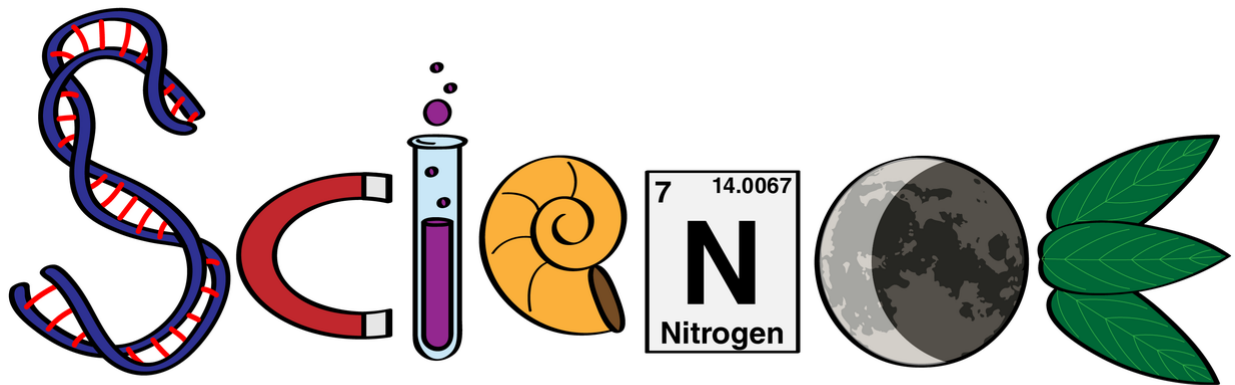


# A Moment of Science from ISTA

Idaho Science Teaching Association President's Newsletter

July 2023

FALL CONFERENCE EDITION



## A Word (or two) From Your ISTA President!

Happy Summertime to all of my friends and colleagues out there in science-land! My time as your president is drawing to a close. Our president-elect, Tanya Elmer, will be taking over in the next few weeks but before I transition out of this role, I would like to take a moment and thank all of you for the incredible hard work and dedication that you show to the students of Idaho every day in your educational spaces. Whether you are a traditional classroom teacher or you work in a non-traditional science education setting, you matter to our learners. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This month's edition of my presidential newsletter is dedicated to important information that you need to know for our fall conference and the annual business meeting of our great association. Feel free to share this newsletter with those in your circle who might be a great addition to our membership ranks and encourage everyone that you know to get [registered for the conference](#) as soon as possible. There are some incredible classes and fieldtrips slated for August 3rd and 4th at Borah High School in Boise, Idaho!



## Conference Fieldtrips

If you are already registered for the fall conference, you should be getting an email in the new few days asking you to choose your fieldtrip from a list of really great options across the Treasure Valley. We have 9 different organizations that are partnering with us to provide a variety of math and science related places for you to visit. Each fieldtrip will offer opportunities for you and your students to take learning outside of the 4 walls of your classroom and into the authentic world of real math and science!



## Idaho Science Teaching Association Strategic Plan 2023-2028

### Mission:

To empower and support a community dedicated to effective and innovative science education for all students.

### Vision:

We are the leading group of educational professionals energizing Idaho educators to inspire learners who value and participate in science.

Build leadership capacity of board members to effectively support the goals of the organization.

### Strategies

- Implement regular board trainings
- Increase resources for board members
- Improve use of communications coordinator position on board
- Market goals of association to members and potential members



### Strategies

- Increase participation in annual conference
- Provide monthly/quarterly member events (fieldtrips, webinars, podcasts, coffee talks, etc.)

Create excellent professional learning and collaboration opportunities for members.

### Strategies

- Develop social media on applicable platforms
- Use website to market and spotlight organization
- Develop regional conferences
- Develop conference networking breakout sessions
- Award teacher scholarships

Strengthen our voice through partnerships, networking, and collaboration.


<https://www.idahoscienceteacherswix.org>

## 5 Year Strategic Plan

One of the things that the ISTA board has dedicated an extremely large amount of work time to this year is establishing a 5-year strategic plan for our organization. We are determined to help our organization grow and to increase our capacity to provide support and resources to our members across the state. The board finalized this plan by majority vote at our board meeting on May 30th and we would like to share the plan with you. The infographic above summarizes the plan. For a more detailed look at the action steps and the timeline for implementation, please visit the [full strategic plan document](#).






At our fall business meeting in August, we will be reviewing key points of the plan with our membership.


