

## September 2022 - General Meeting

Dinner: 7:00, CTO: 7:40 PM

**This month's Membership meeting was held at Faith Chapel.**

**Attending:** Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Falk, Fauber, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Johnson, Logue, Maruca B, McKenzie, Menendez, Penaranda, Quitter, Roques B and D, Rubright E, Ruth, Scott, Small, Stanley, Tassi; At Large: Heykoop

**Welcome:** Guests: Mercedes Menendez, Ashley Maruca Witt, Sally and Norm Soles, Amanda Vela, Laura Christiansen

**Minutes:** Secretary summarized August minutes; minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley reported our accounts as of August 31. We had \$18,719.53 in our Truist checking account; \$100,276.50 in our Vanguard General Fund, \$142,728.24 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$30,393.97 in our Vanguard Opportunity Fund, for a total asset amount of \$292,193.34. Don reported that our funds totals have declined some, due to the recent market downturn, but are expected to come up again. Community grants are currently under budget.

### Program

Our speaker was Laura Christiansen, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives at Balch Library. Laura noted that 2022 was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Balch Library. Thomas Balch was an American historian, called the "father of international arbitration" for his work in popularizing this peaceful mechanism of international dispute resolution. Laura stated that Balch met the Marquis de Lafayette when he traveled through Leesburg. At that time, Leesburg had no library, but in 1907, a local Library Society organized a form of library in people's homes. This form of book borrowing continued until 1917-1918, when, at the end of WWI, the town sought funding for a library building. The group obtained a lot on Market St. and commissioned W. Wood, an architect, to design the building. They broke ground in 1921, established the Thomas Balch Trust, and dedicated the building in 1922. At that time, patrons needed a subscription to be a member of the library.

Over the years, the collection grew from many donations of books by citizens. During the 1920s, the town hired a librarian and made the building available as a community center and meeting place. During the 1930s and 1940s, dances and dance classes (a ballet school) were held there, and during WWII, bond drives and a Victory Book Day were notable events.

By 1955, the librarian had died; in the 1960s, Balch Library became a public library and was desegregated in 1965 after passage of the Civil Rights Bill. In 1974, it became part of the Loudoun County library system, serving as a branch library. In 1988, the focus turned to history and genealogy.

In 1992, Balch Library was in danger of closing. The town built a new Rust Library in Ida Lee Park but agreed to take over the administration of Balch Library. The building was renovated; improvements included an atrium, a mural, archival storage, meeting rooms (including some named rooms for local figures such as Westmoreland, Janney, and Clark).

Balch Library is open seven days a week. Patrons can access letters, diaries, maps, an online catalog, and a photo database. In 2011, a bequest from an estate established an endowment of \$600K; the town of Leesburg continues to provide additional funding. 2016 saw the establishment of a walking tour of downtown Leesburg, new classes in document preservation, an archival search capability, and a history of photography. New exhibits will open in 2023.

### Business Meeting

#### The Ruritan Club and Faith Chapel – J. Adams

As this was our first meeting at Faith Chapel in several years, John Adams presented a short history of the club for the benefit of our new members. John noted that 44 years ago, 10 people met here at Faith Chapel to form a Ruritan Club; however, 16 were needed for a Ruritan National Club Charter. The small group eventually recruited six more people, and the club met at Faith Chapel for 30 years before moving to the LCC. He said that the Lucketts Store, built in 1913, was originally the home of Mrs. Lucketts. The Faith Chapel building, constructed by local Mr. McKimmey, was the center of the community and used for many community events. Faith Chapel is owned by the National Capital Presbytery.

Riverside Presbyterian Church serves as custodian and trustee.

Amanda Vela, a volunteer at the Food Pantry located at Faith Chapel, now serves as events coordinator at the church and is working hard to increase community engagement. Potential uses for the building to serve the community include:

- Activities for middle and high school students
- Prom dress exchange
- Movies for children
- Halloween party for children; movie for teens
- Regular events such as themed teas
- A murder mystery event
- Classes (yoga, music, tutoring)

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership Committee – A. Menendez**

A. Menendez introduced the following potential new club members for approval: Sally Soles, sponsored by J. Ruth. Sally is a real estate agent, photographer, maker of soaps and candles, and grower of lavender. Mercedes Menendez (Franco) sponsored by A. Menendez. Raised in Montgomery Co. MD, graduate of the University of Maryland, spent 22 years in Los Angeles, San Diego, and Las Vegas; earned a law degree. Two motions to approve these new members were carried unanimously. Welcome Sally and Mercedes!!

#### **Finance Committee – D. Stanley, M. Dunn**

Don presented the proposed club budget for 2022-2023 (summarized in August minutes available on the club website and in an email sent to members) for approval by the membership. P. Gustafson moved that the club membership approve the proposed increase in the trash donation to \$8.00; motion approved. Don pointed out that budgets need to be flexible and can be adjusted if needed; if we meet our proposed budget, we will have a surplus of \$3K. J. Ruth moved to approve the 2022-2023 budget as presented; motion approved.

