



January 2015

President's Message—By Steve Gallagher

From Alaska,

It is an honor to serve you as president of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations (NARRC) this year. I am very thankful to all for the prayers and thoughts for my family last year with the passing of my mother. Change happens if we are ready for it or not, in all aspects of our lives.

I understand the meeting was a great success in Savannah, Georgia. Much appreciation to Thomas Carter and the Georgia Development Authority for their attention to detail and putting on a tremendous conference.

Also a great thank you to Walt Anseth for his dedicated service last year to NARRC as president and to all board members for their service.

We look forward to the conference in Wyoming this year and learning more about the state and its agriculture. The board will have a preview in May. Please join us for the 44th annual NARRC conference **September 20-23, 2015** in Sheridan, Wyoming.



So I showed her this picture taken just behind the farm and suggested she not go too far out with the bacon grease. I expect something is going to happen. Remember, change happens if we are ready for it or not.

See you in Wyoming, Steve.

This picture is part of a farm that I purchased in Delta Junction, Alaska, in 2014. It was taken at 10:00 am in December with unseasonably warm temp of -15. I asked my wife when I was going to get my next Harley Davidson, and she said, "when you buy the farm." Bought the farm but still no Harley, so I am getting the impression that I was not quite understanding her correctly.

*Bottom Right Photo: 2014-2015 NARRC Board of Directors
Seated: Terese Berg (ND); Walt Anseth (MT); Terri LaBrie (SD).
Standing: William Stanley (SC); Harold Gary (MS); Louis Frost (FL); J. Lee Alley (AL); Jeannie and Vernon Eagan (AR). Not shown is Steve Gallagher (AK).*



Report of 2014 Annual Meeting—Savannah, GA—By Vernon Eagan

Meeting Program: The 43rd Annual Meeting of NARRC was called to order by **President Walt Anseth** on Monday, September 15, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., in the Scarborough Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Savannah, Georgia.

Presentation of colors was given by the **Effingham County High School FFA Chapter**. Chapter member **Annah Shearhouse** led delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by “The National Anthem” sung by chapter member Tara Babin. **President Anseth** delivered the invocation. Official welcomes were given by **President Anseth and Georgia Development Authority (GDA) host/moderator Thomas Carter**.

Secretary/Treasurer **Vernon Eagan** conducted the official roll call with 17 states represented. A moment of silent prayer was offered in remembrance and on behalf of the families of Steve Gallagher (AK) (Steve’s mother Rebecca Gallagher) and George Morgan (board member of Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation Corporation); our military troops and families; and our nation.

Marion Weers served as NARRC’s official conference photographer.

The Honorable Gary W. Black, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, greeted delegates and guests via video during the President’s Reception on Sunday evening prior to Monday’s opening session.

Vincent “Zippy” Duvall, Georgia Farm Bureau Federation president, addressed Georgia’s current agricultural situation, the leadership development in local communities; the ongoing support efforts of local farmers; and EPA’s impact on agriculture. He encouraged delegates to be passionate about their goals and emphasized, “Passion makes impossible possible; it is the first step to achieve a purpose, and . . . agri makes freedom possible.”

Chip Blalock, executive director of North America’s Premier Farm Show™, the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, spoke about this 37 year old, 501C3 organization and how it supports agriculture in the ten sun-belt states. The Expo is the largest outdoor farm show with field demonstrations in the world. Blalock explained the fast-paced schedule involved in the on-site tours of the Switcher Sweets judging competition. He discussed innovative aerospace in farming—unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV); backyard gardening; and production of organic heirloom vegetables. More information can be found on their website at www.sunbeltexpo.com.

Corey Tyre, 2013 Young Farm Family of the Year, gave a testimonial on the impact of Georgia Development Authority and how their program enabled him to pursue his passion for farming. Tyre is a fifth-generation farmer—the farm being in the family since 1878. Tyre noted that, “The key to sustain farming is to diversify.” Along with hay, he also produces

peanuts and corn on his 1,000 acre operation. He is diligent in finding ways to limit the cost of fuel; to cut back cost, and to identify new markets ensuring the success of his farm operation.

Beth Oleson serves as the director of education for the Georgia Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association. Oleson gave a power-point presentation on the dollar-per-acre income for various commodities and the associated work impacting the bottom line. In fruits, blueberries are number one in Georgia with an approximate \$1000 per acre; peaches (\$3,000 per acre); and watermelons (\$10,000 per acre). Bell peppers have an approximate \$15,000 per acre. Georgia is number one in the production of pecans with an estimated \$1,500 per acre. Oleson emphasized the value of diversity in farming.

Joseph P. Durham, Sr., president and CEO of J. Durham & Associates, Inc., (real estate brokerage and auction firm) addressed commodity prices and its affect on real estate value. Durham—recognized as a leading expert in the valuation and auction marketing of property—advised that, “Real estate value reflects commodity prices.” He noted the increase in land value: 1982 (\$800 per acre) versus 2014 (\$2,500). Also, irrigated land has a \$4,000 per acre value in Georgia.

To complete the delegates’ session, **Dr. John McKissick**, Ph.D., professor emeritus and distinguished agricultural marketing professor of the University of Georgia, addressed the forecast on issues affecting the general economy. He noted that, “This is the slowest post-recovery since WWII.”

