



June 2010

## President's Message—By Sandra Tenorio



I hope everyone is making plans to attend the **Annual NARRC Conference in Olive Branch, Mississippi, on September 26-29, 2010.** The Mississippi group is working hard to plan an excellent conference. An optional pre-conference day is being planned, so please let John Teel know if your

members plan on attending.

Our National Conferences are always an opportunity to meet and exchange great ideas. This year we expect a panel discussion to include how some states are leveraging their resources through partnerships. With today's economy, we could all benefit from a little leveraging, and I am looking forward to that panel discussion.

The September meeting will also be an opportunity for you to meet our new USDA Liaison—Mike Hinton. Mr. Hinton was recently assigned to take over the position of liaison and attended the mid-year planning meeting in Olive Branch, Mississippi. He plans to attend the September meeting, so it will be an opportunity for everyone to get to know him.

Finally, I want to thank Jeannie and Vernon Eagan for all of their work. While on an extended leave these last couple of months—the Eagans make sure that things keep moving, and I don't know what we would do without them! Thank you Eagans!

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### MISSISSIPPI WELCOMES YOU! September 26-29, 2010

The Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation is looking forward to everyone coming to Olive Branch, Mississippi, for our 39th Annual Meeting. We are planning a program, that we feel, will be of interest to you for the entire day and also throughout the evenings.

We will be sending you registration information in July for this annual “get together.” An optional sight-seeing trip is also being planned for Saturday, September 25th, in the Memphis area—including a boat ride down the Mississippi River, Elvis Presley's place, plus a tour of the famous Beale Street. Make plans to come early and enjoy our southern hospitality—Mississippi style.

John Teel  
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**Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Olive Branch, Mississippi**  
*(Site of the 2010 NARRC Annual Meeting)*

## Report of 2010 Mid-Year Planning Meeting—Olive Branch, MS—By Vernon Eagan

**Call to Order:** The mid-year planning meeting of the 2009-2010 Board of Directors was called to order by President Sandra Tenorio on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 9:05 a.m., in the Boardroom of the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, in Olive Branch, Mississippi. A quorum was established. Also present were Mike Hinton (Washington, D.C.), John Teel and Harold Gary (MS), and Jeannie Eagan.

**Invocation and Opening Remarks:** The invocation was given by Vice President Weiss. President Tenorio expressed appreciation to the board for their commitment to NARRC and to the Mississippi delegation for their hard work in hosting the upcoming conference.

President Tenorio introduced Acting Director Mike Hinton of Washington, D.C. Mr. Hinton shared his background with the USDA and his future role with the rural rehabilitation programs. The board members exchanged introductions informing Mr. Hinton of their respective state's rural rehab program.

**Minutes and Reports:** Upon motion by Weiss/Mack, the Board approved the minutes of the Pre-Conference Board Meeting held September 20, 2009.

Upon motion by Weiss/Mack, the Board approved the minutes of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held September 23, 2009.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was given by Jeannie Eagan.

The financial report was given by Secy/Treas Vernon Eagan. Upon motion by Jacka/Stamley, the Board approved the report as presented and will be filed for audit.

The Website Committee reported that Seth Willenberg of the Texas Rural Communities office will serve as NARRC's website manager for updating the site at no cost to NARRC. All areas of the website are current and up to date.

**2010 Annual Meeting:** John Teel and Harold Gary advised that the 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on September 26-29, 2010, at the Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center, in Olive Branch, Mississippi, located about 25/30 minutes from Memphis International Airport. A tentative agenda was distributed indicating meetings on Monday and agricultural tours on Tuesday. Speaker topics include "Wild Life and Fisheries," "Catfish Industry in Mississippi," and "The National Center for Natural Products." Optional Saturday tours will be offered and will be included in the registration packet (Riverboat Cruise or Graceland Tour).

**2011 Annual Meeting:** A conference call was held with Steve Gallagher to give a report on the progress of the 2011 Annual Meeting to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, on July 17-20, 2011. Tentative arrangements will include an optional Saturday tour; meetings on Monday with an agricultural tour to the valley on Tuesday. A contract with the hotel will include Friday night through Wednesday night. Steve will ask for input from the delegates (at the Mississippi meeting) as to which Saturday optional tour they prefer so that any personal time can be scheduled around this optional activity. The Alaska Airlines offers a Visa card that has substantial savings for airfare and flies into several major airports.

The best time for a mid-year planning meeting was discussed. The board concluded that due to the expense involved, a small delegation would plan to go to Anchorage in early July or August, 2010, to help finalize plans for the annual meeting. The delegation could consist of Pres Tenorio, Vice Pres Bud Weiss, and Secy/Treas Vernon Eagan.

