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# K *The Kiwanis Club of Abilene* KIWANIGRAM



Vol. LIX

December 24, 2008

No. 13

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## **NO MEETING UNTIL JANUARY**

There will be no meeting on December 31 due to the Holiday. We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting of the year on January 7 with the program by the **Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau**.

The next Board Meeting will be on January 13.

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## **SPIRITUAL AIMS PROGRAM December 17**

**Russell Berry** presided. **Jeff Goodin** led the prayer, **Ken Lenoir** led the singing. **Millie Braddy** played piano. **J. C. McCurdy** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Alan Eggleston** introduced our guests.

**John Snapp** reported that we gave \$265 to American Heart Association Heart Walk.

We received a note of thanks from Woody Gilliland of West Texas Rehab Center for the \$1000 gift to that center in honor of **Van Boozer**, the Bailey Choate award winner.

**Gordon Dowell** reported that we had extended the application process for those interested in proposing a project for the International Project Committee to January 14. A form can be found on the December 10th Kiwanigram, or call Gordon at 673-4026 for a copy of one.



Mrs. Kari Leong, principal at Jane Lone Elementary, reported on a family in her school who had fallen on hard times in the past few months. The single mother of this family had 3 children of her own. Her sister died, so this mother took in 4 of her sister's children, then another sister was incarcerated in November. This single mother took in her sister's 4 children - 11 children to care for at this Christmas time. Instead of passing the brag basket, we passed the basket in support of this mother. At the end of the meeting, we contributed \$585 from those in attendance to help with this worthy project brought to us by **Jerry Harris**. Thank you Kiwanians, for being so loving, compassionate, and giving.

**Don Scargall** sang two Christmas songs, and **Dr. Jack Riddlehoover** presented the Christmas story. His theme was the "faces" of Christmas and encouraged all of to show the joy of Christmas in our faces, not only at this time of the year, but on all occasions.

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## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray for **Ruby Coke**, wife of **Bud Coke**. Pray for others who are sick or hurting, and perhaps lonely during this Christmas season. Also remember those serving our country in the military who cannot be home at this time of year.

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## **Banner Patch Awarded Club**

The Kiwanis Club of Abilene received a Banner Patch from Kiwanis International for our contribution of \$575.00 to the foundation. The patch has been given to **Don Riddle** to be added to our banner.

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Cup Money - \$59.26



Family Gift - \$585.00

See Program Story – Page 1

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## BIRTHDAY'S

December 23 **Glyn Hammons**  
December 23 **Russell Leavenworth**  
December 26 **Bud Coke**  
December 31 **Kenny Smith**



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## RECENT GUESTS – December 17, 2008

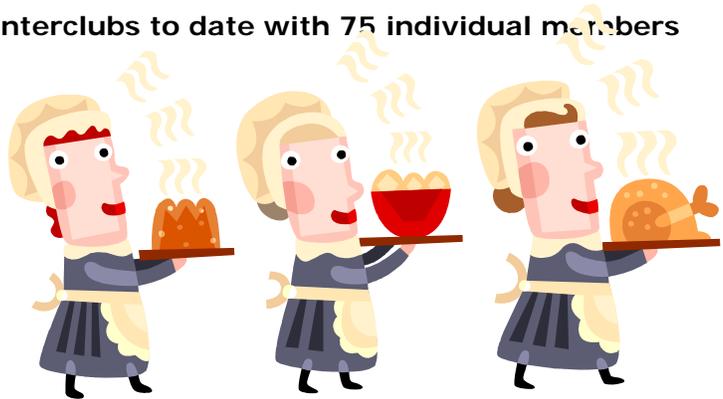
Guests attending the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting received a tremendous blessing as they witnessed the giving hears of the Kiwanis Club of Abilene members, and we were honored by their presence. January 7<sup>th</sup> will be the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the New Year and of the month. Invite those who attended on the 17<sup>th</sup> back to visit us again, bring a new guest, and encourage guests to join the Best Kiwanis Club in the Universe!

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**INTERCLUBS:** We have made 22 Interclubs to date with 75 individual members participating.

*Club of North Abilene*  
*Feast of Sharing – Service Project*  
Tuesday, December 9

**Gary Bomar**  
**James Castle**  
**Keith Garner**  
**Mark Hoover**  
**Kelly Jones**  
**Sharon Jones**  
**Don Paige**  
**Clarence Presswood**



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## MEMBERSHIP

<b>Jud Powell</b>	11/12/08	Former club President (1988-89)!
<b>Jennifer Kent</b>	12/3/08	Transfer from Greater Abilene Club

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## FUTURE PROGRAMS

**Jan 14** - Former Texas Representative, Bob Hunter  
**Jan 21** – Jan Rose, RN – Her Year in Iraq  
**Jan 28** – Basketball Shootout



We received a thank you note for the \$1000.00 donated to the West Texas Rehabilitation Center.

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### Community Service Presentations:

**Kari Leong, Principal at Jane Long Elementary**, told the club about a single mother who is caring for eleven children.

