

AFTER INL WORDS

March 1, 2010

www.irea.info

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Tom McLaughlin, 523-1481, Tommac2230@aol.com

The INL Retired Employees Association (IREA) has several upcoming events this spring. The annual spring banquet will be on April 1st and is always popular with our members. The Spring General Meeting will be held on May 19th. We will have speakers on topics of interest to the membership and the election of officers. Our program chairman is discussing with BEA Public Affairs the possibility of having a guided bus tour of INL that will include a drive through of several of the facility areas in order that retirees can see and hear about the changes that have taken place at the site. This tour will not include any walking tours of the individual facilities.

The board has reviewed the organization finances over the past several years to determine if the organization is on sustainable footing. The review showed that we were using some of our reserve every year to cover the costs of the operation of the organization's activities. These activities include the printing and mailing of newsletters,

general meetings, banquet, picnic, maintenance of a web site, and some smaller fees for operating the organization. For details see the Treasurer's Report for 2009 in this newsletter. The dues for the organization have remained the same since it was founded. The board did not see a need to change the organization's dues to cover this short fall. It was concluded that a small increase in the fees for the banquet and picnic could make up much of this short fall. I think we can all agree that both activities are relatively inexpensive compared to the costs of obtaining a meal at local restaurants. I think most of us attend these functions for the social environment and a couple of dollars will not change the attendance.

We hope that those of you who headed south during the winter months will return in time to attend the spring banquet. It is always a good time and a chance to see many of your past co-workers.

2009-2010 IREA Board

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NEEDED: IREA SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN– Tom McLaughlin, 523-1481, Tommac2230@aol.com

Carol Jones, our current social committee chairman, has done a super job on our last two banquets and summer picnics. Her paying “after INL job” is taking up more and more of her time, so our April 1, 2010 Spring Banquet will be her final social event. Hats off to Carol and her committee for a super job!

IREA President, Tom McLaughlin, invites any IREA member interested in chairing the social committee to contact him at 523-1481 or via email at Tommac2230@aol.com . Please contact Tom by April 15, 2010 so we can have your name on the proposed slate of 2010-2011 officers. Election of all officers will occur at our spring general meeting.

SPRING 2010 GENERAL MEETING - Nancy Carlson, 523-9128, nancymcarlson@msn.com

Mark your calendar for May 19, 2010. Two speakers have agreed to present – Mark Reed of Idaho Falls (IF) Power and Jim Dace, BEA Human Resources (HR) Director. Mark, IF Power Generation and Operations Superintendent, will present information on IF’s smart grid project. For more details see the Energy Education section of this newsletter. Jim will update us on activities

that BEA HR is conducting related to retirees, and he will fill us in on what is happening with the retirement plan for current employees. Also IREA’s Program folk are working with INL Public Affairs to arrange a drive-by bus tour of the INL site. We hope to have more tour details included in the Spring General meeting flyer.

MEMBERSHIP – LeRoy Meyer, 523-7306, mey217@cableone.net

The two digit number after your name on your newsletter mailing label denotes the year that your membership dues are paid through. For example:

LeRoy Meyer 11

The 11 means that my membership is paid through the year 2011.

If you know a retired INL person who is not a member of IREA, pass on the form found on the last page of this newsletter. Remember, if you recruit 5 new members, you will receive a free year of membership.

New IREA members: New members since the November 2009 newsletter are: Michael Groh, Jess J. Aguirre, Rick McCracken, and Patricia S. Ullom.

Welcome!

Currently we have 399 active members.

To receive email alerts from IREA: If you have an email address, please send it to LeRoy Meyer at mey217@srv.net. That way we can alert you via email about critical contractor dates that pertain to retirees – like the 2010 retiree benefit enrollment dates. Many times the publication of the newsletter does not align with critical dates and deadlines you need to know about or with retiree opportunities to participate in INL sponsored events. We promise NO junk emails or spam – only items of importance to INL retirees!!!!

SOCIAL EVENTS – Carol Jones, 521-2477, carolejones@cableone.net

It is time once again for the annual IREA Spring Banquet. This has always been a fun event. Please join us for good food and great company and door prizes. If you have not previously attended, now is a good time to join us to see what you have been missing. The time, place, and menu are listed in the following paragraphs:

Date: April 1, 2010 (Thursday)

Place: ELKS LODGE at 640 East Elva, Idaho Falls

Time: Registration begins at 6:00 pm

Food service begins at 7.00 pm

The menu will include pork loin, chicken marsala, green salad, vegetable, potato, dinner roll and dessert. A no-host bar will be available from 6:00 pm.