**2012 Annual Meeting:** Sandra advised that Texas wishes to host the annual meeting in 2012 (possibly in Galveston) and will give an invitation to the delegates in September, 2010.

**Unfinished Business:** A topic was selected for the panel discussion to be held on Wednesday (September 29<sup>th</sup>) prior to the 2010 Annual Business Meeting. The topic will be, "Leveraging Your Dollars Through Partnerships" and will include: Don Jacka (KS), Mike Hinton (or a representative from his office), and Wes Harris (SC).

**New Business:** A discussion was held regarding the format of USDA Form 1. The board discussed potential interpretations of administrative and program costs and how they may affect different states. President Tenorio appointed a subcommittee to study the feasibility of addressing the format of USDA Form 1. Don Jacka (KS) will serve as the chair. Other subcommittee members will include David Skinner (GA), Sonny Roberts (FL), and Wes Harris (SC). They will be prepared to make any recommendations to the NARRC delegate body at the 2010 Annual Business Meeting in September.

**Nominating Committee:** President Tenorio advised that she will appoint David Skinner to chair the nominating committee.

**Audit Committee:** President Tenorio advised that she will appoint Jim Tessmer (ND) to chair the audit committee.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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## 2009 NEW PROGRAM RECOGNITION AWARD

**Congratulations to Kansas** for developing a “New and Successful Innovative Program” and 2009 recipient of the NPR Award.

The Kansas Homestead Rehabilitation Corporation’s new program is entitled, “FSA ‘BRIDGE’ Funding.”

The KHRC maintains Memorandums of Understanding with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) which provide for KHRC to participate with FSA in the funding of Landownership loans. Under these agreements, KHRC funds approximately half of the loan amount and is granted first mortgage. FSA funds the remainder of the loan and takes second mortgage. This year, in Kansas, the FSA of the USDA was short on funds for making loans to Kansas farmers for the purchase of farmland. This affected the ability of Kansans, young and old, beginning and ongoing operations, in securing the necessary government loans to purchase Real Estate.

Since all of the landownership loans made by KHRC are made in accordance with Memorandums of Understanding with FSA, we were restricted from making any landownership loans when there was no federal funding available. In February, at a meeting of all the FSA Farm Loan Officers in Kansas, we made a pitch to institute this BRIDGE Loan Program.

Basically, KHRC would fund the entire amount of the loans which were approved by FSDA. The Borrower would be provided with two mortgages and notes (one each for the KHRC and one for the FSA loans) and would be expected to make payments on both notes to KHRC. Once federal funding is approved by Congress and provided to the State, FSA will establish a new loan with the borrower, draft their own Mortgage and Note and use the proceeds of their loan to pay off the FSA portion of the Mortgage Note held by KHRC. KHRC would, in turn, release the satisfied mortgages (FSA portion)

and maintain their portion of the loan in first mortgage position, with a second mortgage by FSA.

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**If your state has started a New Program, make application for this award. Your idea may work great in another state. Share your success story benefiting rural America.**



Above: Mike Hinton of USDA, Washington D.C.; Don and Jan Jacka of Kansas; and President Sandra Tenorio of Texas in the background.



Above: Fishery tour guide with Directors Bill Stanley (SC) and Larry Mack (FL) at the site of one of our agricultural tours scheduled for September.



Left: Vice President Bud Weiss (CO) with Mississippi hosts Peggy and John Teel in the lobby of the Whispering Woods Hotel.

## 2009-2010 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2010

**September 26-29, 2010**

**Whispering Woods Hotel—Olive Branch,  
Mississippi ([www.wwconferencecenter.com](http://www.wwconferencecenter.com))**

**Host: John Teel**

### 2011

**July 17-20, 2011**

**Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**([www.sheratonanchoragehotel.com](http://www.sheratonanchoragehotel.com))**

**Host: Steve Gallagher**

## REMINDER

**Submit your New Program Recognition  
(NPR) entry form by July 15, 2010.  
(Form included with newsletter or may be  
obtained by email request to  
[egnavljj@swbell.net](mailto:egnavljj@swbell.net).)**



President Sandra Tenorio (right) with Mississippi program coordinator, Peggy Epperson. (Peggy is the daughter of the late Bob Swofford who served on the MRRC Board.)

### **2010 Audit Committee:**

Jim Tessmer (ND), Chair  
Lou Ciarkowski (MI)  
Tony Minicozzi (AR)

### **2010 Nominating Committee:**

David Skinner (GA), Chair  
Sonny Roberts (FL)  
Tony Stafford (MO)

### **Website Committee:**

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

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January 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: [egnavljj@swbell.net](mailto:egnavljj@swbell.net).*

## **Rural Rehabilitation REPORTS**

Vernon and Jeannie Eagan, Editor  
Additional copies of this newsletter are available.  
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