

October 2024 - General Meeting

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

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

Attending: Baker, Dunn, Fabbioni, Falk, Gagnon, Gustafson, Hart, Kibler, Kohler, Logue, Maruca B and F, McKenzie, Menendez A, Penaranda, Roques B and D, Rubright E and M, Scott, Stanley, Tassi

Welcome: Guests: Sharon Virts

Program

Our speaker was local Lucketts native and author, Sharon Virts, who spoke about her several books focusing on the history, people, and old farms and houses of Loudoun County. Sharon was born here in Lucketts and attended Lucketts Elementary School and Loudoun Middle School, now Douglas. She developed a very successful business that focused on programs to support various government services such as immigration and law enforcement and grew to 5,000 employees. She sold her firm in 2017, bought the historic Selma House on Rt. 15, restored it, and now lives there. The original house, built in 1810 by Armistead Mason, was rebuilt in 1920. Sharon's first book about John Mason McCarty, a descendent of Armistead, was a coming of age story set in 1816—1819 at Raspberry Plain and Belmont. Armistead served in the war of 1812 with the Loudoun Regulars of Virginia Militia. Jack McCarty and his brother William bought Tuscarora Mill to compete with Aldie Mill, the only other large mill in the area, whose owner, Mercer McCarty, had implemented tolls on the road to the mill. The brothers installed the large stones at Tuscarora for grinding corn and did not implement tolls, eventually putting Mercer out of business.

Sharon's other books focus on various less well known Loudoun residents and some of the mysteries surrounding them. During her program, she showed a video that summarized Loudoun history and showed the early farms established in the 1800s, and old houses and graves.

Business Meeting

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

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of September 30, 2024. We had \$12,709.66 in our Truist checking account and \$40,014.43 in our new Truist Money Market account, for a total of \$52,724.09 in these accounts. We had \$184,061.32 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, \$122,741.82 in our Vanguard General Fund, and \$22,226.39 in our Vanguard Opportunity Fund for a total asset amount of \$329,029.53 in these accounts. Assets in the Boy Scout Troop 1910 account are \$19,437.80, for total assets of \$401,191.42. Don reported that we are close to even on our budget for the year.

Opportunity Fund Request – M. Dunn

Mike reported that we received a request from the Collettsville, NC Ruritan Club to assist in their recovery from hurricane Helene. After this storm, Mike contacted six clubs to offer our support and finally connected with Collettsville, which has six members, and the Baton NC club, with eight members, who have coordinated to provide meals in Collettsville. To date, they have provided 600 meals. Mike made a motion to send \$2,500 now and another \$2,500 later to Collettsville; motion passed unanimously.

J. Adams noted that the hurricane affected six states and asked whether we should send funds through Ruritan National; P. Logue stated that to avoid delays, direct club to club contact is much more efficient, since clubs have to apply to the national organization for funding. Don noted that the purpose of our Opportunity Fund is to cut the time to help, and we should take advantage of that to be responsive. At this point, our guest, Sharon Virts, offered that her foundation, The Virts Miller Foundation, will match our club contribution 100%. M. Dunn added that we have already received \$1,500 in individual contributions. Anyone wishing to send personal funds can send to Collettsville Ruritan Club, PO Box 161, Collettsville, NC 28611.

Environment Committee Report – B. Scott/C. Kohler

Barbara Scott and Cindy Kohler reported on several ongoing projects. So far, we have collected 14 pounds of plastic (grocery bags, film, bubble wrap, newspaper sleeves) toward the amount needed for a bench, to be placed near the bus parking area at LES. This plastic drive is ongoing; collection points are at LCC, Faith Chapel, and trash on Saturdays. Our sneaker drive collected 52 pairs of sneakers. Barbara also reported on the status of Mrs. Lucketts Garden at the LCC. The planting of native plants, supplied by Watermark – thanks to M. Rubright! – has been completed. We applied for a historical marker through the Heritage Foundation. We were awarded \$2,500 from the Loudoun Preservation Society for a trail through the Old Carolina Road section of the garden. Finally, we are working with the Loudoun Invasive Alliance to fight the influx of lantern flies and to remove Tree of Heaven trees on which these flies lay eggs and overwinter.

Boy Scout Report – D. Fabbioni

Doug reported that the troop is moving the location of its summer camp outing, and plans another mulch sale in the spring.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Penaranda, Secretary

October 2024 – Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Present: Dunn, Kibler, Logue, Rubright, Roques, Stanley, Penaranda

Announcements/Issues – M. Dunn

- The next (November) BOD meeting will move up a week to November 19th to accommodate Thanksgiving plans.
- M. Dunn moved to approve a \$1,350 grant to fund the fees for the Tuscarora Mill Band to participate in events. Motion passed.

- Coat drive: we provided 39 coats this year for needy LES students, fewer than in previous years. Apparently, LES is losing students, and may become a candidate for eventual closure or may need to share resources (such as art or music teachers), with other schools. This is a worry to our community, which we will continue to monitor.

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report: D. Stanley reported our accounts as of September 30, 2024. We had \$12,709.66 in our Truist checking account; \$40,014.43 in our Truist Money Market account, for a total of \$52,724.09 in the Truist accounts. We have \$184,061.32 in our Vanguard Scholarship Fund, \$122,741.82 in our Vanguard General Fund, and \$22,226.39 in our Opportunity Fund, for a total investment amount of \$329,029.53. Assets in the Boy Scout Troop 1910 account are \$19,437.80, for total assets of \$401,191.42.

Don reported that we received an invitation to the Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Gala at Salamander Resort at a cost of \$450; we declined. We received several individual contributions for hurricane relief. He again noted that the club is in good financial shape, but that we are only 27 days into the new budget year.

Nominating Committee Report – P. Logue

Pat stated the priority to find someone to take over the Vice President role and to serve on the Board next year. Pres. Dunn stated that we need to present the new officers at the holiday party in December.

Report on Boy Scouts – P. Logue

P. Logue reported that we have updated and completed the new charter for troop 1910 for 2025 (through a rechartering process). This document

identifies and explains the responsibilities of the club and of the troop/troop officers.

Report on Collettsville, NC Hurricane Relief – M. Dunn

Mike reported that Collettsville has no further need for food contributions, as other organizations have stepped up. The Collettsville club wants to use our donation to replace the local park and playground that were destroyed by the storm. They plan to relocate the playground to higher ground and to redesign it. Accordingly, Pres. Dunn moved to treat our \$10K donation as a donation to the Collettsville club, and to specify the donation for hurricane relief, specifically, for the playground, the goal being to help Ruritan clubs serve their communities. The motion included sending the balance of our total donation, which included \$5K from Sharon Virts, \$2,500 from our club's \$5K (as we have already sent \$3,500), and \$1K from individuals. Motion passed.

Holiday Party – D. Stanley

The event will be held at Raspberry Falls on December 10th. We will enjoy the same menu as last year. We plan to invite the Ruritan District Representative, Supervisor Caleb Kirschner, photographer Shari Knauer, and Sharon Virts or Holly Chapple as Citizen of the Year.

Leadership Issue – M. Dunn

Mike reported that we have not been keeping track of our volunteer hours very effectively. Pat noted that this report of the volunteer hours of club members shows how we spend our time and what causes we focus on to support. We need to be collecting volunteer hours for Grants, Scholarships, Environment projects, Boy Scouts, and public service.

Adjourned 7:30 pm