

LIA Alumni Newsletter

August 2007

YOU NEVER KNOW what type of impression you are making. I want to relay this story to you. . . . We have had a guest the last two LIA Alumni Auctions who has been attending based upon a special invitation. In 2006, this person was invited to sit at the VIP table. Just last week we had an application from this individual's agency with the following comment, *"I have been so impressed with the spirit and leadership displayed by LIA members at the annual auction that I felt our agency could benefit greatly by having a candidate in the pool. Our agency participates in a leadership development series offered by our national agency, but I have never seen anyone return from that investment of time and money who displays the same leadership skills and enthusiasm as is demonstrated by LIA alumni members."* What a testimony to what we are all about in LIA! I hope you will reflect on this and continue to do your part to recruit and encourage work associates and neighbors to enroll in LIA.

HOT, HOT, HOT

We have just experienced the hottest, driest July on record for the state of Idaho. I saw one report that said we broke a 133 year record.

As we traveled the state this summer with various activities, the impact of this drought and hot weather was very evident on crops, animals and even people.

I hope you have found a shade tree and your favorite cold beverage to enjoy some relief from time to time from the heat.

NEW POSITION FOR LIA FOUNDING DIRECTOR:

Congratulations to **Rick Phillips, LIA Class 1** (1986) was with the Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture when the Leadership Idaho Agriculture program was started and was named the first director of the program. Recently, Rick was named Director of Corporate Communications and Public Relations for the J.R. Simplot Company. Rick will be responsible for developing, managing, and driving all aspects of the company's external public relations efforts and internal communications.

Rick joined Simplot in Pocatello in 1990. Rick's new position will require him to make his office in Boise. Rick will be replacing long-time Simplot friend Fred Zerza who retired from the company after 27 years, 13 of which he served as vice president of public relations.

2007-2008 ALUMNI DIRECTORY IN PROGRESS

All LIA graduates were mailed a sheet to update their LIA directory information the early part of July. We are receiving these responses and we are very appreciative of your efforts to help us keep the directory current and up to date.

NOTE . . .

If you have not completed your LIA Directory update sheet, please do so ASAP. If you have misplaced your sheet and need another, please contact Kay Johnson in our office by calling 208-888-0988 or by email at kayjohn@spro.net.

LIA CLASS 28:

Applications for LIA Class 28 were due on August 1. I still encourage applications since we have some remaining positions available to reach our full class of 30.

An application can be printed from our website—

www.leadershipidahoag.org

or by calling our office at 208-888-0988 to have one mailed.

Thanks to many of you who have provided letters of reference and encourage individuals to apply.

LOOKING AHEAD: The dates for LIA Class 28 are listed below. Be sure to note the dates we will be in your area and make plans to stop and visit us when we are near you.

November 5-8	Moscow
December 10-13	Pocatello
January 7-10	Twin Falls
February 10-14	Boise

Please note that the dates for the **LIA Alumni Session in Boise – February 13-14**. For several reasons (Valentine's Day, remodel of the Capitol, Ag Summit) the Alumni Session will be held on **Wednesday and Thursday** instead of the traditional Thursday/Friday. The annual LIA Alumni Auction will be on Wednesday night and graduation on Thursday at noon to allow everyone to be home to enjoy Valentine's Day.

Mark these dates on your calendars and plan to participate.

THANKS FOR HELP WITH SUMMER WORKSHOPS

MANY THANKS to several LIA Alumni Members who have helped to make the summer Ag in the Classroom (AITC) workshops and tours such a success. Alumni events were held in conjunction with AITC Tours in Twin Falls and Nampa. Many of the visits to farms, ranches and agribusinesses were directly tied to LIA Alumni.

The AITC activities also served as a great recruiting opportunity for future LIA participants as teachers were exposed to some of Idaho's best spokes-people regarding the agriculture industry. Many of our Ag in the Classroom tour guides for the workshops were LIA graduates. Let's just say – you paid attention and learned very strong skills in being a spokesman for our industry. *My hat is off to each of you for your investment of time and energy to help teachers learn about agriculture and natural resource issues.*

WASHINGTON DC EXPERIENCE

I strongly encourage LIA alumni to think about participation in the 2008 DC Experience. The dates have been set for Sunday, March 16 – Friday, March 21. You will hear more in February at the Alumni Session and we are developing a new flier that will be in your hands within the next few weeks.

