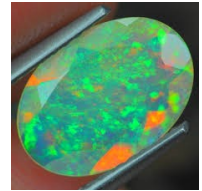


GEMS



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Volume 26 Number 2

April 1, 2019

President's Message

Well February is nearly over and snow is still coming down here. How about where you are?

April is coming fast now and we need to be all headed to Boise the 11th and 12th of April for our Bi-annual State Convention. Charlotte and her group have worked hard to make it exciting and fun as well as reasonably priced for

us. Ask either your local President for more information or I am sure Charlotte will have info here in the Gems for you. The deadline for the break on the price of rooms is fast approaching so don't delay! I want us to pack that place and have a blast!

See you soon.

Submitted by:
Mona Alfrey
President

Executive Director's Message

Out of the area and unable to submit. See you at the convention.

Submitted by:
Barb Blasch,
Executive Director, REA-I
bearconsul@aol.com

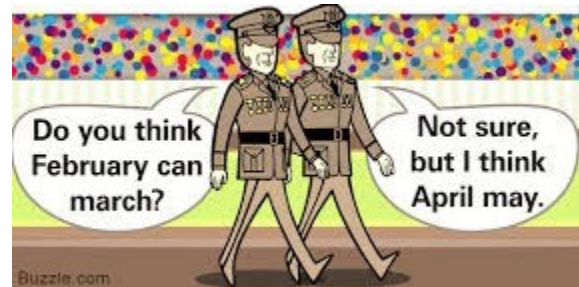
LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Idaho Representatives:

Rep. Russ Fulcher 202-225-6611, <https://fulcher.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



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- NIREA
- RENCI
- Magic Valley REA

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Travel Adventures

By the time the Gems is published, deposit money for the Maritimes Coastal Wonders trip to Canada should be paid. I hope we have a large group going. For those of you who will be going, the final payment is due July 11, 2019. You will be notified by e mail as to the amount of your final payment about 2-3 weeks before it is due. You should receive your tickets and information packet about 3 weeks before the departure date.

Be thinking of a place to travel for our 2020 trip. I will be asking for ideas at our state convention in April. I plan to have a catalog for you to peruse. Hope to see many of you at the convention. We have some wonderful things planned.

Margaret Reimer
Travel Coordinator
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REA-I STATE CONVENTION AGENDA

Thursday, April 11, 2019

8:30-1:00 Registration
9:00-11:30 Executive Board Meeting
11:30-1:00 Lunch on your own
1:00-1:30 Opening: Pledge and Greeting from Mayor Beiter
1:30-2:00 AMBA: Robert Lee
2:00-2:30 AARP
2:30-2:45 Break & Door Prizes
2:45-3:30 Speaker from the Idaho History Museum
3:30-4:30 General Meeting: REAI President Mona, nominations for new officers, and Units of Distinction with Betty Goetzinger and Josie Marshall
4:30-4:40 Door Prizes
4:40-5:30 Necrology: Unit President Joanna Clausen, Squaw Butte
6:30 Buffet Dinner
Hall of Fame Awards: Unit President Debbie Ujjiye, Lower Snake

Friday, April 12, 2019

8:30-9:00 Late Registration
9:00-9:30 PERSI
9:30-10:00 SHEBA
10:00-10:15 Break & Door Prizes
10:15-10:45 Regional Breakout (Easter April 21, 2019)
10:45-11:15 Regional Reports with date for conferences and introduction of new coordinators.
11:15-11:30 Travels with Margaret
11:30-12:00 Community Service Awards Dennis Ohrtman
12:00-1:30 Lunch: Buffet in Lobby
1:30-4:00 Excursion to the Birds of Prey Center
4:00-5:00 Election of Officers/Installation of Officers
5:00-5:10 Door Prizes and Last chance to bid on Silent Auction items
6:30 Buffet Dinner
Entertainment: Scott Read, Willis and Mary Carr
Announce Silent Action winners

What do you call a
parade of rabbits
hopping backwards?

A receding
hare-line.

BOISE, KUNA, MERIDIAN REA-REA BKM

REA Idaho State Convention
April 11 and 12, 2019
Holiday Inn and Convention Center
Boise, Idaho

The REAI Convention/Delegate Assembly is fast approaching, and BKM is gearing up for this biennial event. Charlotte Moore, Western Regional Coordinator, has invested hours and days planning and organizing events for the two-day meeting. With member support, she has created an agenda that addresses not only order of business but also opportunities for recreation and entertainment. Door prizes and silent auction are added attractions. BKM is rolling out the welcome mat for this event and hoping to see many friends and members from across the state.

At our January meeting, BKM welcomed speakers Lindsey Biedel from Family Advocates and Ginger McGrath from Love, Inc. Both outlined programs offered to strengthen families and keep children safe.