All of this will be available to members and a spouse, or one guest, at \$12.00 per attendee. Additional guests and non-members (2009 dues not paid) are welcome at \$15.00 each. Please send your reservation and payment to me by Wednesday, **March 24, 2010** in order to provide the Elks with a good estimate of attendance. Reservations made after March 24, 2010, including those that do not pre-register, will be charged an additional **\$2.00** each.

Please use the registration form in this Newsletter, giving your names as you would like them on your name tags. Checks are to be payable to INL Retired Employees Assn or IREA. Please send the form and payment to Carol Jones, 3535 Jason Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

Remember this year's spring banquet is at the Elks Lodge – not at the Red Lion.

IREA 2010 Spring Banquet Registration Form

Please send this form and your payment (checks payable to IREA or INL Retired Employees Assn) to Carol Jones, 3535 Jason Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83401, by **Wednesday, March 24, 2010.**

Remember this year's banquet is at the Elks Lodge.

Note: Names should be as you want them on your name tag.

Member Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Payment for: Member @ \$12.00 _____

Spouse or Guest @ \$12.00 _____

Additional Guest(s) @ \$15.00 _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

NO LONGER WITH US – Felix Vandewiele, 523-0894, vandewiele@q.com.

The following lists those of our INL friends who passed away from September 2009 through February 2010. IREA's historian, Felix Vandewiele, compiles this information from the Post Register (Idaho Falls) and by calls from friends and family. We publish this list on a monthly basis on our website at <http://www.irea.info> in addition to the IREA newsletter. If there are names you know we have missed, please contact Felix.

Those who died other than September 2009 and February 2010

Glennys Lynn "Lynn" Olson (67) died on 8/3/09. She worked at INL for several research groups in an administrative support capacity. Her last assignment, before her retirement, was as a senior administrative secretary for the director of the Materials Science group.

September 2009

Merlin LaVerne Bressler (81) died 9/1/09. He worked at the INL leaving in 1954.

Jane Arnold (79) died 9/3/09. She worked at the INL Chemical Processing Plant as a Technician.

Paul Edwin Litteneker (78) died 9/6/09. He worked at the INL for DOE. He started work as a Chemical Engineer and retired as a Project Manager.

Darril Clair Sparks (77) died 9/12/09. He worked at the INL for 33 years as an Engineer in the Hot Cells and as a Reactor Operator, retiring in 1992.

Kimberly Steel (41) Died 9/17/09. She worked at the INL for 18 years - most of the time in the Payroll Department.

Randall "Randy" Alan Mays (61) died 9/19/09. He worked at the INL in the Special Programs Department until his death.

Harold Dean Strand (80) died 9/19/09. He worked at the INL as Assistant Division Director of Budgets and Administration for Argonne National Laboratory for 32 years. He retired in 1991.

Edison Wayne Roberts (77) died 9/21/09. He worked at the INL as an Electrical Engineer.

Charles "Charlie" Abrams (88) died 9/23/09. He worked at the INL starting in 1965 as Manager of Radiation Safety at the Naval Reactor Facility. In

1972 he joined Argonne National Laboratory as Manager of Safety Security and Safeguards. He retired in 1990.

Keith Harold Clark (84) died 9/25/09. He worked at the INL.

Robert "Bob" E. Gray (86) died 9/29/09. He worked at the INL for AEC in 1951 as Chief of the Courier & Shipment Section and later as a Security Inspector. From 1978 until 1987 he worked for EG&G as a Security Inspector then became a Consultant for DOE retiring in 1991.

October 2009

Debra "Debbie" Kaye Norman Grigg (51) died 10/4/09. She worked at the INL as a Security Guard for 8 years.

Sylvia Gayle Barnett (71) died 10/10/09. She worked at the INL for a short time.

Orville R. Meyer (83) died 10/21/09. He worked at the INL on projects to improve the safety of nuclear power plants. In his last 3 years before retiring in 1992, he was the principal investigator for the analysis of unusual operating events at nuclear power plants.

