



January 2010

## President's Message—By Sandra Tenorio



It was such an honor to be elected as President of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC) during our Michigan meeting. I look forward to serving during this next year.

Congratulations to the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (MRRC) for an extremely successful meeting last September. I know that the Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation has planned an equally great meeting scheduled for **September 26-29, 2010**, in Olive Branch, Mississippi, and hope to see as many of our members at that time.

NARRC has been an excellent forum for members to exchange information, trade ideas, and share resources. In Texas, we took an idea from the Kansas Homestead Rehab Corporation—*Bridge Loans*—and adopted it in our Loan Program and look forward to using it to help our farmers overcome potential financing delays.

In addition, our annual meetings offer us all an opportunity to observe how other states address rural issues in their region. I look forward to hearing from our Mississippi colleagues and learning more about that region. See you **September 26-29, 2010!**

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**Colorado delegation at President's Reception in Top of the Park inside Park Place Hotel:** *Left to Right: Kenneth Miller, Richard and Barb Lengel, Clarice Weiss, Wendy and Tate Rusk, and Bud Weiss.*



**2009-2010 NARRC Officers and Board:** *Left to Right: Walt Anseth (MT); Bud Weiss (CO); Kim Porter (WY); Don Jacka (KS); Sandra Tenorio (TX); Larry Mack (FL); Marion Weers (MI); Bill Stanley (SC); and Vernon Eagan (AR).*

## Report of 2009 NARRC Annual Meeting—Traverse City, MI—By Vernon Eagan

**Meeting Program:** The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was held in Traverse City, Michigan, on September 20-23, 2009. Official welcomes were given by President Kim Porter and by The Honorable Michael Estes, mayor of Traverse City. Flag ceremony was presented by the VFW Post 2780 Honor Guard. The invocation was delivered by Marsha Wilcox of Michigan.

The General Session was called to order by President Porter and followed by Secy/Treas Eagan conducting the official roll call. Eighteen states were represented. A moment of silent prayer was observed in remembrance and on behalf of the families of Kenneth Kern (KS) and Bob Swofford (MS).

Marion and Liz Weers (MI) served as NARRC's official conference photographers.

Marie Scott, Seasonal Lead Park Ranger Interpretation at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, gave a presentation on "Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore." She addressed the formation of the dunes, the uses of the sand, the migration of the dunes, and how the various grasses and trees stabilize the soil.

Ken DeBeaussaert, Director-Office of the Great Lakes, for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, spoke about the 2005 agreement and compact signed, "Great Lakes Compact." His remarks focused on the priorities for the Great Lakes—safeguarding the water use and diversions for generations to come. The Great Lakes represent one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water.

Paul Johnson and Marion Weers gave a brief history of the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

Rear Admiral John Tanner, USMS, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, gave a presentation about the Great Lakes Maritime Academy which was established by Congress in 1969 and is one of six maritime academies in the US. He addressed the strict admission standards and high placement of graduates.

Following lunch, Bob Sutherland, founder and owner of Cherry Republic, told about his early entrepreneurial endeavors and how they led to his current success with Cherry Republic and of the people who served as a "lighthouse" to him along the way. He stressed the importance of: generosity, keeping it simple, authenticity, not taking ourselves too seriously, and making the world a better place.

Robert Craig, Director-Agriculture Development Division, with the Michigan Department of Agriculture, spoke about "Michigan's Agri-Food Industry," the state's second largest economic driver—employing 25 percent of people working in

Michigan, with dairy being the leading segment.

Chad Geiger, Director RTO-Policy, Wolverine Power Cooperative (a not-for-profit organization), addressed the "Barriers to Entry for Wind Developers." His remarks focused on zoning, interconnections, equipment lead times, and challenges in connecting to local utilities.

Scott Everett, founder and principal of North Capitol View Associates, concluded the day's session with a presentation about "Land Preservation" and its economic stabilizing importance. Scott is a prior MRRC student loan borrower.

The President's Awards Dinner was the setting for two award presentations. President Porter gave an award plaque to Past President John Trotman for his "dedicated" leadership as 2007-2008 NARRC President; and a New Program Recognition (NPR) award plaque was presented to Don Jacka and the State of Kansas for the development of a new innovative program entitled, "FSA 'BRIDGE' Funding." Entertainment was by Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for maritime and agricultural tours: the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, NW Michigan Horticulture Station, Inland Seas Education Association, the Historic Fishing Town at Leland, Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes Climb Site, and Piercee Stocking Scenic Drive.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday morning. Craig Martin, owner of Cloverfield Jerseys and a MRRC loan borrower, gave a presentation on his dairy operation; his success in the dairy industry; and a testimonial to the efforts of MRRC with regard to his accomplishments.

Vice President Sandra Tenorio served as moderator for the panel discussion on "New Programs." Panelist included Tony Minicozzi (Arkansas), Don Jacka (Kansas), and Walt Anseth (Montana). They addressed the impetus for their respective new programs and the steps involved to implement.

**Annual Business Meeting:** President Porter called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 10:15 am. A quorum was established.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held October 1, 2008, were distributed and upon motion by Harold Gary/John Teel, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report/Audit Report:** Copies of the Financial Statement for the period of September 1, 2008, to August 31, 2009, were distributed. Secy/Treas Eagan expanded on

**(Report of 2009 Annual Meeting cont'd)**

the report. Chairman Tate Rusk presented the Audit Report. Upon motion by Sandra Tenorio/Tony Stafford, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report as presented.

