

# REPORTS



January 2013

## President's Message—By Marion Weers



It is an honor to serve as your president of the National Association of rural Rehabilitation Corporations. Our 2013 board of directors is a great group of individuals who are always willing to share ideas. Thank you, Larry Mack, for your dedicated service last year as our president.

It's hard to believe nearly six months have passed since we were in San Antonio for our 2012 Annual Meeting.

The weather was wonderful, and I know everyone enjoyed the time spent on the River Walk. It's always so nice to see long-time friends and also to meet the "new" folks who are taking the places of those who've moved on, retired, or unfortunately passed away.

Sandra, Nina, and the Texas Rural Communities did a wonderful job of providing excellent accommodations, great speakers, and informative—and fun—field trips. After visiting Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard, I now look a little more closely at the labels on the olive oil. A huge "thank you" for the wonderful conference.

This year will mark a whole new experience for NARRC. On **August 11-14, 2013**, we will combine forces with the National Council of State Ag and Finance Program (NCOSAFP) in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Renaissance Savery Hotel, for a joint conference. One highlight will be a visit to the renown Iowa State Fair. Steve Ferguson is hard at work on the program—securing speakers and planning agricultural tours. The board and I are looking forward to a preview when we meet on April 8, 2013, at our mid-year planning meeting.

Hope to see everyone in Des Moines for our 42nd NARRC Annual Meeting.

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NARRC Board: Roberta Valdez, Walt Anseth, Marion Weers, Larry Mack, Vernon Eagan, William Stanley, and Steve Gallagher. *Inset:* Terese Berg and Tate Rusk.



*Left:* Iowa delegates and hosts for our 2013 Annual Meeting: Steve Ferguson, and Mark Leonard. *Inset:* Lisa Irbeck.



*Above L:* Luncheon keynote speaker, Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp. *Above R:* MG Don Jacka (KS) greets the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association who presented the flag ceremony at the opening session for TRC.

## Report of 2012 Annual Meeting—San Antonio, Texas—By Vernon Eagan

**Meeting Program:** The 41st Annual Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations was held on September 16-19, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas.

Official welcomes were given by **President Mack and Texas Rural Communities (TRC) host Sandra Tenorio**. Flag ceremony was presented by the **Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association**, followed by the pledge of allegiance. The opening invocation was delivered by **President Mack**.

The General Session was called to order by **President Mack** and followed by **Secy/Treas Eagan** conducting the official roll call. Twenty states were represented. A moment of silent prayer was offered in remembrance and on behalf of the families of Joa Penzien (MI); Eloise Lewis, wife of Homer Lewis (AL); Edward R. "Ed" Smith (CO); and Phyllis Pickinpaugh, wife of Lynn Pickinpaugh (NM); and, also, on behalf of our military troops and their families.

**Marion Weers** (MI) served as NARRC's official conference photographer.

**The Honorable Dr. Henry Cuellar**, U.S. Congressman for the Texas 28<sup>th</sup> District and senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, welcomed delegates and guests during the President's Reception on Sunday evening prior to Monday's opening session.

**Dr. Freddie Avant**, Ph.D., Prof. and Assoc. Dean/Dir. for the School of Social Work at Stephen F. Austin State University and a member of TRC board of directors, spoke about "The Culture and Lifestyle of Rural Texas and Beyond." His remarks focused on experiences associated with interviews of over 500 rural constituents and how their rural culture and values impacted their decision-making process and support system.

**Mr. Eddie Trevino**, Farm Loan Chief for Texas FSA, gave a presentation on "Farm Service Agency (FSA) and its Partnerships with TRC." He discussed the various loan programs, including the Bridge Loans, the requirements to qualify, and the maximum loan amounts.

"Texas Economy and the Drought, The Impact of the 2011 Drought" was the topic presented by **Mr. Will Counihan**, Project Manager in the Data Analysis Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. He addressed the impact on the economy and the costs associated with the drought. His remarks included innovative ways to extend water supplies through desalination of groundwater and seawater; rain harvesting; reclaimed water, etc. He shared a helpful resource link to anyone interested in learning more: [www.thetexaseconomy.org](http://www.thetexaseconomy.org).

