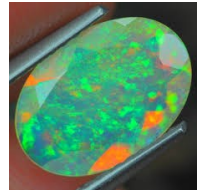


GEMS



The Official Publication of Retired Educators Association of Idaho

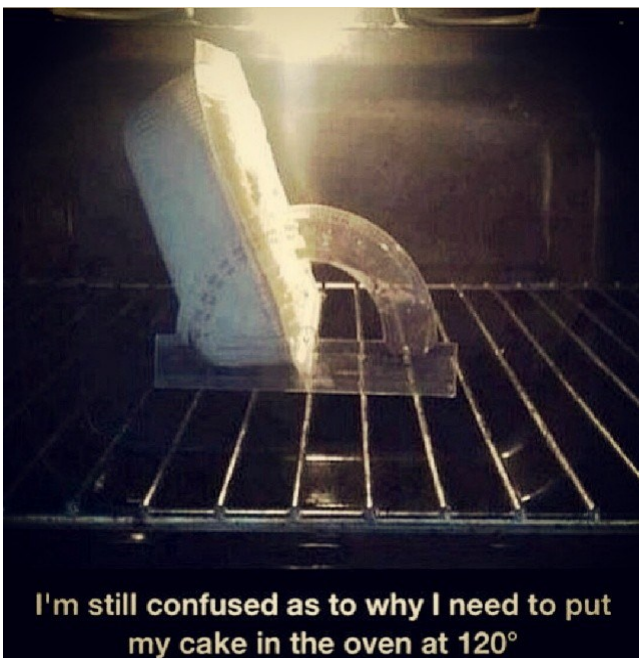
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June 15, 2015

Submitted by:
Ed Arndt
President

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Executive Secretary's Message

June is busting out all over, or so the song goes. I'm looking forward to the continued beauty of spring/summer and hope that the temperatures don't soar dramatically. It would also be nice if we could enjoy a nice soaking rain from time to time, so the "green" will stick around for a bit.

First, I want to again express my thanks and appreciation to the Lewiston and North Idaho folks for hosting a wonderful convention. The speakers provided us with lots of interesting and helpful information and the time went by so quickly. Jerry and I enjoyed the Trolley tour of Lewiston! The dog-wood trees were amazing, and the visit to the former brothel insightful. I felt sorry for the gentleman who was waiting, not so patiently, for his appointment upstairs. The trip to the Nez Perce National Historical Park Museum was wonderful. The new video that we viewed was beautifully done, and it was inspiring to see how the Nez Perce traditions and culture are being carried on with younger generations. The photo exhibit was fascinating, and worth seeing again.

This summer I will be working to prepare the new State Directory. I still need to get the unit information from 6 units - Lower Snake, Twin Falls, Mini-Cassia, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, and Coeur d'Alene. I'll start the updating progress beginning in June, so I'll appreciate receiving the information soon. Also this summer I'll be working on updating the website, posting pictures from the convention, and changing the units' information on each of their pages. I'm working with Ray Spencer, a professional photographer and friend, and we're planning to add a page that will just be photographs. I'll let you know when that's available on the website. Ray is also working with me on getting the Face Book page for our state organization beyond its fledgling state, where it is now. It may take us some time, but I have confidence that we'll get it going.

PERSI Continues to perform well, and as of May 28th, its value was \$15,240,896,912. The fund is up 5.1% for the fiscal year. I received a report from NASRA, National Association of Retirement Administrators, stating that the value of state and local government retirement systems for the entire country was 8.7 trillion dollars. These funds are held in trust and invested, and these investment returns matter as these earnings account for a majority of public pension financing. I'm planning to attend the June PERSI board meeting, and will provide you with any pertinent information that I receive at that time.

The first week of August, Jerry and I will be traveling to Savannah, GA for the ASRTE, Association of State Retired Teacher Executives, annual gathering. This will be my third opportunity to meet with these folks from around the country, and we always gain new information about what's happening in each of the states. I'm sure that I will have much to share with you upon our return.

