

YE OLDE EDUCATORS' PARTY LINE

Gem County Retired Educators

Vol. II, Iss. 2

Sept 2026

Greetings from Your President

Every year when planning to drive to Ola I remember the students I taught at EHS who had graduated from the little Ola school and wonder how so many of them could have been so smart and so successful. I think we can discount the water and the cultural wealth. I'm sure some of it was due to genetics, but I believe they had three essential advantages: 1) strength of the community which focused on their school, 2) the benefits of a school where younger students could absorb the learning of older ones, and 3) outstanding teachers who shared their brilliance and creativity with their students. Many of the students I taught had been tutored by Mary Lee Beal, a woman who was always trying to improve on her own knowledge. A woman who was not afraid to innovate. A woman who must have had great reserves of energy and dedication.

We retired teachers always enjoy our treks to Ola and support the community's continued efforts to keep their school. Thank you for hosting us.



Fall Meeting in Ola

Be sure to join us at our annual meeting in Ola. It's a beautiful fall drive, and the Ladies' Club always has it so nicely decorated, the food is delicious (love the homemade desserts!), and their programs are of interest to us all.

Even if you didn't make a reservation, I'm sure there will be enough food and space for you, so come this Friday!

If you have room in your car or don't want to drive yourself, meet in the parking lot in Emmett west of the Catholic Church/north of the library to carpool.

Student Pantry News from Sue Gunter

This month's featured cause is the pantry that provides free food for hungry teenagers. This year True North Academy (formerly the alternative school) and Virtual Prep Academy have moved from Butte View to the EHS campus which will probably effect the pantry's use.

Maria Sanchez continues as Pantry Coordinator and Randy Korell continues as support staff. The pantry has moved from the counselors' office space to another room on the 3rd floor. Cabinets have been installed and loaner backpacks have been purchased so kids can take home food. Albertsons donates bottled water. Personal care items and clothing will also be kept in the same area.

If you want to donate food, here are the preferred items: granola bars, cheese & cracker packets, mac & cheese cups, cups of soup or ramen, fruit cups, tuna packets (most requested), juice, peanut butter & cracker packets, tissue packs.

Write checks to Emmett High School.

Donor Drawing

This month's donor drawing is a carry-on bag that retails for for \$330. It's sturdy—like the ones pilots use every day. It's attractive—good for males or females. It's got compartments so your used underwear can be separated from your p.j.s, your grooming supplies from your swimming suit, your souvenirs from your passport. It's got wheels that will almost roll themselves they're so well engineered.

Whether you are a traveler or you know someone who is, it's a great gift.

Just donate to any of our causes at the door and receive a raffle ticket for each dollar you donate. Not going anywhere? Use it for storage! Or to foist off your excess belongings on your heirs! For Christmas!



Treasurers' Report—16 Sep 2026

Attendance at Aug. meeting 39
Donations to Nurses's Fund \$146
Balances in Project Accounts
Nurses \$237
Teacher Grants \$998
Pantry \$0
Books for Kids \$0
Balance in General Fund \$4943.41
Balance in Convention Fund \$352



Good News at Last

I was reading in *The New Yorker* that a new type of hearing aid has been invented using AI that does an excellent job of deadening background noise and conversations so we can

actually hear the voices we want to hear. So far it's only available in NYC and costs about \$6000, but if it works as well as the reviewer says, the technology will spread fast. What a relief that will be to our members who use aids!

If the AI developers would stick to helpful uses, it could be good after all.

Contribute to the Newsletter!

For some reason I'm usually the last person to know what's going on in people's lives. It's okay, but it makes it hard to put together a newsletter about people!

If you have news that would interest our members, please let me know in time to publish on the weekend before our meeting. I prefer texts or email. Talk to me!



Secretary's Report: Minutes from May

"President Joanna Clausen greeted everyone. She reminded everyone that this meeting's donations are for School Pantries.

"Rita Montgomery gave the Invocation and Carolyn Hunt led the flag salute.

"Lunch was served, with thanks to Lillie and Dakota.

"Program-Dean Snell told of his river adventures. He has led trips on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River for 51 years. He has been on 5 continents giving tours with his wife. He is usually on the river for 100 days, about 18 trips for the season. Each trip usually has 30 people with a cost of \$4,500 per person. Dean passed around pictures of his various trips. He said it is a demanding job, but it keeps him young.

"The meeting was called to order at 12:41 pm.

"The Minutes and Treasurers' Report were accepted.

"Vicki Crank reported that she had sent Thank You cards to the Lions and Craig Woods. Mary Weirheim was sent a Thinking of You card.

"Teacher Grants Committee will be meeting on June 16th. They will award \$2000.

"Membership: Randa George reminded everyone to pay their dues.

"Continuing Business: Purchase of a Sound System—Options were given. Discussion followed. Sandi Baker moved we purchase a wireless mic. Terry Haun seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed.

"No decision was made about the Summer Field Trip.

"New Business: President Joanna reported about a Zoom meeting that she attended on May 1st. She told us that it was mostly about membership. Problems are facing us—baby boomers are dying and Generation X are not wanting to join. How do we get new members?

"Carol Standley and Gloria Sutton presented the Necrology for Pat Maloy and Shirley Perry. It was a very tasteful, moving ceremony. We also remembered Lyn Haun's mother, Dot Phillips.

"Officers—Lyn Haun and Linda Steele were given gifts for their service as retiring officers. Joy Davis is our new Vice-president and Sandi Baker is the new Service chairperson.

"This month's Donor Prize, Jan Tull's name was drawn.

"Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm."

