



Hanover Rotary Club Minutes

7/7/2021 Weekly Meeting

Blessing: Brenda

Pledge: Ted

Attending Members: Penny, Brenda, Mike and Rachel Swinford, Mike Smith, Ken, Robert, Ted, Judson, Aimee, David Creasy and Ed Via.

Honorary Rotarian: N/A

Visiting Rotarians: N/A

Guests: Stephen Wilson, Executive Director @ St. John's Church

Brenda called the meeting to order at 6:51pm.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report:

12 Rotarians and 1 guest.

Happy Bucks:

- Mike Swinford was happy that there are only two cases of Polio currently.
- Rachel Swinford was happy because we have such an awesome speaker tonight.
- Penny was happy that everyone who attended last week's meeting participated in creating our strategic plan. More information to come. Check your email with the minutes from last week's meeting for more details.
- Mike Smith was happy because Ed Via was in attendance.

Rotary Minute:

Rotary Attendance. Regular attendance is essential to a strong and active Rotary club. The emphasis on attendance is traced back to 1922, when Rotary International announced a worldwide attendance contest that motivated thousands of Rotarians to achieve 100 percent attendance year after year. Many Rotarians take great pride in maintaining their 100 percent record in their own club or by making up at other Rotary club meetings. Rotary's e-clubs make it easy for members to make up meetings online.

Our members with the most perfect attendance: the late Marshall Hart -30 years, Glenn Moore- 26 years.

Announcements:

7/10- Volunteer to help with our Grant@Washington Henry. If interested, email Brenda for more details.

7/10- Change of Leadership/Awards for D7600. Begins at 11am. It's at Heritage Country Club in Williamsburg.

7/14 Meeting - Debbie Walls, new District Governor. Board Members/Committee Chairs-There will be a board meeting at 5:45pm. Please be prepared to talk about your position and any goals you have for the year.

7/21 Meeting - Brian Traynor- President of Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

7/28 Meeting - Stephen Beer, District Foundation Chair for D7600.

Program:

Stephen Wilson, Executive Director- St. John's Church. Stephen Wilson was named Executive Director of the St. John's Church Foundation on May 27, 2021. Wilson joined the organization as its first Director of Development in 2019; since then philanthropic support and donors have more than doubled, providing the organization with vital financial resources to complete important historic preservation projects and achieve the organizations' mission.

Wilson previously served in director level positions at Virginia State University and Richard Bland College of William and Mary, and is a twenty year veteran of the private sector including President of an award-winning corporate hospitality company. He has served on numerous nonprofit boardings including the Richard Bland Foundation, Petersburg Area Art League, and Crater Community Hospice. He is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and Richard Bland College of William and Mary and holds a certificate in sustainable urban agriculture from Virginia State University.

The organization is most known for its Liberty or Death reenactments. Reenactments have run for 46 years making it the longest running historical performance in Richmond and central Virginia. 9 professional actors put on the reenactment in 1770s attire -portray delegates, including Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington.

As tensions grew between the colonies and Great Britain in the 1770s, Virginia held a series of meetings to organize its protests against the mother country. In March of 1775, the Second Virginia Convention was held here at Henrico Parish Church. Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Peyton Randolph and other prominent Virginians were delegates to the convention. Here, Patrick Henry embodied the spirit of the Revolution on March 23, 1775, with his words, "Give me liberty...or give me death!"

Our mission is to spark a global appreciation for understanding the role that Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty" speech had in setting America on its path to liberty for all, and to ignite the public's commitment for preserving the historic site where it happened.

Built in 1741. In 1961 it was given historical status. Education and preservation are two of its main goals. St. Johns' is the oldest church with the oldest graveyard as well. They do offer private reenactments and a Title 1 program to schools.

Additional programming: Walter W. Craigie Speaker Series, Author Talks and Fancy Me Mad.

Recent Historic Preservation Projects: Meneely Church Bell Restoration and Foundation repair of the church.

If you would like more information, you can contact Stephen Wilson at swilson@historicstjohnschurch.org.

After Judson led the Club in the 4-Way test, Brenda adjourned the meeting at 7:28pm.

Michelle Nelms