Idaho Science Teaching Association &  
Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics &  
Idaho Environmental Educators Association

*Time To Travel* 

**IMAGINE THE PLACES  
WE'LL GO  
WITH S.T.E.M.**

Hey science teachers! Check out some of the awesome presentations happening at this year's fall conference. Don't miss out!

**REGISTER NOW** 

<https://www.idahoscienceteacherswix.org/conference>

Over 30 great science session choices including:

- "Imaginative ecological education in science education: Go outside for science"
- "Bringing back inquiry"
- "What are 3D science assessment tasks and how can you use them in your instruction?"
- "Science in focus: Using the cross cutting concepts as a lens for learning"
- "Clarity in science through claims, evidence, and reasoning"
- "Project based learning in a traditional high school"
- "STEM PBL online? How is that possible?"
- "Making 'scents' of sensemaking in science"
- "Spicing up cookie cutter labs"
- "STEM professionals in the classroom"
- "The science of cheesemaking"
- "Teaching evolution with free, high-quality resources"
- "Science strategies to start the year"
- "Chasing aces: Interactive hands-on lessons in science and math"
- "Make it make sense: Using the cross cutting concepts to promote sensemaking in the classroom"
- "Preparing for the science ISAT"
- "CER gradual release: Setting students up for success in science writing"
- "Digital creativity with Adobe and science"

Plus a great breakout session with Steve Spangler!!

## ISTA BYLAWS

Idaho Science Teaching Association Bylaws  
Adopted August 4 2022

### Preamble

These Bylaws are subject to, and governed by, the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act and the Articles of Incorporation of the Idaho Science Teaching Association. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the mandatory provisions of the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Idaho Nonprofit Corporation Act will be controlling. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation of the Idaho Science Teaching Association, these Bylaws will be controlling.

### Article I - Purpose

1.1 General. The Idaho Science Teaching Association (ISTA) is a Chapter and Associated Group (CAG) of the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA). The purposes for which the Idaho Science Teaching Association is organized are:

- 1.1.1 To create an active interest in science among educators, students, and community members.
- 1.1.2 To encourage more effective science teaching at all levels of instruction in both formal and informal settings in the schools and colleges in the State of Idaho.
- 1.1.3 To provide professional development for best practices in science instruction.
- 1.1.4 To create a space for collaboration and idea sharing between science educators about pedagogy, practices, and instruction.
- 1.1.5 To create opportunities for integration of science across all disciplines of teaching.
- 1.1.6 The ISTA is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Specifically, the ISTA shall work to strengthen nonprofits through consulting, education, networking, and resources.

## ISTA Bylaws

If you are new to our organization or you have been a little overwhelmed with the day to day workflow of your current position, you may not be aware that the ISTA board took most of last year to rewrite and update our bylaws document. The [entire document](#) (approved at our fall conference last year -- August 2022) is available for review on our website. Feel free to take a moment and read through the document. This is a living document and amendments can be made using the procedures outlined in section 7 of our bylaws.

**7.1 Initiation of Amendments.** Proposed amendments may be initiated by the Executive Committee or by any one of the district representatives. Written text for the amendment should be submitted to the

President at least 7 days prior to the next Executive Committee meeting for review of the Executive Committee.

**7.2 Voting.** The Executive Committee may amend these Bylaws by majority vote at any regular or special meeting. Written notice setting forth the proposed amendment or summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each member within the time and the manner provided for the giving of notice of meetings.

Idaho Science Teaching Association & Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics & Idaho Environmental Educators Association

*Time To Travel*

**IMAGINE THE PLACES WE'LL GO WITH S.T.E.M.**

Hey STEM teachers! Check out some of the awesome presentations happening at this year's fall conference. Don't miss out!

**REGISTER NOW** ▼

<https://www.idahoscience teacherswix.org/conference>

Over 30 great STEM session choices including:

- "Drones in the arts: Technological tools for creative expressions"
- "Using the arc of arithmetic to algebra in STEM"
- "PBS: Idaho's largest science and math classroom"
- "Data Nuggets: Bringing real-world data into your instruction"
- "The importance of sensemaking and how to create more of it in your classroom"
- "Engaging students in STEM, CTE, computer science, and coding is easy with Learning Blade"
- "Grading by response category: An efficient and effective way to provide students with meaningful, actionable feedback"
- "Making your STEM program work: Ensuring learning and fun collide"
- "ChatGPT for Educators: Welcome to the future of education"
- "Expanding hands-on STEM learning: Think-Make-Create labs"
- "Bridging the gap: How game design can encourage more girls to pursue STEM careers"
- "Making space for girl and women innovators"
- "All you need to know about the Idaho STEM Ecosystem"
- "Learning with LEGO"

Plus great breakout sessions with Steve Spangler & Peter Liljedahl!!