Teresa Lynne Daniels (51) died 10/26/09. She worked at the INL as an Administrative Assistant.

Norberto "Nole" Gonzales(77) died 10/30/09. He started working at the INL in 1966 with Westinghouse followed by other contractors and retired in 1991.

November 2009

Francis Lawton "Skeets" Bentzon (89) died 11/2/09. He worked at the INL as a Nuclear Physicist for 30 years, starting in 1954 and retiring in 1985. Prior to that he worked on the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, NM.

Sally Jean "Gott" Amar (52) died

11/4/09. She worked at the INL for several years.

John Jay Pitman (87) died 11/4/09. He started work at the INL in 1956 as a Maintenance Carpenter and retired in 1980 having worked 23 years.

Verl Lee Bitter (80) died 11/11/09. He worked at the INL as an Instrument Tech at CPP. He also became a Foreman and retired in 1993.

Archie E. Ker (78) died 11/19/09. He worked at the INL as a Photographer for Westinghouse.

Joanne Marie Richter Flinn (70) died 11/24/09. She worked at the INL for DOE-ID as a Personnel Specialist.

Arthur Woodrow Reynolds (94) died 11/26/09. He worked at the INL starting in 1959 with Phillips Petroleum Co. and retired as a Health and Safety Technician in 1981.

Paul Reed Arnsberger (76) died 11/28/09. He worked at the INL for Argonne National Laboratory for 30 years, retiring in 1994.

Janet Lindsay Croley (71) died 11/29/09. She worked at the INL.

December 2009

Stanley Merle Hill Jr. (90) died 12/14/09. He worked at the INL in the early days when the site was first started.

Eugene "Gene" H. Magleby (78) died 12/15/09. He worked at the INL beginning in 1955 with Phillips Petroleum Co. in the Physics Department Cross-Sections Group at TRA. He served as a Technical Administrator for different managers of the Science and Technology Division. He later worked in the Hydro and NRC Radiological Programs. He retired in 1988. He was a member of the American Nuclear Society.

Donald LaRoy Parsons (83) died 12/15/09. He worked at the INL as an Electronics Technician for EG&G.

Geraldine Ruth Marie Kurtz (94) died 12/15/09. She worked at the INL for Westinghouse.

Mervin Jessie Gardner (82) died 12/17/09. He started work at the INL in 1951 as one of the first site bus drivers. After driving for 21 years he became one of the Managers of Bus Operations and held that position for 22 years. He retired in 1994 after driving 1,379,00 miles without an accident.

Douglas LaMont Taylor Sr. (75) died 12/17/09. He worked at the INL as a Carpenter.

Auther Russell "Russ" Tetley (79) died 12/19/09. He worked at the INL for 23 years retiring in 1993.

Darwin Clifford Bowden (86) died 12/24/09. He worked at the INL as a Laborer and Concrete Foreman.

Iganacio Resendez (70) died 12/27/09. He worked at the INL for DOE with oversight responsibility of the Idaho Operations Office. He retired in 1994.

John Orson Young (66) died 12/30/09. He worked at the INL for Argonne-West for 35 years.

Duane Hansen (78) died 12/31/09. He worked at the INL as a Bus Driver for 28 years) driving over a million miles.

January 2010

Ruel Vernon Dye (76) died 1/2/10. He worked at the INL in managerial positions in Engineering.

Harvey Bowles Ward (75) died 1/3/10. He worked at the INL with Westinghouse for 9 years.

Richard Galen Mitchell (79) died 1/5/10. He worked at the INL at TAN as a Hot-Shop Tech.

James Perry "Jimmy" French (55) died 1/11/10. He worked at the INL as a Radiological Control Technician.

Verdas Henry Reed (96) died 1/12/10. He worked at the INL for AEC as a Carpenter until 1959.

Maria Elsa Richards (69) died 1/12/10. She worked at the INL as a Reactor Operator.

Robert "Bob" H. Bailey (93) died 1/16/10. He worked at the INL as an Electrician Foreman at the CPP.

Edith Alberta Brailsford Bowen (82) died 1/22/10. She worked at the INL as a Secretary for EG&G.

Richard George Lehmann (82) died 1/25/10. He worked at the INL as an Electrician.