**Ms. Amanda Lewis Hill**, assistant editor of Publications for Texas Farm Bureau, spoke of the importance for passage of the 2012 Farm Bill and the need for finding new ways to conserve water along with responsible use. A film clip produced by Texas A&M students, "Stand Up for Agriculture" was shown, and stressed the importance of agriculture in America.

Luncheon keynote speaker, **John Sharp**, Chancellor of Texas A&M University System, spoke about what is happening in research at their health science center and the positive impact their findings will bring to us, especially as these findings relate to cancer.

Following lunch, **Ms. Susie Marshall**, President of the Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, focused her remarks on "Organic Production in Texas" and what constitutes organic, the challenges of organic farming, and the resulting costs involved.

**Dr. Travis Miller**, Professor and Associate Head for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, addressed the need for alternative crops and how they can complement current crops. He discussed legumes such as guar used in hydraulic fracturing; cowpeas—60 days to grow; pigeon peas—high in protein; kenaf—high quality paper. Other alternative crops include rubber crops; oil seeds such as sunflower, canola, sesame, and castor which are top-dollar confectionary crops, and ethanol fuel crops such as sugarcane and sorghum. He also addressed the problems associated with alternative crops.

To complete the day, a film was shown entitled, "Ropesville Farm – 1936" telling the story of the "Early History of Rural Rehabilitation Projects in Texas." The film captured the essence of what happened in many of the states during that period of time and the good that still lives on in rural America.

**The President's Awards Dinner** was the setting for three award presentations. **MG Don L. Jacka, USAR (Ret)**, and Exec. Dir./Dir. of the Kansas Homestead Rehab Corporation, delivered the invocation. **President Mack** recognized **Past President Bud Weiss** with a plaque for his "superb" leadership as 2010-2011 NARRC President. New Program Award plaques were also presented to **Michigan's BOD Chairman Paul Johnson** and to **Missouri's Exec. Dir. Tony Stafford** in recognition of new and innovative programs begun by the Michigan Rural Rehabilitation Corporation and the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Ag Development Fund Program, respectively. Entertainment was presented by **University of Texas students** performing the Ballet Folklorico.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for agricultural tours of Fort Sam Houston and its importance to our nation; the Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard where a variety of products are manufactured from its olive orchards; and the Land Heritage Institute and the preservation of the original longhorn cattle.

The meeting was reconvened on Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. Arkansas delegate and NARRC board member **Tony Minicozzi** offered the closing invocation.

**Vice President Marion Weers** moderated a panel discussion by panelists **Kim Porter**, Manager for the Wyoming Business Council's Farmers Market and Education program, and **Tony Minicozzi**, General Manager of Arkansas Rural Endowment Fund and current NARRC board member. Their remarks focused on the "Impact of the Economy on Rural Programs" and included how government regulations have affected their respective programs and how they are adjusting to continue serving their rural constituents.

NARRC Board Director **Tony Minicozzi** reminded delegates to complete and return the NARRC Questionnaire that was distributed on Monday.

**Annual Business Meeting:** **President Mack** called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.



**(Report of 2012 Annual Meeting cont'd)**

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held July 20, 2011, in Anchorage, Alaska, were distributed, and upon motion by Harold Gary/John Trotman, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

**Treasurer's Report/Audit Report:** Copies of the Financial Statement for the period of July 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012, were distributed. **Secy/Treas Eagan** expanded on the report. Upon motion by Don Jacka/Ann Portis, the delegates approved the Treasurer's Report as prepared and presented. **Audit Committee Member Bill Stanley** 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 Bill Stanley/Bill Fortier, the delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement and Audit Report as presented.

**Website Committee Report:** **Chairman Walt Anseth** reported that we have secured Jason Crider as our new NARRC website manager for a fee of \$35.00 per hour/or each time an update is requested.

**2013 Annual Meeting:** **Steve Ferguson**, Executive Director of the Iowa Ag Development Authority, reconfirmed his invitation to host the NARRC Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Renaissance Savery Hotel, on August 11-14, 2013. Steve gave an extensive overview earlier with plans for combining the two organizations (NARRC and NCOASFP) for this conference. Brochures were distributed. Hotel room rates are \$129.00 (with a government rate of \$83.00). Registration deadline is July 12<sup>th</sup> due to the State Fair. An optional tour is being planned for August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**2014 Annual Meeting:** **Thomas Carter and Donald Wilder (GA)** reconfirmed the Georgia Development Authority's invitation to host the 2014 NARRC Annual Meeting, to be held at the Hyatt Regency, in Savannah, Georgia, on September 13-17, 2014. Hotel room rates will be \$157.00 plus taxes. Preliminary plans include a tour of the Georgia Ports Authority on Tuesday.

