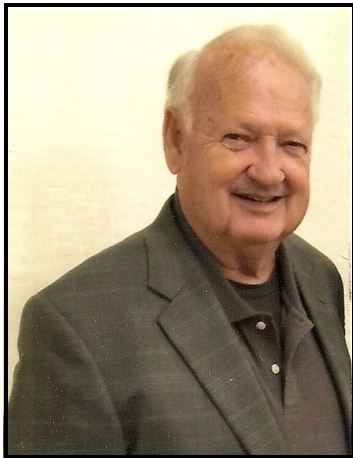




January 2017

President's Message—By Harold Gary



Happy New Year! I want to take this opportunity to wish each one of you happiness and success. I would like to congratulate our board and express my appreciation to each of you for allowing me to serve as your president.

The Florida delegation did an outstanding job in hosting our annual meeting. We appreciate the hospitality. One thing that stands out about Rural Rehabilitation is that we are more

than a corporation. We are family. We share common goals. We even share our families with each other.

Being a part of this organization has been an important part of my life, as I know it has yours too. Being able to help our fellow man is touching, whether it be with a real estate loan, a scholarship, or a grant, it is all the same.

This corporation would not be what it is without strong leadership and a broad vision to move forward. There are two people that we cannot thank enough for their hard work and guidance: Vernon and Jeannie. Also, a special thank you to William Stanley for leading our organization this past year.

As we move into a new year, I encourage you to pray for our organization—that we can continue to serve our fellow man. Also, pray for our country—that we may unite for a stronger future in a nation that will be united for all.

Again, thank you; and I am looking forward to seeing you at our annual meeting in beautiful Fort Collins, Colorado, on September 17-20, 2017.



Top: John Teel; Harold and Jetty Gary; Cathy Gary-Franck (MS); Russ and Megan Clanton (DC); Steve Ferguson (IA); Terri LaBrie (SD); and Bud and Clarice Weiss (CO).

Middle: Seated—Chris and Laurie Johnson; Lou and Linda Ciarkowski. Standing—Carmen and Shawn Cousino; William Martin (MI)

Bottom: Katie and Mike Crosby (SC); Jennifer Cavedo and Leslie Smith (VA).

WELCOME!

A great big welcome to some of NARRC's newest delegates and guests. We look forward to your being a vital part of this wonderful organization.

Report of 2016 Annual Meeting—Tampa, FL—By Vernon Eagan

Meeting Program: The 45th Annual Meeting of NARRC was called to order by **President William “Bill” Stanley** on Monday, September 26, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., in the Gasparilla Ballroom of the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, in Tampa, Florida. **Arkansas Delegate and NARRC Secretary/Treasurer Vernon Eagan** delivered the invocation.

Kansas Homestead Rehab Corp Executive Director and US Army MG (ret) Don Jacka led the delegates and guests in reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance.” **Florida Host Dr. John Woeste** 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 **George Pugh (AR); Sewell Macferran (KS); Cheryl Karns (KS); Bob Stover (NM); Jim Tessmer (ND);** our military troops and families; and our nation.

Kathy Colson (FL) and Pam Wessel (AR) served as NARRC’s official conference photographers.

Mike Joyner, Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Staff for Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, greeted delegates and addressed Florida’s agricultural challenges and positive impact. He noted pest disease and water quality standards as challenges for Florida agriculture. A positive impact has been converting oversight of the school lunch program from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture. Their focus is fresh fruit and vegetables for the school lunches. Florida agriculture helps to enhance our nation’s health.

Craig Watson, Director, Tropical Aquaculture Lab, for the University of Florida, spoke about “Ornamental Aquaculture, a Unique Florida History.” Tampa is located at the heart of the state’s ornamental aquaculture farms—in part due to temperature and the expedited transportation aspect required for tropical fish. He noted there are over 500 varieties of fish, with ornamental fish being the dominant category and requiring intensive care.

USDA Liaison Russ Clanton addressed the delegates regarding the loan servicing aspect of the Federal Service Agency (FSA). He noted that in FY16, they are servicing \$15.26 billion in loans. Russ advised that the new guaranteed Micro Loan (MCI) and partnership loan will benefit the states’ agriculture by providing operating or ownership loans and will also entail less paperwork and less time to implement. He also mentioned the rollout of the E-Z guarantee loans as of October 1.

Wesley Harris, South Carolina Rural Rehab Corporations and NARRC Delegate, spoke about the challenges the SCRRRC program faced and their approach to making it a success to benefit their South Carolina constituents.