This is a great opportunity to extend your learning about development of public policy. Visits include federal agencies, the sites of Washington, DC, historical information and one-on-one with the Idaho Congressional Delegation. We have never had a participant in this activity who did not come back inspired and motivated for what is happening in our Nation's Capital.

Details will follow – but put these dates on your calendar and make plans to attend this year's Experience.

AG PAVILION

The **Food Producers of Idaho Ag Pavilion** will be at Western Idaho Fair and Eastern Idaho State Fair this year. We are excited about some of the new activities and events that will be inside the Pavilion.

Over 50 different commodities, farm organizations and agencies will be telling their story to Pavilion visitors. We need a host of volunteers to make the Pavilion a success.

Enclosed is a sign-up sheet for both of the fairs. I encourage you to offer your services as a spokesperson for Idaho agriculture by volunteering for some shifts at the Ag Pavilion.

And now . . . News about LIA Alumni

Congratulations to **Garren Apple, Class 27**, on the birth of son #2 – Trey in late July

Congratulations to **Jack Bell, Class 13** and **Valdasue Steele, Class 16** who have recently announced their engagement and plans for marriage in the summer of 2008. Jack works for the Nez Perce Tribe as the Land's Manager and Valdasue for the University of Idaho Extension in Benewah County as an Extension Educator. This is a true, LIA alumni relationship that developed.

Sara Braasch, Class 9, was married this spring in Italy and held a reception at the couple's home in Meridian in June. Jim Schmidt, her husband, is involved in the fertilizer and chemical business. Sara is the Assistant Chief for the Western Region of USDA NRSC.

Best wishes to **Kim Nelson, Class 27**, on the announcement of the expected birth of a baby. However, this little announcement did impact Kim's ability to serve as co-chairman for Class 28.

Several LIA alumni have been leading the efforts to clarify and develop a workable plan for field burning in Idaho. Thanks to the investment by **Wayne Meyer, Class 27; Nate Riggers, Class 12; Wayne Hurst, Class 13**, for their investment on behalf of Idaho farmers and ranchers.

Wayne Hammon, Class 14, has departed his post as head of USDA FSA in Idaho and joined the staff of Governor Otter in Fiscal Management.

Sympathy to **Tim Corder, Class 7**, in the loss of his Father and to **Pat Barclay, Class 16**, in the tragic loss of her husband John in an accident. Pat and John have both been presenters for LIA classes in the Boise Session for several years.

Josh Tewalt, Class 22, has recently been named Executive Director for the Idaho Cattle Association in Boise. **Rob Troxel, Class 14**, has assumed the role of president of Food Producers of Idaho.

Robert Blair, Class 26, recently successfully launched a new company – PineCreek Precision.

Chad Henggeler, Class 24, is awaiting the birth of a son at the end of August

Gordon Wankier, Class 17, and **Kip Dennis, Class 19**, have both accepted positions with banking companies.

Wayne Hoffman, Class 26, is the Public Information director for Congressman Bill Sali, based in the Boise office.

We have recently learned that **Glen Gier, Class 21**, has relocated to California – Goodbye, Glen, we will miss you in Idaho.

NOTE: We are aware of the busy lives our LIA alumni live and that many other names could be listed. It is difficult for us to hear of births, promotions and relocations unless you let us know. Please continue to share your news with us so we can remain informed and pass along information to fellow LIA alumni.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2007-2008

LIA Alumni membership dues are payable now. Our fiscal year is from July 1-June 30. We welcome Lifetime Membership—the membership form allows several options for payment of a Lifetime Membership.

Please show your continued loyalty and support of Leadership Idaho Agriculture by sending in your 2007-2008 dues at this time. A membership form is enclosed with this newsletter.