



RURAL REHABILITATION REPORTS

January - February 2020



- 01** Mount Rushmore
- 02** 2019 South Dakota Conference host *Terri La Brie*
- 03** 2021 Virginia Conference host, *Kendra Shiflett*
- 04** USDA-FSA Liaison, *Russ Clanton*
- 05** 2007-19 NARRC Sec-Treasurer *Jeannie and Vernon Eagan*
- 06** 2018 NARRC President, *Jerry Driscoll* with 2019 NARRC President, *Thomas Carter*
- 07** South Dakota Badlands
- 08** 2020 NARRC President, *Bennie Hutchins*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bennie Hutchins

Happy New Year to each of you! Hope your year ahead is filled with contentment and good health!

It will be a pivotal year for NARRC, as Vernon and Jeannie Eagan have stepped back from their team position as Secretary-Treasurer. I cannot adequately describe the role they have played over the past many years as the virtual backbone of NARRC. We wish them the best in their "retirement" as they continue to serve in the background. But we are fortunate to have Steve Ferguson (Iowa) agree to move into this role.

Also, we await to see who will be replacing Russ Clanton as FSA's liaison to NARRC, as Russ has moved to another position with USDA.

A shout-out of "Job Well Done" is due to Terri LaBrie and all the folks in South Dakota for hosting the 2019 annual conference; just a great meeting, both entertaining and informing. The 2020 conference in Kansas (Sept. 20-23) will be here before we know it. I know that Jerry Driscoll and the Kansas delegation will have a great show planned for us. I hope each state will be well-represented.



Plans are moving along for our 50th Anniversary conference to be held in Richmond, Virginia, in 2021. Put September 18-22 on your calendar now. Due to the additional expenses anticipated for this commemorative event, any state that wishes to pledge funds to assist are being given the opportunity. This is strictly voluntary, and the response has been great. See page 3 of this Newsletter for details.

Steve Ferguson is working with a contractor to update our NARRC website, potentially including links that we hope will be helpful to members. Steve welcomes any suggestions that you may have for making our website more helpful to members.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your President in 2020. Let me know if you have any suggestions for making NARRC more responsive and helpful. Final thanks to Thomas Carter for his service as 2019 President.

REPORT OF 2019 ANNUAL MEETING RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

THE 48TH ANNUAL MEETING OF NARRC

President Thomas Carter (GA) called the 2019 Annual meeting to order on Monday, September 16, at 8:30 a.m., at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, in Rapid City, South Dakota.

South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development host, **Terri LaBrie (SD)** gave the official welcome.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by **President Carter**. Alabama Delegate **Horace Horn (AL)** delivered the invocation.

Secretary/Treasurer Vernon Eagan conducted the official roll call with 17 states represented.

A moment of silent prayer was offered on behalf of our military troops and families; our nation; and in remembrance and on behalf of our bereaved NARRC families: Homer Neal Lewis (AL); Ann Burton Portis and Bill Abernathy (AR); Betty Picket (CO); and Robert Earl Clanton, Sr. (Russ' father).

Kathy Colson (FL) served as NARRC's official conference photographer.

Dr. Andrea Bjornestad, Assistant Professor and SDSU Extension Mental Health Specialist, South Dakota State University, addressed the delegates concerning "Mental Health in Agriculture." Dr. Bjornestad noted the stress involved with land ownership: tariffs, cost of products, economy, weather, health issues, crop/animal disease, succession planning, relationships, etc. An open discussion was held to probe the delegate's opinions on how each can help make a difference in the lives of farmers struggling with various issues.

Mr. Mike Headley, Executive Director of Sanford Underground Research Facility at Homestead Mine addressed "Unlocking the Mysteries of the Universe" and dark energy and dark matter. SURF is the nation's underground laboratory. He advised that cosmic radiation is lowered in underground research, thus improving the quality of the results, and the "neutrino" measurement can help in understanding matter.

Mr. Russ Clanton, USDA Branch Chief, FSA Loan Making Division Russ reported there should be plenty of money going into next year. A new program to roll out in January is the "Heir Relending" loan program primarily involving minorities in southern states. Russ advised that he has been assigned to a new position, but does not have any information on who will be his replacement.

A local food panel comprised of **Mr. Ken Charfauros**, **Mrs. Amy Pravecek**, **Mr. Josh Geigle**, discussed the "Beef to School" program where school patrons donated beef and funds to this one school.

Ms. Terri LaBrie (SD Dept of Ag) helped the community get a meat plant. The panel works with the FFA and local high school to get the message out to the community. As a result, four schools now have the "Beef to School" program.

Mr. Alan Hojer, manager and legacy consultant of "Keep Farmers Farming," a division of First Dakota National Bank focused his remarks on the goal of the program "Keep Farmers Farming." It was:

- 1) Created to assist with wealth transfer in agriculture;
- 2) Hold accountability to the most difficult responsibility that every family business has to experience family farm/ranch transition; and
- 3) Identify the multiple growing pains of business expansion in agriculture and anticipate the needed solutions.

