

CHESAPEAKE DISTRICT RURITAN CONVENTION
NOVEMBER 8, 2003

The Chesapeake District Ruritan Convention was held November 8, 2003 in Williamsburg, Virginia at the Radisson Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center.

The convention was called to order by District Governor Grayson Balderson promptly at 9.A. M. District Chaplain Norman Sulser gave the invocation and led the singing of one verse of America.

A memorial service for deceased members since the last convention, headed by Chaplain Norman Sulser and Sergeant –At –Arms Bob Jewell for 22 deceased members, was observed by bringing in a flag for each member and the playing of taps.

Past District Governor Charlie Bell escorted National President George Winslow into the convention. Other National Officers, Kathy Brooks, Jim LaFalette and Laura Northstein were recognized

Laura Northstein, National Director assigned to the Chesapeake District, spoke on a survey form handed out to the group and asked that it be completed and handed back to her to help Ruritan National analyze its mission and the needs of communities and Ruritan of the future.

The treasurer Alvin Loving reported a combined balance checking and saving, as of October 31, 2003 of \$72,107.03. His complete report is attached and a part of the minutes.

Lt. Governor Tom Watson's report to the convention is attached. Tom thanked the clubs for their support and outstanding work during 2003

All zone governors reports are attached except Mike Ambrogi of Zone 7,. Lt. Zone Governor Carson Stanley gave Mike's report, Carson said Montpelier had added 10 new members. The zone was down 1 member. Lists of moneymaking projects were given.

Foundation report by John Reus is attached indicating 13 clubs participated in the double your dollar grant for 2003 with 18 having the necessary papers in for 2004. The year-to-date District donation to the Foundation totaled over \$18,069.00

Ernest Goodman, Growth and Development Chairman, reported 19 clubs had an increase in membership, 25 clubs decreased membership and 11 clubs had no increase. His report is attached

Lloyd Hicks, Youth Activities Chair, reported that the District cabinet on November 7, 2003 voted to conduct its own youth conference in 2004, April 29 through May 2, at the Jamestown 4 H Center. The cost per delegate would be \$200.00 with a need of 50 delegates needed to make the conference viable. His report is attached.

Dan Johnson, for Elliott Hogge, who was away as National Director in his assigned area, gave the report of the Nomination and Election committee, District Governor Tom Watson, Lt. Governor Cleve Wright, Treasurer, Alvin Loving. There were no nominations from the floor. All nominees were elected by voice vote and no ballots were voted

Kathy Brooks spoke for her candidacy for National Secretary. John Northstein spoke for Jim McKenny, as Vice President Ruritan National. Charlie Bell spoke for his candidacy for National Director and asked the District members for their support. The convention membership indicated their support by voice vote to that effect.

George Winslow, National President, spoke to the convention about the National Convention to be held in Winston-Salem. Members were asked to bring to the convention canned food for the needy and Rudy bears to give to police, fire and rescue. He also spoke on membership decline, about reports being made that Ruritan would be extinct in 5 to 10 years and the things to be done to keep Ruritan as a viable organization. The mission of Ruritan needed to be known, good vision, hard work, and positive attitude. He also pointed out the need to make a major change in things we do, action to make Ruritan grow and things we do in our communities. He asked for the Future of Ruritan survey be completed and given to Laura Northstein.

Dan Johnson spoke to the convention about the Virginia War Memorial and its need for support. A new educational wing is planned; a grant for \$4.3 millions has been submitted to Governor Warner. A sample letter was handed out for members to mail to the Governor asking for support. His remarks and sample letter is attached.

Franklin Jones, Convention Chairman, announced hospitality rooms open, Abingdon, Hanover, Gloucester, Doswell, Zone 2, Zone 8. The afternoon session would begin at 1 P. M. The morning session adjourned at 10:45

The afternoon session began at 1 P. M. and was called to order by District Governor Grayson Balderson.

Laura Northstein, National Director assigned to the Chesapeake District spoke on Operation We Care program and a special Financial Committee established in August. This committee agreed that the only options to restore organization revenue are to increase dues or increase the number of members. Laura filed a written report, which is attached to the minutes.

Pat Balderson, District Ad Sales Chairperson, reported 34 clubs selling 493, ads totaling \$17,425.00. She filed a breakdown of ad sales by clubs and amounts returned to each selling club. Hanover was the top seller with \$2,430.00 of sales and \$1,115.00 returned to the club. Her complete report is attached

The Secretary was called to read the minutes of the last convention. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion passed.

The crab Feast Committee reported a successful year. Dick Campbell was thanked for his leadership for 25, years. Otis Hall said that over \$265,000 has been raised over the years. Otis mentioned past people Roger Dearhart, Stuart Johnson and the continuance of the original committee from the beginning. Otis announced that the Crab Feast would be held at the Courthouse Ruritan Club property on the 4th Saturday in July 2004.

