee's recent activities. B. Scott, Chair, managed the fall cleanup and workday at the JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary. We are partnering with the LWC, PTA, Loudoun Soil and Water Conservancy, and Keep Loudoun Beautiful on several initiatives. For 2022, planned projects include:

- Student Environmental Showcase in March or April 2022, where we will sponsor a table with an exhibit highlighting the JK Black Oak cleanup (termed the LeSabre Pond Cleanup)

- Creation of a video for Loudoun County schools about local environmental projects in which students and community members can become involved
- In partnership with Keep Loudoun Beautiful, organize and participate in a cleanup day at Piscataway Crossing Regional Park near Whites Ferry (formerly, the Fry farm). This park is not well-known, so we need to support advertising for it; B. Scott suggested that our club could sponsor a bench or picnic table or set up a trail.
- G. Hogeweg from Loudoun Environmental Water would like to follow up with the Lucketts community for a special event TBD
- Renovation of Mrs. Lucketts garden at the LCC. The garden is located to the right of the playground.
- Develop a conservation easement outreach program to be held at the LCC or a larger venue to inform Lucketts property owners about the county's easement program and associated financial incentives.

Social Development Committees

G. Mears thanked the club for our end-of-year gift to the food pantry. In Nov-Dec, the pantry had 489 service visits and distributed 1,100 tons of food.

Scholarship and Grant Subcommittees

R. Cleland reported that the five-member Scholarship subcommittee needs two additional members who represent a cross section of our club membership. The committee proposes that we add a needs factor into our evaluation of scholarship applicants, along the lines of the U.S. Dept. of Education process that includes an estimate of a family's contribution to education. The committee also proposes a POC to select a group of top applicants from Tuscarora HS, and the committee would then consider financial need when selecting scholarship winners and recommending the amount of each award. Applications will be evaluated as in the past by the Point of Rocks Club. Rather than rank the applicants, we will ask Point of Rocks to identify those worthy of scholarship recognition. The Club's Scholarship Committee would consider financial need when recommending the amount of each award.

T. Small reported that we now have a Youth and Community Development Grant subcommittee; however, the activity of this group is currently stalled due to the lack of grant applications. So far, we have awarded only two grants, one for the kindergarten playground equipment at LES, and one for an ESL class. We need to rethink our approach for soliciting applications in this category, as we have no formal process in place. So far, applications have come to the Board or the Finance Committee, but we need specific application procedures and ways to advertise these grants to the community. Call Tom Small with ideas.

Rudy Juniors

H. McTiernan and K. Price are trying to establish a faculty sponsor within the school structure to encourage and support participation. We also need to include homeschooled students. Holly and Karyn working on organizing a spring/summer community service day and welcome ideas from the community for possible projects.

Boy Scouts

The troop is thriving under the leadership of M. Johnson. The troop is still organizing outdoor events and camping, such as a high adventure trip and Eagle Scout projects.

Community Needs

G. Mears and M. Rubright reported that there are needs for services to seniors in the Lucketts community. Identifying specific needs and providing services can be an opportunity for the club to become more involved in the community. Greater club involvement may also relieve the need for seniors to travel into Leesburg to the Senior Center. Currently, the Lucketts area has no real resources for seniors. The club could pursue possible venues for activities for seniors, such as the LCC or the old firehouse.

Local History

P. Gustafson reported a county initiative to make people more aware of local history within the VA Piedmont Heritage area (previously, the Mosby Heritage Area) by staging history events. An initial program is scheduled for Mar. 6 at the LCC; our club could participate with a table and brochures, but we need volunteers.

Lucketts News & Notes

Pres. Logue will publish the newsletter on our Facebook page and ask for topic suggestions for future issues. C. Bond suggested a feature on a local veteran.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

January 2022 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

This month, we held the BOD meeting on Jan. 25 via Zoom.

CTO: 7:00 pm

Attending: Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Fauber, Hart, Hillebrand, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Ruth, Stanley

Minutes: Minutes and those from earlier meetings are available on the Ruritan Club website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report for January, 2022. We had \$13,127.35 in our checking account, and \$330,215.30 in our T. Rowe Price account (Account 1, Scholarship Fund-\$145,294.73, and Account 2, General Fund-\$184,920.5), for a current assets total of \$343,071.65. Trash is a little under budget so far, and compactor service cost is on track. We received \$7,200 in donations and disbursed \$6,700, less \$2,500 from the budgeted amount due to the inactivity of the Rudy Jrs. and the disbanding of the Girl Scouts. The Board accepted the Treasurer's Report.

