



June 2018

## President's Message—By Jerry Driscoll



Greetings!

I hope this message finds everyone in good health and enjoying the start of summer. The Mid-Year NARRC Meeting held in Columbia, South Carolina, in April was great. Unfortunately, Don Giffey (North Dakota) couldn't make it, as he got snowed in and was unable to make travel arrangements to Columbia. We all appreciated the efforts of Bill Stanley, Wesley Harris and the rest of the South Carolina Association board and

staff for all their efforts.

The hotel and meeting facilities chosen and arranged for our upcoming annual meeting in Columbia are outstanding. Columbia is truly a historic city which everyone will enjoy. Further, the optional tour to Charleston on Saturday will be available for those who desire.

The South Carolina delegation has obtained some outstanding speakers and programs that will be educational and should be enjoyed by all. Looking forward to seeing you in Columbia.

Please encourage your board and their guests to attend the NARRC Annual Conference in Columbia on August 26th thru August 29, 2018. Come and enjoy some true Southern Hospitality. You all come now, ya hear!

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*SCRRC hosts, NARRC board members and spouses touring the **Yon Family Farms**. The Yon family consists of Kevin, Lydia and their three children—Sally Drake, and Corbin. Kevin is a first generation Angus breeder beginning at the age of 12. The family raises high-quality Angus, SimAngus, and Ultrablack cattle. This site is on our Tuesday tour.*

### WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA—THE PALMETTO STATE!

From Bill Stanley, President, SCRRC

On behalf of the South Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (SCRRC) Board of Directors, I want to extend to you a warm and cordial invitation to join us for our 47th NARRC Annual Meeting in Columbia, SC, on **August 25-26, 2018**. We have obtained excellent speakers for the event and are confident you will find the meeting very interesting and informative. This meeting will not only showcase South Carolina agriculture but also the SCRRC program as well.

Columbia, our state capital, is a very outstanding city with many things to see and do. Our hotel, the Marriott Columbia, is located downtown and within walking distance of dining, shopping, and sightseeing venues. Please reserve your room by visiting the [Book your group rate for 47th Annual NARRC Meeting 2018](#) link. Be mindful that August in South Carolina is hot and humid, so pack some comfortable clothing.

We are looking forward to seeing you in August; however, in the meantime, if you have any questions regarding your visit to Columbia, give us a call at the office (803.939.0811) or email us at [scrrc1927@att.net](mailto:scrrc1927@att.net).

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## Report of 2018 Mid-Year Planning Meeting—Columbia, SC—By Vernon Eagan

**Call to Order:** The Mid-Year Planning Meeting of the 2017-2018 Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Driscoll on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., in the Carolina Ballroom Salon II, of the Marriott Columbia Hotel, in Columbia, South Carolina. A quorum was established including a conferenced-in call. Also present were SCRRC board members/staff, USDA Liaison Russ Clanton, and Jeannie Eagan. Absent was Donald Giffey—due to airline weather issues. **Tony Minicozzi** delivered the invocation.

**Opening Remarks:** President Driscoll welcomed everyone to South Carolina and expressed appreciation to the NARRC Board and Eagan for their commitment to NARRC and ensuring its smooth operation. Appreciation was also expressed to the entire SCRRC board and staff for all the hard work they have devoted to hosting the 2018 Annual Meeting. President Driscoll thanked Russ Clanton for his commitment to NARRC and his being available to the states—assisting them to ensure the success of their various and diverse programs.

**Minutes and Reports:** Upon motion by Gary/Ciarkowski, the minutes were approved—as previously read/distributed—of the Pre-Conference Board Meeting on September 17, 2017.

Upon motion by Gary/Minicozzi, the minutes were approved—as previously read/distributed—of the Post-Conference Board Meeting held September 20, 2017.

Minutes of the September 20, 2017, Annual Business Meeting were reviewed for accuracy—no corrections were made.

**Russ Clanton** briefed the board on efforts to assist veterans via a partnership with Texas A&M and FSA—an expected beginning date of August, 2018. He encouraged the NARRC board to take back to their respective state boards the idea of considering loans to veterans at a 1% lower rate in the FSA partnership farm loan program. A couple of the states (Arkansas and Texas) are already committed to this effort.

A detailed report of the secretary's activities was given by **Jeannie Eagan** to keep the board fully informed of the secretary/treasurer activities and efforts to reach out to non-participating states.

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

Upon motion by Gary/Wibel, the Board ratified the unanimous email vote of January 25, 2018, approving the reinvestment of NARRC funds. (Following email board approval, action was taken on January 26, 2018. Details of this action are noted in the minutes and secy/treas's financial report and will be provided to the membership at the annual meeting in Columbia, SC.)

Website Committee member **Jeannie Eagan** advised that the website is current and that website manager Jason Crider is now being paid at a \$50 hourly rate.

**2018 Annual Meeting:** **Bill Stanley and Wesley Harris** gave a detailed report of plans for the Annual NARRC Conference on August 26-29, at the Marriott Columbia Hotel, in Columbia South Carolina. Hotel lodging rates are \$145.00 (plus taxes) for single/double occupancy—and includes breakfast buffet for two. Cutoff date for room reservations is on or before 12:01 a.m., Wednesday, August 1, 2018. The hotel does not offer shuttle service. However, taxi and Uber service is available from/to airport.

Delegate registration fees will be \$295.00. Guest Registration fees will be \$255.00. Pre-conference tour on Saturday, August 25, 2018, is \$125.00 per person. All deadlines will be noted in registration packets.

