



May 2011

President's Message—By Bud Weiss



“NORTH TO ALASKA” is the title of a song by Johnny Horton and a 1960’s movie. I think it would be more than fitting that “North to Alaska” be our theme for this year’s National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (NARRC) Conference in Alaska. The state of Alaska is the last frontier of our great nation, and in many respects its

vastness offers one a feeling of solitude and challenge.

In keeping with Steve Gallagher’s suggestion to dress business casual for the entire conference, including the Monday night banquet, I am encouraging a “suitless and tieless” conference for the gentlemen. The ladies get a pass on their dress wardrobe. A business casual attire is more compatible with the ruggedness of Alaska than suits and ties.

This past year, there have been several television programs that have depicted the history and exploration of Alaska. These programs leave one with the urge to be a part of the action. For some of the attendees and guests, this will be their first trip up north. Hopefully, all will return home with many happy memories of the conference and what Alaska has to offer. Do not forget your cameras and binoculars. Who knows what wild life you may see, along with the spectacular scenery! Also, “keep smiling,” as our “official photographer” Marion Weers will be taking pictures throughout our conference.

The number of registrations for our conference has been a pleasant surprise. Our host, Steve Gallagher, his staff and the Board of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, (ARRC), have put in many hours working with the Sheraton Hotel to get rooms for everyone as well as fine tuning the whole program for the conference. Considerable work has gone into planning the pre-conference tour that will provide us with a broad scope of interests – from a wildlife exhibit to an

active glacier and an old-time gold mine operation where one can do their own gold panning. The tour on Tuesday will acquaint us with the musk-ox and reindeer of Alaska.

Over the past months, there has been a flicker of improvement in our overall economy. Hopefully, this is a good sign that rural America is on an upturn. Agriculture commodity prices in many areas are up, especially livestock and field crops. Several states, having lost their federal student loan guarantee program, are pursuing loan programs in other fields. New programs, and the ingenuity that goes with them, are and have been a positive trait of each state’s activities. There is a bright side with the recession recovery as the need for our programs should be more in demand. The history of our nation reflects that agriculture and rural America have been the fiber of our country. Keep up the good work, and as Mad Jack Hanks of Wellington, Colorado, says at the conclusion of his farm articles, “Check yer cinch on occasion, and I’ll c ya’ll,” in Alaska.

ALASKA WEATHER REMINDER

Alaska’s inclement weather can be rather chilling to some of us in the lower 48, especially those from the south. Therefore, you may want to pack some of the following items in your luggage:

- **Cap and/or warm scarf**
- **Gloves or mittens**
- **Poncho or hooded rain jacket**
- **Jacket and/or sweater**
- **Clothes for dressing in layers**

Report of 2011 Mid-Year Planning Meeting—Teleconference Call—By Vernon Eagan

Call to Order: The Mid-Year Planning Meeting of the 2010-2011 Board of Directors was called to order by President Bud Weiss on Thursday, April 21, 2011, at 12:05 p.m. CST, via a teleconference call. A quorum was established. Also present on the call were Steve Gallagher (AK), Jeff Ward (IA), and Jeannie Eagan.

Opening Remarks: President Weiss expressed appreciation to the board for their commitment to NARRC and to Past President Tenorio for setting up the conference call in lieu of the usual on-site meeting. *(The on-site portion of the 2011 Mid-Year Planning Meeting was attended by Sandra Tenorio and Bud Weiss in August, 2010.)* President Weiss advised that the teleconference call would be a NARRC expense.

Minutes and Reports: Upon motion by Mack/Stanley, the Board approved the minutes—as previously distributed—of both the Pre-Conference Board Meeting on September 26, 2010 and of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held September 29, 2010.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was distributed prior to the conference call.

The financial report—distributed prior to the conference call—was expanded upon by Secy/Treas Vernon Eagan. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

The Website Committee reported the consensus is that no changes will be made to the NARRC website at this time unless member states request to do so. It appears the site is serving its intended purpose. All areas of the website are current and up to date.

2011 Annual Meeting: Steve Gallagher gave a detailed report on the progress of the 2011 Annual Meeting to be held in Anchorage, Alaska, on July 17-20, 2011. The optional tour on Saturday will include: Crow Creek Mine, Portage Glacier, and AK Wildlife Center. Monday's schedule will involve a panel discussion by NARRC member states and speaker presentations, along with guest activities. Tuesday will be dedicated to agricultural tours. The attire for the duration of the entire meeting will be business casual. Steve reported a total of 132 signed up for the conference, with 119 indicating an interest for the optional Saturday tour.

