

February 2023 - General Meeting

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

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

Attending: Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Falk, Frankenfield, Hart, Logue, Penaranda, Quitter, Roques B, Rubright E and M, Stanley, Tassi

Thanks to Barbara and Dan Roques for providing the dinner, with assistance from D. and P. Stanley.

Welcome: Guests: Wendy Gagnon and staff from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue: Jon Mike Richards, Dept Chief Roger Martin, and Co. 10 Captain Steven Style.

Convocation by M. Dunn.

Minutes: Secretary summarized minutes from January 2023. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of the end of January. We had \$32,440.79 in our Truist checking account; \$144,831.60 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$132,498.60 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$101,679.43 and Opportunity Fund \$30,819.17), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$309,845.99. Don noted that we are maintaining good balances in all of our accounts; although the investment accounts go up and down, we are doing well.

Program

Our speakers were staff from Loudoun County Fire and Rescue: Jon Mike Richards, Dept. Chief Roger Martin, and Co. 10 Captain, Steven Style. Steven came to Loudoun County from Long Island, New York, and has been with the LCFC for 15 years. He noted that the fire company has grown extensively, especially in the area east of Leesburg. The Fire Dept. now has 600-650 members who staff larger stations. In 2008, the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company staffed the station with three people every day, but due to increased need, they asked the county for 24x7 staffing. The Lucketts station now has a total of 19 assigned staff, with six people assigned each day.

Because of the lack of hydrants in this rural area, the station uses water from local ponds, called dry hydrants, from which they suck water through a PVC pipe; from several 1,000 gallon cisterns; and

from a 3,000 gallon tanker truck. Services include ambulance response, supplemented by advanced life support from Leesburg. All staff at Lucketts are Basic Life Support qualified. Trucks are equipped with NARCAN and other lifesaving emergency medications. This station also has a brush truck and boasts a swift water specialty to respond to flooding events.

To recruit new members, the Fire Service provides some limited information on careers at the Academies of Loudoun. The service has a volunteer program to recruit new members; volunteers must be 16 years of age, and 18 to be present at a fire. The service now has 400-500 volunteers county-wide. Volunteers receive the same training as fire professionals; the recruit school program is 26 weeks long. The fire service also has a smoke alarm program, where staff will come to a home and evaluate the fire protection and install smoke detectors, if needed.

Committee Reports

GiveChoose – M. Dunn

Mike noted that this was our fourth year of participation in GiveChoose; this year, our goal is to raise \$15K to offset the deficit in our trash receipts. We have a matching grant of \$5K. We are soliciting donations through an email campaign, a social media campaign, and a local mailing. Monies raised will go toward our scholarship and grant programs.

Scholarship Committee – R. Cleland

Rich reported that we have revised the information on our website to include community college and vocational school options and to announce that we now consider financial need. To advertise our program, we have mailed cards out; visited Tuscarora High School and met with 20 A and B students; and have communicated with Monroe and the Academies of Loudoun, which resulted in finding nine eligible Lucketts seniors. Tuscarora apparently does not maintain information on homeschooled students, so hopefully, our mailing will identify some students from this group. The POR club will again review our applications and help determine the extent of financial need.

Program Committee – P. Gustafson

The committee is developing a survey to members asking for program ideas for future meetings.

Environment Committee – B Scott

This committee is participating in Keep Loudoun Beautiful again this year. Orange bags are available for trash picked up along the roads and blue bags for recyclable items. The Boy Scouts plan to pick up trash on Spinks Ferry and Limestone School Roads.

The grocery tote project, led by C. Kohler, is underway. We have received some sponsorships from local businesses.

We are a community partner with the SEAS expo, scheduled in April.

Fellowship Committee – D. Stanley

We need volunteers to help with food for our General Membership meetings. Don noted that whoever manages the food does not have to cook, but can arrange for takeout from a local restaurant.

New Business/Announcements – P. Logue

1. D. Fabboli is restarting the Business Collaborative event, scheduled for Feb. 28th. A Happy Hour at Fabboli's will begin at 4:00 p.m.
2. J. McKenzie's mother has passed away in N. Carolina. Condolences to him and his family.
5. Update on events at Faith Chapel: Amanda Fye noted that our club donation was used to paint the recently installed new roof. The Food Pantry served 300-400 people in the past month; pantry staff is taking waste to a neighboring farm for pig feed. Events and classes at Faith Chapel include Zuma, yoga, oil painting, art for 8-18 year olds, music and movement classes, a Murder Mystery event on April 15th, a game group, painting parties, a Christmas singalong, a workday on March 26th, and a drive to raise funds to replace the HVAC system.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

February 2023 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

The February BOD meeting was held at Faith Chapel.

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Dunn, Gustafson, Hart, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Rubright E, Ruth, Stanley

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

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report as of February 28th, 2022. We have We had \$31,073.85 in our Truist checking account; \$140,890.22 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$128,994.57 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$98,990.43 and Opportunity Fund \$30,004.14), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$301,033.648. Don noted that trash receipts are down about \$32K, but this is not a big concern, since it is early in the year. He reported that he added a line item in our budget for the Mt. Pleasant Church project. He noted that our exemption for state tax has almost expired (April 5th), so he will file for a three-year extension. We occasionally use this exemption for certain purchases.

Updates/Committee Reports**GiveChoose – M. Dunn**

M. Dunn reported that our goal for GiveChoose, which starts on March 14th, is \$15K. We have begun our email and social media campaigns and the postcard mailing.

Bingo Update – J. Ruth

J. Ruth plans to attend Cat Bingo at Vanish and another bingo game in Frederick to obtain information on how the sponsoring organizations manage the game. The Board discussed the option of holding any Bingo game we sponsor at the old firehouse and whether we would include children as attendees. No final decisions were made.

Membership Update – P. Logue

Pat announced that we have two new members to vote in at our March General Membership Meeting, Wendy Gagnon and Melissa Fye. The Board discussed whether we should reinstitute our vetting

procedure for potential new members, which used to involve a vetting meeting, a profile check, and a reference or recommendation from a club member. The general consensus was that we should undertake some form of vetting for potential new members, but made no final decision. Pat noted that she talked to D. Fabboli about hosting another recruiting event at the winery in May.

Carolyn Clement Retirement – P. Logue

Pat announced the retirement of LES Principal, Carolyn Clement, at the end of this school year. The Board agreed that we should begin to think about some form of community tribute to honor Ms. Clement's service to the school and our Lucketts community.

Miscellaneous Updates – P. Logue

1. Julie Tassi will develop a scope of work to present to potential attorneys for conducting a risk assessment for club officers.
2. For our March meeting, Pat suggested the HOA president of the Selma community as our speaker.
3. The Board discussed possible dates for our summer picnic, typically held in June. We agreed to include other area clubs, but we do not have a venue yet. The most likely date would be June 10th or June 24th.
4. Pat announced that the Community Center has now been booked every Tuesday night by a local church.
5. This year is the 50th anniversary of LES; an event is planned for May 1st for the school community only.
6. Pat Logue and Peter Hart will attend a meeting on March 8th at the old firehouse to discuss storage of club records and other items in that building. The current room at Faith Chapel is too small. They will ask the volunteer firemen about renting a room there for our use.
7. A family from the trailer park behind the gas station is currently in the homeless shelter. The family has six children. The Board did not have any additional information.

Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

