

April 2009

Leadership Idaho Agriculture

Alumni Newsletter

The Importance of Leadership

The letters are ready to go to **over 1400 people** who are on our LIA recruitment list. While this mailing is important to us, the best way to sell LIA is still by **Word of Mouth**. Those who have graduated from the program remain the best marketing tool we have available. It's hard to capture in a letter or in print exactly the experience you personally had with LIA. Therefore, I encourage you to do your own recruitment beyond our mailing to this database. Anyone interested in applying can always find an application on line at www.leadershipidahoag.org.

What an interesting time we are finding our state and nation in at this time. The economy has brought forth some real issues that I believe are very serious to the future of our country – continued need for strong leaders. I continue to hear people say, "*What we need are better leaders locally, statewide and nationally*". I'm sure there is always room for improvement and that is why leadership programs like LIA exist. Our track record speaks for itself, but what we are experiencing now definitely affirms that we cannot draw back from our goal of equipping leaders in rural communities throughout our state. Therefore, Class 30 is scheduled to begin in November and I hope you will do your part to recruit friends and neighbors to be part of this year's LIA experience.

Rick Waitley, Executive Director

2009-2010 LIA Alumni Directory

Sometime in late June we will mail the **alumni membership forms** and **LIA Directory Update Sheet**. We constantly receive requests from LIA Alumni for updated information about people who were in their graduating class. ***Please do not discard the Directory Update Sheet!*** Take a few minutes to provide the necessary information to update your profile in the annual directory—where you work, involvement in your community and correct contact information is very important to staying connected. Please watch your mail for this update and be prepared to provide us the information to keep your records current.

2009 Alumni Auction Update

Last month we reported the success of the 2009 LIA Alumni Auction. However, additional funds have been received and the new total is **\$39,567.40**. Looking back over the years, here is the history of the auction. The first auction was held in 1996.

1996	\$2,967.50	1997	\$12,003.00	1998	\$13,212.19
1999	\$13,237.00	2000	\$21,879.00	2001	\$15,005.50
2002	\$16,237.00	2003	\$13,611.00	2004	\$11,817.00
2005	\$9,540.00	2006	\$37,725.25	2007	\$34,602.00
	2008	\$28,726.00	2009	\$39,567.40	

Proceeds from the auction are used to fund scholarships for level I LIA and also for the Washington, DC Experience.

In the News . . .

Jeff Groat, LIA Class 13, recently deployed for a one year term of service in Iraq. Jeff is employed at USDA Farm Service Agency in Elmore County. Jeff's involvement will be traveling to several different sites throughout Iraq where he will be serving as a Senior Trainer. Jeff is a past Chairman of the Idaho Ag Summit. While Jeff is in Iraq you can contact him by email at jeff.groat@id.usda.gov.

David Patrick, LIA Class 29, was recently named by DEQ to the Crop Residue Advisory Committee.

*Sympathy is extended to **Blair Wilson**, LIA Class 11, in the recent loss of his father, Peter Wilson. Many people in Idaho were familiar with Peter since he served for a number of years as Chairman of the Port of Lewiston.*

LIA Trustee **Dick Rush** has been named Acting Administrator for the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and Dick's name was sent forward by Congressman Walt Minnick as his selection for the State FSA Executive Director position.

Idaho Rural Partnership Update

Many LIA Graduates have been provided scholarship funds from Idaho Rural Partnership. During the 2009 Idaho Legislature, funding for the program was reduced and the result was that Idaho Rural Partnership has been relocated to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The current Administrator, **Shelby Kerns**, is leaving the post to join the Division of Financial Management in the Governor's office. The future of the program is not certain at this time. Federal dollars have been reduced the past couple of funding cycles. Idaho Rural Partnership has been a great partner with Idaho Ag in the Classroom and LIA greatly appreciates the Board of Directors and leadership support from IRP over the years.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

We have been very pleased with the email response requesting that LIA news be sent to you electronically.

If you have not responded and would like to receive information from LIA via email please notify Kay Johnson in our office by emailing Kay at kayjohn@spro.net

Intern Program Explored

The LIA Board of Trustees have been having discussions related to internships in Idaho agriculture and agribusiness. The result is the creation of a committee to work on this project and discover how university and college students might be connected with LIA alumni for possible internships. The committee appointed by the LIA Trustees include the following individuals:

Dale Dixon, LIA Class 21

Russ De Kruyf, LIA Class 27

Steve Green, LIA Class 21

HR Person from Glanbia Foods

If you have ideas about how this might work or if your company might be interested in securing interns for short term opportunities, I would like to hear from you. Please email your ideas and opinions on this subject to Rick Waitley at rcwaitley@spro.net.