Certified Forester **Gregory Josten** and SD Wildland Fire Director **Mr. Jay Esperance** addressed the topic of "Forestry and Wildland Fire Using all the Tools in the Toolbox for Fire Management in a Timber Ecosystem." Incident Commander Esperance focused his remarks on:

- 1) Put out the fire in the most effective/efficient manner;
- 2) Factor in topography, fuel, weather (wind spread, direction, humidity) and its benefits and cut down trees, etc.

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS BANQUET

The banquet was held Monday evening.

Delegate Harold Gary (MS) offered the invocation.

President Carter presented a Past President's award to **Jerry Driscoll (KS)** for his "Outstanding Leadership to Improve the Quality of Lifestyle for Rural America."

Award plaques were also presented by President Carter to **Vernon and Jeannie Eagan** each "With appreciation for 12 dedicated years of service as NARRC Secretary-Treasurer and as Assistant to Secretary/Treasurer.

Delegate **Larry Karns (KS)** gave a presentation on what delegates might anticipate in 2020 when Kansas hosts the annual conference in Wichita, Kansas, on September 20-23, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, at 400 West Waterman Street. Hotel room rates include breakfast for two and free hotel shuttle to/from the Eisenhower Airport.

President Carter introduced Certified Professional Speaker Professional speaker, **Holly Hoffman**. Holly shared her 38-day experience as the last woman standing on CBS' hit reality show "Survivor Nicaragua." She inspired everyone to persevere—with a focus on faith, attitude, determination, confidence, and desire. She is the author of two books *Your Winner Within* and *Write Yourself a Note* based on life experiences

TUESDAY TOURS

Delegates and guests boarded buses to tour Custer **State Park, Wildlife Loop, and the Visitor Center** where they listened to a video narrated by Keven Coster and then experienced the beautiful wildlife and park.

A delicious lunch was served at the **Prairie Berry Winery** located outside Hill City. Owner Sandy Vojta is a 5th generation winemaker. The Prairie Berry became South Dakota's second commercial winery in 1998 and has won more than 1,000 international awards and is 100% made in SD.

The final stop of the day was **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**. The weather was perfect while delegates/guests viewed the monument and hiked the "President's Trail" which ended at the foot of the monument.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

President Carter called the 2019 NARRC Annual Business meeting on Wednesday at 8:30a.m. The following topics were discussed and decided:

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held August 30, 2019 in Columbia, South Carolina, were distributed, and upon motion by **Harold Gary (MS)/Don Jacka (KS)**, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

Treasurer's Report/Audit Report: The Financial Statement for July 31, 2018, through August 31, 2019, was distributed. Secretary/Treasurer **Eagan** asked for questions. None were voiced. With motion by **Horace Horn (AL)/Steve Ferguson (IA)**, delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Audit Committee Chair **Kim Porter (WY)** 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 **Sandra Tenorio (TX)/Larry Mack (FL)**, delegates approved the Audit Report as presented by Porter.

Website Committee Report: Committee member **Steve Ferguson** advised that the website is current and encouraged members to provide changes to board and staff members.

2020 Annual Meeting: Copies of a magazine about Wichita, Kansas were distributed to delegates. No further remarks were needed since the presentation had already been given on Monday evening. The 49th annual meeting will be held in Wichita, Kansas, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, on September 20-23, 2020.

2021 Annual Meeting: **Jeannie Eagan, Steve Ferguson, Sandra Tenorio, and Kendra Shifflett (VA)** shared plans for the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting to be hosted in Richmond, Virginia on September 18-22, 2020, at the Omni Hotel, in Richmond. A hotel contract has been signed by Sandra Tenorio for a room rate of \$159.00 (plus taxes) per night, not including breakfast. A Pre-Conference tour to Williamsburg is planned for Saturday. The Tuesday tour will likely go to Charlottesville with Jefferson's Monticello and other agricultural points of interest. Virginia to contribute financially: print programs, registration bags, set up tours, secure bus contracts, staff conference registration, secure speakers for delegate session and President's Awards banquet.

MEMBER SPONSORSHIPS OF 50TH CONFERENCE

Jeannie Eagan mentioned that sponsorships by member states were discussed at the Pre-Conference Board Meeting, and the board agreed to permit NARRC member states the opportunity to voluntarily sponsor at the following levels: Diamond \$3000 or more, Platinum \$2000 -- \$2999, Gold \$1000 -- \$1999, Silver \$500 -- \$999, Bronze \$100 -- \$499. The committee will email NARRC member states with a follow-up letter containing NARRC tax ID info, etc. A list of sponsoring member-state organizations is to be printed in Annual Meeting Program. A "NARRC 50th Anniversary" checking account will be set up to pay bills and receive sponsorships, with Texas serving in this capacity. Funds left over in this special account will be deposited in NARRC's regular checking account.

