**Brian Hansen** e-mail: bh80303@comcast.net

**Brian Dean Hansen** (born November 11, 1943), who was the Manager of Roadway for the Denver E-470 toll-way and is retired and the facilitator of the Longmont Colorado Senior Center and Stanley Lake Public Library “The Great Ideas Reading and Discussion Groups”.

**Education and Career**

Hansen was born in Wisner, Nebraska, the son of Dr. W.D. Hansen and May Winther Hansen. Dr. Hansen was a respected small town physician and surgeon and remembered for his common sense philosophy.

Brian graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder with a B.S. from the School of Business. He instructed the Dale Carnegie Sales Course and taught at the Jones Real Estate College. He owned Brian Hansen Realty and Brian Hansen Appraisal Co.

Hansen has one child, Brad, with his first wife, Moya. Brad and Rebecca have two sons, Elijah and Wyatt. Hansen married court-reporter/business-owner Pamela Meade in 1994, who has two children, a son named Jeff and a daughter named Jamie.

**Experience with the Great Books/Ideas**

On his 44th birthday, Hansen bought a used 54-volume set of *Great Books of the Western World*. In opening the books, he realized the immenseness of this collection and soon concluded that he needed to discuss the readings with others to get a better understanding.

Hansen participated in a Great Books Reading and Discussion group at a Denver library until 1993, when he moved to Boulder. He immediately joined the Boulder Great Books Reading and Discussion group and quickly became interested in doing more. He and another person then formed what they called “the small reading group” to read and discuss selections from the Great Books Ten Years of Reading List. In 1997 an issue started to crop up in the mind of Hansen. Some participants from both the large and small groups wanted long reading selections from The Great Books and Hansen thought short reading selections were better. Reason: the understanding of what the author was trying to say and the depth of discussion was better with short selections.

Hansen left and in September 1998 formed The Great Ideas Reading and Discussion Group at the Boulder main public library. It lasted 6 years and when Hansen moved to Longmont, CO he started

* the Longmont Library Great Ideas group in the fall of 2005,
* the Longmont Senior Center and the Loveland Public Library group in 2010.
* The Boulder Senior Center and Louisville Senior Center in 2014
* and the Stanley Lake Public Library group in 2018.

Most groups last 6-10 years.