

# REPORTS



January 2014

## President's Message—By Walt Anseth



Greetings from Montana to all of the great members of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president for the upcoming year. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated and hardworking board of directors for 2014. Their dedication to the organization is second to none. I want to extend a special gratitude to Marion Weers for her service as president for the past year.

Also, I would like to thank Steve Ferguson and the entire Iowa crew for the 2013 annual convention. They opened up and showcased the great city of Des Moines to host the first-ever joint conference of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations and the National Council of State Ag Finance Programs. It gave NARRC members a fantastic opportunity to say howdy to old friends and to start new ones. The joint meeting and field trips were very informative and educational for all attendees. I believe all can agree that the highlight of the group tours was the trip to the Iowa State Fair.

As we push forward into 2014, we look forward to the upcoming annual meeting September 13-17, in Savannah, Georgia. Thomas Carter and the Georgia Development Authority are diligently working on the details of the meeting. The board and I will have a chance to preview the activities planned when we meet this March in Savannah.

Please feel free to contact me anytime you have questions for your board of directors. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your president. I look forward to seeing everyone in September in the great state of Georgia for the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual NARRC meeting.

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**2013-2014 NARRC Board of Directors**

*Standing L to R: J. Lee Alley (AL); Bill Stanley (SC); Harold Gary (MS); Tate Rusk (CO); Steve Gallagher (AK).*

*Seated L to R: Vernon Eagan (AR); Marion Weers (MI); Walt Anseth (MT); and Terese Berg (ND).*



*Left: Outstanding host **Steve Ferguson** at the President's Awards Banquet on Monday evening.*

Steve is currently an Iowa Ag Development Program Specialist with the Iowa Finance Authority.

Thanks, Steve, for a job well done in hosting the 2013 Joint Conference.

## Report of 2013 Annual Meeting—Des Moines, IA—By Vernon Eagan

**Meeting Program:** The 42nd Annual Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC) and the 2013 Joint Conference of NARRC and NCOSAFP (National Council of State Ag Finance Program) was called to order by **President Marion Weers** on Monday, August 12, at 8:00 a.m., in the Terrace Ballroom of the Renaissance Savery Hotel, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Presentation of colors was given by the **Iowa National Guard**. **Lee Boyer (MT)** led the delegates/guests in the pledge of allegiance and delivered the invocation. Official welcomes were given by **President Weers; Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) host/moderator Steve Ferguson, and The Honorable Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture**. Secretary Northey spoke about the honor it is to make the Century and Heritage Farm Awards each year at the Iowa State Fair.

The General Session was moderated by **Steve Ferguson** who conducted the official roll call for both organizations. A total of 26 states were represented. NARRC had a total of 19 member states in attendance with nine states also belonging to NCOSAFP. The NCOSAFP organization had a total of 16 states in attendance with seven states belonging exclusively to the NCOSAFP.

A moment of silent prayer was offered in remembrance and on behalf of the families of Frank Addy (SC); Vivian Barr—wife of Wayne Barr (CO); Nancy Brennan—wife of Bill Brennan (CO); Wally Jones (MI); Elizabeth Smith—wife of Ed Smith (CO); Peggy Teel—wife of John Teel (MS); and Tommy Walker (SC).

**President Weers** served as NARRC's official conference photographer.

**The Honorable Frank Cownie, Mayor of Des Moines**, personally greeted delegates and guests during the President's Reception on Sunday evening prior to Monday's opening session.

**Craig Hill**, Iowa Farm Bureau president, addressed his experience with the development of Revenue Assurance, a revenue-based crop insurance for corn and soybean farmers. He also spoke about his work on the national committee, Making Agriculture Productive and Profitable (MAPP), and its value to farmers and changes/challenges for today's farmers.

A five-member panel discussed the Beginning Farm Loan Program (BFLP) Aggie Bonds, Loan Participations, and Guarantees. Panelists included: **Jayme Unga**, US Bank and former IADA Board Chair; **Tammy Nebola**, IFA; **Brian Gossling**, Iowa's Farm Loan Program with USDA—Farm Service Agency; **Dave Claypool**, Dorsey and Whitney, LLC and IADA Bond Counsel; and **Matt Adams**, Peoples Com-

pany. Each focused on their part in the BFLP application process and its regulations.

