

NARRC 37th Annual Meeting Invitation and Information
Grand Hotel Marriott Resort — Point Clear, Alabama
September 23-26, 2007

By Alabama Co-Hosts J. Lee Alley and John Trotman

The National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations' 37th Annual Meeting will be held September 23-26, 2007, at the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club and Spa, at Point Clear, Alabama.

Located on 550 acres, the Grand Hotel represents a long resort tradition. The first Grand Hotel was constructed in 1847 and soon became famous for its warm hospitality. During the Civil War, the hotel served as a Confederate hospital for the southern wounded—300 of these soldiers were laid to rest in the Confederate Cemetery located on the grounds.

Today the Grand Hotel continues to maintain its gracious tradition of southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. The Grand consistently receives the AAA Four-Diamond Award and is a family-friendly historical hotel that is 160 years young. An active schedule of activities and special weekends are particularly attractive to families. Groups appreciate the superlative meeting facilities. With over 405 luxurious guest rooms and having some of Marriott's best spas, golf courses and pools, the Grand remains grander than ever. A \$50 million renovation was completed in 2003 and again in 2006 to repair damages from Hurricane Katrina.

The Grand's 550 acres feature giant oak trees, multiple beaches and lush landscaping. High tea is served each day at 4:00 p.m. in the Resort lobby. In addition to world-class golf and the 20,000 square-foot spa, the Resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, a croquet lawn, horseshoes, bikes, kayaks, sailboats and other watercraft for the guests' enjoyment.

The 2007 Annual Meeting will start with the President's Reception and welcome to Alabama on Sunday evening. Monday's agenda will include discussion with Congressman Jo Bonner, a member of the House Committee on Agriculture; a review of marine research at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and other topics regarding the gulf and bay area.

The President's Awards Reception and Dinner will be Monday evening at the Hotel with keynote speaker Dr. John Ed Mathison, senior minister of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church. Frazer is one of the fastest growing Methodist churches in the country.

Tuesday's activities will involve tours to the historic Bellingrath Gardens and Home with lunch on the Southern Bell while cruising down the calm waters of Fowl River; to historic Mobile, to the nursery or green industries in the area and to the Marine Research facilities at Dauphin Island. Tuesday's activities will conclude with a fish and shrimp dinner at Oak Hollow Farm.

The 37th Annual Meeting will conclude with breakfast and the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday morning. **Meeting registration materials, a tentative agenda and hotel reservation information will be mailed to each state on July 1, 2007.**

We look forward to hosting the Annual Meeting and having you visit Alabama.
