

March 2024 - General Meeting

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

Dinner: 7:00 p.m. CTO: 7:30 PM

Attending: Adams, Baker, Bond, Cleland, Dunn, Fabboli, Fisher, Frankenfield, Fye, Gagnon, Gustafson, Hart, Kibler, Logue, Maruca B and F, McKenzie, McLain, Menendez A, Penaranda, Quitter, Roques B and D, Richards, Rubright E and M, Ruth, Scott, Stanley, Wilt

Welcome: Guests: Jacob Rockwell, Paige Neeley, Nolan Maruca Witt, Chezia Colloway from Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS)

Program

Our program speaker was Chezia Colloway, Division Manager, Community Centers, from PRCS. She is originally from New York, a former health education teacher and principal. She said that the goal of PRCS is to be "the best" in terms of customer and community service. She is focusing on how to connect more effectively with the community and community organizations and agencies. For our club, her focus is to enable Ruritans to work with the LCC more easily, now possible with our new MOU with the County.

Chezia told us that her department has grown by 700 full time employees, for a total of 3,000 employees, including part time staff such as temps, camp counselors, and instructors. Because LOCO PRCS is one of the largest organizations in the county, their way of operating is not typical, meaning that various community centers are open at different hours and accommodate varying numbers of part time staff. Chezia said they have a new five-year, four-point strategic plan: 1) provide exceptional experiences for all, including staff; 2) be a good steward of resources and funds by making good fiscal decisions; 3) optimize and streamline the operations of the department's 12 divisions to be the most efficient by using all available resources, tools, and technologies; and 4) facilitate comprehensive team development by providing training and advancement opportunities.

In the Community Centers Division (one of 12 PRCS divisions) she has prioritized six key points: 1) values, both personal and organizational; 2) connections to industry, national and state; 3) accreditation process, through the national association to enable continual growth and improvement; 4) professional development; 5) engagement, customer-service focused; 6) culture, developed with intention.

From a question by P. Gustafson, discussion focused on the use of the ball field (Lawson Field) behind the volunteer firehouse. M. Dunn asked whether the field could be leased by the Ruritans for events. The answer was that PRCS will focus more on western Loudoun; Chezia will discuss future plans for this field with Steve Torpy of PRCS. B. Scott noted that the new Community Center in Lovettsville has an electronic sign to advertise events and asked whether such a sign could be installed at LCC. B. Roques asked how upcoming events could be communicated more effectively; M. Quitter noted that because VDOT owns the right of way between Rt. 15 and the LCC fence, locating an electronic sign could be an issue. P. Logue noted that new initiatives at LCC include a kitchen island, a hangout space, and programs for seniors.

Business Meeting

Minutes: Secretary summarized minutes from February 2024. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of March 8th, 2024. We had \$54,718.22 in our Truist checking account; \$172,332.56 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$156,954.18 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$120,446.64 and Opportunity Fund \$36,507.54), for a total asset amount of \$384,004.96 from these accounts. Assets in the Boy Scout Troop 1910 account are \$35,885.38, for total assets of \$419,860.34. For Profit and Loss, Don reported 1. Unrestricted donations received include the \$5,000 from Auto Nation Toyota of Leesburg. 2. Misc Income includes the \$1,000 scholarship returned to us from Hagerstown Community College. 3. The expenses for the Awards Banquet are now final, under \$4,200.

Grants Committee Update– M. Dunn

We have received two requests so far, one for \$5K to fund the concert series at Faith Chapel (BOD accepted) and one for \$27K to fund the parking lot repair. Because this amount is greater than the grant budget, the BOD asked the membership to approve the use of funds in our Opportunity Fund for the paving, drainage, and fencing of the lot. R. Cleland asked whether the BOD had authority to approve more than \$500 without membership approval and the use of the Opportunity Fund. Pres. Dunn clarified that the BOD does have the authority to use the Opportunity Fund to have monies immediately available for projects such as this. J. Adams made a motion to use the Opportunity Fund for the paving and drainage project, which was approved by the membership. J. McKenzie then moved that BOD approval of \$500 include the use of the Opportunity Fund; motion passed unanimously.

During discussion, B. Scott noted that the new MOU between our club and Faith Chapel included a provision for use of the building by our club for five years. M. Quitter noted that our club membership has always approved large projects greater than \$500. P. Logue noted that Riverside Presbytery has already invested in HVAC (four units) and roofing to improve the building.

Scholarship Committee Report – R. Cleland

One scholarship amount has been returned to the club by the school (Hagerstown Community College) because the student did not attend as planned, due to the need to complete additional requirements before admission. He reported that this year the statements of financial aid (SARS reports) are delayed and not available by our application deadline. Accordingly, the committee voted to extend the deadline from March 30th to April 15th. He noted that 90% of Lucketts high school students saw our mailed postcard about our scholarship program.

Update on Boy Scouts – D. Fabboli

The annual yard sale will be held on May 18th, with collections several weeks before, dates to be announced. Note: old TVs and large furniture will not be accepted. Other troop news: another Court of Honor was held to recognize several rank

advancements. C. Bond reported a land navigation event at Marucas' farm that involved map and compass and land navigation exercises, First Aid and CPR skills, flag etiquette, fire building, knot tying, and scout lore.

