

Dear Gems,

I'm not going to attempt to tell you what you don't already know.....I'm just going to reminisce with you. The face of our Country, State and community has a new normal that may remain with us for some time to come. As retired educators, we are fortunate to have PERSI when millions are applying for unemployment compensation. Yet, we are also in the highest risk factor when it comes to the brutal realization that we are among those with the highest rate of death from the virus.

I, as well as many of my friends and family and yours too, must remain vigilant in our protection to ensure that we get to decide our future and how it will play out. The hardships and loss of income from this pandemic will never be recovered, merely muddled over as eventually we recover when a vaccine can be found to give all of us the confidence to once again go about our daily lives.

We are the State's Retired Educators Board and Committees. As an organization, we are in place to communicate, preside, help decide policies and guide those who choose to join us from all regions of Idaho. Anyone who has had a hand in, employed by, or represented an educational function and mostly retired from one of those positions are welcome to be a greater part of the equation.

Now, for the 'Nuts and Bolts' of this letter. We have had to cancel our Conference this past April and may have further cancellations. I, and many of you perhaps, have experienced (ZOOM) conferencing; it may well come down to that if we can't meet face to face. If all of you could familiarize yourselves with this tool, we can continue to meet face to face on a computer screen and conduct a viable discussion of topics and details that would be considered business at hand. Those who do not have a Webcam device, your I-phone will allow you to take part in the discussion without your face being seen and heard by others and you seeing theirs as well. The presidency of REA of I will decide in mid July as to whether or not we will host the board meeting in August at the AARP building in Boise. If not, you will receive instructions on three things by e-mail: 1) The date and time of the (ZOOM) conference; (2) a number that you must dial, and; (3) will be asked about another number you will use to go on line. That's it! Up to 100 people can be seen and the time used is free for 40 minutes. After that, one can reschedule another meeting immediately following for another 40 minutes. If meetings are expected to go longer in sessions, there is a license that one can buy for a full year or for just one session.

Your ill-Advised Advisor,
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