Reggie Brown, Executive Vice President of the Florida Exchange, addressed the delegates noting that Florida is the warmest largest land mass in the U.S. during the winter months. Florida is also the largest producer of tomatoes, cucumbers, snap beans, squash, watermelons, oranges, and grapefruit. He also spoke about NAFTA and its economic impact on Florida agriculture since the early ‘90’s.

To complete the delegates’ session, **George Schlutermann, Senior Hydrologist, Southwest Florida Water Management District,** spoke about “Florida Water Issues.” He addressed the water reuse/reclaim aspect in an effort to manage resources. He discussed maintaining the balance between the water needs of current and future users while protecting and maintaining water and related natural resources. Water quality and quantity along with preserving natural systems is a high priority.

The President’s Awards Banquet was the setting for a New Program Award plaque presentation by President Stanley to **Thomas Carter (GA)** for Georgia Development Authority’s S.T.A. R.T. (Securing Tomorrow’s Agricultural Resources Today) program. The program is designed to assist new farmers in making agricultural pursuits attainable—especially for the upcoming generation. **President Stanley** offered the invocation. Entertainment was by author, humorist, and motivational speaker, **Patrick Grady**—talk entitled, “A Humorous Look at Personal, Professional, and Family Success.” Grady is the author of, “Who Packs the Parachute?” and “Who Moved My Cheese?”

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for agricultural tours. **Blackbeard Ranch**—one of the last pristine large cattle ranches east of Sarasota—was the first stop. The ranch is committed to practical, cost effective actions to reduce the amount of pesticides, fertilizers, animal waste, and other pollutants entering our water resources, and to conserve water supply. They are also dedicated to the protection and preservation of wildlife.

University of Florida Gulf Coast Research Center—whose mission is to develop and share new science-based information and technology that will help Florida’s agricultural industry compete in a global marketplace—concluded the tour. Specialists in different disciplines work on a variety of ever-changing projects: breeding new disease-tolerant vegetable and fruit varieties, and developing new treatments to control weeds. The center is known worldwide for their quality research supporting growers and the industry. Delegates and guests had the opportunity to view the labs and/or take a tour of some of the current crops—blackberries and caladiums.

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

(Report of 2016 Annual Meeting cont'd)

Thomas Carter (GA) presented in-depth details about Georgia Development Authority's new program, S.T.A.R.T., which was recently implemented to assist new farmers.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held September 13, 2015, in Sheridan, Wyoming, were distributed, and upon motion by Horace Horn/Tate Rusk, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

Treasurer's Report/Audit Report: The Financial Statement for the period of September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016, was distributed. Secy/Treas **Eagan** expanded on the report. Upon motion by Penn Rogers/Louis Frost, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Audit Committee Chair **J. Lee Alley** 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 J. Lee Alley/Bud Weiss, the delegates approved the Audit Report as presented by Alley.

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.

2017 Annual Meeting: Colorado Delegate **Tate Rusk** presented a beautiful video of the Fort Collins area, the site of our 46th NARRC annual meeting. He encouraged delegates and guests to come early and stay late. The meeting will be held on September 17-20, 2017, at the Hilton Fort Collins, 425 W. Prospect Rd., Fort Collins, Colorado—located 60 miles north of Denver. Room rates are \$139.00 single and \$149.00 double occupancy per night. A shuttle service is available from Denver Airport to Fort Collins at a rate of \$29—first person and \$20—second person. A pre-tour is planned for Saturday, September 16th, to Estes Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Bear Lake. A planned speaker for the delegate session is world-renown autistic Professor Temple Grandin with the Colorado State University. She is one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry. The movie entitled, "Temple Grandin" is based on the book, "Emergence."

2018 Annual Meeting: **Wesley Harris** invited delegates/guests to Columbia, South Carolina, for the 47th annual meeting. The meeting will be held on August 26-29, 2018, at the Mariott Columbia Hotel, located at 1200 Hampton Street, in Columbia. The August date facilitates better room rates adversely affected by September's football season. A pre-tour on Saturday, August 25th is being planned for Charleston.

2019 Annual Meeting: **Terri LaBrie** extended an invitation to delegates/guests to come to South Dakota in mid-September, 2019, for the 48th annual meeting. Rapid City is the tentative meeting location.

New Business: Upon motion by Sonny Roberts/Harold Gary, the delegates voted unanimously to ratify the Board of

Directors' recommendation that a policy be made whereby Jeannie Eagan's travel expenses are paid to all future mid-year board of directors' meetings while serving in the capacity as NARRC Secy/Treas Assistant. (Rationale: NARRC Bylaws do not include airfare expense for Jeannie—only Vernon's expense. If driving, Jeannie's travel expense is a non-issue. However, sometimes airfare for both is less than mileage and lodging expense.)

