

**The ESU President's Message
2022**

History of the ESU

The English-Speaking Union of the United States formally organized in the United States in 1920, two years after the establishment of its counterpart in the British Common-



wealth. The ESU arose from the conviction of its founder, Sir Evelyn Wrench and a group of like-

minded American and British friends that maintenance of the close personal and national ties forged during World War I was necessary for the preservation of peace. Sir Evelyn firmly believed that given the opportunity to know one another personally, people who shared a common language would soon discover that they also shared similar values, whatever their differences in nationality or background. Its educational mission would be carried out by a host of activities allowing for personal contact between peoples at every level.

The ESU Southwest Virginia Branch has survived the Corona Virus pandemic in good fashion. Our membership numbers are strong. We are pleased to be back to a “near normal” schedule of fine dinners and programs.

The Shakespeare Competition is moving forward. Last year was “all virtual” due to Covid protocols. Bee Grundlehner is working hard to reestablish our participation in this signature ESU program by collaborating with other branches.

Collaboration between branches progresses with sharing of resources and holding meetings and programs together.

ESU-US National has maintained a vigorous schedule of events. The Annual Conference was held in a hybrid format and was very successful. The “Happy Hour” events held on the Internet are popular with a wide variety of topics and sharing ideas with members worldwide. In January 2022, a Gala Event is scheduled to take place in New York with Princess Anne in attendance.

We look forward with great anticipation to the coming year. Entering the ESU’s second century we are dedicated to embrace the mission and vision of the ESU locally, nationally and internationally.

With best regards,
Vernon M. Danielsen



**English Speaking Union
Southwest Virginia Branch**

Spring 2022



The English Speaking Union
Southwest Virginia Branch
Post Office Box 378
Salem, VA 24153
www.esuus.org/southwestva/



ESU Mission

The ESU celebrates English as a shared language to foster global understanding and good will by providing educational and cultural opportunities for students, educators, and members.

ESU Vision

The ESU, a nonprofit, non-political organization:

1. Advances global understanding by providing educational opportunities through programs and scholarships for students, educators, and members;
2. Promotes communication and open exchange of ideas among the world's speakers of English;
3. Enriches communities through active involvement of its branch members in outreach programs;
4. Offers financial assistance to students and educators to further academic pursuits in English-related studies, and
5. Develops common bonds through a shared interest in the English language and culture to strengthen friendship among members and those they serve.

ESU Programs Spring 2022

Programs are held at The Shenandoah Club,
24 Franklin Rd, Roanoke, VA
Cocktails at 6:00pm Dinner at 6:45pm
Business Attire unless otherwise noted.
Guests are welcome if sponsored by a member.
Cost for dinner is \$40 per person.

January 20

Lia Wallace and Aubrey Whitlock
from
The American Shakespeare Center –
The Blackfriars Playhouse
in Staunton, Virginia will talk on
*“To Play With You.
The Role of the Audience
in Shakespeare’s Plays.”*

March 24

Jim Beeson will talk on
his recent tour of
*“Biking Across the United States
on the Southern Tier-
San Diego, California
to St Augustine, Florida”*

April 28

Tim Martin will talk
on
*“The History of Modern Folk Music –
Guitar and Song Writing.”*
(Gentlemen: black tie suggested)

SWVA Branch Officers

President	Vernon Danielsen
Past President	Robert Habermann
Vice-President Programs	Gates DeHart
Vice-President Membership	Pegram Johnson
Secretary	Anne Tiffany
Treasurer	Conrad Grundlehner

For membership information, please contact:

Pegram Johnson
540-343-7799
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Annual Dues are:

\$50 for an individual
or
\$75 for a couple

For more information on the South-
west Virginia ESU branch please go
to our website at :
www.esuus.org/southwestva/