

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

On September 6, 2022 Barbara Blasch with staff and other volunteers from AARP Idaho went to Moscow, Idaho to connect with community leaders, elected officials and local AARP volunteers. We discussed area needs and how AARP could provide assistance. Barb Blasch led parts of the discussion and Pat Hoch presented information about REA-I. Several other retired educators from the Moscow/Lewiston area set up a table with brochures and spoke with participants about the value of belonging to REA-I.

On September 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2022 Stan Cope, Linda Steele and Barbara Blasch attended the NRTA 75th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC. Presentations about AARP and NRTA services and programs were given by staff from both organizations. There are many opportunities for REAs to use to their advantage.

One is from the Drivers Safety Program. They will help you fit to your car - raise your seat to the appropriate level or they have electric car seminars.

Two is a program called OATS (Older Adults Technology Services).

Three is the Experience Corp - working with children

Four is a "Wish of a Lifetime". You can nominate someone for this program.

Suggestions were offered for attracting new members. One suggested was building a search page for tough questions about your organization especially your local unit. Second would be to video what your organization is doing and put it on your website.

On November 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2022 Pat Kluckhohn and Barbara Blasch attended the 2022 AMBA Round UP in Texas. It was titled - "Reconnected". There were presentations about the services and programs AMBA provides. AMBA does recruit members for our organization when they are talking to people about their insurance benefits. These new members become state members but not local unit members. That step is up to the local unit. AMBA also gives us \$1000 each year to support our organization.

Many of the speakers talked about membership. They encouraged meeting with potential members before they retire, meeting

them where they are in their lives and sharing the value of joining REA-I when they retire.

It was suggested we review our organizational structure and responsibilities of each member as well as each elected or appointed position. An example would be - What are the responsibilities, actions and results of each committee chair.

On November 16th and 17th, 2022 AARP asked REA-I to make a presentation to the audience before the Movies For Grownups. The presentation was about Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus who founded NRTA and ultimately AARP. We also spoke about REA-I and handed out brochures. Leigh Oliver presented in Nampa and Barb Blasch and Charlotte Moore presented in Boise.

Barb Blasch attends a virtual NRTA meeting held each month. The meeting is with NRTA leadership and all state executive directors.

AARP has again asked REA-I to present before their next Movies For Grownups in March. Volunteers will be needed.

Lobby Day is February 7, 2023 at the Capitol in Boise. Plan on attending.

Every year the Andrus Award is given by AARP Idaho to a worthy volunteer. Please nominate someone you know.

Community Challenge Grants are awarded every year to private or public groups wanting to improve their communities. These are libraries, neighborhoods, cities, senior centers, drama groups, etc..

We still have grant monies from AARP and NRTA. The AARP money is tied to how we can work together - AARP and REA-I. The NRTA grant money should be tied to making the community aware of our organization.

Barbara Blasch
Executive Director
770-841-8582