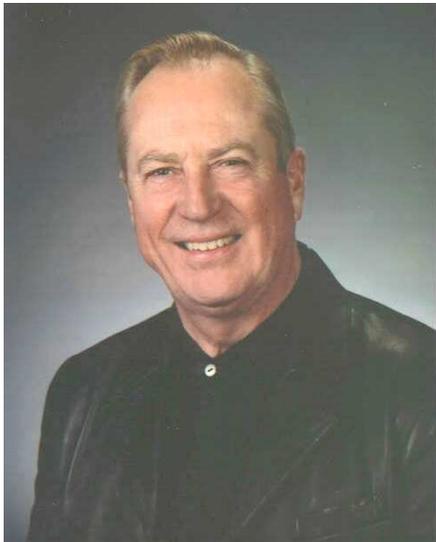




January, 2007

Message from the President—By Roald Lund



How fortunate we are to live in a country of caring citizens that have the freedom to identify and address the needs of its nation's people. We already have celebrated our 35th Annual Meeting of the National Association (NARRC) in Great Falls, Montana. I am sure that each of us went home with a new idea on how to make our own state organization even better. I was most impressed by the junior ag loan program presentation and its potential in each of our states.

We look forward to our 36th Annual Meeting in Alabama in

2007. The National Board gets an early preview in late April at our mid-year planning meeting at Point Clear, Alabama. Start planning now for September 23-26 at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club and Spa. We are going to have a great conference!

I am excited about our upcoming website postings, especially the Rural Rehabilitation history; not only nationally, but also potentially state histories. You history buffs would enjoy a new book on President Franklin Roosevelt, *The Defining Moment—FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope* by Jonathan Alter, Simon Schuster, 2006. We have our roots in those early months of his presidency! Bruce Wall and his website committee are doing a great job on pulling together all the information important to the Association members.

Very few of us remember 1934, but the problems in rural America have not gone away. In fact, some of them are worse in the very rural states where children have to ride on a bus for over an hour just to go to school. It is important that those of us "on board" in rural rehabilita-

tion work to try to inform each other on how to solve rural problems in this great nation. That includes informing the new board members in each state of the commitment of past generations to preserve the "grassroots" and "rural background" of each new generation as it steps forward to maintain the "American Heritage."

The retirement of Stan Garbacz could have been a real "downer" for NARRC, but you all accepted his work-based decision gracefully and embraced the "dynamic duo" Vernon and Jeannie Eagan. I wish that each of you dear readers could work with them as I have; it is truly a daily "day brightener!" We are in good hands, as the insurance company commercial says. I look forward to their continued leadership as they support the National Board and the individual corporations now and in the future. Again, we are very fortunate to have in our administration this dedicated couple. I wish them, the National Board, and each of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2007! *****

NARRC Website Update—By Bruce Wall

If you have not already done so, please check out the NARRC website. It can be located by entering www.ruralrehab.org into your web browsers address bar. Stan Garbacz and Meagan Longoria have done an excellent job in the layout and usability of this web page. Also, Vernon and Jeannie have worked hard to ensure the site has the most up-to-date information including officer and membership rosters. For many it will be the most convenient way to share information about our organization and to stay connected with members. After you have a chance to review, please share your thoughts with the members of the website committee: Lee Boyer, David Skinner, and Bruce Wall.

If you would like your state's web listed on the "Links to State Websites" page, please send your website address to me at 1306 West 4th Street; Little Rock, AR 72203—or if you prefer, send an e-mail to me at bwall@aref.org. *****

NARRC 2006 Annual Meeting – Great Falls, Montana

The National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC) met for their annual meeting September 11-13, 2006, in Great Falls, Montana. The meeting was called to order by President John Woeste (FL). The presentation of colors was conducted by the Montana Air National Guard.

Official welcomes were given respectively by Joel Claremont, Deputy Director for the Montana Department of Agriculture and The Honorable Dona Stebbins, Mayor of Great Falls. Director Claremont gave a brief overview of Montana farming opportunities. Mayor Stebbins' remarks focused on the economic developments in Great Falls.

In the absence of Secretary-Treasurer Stan Garbacz (due to a business conflict) the official roll call was taken by Acting Secretary-Treasurer Vernon Eagan (AR). Sixteen states were represented, including first-time attendance by Alaska. A moment of silent prayer was expressed on behalf of the families of the 9/11/2000 event and for our Armed Forces.

Mr. Don Addy, Montana State University Extension Agent at Fort Belknap, gave a presentation on "Making a Difference" in the lives of the youth at the Fort Belknap Reservation through the Junior Ag Program—serving youth 9 to 18 years of age. Mr. Toby Werk, a rancher at Hays, spoke on behalf of that program and its positive economical and relational impact on his entire family's lives.

Mr. Leonard Schock, Chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates, spoke primarily about wheat production in Montana and its importance in the global economy and its superior nutrient quality.

Following lunch, the delegates boarded buses for agricultural tours: the Smoot Honey located at Power, and the Busch Agriculture Resources plant at Fairfield.

On Monday evening, the delegates participated in the President's Awards Reception and Dinner, with Montana rancher and Nashville recording artist Ken Overcast as entertainer.

