

LIA Alumni Newsletter

November 2007

It is always an adventure to meet a new class of candidates. LIA Class 28 was in Moscow the week of November 5-8. The class is a full class of 30. Let me share a few statistics about the class:

- Average age – 41 years old
- Number of producers – 8
- First time – Father and Son team in the same class (Gary and Garth Steed – Malta)
- Number of graduates from Kuna High School – 3 (all former FFA members)
One was even a student of mine! *Ouch that hurts.*
- First time sponsors – Idaho Department of Education, ID-OR Fruit & Vegetable Association, Nunhems USA, Inc., Idaho Ag Credit Association, Ada Soil & Water Conservation District, Grant 4-D Farms, Broken Arrow Farms. Seminis Vegetable Seed, Governor's Office on Species Conservation, ZX Ranch, Busch Ag Resources, Rain For Rent
- 20 come from the Treasure Valley
- New Associate Dean of Development at CALS – Polly Rippee (first week on the job was the Moscow Session)

We tried a couple of different things this time. In preparation for the class, we sponsored a noon luncheon and brought together all the Treasure Valley participants. The result was that carpooling became the in thing and out of the 30 only one person actually flew to Moscow due to a responsibility with his company.

I am anxious for alumni across the state to meet Class 28.

RW

New Position

LIA Trustee, alumni member and great partner through Idaho Rural Partnership, **Dale Dixon, LIA Class 21**, has announced his resignation from IRP to become President of the Better Business Bureau of Idaho. This is indeed an honor for Dale and reflects his excellent leadership skills. Dale will continue to provide the media training in the Twin Falls session and to serve his term on the LIA Board of Trustees.

Good luck in your new position, Dale.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The LIA Board of Trustees has spent many hours this fall working on a strategic plan and vision for the future of LIA. The board feels the responsibility not only to you as graduates, but to those individuals who will be coming through the program in future years.

During the process, the board met with Linda Hendricksen, Northwest Farm Credit Services out of Spokane, who facilitated a strategic planning session. During the course of the time with Linda, the board had a chance to visit by phone with David Roseleip, President of the Washington Ag and Forestry Program out of Spokane—

a premier leadership program in the West. The board concluded their session by visiting with Kirk Sullivan, current chairman of the Idaho Republican Party and Fundraiser Extraordinaire.

The end result was the appointment of two co-chairmen for a major fundraising campaign for LIA. The two individuals selected by the board of trustees are **Wayne Thiessen**, former LIA Trustee member who spent several years with ORE-IDA in Idaho in their potato division and **Carl Rey, LIA Class 15** and Alumni member.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

We continue to grow our Lifetime Member ranks—Congratulations to the following . . .

Mike Aardema	Paul Krumm
Leonard Andrew	Jim McCall
Gerald Bashaw	Wayne Meyer
Robert Blair	Cleo Miller
Sara Braasch	Scott Nicholson
Julie Burkhardt	Russell Patterson
Rich Garber	Clinton Pline
Glenn Gray	Julie Pipal
Jeff Groat	Carol Randall
Hank Hafliger	Carl Rey
Blaine Hulet	Marcella Stewart
Ty Iverson	Mike Thornton
Cevin Jones	Blair Wilson
Ron Jones	Wes Wootan
Chuck King	

AUCTION COMMITTEE

The LIA Auction Committee, chaired by **David Temple, LIA Class 27**, is currently making plans for the 2008 Auction – **Goal \$35,000.**

Two new members from LIA Class 28 were added to the committee to serve as coaches for the current class. **Mitch Lucero**, Northwest Farm Credit Services (Nampa) and **Travis Jones**, Executive Director of Idaho Grain Producers (Boise) will represent Class 28 in planning the 2008 event.

SESSION SPONSORS

Thanks to **Robert Blair and Jeff Sayre, LIA Class 26** who sponsored a breakfast at the Moscow session. Also thanks to Idaho Cooperative Council who sponsored a break in the Moscow session. **Enclosed is an opportunity** for alumni or businesses, organizations or groups to sponsor a future event at one of the remaining sessions or the alumni session. **Please let us know if you want to be an event sponsor and have your name listed on the session program.**

The 2008 LIA Alumni Session is going to be a highlight event for all LIA Alumni. Listed on the back of this newsletter are some of the special events taking place during the two-day event in Boise.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

2008 LIA Alumni Session

Presentations:

The Workforce - Now and in the Future: Presented by **Dr. Mark Emerson, NNU School of Business.**

A look at the type of people and the trends for employment. Issues addressed: flexibility in the workplace, work styles and attitudes, position versus title, longevity, and loyalty; what types of students are graduating for the workforce and how long should we anticipate them staying with our company.