Lowell Arthur Jobe (95) died 1/27/10. He worked at the INL as a Senior Control Engineer beginning in 1960 and retiring in 1980.

Carl K. Rasmussen (82) died 1/28/10. He worked at the INL on the Security Force for ANL.

Glenn A. Phillips died in January 2010. He worked at the INL as a Security Guard for AEC.

Owen John Walker (86) died 1/29/10. He worked at the INL for 35 years as a Finish Carpenter.

G. Ross Darnell (76) died 1/31/10. He worked at the INL starting in 1973 for Westinghouse at the Expended Core Facility for 5 years then transferred to EG&G where he worked until retiring in 1995.

February 2010

Dan Owen Reynolds (60) died 2/3/10. He worked at the INL for DOE in various positions.

Milan (Bud) Bednar (66) died 2/5/10. He worked at the INL for 26 years retiring in 2005.

Glenn (Bud) I. Fredrickson (84) died 2/7/10. He worked at the INL as a Bus Driver for 30 years and retired in 1991.

Marvin Marcy Williamson (76) died 2/7/10. In 1976 he went to work at the INL as Director of DOE's Radiological and Environmental Science Laboratory. He retired in 1988.

Mark Robert Owsley (49) died 2/12/10. He worked at the INL in Security.

Robert Birdsall Benjamin (73) died 2/23/10. He started work at the INL with Phillips Petroleum Co.

IREA RESEARCH HAPPENINGS AT BEA - Nancy Carlson, 523-9128, nancymcarlson@msn.com

INL Fellows program honors career of recognized performance

Ten nationally and internationally known researchers at Idaho National Laboratory have achieved "career capstone recognition" as Laboratory Fellows at INL for "outstanding contributions to the scientific and engineering community."

These elite researchers are William Apel, James Delmore, Paul Meakin, David Petti, Herschel Smartt, Dieter Wolf, J. Stephen Herring, Terry Todd, Nam Dinh, and Giuseppe Palmiotti. New Laboratory Fellows are

added periodically as INL researchers achieve eminence within their fields of expertise.

Candidates for Laboratory Fellows are recommended by management to the Fellows Promotion Committee, which reviews detailed promotion packages that include individual contributions, professional achievements, leadership positions held in technical organizations, letters of recommendation and an evaluation of that person's overall scientific and technical impact. Selection as an INL Laboratory Fellow equates to being named to an endowed chair at a major university, an elite member of a professional society, or a member of a national academy.

Laboratory Fellow Qualifications

The professional knowledge requirement is extensive, including an advanced degree, national and international recognition in a specialized field, highly productive project and program planning and execution, and professional licenses or other required special qualifications. The engineering or scientific achievement qualification includes a detailed listing of achievements, publishing highlights in peer-reviewed publications, technology development and deployment highlights, and detailed summary of solving technical scientific or engineering problems. Finally, the recommendation must include a summary of the individual's impact on laboratory missions, specific contributions to mission achievement and professional awards and honors.

Current Laboratory Fellows – A Quick Look

William Apel earned a Ph.D. in microbiology at Ohio State University and chairs the Laboratory Fellows group. Internationally recognized for his distinguished biological research and its application, he has won three R&D 100 awards and a NOVA award for technical excellence. Selected as the INL Inventor of the Year for 2007, he has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed technical publications and delivered more than 100 presentations at international conferences. He holds five U.S. patents and has an additional six patent applications pending. He also spent 12 years as a scientist and manager in product development and corporate R&D at the Procter & Gamble Company. His current research areas include microbially catalyzed metal and radionuclide transformations, and extremophile microbiology.

James Delmore holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Missouri and has worked at INL since 1966. He spent many years with programs measuring fission yields, performing destructive analyses of many types of nuclear fuel and working in various areas of nuclear nonproliferation. He has spent the past 25 years conducting research in ion formation mechanisms, new methods for chemical and isotopic analysis, new concepts for secondary ion mass spectrometry and new concepts for chemical instrumentation and ion optics. His work has earned three R&D 100 awards, while leading teams that designed, built and successfully operated three major types of mass spectrometers. Recently, he reactivated his research in nuclear nonproliferation, writing proposals for new programs and mentoring younger scientists. The resulting activities are now doing well with younger scientists who are assuming increased responsibility.

