



The Link

The National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

2005 Executive Board

President
Charles R. Adams
Texas

Past President
William Hunt
Minnesota

Vice President
Angie Billups
Georgia

Treasurer
Lizzie Smith
Washington, D.C.

Correspondence Secretary
Drenda Williams
Missouri

Recording Secretary
Kasey Reed
Minnesota

Parliamentarian
Kevin Farmer
California

Historian
Bennie Clark
Indiana

2005 Regional Representatives

NHQ
Malcolm Henning
Washington, D.C.

East
Tiffany Laws
New Jersey

Midwest
Shawn Anderson
Missouri

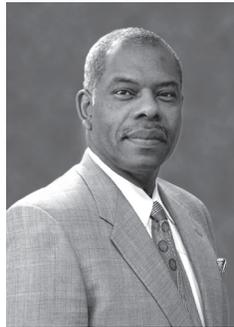
Northern Plains
Deric Clemons
Colorado

South Central
Gary Watson
Arkansas

Southeast
Kim Bradford
North Carolina

West
Curtis Tarver
California

The President's Message



Charles R. Adams

While pondering over the doubts, nuances, and alternative views of the past election, I struggled with the “good” that could come of it all. Finally, I’ve decided to put into action the words of a very profound gospel spiritual— “I believe I’ll run on and see what the end is gonna be.”

Since the installation of the 2005-2006 Executive Board on March 29, 2005, I concluded that no other appointment in my professional career has been more satisfying. The Organization’s 2004 Election coincided with what is perhaps the most pivotal time in the

history of the Agency. While I applaud the numerous accomplishments made under the past Executive Board, I would be remiss in not giving accolades to those individuals who stepped up to offer their time and talent to lead The Organization through this period of change.

The information contained in your nomination packets briefly described my vision for The Organization. Yes, while we focus on our individual careers, it will be imperative for us as a group to actively participate in offering recommendations to Management that will improve the working conditions and career paths for all employees. We should never forget the importance of “inclusion.” We must increase our acceptance of differing point of views as we engage in dialogue together. We must help to create a forum where our voices will be heard and where our collective, legitimate concerns will resonate most effectively. We also must be accountable and accept nothing less than complete accountability. As never before, we must put our best foot forward, put on our thinking caps and lay a pathway for future members and leaders to boldly navigate while fulfilling their career ambitions.

In 2006 we will respond to your call to schedule our annual training conference for the late summer or early fall. We will involve the collective thinking of the brain trust of this Organization to develop an initiative to attract more members to our training conference and reduce the registration cost of the conference without jeopardizing the quality of our venue.

I appeal to each member to pay their dues promptly so we can have a sense of our financial footing. I encourage a robust recruitment of new members by all and the continued investment in Life Memberships. “Hand me another brick” and I will lead the effort to move this Organization to a level of pre-eminence only experienced by men and women of the highest of caliber.

Charles R. Adams, President

Upcoming Events !

2005 Annual Training Conference...

Mark Your Calendars! We are returning to the “Rock.” The Conference Planning Committee is working diligently on the 2005 Annual Training Conference to be held December 12-17, 2005 at the newly renovated Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. Conference participants will be able to enjoy Little Rock’s newly revitalized downtown district.

We are expecting record-breaking attendance, so plan now to join us! More information is forthcoming in future issues of *The Link*.

Meet Your New Executive Board

President

Charles R. Adams

Charles R. Adams, a seasoned civil servant with 38 years of public service, pledges to deal effectively with issues that affect The Organization's members. He has held numerous positions during his years of service including State Conservationist in Nevada from 1986 to 1988, State Conservationist in Arizona from 1998 to 1990, and Southeast Regional Conservationist from 1997 to 2004. He now serves as Director of the National Employee Development Center (NEDC) in Fort Worth, Texas.

Charles earned a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from Southern University A&M in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition, he has engaged in post-graduate studies in Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Arlington.

When asked about his goals for The Organization, Adams replied, "Under my leadership, with the consensus of the membership, we must develop and nurture an organization that is attractive to our needs. Using strategic objectives, we must address how to retain our agricultural land, how to build and manage our financial resources, how to strengthen our interpersonal skills, how to take better care of ourselves physically, and most importantly,

how to improve our cohesiveness as African Americans and as employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service."

During the next two years, Adams pledges to emphasize what he coins "the importance of presence, the requirement of participation, and the development of potential." In a statement to members he writes, "During my tenure The Organization will honor the past while preparing for the future."

