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The political pulse

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The election eye

GOPers, Democrats study reorganization

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Now that the primary elections are over, Idaho Republicans and Democrats will turn to straightening out their party affairs to gird for the strenuous general election campaign.

By a peculiar coincidence, the two parties will hold their biennial state convention on the same week at the same place. It is believed the first time in history this has happened.

Oddly enough it was done without officials of one party knowing what officials of the other party were doing. Usually, both parties have scheduled their state conventions on different weekends at different cities.

Two years ago, the Democrats met in Pocatello and the Republicans in Boise on different weekends in June.

This year, the Democrats, as specified in their state meeting last February, will meet June 20-22 while the Republicans will meet June 24-26, both at the scenic North Shore Lodge on the shore of beautiful Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Marie Hanzel, Burley, Idaho Democratic chairman, said about 380 delegates are eligible to attend the party rally and to adopt a party platform and resolutions.

She said state party officers will not be elected. This was done at the winter meeting in February in connection with the Jefferson-Jackson Day Banquet at Boise.

The county and legislative committees all selected their convention delegates May 11 as required by national party rules. The county chairman, state committeeman and state committeewoman of each county and legislative chairman are automatic state delegates. The additional convention delegates of each county were based on the amount of Democratic vote cast at the 1978 gubernatorial election.

There is no major national convention this year because it isn't a presidential election year.

Mrs. Hanzel said only a mini convention is planned for this year in late June to plan for the political campaign and transact other business. She said possibly a few of the state officers and leaders plan to attend.

All of the county and legislative committees, however, are required under party rules to

meet within 10 days of the primary election to reorganize for the biennium.

Republican county central committees and legislative committees also will meet within 10 days of the May 25 primary election to pick delegates to the Idaho Republican Convention Jim Davidson, Boise, state party executive secretary, announced.

Most are planning to meet the first week in June, said Davidson.

Those scheduled for east Idaho include June 2 at 8 p.m. at the Bonneville County Courthouse for the Bonneville central committee and also for Legislative Districts 29, 30 and 31.

The Madison County Central Committee and Legislative District 28 will meet at 8 p.m. June 1 at the Fremont County Courthouse at St. Anthony.

The Teton County Central Committee will meet May 28 at 8 p.m. at the Teton County Courthouse at Driggs.

Davidson said 469 delegates are to be selected for the state convention, of which 105 are the legislative district delegates, or three for each of the 35 legislative districts in the state.

The county delegates include the county chairman, state committeeman and state committeewoman in each of the 44 counties, plus bonus delegates based on the votes cast for Republican congressman in the 1980 general elections.

For example, said Davidson, Ada County will be allowed 43 delegates, Canyon 20 and Bonneville 19 to lead the counties.

The central and legislative district committees also will elect officers for the biennium. The Bonneville chairman is Beverly Packer. Mrs. Packer said anyone who is interested in serving as a state delegate to call her.

Davidson said all of the party officers except National Committeeman David Little, Emmett, and National Committeewoman Jane Miller, Boise, will be elected. They hold over for two more years.

He said talk indicates all of the state officers plan to seek re-election. They include Dennis Olsen, Idaho Falls chairman; Lee Shellman, Coeur d'Alene, first vice chairman; Ann Rydalch, Idaho Falls, second vice chairman; Cecelia Folkinga, Buhl, secretary; and Charles Chehey, Moscow, treasurer.