

March 2009

# Leadership Idaho Agriculture

## Alumni Newsletter

## CONGRATULATIONS to LIA Class 29

*The graduation of Class 29 with twenty-nine members makes a total of 701 graduates from the program since 1985. Class 29 had some unique features as does every class. As I spoke about each class member as they walked across the stage at graduation, I was really reminded of how diverse and unique each class is. Class 29 will continue to be a great class for promoting Leadership Idaho Agriculture. I don't know if we have ever had a class with so many sponsors. I was so impressed with the sponsor list for the class that I have printed it below. As you connect with these businesses, organizations and partners with LIA, please express your appreciation for their investment in leaders for Idaho agriculture and rural communities throughout Idaho.*

Agriculture Solutions	Idaho Weed Control Assoc
Bureau of Land Management	Intermountain Community Bank
Campbell Tractor	Leadership Idaho Agriculture Foundation
Canyon County Farm Bureau	Mountain View Equipment Company
Crop Production Services	Nampa/Meridian Irrigation District
Glanbia Foods	Northwest Farm Credit Services
Idaho AgCredit	Primeland Cooperatives
Idaho Alfalfa/Clover Seed Commission	Rabo AgriFinance
Idaho Assoc of Soil Conservation Dists	Seminis Vegetable Seeds
Idaho Assoc of Weed Control Supts	Simplot Grower Solutions
Idaho Barley Commission	Twin Falls Canal Company
Idaho Cooperative Council	Twin Falls County Farm Bureau
Idaho Dairymen's Association	Two Rivers Terminal
Idaho Dept of Environmental Quality	University of Idaho CALS
Idaho Fish & Game Department	US Bank
Idaho Hay and Forage Assoc	USDA Farm Service Agency
Idaho Rural Partnership	USDA Rural Development
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission	

## A Great Leader

In early February we received word that **LIA Class 27 Graduate Wayne Meyer**, Rathdrum, had passed away. Wayne served as a State Legislator from 1994 to 2004. After that time he was determined to find time in his schedule to participate in LIA since he had met several members of former classes who passed through the Capitol during the Boise Session. In honor of Wayne's life, the LIA Board of Trustees established a new award called the Wayne Meyer LIA Statesman Award designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated great abilities as statesmen for Idaho. The first award was presented to **State Representative Darrell Bolz**, District 10 and a member of **LIA Class 7**. The award was presented at Graduation for LIA Class 29 and we had the honor of having Mrs. Wayne Meyer (Karleen) and a daughter and niece present for this first presentation.

### Thanks for Your Years of Service

*LIA Board of Trustees do have term limits and we appreciate the service of the following LIA Board members who have served their full two terms (6 years): **Charlie Bryan**, Class 10; **Dr. John Foltz**, Class 12; **Lisa Shively**, Class 15; **Mike Thornton**, Class 12. In addition, Trustee **Ty Iverson**, Class 24, felt he should step down from the Trustees at this time.*

## Results of the 2009 Annual Meeting . . .

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Chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Rich Garber** conducted the Annual Membership meeting on Thursday, February 26. Significant events that took place during the meeting include the following:

- Approval of **new LIA By-laws** – led by Sec/Treasurer **Mary Hasenoehrl**.
- Report from the **Capital Campaign Committee** on their future plans to generate funds for the Foundation – thanks to **Carl Rey, Wayne Thiessen, Kristen Thompson** and **Dick Rush**.

Election of new officers for 2009-2010 include

Chairman – **Rich Garber**  
Vice Chairman – **Mary Hasenoehrl**  
Secretary/Treasurer – **Dale Dixon**

Election of Board of Trustees members for three-year terms

**Diana Caldwell**, Class 23  
**Matt Dorsey**, Class 29  
**Kathy Sodhi**, Class 24

## LIA Alumni Auction a HUGE Success

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Thanks to **David Temple**, LIA Auction Committee Chairman, and his Committee for excellent work on the 2009 Auction. The goal for the Auction was to generate \$22,000 to be used for LIA Scholarships, operations and activities. The result was a total of **\$38,000** – WOW!

The auction had several new aspects and each year, more and more fine

tuning takes place that adds to our success. Highlights of this year's auction were the following:

**Grand Prize** - Congratulations to the following who won the Grand Prize awards:

Shoup Cabin - **Wende Mai**,  
Employee at Seminis Vegetable Seeds

McCall Cabin – **Scott Stanger**, LIA  
Class 22.

**Golden Pig Award** - Initiated this year, this was a Loose Change Competition. This resulted in the presentation of **two awards** – **heaviest** and **most money**.

