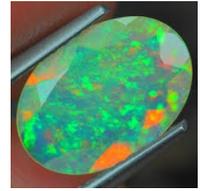


GEMS



The Official Publication of Retired Educators Association of Idaho

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June 15, 2018

President's Message

No news submitted.

Mona Alfrey
509-499-5601
President

Executive Secretary's Message

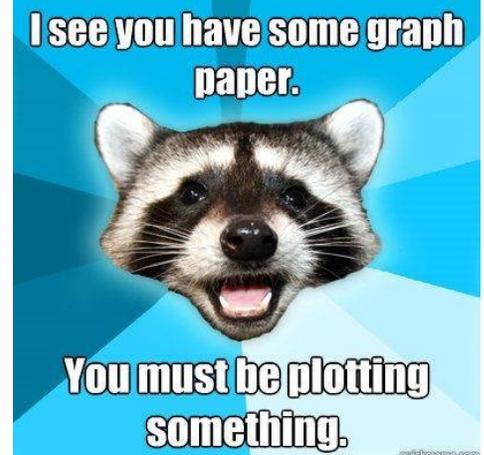
First, I would like to thank Connie Bunch for the time she served REA-I as Executive Secretary. Connie kept us informed about what was going on throughout the country by sharing the news from NRTA. I encourage her future participation and use of leadership skills to further the agenda of our organization.

Second, as an organization, we are updating our constitution to reflect the needs of the current organiza-

tion. If you would like to be part of this group or make suggestions, please contact President Mona Alfrey or Executive Secretary Barb Blasch.

Finally, our organization is looking for a legislative committee chairman. I cannot hold both positions at the same time.

Submitted by:
Barb Blasch
208-229-4561
Barconsul@aol.com
Executive Secretary, REAI



Travel Adventures

Seven of us are looking forward to our Colors of New England Trip in October. The final payment for this trip is due August 12, 2018.

I enjoyed seeing so many members at the 3 conferences in April. Each conference had interesting presentations that were very informative.

Our 2019 trip is to Canada. It is the Maritime Coastal Wonders. The trip will take place in the early fall of 2019. This trip includes Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton Island. I have

scheduled Laura from Collette Travel to meet with us at our October 2, 2018 board meeting. She will share information about our New England Trip as well as our Maritime Coastal Wonders trip. This board meeting will be open to all members who are interested. It will be held at 10:00 at Jane's home.

Enjoy your summer!

Submitted by:
Margaret Reimer
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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Idaho primaries took place in May and are now over. We are all looking forward to the midterm elections in November. But let's step back to May. Many people changed their party affiliation in Idaho so they could vote in the closed Republican primary. This is not a concern for the November election. You will not be asked to declare party affiliation for that election. There will only be one ballot for all voters. However, the State of Idaho now lists your party affiliation as the one you chose in May. You may want to reevaluate that choice before the next primary. You can do that at any time.

We have five months to decide who we will vote for to lead our city, county, state, and country. Which is the most important to you? ISSUE, PERSON or PARTY?

Which of these speaks to enhancing your life and the lives of all Americans?

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

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BOISE, KUNA, MERIDIAN REA-REA BKM

On April 18, the Boise, Kuna, Meridian Unit of Retired Educators Association of Idaho hosted the Western Regional Conference. Western Regional Coordinator, Charlotte Moore, did a masterful job planning and organizing the event. From program to entertainment to food and fellowship, the day offered REA members an opportunity to absorb new information and collectively celebrate their efforts toward enhancing educational systems and meeting the philanthropic needs of their respective communities.

As is tradition, our BKM unit concluded the year with a program in remembrance of BKM friends we lost in the last year. A lighted candle, the recitation of an adapted

Jewish prayer and reverent reading of deceased members' names delivered a loving tribute to members who, although lost, will not be forgotten.

BKM is on summer break. Our work this past year was targeted, busy, and productive. According to Henry Brooks Adams (1838 – 1918), descendant of founding fathers John Adams and John Quincy Adams, "A teacher affects eternity; he [sic] can never tell where his [sic] influence stops." Now, generations later, the words still ring true. Retired or working, we are still influential. That being said, it is time to breathe and find some shade to sip that summer cooler.

Submitted by:
Jane Brewer
President

North Idaho Retired Educators-NIREA-

The north Idaho educators met at the at the Post Falls Senior center on March 21. Our speaker was Kara Carleton from the University of Idaho Extension Office. She presented a slide show and talked about the Kootenai County Idaho Master Gardener program. It involves a volunteer educator getting trained to provide horticulture education to residents of north Idaho.

Our April meeting was a field trip to Steptoe Butte and Palouse Falls. Thirty of us traveled several hundred miles to eastern Washington to hear about and observe Steptoe Butte and the battle field. Unfortunately, when we got to Palouse Falls it was closed. The day before there was a drowning and they were in the process of recovering the body.

