

# Idaho newspapers form association

Published: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:02 PM PDT

After more than two decades of separation, Idaho's daily and weekly newspapers have formed the Newspaper Association of Idaho with 39 charter members from all corners of the state.

Officers for the new association were elected Friday, March 25. They are: Roger Plothow, Idaho Falls Post Register, president and treasurer; Nathan Alford, Lewiston Tribune and Moscow-Pullman Daily News, vice president; Dan Hammes, St. Maries Gazette-Record, secretary. Other board members are: Andy McNab, Idaho County Free Press; Mi-Ai Parrish, Idaho Statesman; and Brett Crompton, Power County Press and Aberdeen Times.

The board consists of three publishers of daily newspapers and three publishers of weekly newspapers.

The NAI replaces Idaho Allied Dailies and the Idaho Newspaper Association. The NAI's main objectives are to support and defend open government, free speech and a free press; ensure that newspapers' interests are represented before the state legislature; and provide opportunities for newspaper publishers to network and share information.

Jeremy Pisca of the law firm of Risch-Pisca represents the NAI at the state legislature. He has been IAD's lobbyist and representative for legislative matters for five years.

Professional members of the NAI must meet a number of requirements, including having a paid circulation and being eligible to print city, county and state legal notices, or having a paid Idaho circulation of at least 1,000, being published at least once a week. Newspapers not qualifying or other organizations may join NAI at different membership levels.

Idaho's oldest newspapers go back to the 1860s and many are more than 100 years old. Research indicates that more than three-quarters of Idahoans read a newspaper every week and more than half of Idaho households subscribe to a newspaper.