

Structure of Your Membership
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) - Affiliate of AARP
Retired Educators Association of Idaho (REA-I) - State Member of NRTA
Northern, Eastern, Western Regions - Divisions of REA-I
North Idaho (NIREA), North Central Idaho (RENCI), Boise, Kuna, Meridian (REA-BKM),
Squaw Butte (REA), Lower Snake River (LSRREA), Idaho Falls (REA),
Southeast Idaho (SEIREA), Magic Valley (MVREA) - Local Units of REA-I

AARP - AARP continues to work virtually for the safety of the volunteers and staff. The work has not slowed down but AARP has developed new ways of improving the lives of the 50 plus population. One of the ways AARP Idaho has stayed connected with the 183,000 members in Idaho is holding tele-town halls most Tuesdays at 12:00 to 1:00 continuing thru the pandemic with the Governor who answered questions on specific topics. Approximately 12,000 Idahoans are participating each Tuesday. When you join or renew your AARP membership indicate you are an NRTA member. There is no additional fee but your membership card will indicate your membership in the affiliate - NRTA.

NRTA - The purpose of NRTA is to support all of the State REAs. All State Executive Directors and NRTA staff members meet virtually once a month to share activities of their State and concerns of retired educators. REA-I was the star of one of these virtual meetings when other State REAs discovered we had an article in the AARP BULLETIN about REA-I and how to join. This idea and legwork came from the AARP State Office on our behalf.

It was identified four years ago that many State NRTA Associations and State AARP offices were not working together. NRTA applied for monies to engage in a pilot project to correct this oversight. Five States were included in this pilot. Idaho was chosen because we were working with our State office and could be a beginning model for others.

AARP Idaho often turns to REA-I for participation in their activities and programs. Early in the pandemic when face-to-face programs were being eliminated, REA-I members were used as trial subjects to see how the Fraud Watch programs and others could be offered on Zoom.

NRTA offered grants to REAs to be able to stay connected with their members when monthly meetings, luncheons, and others activities were no longer advisable. REA-I has used the monies to print new brochures sharing information about our goals, purposes, activities and more. The form also includes a membership application. A brochure was sent to every member asking each member to contact a retired educator encouraging them to join our organization.

REA-I purchased a group Zoom license so all units, committees, and others can meet virtually. AARP and NRTA have held several sessions explaining how to use Zoom. If you have not signed on to Zoom you have another opportunity to learn how to use Zoom provided by AARP Idaho for REA-I members. Each unit is asked to have two or more members signed in to this training. The date is January 28, 2021 at 1:00 to 1:45 mountain time.

This pilot program has continued into a third year with great success.

AMBA - American Member Benefits Association

REA-I members can take advantage of all the programs AMBA offers - travel insurance, health benefits, vision insurance, and more. Their representatives contact educators sharing information about REA-I and signing up new members. AMBA makes a sizable contribution to our treasury each year. The WEB experts at AMBA have worked with REA-I WEB experts to update our website as well as offer assistance with our face book page.

FUTURE - 2020 was an active year for REA-I. Most members renewed their membership. Please use those new brochures to encourage other educators to join us. I leave you with this statistic:

Idaho REA has approximately 400 members
Texas REA has approximately 93,000 members