



Newsletter

Latah County Chapter 678

May 2006

AARP Meeting

*University Inn
Best Western*

**Friday, May 19, 2006
11:30 a.m.**

Menu

Thinly Sliced Roast Beef with a Mushroom Demi-Glaze; Chef's Choice Vegetable; Chef's Choice Potato or Rice; Rolls & Butter; Coffee/Tea and Chocolate Layer Cake for Dessert

Luncheon Program

Report on the 2006 Idaho Legislative Session

Featuring:

Senator Gary J. Schroeder (R)
Representative Shirley G. Ringo (D)
Representative Tom Trail (R)
Panel Moderated by
Sue Hovey

To jump start the discussion with our District 6 elected officials, here are some highlights from the recently completed legislative session. The Idaho AARP was involved with the preparation, initiation, support, and testimony on a number of these legislative bills and actions.

- ✓ Homeowner's Exemption – allows a homeowner to exempt the first \$75,000 of the market value of their home and includes the value of the land. This limit will change each year as the Idaho Housing Price Index changes.
- ✓ Circuit Breaker – property tax credit for low income seniors and people with disabilities. \$1,320 credit for those earning \$28K or less and credit available to those who earn less than 185% of the federal poverty level.
- ✓ Tax /Deferrals – those qualifying for a “circuit breaker” credit can also defer property tax payments until they sell their home or die – they will not be forced out of their homes because of rising property taxes.

- ✓ Genetic Testing Privacy – protects the public from adverse actions specific to the terms and conditions of employment and from denial of insurance coverage and/or rate increases based on the results of genetic testing.
- ✓ Commission on Aging Ombudsman – provides additional funding to maintain and enhance the Commission on Aging Ombudsman program. The Ombudsman investigates complaints filed by residents of Assisted Living Facilities
- ✓ Disabled Worker Medicaid Eligibility – allows an individual with disabilities who is on Medicaid to seek and hold employment without losing benefits.
- ✓ State Employee Mental Health Parity – a pilot program in which mental health treatment will be covered on the same basis as is physical health treatment.
- ✓ Advance Health Care Directive Registry authorizes the creation and maintenance of an electronic data base where Idaho residents can register their Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney.
- ✓ Motor Vehicle Insurance – amends existing law to reduce the eligibility age for certain auto insurance policy discounts from age 65 to 55.
- ✓ Vulnerable Adults/Children – helps the state protect vulnerable Idahoans by providing the authority to require fingerprint-based criminal history and background check on employees, contractors, providers, and others who have unsupervised contact and provide direct care service.
- ✓ Complaints Against Family Homes – protects the anonymity of someone who lodges a complaint.
- ✓ Respite Care – legislation authorizes the establishment of a respite care program for vulnerable caregivers who care for persons at risk for progression to nursing home care.

AARP Safe Driving Classes

With the new lower age limit (55) check with your auto insurance carrier to see if the AARP sponsored safe driving class can bring you a deduction on your auto insurance. Our own AARP safe driving course has attracted 125 students in the last 8 classes.

AARP Safe Driving Classes are scheduled for the rest of 2006. Dick Bull, Bill Parish, Elaine Broyles and Laura Miller are the instructors for the classes.

AARP Safe Driving Class Schedule

June 21 st and 22 nd	8:30am to 12:30pm
Sept 20 th and 21 st	8:30am to 12:30pm
Oct 18 th and 19 th	8:30am to 12:30pm
Nov 15 th and 16 th	8:30am to 12:30pm

**All classes are held at the
Gritman Medical Center**

**Remember! – you must attend both sessions
A Total of 8 Hours!**

To register call Laura Miller at 882-4047

Idaho AARP Activity

The Idaho AARP, in partnership with others, will host the first-ever Idaho Summit on Elder Abuse and Exploitation on May 24th and the first ever Senior Scam Jam on May 25th in Nampa, Idaho. The Senior Scam Jams will also be held later this year in Northern Idaho and SE Idaho.

New AARP Idaho State Director

Jim Wordelman has been appointed to the position of AARP State Director for Idaho. Jim has been holding positions with AARP for 14 years, and since 2001 he has been the Manager of Volunteer Policy/Operations for the national office in Washington, DC. Prior to coming to AARP, Jim worked for the Salt Lake County Area Agency on Aging. He is a graduate of Weber State and has earned a Certificate in Gerontology.

U of Idaho Vision Benefit Update

A “Vision Service Plan” (VSP) provider is now available in Moscow. Dr. Stephen Brockbank of Alpine Vision, located in the new Village Mall, is accepting Moscow patients. UI Retirees can get an annual comprehensive vision exam for a \$10 co-payment and a 20% discount on glasses or a discount on contact lens fittings.

Idaho Commission on Aging - News

The Idaho Department of Transportation will be holding meetings across the state to gather public input on recommendations for transportation funding and to learn more about regional needs for seniors. Seniors need to be sure their voice is heard about local transportation needs – especially in rural Idaho. One of the meetings will be July 19th in Coeur d’Alene. For more information check the web site: www.itd.idaho.gov and visit the “Forum on Transportation” link.

A ballot marking device for the visually impaired, including the elderly, will be available at all polling places in the state for the May 23rd Primary Election.

Idaho AARP Web News

The Idaho AARP publishes an electronic newsletter on a regular basis as well as informative Idaho Legislature updates during the sessions. Subscribe at: <http://www.aarp.org/id>

The AARP Newsletter is published by
Latah County Chapter 678
Moscow, ID 83843
Peter Haggart, Writer/Editor (haggart@moscow.com)

President: Laura Miller
Vice President: Peter Haggart
Secretary: Roberta Foy
Treasurer: Hugh Homan

Board Members

Claire Chin, Dale Everson, Sue Hovey, Alice Nau, Linda Pike, Judith Reisenauer, Shirley Ringo, Pat Ruggio, and Donald Weisenstein

Future Meetings/Events

Latah County Chapter Meeting
Friday, September 15th

Program:

World Food Program

Heifer International Mission to End World Hunger

Latah County Chapter Meeting
Friday, October 20th

AARP Life@50+ National Event & Expo
October 26-28 in Anaheim, California
Call Laura (882-4047) for details

“The human contribution is the essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live.”

Ethel Percy Andrus, AARP Founder
