

MEMO FROM EMMETT MAYOR GORDON W. PETRIE

SUBJECT: THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, 2 POINT OH!

Those who read August's edition of my Memo know I bragged on six service organizations. However, due to time and space issues, I could only mention a few examples. I mentioned that if any group felt slighted, they should write an email or give me a call. I explained I'd be happy to do another column about them.

The day after August's edition came out my wife called me. She asked me to include the Triple-A Booster Club in a future Memo. I found her call somewhat disconcerting, mainly because she called while we sat together eating breakfast. More recently, I received a letter from a PAL Volunteer asking me to tell their story. I, of course, am happy to do so in this edition. I also include another great organization; one I wanted to include in the August Memo before running out of room: the Gem County Ministerial Association.

The Triple-A Booster Club is too often confused with the Football or Basketball Boosters. In fact, they are not affiliated with *any* sports team in any direct way. The three "A's" stand for Activities, Academics and Athletics. Indeed, the club is composed of parents, grandparents and common variety community members passionate about supporting students in Emmett's Schools.

The Club loves giving away money for the benefit of our students. Examples range from such things as bussing the elementary grades to attend the Homecoming parade, various field trips, PE equipment, and supplies for special class room projects to two \$500 scholarships awarded graduating seniors each year. Astoundingly, since the end of 2010, Triple A-Boosters have awarded \$67,000 in funding requests to date. What a great organization and blessing the Triple A-Boosters has become for the students and education in the Gem Community. On September 29th, the Triple-A Boosters had a fun and successful fund raiser auction at the High School.

The Pet Adoption League (PAL) is another great organization and an official partner of Emmett. These outstanding people take in stray animals for the city and the county and have been doing so since 1988. More recently, in 2016 they took in 82 dogs and 76 cats; 108 dogs and 70 cats in 2017; and as of the end of August, PAL received 67 dogs and 95 cats. Worth noting is PAL's unique policy of being a "no-kill" shelter. This is not to say that terminally ill animals or those found to be a threat to the community would not be humanely put down, but that is only after all other alternatives have been exhausted. PAL helps the Gem Community to be a unique and special place.

The Gem County Ministerial Association has been one of the driving forces behind Clean-Up Emmett Day in the spring with its own version called "Serve Emmett Day". From the Gem Community's Evangelical population, these affiliated pastors gather together on a regular basis at their various churches to share the Good News. They have two joint services each year, Good Friday and Thanksgiving. They also facilitate local celebrations of the National Day of Prayer and, of course, give the Community Invocation at each City Council Meeting. They support the CERT ministry at the high school by providing Bibles to foreign exchange students. Also, usually in conjunction with Gem County's Youth Appreciation Day, they conduct a Youth Appreciation Worship.

Serving one another constitutes the highest form of citizenship. We are blessed to have such outstanding organizations doing citizenship and service. They make our Gem Community a special place to live.