

CMH President/CEO Rex McKinney Gives Hospital Update



Local Rotarian Rex McKinney, who serves as President and CEO of Decatur County Memorial Hospital (DCMH), presented Greensburg Rotarians with his annual update on the successes and challenges at DCMH, with a heavy emphasis on effects associated with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

Noting that, in regular society, things have become “pretty normal” during the pandemic, McKinney stated that, in the healthcare world, “COVID is at the top of our mind” and has “been consuming us for about 20 months now.” With a vaccination rate at 48.6%, slightly below the national average of 55.1% as reported by CNN Health, Decatur County has had 53 in-patient admissions for COVID since the beginning of June, with about a quarter of those requiring advanced care and 13% dying of the disease—mostly in the segment of the population at highest risk—the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. However, positive COVID tests have recently trended toward younger residents who are statistically less likely to get vaccinated. The DCMH Emergency Room has seen surges of 120-160 patients per day, above the normal 40-60, with many of those being patients exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. Decatur county has run at about a 2.5% positivity rate for the past 10

days, though McKinney indicated that rates are trending down. About COVID, McKinney stressed to Rotarians that “it’s real” and ‘it’s out there!’

A secondary effect on the hospital has been staff turnover of 17-18% in an already tight labor market. While this is better than the state or national average, McKinney stressed that everyone on the staff matters. To help maintain employees and address high demand for medical services, DCMH implemented overtime bonuses of \$10-\$30/hour over and above regular overtime rates. Administrators have also chosen to hold off on requiring employees to get the COVID vaccination, instead “highly recommending vaccination,” for a number of reasons including a concern that some employees may choose to leave rather than take the vaccination.

Despite the COVID effects and concerns, McKinney reported that there is a lot of very positive news to report regarding DCMH. The hospital has received a coveted Five-Star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), placing them among the top 15 percent of hospitals nationwide and the top 7% in Indiana! He went on to say that he was proud of the staff’s “boardroom to bedside effort” to provide the best care for the community.

Additionally, DCMH is bringing on a number of new physicians: Dr Mary Fogler (Direct Primary Care), Dr Brian Israel (OB/GYN), Dr Anxhela Treska (OB/GYN) and Dr Jacob Grow (Plastic Surgery).

DCMH recently purchased five acres of property around the existing facility to accommodate future growth. This unique opportunity to expand on the existing, 25-acre campus means that the hospital will have room for a planned, dedicated, 10K sq ft Physical Therapy facility and can avoid having to look for land further away from the primary facility.

McKinney also mentioned upcoming events, including a Men’s Health Tailgate Party from 10am - 3pm, 14 November (RSVP to 812-663-1228 by 13 Nov), which includes free food, drinks, and door prizes and, most importantly, free screening for a number of medical conditions. He also reminded Rotarians that next year is DCMH’s 100th anniversary.

Greensburg Rotary Members Welcome Local LMHC-AT as Club’s Newest Rotarian

Courtney Wittmer, a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Art Therapist at Decatur County Memorial Hospital, became Greensburg Rotary Club’s newest member at Monday’s meeting. She stated that she was excited to once again be part of an active, community service organization. She specializes in mental health services for older adults and is the Program Therapist for the DCMH Senior Life Solutions program that offers intensive outpatient group therapy, individual therapy, and family therapy to its patients. Her clinical experience, provided through Senior Life Solutions, includes: crisis intervention, grief/loss, chronic illness, caregiving, hopelessness, loneliness, and difficulties with life transitions. Wittmer was sponsored by Barb Jakad.



GREENSBURG ROTARY PRESIDENT’S CHAT

Thanks to everyone for your patience with our ever-changing meeting schedule. I’m looking forward to meeting at City Hall next week to tour the newly remodeled offices; then we’ll hopefully be back to our regular meeting routine.

As our Club’s plans for World Polio Day evolve, I want to thank Kelby Owens and Lora Williams for sponsoring our local event. This will be a unique way to recognize and bring attention to Rotary’s efforts in the fight against Polio. If you have a minute, take a look at this article that Jerry and Darleen Fox shared. It’s a reminder of how far we’ve come in the fight against this awful disease: [Iron will | Bill Gates \(gatesnotes.com\)](#)

Serving To Change Lives, Jenni

ROTARY CALENDAR

Upcoming Programs:

October 11 - City Hall Tour

October 18 - Polio Guest Speaker
(tentative)

October 25 - Fire Chief Nathan Stoermer

Other Important Dates:

October 08 - Board Meeting @ the Branch at 7:45a

Week of Oct 18 - Meals on Wheels Service Project (More info to come)

October 21—World Polio Day Event @ The Branch (11a-3p)

OFFICERS 2021-2022

Jenni Hanna	President
Tami Wenning	Past President
Alex Sefton	President-Elect
Lora Williams	Secretary
Linda Simmons	Treasurer
Jeff Emsweller	Public Relations
Alex Sefton	Vocational Service
Daryl Tressler	Sergeant-At-Arms
Sally Koors	Club / Youth Service
Donju Taylor	Vocational Service
Nathan Vandrey	Bulletin Editor
Jerry Fox	Int’l Service
Kelby Owens	Membership Director
Larry Moore	Rotary Foundation Chair
Mandy Lohrum	Asst District Governor