

Ukulele Music

Keith: welcome to the LeeCoSchools Edcast number nine with the Smiths Station Ruritan club's the scholarship committee

Kyle: so now Keith tell me why do we meet with the scholarship committee like what I'm a listener what benefit is that to me

Keith: well so we talked to them because as a scholarship committee they can help give some guidance on how to effectively apply for a scholarship what are the types of activities that if your student listening you need to do to help improve your chances of getting a scholarship when that time is right because I know in the eighth grade it doesn't seem important but when the 12th grade rolls around

Kyle: the eighth grade

Keith: what

Kyle: the eighth grade like I should be thinking about this stuff in the eighth grade is what you're saying

Keith: I mean ideally everything about the stuff of kindergarten but

Kyle: at least by fifth grade

Keith: at least by fifth grade is

Kyle: the last episode we heard from the fifth graders yeah yeah we're

Keith: from the West kids were they started thinking about that 4th 5th grade but I mean the latest by 8th grade you need to start thinking about it at least because when the first student loan check comes bill comes in that's a little too late right you know all the scholarship all the free money you can get to help along the way is important right and you know I was a recipient of the of their scholarship back in the day and we got it I was able to make a stretch like two or three semesters because it's a book scholarship that they offer and so I learned a lot about some of the stuff that the Ruritan's do and the community as a whole

Kyle: it was nice for me not having much knowledge about the Ruritan group to see this group of people who are there completely selflessly and their only goal is to help in this case provide scholarships to some kids who might not have had an opportunity to get one before and do some of the things their community so I was I was glad to talk with them

Keith: yeah me too so after listening to this if you have any questions comments complaints criticisms compliments colloquialisms conundrums or concerns you can find us on the web at www.lee.k12.al.us/edcast you can find us on Twitter @LeeCoSchools or on Facebook at facebook.com/LeeCoSchools you can reach us by email at edcast@lee.k12.al.us and you can find us on the Lee County Schools app we have our own icon on the app and so you can click on that and that takes you to our webpage and then there also links to all those things on there so you've got we're not trying to stay hidden right there's nothing else, then Kyle

Kyle: here we go!

Funky Transition Music

Keith: alright so we really appreciate y'all talking with us today and so let's just go around the room and introduce yourselves please Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I'm Ed Adams and I work for the city of Smiths Station. Rick Dellinger retired professor of Auburn university but husband to the mayor

Keith: well that's that's the most important job you should have mentioned that first

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: Debbie Alley, retired teacher 26 years now just doing miscellaneous things

Keith: now where'd you teach at

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I taught Texas okay Austin El Paso. I'm LaFaye Dellinger I'm retired former mayor and my time is boring

Keith: but not just the retired mayor but the first mayor of Smith station once we incorporated

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I once was the only mayor

Keith: that is true so if if podcast listeners hear us refer to you as your honor that's why

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: thank you. I'm Tom Kubik retired and also the president of Smith station Ruritan. I'm Sarah Fay Lauten and I'm retired military

Keith: well again thank you all for sitting down with us the reason we're sitting down with you guys is because you are the scholarship committee for the Ruritan Club here in Smith station and so I guess to begin with could somebody tell us a little bit about the Ruritan Club and your mission

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: well the Ruritan is part of a national organization point that quartered in Virginia Smith station Ruritan was established in nineteen fifty-two Wow so it's been ongoing for quite a long while the scholarship part of it started in 1998 but basically Ruritan is the rural counterpart of civitan we we do things locally in the community so the scholarships are a big part of it in the past we've helped out victims who had fires in their homes and we helped them getting back on their feet we felt cancer victims who needed transportation to get up to Birmingham in the past we chartered the local Boy Scout Troop 128 we have adopted a loving touch which is a veteran's home here of houses 13 veterans who might otherwise be homeless and we help them out as much as we can so we do various fundraisers throughout the year in the past we have done Christmas we've adopted Christmas families who were referred to us by the local school and we would do Christmas for the children and for for the family we would do food and all the kids got clothes and some toys so everybody had a Christmas soap and then we do a bass tournament up at Wind Creek State Park in October which is beauty master which has been ongoing for I think about 18 years real and we did in the past we've done you know other things yard sales and various other fundraisers but probably the biggest service to the community is the hall we're sitting in when Smith station Ruritan Club first started we met in the cafeteria of what was then the high school in 1998 we ventured forward and this hall that we sit in now used to be a computer lab at Auburn University okay it's a prefab building and then it was we had some members here who were very good contractors put this building in place because we needed a community center outside of the local churches which are absolutely a huge part of the Smith station community there was no other place for for meetings so we feel like whether we're doing a good duty to help community

