May 20, 2016

Dear National Rural Development Partnership Members:

**REPLY DUE \_June 30, 2016\_**

As we approach the time for our PRA annual meeting, it is also time to select the next recipient of the Ron Shaffer award. This award is presented to an individual who embodies the values necessary to build a national and state rural development partnership that meets the needs of rural America. I encourage you to take time to submit a nomination for this prestigious award.

To nominate an individual, they must meet three of the six selection criteria, which are: Overcoming Barriers; Collaboration and Partnership; Impact; Diversity and Inclusion; Leadership Development; and Overall Efforts. ***To nominate an individual, please send nominations to Jerry Townsend by June 30, 2016. Letters can be electronic to*** ***jerrytownsend@yahoo.com*** ***or hard mail to 6707 N. West Arrowhead Dr Urbana, IL 61802. The letters of nomination must address how this individual meets three of the six selection criteria.***

The award will be presented during our annual meeting.

Many individuals have dedicated themselves to this partnership and the values we embrace. I hope you will take time to recognize and nominate a deserving member of the partnership.

For questions or information, please contact me at jerytownsend@yahoo.com or 217-369-1010.

Sincerely,

Jerry

**Past Recipients:**

2001: Don Macke (NE) and Dick Gardner (ID)

2002: Cheryl Hinckley (TX) and Bill Graham (IN)

2003: Mary Randolph (WY)

2004: Dennis Engelke (TX) and Dianne McSwain (HHS)

2005: Steve McHenry (MD)

2007: Trent Clark (ID)

2008: Paul Costello (VT) and Connie Loden (WI)

2010: Tim Pexton (WY) and Bill Morgan (OH)

2011: Chris Marko (OR)

2012: Mary Ann Hayes (ME)

2013: Ricky Rolfsmeyer (WI)

2014: Mike Field (ID)

2015: Jerry Townsend (IL)