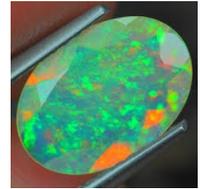


GEMS



The Official Publication of Retired Educators Association of Idaho

Volume 25 Number 4

October 1, 2018

President's Message

No news submitted.

Submitted by:
Mona Alfrey
President



In This Issue

- President's Message
- Legislative Report
- Exec. Secretary Message
- Contact Information
- Collette Travel
- BKM News
- Idaho Falls REA
- Lower Snake REA
- Squaw Butte REA
- SEIREA
- NIREA
- RENCI
- Twin Falls REA

Executive Secretary's Message

EXCITING NEWS - As we all know, nothing starts from scratch or begins at this moment but is based on all that has come before it. Thank you to our former Executive Secretaries, Charlie Brown and Connie Bunch, for their 15 plus years that set the stage for what is in REAL and NRTA's collaborative future. NRTA has become aware of the supportive relationship between REAL and the AARP State office in Idaho. This is not the case in all states. NRTA has approached REAL and the AARP State office to be part of a pilot program establishing positive ways these two organizations can work together to continue to improve the lives of retired educators and those around them. Everyone is asked to participate. What are your suggestions? Do you want to be involved? Contact anyone on the Board for information. AND again: A special thanks to CB and CB for their groundwork that is putting Idaho on the national map of NRTA.

The Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) is a nationwide full-service agency focused on plan design, negotiations, and implementation of benefits for associations. REAL belongs to this association. Information about the many benefits available to you will be coming to your e-mail or by snail mail. Many of the REAL members have medical air transportation services with AMBA. For more information contact:

AMBA
6034 W Courtyard Dr. Ste 300
Austin, Texas 78730-9800
1-800-258-7041
www.amba.info

Idaho State University is providing free health screenings: October 18, 2018 4:00PM-7:00PM Garfield Elementary School 1914 Broadway Ave., Boise, Idaho 83706

November 15, 2018 4:00PM-7:00PM First Baptist Church 607 N 13th St., Boise, Idaho 83702

If you know someone who could benefit from these screenings please share the information. 208-373-1700 or healthyU@isu.edu

October 13, 2018 9:00AM-3:00PM Senior Faire at the Nampa Civic Center 311 3rd St. South Free event with service providers, non-profit orgs. and health providers.

October 19, 2018 Moscow Candidate Forum at the Best Western 11:00AM-1:00PM

11:00 - 12:00 (ten County Candidates), 12:00-1:00 (six Legislative Candidates) AARP is providing lunch to the first 120 participants.

AARP is looking for people to volunteer for trainers and coordinators in the Drivers Safety Program. Call Bill Robison at 208-861-4312.

Best advice: Place a security freeze on all your accounts with the three major credit reporting agencies. It is the best way to stop ID thieves from opening new accounts in your name. For a detailed guide to the process, go to aarp.org/creditfreeze

Submitted by:
Barb Blausch,
Executive Secretary, REAL
bearconsul@aol.com

Contact Information

President

Mona Alfrey
509.499.5601
mona.alfrey@gmail.com

President-Elect:

Stan Cope
208.237.0002
skicope@hotmail.com

Executive Secretary:

Barbara Blasch
208.229.4561
bearconsul@aol.com

Treasurer:

Patricia Kluckhohn
208.288.4295
pjkluckhohn@gmail.com

Secretary:

Lois Treat
208.789.7657
loisetreat@live.com

Pensions/Insurance:

Jim Coleman
208.375.4576
jodacole@cableone.net

Community Service:

Dennis Ohrtman
208.743.0694,
dwohrtman@aol.com

Legislation:

Barbara Blasch
208.229.4561
bearconsul@aol.com

Blue Cross State Ins Rep.:

Volunteer needed.

CO-Membership:

Betty Goetzinger
208.743.1709,
bg4361@lewiston.com

Josie Marshall
208.743.4980
jmarshall49@cableone.net

Western Region:

Charlotte Moore
208.362.2133,
chmoore42@gmail.com

CO-North Region:

Betty Goetzinger
208.743.1709
bg4361@lewiston.com

Jossie Marshall
208.743.4980
jmarshall49@cableone.net

Pat Hoch
509.758.5674
patch232@yahoo.com

CO-Eastern Region:

Margene Wafford
208.237.4367
kwafford@cableone.net

Catherine Wilson
208.233.0122
crwilson722@gmail.com

Joann Dilweg
208.322.2656
swede1@cableone.net

Webmaster:

Connie J. Bunch
208.376.8325
jeanbunch@aol.com

Travel Adventures:

Margaret Reimer
208.887.6747
reimem8@gmail.com

GEMS:

Bill Kluckhohn
bkluckhohn1@gmail.com



Western Regional Coordinator

Those of us in the Western Region are already gearing up for the State Convention in 2019. We have signed a contract with the Holiday Inn at 2970 West Elder Street right across the interstate from the Boise Airport. They have very nice rooms and a conference center that will meet our needs.