Kyle: absolutely when all the money goes right back out to the community

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: we're very proud of Smith station we're very proud to be a part of it we have started relationship with high school with a Ruriteen Club and so Teresa Whitlock is the sponsor the faculty sponsor and we have Ruriteens who have helped out with our functions so with community service and and we try to help them out with theirs

Keith: y'all are a very important organization for the Smiths Station we have a late arrival would you please introduce yourself for our listeners

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: Nancy Claridy

Kyle: so you mentioned the scholarship got started in 98 so what was the what was the genesis of that what made you decide to go that route

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: we wanted to do something in the community and we wanted to honor two former students in the community and I'll speak to one and I'll let LaFaye speak to the other David and Mary Henry have been educators here in the community for years and years and years primarily at the primary school

Kyle: I saw him today actually

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: and I remember years ago we were at a football game up in Wetumpka and David and Mary were sitting there at the football game and they got word that their son Tiger was in a fatal car accident close to home so we wanted to honor honored him in this scholarship and let his legacy live on and I'll let LaFaye speak to the other. Rick and I had a granddaughter Kelly Underwood and she was in her first week her senior year and this is in 2001 the same year that we were named a city and actually the I was supposed to be inducted as the mayor on the 18th mm-hmm 18 yes and she was killed on the 16th of August she was on her way to school and and the club members I don't know how long it was after that but but they decided that they wanted to honor Kelly and Tiger and David was a member of the Ruritan Club at the same time we were both members and so they named the scholarships after their scholarships after them

Keith: I remember when both of those events happened

Kyle: Ashley was in our grade

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: for y'all that don't know, Keith was one of our first recipients of our scholarship

Keith: It's not about me, it's about y'all

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: and I believe he was one of our guest speakers didn't you come back and speak to us about the scholarship?

Keith: I can hardly remember what happened this morning so any of the students or parents that are listening to this and they want to get in on this scholarship how do they how do they go about applying for the scholarship

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: you talk to the school counselors because they have we as soon as we get our applications ready and what-have-you we take it to the school counselor and they pass them out or they can contact any member of Ruritan and ask for an application and we'll get to em

Keith: on the website is there a way they can email and ask for something

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: there is one on the website which we're not as punctual SmithsstationRuritan@gmail.com okay is our email address so if you get in touch with us that way and you can also get in touch with us that way if you're interested in renting the building looking for an open date

Keith: and so about when about when do ya'll get these to the school counselors what time of the year usually February mm-hmm okay so they have a long time too apply us our deadline is usually somewhere around the third week on Friday the third week of April April okay so and we give them us not that long because we have to cut it out then because we have to have time to get the letters out to them and then they attend the awards build awards meeting at the school and they are recognized there also

Keith: okay so they get about 10 10 11 12 weeks pretty good and so what's required they fill out the application what are the other requirements for it

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: they are questions asked where they're intended to go school whether it be a technical school college university furthering their education basically hmm this moment they can even go to a trade school and I guess you become technically trainees they must have a letter of acceptance we can't just have somebody come in and say oh I'm planning to get school

Keith: well what other things in their application packet do they need to turn in

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: the two letters of recommendation from it doesn't have to be from a teacher it can be anybody that they that can speak of their reputation okay we've had some letters from organizations where they did community service for instance who spoke highly of the students but typically a lot of the letters of recommendation come from the faculty yeah and pastors a lot of people the kids that go to church get from there either their pastor their youth pastor

Keith: I see on here GPA is there a minimum GPA they need to have for now

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: no

Keith: if you're good enough to get into college it's good enough to get the scholarship

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: you know this good scholarship is a scholarship of need okay wait if you attend the awards night at school the higher GPAs don't need another scholarship no there's truth we work hard or how many we want to go to somebody who can use it

Keith: speaking of the letters of recommendation so what are the types of things that you're looking for with the letter of recommendation and what kind of a what can they put in there

Kyle: some points they can highlight

Keith: they can highlight to make their person that they're writing this letter recommendation for have a better shot I guess it's kind of a deal don't have a form letter from year to year that kind of thing

