

## August 2022 - General Meeting

Dinner: 7:00, CTO: 7:4 PM

**This month's Membership meeting was held at Fabboli Cellars.**

**Attending:** Burkart, Dunn, Ewell, Fabboli, Falk, Fauber, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Johnson, Logue, McTiernan, Menendez, Penaranda, Price, Quitter, Roques B and D, Rubright E and M, Small, Stanley

**Welcome:** Guests: Dabney Kerr, Chris Petro, Farmer John's Market; Jan Kernan, Blue Frog Winery; Alex Isaac, Falconnaire HOA President; Steve Torpy, Director, Loudoun County Parks and Recreation; Debbe Raady

**Minutes:** Secretary summarized combined June/July minutes; minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley reported our accounts as of July 31. We had \$17,528.17 in our Truist checking account; \$114,753.60 in our Vanguard General Fund, \$150,686.12 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$29,998.50 in our Vanguard Opportunity Fund, for a total asset amount of \$301,837.34. Don reported that our funds transfer to Vanguard is now complete. We have paid out all scholarship monies and have one grant of \$3K left to disburse. Community grants are currently under budget.

### Program

Our speaker was Steve Torpy, Director, Loudoun County Parks and Recreation, who spoke to us about the services provided by the recreation department. The department goal is to promote and support the community through people, parks, and programs. Currently, there are seven community centers in the county, several of which are housed in old schools; three (soon to be four) recreation centers; 40 parks; and 3,500 acres of active and passive parkland. The department oversees and manages five senior centers and four adult day care centers; runs sports, camps, and events for youth and adults, including children's and youth recreation and after school programs; and performs grounds and field maintenance of hundreds of acres (including snow removal).

Banshee Reeks Park is a 700-acre nature preserve with miles of walking trails and a Nature Center; a new park, Hanson Regional Park, near south

Brambleton on Evergreen Mill Rd, will open soon. This 217 acre park has 17 fields, ponds, trails, a disc golf course, a wedding venue, and a Nature Center. The new Community Center in Lovettsville is scheduled to open in early September. This center will include amenities for seniors, such as adult cricket.

Recreation Department operations include IT support, administration, Human Resources, budget and purchasing, programs and marketing, customer service, and data analytics. The department also works with the county Emergency Management Executive Committee on emergency plans and drills. The work of the department creates jobs; contributes to lower taxes, increased property values, and decreased health costs; attracts businesses; and protects the county's natural resources. The Master Plan is a roadmap for future renovation and expansion. One goal is to develop a county wide linear parks and trails (LPAT). Steve noted that Parks and Rec does not control transportation within the county. The department is interested in developing partnerships with schools and community organizations such as the Ruritans.

### Committee Reports

**Community Center:** Director Paige Neeley announced an upcoming survey about LCC programs and services. She reported more focus on programs for adults and seniors and announced a new coffee bar in the lounge room to the right of the front door! All are welcome!

### **Finance Committee – M. Dunn**

Still working on the 2023 budget; will present for Board approval and then to the membership for approval.

### **Environment Committee – B. Scott**

B. Scott distributed a flyer for the upcoming Land Conservation and Management Workshop on how to place property into conservation easement. All Lucketts property owners of 20 acres or more are encouraged to attend this important session at Barnhouse Brewery on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 p.m.

Another event is the SEAS environmental expo in the spring. Last year, no Lucketts school or student submitted a project, so the committee encourages our club to support this effort

Another road trash cleanup is being planned in coordination with Keep Loudoun Beautiful.

The JK Black Oak Wildlife Nature Preserve staff will host an Open House with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Youth Programs – K. Price**

Youth programs are starting up again after being on pause during covid. This year, the focus is on Smarts Mill Middle School. The group is planning quarterly events to help students meet the school requirements for community service. Volunteers are needed for Sunday afternoons.

### **Seniors Committee – M. Rubright**

The committee will host an outreach event to provide information about stroke on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the LCC at 7 p.m. Volunteers are needed. There will be a quiz!

### **Ad Hoc Fundraising – S. Hillebrand, A. Menendez**

To manage our projected \$38K budget shortfall in the coming year, we will solicit donations or grants to the club from local stores, such as Walmart and Giant. We are seeking another permanent revenue source since our income from parking events has drastically declined.

