

August 2023 - General Meeting

This month's Membership meeting was held at ROOTS restaurant on Rt. 15.

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

Attending: Dunn, Falk, Gustafson, Hart, Hillebrand, Kohler, Logue, Maruca B and F, McLain, Menendez A, Penaranda, Richards, Rubright E and M, Ruth, Scott, Stanley

Welcome: Guests: Kathy Wilt, Mary Dunn, Patty Stanley, Melaney Tagg, Amy Tribie, Mary Gustafson

This month, we did not have a scheduled program speaker, but focused on club business.

Business Meeting

Candidate Forum – A. Menendez

Al summarized the plans for the upcoming Meet the Candidates sessions at LES in mid-October. Emails have gone out to the candidates to obtain confirmation of their attendance. Babysitting will be offered both nights, reservations required. The BOD has approved the funding for the event to cover the venue rental of the school and printing and mailing of notices. No Zoom capability will be available, so all are encouraged to attend in person. The format will be one hour dedicated to attendees speaking to candidates at individual tables, then a question-and-answer session. We will ask all candidates the same questions, with the sessions moderated by Melaney Tagg, LCPS teacher and founder of the Venn Diagram project, and Loudoun County resident for 40 years.

Minutes: Secretary summarized minutes from June/July 2023. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of the end of July. We had \$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. Trash collections continue to do well, and we gave seven scholarships totaling \$21,000.

Finance Committee Report – M. Dunn

The Finance Committee will report to the BOD at the end of this month, and to the membership at the next General Meeting. Going forward, trade school scholarships will be managed by a separate committee, chaired by P. Hart.

History Fair Update – P. Gustafson

Peter reported a very successful History Fair, sponsored by the VA Piedmont Heritage Area Association, held at the LCC on July 16th from 2 to 5 p.m. The fair included children's activities, artifacts, living history, and more. Other attractions included a food truck, Lucketts Bluegrass, a presentation by P. Kreingold of Potomac Marble, and a video slide show. The collection of oral histories is ongoing; these will become part of the collection at Balch Library. Peter noted that since Congress reorganized the Journey through Hallowed Ground from Monticello to Gettysburg, a new map of the route is now available, along with a book for purchase.

Environment Committee Update – B. Scott

Our sponsored reusable totes are still available for sale for \$8.00 each; we have already made a profit! The committee is working with Amanda Vila at Faith Chapel to put in a sunflower garden. You can sign up online to participate in upcoming events at JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary,

Lucketts Club Picnic – P. Logue

The Lucketts Ruritan Club picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd, at the home of Al Menendez. Help is needed for setup and cleanup.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

August 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

CTO: 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Cleland, Dunn, Hart, Hillebrand, Logue, Menendez, Penaranda, Rubright, Ruth, Scott, Small, Stanley

Minutes: Sec. Penaranda summarized minutes from the June/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 August, 2023. We have \$38,911.03 in our Truist checking account; \$150,755.54 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund and \$137,718.40 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$105,685.10 and Opportunity Fund \$32,033.30), plus \$75 receipt of gift cards, for a total asset amount of \$327,459.97. Don noted that our Vanguard accounts are flat at the moment and that we are carrying over some funds into the next fiscal year. Our Profit and Loss is close to what was reported in the budget performance report. We received two donations from individuals, one unrestricted. P. Logue suggested that we make additional donations with surplus funds; A. Menendez suggested increasing our scholarship amounts; M. Dunn suggested increased community grants, and J. Ruth suggested funding a larger community event. No final decision was made.

Don reported that the Finance Committee approved the FY 2024 budget. Comments and suggestions were to increase our trash budget, to increase the membership budget amount to \$6K, and to decrease the Parking amount to \$5K since we now have to disperse more of the parking income to the other clubs that assist in covering the events. The budget for food for membership meetings can be adjusted to \$5K since we can now use Roots to cater at Faith Chapel. The budget for LN&N increases by \$3K since we decided to publish three issues a year rather than two; and GiveChoose monies for consulting increase to \$2K. Website maintenance is now at \$6K, but can be amended, as needed (Note: we still need a web designer to help manage our webpage). New budget items are \$5K for community social events, and \$1K for hardship relief. Don noted that we

could also use any additional cash on hand to balance the budget, if needed.

A motion was made and passed to approve the 2024 budget. The budget will be presented to the membership for approval at the September General Meeting.

Scholarship Committee – R. Cleland

Rich summarized the 2022 process of evaluating scholarship applications, pointing out that we send only complete applications to the POR club for evaluation, that we identify applicants only by an ID number, that POR does not include a financial need criterion in their evaluations, that our committee evaluates the POR recommendations and does address financial need to determine the amounts of recommended awards. He noted that after POR selects their recommended top four candidates, our committee re-evaluates these in terms of merit and community service, with financial need the third criterion. Rich also noted that our revised application now asks if the student has applied for other scholarships to other community groups and organizations and whether they have other siblings in college at the same time.

A motion was made and passed to approve the new scholarship policy and to finetune the financial need item in our Standard Operating Procedures document. The Board commended the Scholarship Committee for their significant effort in updating our policy and associated documents.

Grants Committee – T. Small

Tom reported that for any grants our club awards to the LCC, we have modified our MOU with the LCC to include a hold harmless clause, since the County will not indemnify the club in a county MOU. Our document with LCC addresses schedules, reporting, and deliverables. The committee has a project review process, used when we give monies to the school for a project (not to Parks and Recreation). P. Hart asked if we had asked Ruritan National for advice about our liability to non-profit organizations; Tom said we could ask Parks and Recreation about acceptable language. P. Logue and Tom will coordinate asking to meet with someone from the Parks and Rec legal department and contacting Ruritan National.

Citizenship Committee – A. Menendez

Al reported that the committee plans to ask local groups and the LES PTA for ideas for questions to ask the candidates at our upcoming Meet the Candidates forums in October. P. Logue reiterated that all candidates receive the questions before the sessions and that moderator Melaney Tagg will ask the questions and control the order of response at each session.

Nominating Committee – P. Logue

All Board nominations for 2024 are in place. Dan Roques is the nominee for a three-year Director position, and Warren Kibbler is the nominee for a one-year Director position. A motion was made and passed to approve all Board nominations for 2024.

New Business

1. The annual club picnic is scheduled for September 23rd at the home of Al Menendez.
2. We need to compile our service hours report to submit to Ruritan National.
3. Melissa Fye is now eligible to be voted into the club as a new member at the next General Meeting.
3. Amanda Vela has reported that one student has asked for financial aid to attend the camps at Faith Chapel

Adjourned 9:00 p.m.