

September 2008

# Leadership Idaho Agriculture

## Alumni Newsletter

### Advocates for Agriculture . . .

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*The power, passion and presence of Leadership Idaho Agriculture was very evident during the recent Food Producers of Idaho Ag Pavilion. This year the Pavilion was at the Western Idaho and the Twin Falls County Fairs. An estimated 45,000 people passed through the Pavilion between the two fairs. **The volunteer hours provided by alumni of Leadership Idaho Agriculture was very evident on the volunteer list.** There were some shifts that were **100% alumni members.** True, many of these individuals were there representing their commodity group, organization or agency, but still shared the common bond of being graduates of LIA. I personally want to thank those of you who volunteered at either or both fairs. What a privilege to work along side so many great **Advocates for Agriculture** leaders. We had a number of people who were candidates for LIA Class 29 who also volunteered. Plus, the countless number of people we contacted who are potential candidates for future LIA classes. Many of you stepped forward to share your personal story of LIA with these individuals. Word of mouth remains our best recruitment tool. I appreciate your cooperation.*

*I hope you have all enjoyed a great summer of activities. Thanks also to so many of you who were involved with our summer Ag in the Classroom tours and workshops. When I reviewed the list of presenters recently at an LIA trustee meeting, it reminded me of just how many LIA Alumni members shared with the teachers this past summer.*

**Thanks to everyone for helping tell the story of Idaho Agriculture**

### LIA Class 29 Selected

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The LIA Advisory Committee met on Sept. 11 to review the applications, letters of recommendation and essays of the applicants for the class. Thirty members were selected from the pool of candidates. Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of the members of LIA Class 29.

Congratulations to each of the individuals selected. If you see them along the way in the near future, please congratulate them and wish them well on their LIA journey from November–February.

The dates of the sessions for LIA Class 29 are the following:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Nov 3–Nov 6</b> | <b>Moscow, University Inn</b>  |
| <b>Dec 8–11</b>    | <b>Pocatello, Red Lion</b>   |
| <b>Jan 5–8</b>     | <b>Twin Falls, AmeriTel</b>  |
| <b>Feb 22–26</b>   | <b>Boise, DoubleTree</b>   |
| <b>Feb 25–26</b>   | <b>Alumni Session - Leadership Conference—Boise</b><br>(Wed morning – 2:00 PM Thurs) |

**Note: Please note the later date of the Boise Session. This is due to the Special Olympics being hosted in Boise, Jan–Feb 2009.**

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### Names in the News

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**Matt Ellsworth** (Class 20) has recently been named Campaign Chairman for the Risch for Senate Campaign; **Brad Hoaglun** (Class 16) was appointed as a Councilman for the City of Meridian earlier this month; **Josh Tewalt** (Class 22) has joined the Governor's Staff, leaving his employment with the Idaho Cattle Association; **Dustin Miller** (Class 28) has joined the Governor's Staff for the Office of Species Conservation; **Mitch Lucero** (Class 28) was married on July 12 and joined the staff of Webb Nursery in Ketchum since his

relocation to Richfield; **Beth Parkinson** (Class 27) recently joined the staff of Northwest Farm Credit Services in Burley and she and Bing are expecting twins in the near future; **Steve Bateman** (Class 11) was recently appointed by Governor Otter to the District 2 Magistrates Commission; **Dave Bjorneberg** (Class 23) was recently named Director of the ARS Center in Kimberly; **Leland Tiegs** (Class 4) was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Commission; **Don Kemner** (Class 28) was

recently appointed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game to represent the agency on the Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee; **Kathy Sodhi** (Class 24) has joined the staff of Thornton Oliver Keller as a property manager; **Julie Pipal** (Class 18) has joined the staff of the Boise Metro Chamber.

**NOTE: It's hard for us to always hear the update news about LIA Alumni. When you have a change of status or special recognition, please let us know so we can acknowledge this in a future newsletter.**

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## New Locations

LIA Class 29 will meet in two new venues for this session. In **Twin Falls** we have relocated our sessions to the **new AmeriTel Inn**. This new AmeriTel is built on the north side of Twin Falls and, next to this facility, a Hilton Garden is being built. In the future, the Hilton Garden will provide catering services for the AmeriTel.

In **Boise**, all sessions (including Alumni) will be held at the **DoubleTree Riverside** which will be a "one stop shop" for our participants as the facility will be the site of the 2009 Ag Summit as well as the Alumni Session and Auction. It will be nice to avoid the movement that has been necessary between two hotels during the Boise Session.