**Annette Townsley**, former IADA board member and current IADD board member, served as host during the delegate luncheon and delivered the invocation. NCOSAFP President **Lee Boyer** and NARRC President **Marion Weers** gave overviews of these respective organizations.

A "Rural America Update" panel included: **John Fredrickson**, former IADA board member and current IADD board member; **Mike Pearson**, Market to Market TV host; and **Bruce Rohwer**, president of Iowa Corn Growers Association. They addressed aspects of helping rural America stay in agriculture; regulatory awareness, and the financial relationship between borrower and lender.

"Creating Opportunities for New and Beginning Farmers" was the topic of a three-member panel: **Neil Hamilton**, Drake Ag Law Center; **Ed Cox**, Farmer Veteran Coalition of Iowa and Drake Ag Law Center; and **Denise O'Brien**, Women Food and Agriculture Network. It was noted that one-half of veterans come from rural communities. They addressed equipment needs that may be crucial and unique for the veteran; the value of niche crops, and networking and mentoring opportunities for women to share their experiences and how they resolved problems encountered in farming.

A four-member panel discussed "Assisting Beginning and Retiring Farmers with Transition Planning." Panelists were: **Lori Beary**, IFA and Community Development director; **Steve Ferguson**, IFA; and Farm Transition Specialist **Dave Baker**, and Iowa Concern Hotline Attorney **John Baker**—both with Iowa State University Extension's Beginning Farmer Center (BFC). The panel discussed the AgLink—Matching Program for non-related parties; legal issues, workshops associated with transitioning farms to family members, getting hard questions out in the open; and creating another farming generation.

To complete the day, **Iowa Governor, the Honorable Terry E. Branstadt**, welcomed delegates to Iowa. He was introduced by IFA Executive Director **Dave Jamison** in recognition of **Bill Greiner** with a plaque as the originator of the first, state Beginning Farmer Loan Program.

**The President's Awards Dinner** was the setting for two award presentations. **North Dakota delegate Roald Lund, Ph.D.**, gave the invocation. **President Weers** recognized **Past President Larry Mack** with a plaque for his "outstanding" leadership as 2011-2012 NARRC president. A New Program Award plaque was also presented to **Terri LaBrie** in recognition of a new and innovative program begun by the South Dakota Rural Development Fund. **Thomas Carter**

## (Report of 2013 Annual Meeting cont'd)

gave the invitation for hosting the 2014 NARRC Annual Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, on September 13-17, 2014. Iowa State University Extension Climatologist **Elwynn Taylor** was the evening speaker.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for agricultural tours of Iowa State University BioCentury Research Farm, Lincolnway Energy Ethanol Plant; Ag Leader Technology; USA - DuPont Cellulosic Plant; Couser Cattle feeding operation; and the Iowa State Fair.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. **NCOSAFP President Lee Boyer and NARRC President Weers** commended hosts Steve Ferguson and Dave Jamison for an outstanding first-ever NARRC and NCOSAFP Joint Conference. Arkansas delegate **Tony Minicozzi** distributed a Questionnaire to all conferees for feedback on their view of the effectiveness of a joint conference and if they wanted one to be offered in the future. NCOSAFP delegates were invited to remain for NARRC business meeting.

**Annual Business Meeting:** **President Weers** called the NARRC Annual Business Meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes of Annual Business Meeting held July 20, 2011, in Anchorage, Alaska, were distributed, and upon motion by Harold Gary/John Trotman, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report/Audit Report:** Copies of the Financial Statement for the period of July 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012, were distributed. **Secy/Treas Eagan** expanded on the report. **Audit Committee Chair Bud Weiss** presented a report of the Audit Committee's review and findings of the of the Secretary/Treasurer record. The financial records were found to be in order on all counts. Upon motion by Larry Karns/Lou Ciarkowski, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report as presented by Eagan and Weiss.

**Website Committee Report:** **Committee Chair Walt Anseth** advised the website is current. Stan Garbacz (NE) has been appointed to this committee due to the retirement of committee member David Skinner.

