



June 2019

## President's Message—By Thomas Carter



I hope everyone is coping with the weather situation you are in, and I hope most of you are having the weather you want. Last year we here in Georgia wanted the rain to stop. This year we need it, but you don't have to go far and folk are begging for the rain to stop. My prayers are out to those coping with extreme weather at this time. Our prayers are also out to the families of Robert Earl Clanton, Sr. and Bill Abernathy who are grieving the loss of these two fine gentlemen.

Not all is gloomy. We had a good Mid-Year Meeting by conference call this year on April 30. We appreciate the work done by Terri LaBrie in preparation for the NARRC Annual Conference this year. The currently proposed agenda for the meeting in South Dakota looks great. There is a lot of history in those hills, and I can't wait to see the Badlands National Park on our pre-conference tour. Also, the tour to the Black Hills to see Mount Rushmore will be reason enough to sign up for the conference.

The South Dakota delegation is getting some informative speakers together for our conference who are addressing topics which are interesting and educational. They should hold our interest while educating us; that always helps. Everyone should easily gain some knowledge to take back home. I always enjoy getting a different perspective on things, and I look forward to seeing y'all in South Dakota to help me with that perspective.

As always, please give encouragement to your boards and guests to attend the NARRC Annual Conference in Rapid City. And please register as soon as you receive your packets. Your prompt response will help Terri more than you know. Again, I look forward to seeing y'all. Thanks again to Vernon, Jeannie, and the Board, and with a great big thank you to Terri and her team.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WELCOME TO SOUTH DAKOTA—THE MOUNT RUSHMORE STATE!

**48th Annual NARRC Conference in Rapid City  
September 14-18, 2019**

The South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development is excited to host the 2019 annual NARRC conference this year! We are busy putting together a phenomenal agenda to include wonderful tours and speakers. We hope you can join us for our pre-conference tour of the Badlands National Park on Saturday of the conference. Sunday evening will kick off the conference with a Welcome Social. Monday will be our classroom day to hear from various speakers on topics relating to mental health in agriculture, farm to school programs, forestry, and the Sanford Underground Science and Engineering Lab. Tuesday will be a day set aside for tours. The conference will conclude on Wednesday morning with the annual business meeting.

Registration packets are going out to each state the first part of June and a follow-up email will come shortly after that including registration information as well. Conference registrations are due by August 1 and hotel reservations by August 6.

Please contact Terri LaBrie if you have any questions at email [terri.labrie@state.sd.us](mailto:terri.labrie@state.sd.us) or phone number 605.280.4745.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Report of 2019 Mid-Year Planning Meeting—Rapid City, South Dakota—By Vernon Eagan

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Mid-Year Planning Meeting of the 2018-2019 Board of Directors was called to order by **President Thomas Carter** on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, via a conference call hosted by South Dakota—8:30 a.m. Mountain Time; 9:30 a.m. Central Time; and 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time. A quorum was established. Also present was South Dakota host Terri LaBrie and staff; and Jeannie Eagan. (Russ Clanton was unable to join the conference call due to a scheduling conflict.) Director **Tony Minicozzi** delivered the invocation.

**OPENING REMARKS:** **President Carter** welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation to the board for their commitment to NARRC. He also thanked the Eagans for their dedication to serving as secretary/treasurer and ensuring the smooth operation of NARRC. **President Carter** expressed appreciation to Terri LaBrie and the South Dakota staff for all the hard work, time, and effort in preparation for hosting the 2019 Annual Meeting. **President Carter** voiced his concerns for our nation and the natural disasters adversely affecting so many lives. He encouraged us to keep them in our prayers.

**Minutes and Reports:** Upon motion by **Driscoll/Hutchins**, the Board approved the minutes—as read and previously distributed—of the Pre-Conference Board Meeting held August 26, 2018.

Upon motion by **Driscoll/Hutchins**, the Board approved the minutes—as read and previously distributed—of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held August 29, 2018.

Minutes of the August 29, 2018, Annual Business Meeting were reviewed for accuracy—there were no corrections.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was provided by Jeannie to keep the board fully informed of the secretary/treasurer activities.

A copy of the financial report was provided to the Board prior to the conference call by **Secy/Treas Eagan**. There being no questions/concerns, the report is filed for audit.