In May we met at the senior center and heard from a local legislator, Senator Mary Souza. Mary represents District 4 in Coeur d'Alene. She serves on the Commerce committee, the Health and Welfare committee, and JFAC. She reviewed key accomplishments from this year's legislative session emphasizing what was done for education. She also talked about some of the

results from the latest Idaho primary election. Also at the May meeting, Doug Cresswell and Norma Seaton were sworn in as Co-Presidents for next year. Mary Williams and Ruth Spencer were again sworn in as Secretary and Treasurer.

On March 13 four representatives from NIREA met at the Coeur d'Alene casino with four representatives from RENCI to review plans and responsibilities for the Regional Conference in Lewiston. Then, on April 11, twelve members from our organization traveled to Lewiston for the Regional Conference. RENCI did a nice job of organizing and conducting the meeting. The theme for the meeting was local Chinese history. In addition to hearing about the local history and going on a field trip to the museum, we heard from Barbara Blasch, Connie Bunch, Collette Vacations - Margaret Reimer, and from PERSI, Michael Hampton. Most of the attendees went home with a nice basket from the prize drawings. I was not one of them!

Have a wonderful summer break.

Submitted by:
Doug Cresswell, Co-President

SEIREA

No news submitted.

Mary Ann Hansen,
Secretary

Twin Falls REA

No news submitted

Edward Arndt
President

IDAHO FALLS REA

No news submitted.

Chris Blower
President

Lower Snake River REA

No news submitted.

Linda Carpenter

Retired Educators of North Central Idaho-RENCI

Welcome to summer! Or at least in a few weeks. Here in the north, we are still experiencing a lot of spring rain and weather. We even had the "pleasure of receiving" exactly one inch of rain in one night of heavy downpour. A little local flooding but no lasting damage. I love it because I don't have to start watering my potted plants and my trees by hose and hand.

Here at RENCi we have had a very fun and productive spring. In March we put together Easter baskets with fresh plants from our local Patt's Garden Center. Katie shows us all the new plants and we pick what we want and put them in baskets to keep, give to grandchildren, or go to the local nursing homes. Messy, but a great time.

In April, we were pleased to have a local artisan, professor, and musician (all one person), Paul Ely Smith, demonstrate the gourd banjo. He was fascinating to listen to the music and hear about the history of the gourd banjo.

In April we also hosted the North Regional Conference.

It was well attended by the NIREA, RENCi, and state executive board. The program was centered around the local Chinese history in Lewiston and we had many great revues from the members.

For our last meeting in May, we rented space at the local Lindsay Creek Winery and had a catered lunch by Happy Day Catering. It was a change from the Red Lion where we usually meet. We had the election and installation of officers: Pat Hoch, president, Josie Marshall, vice-president, Dennis Ohrtman, secretary, and Betty Goetzinger, treasurer. We met this past year's scholarship recipient and were able to wish her well in her future career in the educational area. We also had our annual brown bag surprise exchange and many wonderful items were given and received.

We wish all of you a safe and happy summer enjoying travel, grandchildren, camping, gardening, etc. and look forward to seeing some of you in August at the executive board meeting.

Submitted by:
Pat Hoch
President

Squaw Butte REA

Old habits die hard... public school is out tomorrow. After all these years of retirement, I still get excited. Then I remember, it does not matter, every day is summer vacation.

Squaw Butte Retired Educators met on March 19th for another delicious home cooked meal at the Presbyterian Church in Emmett. Our featured speakers were the winners of our teacher classroom grants. Middle school students showed off their remarkable programming skills with their "bots". Students from Carberry Elementary school demonstrated their skills using a pirate theme. Last, but not least, we were treated to a power point presentation about creative writing at Shadow Butte.

Money to fund these grants are raised by holding a raffle at each meeting or from memorials given by members and/or friends.

On April 16th we made our annual trip to Ola. The drive was beautiful, with arrow leaf balsam root, yarrow, and bitterbrush in full bloom. This meeting is usually one of the best attended, this year was no exception.

Kennie Lyn Klingback amazed us with her knowledge and passion for the history of the Sweet/Ola area. Kenzie Lyn had created a very interesting display of old photos and stories of the area. The Ola ladies had prepared a fantastic lunch.

May 21st was the last meeting of the school year. The program was a very emotional one. Janie and Paul Schaut, both veterans, have been writing down the

history of each of the veterans buried in Emmett. They have created volumes of stories and photos. As Paul is battling ALS, Janie was not able to attend. Meg Davis from the Gem County Museum and the Historical Society came in their stead. As always, Meg did a fantastic job.