Finance Committee Report

M. Dunn reported that the club needs to think about new income sources, especially if the county puts in a permanent recycling facility in Lucketts, which is being considered.

The Board passed a motion to complete the funds transfer from our checking account to our investment fund, and to divide the investment account into two funds, one for scholarships and grants and one as a general fund. The committee recommends an annual review, which they will discuss. The committee also recommends amending our family assistance policy to increase the amount of emergency assistance from \$500 to

\$1,000. D. Stanley noted that we need to evaluate each case carefully before we disperse any funds.

The committee presented another recommendation regarding the GiveChoose fundraising initiative. To help fund the food pantry, two suggestions were presented. One was to provide GiveChoose funds (collected by the Community Foundation that sponsors GiveChoose) to the pantry through our club, from one 501c3 organization to another. (The Community Foundation can't give to the food pantry directly because the food pantry is not a 501c3 and they don't give to churches. So, the Community Foundation will give to us and we will give to Riverside.) Another option was to buy a gift card to Costco and give it to Riverside Church for the food pantry. J. Ruth moved that we adopt the first option, which passed.

Scholarship and Youth Development Grant Subcommittees

See issue summary in General Meeting Minutes above. R. Cleland presented the Scholarship subcommittee's proposal to add an element of financial need to our evaluation procedure for determining scholarship recipients and award amounts. He noted that to avoid any judgments about each family's finances, we can include the federal DoE application form for financial aid and the associated SAR report which indicates how much each family is expected to contribute to a student's education. Rich made a motion to 1) amend our application to include the SAR report, and 2) designate the number of scholarships to be awarded to the Point of Rocks (POR) club and ask them to evaluate the applicants and recommend the top five recipients, and our scholarship subcommittee would then decide the amount of each scholarship to each student. We could also provide an option in our application for the student to discuss financial need as an information item. Motion passed.

From the committee's review of our process, another issue was the retention of past scholarship application files. Rich Cleland presented another motion to delete personal information records after three years. Motion passed.

For the Youth Development Grant subcommittee, T. Small reported that the group plans to expand these grants to include community development projects; however, we do not yet have a clear definition of these. Options include funding one or

two programs with separate applications or one application to serve both programs. We do need to simplify the application for programs of less than some designated amount (TBD). Tom also raised the issue of whether to keep the current two application periods during the year or accept applications whenever we receive them. A related issue is better publicity to generate applications, as the current method is not workable and reaches too few people. He also pointed out that there are very few organized groups in Lucketts from which we could receive applications, the PTA and LES being the main ones. He suggested involving the other Ruritan committees to identify groups and their needs and develop solutions. Suggestions included:

- Hold dinners at LCC for seniors, with speakers
- Develop programs for young people
- Sponsor a summer day camp
- Sponsor a STEM class
- Support an ESL program for family assistance
- Arrange a history lecture series for children and/or adults (for example a Piedmont Heritage history program)

Committee Structure Update

Pres. Logue noted that we need to encourage all members to join and become active members of our committees and to make sure members know what committees they are on. Members must be encouraged to become active and involved in community initiatives.

Firehouse Ad Hoc Committee Report

A. Menendez reported that he met with the volunteer firemen again to discuss potential uses of the building. The ball seems to be in our court to schedule a planning meeting that involves the LCC. The volunteers accept the use of the adjoining fields by the community, for example, for Little League or soccer events, and are willing to provide space in the building for equipment storage.

Firehouse Ad Hoc Committee Report

Pres. Logue noted that we need a process for archiving club documents and historical materials. We will ask the volunteer firemen about storage space in the old firehouse building

J. Adams met with Paige Neeley, new LCC Director to discuss plans to update LCC programs; Paige will also serve as the liaison between the LCC and the Ruritan Club. She expressed an interest in using the ball field adjacent to the firehouse for LCC activities; however, we need a plan to direct our interaction and coordination with other groups.

Miscellaneous

J. Adams has resigned from the Finance Committee, due to conflicts with his participation on the Farm Bureau.

BOS Buffington and Chair Randall are addressing ways to save prime agricultural land in Loudoun County; in 40 years, approximately 70,000 acres are scheduled for development under the current plan. These supervisors support a rewrite of the zoning laws and policies, to be assisted by the Farm Bureau to guide zoning policy in western Loudoun. Our club is interested in sponsoring a presentation on this issue at the LCC.

Adjourned 8:45 pm

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretar

