



January 2018

President's Message—By Jerry Driscoll



Happy New Year! Best Wishes for continued success in 2018. I hope everyone had a joyful and prosperous holiday.

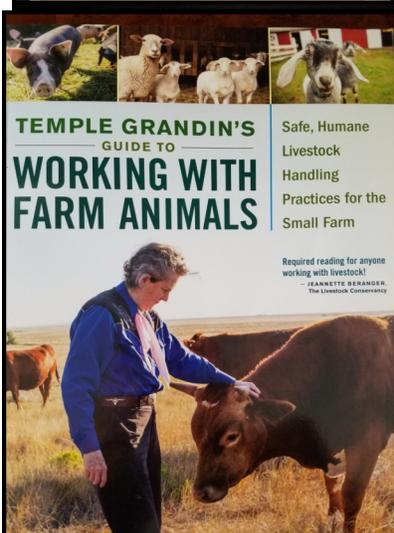
I want to recognize the Colorado delegation and Colorado Rural Rehabilitation Corporation for an outstanding job in hosting our annual meeting last September in Fort Collins. The meetings, speakers, tours and entertainment were enjoyed by all. Once again, "Thank You."

Also, special thanks to Harold Gary for his hard work and leadership of this organization this past

year. Enough "Thank You's" cannot be said or given for the tireless work, preparation, and devotion Vernon and Jeannie Eagan provide to this organization throughout the year, as well as before and during the annual meetings. They are the ones who keep it all together for all of us.

My best wishes for each of you and your respective state rural rehabilitation corporations. It is significant that each of you have assumed the duties in assisting those who need a start, some encouragement, or financial assistance. It is remarkable that this national organization is approaching its 50th anniversary. Only the work of outstanding individuals, whose positive attitudes and guidance have set the course and given all of us direction, that such an achievement is possible. Let's work together to make sure it continues.

I look forward to seeing you in Columbia, South Carolina, for our 47th Annual Meeting, on August 26-29, 2018.



Opposite: Cover photo of book by delegate session speaker and author Dr. Temple Grandin, CSU Professor of Animal Science. Delegates also visited the site of CSU's livestock handling area designed by Dr. Grandin.

Photos Clockwise: Host and CRRC President Tate Rusk welcoming delegates and guests; NARRC President Harold Gary opening the 46th Annual Meeting; Delegate Session Speaker Tanner Ehmke whose focus was on sectors affecting the rural economy; and Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Don Brown addressing delegates and guests at the President's Awards Banquet.

Report of 2017 Annual Meeting—Fort Collins, CO—By Vernon Eagan

Meeting Program: The 46th Annual Meeting of NARRC was called to order by **President Harold Gary** on Monday, September 18, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., in the Colorado State Ballroom, Salon 1, of the Fort Collins Hilton Hotel, in Fort Collins, Colorado. **Colorado Rural Rehab Corporation (CRRC) President Tate Rusk** gave the official welcome.

Posting of Colors was by **The Walker Wing Cadet Color Guard** followed by the “Pledge of Allegiance” led by **Cadet Holly Kessler**. **CCRC board member John Stencil** delivered the invocation.

Secretary/Treasurer Vernon Eagan conducted the official roll call with 18 states represented. A moment of silent prayer was offered in remembrance and on behalf of the family of former NARRC president David Skinner; our military troops and families; and our nation.

Kathy Colson (FL) and Pam Wessel (AR) served as NARRC’s official conference photographers.

Dr. James Pritchett, Executive Associate Dean of Agriculture, College of Agriculture, Colorado State University welcomed delegates and guests to Fort Collins and CSU. He noted the positive impacts of land-grant universities such as CSU and their commitment to training and giving back to rural America. He thanked the delegates for their service and encouraged their continued efforts in sharing ideas and new innovations so that together we all can improve the quality of life for our nation.

USDA Liaison Russ Clanton addressed the delegates regarding the loan servicing aspect of the Federal Service Agency (FSA). He noted that states are understaffed—and encouraged patience. In FY17, currently \$5.7 billion is obligated to farm loans, and no reduction anticipated for FY18. The new guaranteed Micro Loan Program (MLP) and partnership loan are operational benefiting the state’s agriculture by providing operating or ownership loans—they entail less paper work and less time to implement. These loans are for \$100,000 or less. Also, the E-Z Guarantee Loan was rolled out this past October. A Bridge Loan question was posed—these will still be covered going forward. Russ addressed the topic of loans for marijuana operations—marijuana operations do not qualify for loan funding. Federal law trumps state law.

