



Hoof Beats

Kiwanis Club of the Horse Heaven Hills

PO Box 6798, Kennewick, WA 99336

www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org

December 8, 2008

Edited by: [John Lawson](#), [Donna Underwood](#), [Doug Brown](#)

If you have an announcement, advertisement, or article you'd like included, contact one of our editors.

Remember, there is always more information about our club on our website at www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org

President Joanna Harrington called the December 8 meeting to order. Terry Loney gave the invocation. Larry Hansmeier led us in our opening songs. Jonna Hansmeier was Wrangler. A collection was circulated for a special holiday tip for Peg, our regular waitperson.

We welcomed an interclub from Pasco: Larry Ward, Bob Greenwell, Ray Rose and Crane Bergdahl. Kathye Kilgore, from the Columbia Club was in attendance, as were guests Anthony Oucharek, Shawn Cirignano, and Yvette Rangel.

Larry Hansmeier donated his raffle winnings to our Foundation.

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Brags

Phil Slusser announced that he had missed the previous meeting and that he and his wife had celebrated another anniversary over Thanksgiving. Rick Kilgore noted that the Huskys now seem to have a coach.

Kathye Kilgore praised both Virgie Robinson and the community at large for efforts in achieving a record collection in recent food drives. Larry Hansmeier noted his daughter's birthday. Alex Burden spent the past week in Hawaii.

Doug Brown reported that his nephew had returned for another tour in Iraq and was impressed by the real progress he saw in Baghdad since he was last there. Don Barnes reported that the Tri-City Americans were doing well this season. Jo Harrington announced her son's birthday.

Announcements and Coming Events Signup Sheets Circulated

Interclubs

Sarah Longan organized an Interclub at Columbia Club for December 17th.

Committee Meetings



The December meeting for the J&S Committee will be held next week, December 15th, immediately following our regular meeting.

There will be a Board of Directors meeting, Thursday December 11th at 11:45, in the Riverside room.

Membership

Don Barnes asked us all to locate and invite potential new members to our meetings.

Highway Clean-up

Rick Kilgore noted that Saturday's Highway Cleanup was another success. Mark Blotz acquired the most lost golf balls, the Underwoods found a lost wallet that they turned in, and Mark was able to relocate his nearly lost cell phone.

Club Christmas Program

Don't miss our pre-Christmas meeting, December 22nd. Larry Hansmeier and Wayne Underwood are planning an up-lifting musical event.



Club Holiday Party and Book Exchange

We are planning a Holiday Party this year in conjunction with our December 29th meeting. We will be collecting **Coats for Kids** so bring a coat, a cap or mittens, or a book or a toy. Donna Underwood will even accept cash donations, and make a purchase for you. Another highlight of the event will be a **Book Exchange** for members. Doug Brown asked us to each select a book for the exchange. The book you choose should be one you have read and enjoyed.

Thank You from SIGN

Jo Harrington announced a “Thank You” from the Kiwanis SIGN Foundation for our contributions during the past fiscal year. They reported that we had donated \$361.22. We received patches for our club banner.

Our Speaker Next Week :

**Phil Slusser
Disaster Relief**

This Week's Speaker:

**George Mendoza
Virgie Robinson Elementary School**



George Mendoza with Jo Harrington

George Mendoza has been principal at Virgie Robinson Elementary school in Pasco for the past

four years. Virgie Robinson is one of two schools where our club sponsors a well appreciated K-Kids program. He gave special thanks to Kiwanis members who have participated in establishing and growing the school's K-Kids program.

Virgie Robinson Elementary was opened as Pasco's 11th elementary school in 2005 with about 600 students. It is named after a woman who came here from Tennessee and operated a well known diner in Pasco. She began working with the Pasco School Department and became an ombudsman with the schools where she established programs to strengthen parent/student involvement.

Demographically, the school is predominately Hispanic and faces lower family incomes than other schools. But, being new, it has incorporated many state of the art tools and supportive methods and interventions to help give students helpful guidance and learning. Students frequently work in teams. The focus is helping to motivate them to think for themselves.

After school programs are offered, providing enrichment for students who are at or above grade level, and assistance for students who need help in math reading or social studies. Dual language programs at the school helps to provide Spanish speaking students with a solid basis in both English and Spanish. As students progress through the grades they are introduced more and more to teaching in English.

He talked about how the K-Kids program fits with their teaching philosophy, building leadership and and appreciation of service opportunities. K-Kids coaching helps the students learn about service projects, planning and carrying out their projects—making a plan, taking action, and tackling problems when they come up. He suggested that we can help by offering mentorship; build relationships with students, with a classroom or with help on family nights; students benefit when we can help them find their own strengths and develop a will to build on them. His challenge was that we help students find their own passion and gain from human experiences.

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