**Website Report:** Jeannie Eagan, committee member, reported that all areas of the website are up to date—encouraging states to view the state-to-state awareness section and send any updates for their state to the committee. Eagan advised that we will be looking for a new website manager. *(Meagan Longoria requested we find a replacement due to additional responsibilities in her current full-time position).*

**2010 Annual Meeting:** John Teel (Mississippi) provided handouts and advised the delegates of the 2010 annual meeting in Olive Branch, Mississippi, on September 26-29, 2010, at the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center. Olive Branch is located about 25/30 minutes from Memphis International Airport and/or from downtown Memphis.

**2011 Annual Meeting:** Steve Gallagher (Alaska) gave an update on their plans to host the 2011 annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on July 17-20, 2011. He advised they are looking at the Millennium Hotel located near the airport that offers easy access to other sites in the state and provides complimentary shuttle to/from airport and downtown Anchorage. They are working on an agricultural tour of the valley and an optional tour.

**Finance Committee/Board of Directors' Recommendation:** Ratify BOD's unanimous vote on May 5, 2009: Director Larry Mack presented the recommendation, and upon motion by Sonny Roberts/Don Giffey, the delegate body voted unanimously to ratify the Board of Directors' unanimous vote on May 5, 2009, recommending 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.)*

**Nominating Committee:** Chairman Tony Stafford presented the following slate of officers for 2009-2010: President—Sandra Tenorio (TX); Vice President—Bud Weiss (CO); Past President—Kim Porter (WY); and three, two-year term directors—Walt Anseth (MT), Marion Weers (MI), and Bill Stanley (SC).

*(Directors Don Jacka (KS) and Larry Mack (FL) each have one year remaining on their elected terms. Also, the reappointment of Vernon Eagan as Secretary/Treasurer will be officially announced at the Board Meeting immediately following; therefore his name is not listed here.)*

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

Past President Porter commended the Michigan delegation for an outstanding meeting. She advised that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business, the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was adjourned at 10:37 am.

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**MAKING IT TO THE TOP!**

Twenty-seven energetic delegates and guests shown here meeting the challenge to climb to the top of **Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes Climb Site** on tour day. *(Not shown is Liz Weers the photographer.)*

## 2009-2010 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### President

Sandra S. Tenorio  
Texas Rural Communities, Inc.  
1524 South I-Hwy 35, Suite 232  
Austin, TX 78704  
PH: 512.219.0468  
Fax: 512.219.0416  
Email: Sandra.t@texasrural.org

### Vice President

Bud Weiss  
722 Galaxy Drive  
Grand Junction, CO 81506  
PH: 970.243.6112  
Fax: 970.243.6112  
Email: bandcweiss@bresnan.net

### Secretary/Treasurer

Vernon L. Eagan  
4408 Dawson Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72116  
PH: 501.758.4723  
Fax: 501.375.8625  
Email: egvnljj@swbell.net

### Past President

Kim Porter  
Wyoming Business Council  
214 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
PH: 307.777.6319  
Fax: 307.777.2838  
Email: kim.porter@wybusiness.org

### USDA Liaison for Rural Rehab Funds

Mike Hill, Director-Outreach Staff  
Ag Stop 0511  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0511  
PH: 202.690.1299  
Fax: 202.690.4727  
Email: mike.hill@wdc.usda.gov

### Directors

Walt Anseth  
Montana Department of Agriculture  
303 North Roberts  
Helena, MT 59620  
PH: 406.444.2402  
Fax: 406.444.9442  
Email: wanseth@mt.gov

Donald L. Jacka, Jr.  
Kansas Homestead Rehab Corp  
400 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 203  
Topeka, KS 66603-3438  
PH: 785.233.2399  
Fax: 785.233.2758  
Email: khrc@swbell.net

Larry Mack  
P.O. Box 5475  
Ocala, FL 34478-5475  
PH: 352.867.0892  
Fax: 352.732.5968  
Email: lmack@seminolefeed.com

William C. Stanley  
P.O. Box 81  
Ehrhardt, SC 29081  
PH: 803.254.0272  
Fax: 803.765.2564  
Email: CarolinaEast64@yahoo.com

Marion Weers  
Michigan Rural Rehab Corp  
P.O. Box 188  
Marshall, MI 49068-0188  
PH: 269.781.4646  
Fax: 269.781.9850  
Email: mweers@mrrccollegeloans.com

**NARRC WEBSITE:**  
[www.ruralrehab.org](http://www.ruralrehab.org)

### Website Committee:

Lee Boyer, Chair  
David Skinner  
Jeannie Eagan

### Finance Committee:

Larry Mack, Chair  
Don Jacka  
Tony Stafford  
Vernon Eagan

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June 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: egvnljj@swbell.net.*

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2010

**September 26-29, 2010**  
**Whispering Woods Hotel—Olive Branch, MS** ([www.wwconferencecenter.com](http://www.wwconferencecenter.com))  
**Host: John Teel**

### 2011

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

## REMINDERS

- **Annual Dues Notices have been mailed and are due upon receipt.**
- **New Program Recognition (NPR) Award—forms will be sent in the June Newsletter or obtained earlier by email request to [egvnljj@swbell.net](mailto:egvnljj@swbell.net).**



**Entrepreneur 23 year-old dairyman Craig Martin reports on the value of MRRC's 4-H Club loan to him—an impressive success story.**

### **Getting it Straight**

In the June 2009 Newsletter, under 2008 New Program Recognition Awards: Mr. J. C. Portis was a "1959" founding board member of AREF (incorrectly stated as "1995").

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## **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.*