



June 2009

President's Message—By Kim Porter



Michigan is really on the ball this year! I received my packet yesterday for the fall conference in Traverse City, Michigan, to be held **September 20-23, 2009**. The Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (MRRC) has done a terrific job in planning the 38th NARRC Annual Meeting.

This conference is a great place to network with other states and to exchange information about programs and logistics that may benefit your own program. Networking is not the only benefit of this meeting, it's filled with speakers who will give many of us new information about the uniqueness and challenges that Michigan faces, such as the Great Lakes Compact. We will hear about Michigan's land preservation efforts and see how that compares to what our individual

states our doing. I look forward to hearing from the dairy farmer that was helped by MRRC and learning about his operation.

An exciting addition to this meeting is the NARRC peer panel sharing information about their new programs.

The Board had the opportunity to view a portion of the Leelanau Peninsula Loop tour and I think everyone will have an informative and good time visiting the sites on the tour. Start getting in shape now for the Dune Climb Site! Lowell Goff, MRRC board member, and I climbed two tiers of the dunes (by accident!). It is deceiving where you are on those dunes; it seems like you are still climbing the first hump and then you look down and realize you could have stopped a long time ago. I climbed this dune with a pulled leg muscle, so no excuses this fall!!!

There will be an optional tour to Mackinaw Island on Saturday, September 19. This trip will take you back in time to a place that still doesn't allow motorized vehicles (other than emergency vehicles). There is plenty to do on the island, including four historic sites, parks, beaches and over 100 shops. There will be plenty to do on Sunday, as well, as Michigan is home to many vineyards and wineries, lighthouses and much more.

In 2010, Mississippi will be the host state. They are making tremendous headway on the planning for their meeting.

In July of 2011 we move away from the deep south and go to "the last frontier" a.k.a. Alaska. I would encourage states that have never hosted the annual meeting to consider putting in a bid for 2012. This is a great opportunity to share your state's rural rehabilitation challenges and accomplishments, as well as to show your peers some of what your state has to offer. I look forward to seeing you all in Michigan at the 38th NARRC Meeting in September!

REMINDERS

- **Submit your New Program Recognition (NPR) entry form by July 15, 2009.**
- **Finalize your plans now for the 2009 Annual Conference in Traverse City, Michigan.**
- **The NARRC Board is taking bids—which are now open—for hosting the meeting in 2012.**

Report of NARRC Mid-Year Planning Meeting—May 5-6, 2009—By Vernon Eagan

Call to Order: The mid-year planning meeting of the 2008-2009 Board of Directors was called to order by President Kim Porter on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at 9:07 a.m. in the Top of the Tower Board Room of the Park Plaza Hotel in Traverse City, Michigan. A quorum was established. Also present were Carmen Cousino and Lisa Howell (Michigan) and Jeannie Eagan.

Invocation and Opening Remarks: The invocation was given by Vice President Tenorio. President Porter expressed appreciation to the board for their commitment to NARRC and to the Michigan delegation for their hard work in hosting the upcoming conference.

Minutes and Reports: Upon motion by Tenorio/Gary, the Board approved the minutes of the Pre-Conference Board Meeting held September 28, 2008, in Fargo, ND.

Upon motion by Weers/Weiss, the Board approved the minutes of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held October 1, 2008, in Fargo, ND.

Minutes of the October 1, 2008, Annual Business Meeting were reviewed for accuracy – no changes were indicated.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was given by Jeannie Eagan. *(A copy of that report is attached to the filed minutes.)*

The financial report was given by Secy/Treas Vernon Eagan. Upon motion by Trotman/Tenorio, the Board approved the report as presented and will be filed for audit. *(A copy of that report is attached to the filed minutes.)*

The Website Committee reported that all areas of the Website are current.

2009 Annual Meeting: Director Weers and Carmen Cousino briefed the Board regarding the 2009 Annual Meeting agenda to be held on September 20-23, 2009, in Traverse City, MI, at the historic Park Place Hotel. A tentative budget was also provided. The focus will be on "local agriculture and the maritime industry." A tour of the Leelanau peninsula loop is planned for Tuesday and includes NW Michigan Horticulture Research Station, Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes, Historic Fishing Village, etc. A panel discussion on "Steps on Implementing New Programs" will be held on Wednesday with Arkansas, Kansas, and Montana leading the discussion. An optional tour is planned for Saturday, September 19th to Mackinac City and/or Mackinaw Island. *(A copy of the tentative agenda is being sent by email.)*

2010 Annual Meeting: Director Gary advised that the 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on September 26-29, 2010, at the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Olive Branch is located about 25/30 minutes from Memphis International Airport and/or from downtown Memphis. A panel discussion regarding items of concern/interest to NARRC delegates will be added to the tentative agenda.

2011 Annual Meeting: Secy/Treas Eagan reported that everything is on go for the 2011 Annual Meeting to be held in

Anchorage, Alaska, on July 17-20, 2011. Steve Gallagher has begun tentative arrangements. A hotel contract has not yet been made. Prior conference history has been provided to facilitate this decision.