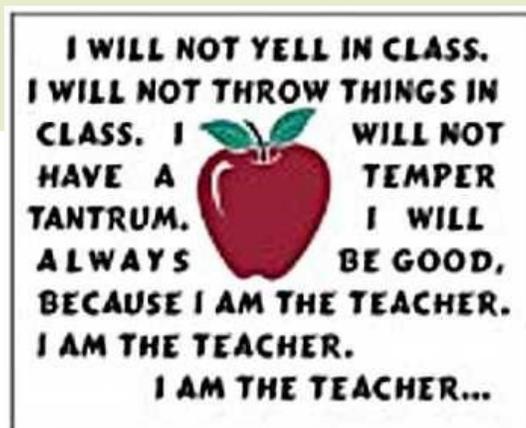
We are planning to have a silent auction during the convention and it was decided at the State Board Meeting that units from each district could bring items to contribute, so it should really be a fun one with lots of

competition. We will also have door prizes and those will be taken care of by the units in the Western Region.

Guest speakers, programs, and field trips will all be announced at a later date along with registration information.

So, please mark the date on your 2019 calendar and plan to attend Thursday and Friday, April 11 and 12, 2019. We hope to make it fun and informative.

Charlotte Moore
Western Regional Coordinator



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Has everyone had the opportunity to sign the Voter Engagement - "PLEDGE TO VOTE" form? Many organizations are approaching the November election in this way. The hope is everybody will vote and the results of the election will not be based on a small percentage of eligible voters. These "Pledge To Vote" offers are coming in paper forms mailed to you or at the local farmers' markets. They are also found on your e-mail, web, and other social media. I worked at an AARP table at the Botanical Gardens and had people sign on an I-pad. It is safe to sign these forms but remember a pledge is a pledge to vote.

Now who do you vote for? What is important to you? How do you prioritize? Are you an A, B, or C?

- A. Issues, then Person, then Party
- B. Person, then Party, then Issues
- C. Party, then Issues, then Person

Election time is Robocall time. Be alert to the robocall that tells you your voting place has been changed. This is a scam hoping you will miss out on voting.

NIREA-North Idaho Retired Educators

The retired educators of North Idaho met before the summer break on May 21 and elected the same officers as the last two years. Doug Cresswell and Norma Seaton are co-Presidents, Mary Williams is Secretary, Ruth Spencer is Treasurer and committee chairs are the same. We took the summer off and concentrated on recreation activities, family, and smoke filled skies that covered our area most of August. We are now underway with meetings this Fall.

We held our first meeting of the year on Monday, September 21st, at the Post Falls Senior Center. We had spent much of the summer looking for a new location for our meetings as the PF Senior Center was having financial problems and would be unable to provide lunch for our meetings. Things changed, and they are now able to accommodate us with soup and sandwich. We felt fortunate as most private meeting places were much more expensive. The program for our first meeting was Laura Umthun from the North Idaho College G.E.D. program. She shared information about the local G.E.D. and appealed for volunteer tutors which they are badly in need of. We were pleasantly sur-

AARP and Turbovote have created an online resource to make voting easier. Sign up to receive reminders, update your registration or apply for an absentee ballot. It will also alert you when an election is coming up and share information you need to vote with confidence. Remember AARP is not political but it does work on issues important to the 50 plus community. Go to: votingtool.aarp.org

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

prised by attendance at our first meeting as 8 new potential members attended. We attribute this to a lengthy article in our local newspaper about our organization and the upcoming meeting. It was written by member Ron Boothe.

On August 17 Mona Alfrey (State President) and myself (representing NIREA) flew to Boise to attend the REA Board meeting. Mona conducted the daylong meeting. As usual the meeting was well attended, there was lots of good information, and everyone seemed to have a good time getting reacquainted and socializing. On August 22 the officers of our organization and committee chairs met at member Jeff Sherwood's home near Farragut State Park for a planning meeting. The primary agenda items were attendance, meeting location, dues, and planning programs for the year. We were served a gourmet meal in a beautiful rural setting. On October 9 representatives from NIREA will meet with representatives from RENC (Lewiston) at the Coeur d'Alene Casino for our first regional meeting. Greetings to all. We are looking forward to a productive year.

