

**Hanover Rotary Club Notes**

10/2/24 Weekly Meeting

Arnie called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Thought for the day: Celeste

Pledge: Penny

Attending Members: Ted, Michelle, Celeste, Arnie, Mike, Judson, Glenn, Canova, Ken, Katherine, Holly, Ed Via, Penny, Aimee, Sanjeev

Visiting Rotarians: Charlie & Jan Clemens, Ashland Rotary Club

Guests: Lauren Bell, Randolph Macon College

Sergeant-at-Arms Report: Celeste reported that there 17 people. 14 Rotarians present. 2 visiting Rotarians, 1 speaker.

Good bars for good jobs – Michelle for getting the notes out quickly

**Announcements:**

We had a good presence at the District Conference

Western Henrico Rotary Club is hosting their golf tournament – ask Arnie for Details

World Polio Day is October 24. Everyone is encouraged to make a donation to Polio Plus on the Rotary Website

Sanjeev’s Daughter will be attending RYLA

Glenn is kicking off the Plantation Peanuts fundraiser. The order form is being sent out.

**Program:**

The October 2024 term starts on Monday.

The Supreme Court Building was finished in 1935, under budget. It’s a relatively new building in DC. The course exists because of Article III of the US Constitution. It describes the composition of the federal courts, the term and compensation and jurisdiction. There is no fixed number of judges in the constitution. Historically, the court has been the least known institution.

Until 1925, The Supreme Court had to hear every case and appeal. After that, they decided they can pick and choose. The law clerks get together in a weekly conference and divvy up the petitions to read and decide which get heard.

The court receives about 8000 petitions a year, and only hears about 1% of those. Every case has a disposition. If they don’t hear a case, it means the lower court decision stands.

Four justices have to agree on hearing the cases. They explicitly decided not to require a majority to hear the case. They issue an “Orders List” that states the decisions on the cases.

Last October term (Oct 2023-June 2024) there were several important cases:

Most cases are decided 9-0 or 8-1 but the high-profile cases have closer margins

Separation of Powers: Should the Supreme Court’s decision in Chevron USA, Inc. v Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc (1984) be overturned. Court said yes – so congress will need to be clearer in drafting statutes.

Presidential Powers – Trump v United States

Question was to whether and to what extent a former president enjoys immunity from prosecution for acts alleged to have occurred as part of his official duties? The court said that when presidents engage in official acts, they are immune from criminal prosecution – and that all acts enjoy a presumption of officiality.

Consequences – Presidents now enjoy nearly unqualified immunity from prosecution. In the Trump case, it will delay proceedings against him

First Amendment/Social Media cases: When Public Officials engage in state action, cannot exclude members of the public from viewing their posts. It defined State Action, public official must Have authority to speak on the government’s behalf

Be using that authority when speaking on social media

Another case dealt with social media moderation and whether Social Media companies should be allowed to moderate contact.

Another case in the area of Election law dealt with political gerrymanders.

A Second Amendment case was heard about a man who said his right to bear arms was taken away due to a domestic violence restraining order. The court decided that if a person has been determined to be a threat to others, the person can be temporarily disarmed.

In the upcoming term they have taken fewer cases. They believe they will be asked to weigh in on a number of claims relating to the upcoming November elections and do not want to be over-scheduled.

There is a case on ‘ghost guns’ and whether they meet the federal regulations for what constitutes a firearm. Another one is a gender identity case as well as technical cases in other areas.

There will be an increased focus on Judicial Ethics. The challenge is who can tell the Court to behave better?

Looking Ahead – lots of 6-3 decisions are likely, a likely reluctance to wade into political claims, and the lack of ability of the Chief Justice to control the court.

**Happy/Sad Bucks:**

Arnie is happy that Lauren was here and is happy that he was able to meet his goal of walking a 5K in under an hour and not being last!

Aimee met a Supreme Court Justice in a doctor’s office!

Katherine is happy that the Community Services Board is doing an “Adopt a family” to fulfil wish lists for Christmas. The Club seems interested in helping out.

**Rotary Minute:**

Ken gave a Rotary Minute – There is request for donations from Zone 33 & 34 for Hurricane Relief.

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

Michelle Nelms

**Upcoming Dates**

**October 2024**

*October is Community Economic and Development Month*

October 9 - NO MEETING

October 12 – Road Clean Up – Contact Sanjeev for more info

October 16 - Board Meeting

October 16 - Club Meeting - District Governor Joy Kline

October 23 - NO MEETING

October 24 - World Polio Day

October 30 - Club Social - Location TBD

**November 2024**

*November is Rotary Foundation Month*

November 6 - Club Meeting Major Kim - Salvation Army

November 13 - NO MEETING

November 14 - Foundation Banquet Colonial Heritage CC, Williamsburg

November 20 - Board Meeting

November 20 - Club Assembly – Presentation of Slate of Officers

November 27 - NO MEETING

**December 2024**

*December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month*

December 4 - Club Meeting Speaker TBD

December 11 (or 12) - Holiday Party! - Ashcake Clubhouse

December 18 - Board Meeting

December 18 - Club Meeting - Election of Office for 2025-26

December 25 - NO MEETING - Merry Christmas!