



IDAHO FEDERATION of REPUBLICAN WOMEN

2023 FALL HIGHLIGHTS



Caring for America 2023 Project Donation.

Caring for America

Caring for America Committee Chairwoman, Catherine Bedford of Kootenai County RW announced the selection of the Idaho Youth Ranch for our 2023 Caring for America project. IYR Donations Coordinator, Kendelle Sundell, and Director of Marketing, Whitney Springston joined us via Zoom.

For years, Idaho’s most vulnerable youth—those in need of long-term residential care—had nowhere to go. Over 100 youth on Medicaid were sent out of state in an average year, compounding their trauma and pulling them away from family and support systems. Families were pulled apart and parents were not included in the services for their kids.

After over 5 years of planning, research, fundraising, and building, Idaho Youth Ranch celebrated the end of the “Bringing Idaho’s Kids Home” campaign. The Grand Opening of the Residential Center for Healing & Resilience was held in August 2023. At the one-of-a-kind facility are two residential lodges holding 64 individual bedrooms, a recreation center, a dining hall, facilities for nursing, full time psychiatric care with therapy rooms located in the onsite school, Promise Academy.

Promise Academy teachers train alongside the master’s level therapists at the facility to help each youth fill gaps in their education and build on existing strengths. Each classroom is designed to meet the unique needs of children 11-17 experiencing mental health challenges as a result of trauma. Each classroom is equipped with special wobble seats, floor mats, fidget toys, and a specialize curriculum so those young people living at the Residential Center will get both the emotional and educational support they need to flourish and thrive right here in Idaho where their parents can be part of their journey toward healing and hope.

IFRW is delighted to have the opportunity to donate \$5,000 to Promise Academy to help furnish the classrooms with additional supplies, books, and resources to give these youth from around the state access to the support they need. In the few weeks since they opened their doors, youth from the Treasure Valley, Eastern Idaho, and North Idaho have been admitted into the program already showing how this program is a resource for kids and families from every corner of Idaho.

Fundraiser

<i>Donated by</i>	<i>Winning Bid</i>	<i>Buyer</i>
IFRW	\$140.00	M Bjornn
IFRW	\$100.00	E Hunt
CCRW	\$150.00	E Hunt
IFRW	\$65.00	E Hunt
T Wasden	\$90.00	E Hunt
IFRW	\$40.00	E Hunt
KCRW	\$52.00	K Clark
C Jesinger	\$65.00	K Clark
IFRW	\$55.00	H Moore
VCRW	\$100.00	C Matheson
IFRW	\$35.00	C Bedford
CCRW	\$135.00	P Smith
RW of EI	\$115.00	P Smith
SIRW	\$105.00	R Olmsted
MVRW	\$175.00	C Erickson
NPCRW	\$37.00	P Their
L. Karlson	\$110.00	S Pring
	\$1,569.00	

The Legalization of Marijuana in Idaho

Presented by
Monte Stiles



Monte Stiles served his entire professional legal career of 29 years as a state and federal prosecutor. For 24 of those years, Monte was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Idaho where he supervised the Organized Crime/Drug Enforcement Task Force – a group of agents and prosecutors who investigated and prosecuted high-level drug trafficking organizations, which included Los Angeles street gangs, methamphetamine manufacturers, marijuana growers on public lands, and multi-national drug cartels. For a full bio, please email your request to idahofrw@gmail.com.

Monte is the real deal. As he addressed the attempts to legalize marijuana in Idaho during his Zoom presentation Mr. Stiles spoke to the many problems created with legalization of marijuana and other drugs and directed the audience to these four points when gathering information to present to club members:

1. Don't take a politician's word for his or her stand on legalization. As unlikely as it seems there are some Idaho legislators who consistently vote on bills that will make legalization possible in Idaho; bills that set the stage for legalization. Review the voting record!
2. Has he/she sponsored any bills? Don't just rely on the bill summary for they are often misleading and may appear reasonable on the surface. Often there are caveats that change the whole bill into bad law. Read the bill.
3. Determine what legalization really means. Many claim to not support legalization, but one must dig further to determine what he/she considers legalization. Are they talking about legalizing hard drugs, recreational use, medical marijuana? There are many 'definitions' that can be applied so that one may appear to be on the right side of the issue.
4. Open a dialog with them to discuss the issue.

