

The August 2024 - General Meeting

This month's Membership meeting was held at Faith Chapel (in the sanctuary).

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

Attending: Bond, Dunn, Fabboli, Falk, Frankenfield, Gustafson, Hart, Kibler, Kohler, Logue, Menendez A, Penaranda, Quitter, Richards, Roques B and D, Scott, Stanley, Tassi, Wilt

Welcome: Guests: Amanda Vela, Odyssey of the Mind winners, Laura Ganley (LES Principal)

Introduction of Odyssey of the Mind Winners

P. Logue reported that this team won first place in the regional competition, second place nationally, and qualified for world awards. The team went to Iowa State University to receive their award, stayed in the dorms there, and experienced a tornado during their visit! The group named their team Houdini, after their teacher's cat!

Program

Our speaker was Laura Ganley, principal of LES, founded in 1951. Last year was her first year at Lucketts, but Laura has worked in public education for her whole career. She has found the LES community to be very supportive and welcoming. She expects 240 students in September, and a staff of 13 classroom teachers and 11 support teachers. 25% of the students are learning English, and 30% are on free or reduced lunch, both factors that bring challenges, but Laura welcomes the diversity at Lucketts. She reported an 87% pass rate last year, but noted that they need more collaboration time and more time, materials, and supplies for science experiences. She explained that the role of the principal is to support the teachers (academically, physically, and socially) to provide all needed resources, and she pointed out that teaching is both hard and "heart" work. Last year, they held 12 special events, and the teachers and PTA provide extras. She thanked the Ruritans for our donations to the school book fair and for our coat and shoe drive, noting that they still need a shoe fund. Because school supplies are more expensive now, they always need teacher support

funds, usually provided by the PTA, which also partners with Roots to sell LES merchandise at Roots. Laura also noted that Miss Marta, the school custodian, provides plants to beautify the school. Laura ended by announcing that the LES theme for this coming year is: WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

During discussion, B. Scott noted that several types of grants are available through our club and encouraged Principal Ganley to pursue those options. B. Roques stated that last year, the fourth grade students developed a business plan to collect food for the food drive and made 250 friendship bracelets that they distributed to students. C. Bond asked about establishing a Rudy Jr. program at LES, but Laura said they already have a Lions program and would need leadership to do another club.

Business Meeting

Minutes: Secretary summarized minutes from June/July 2024. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of July 13, 2024. We had \$42,277.29 in our Truist checking account; \$173,390.96 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$121,255.41 in our Vanguard General and Opportunity Fund, for a total asset amount of \$359,071.08 from these accounts. Assets in the Boy Scout Troop 1910 account are \$21,738.75, for total assets of \$380,809.83. Don reported that Peter Baker has successfully set up a third Vanguard account for the Opportunity Fund and has made the appropriate transfer. This means that the General, Opportunity, and Scholarship funds are now separate. The Financial Committee has prepared a Financial Report and Investment Overview Report for update on our website.

P. Gustafson thanked Don for updating our financial documents and making them available on our website. Don stated that we are beginning the new budget cycle for next year, which begins Oct. 1, noting that the budget is a target and serves as a planning tool. He also noted that some committees have not spent all of their allocated funds.

Faith Chapel Sanctuary – A. Vela

Amanda reported that Faith Chapel now serves as a community center and meeting place. This summer, the space was used for additional art camps, but the venue is not yet ready or set up for all activities, such as serving as a wedding venue. Current interest focuses on dance, music, and art. Another suggestion was to remove the choir loft to provide more space for music concerts and presentations or art displays. John-Mike Richards noted that as a long-term Lucketts resident, it was hard to see this building change; he suggested that we need a mission statement to serve as a historical document to preserve the building's history and past appearance. P. Gustafson suggested that we seek input from Fletcher Hutchinson, past pastor.

Membership Committee Report – P. Logue

Committee is still discussing ways to recruit new members to the club. We need more people who can or are willing to help at trash on Saturdays. One idea is to recruit new people as Associate Members who would do only trash, for example. B. Maruca noted that associate members would not be obligated to do trash, but could contribute in other limited ways.

Environment Committee Report – B. Scott

B. Scott reported on the improvements and work on Mrs. Lucketts Garden at the LCC. She submitted a grant to the Loudoun Preservation Society to help create a walking path/signage to highlight this historical marker in Lucketts, and were awarded \$2,500 to this end. Barbara contacted three contractors for estimates and ultimately selected Dulles Landscaping (recommended by Bonnie Maruca.). She expects the invasive clearing to be completed as part of the path phase 1. Michelle and Eric have priced perennial plants for some additional beautification around the arbor and birdboxes installed by Jack McTeirnan as part of his SEAS project.

Barbara noted that the committee will sponsor a collection of old sneakers in September (receptacles at trash), and that corks and plastic recycling is also ongoing through September.

