

## March 2023 - General Meeting

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

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

**Attending:** Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Fauber, Frankenfield, Gagnon, Gustafson, Hart, Kohler, Logue, Maruca B and F, McKenzie, Penaranda, Roques B and D, Rubright E and M, Scott, Small, Stanley

**Welcome:** Guests: Dabney Kerr, Paige Neeley, Tim McClain, Craig Salvatore

Thank you to Barbara Scott for providing the dinner for this meeting!

Convocation by J. Adams

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

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley reported our accounts as of the end of February. We had \$35,655.63 in our Truist checking account; \$141,974.83 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$130,080.64 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$99,823.88 and Opportunity Fund \$30,256.76), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$307,786.10. Don noted that we are maintaining good balances in all of our accounts and membership dues are on track.

**New Member:** Pres. Logue moved that the membership approve Wendy Gagnon as a new member of the club. Motion unanimously approved! Welcome Wendy!

### Program

Instead of a typical program with an invited speaker, tonight's meeting focused on updates on various club initiatives and committee reports.

### **GiveChoose – M. Dunn/Dabney Kerr**

Mike began by explaining how he ended up in Lucketts. Before moving to Lucketts, he lived in Arlington and Arkansas and moved here when he found the perfect property on Cherry Spring Lane. Mike has been a Ruritan for 28 years. Mike headed the GiveChoose campaign this year (our fourth year of participation), working with committee members Dabney Kerr, Cindy Kohler, Peter Gustafson, and Jody Ruth. In our first two years, we dedicated funds received to Covid relief; now, we are

focusing on grants and scholarships. GiveChoose lasts for two weeks, so Mike encouraged each committee member to communicate with five people to ask them to give. Dabney noted that fundraising is not really about asking for money, but to encourage people to help. A personal story always helps. People want to contribute and are waiting to be asked. This year, our goal is to raise \$15K. We have a matching grant of \$5K. We are soliciting donations through an email campaign, a social media campaign, and a local mailing.

### Environment Committee – B. Scott/C. Kohler

The grocery tote project, led by C. Kohler, is underway. Slogans for the bags were provided by students from Smarts Middle School. We have received some sponsorships from local businesses, whose logos are also featured on the bags. The motto on the reusable bags is "Keep your change—change your outlook." The goal is to have the bags available by Earth Day and to display them at the SEAS expo at the end of April. We will distribute bags free to the sponsors, but will sell them to the public for \$8.00 each.

The Rudy Jrs. at Smarts Middle School and from the Environmental Club will partner with Loudoun Soil and Water District to mark storm drains at Tuscarora High School and Frances Hazel Reid Middle School in April.

### Public Service Committee – P. Gustafson

P. Logue asked that if you make a switch with someone for your trash schedule, please follow up to make sure your slot is covered on the assigned day, since additional switches may occur. Peter noted that more trash customers are paying in advance, so he asked club monitors not to confront or challenge customers who don't pay at dropoff. Keep in mind that our suggested trash fee is a donation, not a requirement.

### New Business/Announcements – P. Logue

1. D. Fabboli is restarting the Business Collaborative, which went dormant during Covid. He is focusing on brick and mortar businesses; Suzanne Eblen, owner of the Lucketts Antique Store, will take organizational charge of this initiative to develop a visitors map of local businesses (who will "pay to play" to be included on the map) and the Lucketts Business Collaborative as part of a Visit Loudoun page on Facebook.

2. J. Adams announced the death of Tom Benfield, which appeared in the Ruritan National Magazine this month. Tom was president of Ruritan Nation in 1979 and a former president of the Point of Rocks club. He personally approved our club's application to become a recognized Ruritan Club and formally installed our interim officers. John said Tom, a retired Air Force officer, was the epitome of a dedicated Ruritan. John moved to honor Tom Benfield with a memorial contribution of \$500 to the Ruritan National Foundation and to send a note from the club. Motion was approved.

As a side note, P. Gustafson noted that the USPS issued stamps of U.S. train stations, one of which featured the POR station!

3. The May 9 General Membership meeting will be held at Fabboli's. Pres. Logue encouraged everyone planning to attend to bring a friend as a potential club member. The program will be a short presentation on the Virginia Piedmont Heritage area and committee updates.

4. We have not yet made a decision about a June picnic. Al Menendez has again offered his home. We have been approached by the new zone governor about an expanded picnic with other clubs; we are willing to participate, but the position of our officers is that other clubs should find a suitable venue this time.

5. Update on events at Faith Chapel and LCC: Amanda Vela announced a new open gym program for ages five and under on Mondays and Tuesdays. Paige Neeley of LCC announced some new senior trips, senior social breakfasts, classes on dementia and Alzheimer's, a Master gardener talk, and a free vaccination program.

