

April 2023 - General Meeting

Dinner: 7:00, CTO: 7:50 PM

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

Attending: Adams, Baker, Bond, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Falk, Fauber, Gagnon, Hart, Hillebrand, Logue, McKenzie, McLain, Menendez A and M, Penaranda, Quitter, Rubright E and M, Stanley, Tassi

Welcome: Guests: Amanda Vela

Thank you to Wendy Gagnon for providing the dinner for this meeting!

Convocation by J. Adams

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

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of the end of March. We had \$43,215.75 in our Truist checking account; \$144,955.23 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$132,695.63 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$101,830.63 and Opportunity Fund \$30,865.00), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$320,941. Don noted that we are now halfway through our yearly budget and are a little behind our trash goal but maintaining good balances in all of our accounts. membership dues are on track.

Program

Instead of a typical program with an invited speaker, we tried something new. To enable our members to get to know one another better, we selected two members to introduce themselves. Peter Baker has been a Ruritan Club member for 14 years, originally invited into the club by Peter Hart. He and his wife, Sandy, who is a piano teacher, live on Bald Hill Rd. Peter is a financial advisor, specializing in retirement planning and has a firm in Leesburg. He is originally from Boston, Sandy from Ohio. They have seven grandchildren and enjoy travel. Recent and planned trip destinations include Mexico, California, Florida, and Hatteras, NC.

Beth McClain has been a Ruritan Club member for two years; she and her husband, Tim, have been in Loudoun County since 1995. Now semi-retired, Beth is a former nurse, now a lawyer; Tim was an AF pilot. Beth led the pending lawsuit against the

owner of Droumavalla Farm regarding the digging of many wells on the property that violated County zoning laws and jeopardized the wells of neighboring farms and homes. The farm owner, E. Vaughan, has been indicted in Texas on charges of credit card/wire fraud and conspiracy which has resulted in federal seizure of the farm. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for April 2024.

GiveChoose – M. Dunn

Mike reported a very successful GiveChoose campaign this year. Our email and mail campaign was very successful, as it resulted in our raising of more than \$18K from many contributors and members, which exceeded our goal of \$15K. We also qualified for a donation from an employer to double a member gift. Thank you to all who participated and contributed!

Scholarship Committee – R. Cleland

Rich reported that so far, we have received seven applications, most of which are partial and still not complete, but we expect the students to provide the missing information by the deadline of April 14th. We send the applications to the POR club for an independent assessment and recommendations, and the committee then meets to determine the number of recipients and funding amounts from our budget of \$20K-\$25K. This year, we are revisiting the financial need factor in our assessments. A goal for next year is to improve our outreach to needy kids.

C. Bond commented that in future, we need to identify needy students in younger grades to whom we could provide special educational assistance.

Citizenship and Patriotism Committee – C. Bond

Craig explained that on every federal holiday, this committee puts up bunting at the Community Center, fencing, and the Lucketts Store. For Memorial Day, bunting will go up between May 27th and May 30th. The three-member committee needs volunteers to help put up, take down, and fold the bunting items. Contact Craig if you can help.

Club Calendar of Events – P. Logue

- Environmental Committee will manage storm drain marking at Smarts Middle School in April or May, weather permitting. This committee will also sponsor an exhibit of environmental projects at SEAS and on Heritage Day on Tuesday, April 11th at LCC.

- May 1st: Tree planting at LES to recognize the 50th anniversary of the school
- The May General Membership meeting at Fabboli's; members are encouraged to bring friends and guests
- May 19th: The Lucketts Store Spring Market at the fairgrounds in Berryville
- Location and final date for our annual June picnic still undetermined; if we expand it to be a zone event, we will ask the Sterling club to find a suitable venue; if we keep it a club only event, it will be at the home of Al Menendez
- June 2nd, 6-8 p.m., Community tribute to LES principal Carolyn Clement, who is retiring
- July 11th, General Membership meeting at Faith Chapel
- July 16th, Lucketts History Fair at LCC in cooperation with other groups and organizations. We are partnering with the Virginia Piedmont Heritage group as sponsors.
- August: we are planning a candidate forum again this year to provide an opportunity for Lucketts residents to get to know the candidates and their slates for the upcoming fall elections for state positions, Board of Supervisors, School Board, and other roles. We are looking for a project manager and a moderator to help with early planning.

