

REA-I State Board Meeting via Zoom

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The meeting was called to order by State President Mona Alfrey at 10:15 a.m. Those present were: State President Mona Alfrey, State President-Elect Stan Cope, State Secretary Lois Treat, State Treasurer Pat Kluckhohn, & Executive Director Barbara Blasch; from RENCI, Co-president Pat Hoch, State Community Service Chairman Dennis Ohrtman, State Membership Co-Chairwomen Betty Goetzinger & Josie Marshall; from NIREA, Co-President Norma Seaton; from BKM, State Legislative Chairman Connie Bunch & PERSI Representative Jim Coleman; from Squaw Butte, Co-Presidents Joy Davis & Linda Steele & Co-Treasurer Sheila Stickler; from Lower Snake, Vice President Teri McKay for President Sharon Miller; from Idaho Falls, President Chris Blower; & from SEIRIEA, President Roger Wheeler.

Pledge of Allegiance.

President Mona Alfrey thanked everyone for going Zoom to attend the meeting. She remarked that it had been a rough year with COVID-19, but we had all hung in there.

Secretary's report: Corrections from Terri McKay of the Lower Snake unit –

Treasurer's report: Pat Kluckhohn reported that we will begin the new fiscal year 2020-2021 with \$12,926.21 in the treasury; the projected budget for 2020-2021 is expenses of almost \$14,000 and income of \$15,000. The audit was completed for which we paid \$60.00. Pat was asked about the \$3000.00 grant we received not being on the report. She said it came in too late for the 2020-2021 report. Pat said she would pay Betty Goetzinger for the money used to send out the REA-I info pamphlet from the general fund as directed by Mona Alfrey. Pat Hoch said there are extra copies of the pamphlet. Pat Kluckhohn will also pay Connie for coming 5 years for maintaining the Domain name the next time Connie receives a request for payment and submits it to the Treasurer. Pat Hoch moved we pay Connie for the Domain name for 5 years. Joy Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Dennis Ohrtmann reminded all that they need to mute when not talking.

Executive Director's report: Barbara Blasch reported on the NRTA pilot program of which Idaho is a part. We are to work with AARP to spread information about our organization. In March 2020 she went to Florida where she reported on how BKM works with AARP at Movies for Grownups, etc. At NRTA conference calls, we are encouraged to keep checking on members about dues and keep them up to date on what REAI is doing. We need to be proactive. We have listed on the website for all the members all the places to get ballots and where to take them after voting. Pat Kluckhohn said these lists on the website are under committee reports. Norma Seaton clarified President Trump's view that voters should request absentee ballots, not vote using mail-in ballots that are sent out to all. We were told to keep members aware of the "We Care" grants and how members could support us. We discussed the Zoom license which will be investigated as to how it can be used by the whole REAI state. Right now it is in Stan Cope's name. Betty Goetzinger said she had the 1000 membership pamphlets; we should each go out

and find new people and give them a printed information pamphlet. Idaho got a blurb in the most recent AARP bulletin; this is a way to gain members. Pat Kluckhohn said she receives requests for state membership from people who have seen us on AMBA and our website.

PERSI Director Don Drum spoke with a power point program on the condition of PERSI. He concluded that as of 8/10/2020, PERSI has \$19,700,000+. In his opinion, we are positioned well to weather the storm. He educates the legislature with letters, meetings, and developing relationships. He is about to go on a road trip to meet with legislators.

Lunch – 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Legislative and Webmaster: Connie Bunch asked if we could put Don Drum's report on our website (Pat said it is there now). She said we should pay close attention to state and national legislative activities and let the legislators know on both levels what we think of their actions. We should fact check as well and make sure their statements are true. We need to protect Social Security. Governor Little is calling a special session of the Legislature on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to discuss the very specific topic of liability; pay attention to this meeting. We should all be part of the solution and vote (using an absentee ballot). Barbara Blasch noted that our tax dollars are spent to outfit the State House for the safety of the legislators, but not the teachers, students, etc. in the schools. Pat Kluckhohn asked that for the website, we use jpeg for photos and word for words. We all thanked Bill for his devotion to keeping the website up to date. Stan Cope asked if the "By-Laws" need to be revised. Pat Kluckhohn said we should go to the copy with the red lettering and Dennis Ohrtmann will do the editing. Then it will go onto the website and then we start all over again. Dennis said he sent a revised copy to Stan who did not receive it. Stan will look into this.

GEMs: Discussion on whether to keep GEMs or drop it. It was decided that President Mona Alfrey would check on finding a new person to take over the GEMs.

Community Service: Dennis Ohrtmann wants a list of kinds of volunteering activities. Lois Treat will send him a copy of a list compiled at an earlier conference. Members need to keep track of monetary donations and volunteer hours to be turned in at the next unit general meeting so we can celebrate Community Service in 2021. A video could be prepared on activities and posted on the website.

