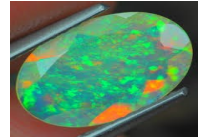




GEMS



The Official Publication of Retired Educators Association of Idaho

Volume 28 Number 1-15 January 2023

12/04/22

REA of I

Gems publication Jan. 15th.

Dearly Retired and Elderly Electable,

We just got back from the land of cactus...the month of November in Arizona. We couldn't help but notice their election and the ones who lost, claiming they won.... a familiar playbook? Well, we don't have that problem in Idaho do we? Idaho is so red that "Crimson and Clover" (Tommy James - 1968) is a drug induced day dream.

56% of Idahoan's voted.....my guess is the other 44% were influenced by a candidate who was handing out 'Don't Vote' stickers. I can't wait until the 2024 election vitriol media sound bites that will claim the other side is either too stupid or incompetent to lead us.

It's a NEW YEAR! 2023

Today is the oldest you've ever been and the youngest you'll ever be again.

Quote-Eleanor Roosevelt.

We as REA of I members have participated and been called on to volunteer our services in polling, election precincts, media distribution and ancillary services. We are always willing to help in many ways that suggest we are trying to give back to our communities' as those who gave before us. Our members are very generous in giving monetarily towards the Food Banks, scholarship funds, red kettles, and many other ways as well. It is part of our heritage as an organization to help out where help is needed.

I suggest that we will continue to think of others first as we complete our journey's in life.

P.S. Reminder-All Unit Presidents and Committee Chairs are to participate in the ZOOM meeting on Jan. 18, 2023 @ 1:00pm. MST.

REA of I President,
Mr. Stan Cope

In This Issue

- President's Message
- Legislative Report
- PERSI Report
- Executive Secretary Message
- Contact Information
- Collette Travel
- BKM News
- Idaho Falls REA
- Lower Snake River REA
- Idaho Falls REA
- Lower Snake River REA
- NIREA
- RENCI
- SEIREA
- GEM County RES (AKA Squaw Butte)
- Twin Falls

Travel Adventures

2023 Trips with Collette

Submitted by
Margaret Reimer
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Spotlight on South Dakota. September 15 - 21
2023.

Highlights: Crazy Horse Memorial, Mt. Rushmore,
Badlands National Park, Wall Drug, Devils Tower, Jeep
Safari at Custer Park

Price includes air fare from Boise, 9 meals and
lodging.

Double \$2849.00—Single \$3499.00—Triple \$2819
Optional Insurance Waiver \$349.00. To receive
\$150.00 off, book by March 8, 2023. Deposit is
\$698.00. Final payment due July 17, 2023.

American Heritage to Philadelphia through Wash-
ington D.C. has two trips scheduled for 2023. It will
then be discontinued after that.

Want a trip that's not scheduled: contact Lucas Bi-
alecki

(Collette Rep) at ibialecki@collette.com. Be sure
to mention my name and that you are a member of
Retired Educators of Idaho. For questions and further
information contact Margaret Reimer at 208.887.6747
or 208.350.9808

Email: ireimem8@gmail.com

PERSI

Submitted by
Connie Bunch
208.376.8325

I went to the PERSI website a few minutes ago
and couldn't find the current value. Either they've
chosen to use a different format, or someone else
is posting the information. I looked at every pos-

sible location but to no avail. The current board
members are: Jeff Cilak, Chairman, Joy Fisher,
Celia Gould, Park Price, Darin DeAngeli.

The next two board meetings are scheduled for
Jan. 11 at 8:30 in the Boise office, and Feb. 21 at
8:30 Boise office.

Go to the website: persi.idaho.gov to read more
about our retirement system.

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IDAHO FALLS REA

Submitted by:
Chris Blower
Idaho Falls Vice President
Idaho Falls

Hi everyone! What crazy winter weather we've recently experienced: subzero temperatures, water pipes bursting, freezing rain, and (of course) howling winds. Oh, and snow, lots of snow. All a typical Idaho winter. (We've been spoiled the past few years with mild winters.)

Here in Idaho Falls, attendance at our meetings have been quite small. One of our members commented at our Christmas party that we need to recruit more people. I agree. Our president has already been planning to send out flyers to local school dis-

tricts about our Retired Teachers Association. We will ask for

input from our members for ideas and suggestions for the flyers. If feasible, we will introduce ourselves during various teachers' faculty meetings. Hopefully, we will be able to grow our membership.

Meanwhile, we've had great speakers and look forward to our upcoming speakers. Our Christmas party was a great success. Fun games, great food, and a crazy gift exchange were enjoyed by all. But most of all, we enjoyed visiting.

