

The ESU President's Message

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 Commonwealth. 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.



A few years ago, my wife and I toured South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana. We had a wonderful time, but the matter which I wish to mention is not the animals or the scenery but rather the people and the use of the English language.

We learned that there are eleven official languages in South Africa and at least seven unofficial dialects are also spoken. In Botswana, there are five official languages, and in Zimbabwe, there are eight. But what allows these people to converse with each other is English. In each of these countries, their students must learn English, and much of the business, government, shopping, and entertainment is conducted in English. The English language allows these diverse people to talk to each other and enables us to speak to them.

Today, English is the second most popular language in the world, with an estimated 450 million native speakers. It is also the shared language of many whose native tongues are not widely known. Almost a quarter of the globe's population – perhaps 2 billion – can understand English.

The English-Speaking Union aims to unite and empower people of different languages and cultures by building skills and confidence in communication in English. We also explore the richness of the English culture, whether it be literature, art, music, government, or history. With branches in the United States, the United Kingdom, and over 50 countries around the world, the ESU carries out a variety of activities such as debating, public speaking, and student exchange programs. The ESU also runs conferences and seminars and offers scholarships to encourage the effective use of the English language around the globe.

With our Branch's goal of discovering and celebrating the durability and flexibility of the English language, our officers and Board of Directors will continue to provide our members with myriad activities that bring us together.

Please join us.
Bob Habermann



English Speaking Union
Southwest Virginia Branch

Spring 2022-2023



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 2022-2023

September 25, 2022, 4-6 pm

Fall Opening Party. Bring guests to the historic Virginian Railway Passenger Station at the intersection of Williamson Road and Jefferson St Light foods will be provided. Members are \$25 each. Guests are free.

October 20, 2022

Cocktails and dinner at the Shenandoah Club to hear Dr. Jane S. Gabin, an educational consultant and speaker on 19th and 20th century women in the United States and the United Kingdom. Black tie optional.

December 11, 2022

Our annual Holiday Party at the Shenandoah Club. Holiday attire is suggested.

February 9 2023, 3 pm

Afternoon tea and finger foods at the Shenandoah Club featuring representatives from the American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia.

March 9, 2023, 3 pm

Afternoon tea and finger foods at the Shenandoah Club. Frances Fuller, will speak on her book, Helping Yourself Grow Old and her years as a missionary publisher in the Middle East.

April 27, 2023

Dinner at Montano's new Anello Dining Room. Geoffrey Saur, will be sharing his knowledge and talent of bagpipes with us. Mr. Saur has been piping for 15 plus years; and has traveled to Scotland to join the Piper's Trail, the host band of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

SWVA Branch Officers

President	Robert Habermann
Past President	Vernon Danielsen
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 Southwest Virginia ESU branch please go to our website at :
www.esuus.org/southwestva/