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**Hanover Rotary Club Minutes**

**11/10/21 Weekly Meeting**

Brenda called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

**Blessing: Robert**

**Pledge: Amy**

**Attending Members:** Judson, Michelle, Aimee, David Creasey, Brenda, Robert, Glenn, Holly, Ted, Robert

**Honorary Rotarian:** None

**Visiting Rotarians:** Dave Fuller, Mechanicsville Rotary

**Guests:** Sanjeev Saxena, almost new member; Brian McGee, guest of Robert

**Sergeant-at-Arms Report**: Brenda stood in for Mike. 11 Rotarians are present with 2 guests present. No jokes tonight ☹

**Happy Bucks:**

Brenda is happy because she survived her COVID Booster shot

**Rotary Minute:**

No minute tonight

**Announcements:**

One more week for Peanut Sales! All orders are due by next Wednesday, November 17. They will be delivered on December 9 at the Christmas Party.

Giving Tuesday is November 30 – stay tuned for more details

Christmas Party, Thursday, December 9th at Ashcreek (No meeting on Dec 8) Penny will be sending the sign-up sheet by e-mail.

Janice had a sign-up sheet for the Red Kettle Salvation Army December 4. Contact her if you want to sign up.

Wreaths Across America – December 18 at 11 a.m. to lay wreaths – Cold Harbor Cemetery

We can purchase wreaths ahead of time to be laid at the cemetery.

Tomorrow is Veteran’s Day – Hanover Rotary thanks all

Thanks to Sanjeev for returning – he will be a new member soon!

Arnie & Celeste will be returning to the area before Thanksgiving. Arnie plans to transferring his membership to our club – Celeste will stay on the dark side for now!

**Program:**

The Mechanicsville Rotary Christmas Parade is a small-town, family parade. Since its inception in the 80’s, it has been canceled just twice: once for ice and once last year for COVID-19.

It’s the first Sunday in December at 2 p.m. This year it’s December 5. It’s held rain or shine, except for the time it was icy.

Parade is two miles through Mechanicsville – stage at Battlefield Green, go through Windsor sub division, back to Atlee Road and back to Old Mechanicsville Turnpike through Mechanicsville and ends at the windmill. 700 participants usually and 5000 who watch. There are 100 units in the parade. Most are from the Richmond area. This year there are fewer units in the parade due to COVID, but it’s not unexpected.

There are two rules, have fun and be safe! There is a book of rules but they boil down to the two main ones! About 80% of the units are returning units. The sheriff’s department is very supportive. The parade requires a VDOT permit to close the roads because the Hanover roads are owned by VDOT.

Prior to 1995 the Parade was originated by John & Gloria Clodfelter. It started as a gathering around a Christmas Tree in the Windmill parking lot – John Clodfelter, a larger gentleman, grew out his beard and met with the kids dressed as Santa under the tree. That morphed into a parade that was about ½ mile long but got bigger and bigger until they couldn’t handle it anymore. The Mechanicsville Rotary took over in 1995. They partner with the Ruritans, who started selling concessions from golf carts that go along the route. The proceeds go to the Christmas Mother and over the years have awarded over $15,000 in contributions to the Christmas Mother.

It’s all volunteer and all they want is everyone to have fun and enjoy themselves in a family atmosphere!

After Judson led the Club in the 4-Way Test, Brenda adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Michelle Nelms