Submitted by:
Doug Cresswell, Co-President

REA BOISE KUNA MERIDIAN

You know it's September when a steady stream of school busses and long traffic lines make it impossible to exit your subdivision in time to reach your 8:AM appointment. It's at moments like this I'm reminded that for the next nine months I need to plan ahead and allow extra time on the road to avoid delays in getting to my destination. With its focus on the future, Retired Educators Association Boise, Kuna, Meridian recognizes the importance of advance planning and focus on its pursuits for the 2018 – 2019 year.

On August 7, BKM Board members met to lay the framework for projects and activities aimed to strengthen BKM and to enhance opportunities for its members to participate in both unit and community events. At our regular board meeting on September 4, with lots of good ideas on the table, we had to acknowledge we couldn't tackle them all and ultimately agreed to pursue the two that seemed most viable and beneficial. The goals are these:

- ◆ develop opportunities outside of the BKM general meeting for members' social and recreational engagement
- ◆ build BKM visibility via member presence at AARP events

It will take member commitment and participation to achieve these goals and, of that, we have plenty. At our September 11th general meeting, I was pleased to acknowledge six members who signed up for vacant volunteer positions. I also introduced two new members whose background and experience we welcome. Always working are the Executive Board members whose work keeps BKM viable and progressive.

At its September 11, 2018 general meeting, BKM members assisted AARP's effort to encourage voting in the 2018 mid-term elections. "BE THE DIFFERENCE.VOTE" forms, supplied by AARP were filled out by members present and delivered to the Boise AARP office. Issues important to senior citizens are supported by AARP and our votes are needed to protect our future.

The date September 11, 2001 is recognized in America as an attack on the freedom and security of its citizens. In honor of the thousands who died or were maimed, BKM on September 11, 2018 paid remembrance with a moment of silence and reading of a poem dedicated to those who were lost. We will not forget.

Submitted by:
Jane Brewer
President

Travel Adventures

Six of us are looking forward to our Colors of New England Trip in October. REAI will receive 10% of the total cost of the trip, which is \$2109.40. The State will receive 20% for a total of \$461.88. The remaining 80% totaling \$1847.52 will be shared by the two units that have members going on the trip. At \$307.92 per person, Twin Falls will receive \$615.84 BKM will receive \$1231.68.

Our 2019 trip is to Canada. It is the Maritime Coastal Wonders. The trip will take place September 9-19, 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 BKM's 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. Brochures for this trip were given to each unit president at our state board meeting in August. Remember this trip requires a passport that does not expire 6 months before the trip.

Margaret Reimer
208.887.6747
reimem8@gmail.com

Lower Snake River REA

No news submitted.
Submitted by:
Linda Carpenter

Twin Falls REA

No news submitted.
Submitted by:
Edward Arndt
President



IDAHO FALLS RTA

We kicked off our first meeting for the 2018-2019 season on September 18th. We had a great turn out! There were a lot of new faces thanks to our unit presidency contacting recently retired educators and extending a warm welcome via texts, emails, postcards and phone calls.

We have a new secretary, Cindy, and a new treasurer, Tracy. Maxine is our V.P. I enjoy working with them. They are creative and love to invite retired educators to our meetings.

Our guest speaker this month was from a local nursery. She talked about what types of plants to plant in our yards to attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bumble bees.

Next month our guest speaker will be the director of the Museum of Idaho. We are looking forward to hearing her presentation. Our museum does an outstanding job with their exhibits.

We are implementing a new idea. Every month we highlight one or two members of our unit to help us get to know each other on a personal level. This month Besse Boyd, who just turned 100 years young, was honored with a birthday song, a card, a 100 Grand candy bar, and a thoughtful expose of her lifelong teaching career. Besse is a great lady, full of life and vitality, and we love having her at our meetings. We also highlighted her daughter, Lyndell, and her 40 years of teaching.

Submitted by:
Chris Blower
President

Squaw Butte REA

A quick update on the activities of Squaw Butte Retired Educators.

June 21st was our Early Membership Incentive Field Trip. Our first destination was the World's Center for the Birds of Prey. In addition of the seeing several different raptors, including a Peregrine Falcon, we were able to tour The Archives of Falconry. Lunch was at The Goodness Land, a Middle Eastern Restaurant in Overland Road. Our last stop was the Boise Watershed Interactive Project. It is always fun to learn and explore new (and not so new places) with friends.

The back to school for Emmett Staff brunch was August 20th. Several members of SBRE celebrated not going back to school by setting up tables, decorating, cutting up fruit and serving. To many it appears the new teachers get younger each year.

August 27th was "We are not going back to school" pot luck. About 45 educators attended. Except for an Executive Board meeting, it was a time to welcome peo-

ple back, make new friends and catch up on summer activities.