The meeting was reconvened by President Woeste on Tuesday, September 12th. Matt Knox, a Winifred rancher and chairman of the Missouri River Stewards, gave a presentation about the Missouri River Monument, and the Bureau of Land Management leasing situation and its impact on ranchers.

Jan Tusick, director of the Mission Mountain Market Cooperative Development Center, gave a thorough account of how they are assisting Montana's agriculture producers to further develop their entrepreneurial skills and expand their business opportunities with the addition of value-added agricultural products to increase their profit margins.

Brett DeBruycker, a third-generation rancher and president of the Montana Cattleman's Association, gave an outstanding presentation on the DeBruycker Charolais family operation and the various dimensions to this type venture.

After lunch, the delegates boarded buses for tours in the Great Falls area including the Giant Springs of Roe River and the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.

On Wednesday, September 13th, the meeting reconvened. Jill Lorang, administrator for the Cascade County Conservation District, gave an enthusiastic presentation about the Provider Pals program and the connection it builds between rural and urban cultures.

On Wednesday, September 13th, the annual business meeting was called to order by President John Woeste. The minutes of the September 14, 2005, Annual Business Meeting were approved as recorded.

Copies of the Financial Statement for the period of September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006 were distributed. Tony Stafford (MO) presented the Audit Report. The Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report were approved as presented.

Bruce Wall (AR), chairman of the website committee, gave a brief report on the NARRC website. Other committee members include David Skinner (GA) and Lee Boyer (MT). They will monitor the website's development and maintenance.

President Woeste advised the delegates that David Skinner will draft a proposed resolution—subject to board approval—to honor Stan Garbacz. The delegates unanimously approved the preparation of the resolution of appreciation.

Delegate Tom Walker (SC), chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers for 2006-2007: President – Roald Lund (ND); Vice President – Bruce Wall (AR); Director – John Trotman (AL) to fill the one-year term remaining for Bruce Wall; Director – Kim Porter (WY) two-year term; and Director – Don Jacka (KS) two-year term. The delegates voted to accept the slate of officers as presented. Past President John Woeste then turned over the meeting to newly elected President Roald Lund.

President Lund advised the delegates of his appointment of Vernon Eagan (AR) to the office of NARRC secretary-treasurer—recommending the delegate body accept Vernon's appointment to this office for an indefinite term. The delegates expressed unanimous concurrence to the indefinite appointment by a show of applause. At President Lund's invitation, Vernon expressed his appreciation for the delegates' outward display of confidence and his commitment to fulfill the responsibilities of this office to the best of his ability.

Official invitations of future annual meetings were given respectively by J. Lee Alley for September 13-26, 2007, to Point Clear, Alabama; the North Dakota delegation for September 27-October 1, 2008, to Fargo, North Dakota; and the Michigan delegation for 2009 to possibly Traverse City and/or Mackinac Island, Michigan.

President Lund announced that he and Lu Dunn (ND) will co-chair a history committee—working on a collective historical document reflecting the consensus of the delegates.

There being no further business, the 2006 NARRC Annual Conference/Meeting was adjourned. *****

Montana's "Junior Ag Loan Program"

Delegates to the September 2006 National Meeting of the NARRC in Great Falls, Montana, learned a bit more about the host state's innovative and exciting "Junior Ag Loan Program." Mr. Don Addy, Montana State University Extension Agent at Fort Belknap, gave a presentation on "Making a Difference" in the lives of the youth at the Fort Belknap Reservation through the Junior Ag Program—serving youth 9 to 18 years of age. Mr. Toby Werk, a rancher of native American descent at Hays, spoke on behalf of that program—entering it at age nine—and how positively he and his entire family's lives had been impacted, both economically and relationally.

The presentations by these two gentlemen generated even more interest among our membership and a desire to learn more about the "nuts and bolts" of the program. Some state rural rehabilitation programs represented at the meeting may be giving consideration to starting their own version of it. When asked, "How to go about starting or setting up the program," Lee Boyer, of the Montana Department of Agriculture, suggests that one can find all they need to know at the following website:

<http://agr.state.mt.us/business/jrAgLoans.asp>. Informational subheadings include:

- Junior Ag Loans
- Loan Application
- Eligibility
- Loan Committee
- Applications
- Loan Amounts and Terms
- Other Requirements



We tend to agree with Lee, the information provided about the Junior Ag program on the Montana Department of Agriculture's website is complete and descriptive.



2006 Meeting
in Great Falls,
Montana

Some of the
speakers at
the meeting
and during one
of the tours





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Future NARRC Annual Conferences:

2007

September 23-26
Point Clear, Alabama
Host: John M. Trotman

2008

September 27-October 1
Fargo, North Dakota
Host: Bill Fortier

2009

(date to be determined)
Traverse City, Michigan

NARRC MEMBERSHIPS

ARE NOW

DUE

FOR 2007

(Statements Mailed on 1-4-07)

Rural Rehabilitation REPORTS

Vernon L. Eagan, Editor
Jeannie Eagan, Assistant Editor

Additional copies of this newsletter are available. Please contact Vernon Eagan, Arkansas Rural Endowment Fund, Inc.; P.O. Box 750; Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone 501.375.2358.

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June 2007 are requested from member states. Send articles for publishing that would be of interest to the membership to: Vernon Eagan, Secretary/Treasure, NARRC, 4408 Dawson Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72116