



# Hoof Beats

## Kiwanis Club of the Horse Heaven Hills

PO Box 6798, Kennewick, WA 99336

[www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org](http://www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org)

**February 9, 2009**

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](http://www.HorseHeavenKiwanis.org)

President-Elect Doug Brown called the meeting to order. Kathy Loney gave our invocation. Larry Hansmeier led our songs. Don Barnes was Wrangler. Our guests were Lt. Gov. Jerry Greenfield and Corky Greenfield from Richland Kiwanis, and Dave Davis, Bob Greenwell, Larry Ward, and Duane Taber from Pasco Kiwanis.

Doug Brown won our weekly raffle, and donated the winnings to the J&S. Phil Slusser donated two containers of *Slap Ya Mama* seasoning to raffle. Steve Beckman and Lauren Hedeem were the spicy winners.

### Birthdays, Anniversaries & Brags

**Wayne Underwood** raved about his experience with the kids at Kennewick Headstart. **Mark Blotz** thanked the club for the condolence card after his 94-year old dad's recent passing. He also announced his 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday and his birthday this Thursday. **Belva Whitlock** joined us after a long hiatus following her broken shoulder. She is still healing and thanked the club for our *get well* card. **Terry Loney** had his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday Friday, and noted that Kathy thought him ready for an assisted living facility. Somehow, he has eluded this fate. So far. **Larry Hansmeier** heard from **Jo Harrington** that **Mike** had surgery this morning and was resting on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Kadlec Hospital. **Phil Slusser** expressed his sympathies for those about to hear his program. (*height of irony: it was superb!*). **Doug Brown** bragged about the hand-made Valentines cards created by Eastgate K-Kids for troops in Iraq, and shared an example. **Don Barnes** announced his grandson's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

### Announcements and Coming Events

Doug Brown announced the Junior Achievement big fundraiser, the Hula Bowl, for March 2-7. He also

discussed the Camp Kiwanis workday on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Information on both events is available on our [club website](#). Doug extended Andy Perdue's invitation to visit his [blog](#) on the Tri-City Herald website on Andy's "adventure" with medical science. Dick Nordness announced a meeting of the J&S Express committee to immediately follow our meeting next Monday. Doug Brown announced that the Kiwanis Division 54 Council meeting will be at Camp Kiwanis this Wednesday (2/11) with dinner at 6 pm and meeting at 6:30 pm. He also reminded the club that our Board of Directors will meet this Thursday (2/12) at 11:45 at the Clover Island Inn.

### Interclubs

Will one of these Interclubs fit into your schedule?

\* \* \* **February Interclubs** \* \* \*

**CAMP KIWANIS** Columbia Park—**Feb 11** (Wednesday) 6:00pm: This is the Division 54 meeting and the meal is complimentary.

**K-KIDS**—**Feb 13** (Friday) Virgie Robinson Elementary School, Pasco (Valentine's party, no meal)

**KENNEWICK**—**Feb 17** (Tuesday) at Noon: Leo's Catering, Kennewick (in lieu of Richland 2/18)



### Save the date!

Club & Foundation potluck fund raiser. Saturday evening, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.



### Club Garage Sale!

Club fund raiser garage sale this spring. Save your extra stuff for the event!

### Our Program Next Week :

**Kennewick Mayor Tom Moak**

**This Week's Program:**

**Phil Slusser – Emergency Services**



Phil Slusser

Phil Slusser discussed his extensive experience over 35 years as a volunteer firefighter and his current work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Phil has been a fire commissioner of Benton and King Counties, and member of the Kennewick Police Advisory Team.

As a firefighter, Phil responded to over 10,000 calls, the biggest of which was the [2005 School Fire in the Blue Mountains](#). Phil fought both wild land and structure fires, thoroughly learning to *put the wet stuff on the red stuff*. For home fire safety, he shared several tips with us, including:

- Ensure your house number is clearly visible from the street
- If you call 911 for help, have somebody by the street to signal the first responders.
- Use smoke detectors and change the batteries when you change your clocks.
- Shake fire extinguisher periodically to keep the powder from solidifying.



Phil also addressed several issues regarding medical emergencies. He explained that unless an original “do not resuscitate” directive is presented to paramedics, they are obliged to make every effort to resuscitate a patient. He also stressed the importance of having a complete list of medications available for a patient to give to paramedics.

Phil was involved with the Chemical Stockpile

Emergency Preparedness Program at the Umatilla Army Depot. The challenge at Umatilla is disposal of thousands of warheads of nerve agents and other chemical weapons.



Phil discussed the Community Emergency Response Team program, which enables citizens to get training to assist professional emergency services workers.

Phil explained that FEMA is organized to respond to emergencies by dividing the country into 10 regions. We are in Region 10 headquartered in Bothell, WA. The range of emergencies to which FEMA responds includes:

- Chemical Emergencies
- Dam Failure
- Earthquake
- Fire or Wildfire
- Flood
- Hazardous Material
- Heat
- Hurricane
- Landslide
- Nuclear Power Plant Emergency
- Terrorism
- Thunderstorm
- Tornado
- Tsunami
- Volcano
- Winter Storm

The mechanism to trigger FEMA involvement can be complex, involving local, county, and state governments, a governor’s request, and a Presidential declaration.

Most of Phil’s FEMA work has involved hurricanes. He worked on the response to Hurricane Ivan in 2004, a class 5 hurricane that spawned 117 tornadoes in the eastern U.S. He is trained as a “debris monitor” to manage the massive effort to remove and dispose of debris.



taking it away



*staking it up*

Phil responded to the 2005 “double hit” of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He worked mainly in Houston to distribute assistance to thousands of displaced persons that had been evacuated from the impact areas.



*lined up for help*



*hurricane shelter*

Phil described the evacuation from the Houston area when Hurricane Rita was approaching as the largest evacuation in the American history. It took him 8 hours to cross Houston for his own airlift.



*escaping Rita*



*aftermath*

Phil described the massive effort on the Gulf coast to filter and restore sand to the beaches that had been removed by the storms.



*Putting back the sand*

His latest hurricane assignment was in response to hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. The evacuation of New Orleans was especially dramatic, when the mayor declared that anyone who decided to stay “would be making the biggest mistake of their lives.” The prediction proved exaggerated, but it sparked a huge exodus and subsequent return.

Winter snow emergencies have also been part of Phil’s duties with FEMA. After a Presidential Declaration, the agency reimburses local governments for overtime labor, equipment, materials, contracts and rentals incurred within 48 hours of the snowfall. Phil’s work involves the financial management of winter emergency aid.



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