

## June/July 2023 - General Meeting

The June General Membership Meeting is usually our annual picnic. This year, we are planning the picnic for the fall to avoid vacations and exceptionally hot weather.

## June 2022 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

The June 2023 Board of Directors' Meeting was held on June 27<sup>th</sup> at Fabboli Cellars. This was an Open Board Meeting, to which all members interested in discussing Club mission objectives were invited.

**Note:** Because the Secretary could not attend, due to airline delays that prevented travel back to Lucketts, Board member Eric Rubright took the meeting minutes.

CTO 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:** Adams, Bond, Cleland, Dunn, Falk, Gagnon, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Kohler, Logue, McKenzie, Rubright, Ruth, Scott, Small, Stanley

### First topic of discussion – Performance to Mission

Is the Club sufficiently focused on our Mission, as written in our Bylaws? Do we have activities that drain our energy and our resources away from our Mission? How would the community rate us if they read the statement below?

### *Lucketts Ruritan Club Bylaws – Mission and Objectives*

#### **ARTICLE II. Objectives**

**Section A. Mission Statement** *Ruritan is a civic organization dedicated to making communities a better place in which to live through fellowship, goodwill, and community service.*

**Section B.** *The objectives of the club are as follows:*

1. *To promote fellowship and goodwill among its members and the citizens of the community and to inspire each other to higher efforts.*

2. *To unify the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions in the community toward making it an ideal place in which to live.*
3. *To work with those agencies which serve the community and contribute directly to its progress.*
4. *To encourage and foster the ideal of service as the basis of all worthy enterprise.*
- 5.

**Discussion:** We need to improve fellowship both within the Club and between the Club and members of the Community. Attendance at meetings is down and needs to be improved to promote fellowship and overall Club performance. We are weakest at #3. Concerns were expressed about the upcoming Small Area Plan for Lucketts and our ability to be a positive influence in the process. Group agreed that the Club can do more, especially activities that are fun for Club members and the community. Overall suggestions included:

- Doing a snail mail written survey to improve participation
- Keeping our website more current to our activities
- Setting goals to increase our membership; the community has grown, but we have not kept pace in relationship population growth since we were founded.
- Initiate simple events (trips to baseball games) and piggyback on existing events in the community. Polo at Morven Park was offered as an example. Organize members to attend together and be seen in the community.
- The struggle between the “old Lucketts” and the “new Lucketts” is nothing new. I was present when the Club formed. We must avoid being seen as “the old Lucketts.”
- Re-establish a Fellowship Committee.

### **1. Are there any new activities that we should START to better fulfill our Club's Mission?**

Consider working on a large event that would replace the energy the community used to put into the Lucketts Fair. Do this together with other groups (PTA, Fire Company, HOAs) The Club could be the catalyst for this.

**2. Is there anything we should STOP doing because it detracts from our Mission?**

Parking is seen as an activity that takes more squeeze than the juice gained. Figure out a way to decrease scholarships to students who don't need the assistance.

**3. What activities are most important to INCREASE because they are central to our Mission?**

Promote local history. Evaluate best ways to do this after the History Fair. Improve our public relations. Suggestions included: Ruritan safety vests worn at Trash. More press coverage of our activities and clearer connection between the Club and publication of Lucketts News & Notes. Create a local committee that we lead in advance of the Small Area Plan activity of the County next year.

**4. What (within our control) would help the Club “unify the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions in the community toward making it an ideal place in which to live.”**

Become known for periodic events that are fun and informative for the community. Be the catalyst of this activity and bring other groups in. Wear our branded clothing more often. Link with the school to have Ruritan messaging from time to time on the electronic sign.

**5. What (within our control) would help the Club “encourage and foster the ideal of service as the basis of all worthy enterprise?”**

No ideas shared here.

**6. Are we doing everything in our power to work those “agencies” that serve Lucketts? Who serves Lucketts?**

Invite our Supervisor and other County Officials to attend our monthly meetings. Ensure we behave in a non-partisan manner with all elected officials.

**7. If we are to do more, how will we add the members and the income to sustain new initiatives that support our mission? (What activities will attract new members and increase the amount of time members give to our Mission?)**

Consider multiple categories of membership. Create a Membership that is purely service hours. No dues or meeting requirements. (Friends of the Lucketts Ruritan Club?)

**8. Are we allocating our current income correctly in an effort to maximize the impact of our Mission? (Is the pie sliced the way it should be?)**

The Club is financially strong, and we can use our Opportunity Fund to support activities that will grow the Club and increase our impact. No discussion of the allocation of the pie. Group concluded that we are significantly stronger than most Clubs and already do more than most.

**9. What role should our investments play in accomplishing our Mission?**

No discussion in this area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## July 2023 - General Meeting

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

Dinner: 7:00 p.m. CTO: 7:45 PM

**Attending:** Adams, Cleland, Dunn, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Kohler, Logue, McKenzie, Menendez A and M, Penaranda, Quitter, Roques B and D, Rubright E, Ruth, Scott, Small, Stanley

**Welcome:** Guests: Malachi and Lia Bailey; Mariah, Mason I, Celene, Mason II; Hajric Family; T.J., Georgia, Jessica Malick; Alisa Hart; Jonathan Michael Richards

**Invocation:** J. Adams

### Program

#### **Meet our Scholarship Winners!**

President Logue introduced our scholarship winners for 2023. Each student spoke briefly about their future plans, the school they planned to attend and their expected major(s), and answered a few questions about their future goals and past experiences. Winners were: Madison Grove; Georgia Malick; Malachi Bailey; Mariah Goodwyn; Elma Hajric; Alisa Hart; and Lanie Landavere. Congratulations to our winners! We wish you a successful coming year!

