

# Albemarle Ruritan Club

## Serving the Community Since 1948

The Albemarle Ruritan Club consists of people in the Charlottesville, Virginia area, like you, who want to serve their community in helping it become the best community possible. We do this by working on fundraising events to raise money, and then we distribute it to others. Each year we decide which groups we can help and how much we can give, depending on our success with our fundraisers.

In past years, we have supported groups that offer services to the community's youth, such as Little League Baseball, Girls softball, YMCA basketball, Camp Albemarle, All Night Long, and education grants. We have supported organizations like JABA and Meals on Wheels for their efforts in helping the community's aging population. We also help the Ivy Creek Nature organization with its work on educating the public about how we coexist with nature and how it benefits us.

We also help individuals who are ill and need some assistance, as well as some who have had a disaster and are in need. We support organizations that help others in need, such as the Salvation Army, the Rescue Squad, the American Red Cross, and the local food bank. We have supported organizations like the Ronald McDonald House, and the Free Clinic, in our efforts to help families with their medical emergencies.

We have made donations to the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association, who do life-saving research that helps us all. We support the Charlottesville-Albemarle Association for Mentally Handicapped Citizens, Camp Holiday, and Hospice of Piedmont in their efforts to help those in our community who have special needs. And last, but not least, each year we give an education grant to a college-bound student.

This is just a sample of what people working together can do to help their community. Last year, with just 15 members we raised and distributed over \$3,600.

This work can be accomplished without putting a bind on your time. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month for a meal and a short meeting, which is usually over by 8:30 pm. This year, our fundraisers include collecting recyclable items and turning them in for cash. This is a chance for you and/or your spouse and older children (if they desire) to work and socialize together in helping our community. When you participate in the operation of the club, it will take a little more time, but still not a lot. We do a lot of good for the amount of work we do, and we get to enjoy the fellowship of neighbors with similar goals.

We are members of Ruritan National, which provides us with structure, assistance, guidance, and opportunities to converse with other clubs all with the goal of serving their communities. There are district and national meetings where members can go to learn new ideas.

The Albemarle Ruritan club dues are \$15 per month, which comes to \$180 per year. This covers your meal, your District and National dues, our meeting room, and the Club's operating costs. This makes you a Ruritan, a member of a National organization of neighbors, like you, serving their communities. For meetings when you bring a guest, there is a meal cost of only \$11 per guest and we encourage you to bring family or friends!

We have our Ruritan Club meetings on the last Tuesday of each month, except in August when we have our annual picnic. Our meeting locations vary each month - just contact a Club Officer listed on our website for the address or directions.

The slogan of Ruritan is Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service. If you are interested in helping your community and would like to join our club, just talk to any Ruritan member. We will schedule a visit so we can have a meal ready for your visit with us to see if you enjoy our fellowship. We look forward to meeting you!