## 2009 D.C. Experience

Now is the time to get your name on the potential list for the LIA Washington, DC Experience. The trip is planned for **Sunday, March 15 – Friday, March 20**. We have already received a couple of names of individuals who are planning to join us. Spouses can join this trip and participate in a separate spouse program. We limit participation to **no more than 12 people**.

If you are interested in participating it is important that you call Kay Johnson (208-888-0988) or email Kay (kayjohn@spro.net) and get your name on the potential list to receive information as we plan for this year's DC Experience.

## 2008-2009 LIA Alumni Directory

We are down to the home stretch with the **LIA Directory** for the coming year. This is a huge project. We started back in July asking Alumni to update information for the directory. Even as late as this week, we were still receiving updates. We are discussing that perhaps there is

a better time of the year to do the Directory and may move our publication date to the spring of each year and still be able to include the current class.

The new directory will be mailed to all Lifetime members and all LIA Alumni who have paid their dues for 2008-2009.

### By-Law Revision

At the Alumni Session in February, LIA Alumni will be asked to vote on a new set of by-laws for LIA. The existing by-laws had not be updated for several years and the Trustees took on the task of modifying them to more accurately reflect current operations of the LIA program. All members of LIA will be provided an advanced copy of the redrafted by-laws for consideration prior to the annual meeting.

## LIA in Idaho is a GREAT DEAL

I recently participated with (IPAL) International Program of Agriculture Leadership, a national group we are affiliated with. I was amazed to find out that **our tuition of \$1900/year/participant** was so low on the chart of programs offered around the US. The **average cost** was in the range of **\$1200/year to \$7500/year**. The **median** was probably in the range of **\$3000-\$5000/participant**. Housing and travel was handled in a number of different ways from college campuses, to sponsors, to individuals paying their own. The LIA Trustees will take a serious look at the costs of delivering the LIA program and make some choices accordingly.

## LIA Alumni Leadership Planning Committee

The LIA Board of Trustees has appointed a **new** Alumni Leadership Session Planning Committee. The committee members are the following :

Drew Eggers and Mitch Lucero—Co-chairmen  
Deb Carlock      Kip Dennis  
Ron Jones      Kim Royer  
Lisa Shively      Kathy Sodhi  
Diana Thomas

The committee will be responsible for identifying speakers and subject matter for the LIA Alumni Session in February. If any alumni member has presenter names or subjects you would like to see discussed, please forward them to a member of this committee or to our office.

**NEW HIRE AT AMG** I am pleased to have **Benjamin Kelly** join our AMG staff as Executive Assistant working directly with me on behalf of our clients. Benjamin will be a member of LIA Class 29. Many of you have already worked with him since he joined us in July. Benjamin is a 2008 BSU graduate in Political Science and completed an internship in the 2008 Legislative Session with another lobbyist. Benjamin graduated from Eagle High School where he played basketball and then sought other opportunities in life before he continued his education at BSU..

**CONTRACT RENEWED** The LIA Board of Trustees offered a contract for administrative services to Waitley Associates for the current year of operation. The first contract between Waitley and the LIA program was in 1994. The contract is reviewed each year by the trustees and is based upon performance and evaluation of Waitley and staff in meeting the Trustees' goals and objectives.

## Sponsorship for LIA Sessions

Enclosed is the annual **sponsorship form** for individuals, organizations and companies to use in sponsoring breaks and meals at LIA sessions. Please give consideration to elevating the name of your company or organization by sponsoring an event for Class 29 or at the Alumni Session. If you need to be invoiced for your sponsorship, please indicate on the form and we will forward an invoice to you.

*In closing, over the next few weeks momentum will begin to build as we anticipate the start of a new LIA class in November. New presenters, new subjects and challenging issues will be on the agenda for Class 29. Most importantly the participants in this class will learn the power of the LIA network and will have the opportunity to meet and interact with many of you along their journey. As I look over the list of 30 individuals selected, it is interesting to see the web of how some of these names got on the list. The efforts of many of you reading this newsletter are a direct source of the individuals who applied and were selected for the class. Thanks for helping promote the LIA program as we work to continue our efforts of developing emerging leaders throughout Idaho. Please plan in your calendar to stop in to visit with the participants in this class and celebrate with them their investment in Leadership Idaho Agriculture. RW*