The REAI board, which includes all state officers, committee chairs, and unit presidents, will be meeting August 14, 2015 at the AARP state office, 3080 E. Gentry Way, Suite 100, Meridian, ID 83642, 11:00 to 4:00. More information will be sent to you around the first of August. This meeting is very important so please put it on your calendar and plan to attend. If your unit president is unable to participate, be sure to send your vice-president.

Have a wonderful, safe, and healthy summer, and I hope to see many of you in August!

Submitted by:

Connie J. Bunch,
Executive Secretary, REAI jeanbunch@aol.com

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Idaho Representatives:

Rep. Raul Labrador 202-225-6611, 888-3188, www.labrador.house.gov
Rep. Mike Simpson 202-225-5531, 334-1953, www.simpson.house.gov
Sen. Mike Crapo 202-224-6142, 334-1776, www.crapo.senate.gov
Sen. Jim Risch 202-224-2752, 342-7985, www.risch.senate.gov

BE STRONG, SPEAK UP

Submitted by:
Barb Blasch
Legislative Chair

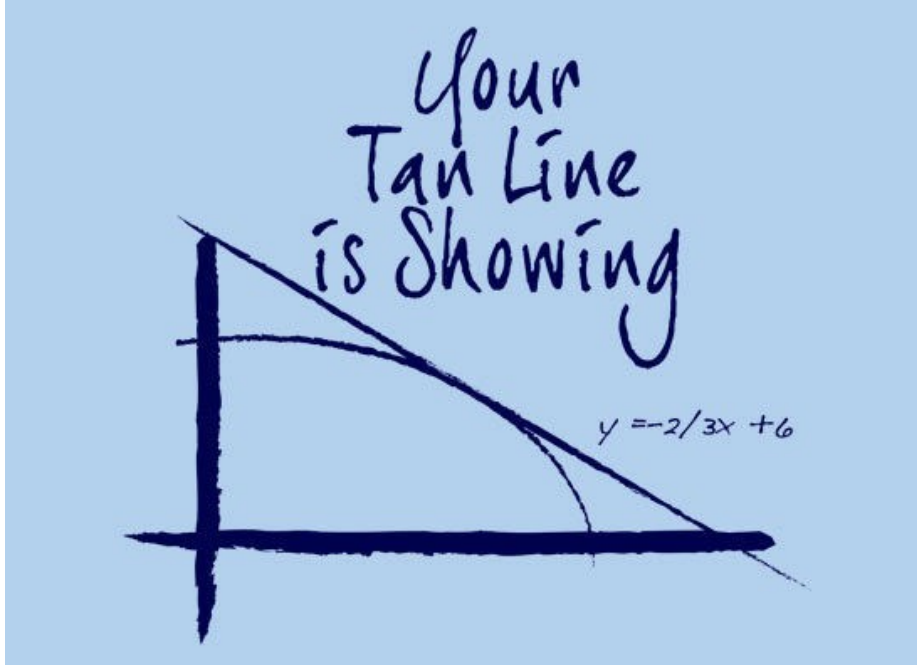
MESSAGE from MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, RETIRED

I want to thank all the members of REAL for the recognition of my years as State Membership Chair.

I donated \$175 of the money I received to MSTI-Chemo. I received a great thank you from them. They also wanted to let everyone at REAL know how much they appreciated the gift. It will help to pay for gas, special food, or pills. I told them the money is to be used at the Fruitland MISTI.

Thank you again!!

Mary Dixon



COLLETTE TRAVEL

Our "Memorial's of War" trip was fantastic! We saw many wonderful sites.

The guide was the best that I have experienced on my many travels with Collette.

We received a check from Collette for \$5,409.85. The state received 20% which amounted to \$1081.97. That left the 80% for the units that had people who went on the trip. That 80% amounted to \$4327.88. This amount was divided by 13, which was the number of people who were on the trip. That amount came to \$332.91 per person.

Twin Falls unit received \$665.82 for 2 people. Boise Kuna Meridian had 11 people. That unit received \$3662.01. The checks have been distributed by Catherine Wilson.

I checked with Collette Travel about our 2016 trip to New York City on April 15. I was informed that they still do not have pricings beyond April of next year. As soon as they do, I will receive the information. I will have travel brochures for our board meeting in August. Some of the highlights are: Ellis Island, The 9-11 Memorial, and 2 Broadway shows. It is a 5 day trip.