Give Choose Campaign – J. Ruth

This event is now the second biggest club fundraiser after trash. Our goal is to raise \$20K by March 19th. We are getting the word out via emails, brochures, phone calls, and social media.

Lucketts News & Notes – P. Logue

The Spring issue will be distributed in mid-March. Feature stories include the concert series at Faith Chapel and the opening of the co-op grocery store in Lovettsville. Pat introduced Jacob Rockwell, new events coordinator at LCC, who noted the new programs for seniors, such as a Book Club, line dance, gardening club, chair yoga, and trips. Pat reported that the Strawberry Festival at Christ Episcopal Church is restarting, scheduled for June 8th; volunteers are needed to help. M. Dunn moved to support this event; motion approved.

Miscellaneous:

1. C. Kohler stated that volunteers are needed to help at the Bluegrass Festival.
2. D. Fabboli reported the New Ag School will convene during Spring Break March 25-29.

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

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

March 2024 Board of Directors Meeting

CTO: 6:30 p.m.

Attending: Dunn, Kibler, Penaranda, Roques, Rubright, Small, Stanley, Vila

Minutes: Sec. Penaranda summarized the February General Membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley provided a financial report as of March 23rd, 2024. Report reflected the time period after the Faith Chapel grant and before Give Choose. We have \$47,952.57 in our Truist checking account; \$173,746.97 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$157,271.78 in our Vanguard General Opportunity Fund (General Fund \$121,382.36 and Opportunity Fund \$35,889.42), for a total asset amount of \$378,971.32. Troop 1920 assets are \$35,855.38 for total club assets of \$414,826.70. Don noted that it is unclear how we handle the returned scholarship money from the trade school that the student did not attend; we will ask P. Hart to advise on next steps. Don noted that several items in our budget no longer apply; the BOD will ask the Financial Committee to review the budget and adjust items as needed.

Faith Chapel Parking Area – A. Vila, D. Roques

The project is almost complete and included new drainage away from the building; new lighting; welding of the handicapped ramp, and new landscaping along the walkway. Striping of parking spaces is the last step, not yet completed; consultation still needed from contractor about size and layout of the spaces in the parking lot and along the fence. Amanda makes sure that the building is used for community purposes and events.

Grant Committee Update – T. Small

T. Small reported that this committee needs additional funds, since the Faith Chapel project used most of the budgeted amount. He noted that since we now have an MOU with LCC, he met with Paige Neeley and advised that she resubmit her request for the club to support the summer camp programs. He also reported receipt of a

request from the New Ag School for \$7,200 to fund its next offering, but the BOD made no decision since we do not know the number of Lucketts students enrolled in the program. D. Stanley noted that we have not heard from Hunters for the Hungry for a couple of years, but the group has recently donated venison to the food pantry several times.

Tom received an email from a Tuscarora H.S. staff member asking the club to support a NASA team competition in Houston, TX in mid April. The Tuscarora team is in the finals. The team consists of four students and two chaperones. The total cost is \$5,100, and they still need \$3,200 to fund the trip. The cost per student is \$850. The question was raised of how many Lucketts students are on the team, but after discussion, the BOD voted to fund the whole amount asked for to recognize the achievement of the Tuscarora team in this competition and to fully support them! However, we need a grant application from the Tuscarora staff member before we can move forward.

Give Choose Update – J. Ruth

We received \$21K, over our goal of \$20K. We also received \$1,750 in award dollars for achieving a goal amount within a specified time period. Give Choose is now a vital new income stream for our club. Jodi thanked everyone for their support and generous participation this year.

LRC Environmental Award of Excellence – M. Dunn

Lucketts students won an Award of Excellence at the SEAS (Student Environmental Action Showcase) exhibition. Congratulations to the team!

Scholarship Committee Issue – D. Stanley

Don noted that we need a change of approach for the Scholarship Committee to enable greater accountability. No decision was reached.

Future of Opportunity Fund – D. Stanley

The BOD discussed the recent decision in the March membership meeting to require membership approval of expenditures from this fund. The point was made that from this decision, the BOD loses the ability to respond quickly to time-sensitive

issues that arise quickly. D. Roques noted that we can go back to the club to request BOD approval of an amount greater than \$500, to be committed at BOD discretion. If the Opportunity Fund was established to enable rapid response (as in the recent request to fund the concert series), we could raise the amount to \$1,500 and always report back to the membership. Don Stanley will put a proposal together to bring to the membership.

New Business – M. Dunn

1. M. Dunn noted that we need a procedure and/or an identified group to set up early for membership meetings. Different individuals could volunteer for setup and breakdown.
2. Our club has been asked to support the Strawberry Festival by selling hot dogs and hamburgers at the event on June 18th. Mike will call P. Baker and P. Gustafson to coordinate.
3. The Grants Committee is receiving more applications. We may need to discuss funding options.

Adjourned 8:15 p.m.