### Business Meeting

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

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley reported our accounts as of the end of June. We had \$45,004.57 in our Truist checking account; \$152,895.30 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$139,676.49 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$107,187.74 and Opportunity Fund \$32,488.75), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$340,651.3663. We are maintaining good balances in all of our accounts.

### Finance Committee Report – M. Dunn

The Finance Committee will meet in late July.

### Open Board Meeting Update – P. Logue

Pat reported that the group held a good and productive discussion about club activities and future needs. The overall consensus was that we need to sponsor and provide more fun activities for the membership and to bring the local community closer together, as was done successfully in previous years through the Lucketts Fair, which involved the whole community. To this end, we will try to engage other clubs and groups to plan social events. Ideas included going to polo matches at Morven Park and arranging bus day trips to points of interest. (See discussion Summary.)

### History Fair Update – P. Gustafson

Peter reminded everyone to support the History Fair, to be held at the LCC on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is free, but a \$10 donation per family is requested. The fair will include children's activities, artifacts, living history, and more. Other attractions include a food truck, Lucketts Bluegrass, a presentation by Potomac Marble, and a video slide show. This is a Lucketts-centric event sponsored by the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area.

### Candidate Forum Update – A. Menendez

The probable venue is the LES auditorium, which provides the most space and comfortable seating. We are planning two sessions to accommodate major and other positions. The two potential dates are October 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. LCPS teacher, Melanie Tagg, will serve as moderator. The format will be one hour dedicated to attendees speaking to candidates at individual tables, then a question-and-answer session.

### Grants Committee Update – T. Small

So far this year, we have distributed seven grants, the biggest to Faith Chapel for \$9K to repair the roof. Others included \$14K to LES for costumes for the Aladdin musical; \$7K to LES for playground equipment; \$1,200 to LES for seating for special education students; and \$1,500 to Hunters for the Hungry to help defray venison processing costs. In process is a \$2,300 grant to LCC for summer camp for children who qualify for the food program. If LCC receives county funds, our grant can be used in following years for other LCC programs.

**Environment Committee Update – B. Scott**

Our sponsored reusable totes are available for sale and will be available at the History Fair and at trash the last Saturday in July. Totes are \$8 each.

**Lucketts Club Picnic – P. Logue**

J. Adams and P. Logue attended the zone picnic in Sterling in late June. Discussion with other clubs focused on scholarships and cooperative activities. We are planning a Lucketts Ruritan Club picnic in September, on the Saturday after Labor Day, or Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the home of Al Menendez. Details to follow.

**Nominations for Officers for 2024 – J. McKenzie**

We need two directors for next year. Anyone interested or willing to serve on the Board as a director should contact Jim or Pat.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

*Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary*

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

Due to schedule conflicts, the July 2023 Board of Directors' Meeting was held on July 18 via Zoom.

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:** Dunn, Hart, Johnson, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Rubright, Ruth, Stanley

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

**Treasurer's Report:** D. Stanley provided a financial report as of end of June, 2023. We have \$35,532.03 in our Truist checking account; \$155,979.00 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$142,392.28 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$109,271.84 and Opportunity Fund \$33,120.44), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$333,978.31.

Summary: Given the almost \$4,000 surplus in the budget, the exemplary performance of GiveChoose to make the Income Budget and the overall underspending, we are likely to have a surplus of \$10,000 to carry into FY 2024. Much depends on whether or not trade school Scholarships are given, and how many more Grant requests come in.

**Responding to Feedback From Open Meeting (See Notes above from June Open Board Meeting)**

1. We should consider earmarking some funds for other things to do with monies currently in the General and Opportunity Funds.
2. Participate in or sponsor more community events and social events for our members, such as the upcoming Tuskie Booster Event at Vanish on Aug. 11, or tailgating at opening home game.
3. Establish a stronger presence with our local government; become an impartial information source about county issues, such as safety issues on Rt. 15.
4. Offer more Ruritan merchandise, such as branded clothing (vests, shirts for women)
5. Publicize our scholarships and grants more.
6. We need to attract more Club members through greater community outreach.

**Scholarship Committee Documents**

The committee members will attend the August Board meeting, at which the Board will discuss a new cover letter, budgeting and the distribution of scholarship funds, and updated policy and procedures, especially as these pertain to awards for students going to trade schools and certificate programs and consideration of financial need. Pres. Logue noted that the club membership needs to support our efforts and procedures for allocating scholarship funds. A. Menendez noted that we should remain true to our original goal of awarding scholarships based on merit (scholastic achievement and community service) as the primary criteria. Pat also noted that we can obtain additional information about a given family's situation through interviews with the student candidate.

Mike presented anticipated costs for our sponsorship of two nights of candidate forums to "meet the candidates" for the upcoming local elections. Costs included venue rental costs and printing and mailing costs for informational postcards. The preferred venue is the LES auditorium, which offers comfortable seating, space for tables, and adequate parking. He requested funding for a budget of \$2,200. After discussion, and on the recommendation of Finance Committee (and Board) members Dunn and Stanley, the Board approved funding of \$2,500. We expect larger turnouts this year, due to the large number of open positions and recent local issues. Mike noted that he has asked the LES PTA for a contribution and that we may be able to offer babysitting.

**Other Business**

1. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church trustees are working with an attorney to become a 501c3 organization. This designation will enable them to receive funds and contributions from other 501c3 groups.
2. The Skills U.S.A. building has been sold to a Leesburg electrical engineering design firm, owned by Joe May.

Adjourned 8:40 p.m.

**Update on Candidate Nights – call in by M. Johnson**