

Western RC&D Association Conference – January 25-28, 2009 Holiday Inn of the Northern Black Hills

Who We Have Invited for You!

Following is some information on the program and the speakers we have invited for you to the Western RC&D Association's 2009 Conference in Spearfish, SD. We hope to inform and entertain you with a mix of western history, and provide you the opportunity to successfully conduct the annual business meeting.

President's Reception - Robert Perry, President - Sunday evening, January 25.
The Circle B Cowboys will entertain you with outstanding traditional cowboy songs and comedy and you will be served a chuck wagon meal. Dancing anyone?



Keynote Speaker: Gerard Baker, Superintendent, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Monday, January 26.



Gerard Baker is a full-blood member of the Mandan-Hidatsa Tribe of Fort Bethold Reservation, Manadree, North Dakota. He grew up on the reservation on his father's cattle ranch. His father was inducted in the North Dakota Hall of Fame in 1999. Gerard's brother Paige is the Superintendent of the Badlands National Park in South Dakota. Over his 31 years of Federal Service, Gerard has worked in North Dakota, Montana, Oklahoma, and Virginia as the Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and South Dakota since 2004.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial hosts over 2 million visitors per year.

Monday Luncheon - Wanda Blair, Rancher and Comedian - January 26.

Wanda Blair and her husband Ed, their son Chad and his wife Mary, and their daughter Stacy and her husband Troy, all ranch in western South Dakota. They have a cow-calf operation and sell commercial bulls. Their background is in yearlings in a feedlot and raising alfalfa hay and irrigated corn. For many years Wanda has been adding a little bit of humor to ordinary ranch life because she believes that laughter is a very important part of life, and that many of us do not laugh often enough.

Monday General Session - Newell FFA – Parliamentary Procedure.

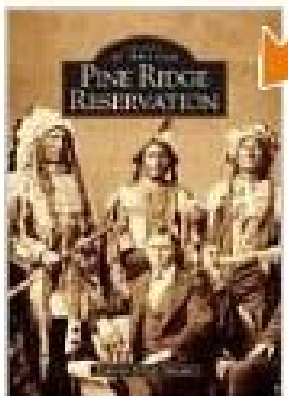
The Newell FFA Chapter will present a program on using parliamentary procedure to have a successful meeting. This will give you the ability to then go to your state association meeting and the western committee meetings and run the meeting smoothly, as well as correct a friend running the meeting.



Funding/Wealth Transfers/Endowments: Bob Sutton, SD Community Foundation and Donna Hunter, National RC&D Association. Tuesday, January 27.

Sustainability is an issue being discussed and addressed by many Western RC&D Councils. Bob Sutton is the Foundation President and manages the SD Community Foundation’s \$75 million endowment fund and grant program to nonprofit organizations. Like many state community foundations, there are over 70 local community designated funds that they manage, including RC&D Council Funds. Donna Hunter is the Education Director for the National RC&D Association, bringing a wealth of experience from RC&D Councils across the nation related to RC&D Sustainability. You will leave this session excited about the future of RC&D.

Luncheon – Donovan Sprague (author, historian, teacher), Tuesday, January 27. Sprague, a member of the Minnicoujou Lakota who was born and raised on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, is the great-great grandson of Chief Hump II (High Back Bone) and a descendant of the families of Chief Hump



and Chief Crazy Horse. Sprague received his bachelor’s degree from Black Hills State University in 1982, and went on to get his master’s degree from the University of South Dakota. He is employed with Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills as director of education, and director of the large Native American Education and Cultural Center. He also serves as an adjunct instructor at BHSU and Oglala Lakota College, teaching American Indian Studies, Lakota Studies, Political Science, American Indian Law, Treaties and Government, and Lakota Art and History. He will be available for a book signing (four books).



Fundraising and Setting up a Capital Campaign - Donna Hunter, Education Director, National RC&D Association. Wednesday, January 28. A follow-up to funding and endowments with the expertise, experience and examples on how it is done by RC&D Councils in the US.

At right are Donna Hunter and Paul Thomas, South Central RC&D, after Donna's training session in South Dakota (Paul is tall).



Wednesday General Session: Becki Lemke, Cornerstones Learning Center, "True Colors".



What are the true colors of other people in your life? You will leave this session thinking in colors. Learn about others and yourself in an enjoyable presentation by Becki.

Wednesday General Session and Wednesday Luncheon - Gloria Schaefer, Dynamics For Excellence. A professional communicator, Gloria G. Schaefer, as owner of DYNAMICS FOR EXCELLENCE, provides motivational keynotes and seminars on topics ranging from team building to customer service for businesses and organizations throughout the Midwest. Gloria is also co-owner of the Schaefer Ranch near Kennebec, South Dakota.

"Who's Listening" Use the little things to have successful verbal, nonverbal, and written communication. Your customers and colleagues will know they are important.

"You Must Be Kidding" Through stories you will learn how to recognize the humor of daily little things at home. **Below from her company web site:**

Did you hear that some airlines are now putting mistletoe at the baggage counter? That way you can kiss your luggage good-bye.

Archives is where Noah kept his bees.

Junk is the stuff we throw away. Stuff is the junk we keep.

What do you call a pig that took an airplane ride? Swine flu

Husband: I slept like a log. Wife: Yes, I heard the sawmill.

If a dog lost his tail, where would he get another one? Retail store