UPDATE ON MEMBER SPONSORSHIPS

The 50th Anniversary Committee is so pleased with the response of donations received — it has been fantastic and most appreciated. Please contact Sandra Tenorio or Jeannie Eagan if interested in providing a voluntary contribution for NARRC's 50th anniversary annual meeting.

2022 ANNUAL MEETING:

President-Elect Hutchins (MS) advised that Mississippi will host; location and date to be determined.

Nominating Committee: Chair Don Jacka (KS) presented the following 2019-2020 slate of officers:

President—**Bennie Hutchins (Mississippi)**

Vice President —**Tony Minicozzi (Arkansas)**

Past President—**Thomas Carter (Georgia)**

Director—**David Reeves (Florida)** two-year term

Director—**Roberta Valdez (Utah)** two-year term

Director—**Mike Crosby (South Carolina)** two-year term

Directors **David Reeves (FL)** and **Roberta Valdez (UT)** each have one year remaining on their terms.)

The delegates voted unanimously to elect these officers.

Newly elected **President Bennie Hutchins** announced the appointment of **Steve Ferguson** as Secretary/Treasurer. By unanimous proclamation, delegates expressed their appreciation to the Eagan's for their service these past 12 years.

President Carter and incoming President Hutchins each commended **Terri LaBrie (SD)** for an outstanding conference. Appreciation was also expressed to the NARRC board for their dedicated service this past year. It was announced that the newly elected Board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business and upon motion by **Don Jacka/Harold Gary, the delegates voted to adjourn the 47th Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations at 9:10 a.m.**

2019-2020 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Bennie Hutchins,

Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation
4785 Old Canton Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601-748-2622
benniefhutchins@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Tony Minicozzi,

Ark Rural Endowment Fund, Inc.
1306 West Fourth Street
P.O. Box 750
Little Rock, AR 72203-0750
501-375-2358 (AREF Office)
tminicozzi@aref.org

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Steve Ferguson

Iowa Finance Authority
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-725-4928 (Office)
515-494-4979 (Cell)
steve.ferguson@iowafinance.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Thomas Carter

Executive Director
Georgia Development Authority
1890 Highway 138
Monroe, GA 30655
770-207-4250 (GDA Ofc)
thomas@gdaonline.com

USDA Liaison for Rural Rehab Funds:

Vacant — to be assigned soon

DIRECTORS

Mr. Mike Crosby,

South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation
926 Cherokee Drive
Smoaks, SC 29481
803-939-0811 (SCRRC Ofc)
mfcrosby@lowcountry.com

Cathy Franck,

Mississippi Rural Rehabilitation
534 Brookway Blvd.
Brookhaven, MS 39601
601-757-5005
cgfranck1@yahoo.com

G. W. Neal,

Texas Rural Communities, Inc.
168 Cimarron Park Loop
Buda, TX 78610
800-787-2589 (TRC Office)
936-554-0390 (Cell)
gw_neal@yahoo.com

Mr. David Reeves,

Florida Rural Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 268
McAlpin, FL 32062
352-372-3100 (FRRC Ofc)
davreaves@windstream.net

Ms. Roberta Valdez,

Utah Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 146500
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
801-538-7179
robertavaldez@utah.gov

FUTURE NARRC ANNUAL CONFERENCES

2020

September 20-23, 2020 — Wichita, Kansas

Hyatt Regency Hotel
400 West Waterman Street
Wichita, Kansas 67202
316.293.1234
Host Contact: Wes Shepherd
Email: wes@kshomestead.com

2021 — NARRC 50TH ANNIVERSARY

September 18-22, 2021-Richmond, Virginia

Omni Hotel
100 South 12th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
855.680.3239
Host Contacts: Kendra Shiflett and Jeannie Eagan
Email: Kendra.Shiflett@vdacs.virginia.gov
Email: egnvljj@swbell.net

2022

Mississippi: Date and Location TBA

2023 — OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOSTING

Contact: Steve Ferguson

Send articles that would be of interest to
steve.ferguson@iowafinance.com
or call 515-725-4928

Contact **Steve Ferguson** for New Program
Recognition Awards or if you did not receive your
2020 dues invoice.



Additional copies of newsletter are available.

Email: steve.ferguson@iowafinance.com

News items for Rural Rehabilitation newsletters are requested
and due by June 5, 2020 from member states.

2019-2020 NARRC BOARD

SEATED L TO R:

Bennie Hutchins, Cathy Franck, Steve Ferguson

STANDING L TO R:

David Reeves, Thomas Carter, G.W. Neal, Tony Minicozzi,
and Mike Crosby (Roberta Valdez - Absent)

In Remembrance

Please provide updates to: steve.ferguson@iowafinance.com