We wish everyone good health and a happy new year.

Chris Blower – Vice President

GEM County REA

Submitted by:
Linda Steele, Vice President
GEM County

Here is the article from Gem County Retired Educators Association, formerly known as Squaw Butte Retired Educators.

Our group has seen some increase in membership which now stands at 62.

We are having regular monthly meetings at the First Nazarene Church in Emmett, but have

changed our meeting day from the 4th Monday to the 4th Tuesday, starting at noon.

We have completed our traditional fall projects of clothing drives for local students and food and monetary donations for the Christmas cheer baskets in collaboration with the Gem County Education Association. Our upcoming project for February and March will be Books for Schools.

On behalf of our membership, I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year.

Submitted by Linda Steele



Community Service-12/20/22

Submitted by Dr. Dennis Ohrtman
State Chair
Community Service

I am guessing that every regional Community Service Chair is as frustrated as I about how to be fair with the recording of hours and dollars for REA-Idaho recognition as the result of the COVID cloud over our activities. Don't panic. We will have the best fun we can at the State Convention in April. We won't leave anyone out, and we will project ourselves toward the new service year beginning April 1 st of 2023.

In the meantime, without being too Biblical, I am reminded by an old Sunday School verse that reminds us that God "gives us everything we need for our enjoyment."

Some of us have figured out what true enjoyment is. I submit to each of you that JOY FOR ME IS GENEROSITY. I have had dozens of lessons on giving. You have all had the same lessons, and as good educators, I bet you have taught the lesson yourself.

What we give to each other in this world should be a reflection of what we have been given. Pardon the term, "little ol'lady," but truly a nagenarian who gave her home to the Alumni Association at Lewis-Clark State College when I was the Alumni Relations Director, told me: "Honey, whatever I have given in life, I got back 10-fold." That house has provided scholarships to over 300 students.

You each give. Take an inventory and answer the question that you have heard hundreds of times: "What gives you joy?" Frankly, I wouldn't even attend a RENCI meeting if it didn't give me

joy. Shuffling the year-end receipts, I had to ask myself "Are you giving to impress someone, maybe yourself?" or "Do you get joy from being generous?" Oh my, it is the latter. I reviewed our giving with Dr. Mrs. O. I watched her face as the amounts mounted to see if she flinched. I began with churches and church camps, but then turned to the community. She didn't flinch: Algona Community Foundation—where I went to high school, Asotin County Library Foundation for the mezzanine construction, Augustana University, Clarkston Lions Club for the Christmas & Easter lights, Community Action Food Bank, Goodwill, Idaho Association of Teachers of Languages and Cultures Scholarship, Idaho State Historical Society, Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston Civic Theatre, Liberty Theater Preservation Alliance, Lewiston Library Foundation, LIFE—the school district foundation, Nez Perce County Historical Society, Northwest Children's Home, Retired Educator's Scholarship, Pacific Northwest Council on Foreign Languages Scholarship, Rotary, Shriners' Childrens Hospital, Texas Lutheran, Twin County United Way, Twin Rivers Genealogy, Valley Meals on Wheels, Washington Idaho Symphony.

She didn't flinch. I am glad. I realized that my ego was well-developed years ago when I taught at Lewis-Clark State College where we were paid poorly, so we lived on stupid egos. What I hope my list, and yours (please don't short change your giving that you report) reaffirm that joy for each of us is generosity. After all, page 289 of the Teachers-To-Be Manual must have said: Teachers give way beyond their capacity. As educators, I suggest that didn't stop at retirement.

NIREA

Submitted by
Mary Williams
Secretary NIREA
December, 2022

Hello everyone. We hope you had a wonderful summer and are excited to be back together as a group. North Idaho Retired Educators began their first meeting of 2022/2023 in September with a social gathering at Mackenzie River Pizza in Couer d'Alene. We presented our program ideas for the year and talked about gathering in December for lunch and Christmas music.

In October our speaker was Janine Wilson from SHIBA who talked about making informed decisions about choosing the right health insurance that fits your needs. In November we had James Casper from Habitat for Humanities which works with families that need help getting affordable housing. This December we are having a Christmas dinner with Post Falls Senior Center. Special music will be provided.

