



February 2011



From the President

Drenda Williams

The 2011 National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees annual conference will be coming soon and planning is still under way. As with all of our training conferences we strive to provide exemplary professional and personal development. We have planned an outstanding training program to meet the various needs of employees.

This year's theme is *"Bridging the Gap in Professional Development and Advancing the Principles of The Organization."* We are excited to present a diverse selection of workshops ranging from Strategic Planning to AgLearn to Resource Assessment, among others. An investment in our training conference ensures that you will leave equipped with the right tools to enhance your career now and in the future.

I am proud say that The Organization is now accepting payments for membership dues and conference registration through our website. A huge thank you goes out to Cara Clark, Midwest Regional Rep who is serving as the webmaster. In addition, it now features an exclusive "members only" page. All persons who have paid their 2011 membership dues **between January 1-February 4** will have received a login and password for access. Members paying online will receive access immediately after their application has been activated. Membership dues received after February 28 will be assessed a \$10 late fee.

To get more details on this and to check out all the details of our website, just visit www.nopbnrcse.org and click on the "Membership" or "Training Conference" links. There is a draft of the conference agenda available for your review along with a listing of available training courses. Remember, pre-registration ends **February 28, 2011**. After this date, registration rates will increase.

Again, in order for The Organization to be successful, we need your support. We are asking for members to donate their time and expertise as a committee member. All paid members who wish to serve on a committee can submit their contact information to Katura Wright, Correspondence Secretary.

As stated before, I have an open door policy. Whenever I can be of assistance to you, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta.

Drenda Williams
President NOPBNRCSE



Find us on
Facebook

If you have a Facebook page, join us online by searching for, "[National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees.](#)" Hit the "Like" button to receive the latest information on the upcoming conference, updates from The

Org, and for networking with fellow followers. And for those of you that haven't established an account yet, it's never too late to start and what better way to introduce yourself to Facebook than through NOPBNRCSE!
"As President of NOPBNRCSE, I encourage each and every one of our members to connect and

network with each other through this medium. Feel free to submit information to the page to keep everyone informed of member news. As many of us have retired, moved to a new location, etc., we are excited about catching everyone up through our Facebook! – Drenda Williams, President"

Accomplishment Reports:

The Organization is requesting accomplishments reports from Regional Representatives, Committee Chairs, and Chapter Presidents for use during the conference business meeting. This year, we're also requesting persons submit digital photos and captions describing their accomplishments along with the report. A copy of the template to use when submitting your report is available online at www.nopbnrcse.org/conference/index.htm. Please submit reports and photos no later than **February 11, 2011** to dorothea.martinez@sc.usda.gov.

Hotel reservation reminder

Have you reserved your room yet? If not, a block of rooms have been reserved under the group code "NRCS" at Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport – 1900 Sullivan Road, Atlanta, GA, 30337 through March 26, 2010 at the conference rate of \$132 per night, plus 13 percent tax.



The group rate is available until February 25, 2011 and subject to availability. Don't delay, please call the hotel directly at (770) 997-1100; press 1 for reservations. You can also make your hotel reservations online a special website has been created at: www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/nrcs

Call for Papers/Exhibits

The Organization is inviting NRCS employees and partners to participate as a Poster Presenter during the conference. Your poster can display conservation activities in your office, your area or your state. Your poster can showcase a wetland, a watershed, an outreach activity, or wildlife. Your poster can focus on people, activities or events that are making a difference.

Posters should be submitted to Kevin Norwood no later than **March 4, 2011**. For complete details on poster requirements and registration, visit www.nopbnrcse.org/conference/index.htm

Auction Update

Calling all Organization members and friends to participate in this year's "Live Auction!" The auction will be held Wednesday, March 23 from 7-9pm at our training conference. Proceeds from the auction are turned into scholarships for 10 deserving students who will be attending a Historically Black College or University.

At a minimum, the auction committee is requesting each chapter and region to donate two or more unique items. Items can include gift baskets, Black Art, clothing and more. If you are interesting in donating an item to the auction, please provide a description of your item to shawn.anderson@wdc.usda.gov no later than March 11, 2011. Complete details are available on our website at www.nopbnrcse.org.



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