Paul Meakin holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He conducted research at the University of Oslo, Norway, and assessed

the effect of chlorofluorocarbons on stratospheric ozone reduction and global warming for DuPont. He is an expert in Monte Carlo modeling, fractal geometry, colloid science and statistical physics. At INL, he has been the modeling lead for subsurface science studies, and has worked to develop strategies for increasing the level of national support for subsurface science. Author of more than 300 refereed papers in more than 30 leading journals, from 1981-1997 he was ranked 79th for citations to physics journals. A Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, he received the Gunnar Randers Research Prize for 2007 from Norway's King Harald V in April 2007.

David Petti earned his Sc.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has conducted extensive research into reactor fuel conditions during severe accidents such as Three Mile Island. He led INL's Fusion Safety Program for over a decade and acts as the U.S. DOE's technical safety consultant to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor. Most recently, he served as the technical director for an INL research team that used reverse engineering methods to improve the performance of coated-particle nuclear fuel for the Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP) to reach a burnup of 9 percent without any fuel failure. This follows test failures that occurred in the early 1990s. Success in this effort is most important in closing the loop for future the high-temperature gas reactor fuels community. He is currently the R&D technical director of the NGNP Project. He has authored 72 -peer-reviewed publications and 29 technical papers, and delivered more than a dozen presentations to international conferences.

Herschel Smartt holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and has expertise in manufacturing, materials processing, machine design and intelligent machines. Working at INL since 1978, he has excelled in research on welding, welding automation, concurrent weld inspection, and machine sensing, diagnostics and control. He received the A.F. Davis Silver Medal Award twice for machine design, the A.W.S. Adams Award and the INL Lifetime Achievement Award for Inventorship in 2003. Author of a large number of publications, he is an editorial board member for the International Journal of Science and Technology of Welding and Joining, and a key reader for the American Welding Society's Welding Journal in automation, sensing and control. A leader in artificial neural networks research, he has worked to establish strong programs in weld process research and weld sensing and control at the Trends in Welding Research Conference series.

Dieter Wolf holds a doctorate in materials physics from the Max Planck Institute for Metals Research in Germany. Prior to joining INL, Dr. Wolf held positions at Argonne National Laboratory in the Materials Science Division and at the University of Utah in the Department of Physics. His research has focused on theoretical and computational materials science and he has authored more than 200 journal papers. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and has been recognized with several awards, including the DOE Office of Basic Energy Sciences Award for Sustained Outstanding Research and a Max Planck Research Award. At INL, he is leading research on atomistically informed mesoscale simulations – and developing a better understanding of the processes that control the degradation of materials under high temperatures and intense radiation conditions. He is building a research group at INL that is laying the foundation for the first-principles prediction of material properties, and is also strengthening collaborations with other laboratories.

J. Stephen Herring currently serves as the technical director for the High-Temperature Electrolysis in the DOE Nuclear Hydrogen Initiative. He formulated and led the DOE research on nuclear production of hydrogen, proposing innovative methods in using solid-oxide electrolyzers with nuclear reactors. The research of his team has resulted in the most productive method for generating hydrogen using nuclear energy. This technology also offers the simultaneous ability to make synthesis gas from carbon dioxide and steam. Synthesis gas (a mixture of CO and H₂) can then be catalyzed to produce needed transportation fuels while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Herring earned his doctorate in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a minor in corporate financial management from the Sloan School in 1979. He is fluent in German, having studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, and has completed the Technical Japanese Language Program at the University of Washington.

He also has research interests in the design of special nuclear fuels for the destruction of long-lived radioactive isotopes and applications of superconducting magnets. He has been active in the leadership of the American Nuclear Society both in Idaho and at the national level, serving in every elective office of the Idaho section and later as the national chairman of the Local Sections Committee. In 2004, he received the Mishima Award from the American Nuclear Society for his nuclear fuel research.