Margaret Reimer
208-887-6747
reimem@juno.com

BOISE, KUNA, MERIDIAN REA-BKMREA

The Boise, Kuna, Meridian REAI chapter completed the 2014-15 year with a celebration of accomplishments of the past year, reviewing the number of volunteer hours, Idaho Food Bank contributions, and support of various causes.

The program featured guest teachers who had been awarded \$500 grants last spring to carry out proposed projects during the school year. All of the members enjoyed hearing about the results of the grants and applauded the efforts of the teachers and the students.

Homer Clough conducted a necrology ceremony in honor of members who died this past year.

The next item on the agenda was the installation of officers for the 2015-16 year. Connie Bunch conducted the installation.

Installed were the following:

Elaine Klein, President; Jane Brewer, Vice President; Larry Lee, Secretary; and Pat and Bill Kluckhohn, Treasurers.

Serving on the Board in other leadership roles are Connie Bunch, Persi-AARP representative; Bobbi Jo Anderson, Community Service Chair; Colleen Andrew, Retired Secretary; James Coleman, PERSI & Insurance; Margaret Reimer, Caller Committee Chair and Collette Travel Coordinator; Barbara Blasch, Legislative Chair; Carol Stollfus, Directory; Alice Go-in, Courtesy; and Charlotte Moore, Grants. We are very grateful to these faithful members for their service and leadership.

Margaret Reimer presented thank you gifts to outgoing Board members. Charlotte Moore reported on the results of the 2015-16 grant proposals. It was decided that all of the grant proposals were worthy of being funded, and the Board voted to fund each one at the \$500 level. We look forward to hearing their results next spring!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.

Submitted by:

Elaine Klein
President

Twin Falls REA

Submitted by:
Edward Arndt

IDAHO FALLS REA

Three members of the unit traveled to Lewiston for the convention: Carlene Herring, Marilyn and Don Taylor. Congratulations to the RENCi for a great convention; great programs, tote bags, door prizes, food, hospitality, "field trips", and the weather in the town loaded with such beautiful trees in bloom.

The May program for the unit gave an opportunity for the delegates to share about convention. Carlene was the Hall of Fame recipient from the unit and was delighted. Her husband was pleasantly surprised at all that he learned while attending the convention....always a plus for the organization. Officers were installed and will assume their duties very soon.

Submitted by:

Marilyn Taylor,

Retiring president and newly installed vice president, Eastern Region Coordinator

Squaw Butte REA

We missed the March deadline. Sorry about that. Here are the happenings from our organization for the year so far.

Spring finally arrived and Squaw Butte Retired Educators welcomed it with open arms. January was a long, dreary, gray month. Our January meeting was a welcome respite from the inversion. We had a delicious lunch which was provided by the ladies from the Emmett Presbyterian Church. Our program for the day was presented by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes are found on the campuses of 119 colleges and universities from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska. We are fortunate to have an Osher Institute on the Boise State University Campus. The institute provides non-credit courses and activities specifically developed for adults aged 50 and older who are interested in learning for the joy of learning. If you want to learn more about this wonderful program and all of its available opportunities, here is a link to their website – extendedstudies.boisestate.edu/osher/

In February we, once again, enjoyed good company and a delicious lunch. Donations were received of books and funds for the school libraries in the Emmett School District.

Our March meeting was a week later than usual due to Spring Break. To all of the children and educators out there, we hope you enjoyed this well-deserved break. This is the break that seems to help us to regenerate our energy so that we can finish out the school year in full form. A program about the country of Scotland was presented by Mary Walker who paid a visit to her homeland of Scotland in September.

Our April meeting was held at the Ola Community Hall in Ola, Idaho. The Ola Ladies Club put on a delicious luncheon of sandwiches, salads and delicious home cooked desserts. Our program for the day was an overview of the Levy which would be presented to the voters of Gem County. Dr. Cindy Roberts from the District Office did an excellent job of explaining why the Levy was needed. Many community members worked tirelessly to make sure that the people of Gem County received accurate information about why this Levy was crucial to being able to continue to give our young people the best education possible. The good news is that the voters of Gem County recognized the importance of this levy and it passed.