Garrett Mowery of AMBA joined the meeting at this time. He said that he and Jeff Kole would help with the website which would increase membership. Stan Cope asked if he had contacted Connie about Facebook. Garrett said he would get Facebook going within the week. Bill Kluckhohn who is in charge of the website (and doing a wonderful job) could contact Garrett if he had questions. Roger Wheeler thanked AMBA for getting him dental insurance. Garrett said to call him any time.

Travel Information: Margaret Reimer wrote the following note.

As you well know, travel at this time is a “wait and see what happens.” Our Heritage of America trip that was to take place in May was cancelled. The five people who planned to go on the trip received a full refund. We have 14 people signed up to do the Discover Mackinac Island trip. It is to take place September 25-October 2. If Collette cancels this trip, you will receive all the money you paid including the Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$275.00 per person. If you decide to cancel on your own, you will receive all the money you paid, but will not receive the Waiver and Insurance amount of \$275.00. So, I strongly suggest to wait and see what Collette does. I will contact everyone as soon as I hear anything about the trip. The last news I received from Collette has indicated that the trip is still on. However, if the trip is cancelled, we will know by the middle of August which is just around the corner.

At this time, no new trips for 2021 are being planned for our REA group. I would appreciate it if you would let me know if you would like to repeat the Heritage of America trip again. Also, let me know if there are some other destinations you would like to visit.

Margaret Reimer

[reimem8@gmail.com](mailto:reimem8@gmail.com)

Membership: Betty Goetzing and Josie Marshall thanked Barbara Blasch for facilitating the \$2000 grant from NRTA for the new brochure. Corrections were made to the pamphlet. Corrections will be made in time to present the pamphlet at the January Teleconference. Stan Cope made the motion to proceed with the brochure including corrections. Chris Blower seconded the motion. The vote was approved unanimously. Fifty brochures were sent to start the process. Betty needs Publisher to make the changes. It was asked if they could send questions to Bill Kluckhohn for help with Publisher, but she would not see the result for awhile. Betty said she is sending it to Dennis Ohrtmann for help since he was at the Zoom meeting. Stan Cope thanked Betty and Josie for all their hard work (It was noted that we have received \$1500 of the grant).

Connie Bunch and Jim Coleman signed off.

Regional Coordinators: Mona said she was sorry the conferences had to be cancelled. Coordinators should hold as much as possible over for the 2022 convention. She thanked the coordinators for all their hard work.

State Convention: April 9th and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Betty Goetzing mentioned dues. Following discussion, Betty moved that the topic be tabled until the January Teleconference. Barbara Blasch seconded the motion. It was approved by the board.

Norma Seaton signed off.

Barbara Blasch mentioned the BKM unit wrote a letter to the editor stating its support for the schools and teachers. She encouraged that all units consider this. Lois Treat suggested that units check to see the number of words their respective newspapers accept.

Unit Presidents:

NIREA-Mona Alfrey said the unit was not meeting at all until January of 2021 due to covid-19. She suggested members continue to contact possible new members.

RENCI-Pat Hoch said the unit has goals, but meetings are at a standstill. They are aware that some members need extra care. Betty Goetzinger, Treasurer, sends a stamped addressed (to the unit) envelope which is effective for the unit in collecting dues.

BKM-Lois Treat reported that the unit is doing a newsletter monthly, and have written a letter to the editor supporting education (by Jane Brewer). We have some programs planned, beginning in December with the Borah Choir under the direction of Luke Lords. Pat Kluckhohn collects dues by sending an email, sending cards, putting it in the newsletter, having callers mention it when calling about reservation; this is effective for BKM.

Squaw Butte-Sheila Stickler calls 50 people monthly about meetings and dues. President Joy Davis said there are no meetings planned as members canvassed said they would not come. They are considering Zoom.

Lower Snake-Terri McKay for President Sharon Miller said no meetings were set up yet. They have sent out letters regarding dues.

Idaho Falls-President Chris Blower said they plan to meet in September in the backyard of one of their members; they must bring their own lunches. They have postponed their Quilt of Valor presentation until further notice. They will send photos to the website.

SEIREA-President Roger Wheeler said their Christmas auction allowed them to sponsor four scholarships. Their board will meet on 8/19/2020. They plan no general meetings until they get the all clear. He asked how we collect dues without meeting and liked the idea of sending stamped addressed (to the unit) envelopes out for dues. They are proud of their member President-Elect Stan Cope.

The next meeting is January 11, 2021; it is a teleconference on Zoom. The call will be @ 1:00 p.m. PT & 2:00 p.m. MT.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