Terry Todd earned his doctorate in radiochemical engineering from the Khlopin Radium Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. His specialization field is chemical separations methods, primarily in solvent extraction and

ion exchange. He has worked primarily in separation of radioactive materials from spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste to reduce cost of storage, treatment and disposal. Currently the director of the INL Fuel Cycle Science and Technology Division, Todd also serves as the director of the Separations Program for DOE's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. Todd was a finalist for INL Inventor of the Year in 2006, earned a Lifetime Achievement Award for Inventorship in the same year, won the Stoel Rives Idaho Innovation Award for research on medical actinium cancer therapy in 2006, captured an Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award for Uranium Extraction for Spent Fuel Reprocessing in 2005, and earned the Glenn T. Seaborg Actinide Separations Award in 2005. He also led a team that patented the Nano-Composite Arsenic Sorbent, which won several competitions, including an R&D 100 award for the material in 2006, a Nano50 Award from NASA Tech Briefs and the Federal Lab Consortium Outstanding Technology Development Award in 2006.

A Montana native, Todd has been heavily involved in other international research projects, including principal investigator for a NATO Science for Peace grant and several DOE EM-50 international programs involving Russian and Czech collaborations. He has been awarded eleven U.S. patents and four Russian patents.

Nam Truc Dinh was selected as an INL Fellow during 2009. A nuclear safety engineer with over 20 years of research and development experience, Dinh has made significant impact on the resolution of several safety issues in Light Water Reactor (LWR) safety and played a principal role in the severe accident treatment and passive safety design in the GE-Hitachi's Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor plant design. Prior to joining the INL in March 2008, Dinh was a Chair Professor of Nuclear Power Safety at the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, where he directed the Division of Nuclear Power Safety.

At INL, Dinh is the technical lead for the "Risk-Informed Safety Margin Characterization" pathway in the U.S. Department of Energy's Light Water Reactor Sustainability Program Technical Integration Office. In 1994, at the age of 29, Dinh was the youngest person to receive a Doctor of Science degree from the Moscow Power Engineering Institute in Russia. He also received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the same Russian technical university in 1991.

Giuseppe Palmiotti, a renowned nuclear reactor physicist with a career spanning more than 35 years, was selected in January 2010 as the latest Idaho National Laboratory Fellow. Dr. Giuseppe "Pino" Palmiotti received his doctorate in applied nuclear physics from The University of Rome, Italy, in 1973 and has become a well-known nuclear reactor physicist during a career

spanning more than 35 years. His work has been the basis for transforming reactor physics from an empirical discipline into a strong, science-based endeavor. He has worked extensively in reactor physics, method and code development, core and shielding design, analysis of neutronic experiments, and sensitivity and uncertainty assessment. Having served in both leadership and technical roles, Palmiotti has been a principal investigator on several programs where specific technology developments and deployment contributions have had both national and international impact.

Special thanks to INL Public Affairs specialist, Keith Arterburn, for writing the INL Fellows article.

WEB STUFF – Everett Gruen, 523-3670, gegruen@cableone.net

Our web site is located at www.irea.info . The newsletter and other information are normally on the web site when sent to the printer. Notification is made to those having email addresses registered with me. If you are not receiving IREA email notifications, then I either don't have your email address or what I have is incorrect. In either situation please email me (gegruen@cableone.net) to be included for email notifications. OR provide Membership Chairman, LeRoy Meyer, with your current email address. You can reach LeRoy by phone at 523-7306 or by email at mev217@cableone.net. LeRoy will send your email address to me.

IREA needs your ideas for future program topics

We need your ideas to make IREA general and technical meetings more meaningful to you. Please contact Nancy Carlson with suggestions on topics or speakers. Are there service agencies you would like to know more about, local politicians you want to meet, energy issues you need more information about, new ways to save on prescriptions drugs, senior programs in our area, etc.? You can reach Nancy at 208-523-9128 or nancymcarlson@msn.com with your suggestions.

The Senior PC Assistance Patrol (formerly called the Senior Geek Patrol) is ongoing. This is our way to help seniors using computers - for Web services; and for email with friends, children, and grandchildren. The current volunteers for this service are listed below. We have computer skills that could be used to help others with their computer issues so call us when you have computer problems.

If you are willing to help, please contact Everett Gruen for inclusion in this volunteer effort.