The President’s Awards Banquet was the setting for three award presentations. Kansas delegate **Don Jacka** offered the invocation. President Anseth presented award plaques to Arkansas and Colorado for their New Program Recognition. **Tony Minicozzi and Bill Abernathy** accepted for Arkansas, and **Tate Rusk** accepted for Colorado. **Marion Weers** was presented a plaque as past president for her “Outstanding leadership to improve the quality of lifestyle of rural America.” Entertainment was by young artists, The Pace Brothers—Julian and Ethan, vocalists, songwriter, guitarist, fiddler, and bassist.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for a historical tour of Savannah, agricultural tours including Georgia Port Authority and JCB Equipment Company, and the Mighty Eight Museum of WWII.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. **David Laster**, Georgia farm loan officer, addressed the delegates on behalf of Washington, D.C., Liaison Mike Hinton who had a schedule conflict. Laster affirmed Hinton’s support of the states and of his availability to assist their efforts. David also encouraged delegates to contact him if he could be of any assistance.

Report of 2014 Annual Meeting cont'd)

Annual Business Meeting: President **Anseth** called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 8:12 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held August 14, 2013, in Des Moines, Iowa, were distributed, and upon motion by Harold Gary/Tony Minicozzi, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

Treasurer's Report/Audit Report: The Financial Statement for the period of July 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014, were distributed. Secy/Treas **Eagan** expanded on the report. Upon motion by Tony Stafford/Bud Weiss, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Audit Committee Chair **Larry Karns** 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 Roald Lund/William Fortier, the delegates approved the Audit Report as presented by Karns.

Website Committee Report: Committee member **Jeannie Eagan** advised the appointment of Steve Ferguson (IA) as a new member and that the website is current. She encouraged states to submit updates to their state-to-state awareness portion of the website.

2015 Annual Meeting Report: Cindy Garretson-Weibel (WY) briefed the delegates on plans for hosting the 2015 Annual Meeting in **Sheridan, Wyoming, at the Holiday Inn, on September 20-23, 2015.** Room rates will be \$92/night plus 10% tax. Plans are underway to begin with an optional tour on Sunday to Little Bighorn Battlefield (in Montana). The board and committee meetings will possibly convene on Saturday evening if needed due to time limitations.

Delegate session and guest tour will be held on Monday. Delegate session will include speakers addressing agriculture and rural development topics related to the western U.S. Guests will travel to Buffalo, Wyoming, and tour the historic Occidental Hotel. Tuesday will be dedicated to touring agricultural sites: Eaton's guest ranch, both a small and large agricultural sector, and King's Saddlery and Museum. Average September temperatures are 74 degrees high with lows of 42.

2016 Annual Meeting: Delegate **John Woeste** invited the NARRC delegates and guests to come to Florida for the 2016 annual meeting. The exact location and date has not yet been determined but will be announced as soon as that has been determined.

2017 Annual Meeting: Colorado Delegate and NARRC Board Member **Tate Rusk** advised that Colorado is committed to hosting in 2017. The exact location has not yet been determined but will be made soon.

Nominating Committee: Chair **Sandra Tenorio** presented the following 2014-2015 slate of officers:

President – Steve Gallagher (Alaska)
Vice President – William C. Stanley (South Carolina)
Past President – Walt Anseth (Montana)
Director – Louis Frost (Florida) two-year term
Director – Terri LaBrie (South Dakota) two-year term
(Directors J. Lee Alley (Alabama), Terese Berg (North Dakota), and Harold Gary (Mississippi) each have one year remaining on their elected terms.)

There being no further nominations and upon motion by Larry Mack/Horace Horn, the delegates voted unanimously to elect this slate of officers by acclamation.

On behalf of incoming President Steve Gallagher, Walt Anseth appointed Vernon and Jeannie Eagan as secretary/treasurer.

Anseth reminded the delegate body of the situation still confronting Steve Gallagher and the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation with regard to their Relending (Recapitalization) Program. Anseth encouraged any of the states who might be experiencing similar concerns to contact Steve to discuss possible solutions.

Past President **Anseth** advised that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business and upon motion by Steve Ferguson/Louis Frost, the delegates voted to adjourn the 43rd Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations at 8:41 a.m.



*Left: Texas board member **Dr. Gisela Saenz** and husband **Michael**.*



*Left: NARRC board member **Harold Gary (MS)** and daughter **Cathy Franck** who will be replacing her father on the MRRC board.*

We welcome the Saenz's and Cathy to NARRC.

2014-2015 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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REMINDERS

- **Dues Notices** have been mailed and are due upon receipt.
- **New Program Recognition (NPR) Award:** Form included with newsletter and/or request by email to Vernon Eagan.

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June, 2015, 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: egnvljj@swbell.net.

Future NARRC Annual Conferences

2015

September, 20-23, 2015—Sheridan, WY
Holiday Inn
1809 Sugarland Drive
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
307.672.8931
Host Contact : Cindy Garretson-Weibel
Email: cindy.weibel@wyo.gov

2016

Florida (*Date and location pending*)
Host Contact: Sonny Roberts, Exec. Dir.
Email: frrcinc@hotmail.com

2017

Colorado (*Date and location pending*)
Host Contact: Kenneth Miller, President
Email: bpicket@fusinsurance.com



Georgia host Donald Wilder at the JCB Equipment Company. Thomas Carter, their staff, wives, and board did an outstanding job. It was educational and Southern Hospitality at its finest!

Website Committee:

Stan Garbacz (NE), Chair
Steve Ferguson (IA)
Jeannie Eagan

www.ruralrehab.org

Rural Rehabilitation REPORTS

Vernon and Jeannie Eagan, Editor
Additional copies of newsletter are available. Please contact Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer, 4408 Dawson Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116, phone: 501.758.4723; or Email: egnvljj@swbell.net..