Monte received his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and graduated from J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1982. In his personal life, Monte served for ten years as a commissioner on the Boise Parks and Recreation Board; as a Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Advisor, and Explorer Post advisor for the Boy Scouts of America; a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America; a board member of Drug Free Idaho; a board member of Drug Watch International; an associate editor of The Marijuana Report; and an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department of Boise State University. For additional information on how to bring Monte to your next meeting, please email idahofrw@gmail.com



Top row: Shirlyne Corder, Theresa Bradford. Middle row: Marilyn Tripple, Janalee Wolf, Annie Phelps, Tracey Wasden. Bottom row: Bailey Wolf.

Suffrage

Republican Women are pictured above as they honor the suffragettes of Idaho in 1920 and the passage of the 19th Amendment and Women's Right to Vote.

The COVID pandemic of 2020-2021 may have caught us all off guard, but it did not slow us down for long as many Republican Women across the country celebrated the 100-year anniversary of this remarkable achievement.

Nor did the Spanish flu of 1918-1920 stop our sisters in their 75-year battle for Women's Suffrage. And, On February 11, 1920, Idaho ratified the 19th Amendment, becoming the fourth state to do so, only a day behind Utah!

Not surprisingly the first nine states to ratify are of the West. A testament to the independence, resiliency, determination, and mutual respect that exist between the sexes then and even more so in modern days.



Legalization...

Continued

In addition to speaking, Monte serves as a consultant for community drug coalitions, youth organizations, law enforcement agencies, and corporations. Monte and his wife Sandi live in Boise, Idaho. They are the proud parents of five children and fourteen grandchildren.

School Choice Legislation

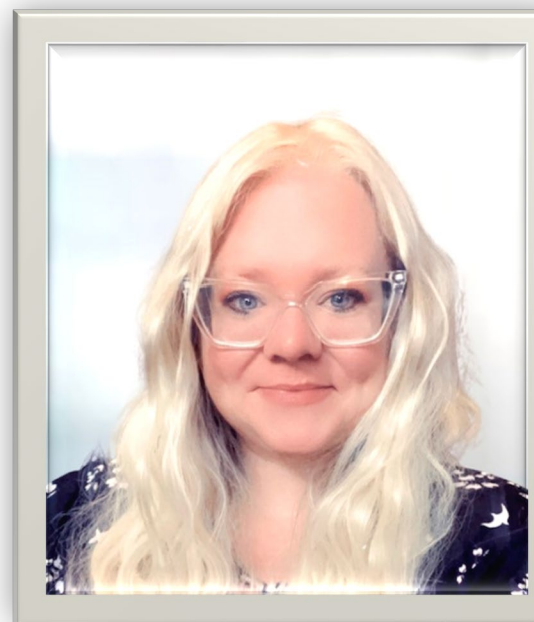
During the 2023 Legislative Session several controversial bills emerged concerning education. Some bills were highly controversial while others received much less attention, namely the school choice and Education Savings Accounts bills. Since school choice already exists in our current system with nine different options for parents with school age children, the Executive Committee realized it would be useful to get both perspectives on the issue.

To that end, we reached out to Chris Cargill, CEO of Mountain States Policy Center which developed a policy to inform lawmakers on this important issue. For more than 20 years, Chris Cargill has worked in communications and public policy. Chris is the father of a special needs student and has deep roots in our region. He is a graduate of Gonzaga University with a degree in broadcast communications and political science.

With a decade in television news as well as 13 years for another state-based think tank. Chris has been published in numerous newspapers.

Dr. Brian Ray is a leading international expert in research on homeschooling and president of the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI). He has published numerous articles and books, interviewed by major media, serves as an expert witness in court cases, and testifies to legislatures regarding education. He is a former university professor and public and private school classroom teacher. He holds a Ph.D. in science education and is a church leader.

Mr. Cargill, referring to ESAs, explained that most who are against them do not understand them. Arguing that parents of school age children will receive progressive payments (meaning they will increase yearly) beginning with an annual payout of \$6200 per student. A family with three kids would receive an annual payment of \$18,600 that will allow them the freedom to educate their students in a variety of ways. Some may decide to keep their child in public or charter school, while others may use these taxpayer funds and opt to pay private school tuition. Yet again parents may choose to opt out of traditional schooling completely and utilize the home-schooling system. The student's experience would be enhanced from Idaho's nine available school choice options by



IFRW Secretary, Ashley Hoobery

Secretary Resigns

Ashley Hoobery was elected as secretary at the 2022 IFRW Biennial Convention in Twin Falls. She served in this capacity throughout the Red Jacket board meeting participating in its planning and execution. Ashley fulfilled her role as secretary for that meeting through tremendous hardship as she suffered the unpredictable effects of multiple sclerosis.

