Chamber arranges annual junket to state Legislature

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Some two dozen members of the Greater Idaho Falls Greater Chamber of Commerce and spouses plan their annual legislative junket Monday to lobby.

Del Brewster, chamber executive vice president, said the chamber members will join with others large chambers of the state in daylong activities.

He said whipping up statewide support for the New Production Reactor to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory will head the activities.

The Idaho Falls delegation has sponsored memorials placing Idaho as a pro-nuclear state, bolstered by the pro-nuclear initiative passed by the voters in November.

According to plans, most of the members will go to Boise Sunday. They will talk with leaders of the Boise chamber and other chambers Monday. Most will attend legislative committee and general sessions.

"We are going to talk with a number in behalf of getting the New Production Reactor for Idaho," said Brewster.

The Idaho Falls chamber tentatively plans to host the eastern Idaho legislators at a Monday noon luncheon at the Red Lion, Downtowner. This includes legislators from the 10 east Idaho counties, Districts 20, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

The chamber will join other chambers for a dinner Monday night at the Red Lion, Downtowner. Gov. John V. Evans will speak briefly. Luke Williams, Spokane, president of the American Sign Indicator and chairman of the National Manufacturers Association, will talk on the economic outlook.

Leanne Lee, Miss Idaho Falls, will also be on hand to assist the chamber in greeting lawmakers.

A social is from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by the banquet for chamber members, legislators and their spouses. Brewester estimates more than 300 will attend.

Assisting in the arrangements are Dan McAllister, chamber legislative vice president; and Dr. Steve Larsen, chamber legislative committee chairman. Tim Hopkins, chamber president, will head the Idaho Falls delegation.

Larsen reminded the chamber has taken stands on several of the leading issues to which it will promote at the chamber junket.

It favors the 1 cent state sales tax, repealing exemptions on services and other items, consolidation of state colleges and curricla, local tax levy option subject to voter approval; allow local units of goverment to discount or waive property taxes to encourage industrial growth; and revision of the state unemployment tax formula.

In the industrial development field, the chamber also favors repeal of he Little Davis-Bacon Law which provides for federal public construction wages; designate the Division of Economic and Community Administration be funded from dedicated funds rather than from the general fund; change the Consumer Credit Law to permit a more competitive market place for interest rates; and change the bankruptcy laws to make it more difficult to declare bankruptcy.

The chamber opposes a state severance tax on nonrenewable resources in view of the mining slump; taxing all types of real property at the same rate and assessment method;, allowing local option of planning and zoning act, and lowering of water quality.