

## November 2022 - General Meeting

Dinner: 7:00, CTO: 8:00 PM

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

**Attending:** Adams, Bond, Cleland, Dunn, Fauber, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Kohler, Logue, McKenzie, McLain, Menendez A, Penaranda, Roques D, Rubright E and M, Ruth, Scott, Stanley, Tassi

Thanks to Mercedes Menendez for providing the food for the dinner for this meeting.

**Welcome:** Guests: James Princ, Melissa Fye, Cate Wyatt (Chair, NOVA Parks BOD).

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

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley reported our accounts as of November. We had \$20,234.53 in our Truist checking account; \$140,888.07 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$129,058.49 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$99,039.49 and Opportunity Fund \$30,019.00), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$290,256.09.

### Program

Our speaker was Cate Wyatt, Chairman of the BOD of NOVA Parks, created in 1959 as the NOVA Regional Park Authority by visionaries from the City of Falls Church, Arlington, and Fairfax County. The goal was to plan and acquire watershed and conservation lands and historical sites and to share recreational facilities throughout the region. Eventually, Alexandria, the City of Fairfax, and Loudoun County joined this regional group, which developed into NOVA Parks, characterized by the unique vision of establishing only one Regional Park Authority as the best of its kind in the county and in Virginia. This entity now manages 34 regional parks, 16 of which are in Loudoun County. The group developed the Rails to Trails initiative, Rust Sanctuary, the Woodlands at Algonkian, River View, the Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens, Aldie Mill, Goose Creek Historical Bridge, and the Balls Bluff Battlefield.

The Authority operates under excellent leadership and an entrepreneurial approach with a budget of \$36M, only 12.7% of which is paid by taxpayers.

Developments include the 47-acre Botanical Park in Alexandria, a gift from the Winkler family, which includes a lodge for educational groups; the 270-acre Spring Hill Farm on the Potomac River, a gift from the Shepherd family (landowners since the Civil War period); and the W&OD Regional Park that extends from Purcellville to Arlington. New projects include the Farm Museum, the Bald Hill Church, and the NOVA Parks property on Bald Hill Rd., a gift from the Symington family.

Other initiatives focused on equity and belonging and recognition of our diverse community include the Korean Bell Garden, the National Women's Suffrage Memorial, and the Museum of African American History. Environmental initiatives address nutrient banking, wetland mitigation, carbon capture, and additional land acquisitions.

### Business Meeting

#### **Fellowship Report – D. Stanley**

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held at Raspberry Falls Golf and Country Club on December 13, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Cash bar. We have contracted with the same singer as last year, Scott Clark!

Fellowship Fridays at Faith Chapel will resume in January. Fellowship Friday potluck is held on the last Tuesday of the month at Faith Chapel.

#### **Public Service – P. Gustafson**

Check website for schedule switches and new schedule; work through K. Price.

#### **Grants Committee – M. Dunn**

The roof repair of Faith Chapel was completed successfully and now exhibits beautiful curb appeal! A completion ceremony was conducted and final monies paid to Riverside Church.

#### **Coat Drive Update – M. Dunn**

We collected \$2,200 and bought and delivered 52 coats. Mary Dunn did a wonderful job in managing the purchase and distribution of the coats again this year. Although some shoes are still needed, we will meet this need as it arises during the school year.

#### **Scholarships – R. Cleland**

We are working on a new application for students who plan to attend a trade or vocational school instead of a four-year college.

**Environment – B. Scott**

We partnered with LWC to plant trees at the JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary and to install protective cages on the new trees. We also installed a deer enclosure, with the help of volunteers from the Tuscarora Key Club and others.

**Youth Programs – P. Logue**

We have an active Rudy Jr. Club at Smarts Mill Middle School. So far, six students have signed up.

**Website and LN&N – P. Logue**

Upgrades to our website are in progress. Send any new items or announcements to P. Logue.

The new issue of LN&N focuses on volunteering in Lucketts.

**Announcements**

1. James Prince announced the start of a men's fitness program called F3 at Lucketts Community Park on Saturdays from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m.
2. As a result of information learned following her recent automobile accident, B. McClain has arranged an information session with Atty. Peter Burnett at LCC on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7:00 p.m. on financial and insurance issues. Peter will discuss insurance coverage options and relevant financial considerations.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

**November 2022 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

**The November BOD meeting was held on November 29<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Pres. Logue on Woodchester Court.**

CTO: 7:20 p.m.

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We have \$19,955.27 in our Truist checking account; \$142,760.84 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, \$100,309.95 in our Vanguard General Fund, and \$30,404.09 in our Vanguard Opportunity Fund, plus \$75.00 in gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$293,505.15. Don noted that trash has brought in almost \$12K. We are getting close to \$1,600 a week, but when we prepared the budget, we anticipated about \$1,730. We are about \$2,200 behind the budget to date. Our net income from Parking was about \$1,900. Our Vanguard Scholarship fund is up about \$8K and the General and Opportunity funds up about \$7K.

The BOD approved a tip of \$200 to the trash compactor operator.

The BOD approved the expenditure for purchase of a flag and flag stand for display at our General Membership meetings at Faith Chapel.

Due to accountability issues, the BOD decided not to give gift cards to LES or the LES PTA. We will request a receipt for any checks to these entities.

The BOD decided to provide financial information to members via email and our website, and not at our General Membership meetings, going forward.

The Finance Committee will hold an audit meeting in January.

**Updates****Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee –A. Menendez**

A. Menendez reported a meeting with consultant Dabney Kerr to formalize 6-10 hours of consultant services at \$60/hr. We will provide a Statement of Work (SOW).

GiveChoose funds will go toward our general operations.

The committee is generating a list of potential business donors.

#### **Awards Dinner – D. Stanley**

We have 52 potential attendees for the annual dinner at Raspberry Falls. Our POC is Dawn Keys. We have one new Board member to install, Eric Rubright. Our Citizen of the Year is Muriel Sarmadi, owner of Roots.

#### **Programs at Membership Meetings – D. Stanley**

Don stated that we probably do not need a speaker at every meeting, but should consider focusing on more talks that are available and specific to the whole Lucketts community. One example would be Brian Clark, Co-Pastor of Riverside Church, who would speak about the Food Pantry in Lucketts.

#### **Membership Updates – P. Logue**

Tim McClain will join the club as a family member.

James Prince; Melissa Fye, a teacher in Ashburn who lives in Lucketts; and Ezras Pineda are prospective new club members.

The Rudy Jr. Club at the middle school will operate under a different format than in previous years. The group will meet every other Monday during class time. They are planning a clothing drive in December.

#### **Committee Leads for 2023 – P. Logue**

We need a Chair for our Membership Committee.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

A. Menendez raised a concern about the general direction of the club. His issue was that we are requiring too many approvals and cumbersome procedures that inhibit progress on various issues and initiatives. The BOD will discuss this issue further in upcoming meetings.

Adjourned 8:22 p.m.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

**Young Ruritans at Smarts Mill Middle School – P. Logue**

