

# REPORTS



January 2016

## President's Message—By William C. Stanley



Greetings:

Here's hoping you had a Merry Christmas and that you have a Blessed and Happy New Year. I certainly want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for being allowed to serve as your president. We are grateful for this outstanding Board of Directors and appreciate their willingness to serve. I cannot say enough about the time and

effort Vernon and Jeannie give to this organization.

Also, we want to express our gratitude to Cindy Garretson-Weibel and her staff for the outstanding job in hosting the meeting in Sheridan. The meeting was truly informative and interesting. We surely wish Cindy well in her new assignment.

In April, we'll be in Tampa for our mid-year planning meeting and are looking forward to another great conference this fall. Florida is a great place to visit with so many interesting sites to see. So mark your calendar for September 24th-28th, 2016, in Tampa, Florida. Look forward to seeing you there.



*Left: Host **Cindy Garretson-Weibel** and The Honorable **Mark Gordon**, Mayor of Wyoming at the opening session.*

*Top L to R: Conference speakers high school senior **Samantha Hamilton** and fourth generation rancher **David Kane**.*

*Bottom: Delegates discuss issues and make new acquaintances during a break.*

*Seated are North Dakota delegates **Ken Dalsted**, **Lu Dunn**, and **Donald Giffey**. In the background are Washington D.C. Liaison **Russ Clanton** and Florida delegate **Larry Mack**.*

## Report of 2015 Annual Meeting—Sheridan, WY—By Vernon Eagan

**Meeting Program:** The 44th Annual Meeting of NARRC was called to order by **President William “Bill” Stanley** on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., in the Diamond/Sibley Rooms of the Holiday Inn Hotel, in Sheridan, Wyoming. **Mississippi Delegate and NARRC Board Member Harold Gary** delivered the invocation.

Presentation of colors was given by the **Sheridan College Veteran Students** followed with NARRC delegates and guests joining in singing “The National Anthem” and reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.” **Wyoming Host Cindy Garretson-Weibel** gave the official welcome.

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 Charles Hamm (KS); Tom Walker (SC); James T. Powell (AL); Wayne Barr (CO); Avis Giffey (ND); Richard Lengel (CO); George Pugh (AR); Sewell McFerran (KS); Cheryl Karns (KS); our military troops and families; and our nation.

**Kathy Colson (FL), Liz Weers (MI), and Pam Wessel (AR)** served as NARRC’s official conference photographers.

**The Honorable Mark Gordon, Wyoming State Treasurer** greeted delegates and addressed Wyoming’s economic situation. He noted that Wyoming is a commodity-economy driven state and the importance of support for the rural communities—i.e., the coal-lease bonus which provides improvement to the schools and Wyoming’s educational foundation. Agriculture serves to help keep the communities in tact.

**Wyoming Business Council host Scott Keith** introduced Sheridan High School senior **Samantha Hamilton**. She spoke about her experience with the first class of the Future Cattle Producers of Wyoming program. This project—with the gift of a Red Angus heifer from the Beckton Stock Farm—taught her the importance of time management and record keeping.

**USDA Liaison Mike Hinton** addressed the delegates regarding the scope of the Federal Service Agency’s (FSA) two main divisions: direct loan making and loan servicing. He noted they have 88,000 borrowers; however, 72% of farm land has no debt on it. Mike noted the importance of both large and small producer loans and the development of the micro lender program for the small producer that the Rural Rehabs and CDFI’s can be of assistance. It was noted that agriculture is coming back into urban areas, i.e., Philadelphia has the largest FFA Chapter. The new guaranteed Micro Loan (MCL) and partnership loan will benefit the state’s agriculture by providing operating or ownership loans and will entail less paper work and less time to implement. Mike introduced **Russ Clanton**—encouraging delegates to get to know Russ in order to facilitate a smooth transition.

**Philanthropic Panel:** A panel comprised of foundation trustees discussed the value and impact of philanthropy in

rural America. Panelists were **Ky Dixon**, trustee of the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation, and **Arin Waddell**, trustee of the Homer and Mildred Scott Foundation, and facilitated by **Jenny Craft**.

**Craft** advised that Sheridan is a generous community with 45 active foundations. **Dixon**, a county commissioner in her career, noted that the Watt Foundation’s owner set no term limits and the Foundation supports college scholarships, hospitals, and senior centers. **Waddell** noted that the Scott Foundation—established in 1983—focuses on the Sheridan YMCA; Sheridan College; Sheridan Senior Center; Habitat for Humanity; early childhood development programs; and the Tongue River Community Foundation (a sister to the YMCA). Income for these foundations is generated from investments. They stressed that everyone can be a philanthropist in their communities by the giving of smaller sums (such as \$1000) to foundations, i.e., the Wyoming Community Foundation or the Jackson Hole Community Foundation.

To complete the delegates’ session, **David Kane**, a fourth generation livestock producer, spoke about the challenges of “Ranching in the West.” Having been in operation for 133 years with 1200 mother cows—on two ranches—and summered on the Bighorn Mountain National Forrest lands, the Kane’s move and trail cattle by horse. He discussed the pros and cons of the state-land leases versus the federal-land leases. The Ranch hosts hunts for the “Wounded Warrior” program.

The President’s Awards Banquet was the setting for a past president’s award plaque by President Stanley to **Walt Anseth** for his “Outstanding leadership to improve the quality of life-style of rural America.” Alabama delegate **Ron Shumack** offered the invocation. Entertainment was by artists Dave Munsick Band.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for agricultural tours. **Becton Stock Farm**—formally established in 1954 with the founding of the Red Angus Association of America. **Cam Forbes** was ranch host.

