Meeting Notes – Jun. 28, 2022

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, June 28. Lewis Lowe was responsible for the program and invited Valerie Gray, executive director of the Chambers County Development Authority, to be our speaker. Valerie spoke to us primarily on her role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Alabama Community College System. Valerie Gray provided us with a map showing the seven divisions of the Alabama Community College System. There are a total of 80 locations, including 24 community and vocational colleges and several satellite branches. These colleges such as Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC) located in our area, offer a traditional two-year program/degree, an academic transfer program to a four-year college, vocational skills training/certificates, programs for veterans and programs for life-long learners. She also spoke of the opportunities and advantages of dual enrollment, available for high school students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades, where they can earn both high school credits and college credits.

Valerie also gave an update on the activities of the CCDA. The CCDA is currently working on 34 projects. Between January 1, 2022, and now, they have added 26 manufacturing jobs. Last year, 179 manufacturing jobs were added. Currently Chambers County has an unemployment rate of less than 3%. The CCDA has made capital investments of $12.8 million.

Diane Sherriff