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: well and that's one of the problems we've seen in the past and and speaking for the faculty I understand that you know that they may be bombarded by students all within a short period of time say I need a letter of recommendation cuz they don't give just from ours no right and so I can understand the the faculty having a problem saying you know this is a form letter well for instance last year we had some form letters that were so bad that it might have been a male student and the letter of recommendation had to do with a female so you know when you get a letter recommendation like that you know there was no thought put forward right you know so one thing I would say for the students is give the faculty members ample time so that they could tailor a letter of recommendation to the student to that particular student and we're looking for leadership within the school leadership within the community and obviously good grades and good character and and the feeling that this is a student who will who could really use the scholarship and apply it and succeed in you know help succeed in life but again the lead time I know if I were a teacher I got a hundred requests for a for a letter of recommendation it'd be tough to just sit down and do a custom letter for each student but as much as we can we need to we'd like to learn as much as we can about the personality and we're also looking for community service and if a child knows they're heading to college this is something they can even start asking teachers to do before Christmas give it to like so that during the Christmas holiday the teacher could put forth some effort in that if they know their pet if they're applying for colleges most deadlines are before December 1st start talking to your teachers then and from a parent's perspective look over it and if you don't feel that that's the right thing to do go to the next teacher go to the next pastor don't accept it you need we need parental input also these kids you may not know but a parent would know and if they say well this wouldn't pass a work resume this isn't going to pass a scholarship resume

Kyle: so parent involvement in the process is very

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: most of the letters I saw haven't opened every letter most of the letters came in an envelope from a teacher sealed or pastor sealed mm-hmm I opened the letters they had not been opened before they got to me

Keith: yeah a lot a lot of letters recommendation to come that way mm-hmm

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: the other thing that I look for is not so much quantity special only maybe services I mean if somebody is a list of 50 things that just tells me they are spread too thin I'm looking for the quality of what they have and what they do as it all round

Keith: it's like an hour here an hour there an hour over here is it gonna cut it you need to do

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: that's a mile wide and an inch deep you know but if they're they've got several things and you and you can see it when you look you can you can tell there's the usual things high-school students do or they join but then there's other things that you see that are more community oriented as opposed to socially oriented maybe yeah so sometimes the tough things that they do for community service to me count a little more than the fun thing University Bookstore a textbook 60 bucks oh you end up also I said

Keith: that's on the cheap end

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: he retired in 96 from the University so it wasn't

Keith: inflation has run away since then

Kyle: if anyone listening to this podcast wanted to help support the scholarship program what are some things that could do

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: give money 10 fundraisers join ruritan just be able to be a good example for their students there's a lot of things they could do

Keith: yeah somebody wants to write a check who do they make it out to? cash?

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: no we don't have that kind of stuff going on here make it out to ruritan and we have a club member that gives an entire scholarship on their own oh wow our biggest fundraiser for the scholarship that is earmarks is the Boston butt sale for the Superbowl Sunday so anybody can always call Ruritan member email us we will get them and I'll even deliver if they buy enough Boston butt I will deliver

Kyle: you're signing up for everyone that listens to us to have a Boston butt delivered

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I'll deliver it. She already delivers a lot.

Keith: we've had some listeners in Canada just go ahead and know what you're signing up for

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: but we'll do our very best for sure look we'll flash freeze it and ship it their way but it's really important that's a way you know and you're and you're helping these kids get a better education and that is in today's society so important yeah

Kyle: and then themselves are being involved in the community they get to be a part of this organization that which is good for them and like you said sets a good example

Keith: so y'all have said a couple times contact a Ruritan member is it on the website where they can contact

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: we do have a webpage and there are some telephone numbers on there that they that they can call especially with with rental or other questions okay but I mean our credo is fellowship goodwill and community service so we follow it right to the T but they can contact us you know if they just go to SmithsStationRuritan.com they'll be able to find some information and be able to get in touch with us

Kyle: and we're gonna include this information our show notes anyone who goes to the Lee County website and sees this podcast will have some of those stuff

Keith: click on the link and get right to it so students who are a few years out we've already covered this touched on a little bit but so students are a few years out from being eligible for the scholarship what should they be doing now to help make them eligible for the scholarship when they're a senior

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: pretty much what you say I've been mean civic-minded a good student in school start thinking about what they would like to do with their life some kids know pretty early what they want to do in their life others the year of their college five years they don't know

Keith: I went to college for six years and I still kind of don't know what I want to be when I grow up so