Mike Groh	524-3253	mikegroh@cableone.net
John Johnson	523-7406	jejohnson@cableone.net
G. Everett Gruen	523-3670	gegruen@cableone.net
Norm Kramer	522-8677	nak@srv.net

CONSUMER AFFAIRS - Felix Vandewiele, 523-0894, vandewiele@q.com

Estate Taxes: Those of you who have not heard, the Federal Estate Taxes, or death taxes as some people call them, (The taxes your heirs have to pay on the money you pass onto them at your death.) has not been extended for next year. The amount of money that has been excluded from taxes this year was \$3,500,000.00 but will revert back to \$1,000,000.00 in 2011 if Congress does not extend it. So if you are in this category, you might want to consider annual gifts to your heirs in order to reduce your estate rather than giving the government the money. You probably should consult an attorney to make sure all is legal before you do this because there

are several "if, ands, or buts" whether you leave it to a spouse or to others.

Credit Cards: Remember that changes at the federal level have been made for credit card companies on how they can treat you. I have been receiving notices of the changes as you probably have also. Read them and if you don't agree, opt out, cancel your cards, transfer your balance, or whatever works best for you so that you aren't caught with any surprises later.

INVESTMENTS – John Johnson, 523-7406, jejohnson@cableone.net

IRA Distributions and Conversion to a Roth IRA:

Traditional IRA and 401(k) account owners who are at least 70½ may remember that they were not required to take the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) during 2009. However, that special allowance was only for 2009. RMDs are again required for 2010. Those who are required to take an RMD from their tax-deferred IRA and 401(k) accounts should have received a notice from each of their account custodians telling them what their RMD is for 2010. Another change for 2010: transferring an RMD directly to a charitable organization tax-free is no longer allowed as it was in 2008, according to the latest issue of IRS Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs). Of course, Congress and the President could act this year to reinstate this allowance.

Two new features are in effect this year for converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA. In past years there were income limits for making an IRA conversion to a Roth IRA. For 2010 there are no income limits for making such a conversion. The second new feature relates to when taxes must be paid for such a conversion. Since making an IRA conversion to a Roth IRA involves making a withdrawal from an IRA, the amount of the withdrawal (less any fraction from after-tax deposits) will be fully

taxable. However, for an IRA conversion (full or partial) to a Roth IRA during 2010, the income tax on the conversion amount may be deferred to tax years 2011 and 2012. That is, half of the taxable 2010 conversion amount may be declared as income in tax year 2011 and half in 2012. Of course, the taxable amount of the conversion may also be fully declared in tax year 2010, but in most cases it should be to the taxpayer's benefit to divide the taxable amount between 2011 and 2012.

A possible downside of deferring taxable income to 2011 and 2012 is that some income tax rates are scheduled to rise after 2010 due to the sunset provisions of the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (JGTRRA) of 2003. For example, the 25% bracket increases to 28%, and the 28% bracket increases to 31%. The 15% bracket stays at 15%. The primary upside of making a conversion to a Roth IRA is that the assets in a Roth IRA grow tax-free. A more complete guide on whether or not to convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA can be found on the following Vanguard web page:
<https://personal.vanguard.com/pdf/rpd21.pdf>.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2009 - Norm Kramer, 522-8677, nak@srv.net

The information provided is a summary of the financial status of IREA. The income for the Association comes from membership dues and the interest from savings and CDs. As in past years, the financial picture is sound and healthy. The financial summary is provided below. If you have any questions regarding the Associations finances, please contact me.

INCOME

Dues: \$3496
Interest: \$349

Total Income: \$3845

EXPENSES

Banquet: \$1373
Picnic: \$647
Newsletters: \$1655
General Meetings: \$337
Web Site: \$82
PO Box: \$70
Partnership for Science & Technology 2009 dues: \$100
Miscellaneous: \$74

Total Expenses: \$4338

Total Assets 12/31/2009: \$13,562

Dues Paid and Allocated to Future Years: \$3302

AARP TAX-AIDE -- Norm Kramer, 522-8677, nak@srv.net

Community-based retiree assistance programs – tax preparation assistance

It is tax time again! But don't panic because the AARP Tax-Aide program provides free federal and state income tax preparation services for low to mid-income taxpayers. Also **don't head to the armory location** as AARP Tax-

Aide has moved to 939 S 25 East (Hitt Road) Suite 107 just east of Chuck-A-Ramma in a strip mall next to World Gym.