Website Committee member **Jeannie Eagan** advised that with the retirement of Chairman Stan Garbacz, **President Carter** named Jill Wood as the third person to the Website Committee. Steve Ferguson (IA) and Jeannie Eagan serve as the other two members. The website is up to date. The two-year website fee of \$214.80 will be paid again in early May, 2019.

Upon motion by **Minicozzi/Reeves**, the Board ratified the unanimous email vote of January 14, 2019, approving the re-investment of NARRC funds. (Following email approval, action was taken on January 15, 2019. Details of this action are noted in the minutes and secy/treas's financial report and will be provided to the membership at the annual meeting in Rapid City, SD.)

**2019 Annual Meeting:** Host **Terri LaBrie** gave a detailed report of plans for the Annual NARRC Conference on September 13-18, at the Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza Hotel, at 505 North Fifth Street, in Rapid City, South Dakota. Room rates are \$149.00 (plus taxes) for single/double occupancy and plaza suite rate of \$169.00 plus taxes. (Buffet breakfast cost to be included in the registration fee.) Cutoff date for room reservations is Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Room reservations may be made by calling 1.844.516.6415 with booking code RRC—reservations may also be made online at [www.holidayinn.com/rap-rushmore](http://www.holidayinn.com/rap-rushmore). The hotel provides complimentary airport and downtown shuttle service.

Delegate registration fees are estimated to be no more than \$500.00. Guest Registration fees are estimated to be \$150.00. (Conference expenses have not yet been finalized; therefore, these figures are fluid.) Cost for the pre-conference tour on Saturday, September 14, has not yet been established. All costs and deadlines will be noted in registration packets to be mailed in mid-June/early July. These materials will be sent both electronically and by US mail.

The pre-conference event on Saturday, September 14th, will be a tour from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. to the South Dakota Badlands—a fifty mile drive from Rapid City. Cost has not yet been established.

On Sunday evening, September 15th, the President's Reception will be held. A buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. A cash bar will be provided.

On Monday, September 16th, the session will open at 8:30 a.m. with welcomes by South Dakota government dignitaries. Delegate session speakers and topics will include some of the following: Russ Clanton, *USDA Liaison*, "Update from Washington;" Forest Association, SDSU (precision ag – animal lab); producer panel for modern livestock, permitting issues, finance panel; and/or local foods panel (beef to school); mental health speaker – farmer suicides.

Monday's guest activity will include a tour of sites in Rapid City including museums, Native American art and gifts, and possibly South Dakota wine.

President's Awards Banquet will include special awards presentations—New Program Awards and Past President's Award—and entertainment by Native American Dancers. Kansas will give a presentation on their plans for hosting the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, September 17, delegates and guests will board buses for Custer State Park which includes a wildlife loop; Prairie Berry Winery and Miner Brewing Company where lunch will be served; and Mt. Rushmore.

**(Report of 2019 Mid-Year Planning Meeting cont'd)**

Upon return to the hotel, an optional trip to Deadwood is being considered with an additional fee paid prior to boarding. Details will be forthcoming on how this will be handled. It is a forty-five minute drive from Rapid City to Deadwood.

Eagan's will poll the board to determine the preferred time for NARRC Pre-Conference Board Meeting on Sunday, September 15. Committee meetings will also be on Sunday pending travel conflicts. All small group meetings will be held in the Board Room.

**2020 Annual Meeting:** Past President Driscoll advised the 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on September 20-23, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Wichita, Kansas. A contract has been signed with the hotel, and room cost will include breakfast for two. The airport serving Wichita is the Wichita Eisenhower with free shuttle to the Hyatt Hotel. The Hyatt also provides free shuttle to downtown as well. A detailed presentation will be given during the President's Awards Banquet in Rapid City.

**2021 50th Annual Meeting:** Jeannie Eagan advised that Virginia is committed to hosting in 2021. Sandra Tenorio, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee member, will meet with Kendra Shifflett the week of May 8<sup>th</sup> to look at hotels and get a better understanding of how Virginia wants to handle all the details and finances associated with the meeting. The committee will meet on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019—exact time to be communicated to committee members well in advance. The committee will then give a detailed report to the board following the 50th anniversary committee meeting.