#### **Grants Committee – T. Small**

Tom reported that since 2017, the club has made 14 grants. This year, we made four grants: a math tutoring program for elementary school students, a baseball pitching machine for high school students, summer camps at LCC, and funding for mentors at the New Ag School. We are currently evaluating a grant request to partially fund repair of the Faith Chapel building roof.

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

B. Scott reported that the committee sponsored an event on Conservation Easement at LCC on August 31, and will have an information table at the upcoming Open House at the JK Black Oak Wildlife Nature Sanctuary hosted by Preserve staff and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#### **Seniors Committee – Eric/Michelle Rubright**

The committee will host an informational outreach event to provide information about stroke awareness at LCC on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Youth Programs – P. Logue, Cortney Heykoop**

Plans are to expand the Rudy Juniors into Smarts Mill Middle School to support student community service requirements.

There will be an Open House at Hope Flower Farm on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Holly Chappel.

#### **Parking – D. Fauber**

Dennis reported that parking at the Legard tractor sale and farm equipment auction brought in net \$2,900, which we will share with the other Ruritan Clubs that assisted us.

We still need volunteers for the Lucketts Antique Fair October 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in Berryville. The Hamilton Club will also assist.

#### **History – P. Gustafson**

Peter reported that the Loudoun Preservation Society has awarded a grant for a structural engineer do a site survey and report to restore Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on Bald Hill Rd. Our club is acting as fiscal sponsor for the church.

#### **Website/Lucketts News & Notes – P. Logue**

We are updating our club's website; changes should be coordinated through Pat.

The Fall issue of *Lucketts News & Notes* will be distributed after Thanksgiving.

#### **New Business**

The Lovettsville club is planning a fund raising event on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## September 2022 – Board of Directors’ Meeting Minutes

The September BOD meeting was held on September 27<sup>th</sup>, at Faith Chapel.

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report for 2022 to date. He noted that this is our last meeting in our fiscal year. We have \$21,494.65 in our Truist checking account; \$134,674.39 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, \$94,844.46 in our Vanguard General Fund, and \$28,747.49 in our Vanguard Opportunity Fund, for a total asset amount of \$279,835.99. Don reported that the IRS needs another 60 days to respond to us about our late tax filing of last year. Due to the recent market downturn, our total assets are down about \$15K, but our total income was up \$16K due to increased donations, GiveChoose, and parking. We have not yet spent all designated Grant money for the year.

P. Logue is compiling our Community Service Hours Report for submission to Ruritan National.

### Updates

#### **Ad Hoc Committee—Donations and Donor Development – A. Menendez**

The committee will recruit club members and assign tasks. Various skills are required. The committee expects to be active by October.

Pres. Logue distributed a sheet summarizing the criteria for Community Foundation Loudoun Impact Grants. Applications are due October 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Membership Meetings and Annual Awards Banquet—D. Stanley**

We obtained good feedback from the membership at the September meeting about holding our meetings at Faith Chapel. The building easily accommodates about 40 people and has good acoustics. Don distributed a sample table layout for future reference. He noted that it may be difficult for speakers to get to this location and perhaps inconvenient since they do not speak for a long

time. As we may not need a speaker at every meeting, we could move speaker sessions to LCC.

Club member B. Roque will coordinate food for the November General Membership meeting. We discussed food delivery vs. potluck format for meetings and the need for a member to be responsible for scheduling and managing the food budget. Patty Stanley will step up for now.

The banquet will be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club. Don distributed a proposed menu and Event Agreement. The Board moved to approve this venue, menu, and the Event Agreement. We also discussed limiting the number of additional invited guests. The cost for this facility is about half of what we paid in the past, and no volunteer activity is required the night of the event. Members can relax and enjoy.

#### **General Discussion—Recent Grant Activity—P. Logue**

The Board discussed the recent grant application by “A Group of Concerned Citizens” for \$9K toward the repair of the Faith Chapel roof. The building is owned by the National Capital Presbyterian Church, valued at \$900K, and consists of three acres that include the church building, the manse, a cemetery, and some vacant land behind the manse. Riverside Church, represented by Brian Clark, is the fiscal agent and Trustee for Faith Chapel. During the discussion, the Board determined that total funding required to fix the roof and HVAC system is \$68K. We explored the club’s legal, financial, and community service mission in this matter and our tax position regarding any donation made for this purpose. The Board made no final decision.

The Board moved to approve a grant request from LES for \$1,250 to purchase costumes for a school play, to be presented in January. We then amended this motion to counter this application to fund any gap in the program funds after receipt of other funding from fundraising efforts by the LES PTA. This change will require an amendment to the MOU to LES. P. Logue will address this issue with Tom Small and LES.

D. Stanley recommended that the Board review all grant applications in future to avoid unilateral or hasty approvals.

Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