**Nominating Committee:** **Chairman Harold Gary** presented the following 2012-2013 slate of officers:

- President — Marion Weers (MI)**
- Vice President — Walt Anseth (MT)**
- Past President — Larry Mack (FL)**
- Director — Tate Rusk (CO) two-year term**
- Director — William C. Stanley (SC) two-year term**
- Director — Terese Berg (ND) one-year unexpired term of Walt**

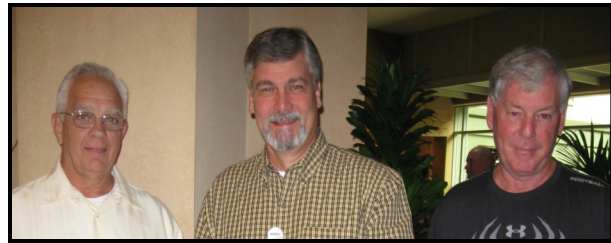
*(Directors Steve Gallagher (AK) and Roberta Valdez (UT) each have one year remaining on their elected terms. Also, Vernon Eagan was officially reappointed Secretary/Treasurer.)*

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

**Past President Mack** commended the Texas delegation for an outstanding meeting and advised that the newly elected board would meet upon adjournment.

There being no further business, **President Weers** adjourned the 41st Annual Meeting of NARRC at 9:25 a.m.

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*Left:* Missouri's Tony Stafford welcomes Georgia delegates Thomas

Carter and Donald Wilder during the President's Reception.



*Left:* Terri LaBrie of South Dakota is greeted by Arkansas' Jeannie Eagan.



*Left:* Mississippi's first-time delegate, Benny Hutchins, with Harold Gary also of Mississippi.



*Left:* Florida's new delegate David Reaves and his wife, Becky, at the Sandy Oak's Olive Orchard luncheon.



*Left:* Dr. Freddie Avant, a TRC board member and program speaker on Monday.

*Below:* The University of Texas students who performed the Ballet Folklorico at the President's Awards Dinner.



## 2012-2013 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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### REMINDERS

- **Dues Notices have been mailed and are due upon receipt.**
- **New Program Recognition (NPR) Award: Form included with this newsletter; or you may send an email requesting the form to [egnavlj@swbell.net](mailto:egnavlj@swbell.net).**

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June 2013 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: [egnavlj@swbell.net](mailto:egnavlj@swbell.net).*

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2013

**August 11-14, 2013**  
**Renaissance Savery Hotel**  
**([www.renaissancesavery.com](http://www.renaissancesavery.com))**  
**Des Moines, Iowa**  
**Host: Steve Ferguson**

### 2014

**September 13-17, 2014**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel**  
**([savannah.hyatt.com](http://savannah.hyatt.com))**  
**Savannah, Georgia**  
**Host: Thomas Carter**

### 2015

**(Exact date pending)**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming (proposed)**  
**Host: Kim Porter**

### In Remembrance

Mrs. **Vivian Barr**, wife of Wayne Barr, former board member of Colorado Rural Rehab Corp, passed away on July 31, 2012, having been married 79 years.

Ms. **Elizabeth Smith** passed away on September 6, 2012. Her husband, "Ed" Smith former Colorado Rural Rehab Corp board member, preceded her in death on February 18, 2012.

South Carolina board member **John Thomas "Tommy" Walker, III**, passed away on November 7, 2012, from a hunting accident. He is survived by his wife, Anne, four children and their families, and parents Tom and Sarah Walker.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to each of these families in the loss of their loved ones.

### Website Committee:

Walt Anseth (MT), Chair  
Stan Garbacz (NE)  
Jeannie Eagan

**[www.ruralrehab.org](http://www.ruralrehab.org)**

### Rural Rehabilitation REPORTS

Vernon and Jeannie Eagan, Editor  
*Additional copies of this newsletter are available. Please contact Vernon Eagan, NARRC Secretary/Treasurer, 4408 Dawson Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116, phone: 501.758.4723 or 501.920.4621.*