Announcements – P. Logue

1. M. Quitter announced collection of donations for the Boy Scout yard sale on the next two Saturdays, at LES from 8 a.m. to noon. Sale is scheduled for April 29th; rain date is the next Saturday, May 6th.
 2. Grants update: S. Hillebrand reported we have two pending grants
 3. D. Fabboli announced that the New Ag School is bringing back the country and craft market at Fabboli's, to be held the first Sunday of the month. The first one this year will be May 2nd.
 4. Update on events at Faith Chapel: Amanda Vela announced that summer camps will include world music, art, dance, and other activities.
- Faith Chapel and Faith Like a Mustard Seed Farm have finalized a partnership as a wedding venue.
- The Food Bank received a donation of 900 lbs. of venison from Hunters for the Hungry.

Forty people attended an Easter celebration at Faith Chapel.

The Game Club meets at Faith Chapel every Wednesday.

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

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

April 2023 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

The April BOD meeting was held at Faith Chapel.

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report as of April 21st, 2023. We have \$46,734.75 in our Truist checking account; \$144,955.23 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$132,865.00 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$101,830.63 and Opportunity Fund \$30,256.76), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$324,460.61. Don noted: trash collection has been in the \$1,700 range the last couple of weeks, but is still under budget; he paid the \$500 memorial for Tom Benfield proposed by J. Adams; and he filed our tax forms for the year.

Pres. Logue made a motion to approve a \$200 donation to the Loudoun Farm Museum to fund the traveling arrowhead exhibit; motion approved.

Discussion of Club Website and 2024 Budget Priorities – D. Stanley

Don stated the following about our Ruritan Club website: the photos are out of date; we need a statement of work from the website committee for budgeting purposes; we need to communicate with other committees for website content; and we need a whole site update because our current site is too dense and too complicated to navigate effectively. M. Dunn suggested that we hire consultant Dabney Kerr to develop new content and to advise on

streamlining our site. Pres. Logue will start by working with our committees on updated content.

Updates/Committee Reports

Membership Update – P. Logue

Pat noted that we have two potential new members, Jon Mike Richards and Esdras Pineda. If they attend our May meeting, we can present them to the membership to be voted in.

May Meeting Update – P. Logue

The May meeting will be at Fabbioni's. Pat is working with El Tio's restaurant to provide the food. Pat will send an email to prospective members to encourage them to attend and will invite Carolyn Clement as a guest to recognize her retirement from LES. The speaker will be Ian McDougal from the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Association who will talk about the July community event at LCC. This event will feature exhibits and presentations by representatives of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy; the Loudoun Museum, which has a new director; Balch Library on its research resources; the Loudoun Farm Museum; and LES on its 50-year anniversary. The event will also include firehouse tours, Lucketts Bluegrass, Paul Feingold (expert on Potomac marble), and Eric Hillebrand's arrowhead exhibit.

Zone Picnic Update – P. Logue

The details for this event have now been finalized. The picnic will be on June 24th at the Sterling Ruritan Club. Our club will serve as a committee member for planning purposes. Pat also asked whether our club also wants a club only picnic in the fall, to be held at the home of A. Menendez. No decision was made.

Firehouse Move – P. Logue

Pres. Logue circulated a Facilities Use Agreement between the Lucketts Volunteer Fire Company and the Lucketts Ruritan Club on the use of a room in the old firehouse building for storage of club records. A. Menendez recommended that a lawyer review this document for insurance purposes. The Board approved a motion for the club to pay up to \$400 for a moving company or volunteers to move materials from several current storage locations to the firehouse.

Bingo Update – J. Ruth

J. Ruth talked to the Aldie Ruritan Club and plans to also speak with the Lovettsville Club to obtain more information about sponsoring bingo events.

Miscellaneous Updates – P. Logue

1. 25th Anniversary Celebration of Boy Scout Troop 1910 to be held at LCC or LES. Fifty families are expected to attend. The Board approved a motion to donate \$250 to help fund this event.
2. Paige Neeley, Director of LCC, has no local mailing list that she can use to advertise events. We will help by asking local people to provide their email addresses and by providing our Constant Contact list. J. Ruth raised a possible privacy law violation if we provide private information without permission. A. Menendez will ask our supervisor, Caleb Kirschner and Steve Torpy from Parks and Recreation for assistance on this.
3. Candidate Forums: an LES PTA member will assist club member Mike Johnson in managing this event, but we may need additional assistance.
4. *Lucketts News & Notes* Spring Issue: The newsletter will be published in May. This issue has expanded to 20 pages and will include information about events at Faith Chapel.
5. Grants Update: We have received three more grant requests, currently under review.
6. Scholarship Update: The review and selection process is ongoing. Mike Dunn and Finance Committee members reviewed that \$20,000 was budgeted last year for 4-year college scholarships and the additional \$5,000 for 2023 was to be allocated to trade and certification programs. Some of those programs are available through local community colleges. P. Logue will review with Rich Cleland.

Adjourned 8:40 p.m.

