

REPORTS



January 2012

President's Message—By Larry Mack



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as president of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC). You have also elected a board of directors who bring years of individual talent and expertise to each meeting. We all want to thank Bud Weiss for his dedicated service last year to NARRC as president.

Wow! Did you think Alaska would be that magnificent? Steve Gallagher and the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation board and staff deserve a big “Thank You” for a tremendous 2011 conference. What a showcase of your state’s unique agricultural enterprises, an informative variety of speakers as well as out-of-this-world scenery. It was a great place to network with people from the other states and to discuss programs that are helping rural individuals meet the challenges of their world.

Sandra Tenorio and the Texas Rural Communities, Inc. team are planning a 2012 conference in San Antonio that you will not want to miss. The NARRC officers and board will meet there in March for the mid-year planning meeting. Mark the dates, September 16-19, 2012, on your calendar for our 41st Annual Meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.



Clockwise: John Trotman and Dora Haas watching a simulated sled-dog ride at the Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla. A view of Portage Glacier and another view of the glacier with Marion and Steve Weers.



What an experience! A tour of the **Reindeer Farm** and other types of farming in the Mat-Su Valley area.

2011-2012 NARRC Board — (L to R): Marion Weers, Larry Mack, Bud Weiss. Vernon Eagan, Tony Minicozzi, Ken Dalsted, and Steve Gallagher. Photo Insets: Jeff Ward (top) and Roberta Valdez (bottom).

Report of 2011 Annual Meeting—Anchorage, AK—By Vernon Eagan

Meeting Program: The 40th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was held on July 17-20, 2011, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Official welcomes were given by **President Weiss**, **The Honorable Dan Sullivan**, mayor of Anchorage and a fourth generation Alaskan; and **The Honorable Larry DeVilbiss**, mayor of the Mat-Su Borough and whose father homesteaded their farm under the Federal Homestead Act in 1956. Flag ceremony was presented by the **Honor Guard from Richardson Army National Guard**, and the pledge of allegiance was led by Kansas delegate and Ret. MG **Don Jacka**. The invocation was delivered by **Roald Lund**, North Dakota Rural Rehab Corporation board member and NARRC delegate.

The General Session was called to order by **President Weiss** and followed by **Secy/Treas Eagan** conducting the official roll call. Seventeen states were represented. A moment of silent prayer was offered in remembrance and on behalf of the families of Wallace McCormick of Florida; Doris Jean McFerren (wife of Sewell McFerren of Kansas); and John Trotman, Jr. (son of John Trotman of Alabama).

Marion Weers served as the official conference photographer.

A panel of representatives from three NARRC member states shared in depth about their respective state's real estate programs and the staffing required to administer these funds. The panelist included: **Jerry Pursley**, board member of the Colorado Rural Rehab Corporation; **David Skinner**, executive director of the Georgia Development Authority; and **Jim Tessmer**, general manager of the North Dakota Rural Rehab Corporation. A question and answer session concluded the discussion. **Vice President Larry Mack** served as moderator.

Host **Steve Gallagher** gave a slide presentation of Alaska and Alaska Rural Rehab Corporation's (ARRC) history. Steve shared the harsh realities and challenges of living in Alaska with less than 5% of their produce being locally grown and their dependency on the lower 48 for food import supplements.

Following lunch, Alaska Sales Manager **Paul Friese** with Lynden Transport spoke about Lynden's start of hauling to Alaska beginning in 1954 on the newly completed Alcan Highway. Their services have since been expanded to include truckload (TL) and less-than-truckload (LTL) freight service via motor-water-motor routes using barges, Alaska state ferries, and motor vessels as underlying carriers on marine highways. They are the premier transport carrier in Alaska.

Chena Hot Springs Resort proprietor **Bernie Karl** spoke about his family's development of geothermal resources at Chena Hot Springs, located at Fairbanks. Working with United Technologies and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Karl's built the furthest north year-round production greenhouse in the world—producing lettuce, tomatoes, and various other crops. They continue to “think outside the box” to discover new ways to face the growing needs for energy and food in an uncertain world.

The President's Awards Dinner was the setting for two award presentations. Mississippi delegate **Harold Gary** gave the invocation. **President Weiss** recognized **Past President Sandra Tenorio** with a plaque for her “superb” leadership as 2009-2010 NARRC president. An award plaque was also presented to **Linda Stover** in recognition of two new innovative programs begun by the New Mexico Rural Rehab Corporation. Musical entertainment was provided by members of the local **Ken Peltier Band**.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for an agricultural tour: 1) the Alaska Reindeer Farm providing tasting samples of reindeer, elk, and moose; 2) the Musk Ox Farm providing a display of goods knitted from the fine musk ox wool; 3) lunch at the Palmer Depot with the colonists; and 4) the Iditarod Trail Headquarters located at Wasilla where some of our delegates and guests experienced an unexpected photography opportunity and chat with Sarah Palin during her routine jogging outing.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday morning. **Linda Stover** explained the details of New Mexico's two new programs that were recently implemented.

Patricia Worrell, a one-time public school teacher and an ARRC's borrower, gave a picturesque presentation about their farming operation, how she came to Alaska, married and stayed. She shared the challenges and joys of their Alaska farm operations.