The service is provided on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 4 PM with extended hours until 8 PM every Wednesday and Thursday. There are

satellite Tax-Aide sites in Shelley, Rigby, Fairwinds Retirement, Ashton, St. Anthony, and Rexburg. We also

accommodate shut-ins. Call 528-8887 for satellite locations, dates, and hours.

ENERGY EDUCATION – Gary Johnsen, 529-8849, gwjohnsen@gmail.com

On November 24, 2009, the Department of Energy announced funding for 16 regional smart grid demonstration projects. The DOE selected the Pacific Northwest team for a \$187M smart grid demonstration. Half of the project funding comes to DOE through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The 5-year, Pacific Northwest Regional Smart Grid Demonstration project involves Battelle, the Bonneville Power Administration, and 12 utilities - one of which is Idaho Falls Power - and spans five Pacific Northwest states.

At our spring general meeting on May 19, 2010, Mark Reed, Idaho Falls Power Generation and Operations Superintendent, will describe:

- What the "smart grid" is, and
- What the driving forces are behind the need for a smart grid.

Also, Mark will provide a more detailed description of the different technologies and initiatives that Idaho Falls Power will be implementing and testing as part of the demonstration project.

INL EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN IDAHO PUBLIC TV'S FESTIVAL 2010

Idaho National Laboratory has a long-running partnership with Idaho Public Television (IPTV) through sponsorship of educational programming such as NOVA, MAKE and Sid the Science Kid. During IPTV's annual fund-raising festival, organizations also have the opportunity provide employee volunteers to staff the phones and take viewer pledges.

On Tuesday, March 9, INL employees and family members will answer phones from 8:30 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. You can show your support for IPTV by calling toll free 1-800-980-4788 on INL Night.

INL is also participating in the Festival 2010 Corporate Challenge. This friendly competition among corporate partners recognizes the organization with the highest percentage of employees pledging at the \$30 level and

above between January and March 21. Call in and help INL win this year's Corporate Challenge.

Fully 61 percent of IPTV's annual budget comes from viewers and other private support. Contributions sustain a variety of programs such as Outdoor Idaho, Idaho Reports, Dialogue and NOVA that showcase science and education as well as our state's beauty, people and stories.

Mark your calendars to show your support on INL Night, March 9, or pledge on-line at idahoptv.org/support.

Special thanks to Nicole Stricker, INL Public Affairs Media relations and science writer, for providing this article.

FACTS ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

Dr. Sergio Romero, 2010 US Census partnership specialist, presented information and materials about the upcoming census at the January 2010 IREA board meeting. The following summarizes the main points of his presentation:

From when the census started in 1790 to today, census figures are used to allocate Congressional representation for each state and to allocate federal funds at the state and local governments. In 2009 the average federal fund allocations per capita equated to \$1,400.00/person; thus, an accurate count is vital for local and state governments to receive their appropriate portion of federal dollars!

The timeline for the 2010 census is as follows:

- week of March 8, 2010 - an advance letter will be sent to all verified house addresses nationwide
- week of March 15, 2010 - census forms arrive at those addresses
- week of April 1, 2010 - census forms to be returned via mail.

Following the cut-off date of April 15, 2010, census workers will contact, in person, households that did not return forms as well as do spot checks of returned forms.

The count will be finalized by the mid-summer. The personal contact phase of the census is very labor intensive and expensive, so Dr. Romero encouraged us to do our part to make sure friends and family return their forms.

Although under-counting is a real concern and is addressed by canvassing unresponsive households,

over-counting is also a concern. **Snowbirds account for some of the over-counting** as they respond at both their summer and winter addresses. Dr. Romero stated that snowbirds should only enter data for the address at which they vote.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email as a pdf attachment rather than in hard copy form, just send your email address to mev217@cableone.net and request it.

INL Retired Employees' Assn.
P.O. Box 50056
Idaho Falls, ID 83405-0056

MEMBERSHIP FORM
INL RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.

NAME (Print) _____
Email Address _____
ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I am willing to serve
on the following committee(s):

- _____ Membership
- _____ Publicity
- _____ Consumer Affairs
- _____ Historian
- _____ Energy Education
- _____ Senior PC Assistance Patrol
- _____ Social Events
- _____ Investments
- _____ Programs
- _____ Benefits

Yearly dues are \$10
Or \$40 for 5 years
(January to December calendar basis)
Make your check payable to IREA and
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