**New Business:** President Carter advised of the appointment for the 2019 nominating committee and the audit committee. *(These appointments are noted on page 4.)* In addition, upon the retirement of Website Committee member Stan Garbacz (NE), the appointment of Jill Wood (MO) was announced to replace Stan.

Eagan's announced that due to aging health-related issues they feel they should not serve again in the Secretary/Treasurer capacity in 2020. They will work closely with the new appointee to ensure a smooth transition. They will also continue to help with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee work.

**Closing Remarks/Adjournment:** President Carter expressed appreciation to everyone for their commitment to NARRC and to Terri LaBrie and staff for their hard work in hosting the 2019 Annual Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*



Above: **Badlands National Park: Discovering a Land of Beauty**—the site of our Pre-Conference Tour on Saturday, September 14th.



Above: **South Dakota Custer State Park**—one of the nation's largest state parks. Delegates and guests will experience the beauty of the Wildlife Loop Road on Tuesday's Tour along with a visit to **Mount Rushmore**—the monument taking more than 400 workers to build. Mount Rushmore is the site of approximately 3 million people a year.

**SOUTH DAKOTA**  
**“Great Faces, Great Places”**

## 2018-2019 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### President

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

### Vice President

Mr. Bennie Hutchins, MRRC BOD  
328 Covington Cove  
Madison, MS 39110  
PH: 601.362.7406 (MRRC Ofc)  
Fax: 601.981.4132 (MRRC Ofc)  
Email: benniehutchins@gmail.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: egnavljj@swbell.net

### Past President

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

### 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

### Directors:

Mr. Mike Crosby, SCRRRC Board  
926 Cherokee Drive  
Smoaks, SC 29481  
PH: 803.939.0811 (SCRRRC Ofc)  
Email: mlcrosby@lowcountry.com

Mr. Donald Giffey, NDRRC BOD  
1991 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Roseglen, ND 58775  
PH: 701.223.5810 (NDRRC Ofc)  
Email: dpgiffey@gmail.com

Mr. Tony Minicozzi, Gen Mgr  
Ark Rural Endowment Fund, Inc.  
1306 West Fourth Street  
P.O. Box 750  
Little Rock, AR 72203-0750  
PH: 501.375.2358 (AREF Ofc)  
Fax: 501.375.8625 (AREF Ofc)  
Email: tminicozzi@aref.org

Mr. David Reaves, FRRC Board  
P.O. Box 268  
McAlpin, FL 32062  
PH: 352.372.3100 (FRRC Ofc)  
Email: davreaves@windstream.net

Ms. Roberta Valdez, Fin Admin  
Utah Department of Agriculture  
P. O. Box 146500  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500  
PH: 801.538.7179  
Email: robertavaldez@utah.gov

### REMINDER

**New Program Recognition  
Forms Due by July 1, 2019**

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2019

**September 13-18, 2019 — Rapid City, SD**  
Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza Hotel  
505 North Fifth Street; Rapid City, SD  
PH: 605.348.4000

**Host Contact: Terri LaBrie**  
Email: Terri.LaBrie@state.sd.us

### 2020

**September 20-23, 2020 — Wichita, KS**  
Hyatt Regency  
400 West Waterman Street; Wichita, KS  
PH: 316.293.1234

**Host Contact: Wes Shepherd**  
Email: wes@kshomestead.com

### 2021– 50th Annual Meeting

**September 18-21, 2021 — Richmond, VA**

### In Remembrance

**Betty Pickett**, March 2, 2019, long-time CRRC secretary. **Robert Earl Clanton, Sr.**, May 18, 2019, father of USDA Liaison Russ Clanton. **Bill Abernathy**, May 23, 2019, long-time AREF board member and NARRC delegate.



*2018-2019 NARRC Board: Seated L to R— Mike Crosby; Tony Minicozzi; and David Reeves. Standing L to R—Vernon Eagan; Don Giffey; Roberta Valdez; Thomas Carter; Bennie Hutchins; Jerry Driscoll; Jeannie Eagan.*

### 2019 Nominating Committee

Don Jacka (KS), Chair  
Ken Dalsted (ND)  
Sandra Tenorio (TX)

### 2019 Audit Committee

Kim Porter (WY), Chair  
William Martin (MI)  
Phil Perry (SC)

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January, 2020, 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. Phone: 501.758.4723.*

### 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: egnavljj@swbell.net.*