Iditarod champion and cancer survivor **Lance Mackey** kept the attention of delegates and guests with his inspiring, transparent personal journey. Born and raised in Alaska, Lance told how he finally dealt with his personal struggles and health-related challenges of throat cancer prior to his first try at the Iditarod with a feeding tube still in place in his stomach. He autographed copies of his book, *The Lance Mackey Story*, at the conclusion of his presentation.

Annual Business Meeting: **President Weiss** called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The business session was recessed and reconvened at various times to accommodate the schedule of Wednesday's presenters and guest speakers.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held September 29, 2010, were distributed, and upon motion by **John Woeste/Roald Lund**, 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, 2010, to July 1, 2011, were distributed. **Secy/Treas Eagan** expanded on the report. **Chairman Lou Ciarkowski** presented a report of the Audit Committee's review and findings of the Secretary/Treasurer records. The records were found to be in order on all counts. Upon motion by **Harold Gary/Linda Stover**, 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. continues to serve as the NARRC website manager. Also, no changes to the format of the website are needed or planned at this time.

(Report of 2011 Annual Meeting cont'd)

2012 Annual Meeting: Past President Tenorio had meeting brochures available for those still needing a copy. *(This information was distributed on Monday evening during the President's Awards Banquet.)* The meeting will be hosted by Texas in San Antonio, on September 16-19, 2012, at The Hotel Contessa.

2013 Annual Meeting: Secy/Treas Eagan presented Iowa's invitation to host the 2013 NARRC Annual Meeting. Eagan explained Iowa's desire to combine portions of NARRC's Annual Meeting with that of the National Council of Ag and Finance Program's annual meeting. Some NARRC member states are members of both organizations. Guest speakers and agricultural tours would be combined. Upon motion by John Stencel/Bill Stanley, the delegate body unanimously ratified the board's unanimous vote recommending we accept the proposed invitation by Jeff Ward on behalf of the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority to host the 2013 NARRC Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 11-14, 2013, at the downtown Renaissance Savery Hotel.

2014 Annual Meeting: David Skinner gave an invitation to host the 2014 NARRC Annual Meeting, to be held tentatively in Savannah, Georgia. An exact date has not yet been established. Upon motion by Ann Portis/Marion Weers, the delegate body unanimously voted to accept Georgia Development Authority's invitation to host the 2014 NARRC Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Sonny Roberts presented the following 2011-2012 slate of officers:

- President — Larry Mack (Florida)**
- Vice President — Marion Weers (Michigan)**
- Past President — Bud Weiss (Colorado)**
- Director — Steve Gallagher (Alaska) two-year term**
- Director — Roberta Valdez (Utah) two-year term**
- Director — Jeff Ward (Iowa) two-year term**

(Directors Ken Dalsted (ND) and Tony Minicozzi (AR) each have one year remaining on their elected terms. Also, the reappointment of Vernon Eagan as Secretary/Treasurer to be officially announced at the Board Meeting immediately following; therefore, he is not listed here.)

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

Past President Weiss commended the Alaska delegation for an outstanding meeting. He advised that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business, the 40th Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



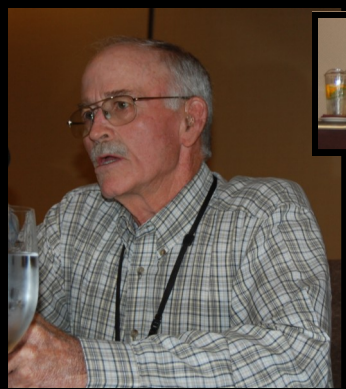
Clockwise: Auctioneer Tony Minicozzi with NARRC fundraiser winner Horace Horn. President Weiss presenting a Past President's Award to Sandra Tenorio. Montana's Walt and Becky Anseth at the President's Awards Banquet. Speaker Paul Friese of Lynden Transport during Monday's session.



Idditarod champion and cancer survivor Lance Mackey visiting with guest Shawn Cousino and delegates prior to speaking to the NARRC delegation.



Steve and Tasha, host and hostess of our 2011 meeting.



Above L to R: Panelists Jim Tessmer, David Skinner and Jerry Pursley discuss in detail the workings of their respective state's real estate program. Left: Jerry Pursley. Not pictured is moderator Larry Mack.

2011-2012 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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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 an email request to egnljj@swbell.net.

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June 2012 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: egnljj@swbell.net.

Future NARRC Annual Conferences

2012

September 16-19, 2012
Hotel Contessa
San Antonio, Texas
(www.thehotelcontessa.com)
Host: Sandra Tenorio

2013

August 11-14, 2013
Renaissance Savery Hotel
(www.renaissancesavery.com)
Des Moines, Iowa
Host: Jeff Ward

2014

(Exact date pending)
Savannah, Georgia (tentative location)

In Remembrance

Long-time Michigan board member **Joa Penzien**, passed away on September 12, 2011 at the age of 97. He is survived by his wife, Bea. Joa was an active NARRC member for many years—serving on NARRC's board in 1983. He was known as Macomb's legendary "Mr. Potato."

Alabama board member Homer Lewis' wife, **Eloise**, passed away on November 1, 2011. They were married almost 70 years. Eloise enjoyed attending NARRC meetings with Homer Neal.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Mrs. Penzien and to Homer Lewis and his family in the loss of their loved ones.

Website Committee:

Walt Anseth (MT), Chair
David Skinner (GA)
Jeannie Eagan

www.ruralrehab.org

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.