



January 2011

President's Message—By Bud Weiss



I am most appreciative and humbled to serve as president of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC) this year. The leadership of our organization the past years has been outstanding, and it is a challenge for me and this year's board to equal. With this in mind, I feel we have an energetic board, and we will strive to further our positive efforts to help rural America.

Thank you to John Teel and the Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation for hosting an enjoyable conference. The entire conference was interesting and well-planned. The variety of speakers, entertainment and tours met our expectations.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Sandra Tenorio for her leadership of NARRC this past year. Sandra's enthusiasm was an inspiration to all.

It was good to have Mike Hinton, our USDA Liaison Officer, attend the conference. His review—as he sees the role of USDA and our state organizations—was encouraging and welcomed. We all are looking forward to a continued dialogue that will be beneficial to all. Mr. Hinton is presently reviewing our Report Form 1 to the USDA for revision and simplification.

The downturn in our economy the past few years has left a hardship on all. Many who have felt the effects are the rural folks whom our various state programs are geared to help. We have seen a depressed real estate market, changes in the student loan programs, an up and down trend in the agricultural field, and uncertainties in other areas of the rural family needs. This past year, the Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, in their conference program booklet, emphasized the Mission Statement of the NARRC. In these tough times, I think the mission statement bears repeating as we continue to serve rural America. That being, "To assist members in their efforts to more effectively manage their assets, to share information on successful innovation programs, and to further the achievement of excellence in addressing rural America's needs."

In keeping with our efforts to share programs with others, we plan on having a panel of three or four states discuss their programs at our 2011 conference in Alaska. This will be done by having each explain in some detail their programs and go over the process of implementing them. We will have time for questions and answers from the panel members. It is hoped that this sharing can be used to expand each state's programs. Don't forget the "New Programs" initiative that was started a few years ago. If any state has a new program, provide us with the information and we will see that it is acknowledged at the conference.

The NARRC Conference, this year, will be held for the first time outside of the lower "forty-eight." I hope all are excited about traveling to Alaska in July for this gathering. Steve Gallagher, his staff and the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation's Board are planning a memorable conference and tours. Hopefully, many attendees will be able to combine the conference with a vacation to some of the many attractions Alaska has to offer. Be sure to make plans and get your reservations in early and be prepared for a new experience!



2010-2011 NARRC Officers and Board: Seated L to R: Marion Weers (MI); Bud Weiss (CO); Sandra Tenorio (TX). Standing L to R: Walt Anseth (MT); Tony Minicozzi (AR); Ken Dalsted (ND); Larry Mack (FL); Bill Stanley (SC); and Vernon Eagan (AR).

Report of 2010 Annual Meeting—Olive Branch, MS—By Vernon Eagan

Meeting Program: The 39th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was held on September 27-29, 2010, in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Official welcomes were given by **President Sandra Tenorio** and by **John Teel** with the Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. Flag ceremony was presented by the **Honor Guard from the Desoto County National Guard Unit 1687 Transportation Company**. The invocation was delivered by **Reverend Clarence Sparks**, friend and neighbor of Elvis Presley.

The General Session was called to order by **President Tenorio** and followed by **Secy/Treas Eagan** conducting the official roll call. Twenty states were represented. A moment of silent prayer was offered in remembrance and on behalf of the families of John Garrett and L. G. Rambo (AL) and Doctor Gaither Johnston, M.D. (AR).

Marion Weers (MI) served as NARRC's official conference photographer.

Michael Sullivan, SED, Farm Service Agency, gave a presentation on the agricultural industry in Mississippi: addressed the Youth Loan Program to aid young farmers, efforts in converting woody-biomass material to ethanol/energy, and agricultural leadership in leading the nation out of recession through exporting of agricultural products.

Cartoonist **Marshall Ramsey** displayed and spoke about his various editorial cartoons and his illustrations in children's books: focusing on the effectiveness of editorial cartoons in telling a story in a palatable way to impact public awareness of issues or situations.

Bricklee Miller, Director of Mississippi Horse Park, gave a slide presentation about the MS Horse Park and its economical impact on Mississippi—the Park is connected with MSU.

Stacy Pickering, Mississippi state auditor, was the delegate luncheon speaker: stressed the importance of keeping our mission and purpose in the forefront for ultimate success.

Following lunch, **Dr. James Watson**, D.V.M., addressed animal disease control, regulatory, and emergency management: emphasized how animal issues affect and/or threaten food supplies.

Kevin Nelms, USDA Area Wildlife Biologist, spoke about the black bear and "Legends of Mississippi Bear Hunting."

Taylor Webb, Communications Director of Catfish Farmers of America, addressed the problems associated with catfish production in southern states. He talked about foreign food imports, the regulatory inequality compared to the USDA safety regulations, and the impact of cost and health related issues. He noted that "aqua culture is one of the fastest growing aspects of agriculture."

Dr. Larry Walker, Director of the National Center for Natural Products Research (NCNPR) and pharmacology professor at the University of Mississippi, spoke about the Center's work. He addressed the Center's research findings on plants with medicinal and nutritional value to improve human health. His presentation concluded the day's session.

The President's Awards Dinner was the setting for an award presentation. **President Tenorio** gave an award plaque to Past President Kim Porter for her "superb" leadership as 2008-2009 NARRC president. Entertainment was by **Clyde Ray Webber, Jr.**, humorist, who offered his reflections on a lifetime of experience and observations about what makes the "world go 'round."