George Nickel, from the Wyakin Foundation spoke at

our February meeting. We learned that the word *Wyakin* is a Native American word that describes a spiritual guide that advises and protects a person throughout life. We learned that the Wyakin Foundation provides education and professional development programs for wounded, injured or Post 9/11 veterans.

With only three months left in our calendar year, BKM is busy tending to proceedings that will prepare for the next biennium and new slate of officers. At our March 12 meeting, candidates seeking office will be introduced and nominations from the floor will be accepted. Election and installation of officers will follow in April and May respectively.

Knowing this issue of GEMS will be the last for editor, Bill Kluckhohn, I wish to thank him for his dedication to the job of coordinating, organizing and formatting the publication that has kept us all informed of "goings on" around the state. A willing volunteer is needed to assume the role and assure continuation of this important communication link.

Submitted by:
Jane Brewer
President

Idaho Falls REA

Greetings from the Idaho Falls unit. We invite you to read of our comings and goings.

Christmas, of course, is the time we visit with family and friends exchanging gifts, playing games, singing songs and just enjoying each other's company. So, it is with our friends in our Idaho Falls unit. We played a Christmas Bingo game with prizes, sang songs and ate. We also read The Night Before Christmas with a twist involving passing white elephant gifts back and forth when the words right and left were read. It was quite confusing but fun. It was great to sit back, have fun and enjoy our friendship.

In January, Judy (a member of our unit) gave an excellent presentation about both well-known and less-known historical women of Idaho. Who knew those saloon keepers, fur trappers and bankers of long ago would be as tough as nails and have such interesting stories? Judy is a volunteer working in the historical department of the Idaho Falls Museum. She is an avid researcher of anything dealing with Idaho history, and we love having her share her enthusiasm and

knowledge with us.

In February, an attorney specializing in wills and estates discussed the ins and outs of making a will—informing us of the changes to the tax laws concerning inheritances and so forth—all in very clear language with no legalese.

In March, a representative from AARP will talk about the scams blanketing our area and ways to avoid them. We are looking forward to defeating those dastardly scammers.

We will close out our 2018-2019 year in May with a Pizza Party. We will gather in our unit president's backyard to bake our very own pizzas and desserts in a wood fired brick oven. Yes, we will hand toss our dough, spread our sauce, layer on our topping(s) and use a wooden peel to slide our pizza into the oven and to turn it near the flames until the crust turns golden brown and delicious. Then, we will bask in the glory of a job well done as we bite into our hot, homemade, yummy pizza. It should be a lot of fun!

Submitted by:
Chris Blower
President

Lower Snake River REA

No news to report.

Submitted by:
Debbie Ujiiye
President

Squaw Butte REA

No news to report.

Submitted by:
Betty Griffith

**How many times
can you subtract
10 from 100?**

**Once. The next
time you would be
subtracting 10 from 90.**

SEIREA Southeast Idaho REA

Roger Wheeler, Vice President, introduced the 13th president of ISU, Kevin Satterlee. Kevin became president of the university in June of 2018. He earned his undergraduate degree at Boise State University and his law degree from the University of Idaho. He and his wife Marilyn have 3 children. Kevin's address centered on "What's going on at ISU?"

To begin his tenure at ISU, Kevin listened to many constituents. One concern that came up was finances and budgets. As a result, Kevin hired a new Vice President of Financial Affairs, Glen Nelson. Kevin continues to hold listening tours. He has "Coffee with Kevin" in the Student Union Building. Anyone can come in and talk to him. In these conversations, he has learned of the passion that people have for ISU. It became obvious that the university had an issue with their travel system. Even though it wasn't a huge issue, they made changes, and he feels it showed the staff that he listens to them. He heard that employees can't afford to attend ISU events. So, he instituted a punch card system whereby employees can go to events for a reduced price.

Some items Kevin considers momentous. One is that in December the university approved a Faculty Constitution. This recognized a new paradigm in working with staff. A second item is the restoration of the "I" on Red Hill. This is to be built in the Spring and should be in place by Fall of 2019. Another item is the Alumni Center. There have been drawings done and they have 6

NIREA North Idaho REA

The North Idaho Retired Educators Association met at the Post Falls Senior Center in January and February and will again meet there in March.

In January our program presenter was Kasey Nixon from the Northern Idaho Crisis Center. Kasey is the leader of the Crisis Intervention Team. The Crisis Center is located in Coeur d'Alene. The Center is a non-profit organization that helps people 18 years of age or older and serves individuals who have mental health, drug or alcohol problems. Care is given free of charge. Staff members care for those that come to the Center and help facilitate outside resources before each person leaves.