September 24 was our first "official" meeting of the school year. We met at the Emmett Presbyterian Church. The theme of the raffle to raise money for classroom teacher grants was gifts from the garden. There was an abundance of prizes. Our guest speaker was Cindy Wilson Democratic Candidate for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Our next meeting will be October 22. At that time, we will be collecting sweat pants to distribute to school nurses. We will also be collecting money or hygiene products for the middle school nurse. Please do not forget the ongoing need for food or money needed by the homeless students of Black Canyon Alternative School.

*Author's note. I have no idea why one paragraph is in a different font. MS Office updated... I did not.

Submitted by:
Betty Griffith

Retired Educators of North Central Idaho- RENCI

Hello from North Central Idaho where the smoke has finally cleared and the temperatures are in the balmy 80's. Summer was leisurely and went by way too fast.

RENCI has all of the monthly programs planned for the 2018-2019 year. We have tried to get a variety of presenters and activities to keep all of our members interested. We have crock pot cooking, pottery painting, book recommendations, and getting rid of clutter to name just a few coming up.

In August, Betty Goetzinger, state co-chair for member-

ship, Dennis Ohrtman, state chair for community service, and myself as RENCi president attended the state board meeting in Boise. It is always a great way to get to know members from the other units and to keep up with what is happening with them. It is also a fantastic way to gather information about the state and national organization.

We wish all units a fantastic and fruitful year in recruiting new members and keeping those that are current members. Have a super year and stay healthy.

Submitted by:
Pat Hoch
President, RENCi

SEIREA

The guest for the January meeting was Cindy Marshall. Cindy has taught flute lessons and played in the Idaho State Symphony Orchestra. She has also taught fitness classes for many years and run over 34 marathons! She also operates a local landscape business and has found time to raise 4 children with her husband. Cindy urged the importance of fitness for seniors and spoke about the Silver Sneakers Program. The Silver Sneakers Motto is Get Fit, Have Fun, and Make Friends.

President Stan Cope announced that the Christmas Auction brought in \$1400 which will be used to fund two educational scholarships rather than just one as in the past.

In February our guest speaker was Dr. Vernon Esplin. He began by thanking educators including his mother, a former teacher. Being a team physician for the US Wrestling team afforded Dr. Esplin the opportunity to travel with them internationally. He spoke about Cuba and Iran in particular. He spoke about medical conditions in both countries. His presentation was interesting and well received by the members. A short business meeting was conducted, including information about the REI Regional Conference coming up in April at Fort Hall.

Our March speaker was Stephanie Palagi, the Director of Old Town Pocatello, a non-profit organization charged with revitalizing the downtown area. She stated there is a two year plan which has been underway for a year and a half. A series of public meetings were held to get input

for future development. Ms. Palagi passed out plans for future improvements in the 20 year plan. The goal is to have a vibrant downtown area for shopping, dining, and events.

Our April meeting began with Karen Appleby and Catherine Rider from ISU receiving \$800 in scholarships from our organization for education students attending ISU. Our speaker, Elaine Smith, was introduced. Elaine has served as a state representative for 16 years in several districts, currently in district #29. She is minority caucus chair and sits on 6 committees. She reported on the recent legislative session. She stated her biggest disappointment this session was failure to get health care {HB464} for those who fall in the insurance gap. All in all, there was minimal positive movement and a great deal of negative legislation. Rita Haggardt made remarks regarding Martin Luther King's death 50 years ago today.

In May it was announced that Rita Haggardt was awarded the AARP National Community Service Award. Rita was presented this award at the REI Regional Conference on April 19th. We are all very proud of Rita and her many Accomplishments! Three members who were lost to us this year were honored. They were Mary Lou Williams, Gordon Waford, and Karen Olds.

Submitted by:
Mary Ann Hansen
Secretary

AARP Community Service Award Presented to Rita Demopoulos Haggardt

The National office for the AARP each year awards a deserving recipient in the area that the award is given. This year, in Pocatello, the award was given to one of our members of the SEIREA. Rita Demopoulos Haggardt began volunteering when she joined Girl Scouts in Pocatello. She has and is still involved in many activities including Girl Scouts, Pocatello American Ass. of Universi-

ty Women, League of Women Voters, Zonta, Bannock Kiwanis club, American Legion Auxiliary, PEO, Alpha Omicron Pi social sorority, NAACP, Trinity Episcopal Church, Neighborhood Watch, ISU College of Education Student Teachers Supervisor, Pocatello Education Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, Alpha Delta Kappa, Southeast Idaho Retired Educators, and Southeast Idaho United Way. She has received many awards from these and other organizations. She is very deserving of this community service award. Congratulations, Rita.

