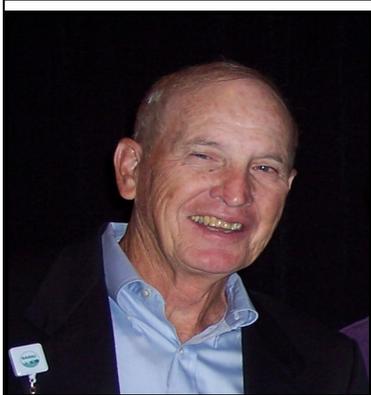


# REPORTS



June 2016

## President's Message—By William C. “Bill” Stanley



Greetings!

I hope you are doing well and wish for you a good, productive summer. South Carolina, like many of you, has had an abundant supply of rainfall and our crops are looking great.

In April, our NARRC Board of Directors traveled to Tampa for the Mid-Year Planning Meeting. John Woeste, Kathy Berry, and other FRRC board have done an exceptional job planning the 2016, 45th Annual Meeting and selecting an outstanding hotel, the Hilton Tampa. It will be a great meeting, and I am certain you will find it to be interesting and informative. Thank you to the Florida folks for their tremendous effort and hard work. As many of you know, hosting a NARRC annual meeting requires an enormous amount of time and energy, and I truly hope that each of you will make every effort to attend. I invite you to arrive early to experience all of the diverse attractions Tampa has to offer.

A few days ago, I talked with Bud Weiss (CO), and he informed me that Colorado is well on their way to pulling together the 2017 NARRC Annual Meeting in Fort Collins. It is not too early to mark your calendars—September 17-20, 2017, at the Hilton Fort Collins.

South Carolina is putting the framework together for the 2018 NARRC Annual Meeting to be held in Columbia. We will do our best to showcase South Carolina and our SCRRC program.

I invite you to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the representatives from West Virginia, our newest NARRC member, and to encourage their attendance at these annual meetings.

It feels like only a few months ago we were in Wyoming, and truly in a short time we will be in Tampa. It's going to be a great meeting, and I look forward to seeing you there. Plan your itinerary and join me in Tampa at the new Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore on September 24-28.

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### WELCOME TO FLORIDA—THE SUNSHINE STATE!

*From John T. Woeste, President, Florida RRC*

NARRC Colleagues: We extend a warm—believe us it will be warm—welcome to Florida, **September 24-28**, for the 45th Annual NARRC Conference in historic Tampa, Florida. It is our pleasure to host our fellow association members. We have planned a program that will expose you to a Florida that many have not seen or perhaps imagined. We have made arrangements with our fine hotel for early arrival and after conference stays where you can enjoy the widely-known variety of recreation, cultural and sport venues offered in the Tampa area. We hope you sample some of them while you're with us.

Our Monday program and Tuesday tour will take you into a slice of Florida that is equally vibrant and we hope interesting to folks invested in agriculture and rural affairs. Some call it “the other Florida.”

We are committed to making your participation an enjoyable and informative experience. As a result, we urge you to contact us with questions prior to arrival and let us know where we can be helpful after you arrive in beautiful, historic Tampa.

Our hope for you—safe travel and a most memorable 2016 NARRC national meeting.

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## Report of 2016 Mid-Year Planning Meeting—Tampa, FL—By Vernon Eagan

**Call to Order:** The Mid-Year Planning Meeting of the 2015-2016 Board of Directors was called to order by President William Stanley on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 8:45 a.m., in the Bay Board Room, of the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, in Tampa, Florida. A quorum was established. Also present were Kathy Berry (FL), John Woeste (FL), Russ Clanton (DC) and Jeannie Eagan. Absent were Past President Anseth (MT) and Director Horn (AL)—Horn voted by proxy (to Gary).