In January we are hoping to have someone from the North Idaho Museum as our guest speaker. They are relocating to a larger, beautiful home at the base of Tubbs Hill next spring. Newby-Ginning will be in February. Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

BOISE, KUNA, MERIDIAN REA-BKMREA

Submitted by Larry Lee, President
Boise, Kuna Meridian

Since the last report we have had Board and General Meetings September through December. At each of the General Meetings the board reported on insurance, PERSI, and community activities. The program for September was about the Bown House. In November, Edume Arostegui, Education Specialist from the

Basque Museum, talked about the Basque culture, Basque history and Boise's Basque Block. In December we celebrated with games. Members shared freely donations to the Idaho Food Bank, Giraffe Laugh Early Learning Center and the scholarship fund.

Basque Block. In December, we celebrated with games. Members shared freely donations to the Food Bank, and the scholarship fund.

Lower Snake

Submitted by
Cris Warzyn, Secretary

Greetings from Lower Snake River Retired Educators! December 30, 2022

After what seemed to be a long, hot, smoky summer LSRRE met for a delicious potluck

barbecue on September 21st at Cris and Ron Warzyn's home in Payette. When we meet, there's never a lack of food and conversation so our event was a success. We received our new booklet showing the upcoming programs and meeting places. We learned that the scholarship money we work so hard for was awarded to Alex Eckhart. She was a strong candidate and we are proud to have helped her on her journey to becoming a teacher!

Our October meeting was held at Tacos Mi Ranchito in Fruitland, Idaho and was very well attended. Our speaker was Sgt. Ben Key from the Fruitland Police Department. He spoke to us about their "You Are Not Alone" program. Members of the Fruitland Police make time during their on-duty hours to check on senior citizens who have applied for the program. Sgt. Key spoke highly of the program and encouraged everyone

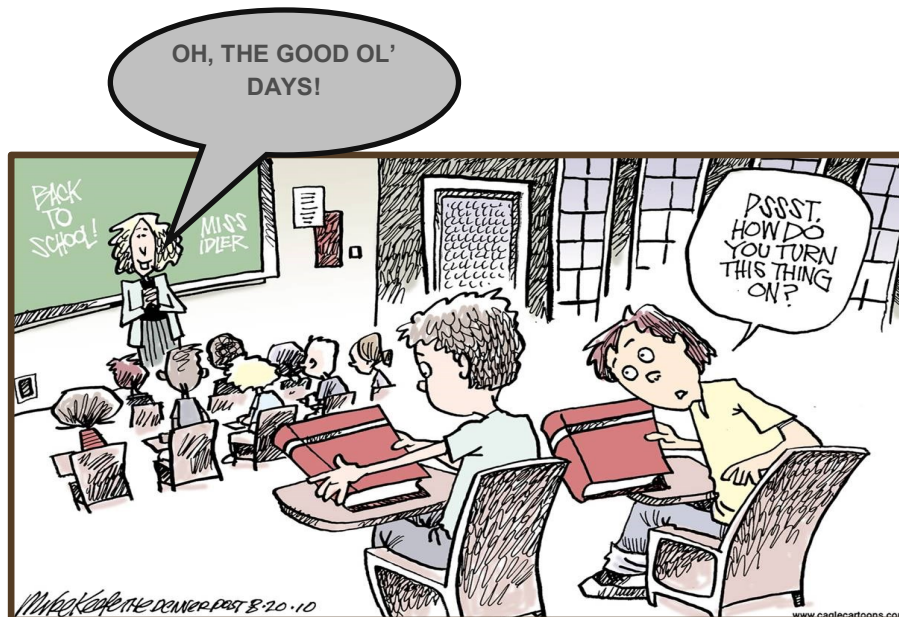
to contact our police departments and ask that our towns consider such a program. November 16th brought us to Idaho Pizza Company in Weiser, Idaho. Our program was Veterans Day inspired. Our speaker was Mike Carpenter, the husband of one of our members, Linda. He brought personal items from his time in the Marine Corp and wore his dress uniform. He gave an informative program about respect for our American flag and shared stories about his time in Vietnam

December 14th brought us to Payette United Methodist Church for our annual Christmas Party. We brought goodies to share and as usual there was way too much delicious food. We enjoyed visiting with one another, played a game and heard some words of inspiration. A great time was had by all!

Our next meeting will be held at Erika's Kitchen in Payette on January 18th. Our speaker will be one of our members, Doris Homan. She will speak to us about her experience with schools in Africa. We look forward to learning from her. Something that we think makes LSRRE unique is that we have two door prizes at each meeting.

The prizes are gift cards to businesses in our area. Who doesn't like to win a prize?

Happy New Year to you all from LSRRE!



