

March 2010

# Leadership Idaho Agriculture

## Alumni Newsletter

### EXCITEMENT IN THE AIR . . .

*There's a certain atmosphere in the air when LIA Alumni members get together with the current graduating class. That was what I felt in the Boise Session, February 8-11. The 2010 event was tied to the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit and with each day's events and activities, there was an excitement.*

*Networking has always been an important part of the LIA experience and this year was no exception. Several members of Class 30 came to me and said, "I can't believe I just met someone who is an LIA graduate and the connection we have in common". I hear that comment frequently and networking remains to be one of the major benefits and accomplishments of participation in the program. At the Last Supper, one graduating member said to me, "There must be high-profile LIA Alumni in almost every community throughout Idaho". I would like to think that with 730 graduates, that the individual is right! Not only would there be the presence of a graduate in every community, but a person (LIA graduate) who is making a difference in how that community operates as part of our state.*

*There are so many things to recap from the Boise session. Thanks to many LIA Alumni who joined us for the activities and events, and for those who were not able to be present, I will try to share the excitement and atmosphere of the days shared together in Boise.*

*Rick Waitley, Exec. Director*

### Thank You

Saying thanks to two long-term LIA Trustees was part of the 2010 Annual Meeting. Retiring Chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Rich Garber, LIA Class 2**, and **Janice Stimpson, LIA Class 17**, demonstrated the dedication and support of LIA Alumni. Both Garber and Stimpson served a total of seven years as trustees. Shortly after the LIA Alumni Session, the trustees received the resignation from **Scott Nicholson, LIA Class 14**, who stepped down from the trustees due to the growth in the family business and demands on his time.

### Board of Trustees Update

New members elected to serve on the LIA Board of Trustees are the following:  
**Debra Ausman, LIA Class 19**, Lewiston Northwest Farm Credit Services  
**Matt Gellings, LIA Class 19**, Idaho Falls Farmer  
**Pattie Jo Courtney, LIA Class 29**, Twin Falls BLM

Also selected by the Nominating Committee for the board of trustees are:  
**Dr. Larry Branen**, University of Idaho, Coeur d'Alene  
**Rick Stott**, AgriBeef, Boise

Both Branen and Stott are non-LIA graduates. The board of trustees feels it is important to maintain outside counsel and advice on LIA decisions and mission.

At the 2010 annual meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for the coming year for the board of trustees:

Chairman – **Drew Eggers, LIA Class 12**  
Vice Chairman – **Dale Dixon, LIA Class 21**  
Secretary – **Mary Hasenoehrl, LIA Class 17**

At an Advisory Committee meeting following the LIA Annual Meeting, the following officers were elected to lead the LIA Advisory Committee:

Chairman – **Garren Apple, LIA Class 27**  
Vice Chairman – **Kasey Garrett, LIA Class 28**  
Secretary – **Sara Schmidt, LIA Class 9**

### Names in the News

#### Congratulations to:

**Jim Miller, LIA Class 29**, on the recent birth of a son and for Jim's promotion at Primeland Industries.

**Nicole Kendall, LIA Class 28**, on the birth of a son in December.

**Stephanie Etter, LIA Class 26**, who was recently selected as co-chairman for the Ag Summit in 2012.

#### Sympathy is extended to:

**Clinton Wissel, LIA Class 3**, and **Mike Wissel, LIA Class 2**, on the recent passing of their father.

**Will Ricks, LIA Class 27**, on the death of his brother.

**Leonard Andrew, LIA Class 26**, on the death of his wife Robin following her courageous battle with cancer.

#### **Board Strategic Planning**

On April 15-16, the LIA Board of Trustees will travel to Riggins, Idaho to the Best Western facility and lock themselves in for two days of strategic planning as they work to project and plan for the future of the program. The trustees hired Andy Fujimoto from Boise who is associated with AmeriBen/IEC Group to serve as the facilitator. A summary report of the work of the trustees will be provided following the planning session.

**NOTE:** We always appreciate receiving notes and information about LIA Alumni. Please drop me a line at [rick@amgidaho.com](mailto:rick@amgidaho.com) so we can keep fellow alumni informed.

## Successful 2010 Alumni Auction

Special thanks to **David Temple, LIA Class 26**, and his wife **Becky Temple, LIA Class 29**, for their excellent leadership in working toward the goal of \$30,000 to be raised at the LIA Auction. When it was all said and done, David Temple announced the next day at the graduation of LIA Class 30 that the auction had generated over \$30,000. Now that the dust has settled, the actual total raised for the auction was **\$31,230!** This took a great deal of planning, dedication and support from many people. The annual Gala Dinner and Auction is growing each year and we are at capacity for the DoubleTree Ballroom. There is an excitement in the air throughout the evening and many new friendships are forged during the event. The food is great, activity level high and the fellowship between guests, LIA Alumni and current Class members is exciting.