Boy Scout Report – D. Fabboli

The group returned from their sea base outing, which was successful and educational. The goal is to maintain this troop as an outdoor skills group. The new scout master is Mark Witt. The leaders are recruiting parents to provide additional leadership.

Waterford Fair Parking Opportunity - M. Dunn

M. Dunn stated that we have been contacted by the Lovettsville Ruritan Club to help with parking at the Waterford Fair over the weekend of October 4-6. That club is offering our club \$25 an hour for our assistance. They plan two shifts: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm and 2:30 to 5:30 pm. If interested, contact Jack Herold atjh3783@gmail.com.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

August 2024 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Present: Dunn, Gustafson, Kibler, Rubright, Ruth, Stanley, Penaranda

Announcements/Issues – M. Dunn

- Last Membership Meeting: Low attendance at last membership meeting. Question raised about whether we should meet in the summer in July/August. BOD determined this to be an issue for the Membership Committee. P. Logue noted that attendance is an expectation of membership. P. Gustafson stated that membership has not been an issue, but we need to convince people that attendance is worth their time. J. Ruth asked how can we better serve our members and our community? Do we modify our meetings? Establish a different format? Talk to non-members about how to attract them to the club?

- Next Membership Meeting: The speaker will be the Honorable Joe May. He is a former delegate, a local property owner, now owns Skills USA building
- Letter to principal of Tuscarora HS: Pres. Dunn sent a letter to the principal regarding the lack of identified Lucketts students eligible for our Ruritan scholarships. He has received no response
- Nominating Committee: The nominating committee for officers for the coming year consists of P. Gustafson, B. Scott, and A. Menendez

Trash Issue – P. Gustafson

P. Gustafson raised the issue of an increase in switching trash service commitment dates by members, which has become an issue for K. Price, who manages the schedule. She has tried to streamline the process, with little success. She has instituted the use of SignUp Genius, but the members do not use this program. Peter summarized the issues as follows: 1 – not everyone sees/receives the SignUp Genius notices; 2 – Not everyone responds to SignUp Genius in a timely manner; there is a deadline; 3 – Members are not referencing the website and do not contact their partners; 4 – There is an issue with ease of access to the website; 5 – There are too many last minute switches by members.

P. Logue recommended several software programs, such as AutoPilot, in which people are assigned to slots and receive an automatic reminder email. Individuals can request a substitute, but no phone calls are involved, as the system manages all communication. J. Ruth noted that such software programs send automatic reminders.

Secretary's Report

Minutes: Secretary summarized minutes from June/July 2024. Minutes from earlier meetings are posted on our website.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of August 23, 2024. We had \$49,581.90 in our Truist checking account; \$181,289.19 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, and \$120,117.30 in our Vanguard General and

\$22,132.31 in our Opportunity Fund, for a total asset amount of \$373,120.70 from these accounts. Assets in the Boy Scout Troop 1910 account are \$21,738.75, for total assets of \$394,859.45. The balance in the Truist checking account is almost \$50,000 which includes the \$6,506 distribution we took from the General Fund. The Vanguard scholarship fund balance of over \$181,000 still contains the distribution we intend to take next year just prior to paying out the scholarships. It is currently separate from the rest of the investments in that fund in a 3-month CD at 4.9%. We have paid the D&O insurance.

B. Scott asked for about \$3K for a historical road marker for Mrs. Lucketts Garden and the Carolina Road designation. We would need to apply to the appropriate VA agency. Don stated that we need more information before we make a final decision. P. Gustafson said that this expenditure need not be a budgeted item, as it is a good project for the Opportunity or General Fund. Don said that members need to know how to apply for Opportunity funds.

Don reported that we have spent \$18K in grants; camp funds were not used; concert series grant is still outstanding.

Don proposed that we open another money market account at Truist Bank that pays 4.5% interest, which would reduce the amount in our checking account. BOD approved a motion to open this new account.

Don reported that we need to replace our SCC representative. P. Logue will seek nominations through the Nominating Committee.

Finance Committee Report – J. Ruth

J. Ruth reported that the committee reviewed and approved the 2025 budget for the coming year; she presented the budget to the BOD for approval, and thanked Treasurer Don Stanley for his leadership of the Finance Committee. The BOD unanimously approved the 2025 budget.

M. Dunn stated that R. Cleland recommended that the Finance Committee include a representative from the Scholarship Committee. D. Stanley and J. Ruth did not agree with this suggestion, saying that

the Finance Committee was very unbiased, fair, and reasonable, and operated successfully.

Fellowship Committee – D. Stanley

The committee is responsible for the holiday party, the annual club picnic, and our meeting dinners.

Don would like to step back from these responsibilities. M. Dunn will approach W. Gagnon to possibly take on these duties.

No new business was presented.

Adjourned 8:30 pm