Finance Committee Recommendation: Finance Committee Chairman Larry Mack and committee members were present to discuss their financial recommendations with regard to long-range planning and the current economic situation and its impact on NARRC funds to ensure operational expenses are adequate.

Upon motion by Jacka/Mack, the Board voted unanimously to set the annual meeting registration fees for each attendee (both delegate and guest) at \$35 above the projected fee designated by the host state—acknowledging that the host state may establish their fee at whatever level necessary. These additional fees will go into a special NARRC fund to help offset the following year's conference expenses and funneled through the \$3,500 allowance provided to the host state.

(Rationale: Income from annual dues and interest income are insufficient to offset NARRC expenses for long-range planning.)

Vice President Tenorio will chair a committee for a Silent Auction NARRC Fundraiser to be held at our 2009 Annual Meeting. Director Jacka and Jeannie Eagan will assist with this project.

FOIA Requests: Director Weiss led a discussion regarding Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Linda Stover (NM) maintains a file and can be contacted by member states if they have procedural questions.

Nominating Committee: President Porter advised that she will appoint Tony Stafford (MO) to chair the nominating committee. Names of the committee will be published in the June Newsletter.

Audit Committee: President Porter advised that she will appoint Tate Rusk (CO) to chair the audit committee. Names of the committee will be published in the June Newsletter.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11: 55 a.m.



Historic Fishing Village near Traverse City, MI—one of the tour sites scheduled for the fall meeting (John Trotman in photo).

2008 NEW PROGRAM RECOGNITION AWARDS

Congratulations to Arkansas and Wyoming for developing a “New and Successful Innovative Program” and 2008 recipients of the NPR Award.

Arkansas: “AREF Memorial Scholarship”

Two awards—in the amount of \$1000 each—will be given away each year to honor the memories of Mr. J.C. Portis, a 1995 founding board member; and Mr. E.B. Whitaker, the first general manager.

These Memorial Scholarships are intended to assist rural Arkansas residents who will be in-coming college freshmen attending a two- or four-year college in Arkansas.

Nominations are gathered in the fall from high school seniors through the end of October each year. Twenty prospective recipients are randomly chosen and asked to write a brief essay stating their college major field of study and their “vision of the future” after obtaining a college degree.

By September 15th of each year, a panel composed of at least three AREF board members and/or staff read and rank each of the essays returned by the due date of July 15. The two top recipients are notified and checks are awarded in two equal installments—one for the fall semester and one for the spring.

Wyoming: “Fuel Reimbursement Grant”

A new grant program with Rural Rehabilitation funds was started in Wyoming to assist producers in getting their products to farmers’ markets, which in turn helps farmers’ markets attract more vendors.

The grant pays Wyoming producers up to one-half the federal rate for mileage if they are traveling to a farmers’ market more than 60 miles one way. This grant provides an incentive for producers to participate in a farmer’s market and gets local products into Wyoming communities.

The Fuel Reimbursement Grant provided a win, win situation—assisting producers to bring their produce to market; and helped farmers’ markets stabilize and grow their vendor numbers; and fresh, local foods were made more available to Wyoming communities. Although fuel prices are down in 2009, the grant will continue to help offset other economic hardships for producers.

If your state has started a New Program, make application for this award. Your idea may work great in another state; so make application and share your success story benefiting rural America.



View of Lake Michigan from the Top of the Tower Board Room, of the Park Plaza Hotel in Traverse City, MI where the NARRC Board met with members of the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Board and Staff for the Mid-year Planning Meeting in early May. (The President’s Reception will be held here.)

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Finance Committee:

Larry Mack, Chair
Don Jacka
Tony Stafford
Vernon Eagan

Audit Committee:

Tate Rusk, Chair
Linda Stover
Jim Tessmer

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January 2010 are requested from member states. Send articles for publishing that would be of interest to the membership to: Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer, 4408 Dawson Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116, or email: egnavljj@swbell.net.



“Cherry Orchard Country” on tour for this fall.

Future NARRC Annual Conferences

2009

September 20—23, 2009
Park Place Hotel—Traverse City, MI
(www.park-place-hotel.com)
Host: Marion Weers

2010

September 26-29, 2010
Whispering Woods Hotel—Olive Branch, MS
(www.wvconferencecenter.com)
Host: John Teel

2011

July 17-20, 2011
Anchorage, Alaska
Host: Steve Gallagher

In Remembrance

Long-time NARRC friend, **Robert “Bob” Swafford**, vice president of the Mississippi Rural Rehab Corporation, passed away on March 30, 2009, at the age of 80. Bob was so looking forward to the convention being held in Mississippi in 2010, having served on the board for many years.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his daughter Ms. Peggy Epperson and to the Mississippi Board of Directors.

Rural Rehabilitation

REPORTS

Vernon and Jeannie Eagan, Editor
Additional copies of this newsletter are available. Please contact Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer, 4408 Dawson Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116, phone: 501-758-4723 or 501-920-4621.