**Opening Remarks:** President Stanley welcomed everyone to Florida and expressed appreciation to the board for their commitment to NARRC. He also thanked the Eagans for their dedication to serving as secretary/treasurer and ensuring the smooth operation of NARRC. President Stanley expressed appreciation to Kathy Berry and John Woeste for all the hard work, time, and effort put into hosting the 2016 Annual Meeting. President Stanley also thanked Russ Clanton for his commitment to NARRC and being available to the states to assist them with the success of their various and diverse programs. **Director Steve Ferguson** gave the invocation.

**Minutes and Reports:** Upon motion by Frost/Ferguson, the Board approved the minutes—as read and previously distributed—of the Pre-Conference Board Meeting held September 20, 2015.

Upon motion by Ferguson/Neal, the Board approved the minutes—as read and previously distributed—of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held September 23, 2015.

Minutes of the September 23, 2015, Annual Business Meeting were reviewed for accuracy—no changes were indicated.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was given by **Jeannie Eagan** to keep the board fully informed of the secretary/treasurer activities.

The financial report was given by **Secy/Treas Vernon Eagan**. Upon motion by Gary/Frost, the Board approved the report as presented and to be filed for audit.

Upon motion by Gary/Frost, the Board ratified the unanimous email vote of January 27, 2016, recommending the reinvestment of NARRC funds. *(Following email board approval, action was taken on January 28, 2016. Details of this action are in the minutes and secretary/treasurer's financial report and will be provided to the membership at the annual meeting in Tampa.)*

Website Committee member **Jeannie Eagan** reported that the website is up to date with changes being sent in to the website manager (Jason Crider) as changes occur.

**2016 Annual Meeting:** Kathy Berry gave a detailed report of plans for the Annual NARRC Conference on September 24-28, 2016, at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel, in Tampa, Florida. Lodging rates are \$109.00 (plus 12% current tax rate) for single/double.

Delegate registration fees will be \$425.00. Guest Registration fees will be \$250.00. Kathy will note all deadlines on the registration form.

On Sunday evening, September 25<sup>th</sup>, the President's Reception will be poolside—with the Tampa Bay Room as weather backup if needed.

On Monday, September 26, the session will open with Florida welcoming speakers John Woeste and Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam. Delegate session speakers and topics will include: Craig Watson, UF Director Tropical Aquaculture Lab "Ornamental Aquaculture, A unique Florida History"; Russ Clanton, USDA Liaison; Reggie Brown, Executive VP Florida Tomato Exchange "Twenty Plus Years of NAFTA—The Epic Struggle of Tomatoes in Florida"; and Jeff Summer, Director of Agricultural Programs South Florida Water Management District "Water Management in South Florida—Past, Present and Future Challenges."

The guest activity includes Tampa Bay History Museum with lunch at Columbia Café—featuring a Cuban/American Cuisine, and a tour of the Florida Aquarium.

Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, delegates and guests will board buses for a tour of a working cattle ranch—Blackbeard Ranch and a tour of the UF Gulf Coast Research and Education Center's labs where research is ongoing for various produce and ornamentals. Deborah Farmer of the Mosaic Company will be a speaker. Lunch will be catered there at the Center.

The Hotel is conveniently located within walking distance to numerous department stores (Dillard's, Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, etc.) boutiques, and a vast array of restaurants. The Hotel shuttle runs every 30 minutes to/from the airport. Also, the Hotel will shuttle conferees to/from the shopping area or restaurants in between airport trips. The airport is a 10-15 minute drive.

Florida host Kathy Berry will send out the agenda and registration packets with associated costs to the states in

## **(Report of 2016 Mid-Year Planning Meeting cont'd)**

early/mid-June. This material will be sent both electronically and by US mail. Also, a list of sites of interest will be included for pre- and post-conference attendees.

Pending travel conflicts, the NARRC Pre-Conference Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for usual time on Sunday, September 24th, at 9:00 a.m., in the Gulf Room.

**2017 Annual Meeting:** Jeannie Eagan advised that the Colorado Rural Rehab Corporation is committed to hosting the 2017 Annual Meeting on September 17-20, 2017, at the Hilton Fort Collins, in Fort Collins, Colorado. They will be advising the board and delegates of more details in September, 2016, at our Pre-Conference Board Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting.