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## Hendrick Children's Hospital Wing     Goal \$50,000

48 MEMBERS PLEDGING TO THE HENDRICK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN

**Approximate money pledged to date**

**\$19,200.00**

**Amount collected to date**

**\$13,045.82**

**Amount needed to meet \$50,000 goal**



**\$30,800.00**

Even though it was reported this week that HMC was postponing their construction schedule, their intent is to do the new building and rehabilitation when a more suitable bond environment is possible. We want to continue with our commitment to provide the \$50,000 for the Kiwanis Club of Abilene Children's Room. This delay will give us a little more time to complete our pledge.

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## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE "MEALS ON WHEELS" AND "PROGRAM" COMMITTEES!**



**Ken Lenoir** chairs the Meals on Wheels Committee. This is a service committee in which every member can play a part. Volunteers serve meals to those members of our community who would go hungry otherwise.

**Lora Lynn Christensen** chairs our Program Committee. The committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month and reviews programs of the past month and plans, organizes and arranges future programs.

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**J. C. and Arlyne McCurdy** celebrated their 69th anniversary on Dec. 27.



**Don Scargall** sang "The Living God" and "All is Well".

**Millie Braddy** accompanied him at the piano.





Top: **Brother Jack Riddlehoover** brought an inspirational Christmas message. **Don Scargall** and **Jeff Goodin** visit prior to the meeting.



Bottom: Our **See by Three Committee** in action - **Jerry Carter** and **Dick Kincaid** fill out the required paperwork for vision screening at First Baptist Church's GLO (God's Little Ones) Day Care Center. **Sharon Jones** checks Joshua's vision.

### 2008-2009 OFFICERS

Russell Berry	President	Mark Young	President-Elect
Jamie Breed	Vice-President	Ricki Brown	Treasurer/Foundation Treasurer
Randy Williams	Vice President	Faye Dodson	Secretary
Charles Kirkpatrick	Vice President	Henry McGinty	Assistant Secretary
Carl Lockett	Immediate Past-President		

### 2008-2009 DIRECTORS

#### TWO YEARS

Ty Purcell	Mac Sipe
Shirley Velasco	Kelly Jones
Mark Hoover	

#### ONE YEAR

Sharon Jones	J.R. Velasco
Jerry Carter	John Thomas
Lora Lynn Christensen	

### The Kiwanis Club of Abilene Chartered - May 25, 1921

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**KIWANIS IS WHERE A NEED IS Served**

## **BC Checks**

### ***Why Background Checks?***

We are going to try to answer about 5 questions today regarding the issue of individual background checks for members of the Kiwanis Club of Abilene. Those questions are: Why Background Checks? What Are They Checking? Who Should Do It? Who Is Doing The Checks and What is the Process? And What Are We, The Kiwanis Club of Abilene Going To Do About It?

People doing national research indicate that dishonest individuals seeking to defraud others will attempt to establish themselves through affiliations with respected community groups to legitimize their reputations. As a club, we must protect ourselves from this possibility, and potential major liability.

Because some Kiwanis clubs have trusted some folks too much, Kiwanis Intl was sued last year for several million dollars because of sexual misconduct with a child.

As a result, Kiwanis Intl, and the T/O District have established new policies that include requiring background checks for all members of Kiwanis clubs who have any interaction with children. That means that if an individual club gets sued and they have not had background checks, that club is on their own in defending the suit.

This is new to Kiwanis, but not new to the non-profits who work with children. Mark indicated to the board last week that all employees at Boys and Girls have to submit to background checks to be in compliance. And I know that our church requires background checks on all the employees that work with children, even those volunteers who work with Upward Football, Basketball, and Soccer.

Back in the old days, this idea was as foreign as Bangladesh, but in this day and time, it is just the right thing to do for our own protection.

### ***What Are They Checking?***

They are checking for traffic offences that show criminal records such as a DWI or hit and run. A speeding ticket or running a stop sign would not show up.

They are checking for any misdemeanors or felonies, especially in regard to sexual misconduct.

They are not checking for lawsuits or bankruptcies because these are not criminal offences.

### ***Who Is Doing The Checking?***

There is a company in Arlington that has been thoroughly reviewed by T/O who has been contracted to conduct the checks. The club members complete two forms, one is an application and the other is a consent form, they are then sent to the T/O office that gets them to the checking company.

The cost is \$7.30 per check.

The T/O office then reports back to the club secretary of those who have a positive report. If there is a negative report on an individual, the governor is contacted and follows up personally with the individual, then if they want to appeal, there is a 3-member panel that adjudicates the appeal.

### ***What Are We Going To Do?***

Our board has already had a presentation by Lt. Gov. Bill Hoogstra, then we have had an orientation about the issue today, I will have a couple of opportunities to address the issue in the Kiwanigram for the benefit for those who are not here. The board and I request your feedback and feelings on this issue, so we will have about 3 weeks to listen to your opinions.

The strategy that I will suggest, if the board approves that we do this, is to pay for this project in this fashion. We will have income for the two weeks coming up where we do not have to pay for our meals, and my proposal is to take the income from those meetings and pay for everyone's background check so that there will be no need for additional money. The background check is good for 2 years, so if we have other times in the next two years where we suspend a meeting, we can "bank" those monies for new members coming into the club.

The board will be voting on this issue on Jan. 13.

***We do not have time today to get into a lengthy discussion, but I urge you to contact Bill, Nancy, or me if you have a question or concern.***