## Open Board Positions

One of the things that happens at the annual business meeting of our Association is that we elect our leadership for the upcoming year. Here is a look at which board positions will be up for election based on our [bylaws](#) and the resignations of current board members:

- President Elect
- Region 1 (currently held by Emily Sarha)
- Region 3 (currently held by Hailey Bull)
- Region 5 (currently held by Liesel Christensen)
- Region 7 (OPEN)
- Elementary Representative (currently held by Betty Prall)
- Communications Coordinator (OPEN)
  
- Region 2 (OPEN)
- Region 4 (OPEN)

Please consider becoming an active part of our team by nominating yourself for one of these positions! If you know someone who has some awesome leadership potential, recruit them to put their names in the hat for a seat on the ISTA board. The job descriptions for each position are listed in section 4 of the bylaws document (linked above) along with our elections procedures (shown below) which are listed in section 3 of that document.

**3.4 Elections.** Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Idaho Science Teaching Association members. Any member, in good standing, may attend the annual

meeting and be eligible to vote in the election of Executive Committee members.

- 3.4.1 Nominations can be made in writing before the meeting or may be accepted from the floor of the annual meeting.
- 3.4.2 New and renewing Executive Committee members shall be approved by a simple majority of the votes received at the time of voting. Positions with only a single candidate may be elected by acclamation.
- 3.4.3 If the election of Executive Committee members shall not be held at such a meeting, such an election shall be held as soon as possible. Voting that does not happen at the annual meeting shall be either by hard-copy or digital balloting as determined by the Executive Committee.

**3.5 Term of Office.** All positions on the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of two years. Elected officials shall take office at the annual meeting.

4.1.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the above-named officers and one representative elected by the membership from each of the following geographical districts in the state of Idaho:

- District 1. Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties
- District 2. Latah, Clearwater, Idaho, Nez Perce, and Lewis Counties
- District 3. Adams, Washington, Payette, Gem, Canyon, and Owyhee Counties
- District 4. Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Lincoln, Cassia, Minidoka, Twin Falls, and Jerome Counties
- District 5. Bear Lake, Franklin, Oneida, Power, Bannock, Caribou, and Bingham Counties
- District 6. Clark, Fremont, Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Teton, Madison, Jefferson, and Bonneville
- District 7. Valley, Boise, Ada, and Elmore Counties

### BOARD MEMBERS

 <p><b>MELYSSA FERRO</b> President Spring Valley School District 202-485-2222</p>	 <p><b>TANYA ELMER</b> President Elect Bannock School District 202-485-2222</p>
 <p><b>NEVA TELFORD</b> Past President Madison Junior High School 202-485-2222</p>	 <p><b>EARLA DURFEE</b> Executive Secretary Nevada Coordinator Canyon High School 202-485-2222</p>
 <p><b>EMILY SARHA</b> Region 1 Four Forks School District 202-485-2222</p>	 <p><b>OPEN</b> Region 2</p>
 <p><b>HAILEY BULL</b> Region 3 Valley Middle School Carmel</p>	 <p><b>RENETTE REYES</b> Region 4</p>
 <p><b>LIESEL CHRISTENSEN</b> Region 5 202-485-2222</p>	 <p><b>LINGPEI ZOU</b> Region 6</p>
 <p><b>DJ EBERLIN</b> Region 7 Bannock School District 202-485-2222</p>	 <p><b>BETTY PRALL</b> Elementary Representative Bannock Elementary School Carmel 202-485-2222</p>
 <p><b>STEVE SHROPSHIRE</b> Higher Education Representative Professor 202-485-2222</p>	 <p><b>ANDREA BAERWALD</b> State Department of Education 202-212-4870 202-485-2222</p>
 <p><b>CHRIS TAYLOR</b> NNEA Region XV Director 612 Bannock and Bannockville Suburban State School District Boise, Idaho</p>	 <p><b>CHRIS STOKER</b> Moderator</p>

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Over 30 great environmental session choices including:

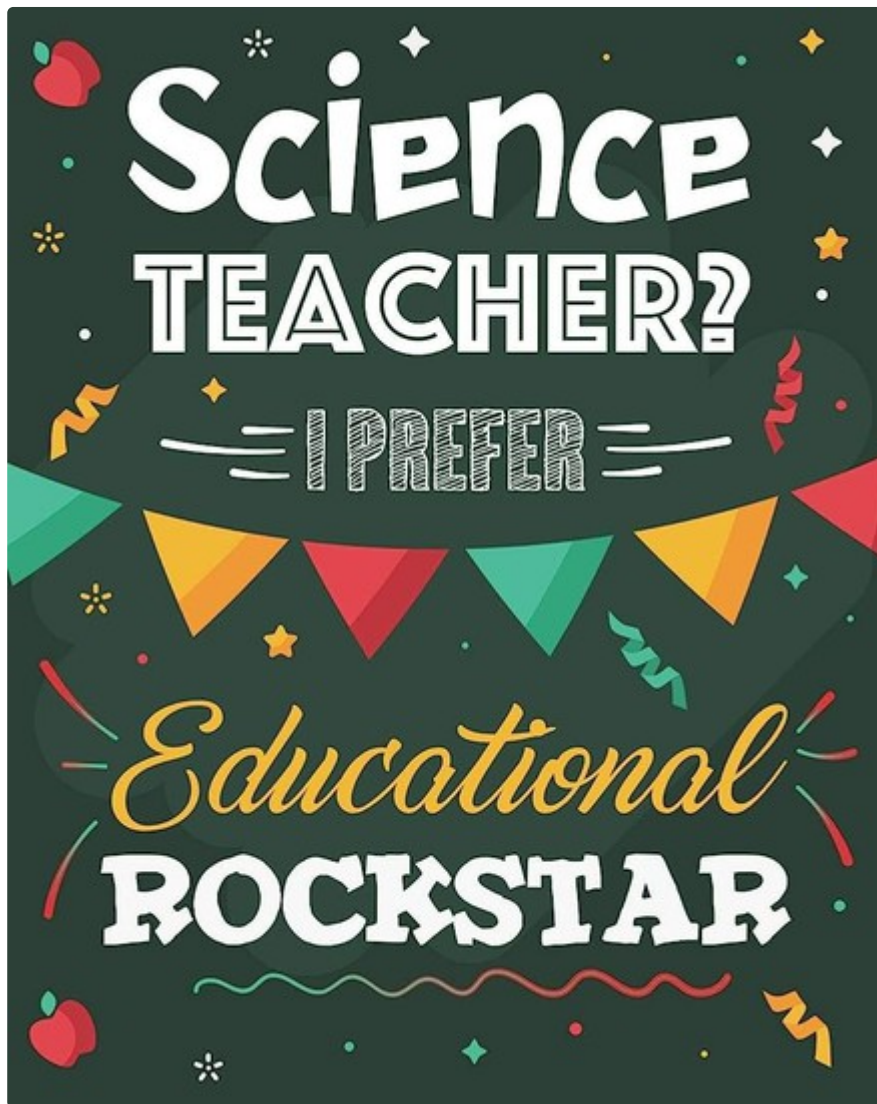
- "Environmental science in a world of 8 billion"
- "Ecology: Modeling the introduction of new species"
- "Utilizing the outdoors in the science classroom"
- "How do I create an authentic and relevant essential question that drives student engagement and hooks them on learning?"
- "Fall for phenomena: STEM in the schoolyard"
- "Let's make more Aha! moments by connecting real-world phenomena with 3D learning"
- "AWE-some adventures for learners of all ages"
- "Purposeful play through STEM"
- "Engaging students in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)"

Plus great breakout sessions with Steve Spangler & Peter Liljedahl!!!



REGISTER NOW

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## New ISTA Science Educator Award Announcement

ISTA is partnering with the Idaho STEM Action Center to take over an annual award which will provide financial support for a rock star science educator in our organization. Details are being finalized right now and more information will be available about this award at our fall business meeting. Think about

who those rock star science educators are that you work with and come ready to nominate them for this ISTA scholarship award!





## Dr. Melyssa Ferro

 Facebook

 @IdahoScience

Idaho Science Teaching Association President  
2021-2023

 [idahoscienceista@gmail.com](mailto:idahoscienceista@gmail.com)

 [idahoscienceteacherswix.org/](http://idahoscienceteacherswix.org/)