

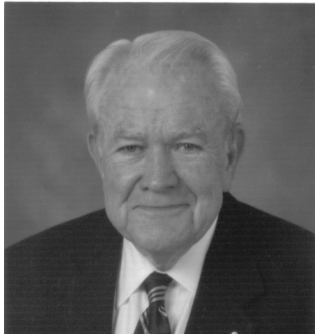
## Rural Rehabilitation

# REPORTS

January 2008



### President's Message—By John Trotman



Dear Reader,

On behalf of the Alabama Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, we were honored to have had such a wonderful turnout for the 2007 NARRC Conference last September at Point

Clear, Alabama. We hope all of you enjoyed the convention as much as we did hosting the event.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Fargo, North Dakota, next September 27—October 1 for the 2008 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. It is indeed appropriate that we thank Jeannie and Vernon Eagan for their hard work and commitment to our national organization.

I encourage our present active membership to contact those non-active states and seek their participation. We need their help and input

and would like to see them at the 2008 Annual Meeting. Additional numbers would certainly add strength to our organization.

Our Mid-Year Planning Meeting has been scheduled for April 29 — May 1st, 2008, in Fargo. If you have suggestions or comments please send them to Jeannie and Vernon.

Thank you for your warm letters regarding the Conference and also your cards of concern to Dora. They were greatly appreciated.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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### PAST PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

By H. Roald Lund

Dear Reader,

In January of 2007, I wrote to you in the NARRC Newsletter about the roots of our Rehabilitation work in the early days of President Franklin Roosevelt's presidency with the passage of the Federal Emergency Relief Act. I enjoy reading American History and have found the book, "The Defining Moment — FDR's Hundred Days" by Jonathan Alter, Simon Schuster, 2006 to be worth reading.

Also, as I prepared my thoughts for this 2008 Newsletter, the booklet entitled "A Brief History of America's Rural Rehabilitation Corporations" which was presented at the 1990 NARRC Meeting and updated in 1992 and 2006, to again be well worth rereading (or viewed at [www.ruralrehab.org](http://www.ruralrehab.org)).

In the June Newsletter, I quoted "Once Rural, Always Rural" in reference to the urbanization of America and

its impact upon our mission. Especially significant in the NARRC goal is a phrase, "to further the achievement of excellence in addressing Rural America's needs." It has been rewarding to me in my years of involvement in the NARRC Annual Meetings that history and entrepreneurship all have important places in our programs. We will see this attention given again in the planning for the 2008 program in North Dakota. Significant attention will be given to alternative forms of rural agriculture, manufacturing and retailing of equipment, Land Grant University research, regional demographics and the impact on our rural and urban lifestyle, biomass energy, biofuels, and its impact of energy derived from wind on the economy of rural farms and ranches.

I look forward to serving you as your Past President this coming year and seeing all of you again in Fargo, North Dakota. We are going to have a good time in one of the most rural areas in the United States.

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**Report of NARRC 2007 Annual Meeting—Point Clear, AL**  
**By Vernon Eagan**

**Meeting Program:** The National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations met for their annual meeting September 23-26, 2007, in Point Clear, Alabama. Official welcomes were given by President Roald Lund and by The Honorable Jo Bonner, Alabama Congressman. Director Don Jacka (KS) gave the invocation and led the delegation in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The General Session was called to order by President Lund and followed by Secy/Treas Eagan conducting the official roll call. Seventeen states were represented. Eagan gave brief reports on states with scheduling conflicts. In remembrance and on behalf of the families of Richard “Dick” Grabemeyer (MI) and Ed Pittman (SC), a moment of silent prayer was expressed.

Marion Weers (MI) served as the official photographer for the entire conference.

Dr. Steve Szedlmayer, with Auburn University, gave a presentation on “Marine Research and Development” with a focus on the relationship of artificial reefs to Alabama’s red snapper abundance.

Ms. Becky Jones, retired teacher and lifelong Point Clear resident, gave an entertaining and historical account of Fairhope and its uniqueness. Mr. Terry Wilhite, multi-media specialist, complimented her presentation in recounting his experiences associated with the late Country Humorist and Grand Ole Opry star Jerry Clower and the valuable lessons learned in the process—“keeping life in perspective.”

Luncheon speaker Dr. David Bronner, CEO Retirement Systems of Alabama, addressed the growth of the RSA’s pension fund and its ranking fourteenth largest in the United States.

Auburn University’s Dr. Richard Wallace gave a presentation on “Oysters on Mobile Bay” and the issues associated with molluscan aquaculture and oyster reef restoration. Fellow Research Center staff member P. J. Waters spoke about their work on developing and maintain high school aquaculture programs.

President’s Awards Dinner guest speaker Dr. John Ed Mathison, Senior Minister of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, addressed the qualities necessary for effective leadership. President Lund presented an award plaque to Past President John Woeste for his dedicated service as our 2005-06 NARRC President. A New Program Recognition (NPR) award plaque for Montana’s “Junior Ag Program” was presented to Lee Boyer and the State of Montana for development of a “new and successful innovative program.” Former Secretary/Treasurer Stan Garbacz was presented a framed “Resolution of Appreciation” for his many years of outstanding, dedicated service to which he received a lengthy standing ovation in a visible show of appreciation.