6. Sean and Rachel Reeves welcomed their fourth daughter this month! Congratulations to their lovely family!

7. P. Hart announced that the volunteer owners of the old firehouse voted to let us use an upstairs room for storage of our club records. No payment is required. We have not scheduled a date for moving records as yet. We need a volunteer to provide some administrative support.

8. Carolyn Clement is retiring as principal of LES at the end of the school year. PTA President Melissa Rohrbach is planning a tribute to Ms. Clement on the first Friday in June, which is the last day of

school and the annual Field Day. Food trucks and entertainment will be part of the day.

9. One member of the Scholarship Committee has withdrawn, so we need another club member to volunteer for this committee.

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

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

## **March 2023 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes**

**The March BOD meeting was held at Faith Chapel.**

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:** Hart, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Rubright E, Ruth, Stanley

**Minutes:** Sec. Penaranda summarized minutes from the March General Membership meeting and noted a new roster to be sent out soon. Minutes are available on the Ruritan Club website.

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report as of February, 2022. We have \$35,655.63 in our Truist checking account; \$141,974.83 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$130,080.64 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$99,823.88 and Opportunity Fund \$30,256.76), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$307,786.10. Don noted that both Vanguard accounts are up about \$1,000 since last report.

As a quarterly update, he provided the following summary: Trash - total collected through this month is over \$40,000, counting the cash not yet deposited. Give Choose - We received donations for \$2,000, \$200, two at \$100, and three at \$50 via the mail or our PayPal account. Totes - The Environmental Committee has raised \$500 for totes. In terms of budget performance, Don said that it looks like Give Choose will make up some if not all of the expected trash deficit, as we are currently about \$2,900 less than budgeted for trash income. Membership dues could come in almost \$1,000 more than budgeted if everyone pays by the end of the fiscal year. In summary, we will be in good shape if the solicitations for Donations pick up. So far, we have distributed about \$4K in donations.

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

M. Dunn reported that we are on track to meet our \$15K goal for GiveChoose, as we have now reached 16K. He reported that the committee has developed a model for future campaigns and raised the question of whether we want to continue with GiveChoose, since that organization has many rules and takes only check or credit card and not PayPal or Venmo. GiveChoose also creates its own database of donors, but Mike noted that other approaches could result in larger donations to our club. He also suggested that fundraising should be an annual activity for our club.

**Bingo Update – J. Ruth**

J. Ruth continued to collect information about sponsoring Bingo games and how to manage the game as a fundraiser. She stated that, to be worth the effort, we should hold games every week. Through her research, she has determined that regular players typically go to a game every night, so we would have to get into that rotation. We would also have to work with the Virginia Gaming Commission to obtain a gaming license and since we would need to offer cash prizes, we would not be able to serve alcohol. She has learned from the Sterling club that on their game nights, they open at 5 pm and play from 7:30 to 11:00 pm, which would be a very large commitment for our club. Cat Bingo at Vanish, typically attended by fewer than 15 people, is once a month, with no cash prizes, only cat toys given out to winners. The Lovettsville club is stopping their Bingo program. After discussion, the general consensus was that such a weekly commitment may not make sense for our club, but perhaps we could join with other clubs to staff and manage a bingo event once per month with other clubs staffing the other weeks. The bingo committee will pursue this and report back to the Board.

**Membership Update – P. Logue**

Pat noted that our March Membership meeting went very well. We had a greater number of attendees and visitors and noticeably greater interaction between everyone. A new feature she would like to try is for two new members to introduce themselves at each meeting so that everyone can know one another better. Pat will find two members who are

willing to share for the April meeting, which will not include a formal program, but will focus on club and committee activities. She also suggested that we call inactive members to encourage them to attend meetings.

**Carolyn Clement Retirement – P. Logue**

LES Principal, Carolyn Clement, will retire at the end of this school year. Pat asked Karen Price to talk to the PTA about how we might participate in some tribute to Ms. Clement to thank her for her service and was told that a community event is being planned which will include an appearance by Supervisor Kershner. We will also invite Ms. Clement to our May meeting at Fabboli's.

**Candidate Forums-October 2023 Local Elections – P. Logue**

The Board discussed ideas for improving this event. Suggestions included engaging the LES PTA to sponsor with us; securing a good moderator (P. Baker?); setting up a committee to plan the event; and billing the session as a debate between candidates rather than a meet-the-candidates forum.

**Miscellaneous Updates – P. Logue**

1. Risk Assessment: Beth McClain will take over this initiative. Our documents will be reviewed by the company that insures us.
2. Pat has invited our new Zone Governor to our April and May Membership Meetings, but has not yet received a response.
3. Rudy Jrs. are planning to mark storm drains at three schools.
4. Loudoun Laurels Nomination: Suggest we nominate John Adams to receive a lifetime award for community service.
5. Room rental at firehouse: On Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, the volunteer company met and approved our use of a room at the firehouse for storing our records. Also, on July 16<sup>th</sup>, the VA Piedmont Heritage Association will host a local history fair at the firehouse.

Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