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I would urge the student to volunteer. Keith what I recommended when I talk to youth I told him what take a sheet of paper fold it in half then they write down what they like to do everything he can't do it in a week may take them six months write down everything do they like to do on one side like on the other side get your college catalog and write down on this side what what subject that you what said that applies to look down where they okay just take for example if you want to be a diesel mechanic if that's on this side then you write down what you need to go you may need to go to a technical shelving absolutely the port that I try to make them have a plan you have to have a plan in the 21st century you won't be successful okay I'm looking at application now that says you want to go to college but he's not getting decide and he's gonna graduate here he plans was tells you you don't have a plan that plan needs to start back when you down in the fifth sixth seventh eighth ninth grade right there right there list down write that thing down middle this sad look at what what you have to do on this side the key word is have a plan having clean and as you well know college is not for everyone that's great a little bit of a probably one of the little turns in deciding

Keith: when we talked to our career coach that was actually one of the surprising things we we found her saying was that college isn't for everybody

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: it's not it is not because I work for the city of Smiths Station I'm working the code enforcement officer when students get in trouble whether it be in Columbus Opelika Auburn they sent them the family court judge in in Opelika they referred back to Smiths Station and that's one thing that we're going to talk about we have a JOCC I think I have yeah which is governed by Cook the our citizen here in Smiths Station they have hold courts right here in this room and they dish out the punishment if I'm using word dish it out they mete out the punishment to the students and to the parents now this is very they take it very serious anyone can come in the board members in that parents are the mother of father and the individual comes and whatever they decide that the student need to do then that's how they handle it if they say that if they gonna give it a 40-hour day they send them to me and I take them out to do work we would do work in the community when they get out of school of course while school going only men keep it to two hours a day

Keith: now do they get to count that those forty hours on the application here for this?

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: yes

Keith: okay

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: it doesn't say they don't need it when you put fill out the application it doesn't say how and then if they said that you did 40 hours of community service. and then if you were fighting in school and said you need to go to attend anger-management and they sit on the Russell County and the parents in there paying forty twelve hours normally it's twelve hours of anger management and the parents have to pay the point is where some parents that fall into the trap is the system would give you six months if you get in trouble as a junior or as a senior you better watch out because we all know that if you seventeen when you get in trouble mess around and turn 18 haven't finished your time you fall into the big board big boys court you become an adult then you gonna do some jail time if they have not completed that community service about 18 months when they go back to see the judge you go from the juvenile court Oh to the adult court are they gonna lock you up six months and this this committee that means the JCCC committee usually takes in consideration what the

child has done yes and puts the sanctions according to that yeah what this does the juma this program started up it's for first-time offenders juvenile offenders and if they follow the recommendations of the juvenile conference committee and do what they has been asked of them to do their records cleaned up clean those charges are taken off so it's it's a tremendous help to the justice system and that those cases are not tying up the courts and it's a tremendous service to the parents and the juveniles we've all you know we we were all young at one time a lot of us quite quite a few years earlier and you know when you're a kid you you do some stupid things sometimes and then this is a way to get out of trouble this is this is I think what one of the things ed is talking about is a plan and a map and a strategy yes and one other thing too to think about if you're in junior high school or early high school is budgeting your time you know I think one of the biggest failures when you go to college is you a lot of kids are smart enough to just about coast through high school when you get to college there's no sting it's a fiddle-de-dee so you've got a budget your time for your academics for your extracurricular activities whether they be band sports drama you know whatever and then community service and you put all that stuff all together it's you know it's it's a lot and so if you could budget your time and dedicate yourself to certain prioritize things dedicate yourself to certain things certainly your your time of college will be better spent as well and but but knowing that plan your roadmap of how you want to get there what what courses you want to take what you know there there are certain courses that they could take now that would give them college credits while they're in high school so that's a tremendous tremendous event and then of course the community service is a character builder it's not just it's not just something to put on a resume to apply for a scholarship but it builds good character I mean you know all of us owe a great debt to God above and to others who've helped us along the way and so the more that you could put back in the community and help out others the better off the lobby and this community would be yes the other thing for the younger kids to start learning to surround themselves with good people yes good people they need to be around people and never be afraid to ask for help they need to find a good group of people that's gonna you know like support what they want instead of driving them back right and the sooner that they learn that that helps in their success

Keith: as mama said you lie down with dogs you get up with fleas

[Laughter]

Kyle: She's not wrong!

Keith: No, she's not!