**2018 Annual Meeting:** President Stanley reaffirmed that South Carolina is committed to hosting the 2018 Annual Conference—location and dates are being finalized.

**2019 Annual Meeting:** Jeannie Eagan will be in contact with various states to determine their ability to host in 2019—cognizant of the need to move the meeting location to various geographical locations.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NARRC Panel Discussion:** After discussing the merits of a panel to address NARRC concerns, it is the consensus of the board to forego a panel this year. However, the program will endeavor to include a member-state delegate to briefly share their state's experience with how its program is being implemented and any associated problems.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Stanley advised the appointments of the nominating committee and the audit committee. *(These appointments are noted on page 4 of this issue.)*

Secy/Treas Eagan proposed consideration to approve airfare expense for Jeannie. *(Rationale: Bylaws do not include airfare expense for Jeannie (only Vernon's expense.) If driving, Jeannie's travel expense is a non-issue. However, since airfare for both is less than travel by automobile and lodging expense, they elected to use air transportation.* The Eagans excused themselves from the meeting to allow freedom of discussion.

Upon motion by Gary/Ferguson and amended by Frost, the board voted unanimously to approve Jeannie's travel expenses as presented and the amendment that a policy be made whereby Jeannie's travel expenses be paid to all future mid-year board of directors' meetings while serving in the capacity as NARRC Secy/Treas Assistant.

## **CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT**

Russ Clanton urged board members to encourage their states to contact Russ if they should have any problems with their local FSA in resolving issues. He will always be available to help. He also noted that Mike Hinton is still around; however, Russ is receiving reports and working with the states.

President Stanley expressed appreciation to Russ for his helpfulness and offer to assist the states as they change directions in their lending programs.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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*Top: Steve Ferguson and Florida guide at Blackbeard's Ranch. Bottom: At Planning Meeting—seated: Jeannie Eagan, Bill Stanley, Harold Gary; standing: Vernon Eagan, G.W. Neal, Louis Frost, Russ Clanton, and Steve Ferguson.*

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Email: gwneal@texasrural.org

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### Website Committee:

Stan Garbacz (NE), Chair  
Steve Ferguson (IA)  
Jeannie Eagan

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

### 2016 Nominating Committee:

Bud Weiss (CO), Chair  
Ken Dalsted (ND)  
Penn Rogers (SC)

### 2016 Audit Committee:

J. Lee Alley (AL), Chair  
Lou Ciarkowski (MI)  
Tony Minicozzi (AR)

*News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January, 2017, 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: egnvljj@swbell.net. Phone: 501.758.4723.*

## Future NARRC Annual Conferences

### 2016

**September 24-28, 2016—Tampa, FL**  
**Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel**  
**2225 North Lois Avenue; Tampa, FL 33607**  
**Phone: 813.877.6688**  
**Host Contact: Kathy Berry**  
**Email: frrcinc@hotmail.com**

### 2017

**September 17-20, 2017—Fort Collins, CO**  
**Hilton Fort Collins Hotel**  
**425 W Prospect Rd; Fort Collins, CO 80526**  
**Phone: 970.482.2626**  
**Host Contact: Kenneth Miller**  
**Email: bpicket@fusainsurance.com**

### 2018

**Columbia, South Carolina (Date pending)**  
**Host Contact: William Stanley, President**  
**Email: scrrc1927@att.net**

### **In Remembrance**

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the following families: **Cheryl Karns (KS)**, wife of **Larry Karns**, KRRC BOD; **George Pugh (AR)**, AREF BOD; **Sewall Macferran (KS)**, KRRC BOD; **Bob Stover (NM)**, husband of **Linda Stover**, past NARRC president; and **Winifred Carter (GA)**, mother of **Thomas Carter**, executive director of Georgia Development Authority.

### **USDA Liaison for Rural Rehab Funds:**

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### **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.*