David Carter, Executive Director of the National Bison Association, addressed the delegates about “An Island of Stability and Profitability in Today’s Agricultural Economy.” He noted the bison operation is a niche market and not in competition with beef. Consumer demand is growing for this healthy low fat, high protein meat product. It’s a new-comer business in which bison owners are eager to help others coming into the business. Bison herds are in every state. He discussed the positive and negative aspects of bison operations and its stability in today’s market place.

“Drought, Floods and the Effect of Climate Change on U.S. Agriculture” was the topic of **Peter Goble, Research Associate, Colorado Climate Center, Colorado State University**. He spoke about the history of precipitation values in Colorado, the observations of climate monitoring, and the atmospheric effect on agriculture. He addressed the positive impact of Colorado’s climate for solar power. In addition, snow creates a positive effect through the runoff and its soil revitalization. Global warming, greenhouse effect, emission reduction, and CO₂ and their impact on agriculture were also explored.

During the lunch hour, delegates heard from CSU Senior, Animal Science and Equine Science, **Jordan Roggen**, a CRRC Scholarship Recipient. She related what the scholarship meant to her in providing the financial means to complete her studies at CSU and her love of caring for farm animals.

Dick Wolfe, Colorado State Water Engineer, Emeritus, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver, spoke about “Colorado, the Headwaters State.” He advised that two-thirds of the Colorado’s water supply goes out of state—affecting 19 states. He also addressed in depth how the continental divide affects the water supply and Colorado’s eight major storage basins.

Tanner Ehmke, Chief Economist, Co-Bank, Greenwood Village, Colorado, addressed “Agriculture Economic Outlook.” He advised it is a great time for the livestock business due to low cost of grain. Farm net income looks to improve; downturn is temporary. Survivors of the cyclical downturn will profit long term. The U.S. economy expects to grow 2% in 2018. Also, USDA expects the USA to remain strong through 2017—with no shortage of agricultural commodities.

To wrap up the delegate session, the delegates were honored to hear from recently named “**2017 National Woman of the Year**” **Dr. Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science, CSU, and 2016 Meritorious Award from OIE World Organization for Animal Health, Paris**. Dr. Grandin spoke about, “Animals Make Us Human.” She encouraged us to look at situations involving animals from their perspective—what they see, hear, and the dangers, etc. they perceive, and to handle them accordingly for best results.

The President’s Awards Banquet was held Monday evening in the Colorado State Ballroom. **North Dakota Delegate and former NARRC President Roald Lund** offered the invocation. A New Program Award was presented by President Gary to **Kim Porter** for the Agri Business Division, Wyoming Business Council’s new program, “Value-Added Agricultural Loan Program.” The program is designed to assist farm producers in processing farm products into a changed marketable physical state/form—milling wheat into flour, making strawberries into jam, or processing livestock or poultry. Entertainment was by **Vic Anderson (singer/songwriter, champion yodeler) and 13 year old champion fiddler**

(Report of 2017 Annual Meeting cont'd)

Julian “Westy” Oliver. Guest speaker was **Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Don Brown**, “Mile High Agriculture.” Commissioner Brown, a third-generation farmer, has been active in water conservation, energy development and designing and in implementing technological innovations within the industry.

On Tuesday, the delegates and guests boarded buses for educational agricultural tours: **CSU Equine Center**—learning about the diverse equine programs in place; **USDA Seed Vault at CSU**—its location was chosen for Colorado’s dry climate, and delegates/guests viewed firsthand the various ways the seeds are stored; **Northern Water Conservation District Office**—the general manager gave a presentation on the Big Thompson Project and its importance in the west; and lastly **CSU’s Livestock Arena**—showcasing the holding/loading features that Dr. Grandin has developed in the handling of livestock for various inoculations, procedures, etc. to ensure quality of treatment of animals.

Annual Business Meeting: **President Gary** reconvened the meeting on Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. **Delegate Don Jacka (KS)** gave the invocation.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held September 28, 2016, in Tampa, Florida, were distributed, and upon motion by John Woeste/Horace Horn, the minutes were approved as recorded, mailed, and distributed.