The pre-conference event on Saturday, August 25th, will be a tour to Charleston and a visit to the Boone Hall Plantation and Gardens and includes a Gullah luncheon and presentation. Delegates will have a choice to either visit Fort Sumter National Monument or a Guided City Tour with shopping. Departure will be 7:45 a.m. and return to the hotel at 6:30 p.m.

On Sunday evening, August 26, the President's Reception will be held. A buffet of heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided. A "Welcome to South Carolina" will be given by the Honorable Joe Wilson, U.S. House of Representatives.

On Monday, August 27, the session will open with South Carolina welcomes by SCRRC President William Stanley; The Honorable Henry D. McMaster, *Governor of South Carolina*; The Honorable Steven K. Benjamin, *Mayor of Columbia*; and Mr. Hugh E. Weathers, *S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture*. Delegate session speakers and topics will include: Russ Clanton, *USDA Liaison*, "Update from Washington;" Clemson University staff--Dr. James Clements, *President*; Dr. W. Kirby Player, *Director of College Relations and Students*; and Dr. Nathan Smith, *Extension Prof. of Agribusiness Production*. Also on the delegate session agenda will be a presentation of the South Carolina Ports Authority; and a Panel Discussion moderated by Wesley Harris and includes local farm family members: Ms. Vikki Brogdon, *Brogdon Family Farms*; Mr. Joseph McKeowen, *McKeowen Farms, Inc*; Mr. Josh Riddle, *Riddle Dairy Holdings*; and Mr. Scott Riddle, *Tailfeather Growers*.

Monday's guest activity will include a tour of the South Carolina State House and the South Carolina Governor's Mansion. Guests will rejoin delegates for a luncheon back at the hotel and will hear a presentation by The Honorable Sonny Perdue, *The Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture*. Guests will then depart for a tour of Historic Columbia—returning to the hotel at 3:30 p.m.

President's Awards Banquet will include special awards presentations—New Program Awards and Past President's Award—and entertainment by Jane Jenkins Herlong, American humorist, author, speaker and 1979 Miss South Carolina.

**(Report of 2018 Mid-Year Planing Meeting cont'd)**

In addition, a detailed presentation will be made by **Terri LaBrie** to invite delegates and guests to Rapid City, South Dakota, for the 48th NARRC Annual Meeting.

Tuesday, August 28, delegates and guests will board buses for farm tours: W.P. Rawl and Sons Farm (vegetables); Yon Family Farm (cattle); Titan Farms (peaches); and Hickory Hill Milk (dairy). A catered lunch will be at beautiful T&S Farm.

SCRRC will send out the agenda and registration packet with associated costs to the states in early June. These materials will be sent both electronically and by US mail.

Pending travel conflicts, the NARRC Pre-Conference Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 26, at 3:00 p.m., in the Palmetto Ballroom, Salon II. Committee meetings will also be on Sunday pending travel conflicts.

**2019 Annual Meeting:** **Jeannie Eagan** advised that Terri LaBrie continues with plans for hosting the 48<sup>th</sup> 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.

**2020 Annual Meeting:** **President Driscoll** will give delegates an opportunity to consider hosting the annual meeting in their state. **Director Minicozzi** advised that AREF is considering the feasibility of hosting at a location in northwestern Arkansas.

**2021 Annual Meeting:** Following a discussion of plans for NARRC's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and upon motion by **Gary/Minicozzi**, the board approved going forward with the appointment of a committee to investigate the feasibility of having the meeting at a site in Virginia that would be easily accessed by air travel and would include the assistance of the Virginia Department of Agriculture—especially for speakers. The committee will make contact with Virginia as to their interest/participation. Committee members would include Steve Ferguson (IA); Sandra Tenorio (TX); Larry Mack (FL); Jerry/Patty Driscoll (KS); Thomas Carter (GA); and Vernon/Jeannie Eagan (AR). A maximum of \$5,000 NARRC funds would be available if needed for this one-time event. The Committee will report back to the Board for recommendation and approval by the delegate body before finalizing any plans. Steve Ferguson will co-chair with the Eagan's. The committee welcomes any comments from member states to make this a memorable and affordable event. (Rationale for site: Virginia has been a NARRC member state since at least 1976 when they hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. It offers a lot of national historical sites—Colonial Williamsburg, Monticello at Charlottesville; Richmond, etc.)

**New Business:** **President Driscoll** advised of the appointments for the 2018 nominating committee and the audit committee. Upon motion by **Hutchins/Minicozzi**, the Board unanimously approved the appointments for both committees. (These appointments are noted on Page 4.)

**Closing Remarks/Adjournment:** **President Driscoll** expressed appreciation to everyone for their commitment to NARRC and to the SCRRC board and staff for their hard work in hosting the 2018 meeting.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Above photos: Greeted by Titan Farms co-owner Mrs. Lori Anne Carr. In Mr. Chalmers Carr's absence, Jason Rodgers (VP of Operations) escorted SCRRC members, NARRC Board members and spouses on a tour of the Titan Farms packing facility. Titan Farms is the largest peach grower on the east coast, with over 5,800 acres of peaches in production. This facility is also on Tuesday's tour. Delicious peach recipes are on their website.

Above: Watson Dorn, Hickory Hill Milk owner. We were treated to bottles of chocolate milk. A tour is planned for Tuesday.

## 2017-2018 NARRC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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### 2018 Nominating Committee:

Larry Mack, (FL), Chair  
Walt Anseth (MT)  
Lou Ciarkowski (MI)

### 2018 Audit Committee:

Roberta Valdez, (UT), Chair  
Steve Ferguson (IA)  
Kim Porter (WY)

News items for the next Rural Rehabilitation Reports due out in January, 2019, 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: egvnljj@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: egvnljj@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.  
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