Grayson Balderson, District Governor, thanked each one for their support and good relationship with the clubs. He said that the year has been a successful one

Jack Ferguson, Awards Committee Chairman, was called away from the convention for other Ruritan business. The Community Service awards were presented by National President George

Winslow and District Governor Grayson Balderson before his return. Jack filed a report of awards earned, Gold 54, Silver 26, Bronze 30. Only thirty clubs submitted Community Service reports and the total awards earned were 110. It was announced that 13 clubs made \$10.00 donation for birthday awards and 8 made \$2.00 donation to the birthday fund.

Donald Loving, Credentials Chairman, filed his report showing 283 members and guest registered for the convention. His report is attached and filed with the minutes.

As the officers for the year 2004 were elected as a group by voice vote there was no report from the Nomination and Election Committee.

Officers for the year Tom Watson District Governor, Cleve Wright Lt. Governor, David Clegg Secretary and Alvin Loving Treasurer, and other district Cabinet officers were installed by Past National President Jim LaFalette. A list of 2004 cabinet members is attached to the minutes.

Stephen Lambert reported on the District Web site established this year to share information and promote happening in the District. The web address is www.chesapeakeuritans.org.

Ben Garrett, president of the Abingdon Ruritan Club, reported that the State of Virginia has programs on fraud and let him know if you desired such a program.

Franklin Jones, Convention Chair, announced that Zone 2 and Zone 8 hospitably rooms were open. He requested that the District show its support to Charlie Bell for National Director this coming year.

Norman Sulser, District Chaplain, gave the benediction and Roger Mitchell led the group in the pledge of Allegiance. The afternoon session ended at 2:05.

The evening session was called to order by Governor Grayson Balderson at 6. P. M. Franklin Jones Convention Chairman, introduced Past National President Braxton Bell, Master of Ceremonies and his wife Shirley. Braxton introduced the head table and recognized National officers and guests, George Winslow, National President and his wife Judy, and Laura Northstein, National Director and her husband John at the head table.

The banquet meal was prime rib. After dinner entertainment was by four ladies singing barbershop harmony. The group was called "Notorious".

George Winslow, National President, gave an update on the National Convention. He indicated that the people not the events make a convention. The convention starts with the Wednesday evening get together, Thursday workshops actually opens the convention, and the business session begins Friday morning. He mentioned the First Ladies breakfast Saturday morning and the Church service on Sunday morning. George recognized Grayson Balderson for his outstanding work as District Governor for the 75th year of Ruritan and presented him with a certificate and picture of the Ruritan National Monument.

Grayson recognized the following clubs and people: Newsletters, First Place Hanover, Second Place Eastern Henrico.

Outstanding Zone Governor, Ann Watson, Five Forks Club.

Ruritan of the Year, Barbara Courtney, Eastern Henrico Club.

District Ruritan Club of the Year, Eastern Henrico Club.

Dick Campbell and Jack Ferguson for 50 years perfect attendance

Tom and Gee Gee Foster received the Corner Stone Education Fund Award. A donation to the Foundation was made in their honor by a anonymous donor.

Others making remarks were Betty Lee Conklin, President of the Doswell Club awarding the Tom Downing Fellow to Tom Squires a member of the Doswell club

David Duke was presented the DRM (Distinguished Ruritan Member) for starting a new Ruritan club at Varina High School.. The award was presented by George Winslow, Ruritan National President.

Tom Downing Fellows were presented to Aubrey Mitchell of the King George Club and Roger Mitchell of the Hanover Club. Roger and Aubrey are brothers. The chance of this happening in the district again is slim.

Grayson Balderson's parting remarks were to follow your dreams and thanks for your help in making 2003 a successful year

Cole Tucker, President of the Hanover Club, presented Grayson with a bicycle from the club as a thank you for his efforts this year as District Governor. Charlie Bell presented the past District Governor Plaque for 2003 to Grayson. Other gifts were a fishing rod and reel and five gift certificates to Green Top Sporting Goods. His wife, Pat, pinned Grayson with the past Governor pin.

Tom Watson, Governor-Elect for 2004, was installed by Braxton Bell, Past Ruritan National President. Tom thanked the group for their trust in him and the opportunity to be District Governor for 2004.

Gifts were presented to Braxton Bell, the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and George Winslow, National President for his participation in the convention activities.

Grayson thanked Franklin Jones for his work as Convention Chairman and for doing such an outstanding job.

Governor Balderson led the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting adjourned at 9. P. M.

Dance music followed by L. F. Edward's Band for the enjoyment of members and guests..

Respectfully submitted

M. Gordon Johnson, Secretary