 **Hanover Rotary Club Minutes **

07/5/2017

**Total Hanover Rotarians Present:** 19

**Visiting Rotarians:** Rich Salon, Goodland Rotary Club

**Guest: (2)** Nancy Creasy and Albert Bridges, Prospective Member (guest of Rich Salon)

**Speaker:** JoAnn Meaker, Hanover Rotary Club

**Grace:** Jerry **Pledge**: Ken

\*\*Clint presiding in Dan’s absence while on vacation.

**Important Dates:**

1. 7/13, Thursday: Rotary Night at the Diamond ; \*\*No meeting on Wednesday, 7/12
   1. See JoAnn for tickets; she will be at the ticket booth before the start of the game for you to pick up your ticket if purchased. First pitch is at 6:35pm.
   2. Reminder that proceeds from Rotary Night at the Diamond will go to Polio Plus.
2. 9/8, Friday: Hanover Rotary Club Social Opportunity: Capital Steps: Tickets were purchased in advance.

**Other Announcements:**

1. Rich (visiting Rotarian) announced that the Goochland Club does something called “Five Friday’s”. On months that have 5 Friday’s, they will meet the night before (Thursday) their regular Friday morning meeting. This meeting is more social and BBQ and drinks are served.
2. Acknowledgement of thank you note from Hopetree Family Services.
3. We are looking to have a fun social meeting on Wed., August 9th at Center of the Universe Brewery (COTU). Will connect with the Presidents from Ashland and Mechanicsville to invite their members as well. This would be a great opportunity to bring prospective members!
4. The YMCA has lined up a Hanover Rotary Club summer camp visit for Thursday, July 27th from 9:30-11:00am. Come see the impact of our club’s gift in action! Visitors will meet at the Patrick Henry Family YMCA at 9:30am; please RSVP attendance to Holly so that the Y can appropriately prepare for your visit. In addition, the Atlee Station Family YMCA is taking youth in need back to school shopping through the YMCA Bright Beginnings program on Monday, August 7th at the Mechanicsville Target, club members are encouraged to consider volunteering to shop with a child in need. See Holly if interested.

**Program:** JoAnn Meaker: Author, Stories Beneath the Stones

* JoAnn’s book is about the Richmond National Cemetery (1701 Williamsburg Road) and details the stories of soldiers that are buried there.
* JoAnn got started on this journey in 2006 when she and Norm were left a civil-war era disk from Norm’s family. This belonged to a family member who had been a Union soldier.
* Visits to historic battlefields on trips to see their son and daughter-in-law in Virginia led to uncovering little bits and pieces of information that kept JoAnn interested in learning more.
* At a visit to the cemetery to lay wreaths with Wreaths Across America, JoAnn took to heart the words of their guide who encouraged everyone to go home and research the name that they laid the wreath in front of; that the name was much more than just a name – that there were incredible stories that went along with those names.
* The cemetery opened in 1866, mostly because they needed a place to rest Union soldiers who had died while in the Confederate led Belle Isle Prison Camp.
* In doing research for the book JoAnn uncovered that there were multiple lists of the soldiers that were buried there and none of them matched – there were many errors. Through her research, JoAnn helped to clarify falsely documented information.
* All of the headstones in the cemetery are the same except for four. There was a very brief period of time where family members could choose what the headstone looked like.
* There are only two Confederate headstones in the cemetery – the rest belong to Union soldiers.
* This book was very hard to research due to most of the material being in script/handwriting as opposed to being typed.
* JoAnn now volunteers to give tours at the Richmond National Cemetery and will be giving a book talk at the Varina Library.

**4-Way Test:** Marshall