Summer Workshops and Tours

Enclosed is a brochure describing the summer workshops and tours being offered by **Idaho Ag in the Classroom**. Please send this with a personal note with any school age children you may have in your home to encourage the teacher to participate in a workshop and tour this summer. Teachers can pick up three (3) graduate credits by participating in a workshop and tour. If you have family members who are teachers in Idaho, encourage them to also sign up for one of the workshops or tours. Registration can be handled online at www.idahoaitc.org.

LIA WEBSITE:

If you have not visited the LIA website, www.leadershipidahoag.org, then please take a moment to pay us a visit. **Dee Sienknecht** in our office has been working hours to design a more professional look to our website. We recognize that many people visit our website to learn more about the LIA program. Thanks Dee for helping us upgrade the quality and look of the site. We are going to make every attempt to keep more and more information for our graduates on this site.

IDAHO TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Jay Larsen, former staff member with Congressman Bill Sali, recently discussed *The Innovation Ecosystem* being developed through the Idaho Technology Council. Idaho currently ranks #26 in the US, falling from #20 related to technology. Utah and Washington are two states in the West that scored higher than Idaho. Larson asked the members, “*What will it take for Idaho to have a sustainable economic development framework?*” Larson commended Idaho agriculture for embracing technology and the importance of the Technology Council working to bring rural and urban interests together for discussions. In Larsen’s opinion, we are very divided at this time with “*silo mentality*” and we need to be creating an environment where information is shared and cross pollinated.

Larsen shared the mission statement for the Idaho Technology Council:

Mission Statement: The ITC exists to foster the growth of Idaho technology companies related to information, life sciences, agriculture/natural resources, and energy and to attract an ever-increasing array of funding, and ensure that Idaho develops the highest quality workforce in the nation. Connecting members is one of the ITC’s primary functions as well as sharing insights with industry peers, government and educational leaders, capital venture firms, and other professional service providers.

Note: Organizations and groups wanting a presentation by Larsen about the Idaho Technology Council should contact Jay at the following:

Idaho Technology Council Office: 208.514.4542 Wireless: 208.608.0211 jaywlarsen@msn.com

If you as an LIA Graduate are interested in learning more about the Council and what they are trying to accomplish, or would like to be involved more directly, please contact Jay Larsen directly and let him know of your interest.

Food Producers of Idaho AG PAVILION

Thanks to so many LIA Graduates who have been asking about the location of the 2009 Ag Pavilion. This year, the Pavilion will be displayed at the Western Idaho Fair, **August 21-30** and at the Twin Falls County Fair in Filer, **September 2-7**. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be sent to all LIA Alumni in mid-July so you can sign up and help us educate folks about agriculture in Idaho. Two LIA Alumni have been asked to serve as co-chairmen of the Food Producers Ag Pavilion – **Candi Fitch**, LIA Class 28 and **Mark Duffin**, LIA Class 22.

Speaking of being an Advocate for Ag . . .

Here is a reminder about how you can demonstrate that you are a strong advocate for Idaho Agriculture:

Purchase an Agriculture License Plate to show your pride in the industry and the value agriculture is to the State of Idaho. Enclosed is a flyer provided to you by Idaho Ag in the Classroom that will give you more information. At any time during the year you can purchase an Ag license plate and your fees will be prorated. The program annually generates over **\$32,000** that is used for workshops, tours, curriculum and special activities to help teachers and students learn where food and fiber comes from in their daily lives.

Dates for LIA Class 30 and the 2010 Alumni Session

Please record the following dates for LIA activities in **2009-2010**. You will note that the LIA Alumni Session has moved **earlier in the month** of February. The LIA Alumni Session will still be held in conjunction with the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit.

Nov 2-Nov 5	(Monday evening - 2:00 PM Thursday).....	Moscow
Dec 7-10	(Monday evening - 2:00 PM Thursday).....	E Idaho
Jan 4-7	(Monday evening - 2:00 PM Thursday).....	Twin Falls
Feb 7-11	(Sunday evening - 2:00 PM Thursday)	Boise
Feb. 10-11	(Wednesday morning - 2:00 PM Thursday).....	Boise
Alumni Session - Leadership Conference		

In closing . . .

We are experiencing some very tight employment times and there are pockets in our state where we have been in double digit unemployment for the past couple of months. These are stressful circumstances for many of our graduates. I have several resumés that have been sent to the LIA office. There are some highly qualified and capable individuals who would make excellent employees. If your company or you personally are looking to expand and add employees, please drop me a line and see if one of these resumés might work for you.

If you are an LIA graduate looking for work and have not sent an email with your resumé, please drop us one electronically to rcwaitley@spro.net or send us a hard copy to the address below. I always think back to what my Dad said, "*It's not always **what** you know, but many times **who** you know, that opens the door of opportunity*". We like to keep good Idaho people in Idaho and would welcome the opportunity to help you secure employment.

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