In February we heard from the new Superintendent of the Coeur d'Alene School District, Dr. Steve Cook. In way of introduction Dr. Cook told us about his education career in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado as a teacher, building administrator, and Assistant Superintendent. He also shared with us his thoughts about needs and goals of the Coeur d'Alene School District.

million of the 8.5 million needed to build the center.

Some "Project Charters" that Kevin is working on is to improve faculty morale/engagement/satisfaction. Another is student academic success. ISU has a retention problem and the staff will work on that. Equity and Inclusion is another project. He wants a safe and inclusive environment for all and is committed to free expression. There will be an indigenous people celebration in the fall also. And lastly, all renovations must be functional and branded with ISU.

There are many great things going on at ISU. One interesting item is that 5 students are competing in the "Three Minute Thesis Competition" in Boise. Students are allowed 3 minutes and 1 PowerPoint slide to showcase their work and communication skills. The ISU Debate team took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the State. There was no need for the finals as ISU swept the event! Thanks to Kevin for his interesting and informative speech.

Business Meeting:

Roger went over some changes that have been recommended for the organization's Standing Rules. The members will vote on these changes in the March meeting.

Submitted by:
Ronda Black for
Mary Ann Hansen
Secretary

Following his introduction Dr. Cook and the Director of Communications, Scott Mabin, presented information about the upcoming school district supplemental levy election. The school district is asking voters to approve a levy for \$20 million annually for the next two years. The levy represents 22% of the district's maintenance and operations budget. It will support ongoing instructional programs and staffing needs as well as school safety programs, maintenance, mental health programs, and purchase of school buses. Isn't it sad that most school districts in the state of Idaho have to run local levies every two years to supplement education costs the state should be taking care of.

NIREA is busy preparing reports and planning for the REI conference in Boise. We will do a bus tour to western Montana in May. We will meet with the RENC I representatives from Lewiston on March 19 to coordinate and plan for the state conference. We look forward to attending. See you there!

Submitted by:
Doug Cresswell
Co-President

RENCI-Retired Educators of North Central Idaho

Greetings from snowy, wet, and cold north central Idaho. I looked out my bedroom window and down to where I have a "flower" garden and noticed my crocuses were thriving in the snow bank that had just covered them. I wish I was that hardy.

Our RENCi group has been active as usual. Our December meeting is always one of the highlights of the year as we join the Lewiston Rotary Club and listen to the seasonal songs performed by the Lewiston High School Gold Voices and choir from McSorley Elementary School.

In January, we had a book sharing with one of our members, Marilyn Feeney, presented some interesting books that she has read. She gives everyone a list and a short synopsis of the books and invites anyone who has read the book(s) to share their feelings about them. We all go home with the list which I look at every time I

need a new book to download on my Kindle reader. Our very wet and snowy meeting in February was at a local restaurant called Jollymore's. We were in the middle of a large snowstorm, about 6-7 inches fell (a record for this area for this time of year) so participation was smaller than expected as many members could not drive the roads. Aaron Jollymore demonstrated how to make Coq au Vin and then served it for our lunch. The food was great and the atmosphere of those attending and brave enough to drive was warm and jovial.

In March our executive board will be journeying to the Coeur d'Alene Resort to meet with our northern unit to see what is needed to be done to help all of us get ready for the State Convention.

We all are looking forward to the Convention in April. Until then, smile at the crocuses as they persevere through this unusual weather.

Submitted by:
Pat Hoch
President

MVREA-Magic Valley REA

We continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month at Idaho Pizza Company on Kimberly Road, here in Twin Falls.

As previously reported, we have had very good year with respect to the programs presented at our meetings this year.

In January we had the pleasure of Melissa Barry, the Executive Director of Southern Idaho Tourism. She reported the value of tourism to Southern Idaho and the sites that they want to visit. Most often, Shoshone Falls and Gorge. She reminded us of sites we haven't visited in awhile and of sites we have ignored. Our members also were reminded of places they also had visited and of places, like myself, that I need to visit. We quite enjoyed the discussion.

For February, Twin Falls School District #411, represented by Assistant Superintendent, Bill Brulotte, out-

lined the purpose of the upcoming Bond Issue to be voted on in March. Last year an override levy was passed with the primary goal of improving security for our schools. The money from the override levy is being used for safety and other facility improvements. Much has been done, and is being done currently to deal with these problems. Now the Bond Levy money will go to improve curriculum, such as textbooks and updating reading programs, etc.

Despite the curriculum needs, Twin Falls Schools continues to put out high ranking quality programs that have resulted in continued student success.

Next month Sean Stanley, of the city code enforcement office, will discuss code enforcement issues which include locating garage and yard sale signs, and other code enforcement issues.

Submitted by:
Edward Arndt
President