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for an agricultural tour: "Pride of the Pond" Fish Plant, cotton farming, soybean farming, the Tunica River Park, and the Town of Tunica Museum.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday morning. **Vice President Sandra Tenorio** served as moderator for the panel discussion on "Leveraging Your Dollars through Partnerships." Panelist included **Wes Harris** (South Carolina), **Don Jacka** (Kansas), and **Mike Hinton** (Washington, D.C.). Wes and Don addressed the impetus for their respective programs and the steps involved to implement. Mike related how the USDA-FSA can help to facilitate the state's programs.

Annual Business Meeting: **President Tenorio** called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. A quorum was established.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held September 23, 2009, were distributed, and upon motion by Bill Stanley/Ann Portis, 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, 2009, to August 31, 2010, were distributed. **Secretary/Treasurer Eagan** expanded on the report. **Chairman Jim Tessmer** presented a report of the Audit Committee's review and findings of the Secretary/Treasurer records. The committee recommended, as suggested by Eagan, that the two NARRC checking accounts be merged—namely, the NARRC "money market account" to be closed and merged into the "regular checking account." Upon motion by Jim Tessmer/Tony Minicozzi, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report as presented.

Website Report: **Jeannie Eagan**, committee member, reported that Seth Willenberg of the Texas Rural Communities, Inc. is serving as the NARRC website manager. Eagan also advised that the committee is recommending that we look into making the site more user friendly and to meet any changing needs of NARRC. If so, some cost may be involved and will be presented to the NARRC board for approval.

2011 Annual Meeting: **Steve Gallagher** (AK) gave an update on Alaska Rural Rehab's plans to host the 2011 annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, on July 17-20, 2011. He advised they have contracted with the Alaska Sheraton Hotel. He gave a detailed report on what is being planned and about the agricultural tours on Tuesday. An optional tour on Saturday, July 16th, is being planned. Informational packets were distributed. Steve advised that the conference information can also be accessed by clicking on the Alaska Rural Rehab Corporation's website at www.arcc.us/narrc.

(Report of 2010 Annual Meeting cont'd)

2012 Annual Meeting: President Tenorio gave an invitation for Texas to host the 2012 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in mid-September, 2012. Upon motion by Don Jacka/Terese Berg, the delegates approved this site and tentative time frame for the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chairman David Skinner presented the following slate of officers for 2010-2011: President—Bud Weiss (CO); Vice President—Larry Mack (FL); Past President—Sandra Tenorio (TX); and two, two-year term directors—Ken Dalsted (ND) and Tony Minicozzi (AR).

(Directors Walt Anseth (MT); Marion Weers (MI) and Bill Stanley (SC) each have one year remaining on their elected terms. Also,

the reappointment of Vernon Eagan as Secretary/Treasurer is to be officially announced at the Board Meeting immediately following; thus he is not listed here.)

There being no further nominations and upon motion by David Skinner/Tony Stafford, the delegates voted to elect this slate of officers by acclamation.

Past President Tenorio commended the Mississippi delegation for an excellent meeting. She advised that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business, the 39th Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.



Photos at Mid-Year Planning Meeting in Anchorage: Host Steve Gallagher, Manager, Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation; Sandra Tenorio, 2010 NARRC President; and Bud Weiss, 2011 NARRC President, during their tour of sites which our group will visit in July, 2011. At right is Sandra's photo of caribou also taken during this tour with Steve and Bud.



Photos at NARRC's 39th Annual Meeting in Olive Branch, Mississippi: Seated at left is Dale Blumanhourst of South Dakota and Steve Gallagher of Alaska during the President's Award Banquet. Pictured at right are members of the Texas delegation during the President's Reception: TRC Board Chair Sylvia Hatton, Ronnie Hatton, Sandra Tenorio, and John and Nina Ojeda.

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REMINDERS

- **Annual Dues Notices have been mailed and are due upon receipt.**
- **New Program Recognition (NPR) Award: form included with newsletter; or send email request to egvnljj@swbell.net.**

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June 2011 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

2011

July 17-20, 2011

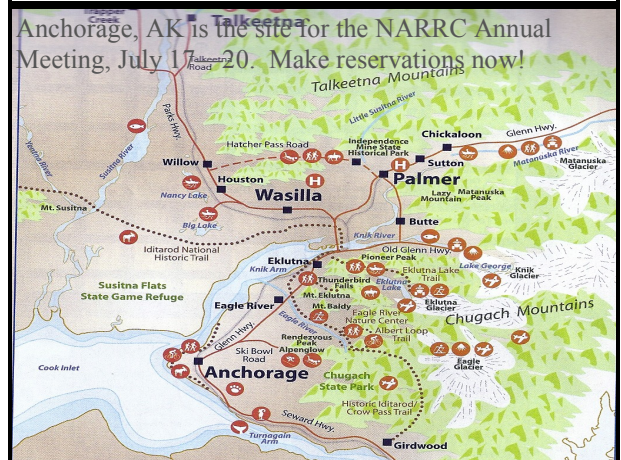
**Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa
Anchorage, Alaska
(www.sheratonanchoragehotel.com)**

Host: Steve Gallagher

2012

San Antonio, Texas

Host: Sandra Tenorio



USDA Liaison for Rural Rehab Funds, Mike Hinton in the center with Kansas delegates Thayne Larson and Don Jacka.

Website Committee:

Lee Boyer (MT), Chair
David Skinner (GA)
Jeannie Eagan

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.