## LIA Statesman Award

**The Wayne Meyer (LIA Class 27) LIA Alumni Statesman Award was presented to Rep. Pat Takasugi. Takasugi graduated in LIA Class 4., and is involved in a family farming operation near Wilder. Takasugi has held a wide variety of leadership positions in his community, state and**

**even nationally in recent years. Takasugi is the former Director of Agriculture and was elected to the Idaho Legislature in 2009. Present for the award was Karleen Meyer, spouse of Wayne Meyer and his daughter, Jaime Deacon, a graduate of LIA Class 30.**

## Class 31 Recruiting to Begin

Applications are due in our office on August 1 and must include application form, two letters of recommendations as well as a 50-word essay. Tuition is \$2000/participant. Each participant is responsible for their own travel and lodging for the four locations.

The four sessions will be held as follows:

<b>Moscow</b>	<b>Nov 8-11</b> (Monday evening – 2:00 PM Thursday)
<b>Pocatello</b>	<b>Dec 6-9</b> (Monday evening – 2:00 PM Thursday)
<b>Twin Falls</b>	<b>Jan 3-6</b> (Monday evening – 2:00 PM Thursday)
<b>Boise</b>	<b>Feb 13-17</b> (Sunday evening – 2:00 PM Thursday)

You can contact our office for an application or go online at [www.leadershipidahoag.org](http://www.leadershipidahoag.org) to secure an application for a friend, family member or associate.

### Capitol Tours

A highlight of the Alumni Session was the tours to the recently renovated State Capitol Building. We had over 150 LIA alumni, family members and guests join us for the Thursday morning activity. Tours were conducted by **Dorita Waitley, Rich Garber, LIA Class 2, Benjamin Kelly, LIA Class 29 and Brad Hoaglund, LIA Class 16**. The morning went very smoothly with a charter bus transporting our LIA friends to and from the hotel and Capitol Building. Many LIA Class 30 members brought children and teens who enjoyed the capitol tours. The renovation is beautiful and, for many of the LIA folks who were visiting, the opportunity was the first time for several to return to the State Capitol since their years in school.

### GOLDEN PIG and LOOSE CHANGE AWARDS

The 2010 LIA Auction started off with emcee Dale Dixon introducing each member of the LIA Foundation Board of Trustees. Trustees had come to the evening prepared to dump loose change into a wheelbarrow that passed in front of them to start off the LIA auction activities. The total raised in loose change - **\$683.10**. Award winners of Golden Pig Awards for the most money was **Rich Garber, LIA Class 2**, and for the most weight in coins was **Ken Burgess, LIA Class 20**. The Loose Change activity is a great way for LIA Alumni to support the Foundation. **Right now** – establish a container that can be your collection point for loose change throughout the year and then bring that container with you to the LIA Alumni Auction next year to enter the competition! **Special thanks goes to LIA Class 29** who took on the challenge of Loose Change this year and raised **over 10#'s** of loose change.

## Friends of LIA

Friend of LIA Awards were presented at LIA Class 30 graduation to:

**Dean John Hammel** – Dr. Hammel serves as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Idaho in Moscow. Dr. Hammel has made numerous presentations to LIA and encouraged faculty and staff members to participate in the LIA program.

**Ken Burgess, LIA Class 20** – Ken is a partner in the consulting firm Veritas Advisors in Boise. The firm deals primarily in representation of clients in public policy issues. Ken served as a co-chairman for an LIA Class, was the first chairman of the LIA auction committee and has been a member of the LIA Board of Trustees and Advisory Committee.

**Pat Barclay, LIA Class 16** – Pat is Executive Director of the organization Idaho Council on the Industry and the Environment. For several years, Pat has been the individual responsible to critique the Pro/Con letters for LIA class members.

**Janice Stimpson, LIA Class 17** – Janice works for the University of Idaho Extension System and is located in eastern Idaho as a district director for the agency. Janice served as a co-chairman for an LIA class, has been an active participant on the auction committee and served as a trustee. In addition, Janice has frequently presented to LIA classes on the subject, Who, What, Why, When, Where and How of Southeastern Idaho.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION** WAS PRESENTED AT THE 2010 GRADUATION TO THE FOLLOWING LIA ALUMNI:

#### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP:

ROBERT HAYS, LIA CLASS 28  
CHRIS MCINTOSH, LIA CLASS 17  
KEN ROBERTS, LIA CLASS 14

KRIS SMELSER, LIA CLASS 23  
PAT TAKASUGI, LIA CLASS 4  
DICK RUSH (NON-GRADUATE, LIA TRUSTEES)

#### TEN YEARS OF CONTINUOUS LIA MEMBERSHIP:

JACK BELL, LIA CLASS 13  
ROBERT BLAKESLEE, LIA CLASS 14  
STEVE BRAUN, LIA CLASS 14  
DARIN DOERR, LIA CLASS 14

WAYNE HAMMON, LIA CLASS 14  
RITCHEY TOEVS, LIA CLASS 2  
ROBERT TROXEL, LIA CLASS 14  
SHAWNA VANBEEK, LIA CLASS 11

## ALUMNI SESSION A GREAT SUCCESS

The LIA Alumni Session program was pulled together by the Alumni Planning Committee led by Mitch Lucero, LIA Class 28. The speakers, topics and content were well received by everyone in attendance. Thanks Mitch, you and your committee did a great job!

