

Bylaws of the . . . Ruritan Club (continued)

is unable to attend the minimum four (4) meetings per year. An individual and/or business will represent one membership for each annual dues paid to Ruritan National. An individual associate member may not vote, hold office, or participate in club business activities, or be a delegate to district or national conventions. An individual associate member will receive a lapel pin and a business will receive either a plaque or window static. Associate members (individual or business) will receive the Ruritan National magazine.

2. **Honorary** membership may be conferred upon a club member who, in the opinion of the club Board of Directors and membership, has rendered extraordinary Ruritan service. An honorary member is not expected, nor required, to maintain club attendance and is not considered in any club awards programs. An honorary member will be exempt from the payment of club dues, but shall pay national dues and any district dues. An honorary member shall have all rights, privileges, and benefits of Ruritan membership.

3. **Ruritan Forever membership** is a perpetual life plan to honor either a living or deceased member in perpetuity by establishing an endowment fund that will provide dues income during and after the lifetime of the participant. The fee for this plan is controlled by the National Board of Directors. A Ruritan Forever plaque and a Ruritan Forever pin will be presented to living a Ruritan Forever member, and a Ruritan Forever plaque will be presented to an appropriate family member to memorialize a deceased Ruritan Forever recipient. Ruritan Forever status may be conferred upon any active, associate, honorary, or deceased member.

ARTICLE V. Leave of Absence & At Large Status

Section A. Upon written application to the club Board of Directors setting forth good and sufficient reason, a **leave of absence status** may be granted to a club member, excusing said member from attending meetings of the club. This written application must specify the length of time desired, which shall in no case be granted for a period of less than three (3) months or for more than one (1) year. A club member on leave of absence shall continue to pay national and any applicable district dues, and shall be counted neither absent nor present on the club roll. Neither will they vote, hold office, nor participate in club business activities, or be a delegate at the district or national convention.

Section B. Any club member in good standing may be granted an **at-large status** by the club Board of Directors and club membership. Such status may be granted because of residence relocation, permanent health impairment, or employment limitation, etc. (one year or longer). Such members pay national membership dues and any applicable district dues; however, they are neither expected nor required to maintain club attendance and are not considered in any

club awards program. Neither will they vote, hold office, participate in club business activities, or be a delegate at district or national conventions. The club shall review each at-large member's status annually.

ARTICLE VI. Fees and Dues

Section A. Active members may be assessed club dues as determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the club Board of Directors, with a quorum present, and 2/3 vote of the members, providing a quorum is present. Each member shall pay to the club Treasurer dues per quarter, in advance.

Section B. National Ruritan dues are determined by the Ruritan National Board of Directors with approval of the delegates at the Ruritan National Convention and shall be paid to the treasurer of Ruritan National each quarter by this club for all active, and honorary members, as well as for member granted at-large and leave of absence status, who are on the roll of the club at the close of meetings in January, April, July, and October. The total yearly dues for associate members shall be paid annually on the member's anniversary date. A onetime fee for Ruritan Forever members is established by the Ruritan National Board of Directors.

Section C. Each person joining the club shall pay to the club treasurer a five (5) dollars initiation fee of which three (3) dollars shall be paid by the club to the treasurer of Ruritan National.

Section D. At the option of the district the club shall pay applicable annual district dues to the district treasurer in the amount of \$_____ per club member. These dues shall be based on the enrollment of the club as of the close of the meeting in January of each year and shall be payable by March 1st of the same year.

Section E. Except for club dues, and applicable district dues, members shall not be assessed for contributions for any purpose. Proceeds from club fundraising should not be used for meals and dues.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings

Section A. This club shall hold at least one meeting each month, the time and place to be designated by the club Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called when considered necessary by the club Board of Directors.

Section B. The regular meeting of this club shall be held on the _____ of each month, unless otherwise decided upon by the club Board of Directors and approved by the club.

Section C. Attendance of fifty-one (51) percent of the members in good standing shall be necessary for a quorum at any meeting of the club.

Section D. Recommend length of club meetings be one and one-half (1½) hours and a meal served at each regular meeting.

Section E. Recommend following the meeting procedures guidelines as defined in the Ruritan Club