Delegates and guests boarded buses on Tuesday for tours of the local area: a bus tour of downtown Mobile and its historic homes; The Battle House Tower (a RSA development); Bellengrath Gardens and Home with lunch aboard the “Southern Belle” on scenic Fowl River; and a bus tour of Flowerwood Nursery (home of the Encore Azalea). Oak Hollow Farm was the site a catfish dinner with entertainment by earlier conference presenter Jerry Wilhite.

**Annual Business Meeting:** On Wednesday, September 26th, President Lund reconvened the meeting and called to order the Annual Business Meeting. Minutes of the September 13, 2006, Annual Business Meeting were approved as recorded with two corrections: addition of Montana to states in attendance and change 9/11/2000 to 9/11/2001.

Copies of the Financial Statement for the period September 1, 2006, to September 21, 2007, were distributed with Secy/Treas Eagan expanding on the contents. Kim Porter (WY) presented the

Audit Report. The Annual Financial Statement and the Audit Report were approved as presented.

**Website:** Lee Boyer (MT), website committee chairman, gave a brief update and noted the security measures in place for our website. He recognized other committee members as David Skinner (GA) and Jeannie Eagan (AR) who will submit changes to the website manager. The delegate body voted unanimously to give the Website Committee authorization to negotiate a salary of more than \$10/hr with NARRC Website Manager Meagan Longoria that would be commensurate with her duties.

**Future Meetings:** Official invitations of future annual meetings were given respectively by NDRRC President Bill Fortier for September 27—October 1, 2008, in Fargo, North Dakota at the Ramada Plaza Hotel; MRRC President Marion Weers for September 20-23, 2009, in Traverse City, Michigan at the Park Place Hotel; and an invitation by the Mississippi delegation for 2010 (date and location not yet determined).

**NARRC Mission:** President Lund gave the following remarks as instructed by a unanimous vote at the previous Board of Director’s Meeting as a reminder of NARRC’s mission:

“Once Rural, Always Rural” is a quote from a participant at your Mid-Year Planning Meeting. It was in reference to the urbanization of America and our mission to serve in Rural Rehabilitation. We had several important discussions on how to better our state-to-state communications, on the significance of maintaining and using an up-to-date website, on the value of extending invitations to inactive or non-member states to encourage participation, on the value of recognizing individual state efforts in furtherance of their and our collective vision on Rural Rehabilitation, and on the history and corporate memory of the individual states.”

**Registration Refund Policy:** The delegates voted unanimously to ratify the Board of Director’s unanimous vote on April 30th, 2007, adopting a resolution: “RESOLVED, that refunds of registration fees paid in advance of the Annual Meeting in Point Clear, Alabama, and all subsequent Annual Meetings shall be made only upon written request presented **seven (7) working days** in advance of the formal opening of the meeting and that no partial refunds shall be made under any circumstances.

**NARRC Financial Trends:** In an effort to remedy the downward trend of our net worth, the delegate body voted unanimously to give the Board authority to appoint a committee chaired by Roald Lund to research the options of raising the Annual State Dues from \$100 to \$150 and/or increasing the delegate/guest registration fees to annual meetings and to make the committee’s recommendation(s) to the Board at the Mid-Year Planning Meeting for Board approval. *(The Board’s approval of the committee’s recommendation(s) would be ratified by the delegate body at the 2008 Annual Business Meeting in keeping with NARRC Bylaws).*

**Nominating Committee Report:** Nominating Committee Chairman Charles Springs (SC) presented the following slate of officers for 2007-08: President—John Trotman (AL); Vice President—Kim Porter (WY); Three two-year term Directors—Marion Weers (MI), Harold Gary (MS), and Bud Weiss (CO); one-year term Director—Sandra Tenorio (TX) to fill the one-year term remaining for Kim Porter. There being no further nominations, the delegates voted to elect this slate of officers by acclamation. Past President Lund advised that Vernon Eagan will continue to serve in the appointed position of Secretary/Treasurer.

There being no further business, the 37th NARRC Annual Conference/Meeting was adjourned.

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## 2007-08 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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### COMMITTEES:

#### Website Committee:

Lee Boyer, Chair  
David Skinner  
Jeannie Eagan

#### Finance Committee:

Roald Lund, Chair  
Don Jacka  
Sandra Tenorio  
Vernon Eagan



NARRC Board Members—Kim Porter, John Trotman, Roald Lund, Sandra Tenorio, Don Jacka, Marion Weers, Vernon Eagan, Harold Gary, and Bud Weiss.

### Future NARRC Annual Conferences

#### 2008

**September 27—October 1**  
**Ramada Plaza Hotel—Fargo, ND**  
([www.ramadafargo.com](http://www.ramadafargo.com))  
**Host: Bill Fortier**

#### 2009

**September 19—23**  
**Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI**  
([www.park-place-hotel.com](http://www.park-place-hotel.com))  
**Host: Marion Weers**

#### 2010

**Mississippi**  
(Date and location pending.)

### REMINDERS

- **Annual Dues Notices have been mailed and are due upon receipt.**
- **New Program Recognition (NPR) Award—entry forms will be sent in the June Newsletter or can be obtained earlier by email request to [egnljj@swbell.net](mailto:egnljj@swbell.net).**
- **Begin making plans now to attend the 2008 Annual Conference in Fargo.**

### Rural Rehabilitation

#### REPORTS

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

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June 2008 are requested from member states. Send articles for publishing that would be of interest to the membership to: Vernon Eagan, Secretary/Treasurer, NARRC, 4408 Dawson Dr., North Little Rock, AR 72116, email: [egnljj@swbell.net](mailto:egnljj@swbell.net)*