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: have you seen the application? look at item three

Keith: yeah for those who are listening it says list your community service activities and/or school involvement in the past two years ie your resume and if needed please attach additional pages yeah so definitely get out there and start doing some doing some stuff Kyle: what should parents of students be doing to help improve their students chances for the things that the parents can do besides looking over some of the things to really help their student

Keith: and giving them great adages to remember the later life like fleas and dogs

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: you know parent involvement is very very important and speaking as a single parent kindergarten first PTA meeting they made the comment that a single parent could not raise a good child and I

Keith: well they were right

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I was bound and determined that they were going to eat their words because that is not true um parenting is a very tough and hard 24 hour the rest of your life commitment but you want your child to succeed and you have to put just as much time into it because to get that you're the one that's got to get them to the community service you need to get them and the last place the parent wants to be is in front of the juvenile court judge so stay involved know who your children are out with I know I had some people got very upset because if a child came to my house like who's your parents where do they work I mean I'm basically interviewed I mean keeps over here cringing but it's very important because it only takes one wrong influence yes to ruin a total career

Keith: for those who are listening and obviously don't know this is my mom we're really kind of here at her behest a little bit the podcast audience doesn't think I'm just a complete jerk

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: parent involvement

Kyle: active engagement is what it sounds like when it says don't just passively be a part of their lives you need to be actively interested in what they're doing

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: I walked into a PTA meeting and Dot Strickland who long long-term teacher at Smith station high school walked in and looked at me I was the only parent in the room and she said you're the last parent I need to talk to you need to go home she said it's all the other kids where I need to see those parents she said they're not here she says I have no problems out of Keith you need to just go on home no I can go home but it's important our children are important and it starts at home yes it does it does and parents need to realize that

Kyle: and be able to invest that time

Keith: so as we're winding down without revealing any names or other sensitive information are there any memorable applications that you receive good or bad

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: we've had some that you can read less last year we hit two or three that you could not believe that they were that active and and knowing these students to I mean we knew them before they made the application so we knew what they were what was going to be on the application just about and in it's unreal how involved they are with their church with our community with the school if some of the kids put the you know adults to shame we've had some really outstanding ones but I wouldn't say well in the thing that's really really gratifying is that a lot of the students over the 20 years that we've given these scholarships have been extremely successful that really it makes us feel good and every Boston but we sell adds a little bit of emphasis but not so much on the application side but what's been accomplished after that we have educators and nurses and professional people and all in all levels who have received these scholarships and I mean it doesn't sound maybe like a whole lot but it but it every little bit helps and

Kyle: it's a whole lot of somebody don't have a whole lot

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: yeah it really is it's a huge help so we don't sell Boston boats for the Superbowl we sell Boston but spend scholarships there you go we just deliver them in time parents don't have to cook I'm NSS as a parent of a child that has received that you can make that money stretch and it was a blessing every time we were able to go to that to that fund and not have to

come out of my paycheck was a huge blessing and for anyone that would think that you know five hundred dollars is little money they have no idea what they're talking about because every free dollar is a wonderful dollar yeah absolutely and if you use used textbooks and trade it back in they can last or it can last we made it last two years we were good I think Zachary told us about one part of one book his junior year so part of one book he had enough money to buy part of one he didn't buy the whole book with scholarship money it's a true blessing and we want to see more kids take advantage of it and also we would like the the public to help us I mean we passed out how many last year scholarships hey a total of eight okay you know we're like wow we'd like to give ten if more people buy Boston but we can give out more

Keith: or if you don't like pork just write a check! well thank you all very much for taking the time to sit with us and chat with us before we end this thing do y'all is there anything else

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: appreciate you showing an interest in what we're doing because we we enjoy what we do even the hard work things we enjoy again we'd like to invite anyone who listens to this podcast to join us support us help us any way they can and that we'd love to hear from you

Kyle: I think hopefully you guys if someone listens to this and it'll get them sort of thinking about what you're talk about things before Christmas and so I would love for this time next year you all have a whole bunch of new applicant oh we would take some more people involved

Smiths Station Ruritan Scholarship Committee: some young some young applicants yeah not not not adults but in that thirty to forty eight rings right to be absolutely what we're talking about student applicants

Kyle: student applicants for the scholarship and adult applicants for the Ruritan

Keith: all right well thank you all very much and we're gonna get on out of here so you can do the heart can do the hard work and deliberate over these applications right so thank you all very much thank you be awesome everybody who's listening

Ukulele Music