Golden Pig for most money in loose change went to – **Rich Garber**, LIA Class 2, with a total of **1,805 coins totaling \$195.93**

Golden Pig for heaviest went to **Carl Rey**, LIA Class 15, with a total of **6,840 coins totaling \$161.44**

## LIA Alumni Receive Recognition

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**Plaques Presented to LIA Members with PERFECT ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP for the past 10 years**

**James Blanksma**, Class 13    **Mike Nichols**, Class 13  
**Rod Endow**, Class 13      **Frank "Flip" Phillips**, Class 3  
**Garth Heidel**, Class 13    **Lonn Thaete**, Class 13  
**Alan Heikkila**, Class 13

**Recognized as LIFETIME MEMBERS of LIA**

**Samantha Anderson**, Class 23    **Dr. John Foltz**, Class 12  
**William "Bill" Bohl**, Class 14    **Mark Klompfen**, Class 16  
**Jim Chase**, Class 28            **Tom Mikesell**, Class 27  
**Chad Cheyney**, Class 28        **Tom Mosman**, Class 9  
**Richard Durrant**, Class 9       **Wayne Thiessen**, Trustee  
**Drew Eggers**, Class 12         **Russ Zenner**, Class 3

## LIA Alumni in the News

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The recent change of Administration has placed two LIA Alumni in interim leadership roles with USDA Agencies:

**Daryl Moser**, LIA Class 23, is serving as Interim State Director for USDA Rural Development

**Aaron Johnson**, LIA Class 25, is serving as Interim State Director for USDA Farm Service Agency

Other Alumni News:

**Doug Scoville**, LIA Class 6, will be installed this month as the new National President for US Canola Association

**Jon Barrett**, LIA Class 19, has formed a new company, Clearstory Studios, involving interpersonal communication and dispute resolution

Like everyone, LIA is also working to find ways to trim costs. Several people at the LIA Alumni Session mentioned they would like to receive LIA correspondence electronically. We sent a letter and postcard earlier and we are pleased with the response. Some of the items we send throughout the year may not be able to go electronically, but if you would prefer email as your primary way of receiving mail, send Kay Johnson an email at [Kayjohn@spro.net](mailto:Kayjohn@spro.net) and provide your email address.

## Friends of LIA Awards Presented

Each year, Friends of LIA Awards are presented to individuals or organizations acknowledging their support. At the Graduation of Class 29, recognition was given to the following:

### **Wayne and Peggy Thiessen:**

Long time supporters of the LIA Auction, this year they provided the cabin in McCall as one of the Grand Prizes. Wayne serves as a Trustee, is a Lifetime LIA member and currently serves on the Capital Campaign Team.

**Dee Sienknecht:** Dee has worked at AMG for the past four years. She is responsible for the website, PowerPoint presentations for the Auction and Graduation, and helps with brochures and materials to promote LIA. Dee works closely with the Auction Committee on the development of materials to promote the Auction.

**Mike and Faith Palmer:** The Palmers live in Idaho Falls where Mike is a free lance photographer. Mike has taken the LIA Class picture for a number of years at

the Pocatello session. What a great memory piece of all LIA graduates thanks to the work of the Palmers.

**Glanbia Foods:** CEO **Jeff Williams** is an LIA graduate. Since Jeff's graduation, a number of employees have participated in the program. Glanbia has made a major commitment to LIA training and has provided excellent participants through the years including Class 29 Co-chairman **Russ De Kruyf** and two members in the LIA Class 29 – **Hugh Royal** and **Jeff Kent**.

## New LIA Video

Throughout the past two years, we has been working on a new **promotional video** to be used to promote LIA and also recruit donor dollars. At the '09 LIA Alumni Session, the alumni members present had the chance to watch the video twice – once for initial reaction and again with a critique sheet in hand to measure the strengths and weaknesses of the video. We anticipated the video being finished by May 1 and available for our use.

The video features a number of shots from Class 28 and Class 29 and the Alumni Session. Currently featured in the video are **Leah Clark**, Class 26; **Ray Matsuura**, Class 21; and **Will Ricks**, Class 27. We plan to add at least one more personality to the mix of the interviews.

## AITC Summer Workshops and Tours

Each year LIA Alumni **play an important role** in the success of our summer workshops and tours for Idaho teachers. Please put these dates on your calendar

**Thursday evening, July 16** – Nampa for the Treasure Valley LIA/AITC Event

**Tuesday evening, July 21** – Twin Falls for the Magic Valley LIA/AITC Event

The two-day AITC workshops will be held as follows

Meridian – Thursday/Friday, June 11-12

Meridian – Monday/Tuesday, June 15-16

Pocatello – Thursday/Friday, June 18-19

If you have teachers in your family or who are friends, please encourage them to register on line at [www.idahoaitc.org](http://www.idahoaitc.org) for one of the tours or workshops.

### DC 2009 CANCELLED

I suppose there were a number of factors contributing to this cancellation – current economy, new administration, busy schedules for many people. Whatever the reason, we had only two LIA alumni sign up for the Washington, DC Experience. We have cancelled for 2009, but are making plans for 2010.

We will let you know the dates when they are available.