

## **FROM NATIONAL DIRECTOR, Bobby Burton**

Summer is fast coming to a close; the kids are back to school and college. The fall of the year is fast approaching us and we spend sometime looking back at our summer and saying “how fast it went by”. As Ruritans this time of the year can get very busy. We are in the process of getting our community service reports ready to send in and making arrangements for the fall activities each of our clubs have planned. But in spite of all this, we never seem to forget what we do as Ruritans for each of our communities and Ruritan as a whole.

I just want to touch on a few items that are important this time of the year. . .

Our Community Service Reports need to be completed and turned in to the District Governor by September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is so the committee that checks the report and the Governor can determine the awards each club will receive and then have time to send in the top awards to National for consideration on awards at the National level. I hope that EVERY club will be turning in reports for consideration. It sure would be a “great” feeling to see each club in the Natural Bridge District leave the day of the District Convention with at least one or two awards.

It is time to start to consider who will be your leaders for 2010. Our clubs, zones and district have made a lot of strides in making the Natural Bridge District one of the best in Ruritan. Please consider yourself for a leadership position in the Natural Bridge District either on the club, zone or even the district level. “Just say yes” when asked.

Along with being a club, zone or district officer, you need TRAINING. The best way to get this training is to attend the sessions offered at the District Convention; this includes people who are considering being an officer later or just want to know what the officers are required to do in their position. We all know that Ruritan National is beginning to put more forms, reports and other information on the web site. At these training sessions, you can pick up pointers and help to understand this new method of doing your reports and receiving information from National. But do not get alarmed - National is still going to do things on the “paper method” where necessary. Remember, this training is for both new and continuing club, zone and district officers.

I hope that there will be a good turn out at the District Convention on November 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to renew old friendships and making new ones. We can gather and exchange ideas that will benefit us all and have some “GOOD FELLOWSHIP”.

On a serious note our membership has been down in 2009 so far. We are currently down 28-29 members from reaching the goal of moving into the “middle” category of Ruritan Membership. But, by “just asking someone to be a Ruritan” we can solve this situation. We need to pay attention to “retaining” our current membership along with adding members plus maybe trying to add a new club we will come out on top. By advertizing what we stand for and do in our communities when we have an event or fund raiser, we may reach the goals we set at the beginning of 2009.

Linda and I have really enjoyed our year visiting clubs for anniversaries, social events and meetings. We have made a lot of new friends and added a new part to our Ruritan family. We are looking forward to attending as many of the fall activities and other meetings as possible with our Natural Bridge Family. Like I said at the beginning of this year, “I do not mind getting my hands dirty”. So let us know what is going on because our calendar fills up fast. LET’S have a GREAT FINISH to 2009!

And we are looking forward to seeing many of the Natural Bridge Ruritans at Virginia Beach for the National Convention in January. So keep working “Hard” and 2009 will be one the best year’s in the Natural Bridge District.