



The Fayetteville Rotary Spokes

The Weekly Newsletter of the Fayetteville Rotary Club

November 18, 2021



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Fayetteville Rotary Club Meeting

Welcome: Club President Paul Johnson opened this week's Fayetteville Rotary Club (FRC) meeting at Highland Country Club at 1:10 PM, welcoming everyone and leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Prayer and Meal: The meeting invocation was given by Stephan McDavid. This week's meal at Highland Country was Chicken & Dumplings, Potatoes, peas and onions, and mixed salad with dressings.

Rotary Song and Rotary Minute: This week there were no members with a birthday or anniversary. President Paul announced he would be out of town on November 11th and the club decided not to have a meeting on Thursday because of Veterans Day.

Attendance & Guests: There were 29 attending the weekly meeting, 22 members in person, 3 via Zoom, and 4 guests in person, Jerome Banks, Matt Linch, guest speaker Tony Chavonne, and Jonathan Powell from Quality Sound.

Health and Happiness: President Paul acknowledged the return of Mark Lynch and Tommy Wooten, both of whom had been absent from our weekly meetings for several weeks because of medical issues. President Paul also thanked members for their support of Alzheimer's event at Segre Stadium last weekend. The Club provided a check for \$1000.00 to Alzheimer's last week, and the Club collects CART fund weekly.

Club Program: President Paul introduced our guest speaker Tony Chavonne, a long time Fayetteville native. Tony was General Manager of the Fayetteville Observer for 25 years, Mayor of Fayetteville from 2005 to 2013 and now owner and Publisher of City View Magazine. Tony noted that since the Fayetteville Observer sold to the largest news group in the country in 2016 the newsroom has dropped from 87 employees in 2004 to 7 today. Those employees are very junior reporters who do not know to push hard to get the news, so they are pushed around by local officials. The presses print 8 newspapers a night, all wanting the last print slot, so the Fayetteville Observer is printed at 8 pm nightly. That means that instead of being able to print what might have happened at midnight it has to be able to print before 8 PM. The paper is edited elsewhere. Tony is hoping he can print a paper with more news, so he tried to get a grant for a local reporter from the Cumberland Community Foundation but failed.

Future Meetings and Upcoming Events:

- Nov 25 – There will be no Rotary meeting because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- Nov 2 - The FRC will meet at Highland Country Club & via Zoom at 1 PM. Program, Alzheimer's .

50-50 Raffle and Meeting Farewell: Magda Baggett won \$22 in the 50/50 Raffle this week. President Paul, thanked Tony Chavonne for his presentation, welcomed guests to the club, thanked them and all members for attending, and then lead all in the **Four Way Test, of the things that we think, say, and do**, adjourning at 2:00 PM.