**2014 Annual Meeting:** Thomas Carter and Donald Wilder (GA) reconfirmed the Georgia Development Authority's invitation to host the 2014 NARRC Annual Meeting to be held at the Hyatt Regency, in Savannah, Georgia, on September 13-17, 2014. Room rates at the Hyatt will be \$157.00 plus taxes. Plans include a tour of the Georgia Ports Authority on Tuesday. Guest/spouse activity will include a Paula Deen tour. An optional pre-conference tour is being planned for Saturday, September 18th. Sites include Railroad Roundhouse Museum, historic Savannah, and the Tybee Island Lighthouse Complex. Speakers/presenters are being lined up for the delegate session.

**2015 Annual Meeting:** **Jeannie Eagan, secy/treas assis-**

**tant**, reported that Cindy Garretson-Weibel spoke with her by phone prior to the conference, stating that Wyoming is committed to hosting the annual meeting in September, 2015. Location sites under consideration are Sheridan, Cody, or Jackson. Cindy Garretson-Weibel is the interim contact for NARRC.

**2016 Annual Meeting:** **President Weers** announced that 2016 is open for hosting. Consideration should be given for a location in the southeastern region, and we would welcome an invitation possibly by Florida.

**2017 Annual Meeting:** **Colorado Delegate and NARRC Board Member Tate Rusk** advised that Colorado is committed to hosting in 2017. The exact location has not yet been determined.

**Nominating Committee:** **Chair Sandra Tenorio** presented the following 2013-2014 slate of officers:

President — Walt Anseth (MT)  
Vice President — Steve Gallagher (AK)  
Past President — Marion Weers (MI)  
Director — J. Lee Alley (AL) two-year term  
Director — Terese Berg (ND) two-year term  
Director — Harold Gary (MS) two-year term

*(Directors Tate Rusk (CO) and William Stanley (SC) each have one year remaining on their elected terms. The secretary/treasurer appointment will follow in the Board of Director's meeting.)*

There being no further nominations and upon motion by John Trotman/Tony Minicozzi, the delegates voted unanimously to elect this slate of officers by acclamation.

**Vice President Steve Gallagher** gave an explanation the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation is experiencing with regards to their Relending Program. A motion was made by Tony Minicozzi/Ben Wibel to adopt a resolution in support of ARRC regarding the interpretation of rules adversely affecting their relending program. Discussion followed to clarify the proposed resolution and remarks in support of its adoption.

Upon motion by John Woeste/Jerry Driscoll the delegates voted to table the motion and have the NARRC Board review the draft resolution document for action at the Post-Conference Board of Director's Meeting immediately following.

Past President Weers announced the Board of Director's Meeting would follow adjournment.

There being no further business and upon motion by Harold Gary/Bud Weiss, the delegates voted to adjourn the 42nd Annual Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations at 8:50 a.m.

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## 2013-2014 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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### REMINDERS

- **Dues Notices** have been mailed and are due upon receipt.
- **New Program Recognition (NPR) Award:** Form included with newsletter and/or request by email to Vernon Eagan.

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June, 2014, 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: egnavlj@swbell.net.

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2014

September 13-17, 2014  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
(savannah.hyatt.com)  
Savannah, Georgia  
Host: Thomas Carter

### 2015

September (Exact date pending)  
Wyoming (Proposed site pending)  
Host: Cindy Garretson-Weibel

### 2016

Open for Invitation to Host

### 2017

Colorado (Date and location pending)



### 2013 Joint Annual Conference

National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations  
National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs

**NARRC President: Marion Weers (MI)**  
**NCOSAFP President: Lee Boyer (MT)**

### Website Committee:

Stan Garbacz (NE), Chair  
Steve Ferguson (IA)  
Jeannie Eagan

[www.ruralrehab.org](http://www.ruralrehab.org)

### Rural Rehabilitation REPORTS

Vernon and Jeannie Eagan, Editor  
Additional copies of newsletter are available. Please contact Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer, 4408 Dawson Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116, phone: 501.758.4723; or Email: egnavlj@swbell.net..