

YE OLDE EDUCATORS' PARTY LINE

Gem County Retired Educators

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Greetings from Joanna!

Annual Not-Going-Back-to-School Unpicnic



Isn't it a relief not to be consumed with arranging our classrooms, planning lessons, and creating bulletin boards?

Yes, there was a flash of excitement, a shower of optimism, a breeze of anticipation, but, still, looking back, I wonder how we did it all ... Now we celebrate our freedom by having lunch together! This year our Unpicnic is at Gem & Tonic, southwest corner of 10th and Washington.

Lillie is catering so you don't have to concoct a salad or cobble together a dessert. Expect a few announcements and a skit, but no business meeting.

Calendar

Our next meeting is August 26, 11:30. \$14 and opportunity to donate to our service projects.



Bring Someone Along

It's not too late to add new members to our group. Qualifications are not very stringent! While we are an organization of retired educators, anyone who is "interested in education" may join. The August lunch would be a great time to bring someone who might want to join. If and when they join, you will both get a free lunch!

August Centerpiece Swap

Do you have spare produce? Bring a bag of veggies, a box of fruit, a vase of flowers, a carton of eggs—anything you grew—and put it on the tables for centerpieces. When lunch is over, if you brought something, you get to take something! Here's your chance to get some carrots in exchange for your hydrangeas

Teachers' Grants

The Teachers' Grants Committee, Lyn, Jean, Roy, Sandi, and Rita received seven applications this year. They met July 30 to decide on the awards. The seven grant recipients will be announced at the school district meeting before school starts. We will have a report at our September meeting.



Long-Lost Social Security Benefits

We're so happy for our members who taught in California! They'll finally get the Social Security they had been denied because of a quirk in their pension system.

SBRE Treasurer's Report

There is a balance of \$4905.18 in the treasury as the state dues have been sent but not yet cashed.



Donor Rewards (formerly known as "door prizes")

Your president has been disappointed in the declining interest in door prize donations and wonders if the drawn-out drawings serve as much of an incentive to donate to our causes. She has decided to try a new approach (understanding that she could be impeached; indeed, willing to be impeached).

You don't have to think about bringing a door prize this year! Joanna has done the shopping for you! Each month, September through May, there will be one very nice donor reward (values between \$100 and \$300). For every dollar you donate to our projects when you buy your lunch, you will get a raffle ticket. Enter for that month's prize or save your tickets for a different prize later. Questions? Wait for a skit about this new deal at our August unpicnic.

Donor Prize for August

Donate to the Teachers' Grant Fund when you pay for your lunch and you'll receive a ticket for each dollar! If you would like a chance to take home this sturdy, extra-large Fair Wind camp chair, sign your tickets and put them in the fishbowl for the drawing. It's a beauty! Donated by Lyn and Terry Haun.



What Do Linda Gendall and Pam Corn Have in Common?

Remember the creative Linda Gendall? Know the reclusive Pam Corn? These two women have made huge donations! Linda has taken a painting from her gallery wall (priced at \$750) and sent it to us to sell to benefit our Teachers' Grants Fund.



Meanwhile, Pam has spent the summer painstakingly stitching a beautiful nap-size quilt (I'd say \$450) for the fund. These items will be sold in E-Bay-style sustained silent auctions. Buy it now or Bid and wait
SEE THEM AT THE AUGUST LUNCH!

Do you Remember?

Do you remember when we had district back-to-school picnics in the park, and GCEA organized them, and the men cooked hundreds of ears of sweet corn on the spot? Then the wasps found us and the administration changed so the good eats came to an end.



Summer Field Trip

Thanks to Sheila for organizing our summer field trip this year. Great time! Speaker David LeRoy gave a convincing performance as William Wallace, first governor of Idaho Territory and friend of Abraham Lincoln. Following the talk and impressive questions from our group (as Idaho teachers in 1865), we toured the Lincoln Archives. (If I had the stamina, I could have spent another hour there . . .). Seventeen of us and two guests enjoyed this outing and the following lunch.



Stuck in Rehab

Lois Buck has valiantly worked to close the books on last year's Treasury accounts even though she has been having serious health problems. With help from Sandi and Randa and Lois's son and sister, last year's money and checks should be deposited as of now, and the account transferred to the new treasurers. The state treasurer has granted a deadline extension on membership payments, too. Lois is stuck in River's Edge Rehab. for a while. What can you do to give her a little boost?



New Address

Longtime member Shirley Perry has moved to Truewood Assisted Living, 2600 N Milwaukee St, Boise, Idaho 83704. If you know Shirley, she'd probably appreciate a card or a visit!

Wayne Rexford Honored



The National Weather Service and NOAA recently gave the John Canpanius Holm award to Wayne for his many years of collecting local weather details and compiling them for the national database. He has trotted out to his station in the pasture at the same time every morning for decades to do his fastidious reporting. Congratulations Wayne! You deserve this recognition.

New Committees

We have some new committees this year. If you'd like to help, contact the chair. (See the complete list of committees in your membership booklet.)



Equipment Manager: Terry Haun. Contact him if you need something extra for a program, a projector, for example, or a change in volume on the speaker system.

Greeter: Wayne Rexford. His job is to make everyone feel welcome at our meetings. Prepare yourself for some "dad jokes."

Mindful Folks: Rita Montgomery and Sandi Baker. They have the friendliness to know when someone could use a little boost. Call on them if you or another member could use a lift—physical or mental. Also, let them know you're willing to help.

Prefatory Organizer: Judy Alder and Marilyn Qualls. They will ask different people to lead the meeting openers—the salute and inspirational words—maybe a prayer, or a poem, or a thought. Please say "yes" if they ask you.

Ye Olde Teachers' Party Line

If you have an item for the next issue, let Joanna know ASAP. She will write it up and send it to Sheila who will format it and send it to Randa who who will post it with the reservations invitation, so give us time!