Treasurer’s Report/Audit Report: The Financial Statement for the period of September 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017, was distributed. Secy/Treas **Eagan** expanded on the report. Upon motion by Louis Frost/William Stanley, delegates approved the Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Audit Committee Chair **Sandra Tenorio** 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/Larry Mack, delegates approved the Audit Report as presented by Tenorio.

Website Committee Report: Member **Jeannie Eagan** advised the website updates have been submitted to Website Manager—updates have not been made. She also advised the need to adjust the current payment rate to better attract website managers. States are encouraged to submit updates to their state-to-state awareness portion of the website.

2018 Annual Meeting: **Wesley Harris** invited delegates and guests to Columbia, South Carolina, for the 47th annual meeting. The meeting will be held on August 26-29, 2018, at the Marriott Columbia Hotel, located at 1200 Hampton Street, in Columbia. A pre-tour on Saturday, August 25rd, is being planned for Charleston. **Mike and Katie Crosby** gave a video presentation of some of the things to anticipate in Charleston and Columbia. Hotel room rate is \$149.00/night plus taxes—the rate will be available three days pre- and post-conference dates. The cost for the pre-conference optional tour to Charleston is anticipated to be \$125.00 per person.

2019 Annual Meeting: **Terri LaBrie** advised that plans are being finalized for the 48th annual meeting to be held in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the Holiday Inn Rapid City-Rushmore Plaza Hotel, on September 13-18, 2019. Room rates are \$139.00 and up (plus taxes)—rate depending on room requested. A detailed presentation will be given at our 2018 annual meeting.

2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings: **Jeannie Eagan**—designated by the board to facilitate the annual meetings—distributed a pictorial map to the delegates showing the date and location where all annual meetings have been held. She advised we are in need of a state to host in 2020. Also, it was noted that 2021 will mark NARRC’s 50th annual meeting, and something special for this occasion might be fitting. It was suggested that a committee may need to work together for these plans to materialize. Delegates responded favorably to this suggestion. Therefore, this item will be placed on the agenda at the Board’s 2018 Mid-Year Planning Meeting.

Nominating Committee: Chair **Penn Rogers (SC)** presented the following 2017-2018 slate of officers:

President — Jerry Driscoll (Kansas)
Vice President — Thomas Carter (Georgia)
Past President — Harold Gary (Mississippi)
Director — Donald Giffey (North Dakota) two-year term
Director — Bennie Hutchins (Mississippi) two-year term
Director — Tony Minicozzi (Arkansas) two-year term
Director — Ben Wible (Texas) one-year term (filling the one-year term remaining of Thomas Carter)

(Director Louis Ciarkowski (MI) has one year remaining on his elected term.)

There being no further nominations and upon motion by Larry Mack/John Stencel the delegates voted unanimously to elect this slate of officers by acclamation.

President Gary announced the continued appointment by incoming president Jerry Driscoll of Vernon Eagan as Secy/Treas with Jeannie Eagan assisting.

President Gary and incoming President Driscoll commended CRRC President Tate Rusk and the entire Colorado Rural Rehab Corporation board and staff for an outstanding conference. Appreciation was also expressed to the NARRC board for their dedication and commitment in serving 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/Steve Ferguson, the delegates voted to adjourn the 46th Annual Conference/Meeting of the National Association of Rural Rehabilitation Corporations at 8:45 a.m.

2017-2018 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 newsletter or send a request by email to Vernon Eagan at egvljj@swbell.net.

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in June, 2018, 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: egvljj@swbell.net. Phone: 501.758.4723.

Future NARRC Annual Conferences

2018

August 26-29, 2018 — Columbia, SC
Mariott Columbia Hotel
1200 Hampton Street; Columbia, SC 29201
PH: 803.771.7000

Host Contact: William Stanley
Email: scrrc1927@att.net

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 and 2021

Open for Hosting

(Contact: Vernon/Jeannie Eagan)

PH: 501.758.4723 or Email: egvljj@swbell.net



2017-2018 NARRC Board: Seated L to R—Thomas Carter; Louis Ciarkowski; Vernon Eagan. Standing L to R—Bennie Hutchins; Donald Giffey; Jerry Driscoll; Tony Minicozzi; and Harold Gary. (Ben Wible not pictured.)

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: egvljj@swbell.net.