

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Who are we?

It is always appropriate to reexamine the organizations you belong to. Do the organizations support the missions you believe in and enhance your life? Some of our members did just that this year.

As retired educators in the state of Idaho we have two organizations we can join. One is the National Education Association (NEA), and the State affiliate, the Idaho Educators Association (IEA). The other is the National Retired Teacher Association (NRTA) that is an affiliate of the AARP. Our Retired Educators Association of Idaho (REA-I) is the state chapter of NRTA. Both are worthy of our membership and many of us belong to both associations.

IEA supports issues that enhance the lives of retired educators. The same is true for REA-I. IEA works closely with the NEA. REA-I works closely with NRTA and AARP. The question a member asked was, Are we political and do we endorse partisan, political candidates? The answer is yes for IEA and no for IEA-I. IEA does have a PAC. They do endorse political candidates with time and money. REA-I does not. REA-I supports issues that effect the senior population and especially retired educators. REA-I does meet with candidates and elected leaders to share information with them about issues and how their actions will effect the lives of seniors and retired educators

This web site is an excellent way to share information with the members of our units and questions are always appreciated.

### Grants

In 2020 REA-I was awarded a \$3000 grant from NRTA to improve our ability to communicate with our members through the pandemic using technology. REA-I purchased a group license for Zoom and offered several training sessions for all REA-I members. Units have been holding monthly board meetings and monthly member meetings with programs and social time. The State Board has been doing the same. We have also held committee meetings across the state. The hope is everyone participated.

In 2021 NRTA is offering \$5000 grants to state chapters like REA-I to grow membership, increase awareness of the association, and generally improve the lives of retired educators. Here is where you come in. Remember when you said, If we just had the money we could do this. Well, as Executive Director I am willing to write the grant if you are willing to give me the ideas.

### Pilot

The pilot project between REA-I and the State Office of AARP is funded by NRTA and has been continued for 2021. AARP helps us with time, money, facilities, training, and anything else we need. We in turn help them with anything they ask of us. Both organizations are winners. Currently AARP is asking us to be part of their fraud watch program. They have started what they call HUB DIALER.

When the public needs to know about a new or increasing fraud action, the HUB Dialers would go to work. AARP would provide us with a short script, maybe 30 seconds, to read. We would get 10 names of AARP members in Idaho. We would call them, read the script but not engage in conversation. There will be training. All you need is a phone and it can be done from home. We will be calling you.

Movies For Grown-Ups is alive and well through AARP. We are no longer in movie theaters but movies come on your computer. AARP has decided to do movies as a series with a theme. The next set of movies concerns fraud. The movie would be shown on one day and a discussion would follow on another day. AARP has asked us to help with the discussion. We are educators. We know how to facilitate a discussion.

### New Knowledge Adventures (NKA)

NKA classes are now on your computer or other media device for free. Type in: New Knowledge Adventures Boise, Idaho. There are classes in April and May, 2021.

Barbara Blasch, Executive Director