

December 2008

Leadership Idaho Agriculture

Alumni Newsletter

2008 Comes to an End . . .

It hardly seems possible that I have turned my calendar 12 times and now we are at the close of 2008. What a challenge to keep up with how fast life seems to happen around me. It seems I just opened up a new calendar for 2008 and now I am ready to retire it and start all over again.

This seemed like a good time of year to update you on a number of things that have happened and several things that are on the drawing board as we roll out a new calendar for 2009.

LIA Class 29 has just completed their Pocatello Session and January 5 will be in Twin Falls to start the third session of their LIA journey. We have 29 individuals in the class (see enclosed list). I cannot think of a time that we have had so many sponsors for our participants. We appreciate each of these sponsors who are providing financial resources to allow these individuals to experience LIA.

February 25-26, the LIA Board of Trustees are gearing up for the 2009 LIA Alumni Session. We have several special events surrounding the Alumni Session for you to participate in. Throughout this newsletter I will talk about some of those activities and what you can expect.

I wish each of you reading this newsletter a special Holiday Greeting and may 2009 bring peace and prosperity to our world.

Rick Waitley, President

New By-Laws

The LIA Board of Trustees were challenged in February to rewrite and update the by-laws for LIA that have been in place since 1993. Several aspects of the organization have changed over the years. The final draft is in place and will be voted on during the 2009 Annual Meeting – February 26.

NOTE: To save costs, if you would like a copy of the by-laws to review in advance of the Alumni Session, please contact Kay Johnson in our office at kayjohn@spro.net and she will email or mail you a copy.

New at this Year's Alumni Session . . .

Let's start first with the **location**. The '09 LIA Alumni Session will be held at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise. This is what we have been working for over the years – everything in one location including the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit on Monday and Tuesday with the LIA Alumni Session on Wednesday and Thursday. What an action-packed week, February 22-26. You will not want to miss out. Details of the Alumni Session program will be mailed after the first of the year. Thanks to Mitch Lucero and Drew Eggers, co-chairmen of the Planning Committee.

Bus from Magic Valley

Magic Valley LIA Alumni should watch the mail for information related to a bus being sponsored from the Magic Valley for the evening of the **LIA Gala Dinner & Auction**. Cost to ride the bus (anticipated to leave between 4:00 & 4:30 from Twin Falls) will be **\$50**. The \$50 includes riding the bus, dinner at the Gala Event, one (1) drink ticket and five (5) raffle tickets—not to mention the great

fellowship. The bus will leave immediately following the Auction to return to Twin Falls. What a great way to settle back, enjoy great visiting with LIA Alumni and participate in the events in Boise the evening of Feb. 25.

Mark this date on your calendar and watch for more details

Names in the News

Brad Hoaglund (Class 16) has been named State Director for Senator Jim Risch; **Mike Mathews** (Class 16) has joined the Risch Team and will be located in the Magic Valley; **Alan Martinson** (Class 27) was elected Treasurer of the Clear-water Resource Conservation and Development Council; **Rob Troxel** (Class 14) was re-elected President of Food Producers of Idaho; **Rich Garber** (Class 2) has been named to receive a Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture at the 2009 Idaho Ag Summit;

Jamie Anderson (Class 24) was elected a County Commissioner for Boise County; **Tim Corder** (Class 7) was selected as Chairman of the Idaho Senate Agriculture Affairs Committee.

NOTE: *Sometimes we don't hear of your accomplishments, achievements and awards. Please notify us in the LIA office so we can pass this information along to our members. We always enjoy reporting your activities to the membership.*

LIA Auction Goal Revised

The LIA Board of Trustees has acknowledged the economic times and adjusted the LIA Auction goal from \$35,000 to **\$22,000**. This presents some budget challenges but we believe we will do the best we can based upon current economic trends.

We are asking each LIA Alumnus and Class 29 members to provide two items with a minimum value of \$25.00 to be auctioned on February 25. You can mail your items to our office if you will not be able to attend. In 2009, we have invited Gale Harding to return as our auctioneer.

2009 Legislature Includes LIA Alumni

Congratulations to a number of LIA Alumni who were elected to serve in the 2009 Idaho Legislature. Senator **Tim Corder** (Class 7); Representative **Darrell Bolz** (Class 7); Representative **Ken Roberts** (Class 14); Representative **Pat Takasugi** (Class 4); **Marcus Gibbs** (Class 4); **Jim Patrick**, (Class 15). As the state is challenged with several economic, transportation and tax issues, we wish our LIA State Leaders the very best of luck in leading our state through some challenging times.