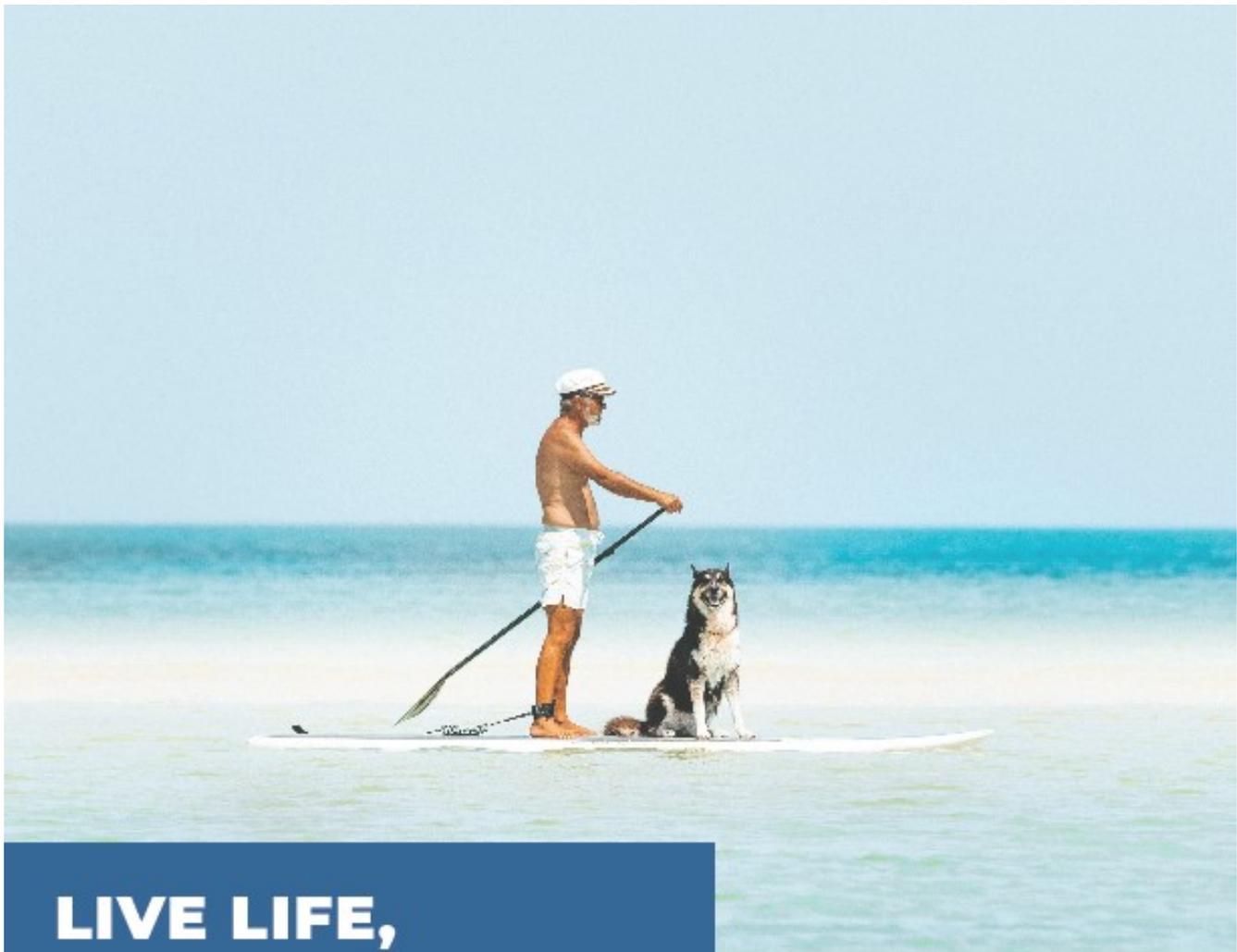
The winners of the Teacher Classroom grant were announced: \$770 for adjudicators for an EHS Marching Band festival; \$300 for Robotics Global Conference entry fees; \$599 Early Childhood Special Education interactive software.

During our May meeting we honor those members and friends who have passed away. This year was very poignant. On April 3rd, we lost Lyn Hyslop due to a sudden heart attack. Lyn was a very active, fun loving, caring friend. Lyn had held most of the SBRE offices at least once. He led wonderful field trips and kept the meetings lively with his teasing and sense of humor. God speed Lyn until we meet again.

This summer we are planning our membership incentive field trip in June. The highlighted stop will be the World Center for the Birds of Prey. We will be making and serving brunch for the Emmett Education staff when school starts in August. The last Monday in August we will have our kick off pot luck while we welcome new members.

Have a fantastic summer...

Submitted by:
Betty Griffith



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