**Eaton Ranch**—this 7,000 acre, 135 year-old dude/working cattle ranch is located on the slopes of the Bighorn Mountains. Freshly grilled burgers/trimmings provided delegates and guests a sampling of being a guest at this facility. Historian **Becky Youngblood** was host.

**Holliday Family Farms**—an organic based operation was hosted by **Brad Holliday**. Their philosophy is simply, “Raise the healthiest food possible while being good stewards of the land. This is not our land; we are only borrowing it from our children.”

**Annual Business Meeting:** **President Stanley** called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

## (Report of 2015 Annual Meeting cont'd)

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held September 17, 2014, in Savannah, Georgia, were distributed, and upon motion by John Stencel/Sonny Roberts, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report/Audit Report:** The Financial Statement for the period of September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015, were distributed. Secy/Treas **Eagan** expanded on the report. Upon motion by Don Jacka/Bud Weiss, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Audit Committee Chair **Kathy Colson** 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 Horace Horn/Lou Ciarkowski, the delegates approved the Audit Report as presented by Colson. Colson advised that the committee has made recommendations to the Finance Committee for consideration to strengthen the financial status.

**Website Committee Report:** Member **Jeannie Eagan** advised the website is current and encouraged states to submit updates to their state-to-state awareness portion of the website.

**2016 Annual Meeting:** Delegate **Sonny Roberts (FL)** invited the NARRC delegates and guests to come to Florida for the 2016 annual meeting. The meeting will be held on September 24-28, 2016, at the Hilton Tampa Airport West Shore, in Tampa, Florida. Room rates will be \$109.00 per night (single/double occupancy) with an additional 12% current tax rate (subject to change). This room rate will be honored for three days pre- and post-meeting dates, based on availability. Cut-off date for reservations at this rate is August 24, 2016. The hotel is conveniently located for delegates and guests to have self-guided tours. Shuttle service is available to and from the airport. Tentative speaker topics include: citrus, cattle, horticulture, and tropical fish. A tour of a phosphate plant is being considered for the agenda.

**2017 Annual Meeting:** Colorado Delegate **Tate Rusk** advised that CRRC is committed to hosting in 2017. The meeting will be held on September 17-20, 2017, at the Hilton Fort Collins, 425 W. Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, Colorado—located 55 miles from Denver. Room rates are \$139.00 per night.

**2018 Annual Meeting:** **President Stanley** advised that South Carolina will host in 2018 if no other state wishes to.

**President Stanley** invited **delegate John Woeste** to read the proposed "A Resolution of Appreciation" on behalf of Mike Hinton, USDA Liaison. The resolution read as follows:

"Upon the occasion of the 2015 annual meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations and the impending retirement of Mike Hinton, the membership of the NARRC commends and thanks Mike Hinton for his contribution to effective working relationships with the member state organizations and the positive spirit of cooperation he exhibited in his role as U.S.D.A. liaison officer.

Approved 23 September 2015 at the annual meeting in Sheridan." The document was officially signed by President William Stanley and Secretary/Treasurer Vernon Eagan.

Upon motion by John Woeste/Tony Minicozzi, the delegates unanimously adopted the resolution. A signed copy will be sent by Secy Eagan to Mike's superiors for his personnel file.

**Nominating Committee:** Chair **Don Jacka** presented the following 2015-2016 slate of officers:

**President — William C. Stanley (South Carolina)**  
**Vice President — Harold Gary (Mississippi)**  
**Past President — Walt Anseth (Montana)**  
**Director — Steve Ferguson (Iowa) two-year term**  
**Director — Horace Horn (Alabama) two-year term**  
**Director — G. W. Neal (Texas) two-year term**

*(Directors Louis Frost (FL) and Terri LaBrie (SD) each have one year remaining on their elected terms.)*

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

President **Stanley** appointed Vernon and Jeannie Eagan as secretary/treasurer. Upon motion by Tony Minicozzi/Steve Ferguson, the delegates voted unanimously their approval.

President **Stanley** commended Cindy Weibel and staff for an outstanding conference. He also expressed appreciation to the NARRC board for their dedication and commitment in serving this past year. He advised that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business and upon motion by Louis Frost/Bud Weiss, the delegates voted to adjourn the 44th Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations at 8:30 a.m.



*Eaton Ranch: Walt Anseth (MT) giving a roping lesson to guest (and a possible future NARRC delegate) Talan Sunderland, son of delegate Katie Sunderland (AK) — their first meeting.*

## 2015-2016 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, 2016, 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. Phone: 501.758.4723.

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2016

September, 24-28, 2016—Tampa, FL  
Hilton Tampa Airport West Shore Hotel  
2225 North Lois Avenue; Tampa, FL 33607  
PH: 813.877.6688  
Host Contact : Kathy Berry  
Email: frrcinc@hotmail.com

### 2017

September 17-20, 2017 — Fort Collins, CO  
Hilton Fort Collins Hotel  
425 W Prospect Rd; Fort Collins, CO 80526  
PH: 970.482.2626  
Host Contact: Kenneth Miller  
Email: bpicket@fusainsurance.com

### 2018

South Carolina (Date and location pending)  
Host Contact: William Stanley, President  
Email: scrrc1927@att.net



**2015-2016 Board of Directors** — Seated: **Bill Stanley, Terri LaBrie, Horace Horn.**

Standing: **Walt Anseth, Steve Ferguson, Louis Frost, Vernon Eagan.** (Not pictured are Harold Gary and G.W. Neal.)

### Website Committee:

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

[www.ruralrehab.org](http://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.