



## President's Message by Bennie Hutchins

As we are full swing into the new year, I sincerely hope it will be a better year for each of you. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to evaluate whether holding our Annual Meeting in 2021 is going to be rational. We are all hoping and praying that COVID-19 issues will settle down enough and in time to allow it. Your NARRC Board will make a final decision no later than March 17, relying on the planning committee and input from each of you.

I want to take the rest of my space to comment on the recent correspondence you received regarding consideration of updating NARRC's official organization name, while keeping the same NARRC acronym.

We never want to promote change just for the sake of change. The connotation of the word "rehabilitation" today is certainly different than 50 years ago. The primary reason for considering any name change is to be sure that the name reflects all the current and potential members that NARRC represents and the programs and activities of those members. A secondary consideration is to be more visible to today's digital world of internet search engines as seekers "google" key terms for information or assistance. Do we want to be more visible to "rural + rehabilitation" or to "restoring + rural + communities"?

The current name with "rehabilitation" does not reflect the current names of many of the membership. By my quick review, there are 8 members that do not have "rehabilitation" in their names at all. There is 1 with "rehabilitation" but not "corporation". There are 13 that do have "rehabilitation corporation" in their name. Any name change approved for the national organization will not require any member entity to change their name.

Personally, I think a name with "Association for... a cause...Restoring Rural Communities" appears more proactive than a name with "Association of ... entities".

A name change would not impact NARRC's current non-profit status with IRS and would not require filing for a new TIN. The Bylaws would have to be edited accordingly and approved. Actually, the current NARRC name with "Corporations" does not reflect the current Bylaws that allow members to be an "organization, corporation, authority, state agency, or entity".

It would require us to acquire a new web domain. Currently *RestoreRuralCommunities.org* is available.

Be sure to return your Ballots, and your dues, by March 1st. In keeping with our Bylaws, we need ballots returned by a minimum of 25% of members. Simple majority approval of those responding will be required for a name change. We need to hear from each of you. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Bennie Hutchins, (MS)  
President, NARRC**

### Members to Vote on Potential New Name / Logo

All NARRC organizations were sent a ballot to vote on potential new NARRC name and logo. Organizations are to mail their ballot by March 1, along with their 2021 NARRC dues to:

Steve Ferguson  
Secretary/Treasurer  
2106 SW 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Ankeny, IA 50023

The ballots will be counted at the March 17 board meeting; so please mail your ballot by March 1st.

## Alternative Plans Being Explored For 2021 and Future Annual Meetings

The NARRC board continues to explore factors impacting whether we can move forward with planning a safe 2021 Annual Meeting.

- Planned host, Virginia, is still under a state COVID-19 mandate that makes planning mostly impossible right now. Of course, this could change.
- Kansas, the committed 2022 host, is not comfortable at this time in committing to hosting the 2021 meeting.
- A decision will be made during March 17 Mid-Year Planning conference call. You can contact the Board with your thoughts.

### President

Bennie Hutchins, Mississippi  
Email: benniefhutchins@gmail.com

### Vice President

Tony Minicozzi, Arkansas  
Email: tminicozzi@aref.org

### Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Ferguson, Iowa  
Email: steve.ferguson@iowafinance.com

### Past President

Thomas Carter, Georgia  
Email: thomas@gdaonline.com

### Directors:

Mr. Mike Crosby, South Carolina  
Email: mlcrosby@lowcountry.com

Cathy Oldham, Mississippi  
Email: cgfranck1@yahoo.com

G. W. Neal, Texas  
Email: gw\_neal@yahoo.com

Mr. David Reaves, Florida  
Email: davreaves@windstream.net

Ms. Roberta Valdez, Utah  
Email: robertavaldez@utah.gov

### Election of NARRC Board and Officers

If a 2021 Annual Meeting is not held, President Hutchins will appoint a Nominating Committee who will propose a slate of 2021-2022 officers and directors.

A big **THANK YOU** to the current Board and Officers for serving for a second consecutive year.



### Financial Updates

<b>NARRC Cash Flow: 6-30-20 To 12-31-20</b>		
<b>Previous Balance</b>	<b>6-30-2020</b>	<b>\$69,058.46</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Dues	\$0.00	
Interest	\$339.04	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$339.04</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Update website	\$40.00	
Supplies and printing	\$0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	
<b>NET GAIN</b>		<b>299.04</b>
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>	<b>12-31-2020</b>	<b>\$69,357.50</b>

<b>ASSETS</b>		
Wells Fargo Checking-IA	\$14,346.70	
Wells Fargo Checking-TX	\$16,700.00	
GreenState CU M Mkt	\$10,062.69	
GreenState CU CD#1	\$10,890.82	
GreenState CU CD#2	\$17,357.29	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$69,357.50</b>
<i>Reported to NARRC Board</i>	<i>12-31-2020</i>	

**Everyone, please take care, stay safe and let us know if your staff or family experience some hardships as well as share your happy news.**