Vice President

Angie Billups

Angie Billups, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Operations in Georgia, has had many opportunities to use her leadership skills since beginning her career with NRCS. She now plans to use those same skills to help lead The Organization during the next two years.

She has held several positions within the agency in Georgia and Alabama, including Resource Conservationist, RC&D Coordinator, District Conservationist, State Outreach Coordinator and Soil Conservationist.

Angie earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi in 1992. She is a Detroit native but was raised in Columbus, Mississippi.

She has held several leadership positions within The Organization and NRCS, including Georgia Chapter President, State Outreach Working Group Chair, Federal Women's Program Manager and Georgia Civil Rights Committee Chair.

Treasurer

Lizzy Smith

Lizzy Smith's extensive knowledge of budgets, fiscal management and fund accountability earned her the position of Treasurer for The Organization.

Before she retired, she was the Senior Budget Analyst in National Headquarters (NHQ). She has held numerous positions in NHQ and the East Region, including Voucher Examiner, Budget Assistant, Fiscal Assistant and Budget Analyst.

Lizzy graduated from Virginia State College in Norfolk (a.k.a. Norfolk State University). She is very active as a trustee and in the Mission Outreach Ministries at her church.

Outside of her professional career she enjoys domestic and foreign travel as well as spending time with her family and helping others.

Executive Board Members (cont.)

Recording Secretary Kasey L. Reed

Kasey Reed, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Minnesota, began her career in Arkansas. She started as a Soil Conservationist in Lewisville, Arkansas where she serviced two counties. In 1998 Kasey retained her position and transferred to the Fort Smith Field Service Center. In 1999 she became District Conservationist at the Batesville Field Service Center and later transferred to the Osceola Field Service Center. In 2003 she was promoted to District Conservationist in Helena, Arkansas.

She has served as Recording Secretary for both the Arkansas Chapter and the Arkansas State Civil Rights Committee. She currently serves as President of the Minnesota Chapter.

Correspondence Secretary Drenda Williams

Drenda Williams, a Resource Conservationist for Geographic Information Systems, works on the State Field Technical Services Staff for NRCS in Missouri. She assists with the statewide implementation of geospatial technology, Protracts and Customer Toolkit.

Drenda has served as a Soil Conservationist (Coordinator) for the Lincoln University Center of

Excellence GIS Lab.

She began her career ten years ago as one of the first USDA/1890 Scholars. Drenda obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with an emphasis in Natural Resources from Lincoln University in Missouri.

Drenda serves as the Black Emphasis Program Manager for Missouri. She is a Life Member of The Organization and has held positions as the President and Secretary of the Missouri Chapter.

ATTENTION Renewing Members!

*The 2005 deadline for
membership dues is
August 1, 2005.*

Renew your membership today!

Historian Bennie Clark

Over the past 37 years, Bennie Clark has worked as a Soil Scientist in Iowa and Indiana. His positions included Soil Survey Project Leader, MLRA Project Leader, and Soil Data Quality Specialist. For the past three years he also served as the Black Emphasis Program Manager (BEPM) for Indiana.

His many accomplishments include increasing the number of Black NRCS employees in Indiana by attending career fairs at 1890 and Historically Black

Colleges and Universities and by partnering with predominantly African-American community-based organizations and groups. He also sponsors community events to increase visibility for NRCS and to provide information on career opportunities with NRCS and USDA.

Bennie was named NRCS Outstanding BEPM for his work with the program in Indiana. He has been a member of the Indiana Civil Rights Committee for three years and served as the first committee chairman. He recently received the Indiana Civil Rights Award for his work in civil rights and as the BEPM. A Life Member of The Organization, Bennie has served as President of the Indiana Chapter for four years.

Thoughts on Success

- * Success is not a matter of talent, training or territory as much as it is the skillful and prayerful management of divinely inspired ideas.*
- * There is no way any self-respecting person will become egotistical when he realizes his success depends upon ideas that come from God.*
- * Manage your time, and you'll manage to succeed in accomplishing what appear to be impossible goals.*
- * How do you manage goals? The answer lies in a simple formula: Decide - then divide and conquer!*

Executive Board Members (cont.)

Parliamentarian Kevin Farmer

Kevin Farmer is a hydro-engineer in the Elk Grove field office in California. He currently serves as the Wetlands Engineer for the Wetlands Design Team where he is involved with wetland developments and restorations throughout California.

