Meeting Notes – Mar. 1, 2022

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Mar. 1, 2022, at LaFayette First Baptist Church. Dr. Butch Busby gave club members an update on Operation Wipeout, the cervical cancer awareness initiative. The Birmingham Rotary Club approached our LaFayette club on November 30, 2021, with an opportunity to partner not only with them, but also with UAB, TogetHER for Health and the Alabama Department of Public Health in an initiative to raise awareness for and ultimately eradicate cervical cancer. Alabama has the highest rate of cervical cancer in the US and Chambers County has the highest rate of cervical cancer in Alabama.

Dr. Busby shared that there are now even more partners with this initiative. The Chambers County Community Health and Wellness Center, who presented a program to our Rotary Club in the fall of 2021and plans to open a clinic in LaFayette in the coming months, and the AU School of Nursing have also joined forces with the other partners. There are three phases to this initiative: Social Mobilization, Educational Events and Screening Appointments/Vaccines. In the Social Mobilization phase, information will be presented to the public in an attempt to raise awareness. Dr. Busby encouraged our club to take an active role in this phase by having an informational booth set up on April 9, 2022, at the LaFayette Day celebration held in downtown LaFayette. We were also encouraged to take a role in an educational event, tentatively planned for a Saturday in April or May of 2022. Our Rotary Club would sponsor this event which would include childcare or entertainment so that parents could receive the much-needed information regarding cervical cancer. The final Screening Appointments phase would include screening for cervical cancer, then either a planned re-screening in five years or treatment, if needed. It is also hoped that vaccinations can be provided to those under 40 years of age, including children, both boys and girls, ages 10-15.

Diane Sherriff