2012 Annual Meeting: Sandra Tenorio advised that the date for the 2012 Annual Meeting will be September 16-19, 2012, with an optional tour on Saturday, September 15th. A contract has been signed with Hotel Contessa located on the riverwalk at a room rate of \$129.00 per night. In addition, March 26-28, 2012, has been established as the date for the

2012 Mid-Year Planning Meeting and BOD's Meeting. The usual program agenda is planned for the conference: an optional Saturday tour, Sunday President's Reception, panel discussion and speaker presentations on Monday, agricultural tours on Tuesday, and the Business Meeting on Wednesday.

2013 Annual Meeting: Jeff Ward of Iowa expressed Iowa's interest in hosting the NARRC Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, on a tentative date of August 11-14, 2013, with an optional tour on Saturday, August 10th. Hosting the meeting in August would provide a better opportunity for agricultural tours and for the renown Iowa State Fair (August 8-18, 2013). Secy/Treas Eagan will send an email to the states and ask for input as to any adverse impact on their attendance with the August time frame as opposed to the latter part of September—a response to be requested by July 1, 2011. A hotel in the downtown area will be considered for the meeting site to provide the best access to optional dining opportunities and other places of interest without the need for a rental car.

Under consideration and to be discussed further by the NARRC board and delegate body, is a proposal to study the feasibility of combining portions of the National Council of State Ag Finance Programs annual meeting with our NARRC annual meeting. Jeff Ward is the current president of this National Council.

(Rationale: Some of our NARRC member states are also members of this National Council organization and attend its annual meetings. By combining portions of these two annual meetings, it would help these states with their annual meeting expenses and also provide other non-participating NARRC member states the opportunity for new learning experiences.)

Upon motion by Mack/Anseth, the Board approved a recommendation to the delegate body that we accept the proposed invitation by Jeff Ward on behalf of the state of Iowa to host the 2013 Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, on a tentative date of August 11-14, 2013.

(Rationale: Iowa is unable to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting in Alaska to deliver a formal invitation to host the 2013 Annual Meeting. In their absence, Iowa has requested that the NARRC Board present the invitation for them—thus enabling Iowa to begin making preparations.)

Unfinished Business: Director Stanley reported that a panel discussion (North Dakota, Georgia, and Colorado) will be the first program item on Monday, July 18, 2011, during the delegate meeting. Each member of the panel will discuss their state's successful program(s) from the initial processing to servicing of loans, their use, terms, and conditions.

Report of 2011 Mid-Year Planning Meeting (cont'd)

New Business: President Weiss advised of the appointments for the nominating committee and audit committee.

Nominating Committee: Sonny Roberts (FL), Chairperson; Harold Gary (MS); and Kim Porter (WY).

Audit Committee: Lou Ciarkowski (MI), Chairperson; Chris Lackmann (NM); and Thayne Larson (KS).

Annual Meeting Questionnaire: A questionnaire drafted by Director Minicozzi and the board will be distributed at our annual meeting in Alaska. The purpose of the document is to enhance the quality of our NARRC annual meetings by providing a tool for delegates to offer suggestions.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.



Colorado delegation at 2010 Annual Meeting, in Olive Branch, MS: *(Left to Right: Dick and Barb Lengel, Kenneth Miller, Clarice and Bud Weiss, and John Stencel.)*



Alaska scenery



Mississippi's beautiful hostesses collaborating : *Wanza Anderson, Jettie Gary, and Peggy Epperson.*



Honoring Kim Porter with a Past President's Award during President Tenorio's Awards Banquet in 2010.



On the 2010 agricultural tour admiring Mississippi's cotton crop: *Carmen Cousino (MI), Priscilla and Don Giffey (ND), Janet Johnson (MI), and Ken and Janet Wilke (KS).*

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2011 Nominating Committee

Sonny Roberts (FL), Chair
Harold Gary (MS)
Kim Porter (WY)

2011 Audit Committee

Lou Ciarkowski (MI), Chair
Chris Lackmann (NM)
Thayne Larson (KS)

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January 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: 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

September 16-19, 2012

**Hotel Contessa
San Antonio, Texas
(www.thehotelcontessa.com)
Host: Sandra Tenorio**

2013 (delegate approval pending)

August 11-14, 2013 (suggested date)

**Des Moines, IA
Host: Jeff Ward**



Mike Hinton, shown here with Jeannie Eagan, assistant secy/treas, in Olive Branch, MS, during the President's Awards Banquet.

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/
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