



Kiwanis Club of Independence
Newsletter
Judy Luffman-editor

Dates to Remember

- **Monday, Sept. 15**, Division IV Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Independence Bass Pro Shops.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 23**, Roundtable Lunch at Ophelia's. Meet in the outer dining area, service from the menu, individual checks. No regular club meeting this noon because of the New Club Officer's Installation Dinner this evening.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 23**, 6:30 p.m. (punch bowl at 6:00), at Comfort Suites near I-70 and Little Blue Parkway. Cost, \$20/person. Let's come to support our new club officers and express appreciation for those who have served this past year.
- **Saturday, Sept. 27**, Ethnic Enrichment Festival at McCoy Park, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will have an informational booth about Independence Kiwanis. Watch for a sign-up sheet (2 hour shifts) circulated by Barbara Langley. This is a good PR tool for our club.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 1**, Drumm Farm Golf Tournament. This is a service activity in which we provide hosts for 8 holes that feature special contests (i.e., closest approach shot, longest putt, etc.). Hosts greet players, explain the rules for their respective holes, and assist in other ways as needed. Information about hosts' roles will be distributed on the day of the tournament. Shifts are 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. – or choose an all-day shift. See sign-up sheet circulating at meetings and as an e-mail attachment this past week.

Happy Birthday

September 19, Donna Romanzi
September 22, Scott Roberson

Happy Anniversary

September 16, Jim & Greta Alexander
September 21, Gary & Lynn Logan

News about the Next Meeting

Gina Elkins, Executive Director of our local Habitat for Humanity Affiliate, will be our speaker.

Meeting Assignments

Pledge Leader **Bob Haas**
Song Leader **Judy Luffman**
Opening Prayer **Fred Larsen**

A Busy Retiree "Time Traveler"

What does a retired professor of Remedial Education at Macon State University (Georgia) do to stay busy? She becomes a student, of course. Dr. Dolores Sparrow, sister of club member Barbra Langley, was our speaker last Tuesday. Her power point presentation was based on her study, titled "Today's Iraq: Yesterday's Mesopotamia" – a timely topic!



Barbara Langley (left) with her sister and "best friend," Dr. Dolores Sparrow.

We were transported back some 7,000 years to the Fertile Crescent formed by the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers that still flow through the center of Iraq. "This was the Cradle of Civilization," Dr. Sparrow said.

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Many of the ethnic and cultural divisions we see in that part of the world today date back to the tribal and ethnic societies of Mesopotamia. The Ur Dynasty, in particular, might be worth careful study by nations vying for power in the region today. According to Dr. Sparrow, they used military might to greatly expand their territory, but had problems managing rapid expansion.

Dr. Sparrow visually illustrated for us the development of the world's first written language by the Sumerians – from drawing pictures at first, then pictograms, and finally with Cuneiform characters. For those interested in exploring this subject further, she recommends a website that contains an electronic text corpus of Sumerian literature. Here's the link: <http://etcsl.orinst.ox.ac.uk/>

Brag Bag

Barbara Langley: Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Independence! This year's Santa-Cali-Gon Festival was the 3rd largest ever! It was also a good weekend for our club; we raised \$1,442 at our parking lot for our service activities budget.

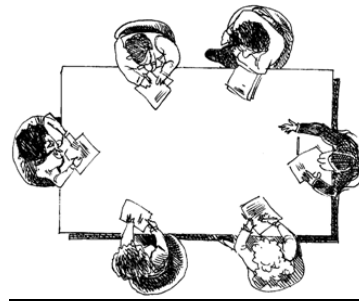
Don Coffman: True to a retired coach's heart, Don attended 4 soccer games on Saturday. Of course, his grandchildren were playing and two of them scored goals.

Club Presents Gift to Crossroads



Cathy Asher, Director of Crossroads Homeless Shelter, receives our check for \$300 from club president Don Coffman.

Board Actions



The joint meeting of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Boards of Directors on Sept 10 took the following actions:

- Approved membership resignations (with regret) from Dr. Gerald Lee and Nick Hadley.
- Approved a request for a 6-month leave of absence from Joe Donald.
- Approved a gift to Heifer International in the amount of the balance in that fund at the close of this administrative year (Sept. 30). The balance on Aug. 30 was \$56.40.
- Approved an additional gift of \$200, to be added to the Heifer International gift (see above), in the name of the outgoing club officers and board members, in recognition and appreciation for their service to the club.
- Discussed the need for a more aggressive approach to membership recruitment. We have experienced a net loss of ten (10) members this administrative year. This has contributed to a decrease in average attendance at weekly club meetings. The board will ask Nina Anders to explore with Ophelia's the possibility of reducing the minimum number of 31 meals we now must pay each week to the restaurant.

"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time."