LIA Alumni Directory

We do our best with the LIA Directory but there are always changes we need to note after publication. If you have received your Alumni Directory, please take a moment to update the following information for your fellow LIA Alumni:

Bill Bolz – is a Lifetime Member of LIA (our apology to Bill for missing this notation)

Other Changes to Note . . .

Matthew Blanksma:
941 SW Independence Ave;
matthewjblanksma@gmail.com

Scott Breeding:
gscottbr@hotmail.com

Glenn Gray:
grayfarmslc@clearwire.net

Jon Hogge:
jahogge@msn.com

Nathan Riggers:
nate.riggers@gmail.com

Terry Ruby:
tcc83330@yahoo.com

End of the Year

Now is a **great time** to give consideration to a couple of different things related to LIA and your end-of-the-year investment:

Lifetime Membership (\$1000): This might be the right time for you to consider payment of a LIA Lifetime Membership either in one lump sum or in the 2-3 payments offered.

LIA Auction: We are prepared to receive advance funds for the LIA Auction if that works better for you in 2008.

A donation to the **LIA Endowment Fund** would be welcome at any time to help advance the future of the program, provide scholarships and continue funding to offset costs related to LIA.

We do accept credit cards, checks and even **CASH!** **Contact the LIA Office if you are interested in any of these options.**

Washington DC in 2009

The LIA Experience will be held in Washington, DC on March 15-20. Enclosed is a flier that gives you many more details related to the week. Sign up by contacting Kay Johnson at 208-888-0988 or by email at kayjohn@spro.net. This might be the year for you and your spouse to join us for this Experience. There are scholarship funds from past LIA Auctions available to assist you with the costs.

MEMBERSHIP Enclosed is a current membership report for LIA alumni who have renewed their membership (\$50) for 2008-2009. If your name is not listed, please send your membership dues today. We are striving for a high percent of LIA Alumni joining this year.

FUNDRAISING TEAM We appreciate the wonderful leadership that has been provided by Fundraising Co-chairmen **Carl Rey** (Class 15) and Wayne Thiessen. The leadership team for Fundraising has recently been expanded to include: Dick Rush and **Kristen Thompson** (Class 10). The committee plans to share their goals and objectives with the membership at the 2009 Annual Meeting on February 26.

LIA Session Sponsors

Thanks to the following who have or will provide financial support for breaks and meals at LIA Class 29 sessions. If you would like to sponsor an event for the Class 29 sessions or the Alumni Session, please contact the LIA office.

Moscow

Davis Creek Cellars (**Gina Davis**, Class 26) - Break, \$100
Pioneer Hi-Bred (**Todd Flick**, Class 5) - Dinner, \$400
Alan Martinson, Class 27 - Break, \$50
Kim Nelson, Class 27 - Break, \$25
Mary Hasenhoehrl, Class 27 - Break, \$25
Bitner Vineyards (**Ron Bitner**, Class 3) - Break, \$100

Pocatello

Doug McIntosh, Class 19 - Lunch, \$150
Debra Ausman, Class 19 - Lunch, \$150
Rob and Lisa Shively, Class 15 - Break, \$100
Idaho Farm Bureau - Lunch, \$150

Twin Falls

Larry Schoen/Terry Kramer/Tom Mikesell, Class 26 - Lunch, \$300
Kauffman Farms (Clark, Class 13 & Debbie Kauffman) - Break, \$100

Boise

Stewart Farms (Marcella, Class 18 and Joe, Class 16) - Lunch, \$300
Pioneer Hi-Bred (Todd Flick, Class 5) - Dinner, \$400

Alumni

Davis Creek Cellars (**Gina Davis**, Class 26) - Break, \$100
Chad Cheyney, Class 28 - Break, \$25
Diana Thomas, Class 23 - Break, \$100

In closing, I am excited to report that the Board of Trustees has authorized the production of an LIA video to be used for recruitment of participants and solicitation of financial investments for the LIA program in Idaho. We have been working with a video company during LIA Classes 28 and 29 and have captured many of the programs that make LIA a great experience. We plan to show the new video at the 2009 Alumni Session and receive your critique before we enter into the final stage of development. Thanks to all of you who have helped and made a contribution to the success of this video. There are costs associated with the production of the LIA video and if you would like to have your name or the name of your company listed on the tag line as a sponsor, please contact me directly by calling 208-888-0988 or by email at rcwaitley@spro.net. We would be pleased to add your name as a sponsor for this special project.

See you in Boise for the LIA Alumni Session, 2009 Annual Meeting, Gala Dinner and Auction and the graduation of LIA Class 29. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous 2009. RW