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit Planning Committee is a great place for involvement as an LIA alumni member. The 2011 co-chairman will be **Travis Jones, LIA Class 28**. The Larry Branen Ag Summit in 2011 will take place on Monday, February 14 and Tuesday, February 15 prior to the LIA Alumni Session. Both events will be at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise.

If you are interested in being on the Planning Committee for the 2011 Summit, please contact Kay Johnson in our office at [kay@amgidaho.com](mailto:kay@amgidaho.com).

**SUNDAY NIGHT** in Boise was a great event as we celebrated the Super Bowl and a Taco Feed at the home of **Bob and Becky Hays**. Bob was a member of **LIA Class 28**. The Hays opened their home to over 80 alumni, trustees, guests and members of **LIA Class 30**. Helping host the event were **LIA Class 28 members**. The food was great, the fellowship even better, and the spirit of cooperation and support for LIA abounds.

*Thanks Bob, Becky, Treasure Valley LIA Alumni and Class 28 for making this such a successful event!*

## BE AN ADVOCATE FOR AG

The **Idaho Ag in the Classroom** program is very connected to LIA Alumni. The Idaho AITC program looks to LIA Alumni for tour locations, meeting speakers and connection for BBQ's with teachers participating in the program. The dates and locations for workshops and tours for 2010 are as follows:

June 10-11, Thursday/Friday	Greater Treasure Valley	Comfort Suites (Eagle Rd)
June 14-15, Monday/Tuesday	West Treasure Valley	Comfort Suites (Eagle Rd)
June 17-18, Thursday/Friday	Idaho Falls	AmeriTel Inn (Lindsay Rd)
-----		
July 13-16, Tuesday-Friday	Tour #1	Boise to Idaho Falls
July 20-23, Tuesday-Friday	Tour #2	Twin Falls Base

Now is the time to let your family members' teachers know about these workshops and tours. Every teacher needs credits to continue their certification in Idaho. Why not participate in a tour and/or workshop that provides practical information featuring our industry – **AGRICULTURE**. **Two other ways** you can be involved with Idaho AITC are through the purchase of an **Ag License Plate** to promote the industry and AITC program or through your **membership** as an individual or organization. Membership forms and additional information about Idaho AITC can be found on the website at [www.idahoaitc.org](http://www.idahoaitc.org). Enclosed is a flyer that tells more about the AITC license plate program. Help us promote Idaho agriculture by placing ag plates on your family vehicles.

## FINAL THOUGHTS . . .

*The LIA Board of Trustees contracted to develop a new promotional video to market the LIA program. At the 2009 and again at the 2010 Alumni Session, we have shown the video and asked for input and recommendations. The final product is something that LIA can be very proud of and will help us sell the program to potential candidates and, the trustees believe, to future donors.*

*The video spans a number of classes. The production was done by Brad Elsberg, Nampa, a familiar face to LIA as Brad is usually working AV needs at our auction and Boise Session. The original script was written by Trustee Vice Chairman, Dale Dixon, LIA Class 21. The video features a number of interviews with LIA alumni members who share their insight and opinions about the LIA Experience. **NOTE:** If you would like to schedule the video for a presentation, please feel free to contact our office.*

*I am amazed by the number of graduates who are advancing in positions of leadership within their companies and their communities, making a difference where they live and work. I remember hearing former Director of Agriculture Dick Rush say when the program was first getting started, "We are concerned about the age of our boards, councils and commissions and want to protect the future of our state with good leaders in our communities, businesses and agencies of government". That was in 1985. Now, after 25 years, we are seeing the results of that vision and the investment of many people through the years. But, the task is not finished. I am reminded every day as I go to the Capitol Building of how vitally important good leaders are to the entire process. State Legislators are only one portion of the greater puzzle. Think about the city, county, agribusiness leaders throughout our state and the vital role they play. The promotional video will tell the story of a few of our graduates and highlight some of the success the program has had. But, the real success story lies in each of you as leaders who are making a difference. My final comments – keep recruiting candidates for future classes, stay informed on alumni events and activities, and remain involved. Cultivate the network of LIA graduates throughout the state, region and across the country. **It's a pleasure to have YOU as a graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture!***