Shortly before the Fall Board Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Ashley resigned due to the devastatingly sudden progression of her illness that left her paralyzed from the waist down.

A friendly email or phone call to keep this young and vivacious woman a part of this amazing group of women is so appreciated. Please remember Ashley in your prayers and keep her in your hearts.

The Executive Committee has appointed Ellen Hunt of Valley County RW to serve the remainder of her term.

Thank you, Ashley. We love you. You are missed.

allowing them the freedom to use allotted funds for anything from educational equipment, personal computers, books, digital subscription services, or perhaps field trips to museums around the globe. Mr. Cargil argues that public schools will not be affected because 20% of funds per child will remain within the appropriate school district regardless of student attendance. Funding to parents will most likely increase year over year to adjust for inflation and other outside forces.

Chris explained that the MSPC provides policy recommendations based on their research and further stipulating that lawmakers are free to accept, change, or reject any recommendations as they see fit.

Dr Ray disagreed with the premise that the people just “don’t understand the issue” and insisted that the proposed legislation is simply bad law.

Based on his research, the most affected are those in the middle-income bracket. Rising property tax increases will affect homeowners and renters alike. The least empowered are those who will pay the lion’s share of the inevitable ballooning year over year costs. His research, based on evidence from other states that have adopted similar policies, shows that the majority of taxpayers do not want it and legislators are suffering buyer’s remorse.

It should be noted that Idaho’s homeschool leadership fear that after decades of working with the Idaho Legislature to de-regulate homeschool education, creating a very successful system that is envied by other states, will be placed back under government regulation, and rightly so. Recipients of taxpayer funds necessarily and legally must be accountable to government regulation and red tape, consequently, losing their hard-won freedom to educate their children.



In Memoria, Former IFRW President, Doriene Knight

Doriene Smoot Knight, 81 years old of Filer, Idaho, passed away on Monday, November 20, 2023, at St. Luke’s Medical Center in Twin Falls, Idaho, after a short battle with an aggressive thyroid cancer. She was with family at the time of her passing.

Doriene was a proud American. She was the Idaho Federation of Republican Women’s President and the Twin Falls County Republican Women’s President for several terms. She always wore the American Flag pin on the lapel of every jacket. Thank you for your service, Doriene, you made a difference.



North Idaho College Hosts Tour

IFRW members attend a fascinating and informative tour of the North Idaho College campus. Several

program directors, NIC Trustee, and Christa Hazel, Director of Save NIC, lead a private tour of the amazing facilities available to students across the state.



Presidents Represent at Local Festival of Trees

President, Tracey Wasden and Immediate Past President, Shirlayne Corder (pictured above) helped decorate this innovative front porch design on behalf of their club, Canyon County Republican Women.

The delightful design created quite a buzz and sold quickly at the grand event. All proceeds go to fund Meals on Wheels as they support our senior community. The two presidents represented IFRW while they recruited new members to our 22+ clubs throughout the state.

2023 Syringa Regents

Anne Bechen	Ada CRW	Cindy Siddoway	Jefferson CRW
Joan Callahan	Ada CRW	Teri Duke	Kootenai CRW
Tana Cory	Ada CRW	Diana Serpa	Magic Valley RW
Janalee Woolf	Ada CRW	Marie Silver	Magic Valley RW
Emmalee Robinson	Blaine CRW	Heather Moore	Nez Perce CRW
Catherine Verde	Blaine CRW	Marsha Bjornn	RW of Eastern Idaho
Sara Adams	Canyon CRW	Rachel Hatton	RW of Eastern Idaho
Theresa Bradford	Canyon CRW	Laura Anderson	SouthEast Idaho RW
Shirlyne Corder	Canyon CRW	Farhana Hibbard	SouthEast Idaho RW
Patti Ann Lodge	Canyon CRW	Char Tovey	SouthEast Idaho RW
Tracey Wasden	Canyon CRW	Maxine Bell	Southern Idaho RW
Jamie Wood	Canyon CRW	Linda Hartgen	Southern Idaho RW
Charlene Matheson	Clearwater River RW	Natalie Millington	Southern Idaho RW
Sue Pring	Clearwater River RW	Cheri Vollmer	Southern Idaho RW
Darlene Simpson	Clearwater River RW	Ellen Hunt	Valley CRW
Coleen Erickson	Jefferson CRW	Pam Thier	Valley CRW

2023 CLUBS

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CANYON CRW	President	Sara Adams	sara.adams@fedex.com
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