Integrity in the Work Place: Presented by **Dr. Bill Russell, NNU School of Business.** A look at the power of integrity when it comes to being the boss or the employee; the value of integrity to what your company stands for or to you as the individual. The presentation will include some hard questions related to decisions that have to be made related to the day-to-day operation of an organization.

The Power of a Brand: Presented by **Rick Stott, AgriBeef.** Coke, HP, Ford and FedEx all carry a certain power of brand identification in the minds of consumers. Rick Stott will address the power of a brand and what it says about you and your company, how difficult it is to establish a brand, and what you have to do to protect the investment and integrity of a brand.

Wednesday Afternoon Tours:

ISDA Seed Lab/Weights & Measures/Marketing Division: ISDA performs a number of services for the producer and consumer in Idaho. We will visit three operations inside ISDA to learn more about what they do daily. The State Seed Lab is challenged with seed purity and protection of Idaho's valuable seed industry. Weights & Measures monitor not only our gas pumps to be sure of proper measurements, but also the scales in your local supermarket. The Marketing Division will explain at the power of Idaho agriculture in the world and domestic markets.

Executive Board Room Tour #1 and Tour #2: You will have a choice to attend either Executive Tour #1 or Tour #2 to learn first-hand from the CEO's and CFO's of leading Idaho Companies. We will take you right into the board room so you can learn what is making these Idaho firms successful in the business world. Bus transportation will be provided for each of the tours.

Trustees make Special Offer

Members of **LIA Class 27** will be invited to attend the LIA Alumni Session **at no cost**. This is a new policy of the LIA Foundation to encourage the one-year reunion of each LIA class.

We are also planning a special gift and recognition for the class celebrating their 5-year graduation reunion. This year that will be **LIA Class 22** (last spring class) and **LIA Class 23**.

FIRST TIME

Five speakers will be selected from **LIA Class 28** to speak at the Ag Summit during one of the breakout session on Tuesday morning on the topic. "*If I were Governor of Idaho, This is What I Would Do. . .*" A panel of experts are invited to listen to the speakers: Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, USDA FSA State Director Don Dixon, ISDA Director, Celia Gould, Dean of CALS, Dr. John Hammel.

2008 Idaho Ag Summit

I hope you will all plan to be part of the 2008 Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit the Monday/Tuesday of the LIA Alumni week in Boise. We feel fortunate to be able to schedule both of these events in the same week with only one-half day between the two events.

Special speakers for the Ag Summit this year include:

David Tuthill, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources
"*Current Trends in Water & Irrigation Issues in Idaho*"

Laird Noh & Dennis Murphy
"*Idaho Ranch, Farm & Forest Protection Act*"

Dr. Tim White, U of I President
"*The U of I and Idaho Agriculture*"

Sharon Hughes, National Council of Agricultural Employers
"*Immigration Issues*"

Dale Dixon, President, Better Business Bureau of Idaho
"*The Next Generation*" – dealing with Succession Planning

Albert Wada & Frank Muir presenting a breakout session
"*Renaissance of the Idaho Potato Industry*"

The meetings will also include the annual Legislative Strolling Supper on Monday night, Feb. 11; Idaho Ag Leadership Breakfast on Tuesday morning; and the Governor's Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Important Dates to Watch For . . .

<u>December 10-13</u>	Pocatello Session for LIA	Special Alumni event on <u>Tuesday night, Dec. 11, 6:30</u> at Mandarin House
<u>January 7-10</u>	Twin Falls session for LIA	Special Alumni event (specific date and site to be selected)
<u>February 11-12</u> (Monday & Tuesday)		Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit at DoubleTree Riverside, Boise
<u>February 13-14</u>	LIA Alumni Session at Red Lion Downtowner	AND Gala Dinner Buffet & Auction on <u>Wednesday Night, Feb 13</u> Graduation of LIA Class 28 at <u>noon on Thursday, February 14</u>
<u>March 16-21</u>	Washington DC Experience for LIA Alumni members	Please call Kay Johnson to get your name on the list as a potential participant. More information to follow. Call 208-888-0988 or email Kay at kayjohn@spro.net