Prior to his current assignment, Kevin worked in Minnesota as a civil engineer in the Thief River Falls Area Office and as an agricultural engineer in the Brooklyn Center Area Office. He has also worked in the Ozark Project Office in Alabama and the Marianna Field Office in Arkansas.

Kevin began his career as a student intern in the St. Peter Area Office in Minnesota in 1999. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biological and Agricultural Systems Engineering from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

Kevin has been an active member of The Organization since 2002 and a Life Member since 2003. He has served nationally on the Membership Committee and as Treasurer of the Minnesota Chapter. Farmer serves on the Evangelism Committee and Men's Ministry Steering Committee of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. His extensive knowledge of parliamentary procedures are a tremendous asset to The Organization.

2004 Accomplishment Reports Available Online

The Organization's 2004 Annual Report is available online. The report also includes accomplishments from the Texas Chapter, which were inadvertently omitted in the printed version distributed at the annual training conference in December 2004.

Please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/organ/conference/news/reports/index.html> to view the reports.

WANTED!

Volunteers for Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

Volunteers are needed to serve as members of The Organization's Standing and Ad Hoc Committees for 2005-2006. If you are interested, please submit a brief narrative of your interest. Include your first and second committee preference and contact information in your response. Please e-mail your response to Drenda Williams, Correspondence Secretary, at drenda.williams@mo.usda.gov by June 17, 2005.

More information about the committees can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/organ/orgnz/bylaws/article8.html>.

Standing Committees

- Agriculture
- Audit
- Awards
- Budget
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Communications
- Employee and Career Development
- Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)
- Liaison
- Membership
- Planning

- Presidential Advisory
- Program
- Urban
- Ways and Means

Ad Hoc Committees

- Auction
- Contracts Review
- Exhibits
- Sponsorship
- Talent/Fashion
- Transportation



The National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees 2005 Membership Application

Any person or organization subscribing to the purpose of the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees is eligible to apply for membership. Please type in your information before printing. You may print a blank form to fill out by hand. Please print clearly. Feel free to copy blank form and distribute as needed.

(Please send 2 signed copies to the treasurer.)
The Organization
Cynthia Stanford, Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 26164, Little Rock, AR 72221-6164

Choose Type of Membership

Lifetime Membership (\$500.00)

- 1 payment (\$500.00)
- 4 payments (\$125.00)
- 8 payments (\$62.50)
- 2 payments (\$250.00)
- 5 payments (\$100.00)
- 10 payments (\$50.00)

Sustaining Life Membership

Applicable to Life members who contribute \$130.00 or more annually after obtaining Life Membership status.

- I prefer to mail my payments
- I prefer Direct Deposit.

1-Year membership (\$45.00)

Applicable to anyone who desires to be a member of The Organization.

Sustaining Annual Membership

Applicable to any regular annual member who contribute \$130.00 or more annually towards the support of the Organization.

- I prefer to mail my payments
- I prefer Direct Deposit.

Choose Type of Membership

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. First Name _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____

Title Agency: NRCS Other: _____

Office Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone: () _____ Fax:() _____ E-mail: _____

(If you prefer to receive Organization mailings at a different address please provide mailing information below.)

Office Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Yes I would like to be listed in The Organization's Network Directory!

What Region are you in?:

- East Midwest NHQ Northern Plains South Central Southeast West

Are you a Chapter Member? Yes No (if yes, which one?) _____

(Note: Chapter dues are not accepted or processed at National level. Please send your chapter dues to your local chapter).

If asked, I am willing to serve on the:

- Agriculture Constitution & Bylaws & Universities President's Advisory
- Awards Employee Career & Liaisons Urban
- Budget Development Membership Ways and Means
- Communications Exhibits Planning
- Historical Black Colleges

Total Enclosed \$ _____ Signature _____

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Received: _____

Authorized Initials _____

*Jane't Carnes at 916-223-8483 or to see the ship and amenities go to
Diana Boyd at 559-252-2191 or
http://carnival.com/Ship_Detail.aspx?shipCode=SE*

For more information contact:

The West Region Chapter and the Maryland Chapter invite you to enjoy 5 wonderful days of fun and relaxation on a Carnival Costa Maya/Cozumel cruise. This is a win-win opportunity for you and a deserving student. Monies raised during this fundraiser will go to scholarships funded by the West Region Chapter and Maryland Chapter of NOPBNCSE.

Join us as we sail to enhance a student's future

5 Day Western Caribbean Cruise on the Carnival Sensation!

Sylvia Rainford, Editor
1400 Independence Avenue SW,
Washington D.C. 20250