### **Parking – D. Fauber**

We have one October event scheduled over three days (October 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>) for the Lucketts Antiques Fall Market at the Berryville Fairgrounds. We are planning two shifts per day of 10 people each. Rideshare encouraged.

### **History – P. Gustafson**

We are working with the trustees of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church to restore the building. One grant has been received from the Loudoun Preservation Society to have a structural engineer do a site survey and report. The Virginia Piedmont Area Association is planning a fundraiser.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## **August 2022 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

**The August BOD meeting was held on August 30<sup>th</sup>, at Faith Chapel.**

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:** Dunn, Fauber, Hart, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Ruth, Stanley

**Minutes:** Sec. Penaranda summarized minutes from the August General Membership meeting. Minutes are available on the Ruritan Club website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report for August 2022 to date. We have \$18,475.33 in our Truist checking account; \$145,178.44 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, \$103,348.85 in our Vanguard General Fund, and \$29,467.44 in our Vanguard Opportunity Fund, for a total asset amount of \$296,199.06. Don noted that trash receipts are down some, the result of several non-profitable weekends, and that the proposed caterer fee for the annual banquet has increased by 10%.

Don presented the proposed budget for 2023 developed by the Finance Committee, to be presented at the September General Membership meeting for approval. He summarized the budget decisions as follows:

1. Based on the Investment Fund disbursement process of the Scholarship Fund as approved several months ago, there will be no disbursement from the Scholarship Fund for the FY2023 scholarships.
2. The Scholarship Committee has an initiative to dedicate \$5,000 in scholarships for trade schools. In addition, the request was for the same amount for high school graduates as that awarded this past year, for a total of \$26,500.
3. The Community Grant Program and the Youth Development Grant Program have been combined (for budgeting purposes only). The committee has tentatively approved a grant for the New Ag School for FY 2023 for \$5,000, conditional on successful performance of an awarded FY 2022 grant. The Committee asked for a total of \$25,000 for FY 2023.
4. The Board of Directors has concluded that, to best achieve the goals of the committees, the following actions are needed.

a) The requested donation at trash must increase to \$8. We expect the compactor rental fee to increase by 6%. The landfill has already increased to \$7, but we did not increase our rate at that time. The distance to the landfill is significant (and the landfill experience is not pleasant), thereby justifying an additional \$1. Trash pickup on my (Don's) street is currently \$144 per quarter which comes to slightly more than \$11 a week (every week), and they don't recycle or take large items. Our \$2 increase is expected to generate \$20,000.

b) An ad hoc committee has been established, chaired by Al Menendez, to solicit businesses for donations. The goal is \$15,000 net. S. Hillebrand has had some very positive conversations with local businesses, even getting a \$50 gift card from Walmart and a \$25 gift card from Giant. Small, but a start.

c) This year, we will dedicate Give/Choose funds received to our club alone, as was done in 2021, when we brought in almost \$20,000. The goal is \$10,000.

d) The Finance Committee will review financial performance compared to the budget at least quarterly and will make recommendations as needed for course correction.

The Board approved the following financial motions:

1. Raise the trash fee to \$8, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Accept the 2023 budget as proposed.
3. Allocate \$400 for business cards for the Board and Past President.

Note: A. Menendez noted that as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, we have 30 days to prepare our club Annual Report.

### **General Updates**

1. D. Fabboli has requested that we find other venues at which to hold our membership meetings. Initial suggestions from Board members included Vanish and Hope Flower Farm. Faith Chapel is also available for meetings.
2. The Annual Banquet will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Fellowship Committee is still looking for a suitable venue. Early options include Hope Flower Farm, Faith Like a Mustard Seed Farm, and Steve Ewell's new venue.

3. We will hold our September General Meeting at Faith Chapel. The speaker will be Laura Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, Thomas Balch Library. The speaker for our October meeting will be someone from the Loudoun Farm Museum, and for November, Kate McGinnis from NOVA Parks.

4. Fellowship Fridays is a new initiative for people to get together for socialization and conversation at Faith Chapel. Time TBD.

5. Pres. Logue and D. Fabboli will meet with Supervisor Kershner on budget initiatives.

6. The New Virginia Majority lobbying group has announced that the Highway Park trailer park is off the market for now.

Adjourned 9:15 p.m.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