Nominating Committee: Chair **Bud Weiss** presented the following 2016-2017 slate of officers:

- President — Harold Gary (Mississippi)**
 - Vice President — Jerry Driscoll (Kansas)**
 - Past President — William C. Stanley (South Carolina)**
 - Director — Thomas Carter (Georgia) two-year term**
 - Director — Louis Ciarkowski (Michigan) two-year term**
- (Directors **Steve Ferguson (IA)**, **Horace Horn (AL)**, and **G. W. Neal (TX)** each have one year remaining on their elected terms.)

There being no further nominations and upon motion by John Woeste/Sandra Tenorio, the delegates voted unanimously to elect this slate of officers by acclamation.

President **Stanley** commended Kathy Berry and the entire Florida Rural Rehab Corporation board for an outstanding conference. He also expressed appreciation to the NARRC board for their dedication and commitment in serving this past year. Stanley advised that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business and upon motion by Tony Minicozzi/Don Jacka, the delegates voted to adjourn the 45th Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations at 9:00 a.m.



Top: Kathy and Gary Schmidt (KS); Phil and Kaye Perry (SC).

Bottom: Tour Presenter at Blackbeard Ranch; and Florida Host Dr. John Woeste enjoying a light moment with guest speaker Craig Watson.

2016-2017 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

Harold Gary, MRRC Board
1306 South Church Street
Brookhaven, MS 39601
PH: 601.362.7406 (MRRC Ofc)
Fax: 601.981.4132 (MRRC Ofc)
Email: cgfranck1@yahoo.com

Louis Ciarkowski, MRRC BOD
20065 US 23 S
Presque Isle, MI 49777-9060
PH: 269.781.4646 (MRRC Ofc)
Email: lciarkowski@gmail.org

Steve Ferguson, Ag Prog. Spec.
Iowa Finance Authority
2015 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312
PH: 515.725.4928
Fax: 515.725.4901
Email: steve.ferguson@iowa.gov

Vice President

Jerry Driscoll, Attny/KHRC BOD
726 Main Street
Russell, KS 67665
PH: 785.483.5325 (Ofc)
Email: jedriscol@ruraltel.net

Horace Horn, ARRC Board
611 Wood Valley Road
Greenville, AL 36037
PH: 334.277.8950 (ARRC Ofc)
Fax: 334.270.5983 (ARRC Ofc)
Email: horace.horn@powersouth.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Vernon L. Eagan
4408 Dawson Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72116
PH: 501.758.4723
Fax: 501.375.8625 (AREF Ofc)
Email: egvnljj@swbell.net

G. W. Neal, TRC Inc. Board
Texas Rural Communities, Inc.
168 Cimarron Park Loop
Buda, TX 78610
PH: 800.787.2589 (TRC Ofc)
Fax: 512.312.9475 (TRC Ofc)
Email: gwneal@texasrural.org

Past President

William Stanley, Pres/CEO, SCRRC
P.O. Box 81
Ehrhardt, SC 29081
PH: 803.254.0272 (SCRRC Ofc)
Fax: 803.765.2564 (SCRRC Ofc)
Email: CarolinaEast64@yahoo.com

Directors:

Thomas Carter, Exec. Director
Georgia Development Authority
1890 Highway 138
Monroe, GA 30655
PH: 770.207.4250 (GDA Ofc)
Fax: 770.207.4257 (GCA Ofc)
Email: thomas@gdaonline.com

USDA Liaison for Rural Rehab Funds:

Russ Clanton, Branch Chief
USDA-FSA Loan Making Div
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Stop 0522
Washington, DC 20250-0511
PH: 202.690.0214
Email: Russ.Clanton@wdc.usda.gov

REMINDERS

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

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June, 2017, 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. Phone: 501.758.4723.

Future NARRC Annual Conferences

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: Tate Rusk
Email: bpicket@fusainsurance.com

2018

August 26-29, 2018 — Columbia, SC
Mariott Columbia Hotel
1200 Hampton Street; Columbia, SC 29201
PH: 803.771.7000

Host Contact: William Stanley
Email: scrrc1927@att.net

2019

South Dakota (date /location pending)
Host Contact: Terri LaBrie
Email: Terri.LaBrie@state.sd.us



2016-2017 Board of Directors — Seated: Horace Horn, Steve Ferguson, Louis Ciarkowski, and Jerry Driscoll. **Standing:** Thomas Carter, William Stanley, Harold Gary, G. W. Neal, Jeannie and Vernon Eagan.

Website Committee:

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

www.ruralrehab.org

We encourage you to review your state's program info on our above website. Send your updated information to Jeannie. She will ensure it is accurately reflected on our website.

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.
Email: egvnljj@swbell.net.