SEIREA

Submitted by
Francie Stephens
Vice President

Ronda Black called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions of new members and guests were made. Kathy Stevens lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

Juniper Hills Country Club for our lunches. It was very good.

Ronda gave a short history of AARP/NFTA/REA Ethel Percy Andrus. A get acquainted activity was introduced. Each person had a card with a number and were tell that number of things about themselves that others might not know. When that was finished one person from each table saved with the entire group. It was a fun and educational activity.

Rita Haggardt and Roger Wheeler presented the Necrology of members who have passed in the last years.

Minutes of the May meeting were read, the financial report was given. Other reports were read. Our group received a \$350 State Grant. An audit of the books was completed and everything was found to be excellent. Thanks were given to several members for their service.

October 2022

The meeting was called to order by VP Francie Stephens. The Pledge and Prayer were given by Tess Greenup. Patti Bollinger was welcomed and lunch was served.

After lunch, Dr. Nell Flanders, Director of the Idaho State -Civic Symphony was introduced. Dr. Flanders moved from New York City and joined the faculty at Idaho State school of Performing Arts. She is an assistant professor and director of orchestral activities. Her goal is to bring people back to the music world. It was a very informative presentation.

Minutes were read and the financial report was given.

Our current membership is 71.

Marjean Wafford updated members on the State Conference which will be held in Pocatello, April 20 and 21, 2023. A committee was formed and rooms have been reserved at the Fort Hall Casino Hotel.

VP Francie Stephens reminded the members of the silent auction and Christmas baskets. Members were encouraged to bring items for the baskets to the November meeting.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Ron Bollinger.

Two Symphony tickets were given for the sympho-

ny of their choice. They were won by LuAnn.

November 2022

Ronda Black called the meeting to order and new members and guests were introduced. The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were given by Elaine Smith. Lunch was served.

Mary Ann of seeking Hansen introduced our guest speaker Mona Heen, Field Experience Coordinator for ISU.

Mona has lived in four countries and visited many more. She was born in Iran in 1979. Iran was taken over by Khomeini Who led a purge against members of the Baha'l religion. This included Mona and her family. Her father was imprisoned and executed. After some time she and her mother escaped to Pakistan. They were imprisoned and sent to a refuge camp. After many years of seeking asylum they were taken in by Germany. She learned English as well as German. She later cam to America and went to school in California. She is an inspiration to all of us.

Minutes were read and approved and the financial report was given. November birthdays were acknowledged by Lori Johnson.

Hall of Fame information was given by Ronda Black and urged members to think of candidates. It was moved and seconded that we donate \$50 to the PHS choir.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Luannn Claussen and Symphony tickets were won by Marlys McCurdy.

December 2022

The meeting was called to order by Ronda Black and new member and guests were introduced. The Pledge of Allegiance and prayer were led by Pete Black. Ronda shared a Christmas Poem "My Christmas Wish For You". She also extended a thank you to the College of Education for providing lunch for everyone.

We were entertained by the Pocatello High School Choir. New and old songs were performed. They did a wonderful job. Their director was presented with the \$50.

Minutes and the treasurer reports were given. Lori Johnson presented cards for the birthday in December.

Kent Hobbs reported on the progress of the State Conference. It was moved and seconded the the group donate \$100 for a gift card from COSTCO as a door prize.

Tickets were drawn for the six baskets. One was donated to be used as a door prize at the state conference. Approximately \$3500 was raised for our scholarships. Everyone has a great time.

RENCI

Submitted by
Pat Hoch, Co-President

Welcome from North Central Idaho where we are basking at 40 degrees today. The high fog has lifted and we actually saw sunshine for a few hours.

Our unit has had 4 meetings so far this year. In September we met and had a social lunch hour.

We outlined the meetings for the rest of the year and enjoyed catching up with each other.

In October, we were entertained by representatives of the Lewiston Civic Theater who presented scenes from the production of Little Shop of Horrors. We all enjoyed their singing and were enticed to see the complete production.

In November we had our annual scholarship auction. There were many items and all went for great prices. We surpassed our goal for the scholarship to a student teacher from Lewis Clark State College. We really have a great group of members who support this yearly activity. Our December, we met a week early due to the school Christmas break. We listened to music from the Lewiston High School Golden Voices. We shared the choir with the Lewis/Clark Rotary Club and the Lewiston/Clarkston Chamber of Commerce. The movable walls at the Hells Canyon Grand Hotel were opened up so we could all listen and enjoy the choir as all three groups were meeting at the same time which rarely happens.

We are hoping for an interesting and successful year. Now if we can just get the weather to cooperate.