Our May meeting was our Necrology Ceremony. As usual the ladies from the Presbyterian Church provided a wonderful luncheon.

We are looking forward to a "Field Trip" to Weiser, Idaho for our June Meeting. You can read all about this in the next edition of GEMS.

We currently have 88 members. 68 Local and State and 20 local only.

Submitted by:

Mary Walker

SEIREA

Submitted by:

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NIREA-North Idaho Retired Educators

The North Idaho Retired Educators held their last meeting of the year on Monday, May 18, at the Post Falls Senior Center. Our program was provided by the Superintendent of the Mullan School District, Robin Stanley. It was a very informative report on the state of schools in Idaho as they deal with common core, loss of Federal Forest Funds, and new State leadership. NIREA elected and installed new officers for the 2015-16 school year and discussed agenda items for our summer planning meeting in August. In March we heard from a local historian, Syd Albright, who writes a weekly history column for the Coeur d'Alene Press and in April we had a fitness program by representatives from the Fit and Fall program.

In March, representatives from our organization met in Moscow with representatives from RENC I to help with the planning of the State Conference. In April eight of our members attended the State Conference in Lewiston. We were impressed with the organization of the conference and quality programs. Congratulations Pat Hoch and RENC I members who were involved in the planning. We do regret that our group didn't bring home more of the door prizes.

We conclude the year feeling good about accomplishing most of our goals for the year. We had quality programs, good community activities, leadership development, and support for State legislation. We have work to do on membership recruitment. From NIREA, have a great summer break!

Doug Cresswell
Co-President

Minidoka-Cassia REA

Submitted by:

Retired Educators of North Central Idaho-RENCI

It's been a busy time for the RENCI unit the last couple of months. We had three regularly scheduled meetings and hosted the three day Biennial State Convention.

At our March meeting we heard from an employee of a local nursery. She brought dozens of plants, shrubs, gardening tools and décor and explained uses for all of them. We also discussed final plans for the state convention we were to host in April.

April found Gary Bush, a fellow retired educator showing and telling us about the Nez Perce Museum, that is now called the Heritage House. He told of plans to improve the building and other historical facts of the city. At this meeting members, Josie Marshall and Betty Goetzinger who have been the North Idaho Representatives for the past two years announced that they would be applying to take charge of the state membership position that was held for many years by retiring Mary Dixon.

At the last meeting of the year, in May, RENCI elects new officers and for the coming year those offices will be held by Dennis Ohrtmann as President, Josie Marshall and Cheryl Jenkins as co-vice presidents, Linda Weisel and Pat Hoch as secretary and Betty Goetzinger as treasurer. For the second year in a row we closed out the year with a brown bag surprise. Each member brought a paper bag with a surprise enclosed in it. NAIA World Series tickets, potted plants, a bottle of wine, gift certificates to favorite fast food eateries, and even money were found. Everyone gets a bag so everyone wins!

Brief report of the State Convention April 20-23

The Sate Retired Educators convention took place in Lewiston this year. Planning for it was state president, Pat Hoch's final official act. She was ably assisted by Betty Goetzinger and Josie Marshall. Other members took charge of door prizes, and stocking the hospitality room. Speakers included an FBI agent, Steve Branting on Idaho firsts in education, a representative from the Alzheimer's Assn, and Kelly Kennealy who spoke on using social media to improve membership numbers in our units. Side trips included: the Jack O'Connor Center at Hell's Gate State Park, the Nez Perce Museum at Spalding, and a ride in a trolley touring historical homes in Lewiston. After state business, entertainment, a lunch and two banquets, the wrap up was on Wednesday morning. Pat Hoch is now past president, Ed Arndt of Twin Falls is the new president. We were pleased to have attendees from every state unit for a total of 62 participants. We would like to thank all who came and helped make this convention a success.

I wish everyone a grand summer, not too much heat and rain when needed.

Submitted by:
JoAnn Bjerke
Co-president-retired

Lower Snake River REA

Submitted by:
Sharon Miller